The Neighborhood News

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97th YEAR NO. 36

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2020

PHONE: (216) 441-2141 • EMAIL: NNEWS1923@AOL.COM

Tri-C launches Full Tuition Assistance program for Cuyahoga County residents

Cuyahoga Community College last week announced a Full Tuition Assistance program to offset academic and workforce training costs for Cuyahoga County residents facing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

The program will cover tuition for new or returning Tri-C students with financial needs that intensified during the pandemic response. Only Cuyahoga County residents are eligible.

The funding can be used toward academic credit courses or workforce training programs. Students can begin the program this summer or fall, with funding available for three consecutive sessions (summer-fall-spring or fall-spring-summer).

Assistance can cover up to one year of academic courses or the full length of a workforce training program.

"These are uncertain times, but people don't have to put their futures on hold," Tri-C President Alex Johnson said. "Thanks to the generous support of Tri-C Foundation donors, this program will allow people to earn a degree or credentials in a high-demand field that pays a family-sustaining wage without incurring any tuition costs.

The program serves to increase access to Tri-C for a variety of groups affected by the COVID-19 outbreak, including:

• Unemployed individuals who lost employment and/or income due to COVID-19 and are seeking a short-term credential, advanced training or a degree to increase their employability

•Graduating high school students who planned to attend a four-year college or university this fall but have to reconsider due to financial hardship.

• Current college students who are or were enrolled at a four-year college and can't afford to return, but want to continue their education.

Application steps include completing a Full Tuition Assistance Eligibility form and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Tri-C's Full Tuition Assistance program serves as a "last dollar" scholarship designed to cover out-of-pocket student costs after eligibility for Pell Grants and other financial aid is determined

Students should visit tri-c.edu/tuitionassistance or call 216-987-6000 for more information or to begin the application process

Seeks help to identify gun thief

A firearm was reported stolen from a car parked in front of Cleveland Central Catholic High School on E. 67 St. in Slavic Village on Sunday, April 17, about 10 a.m.

An employee at the school reported his Smith & Wesson M&P Shield 40 caliber pistol, for which he has a concealed carry permit, was taken from his 2013 Ford Fusion.

The victim was able to provide police with a still picture from the security camera footage, as shown here, and a copy of the footage on a flash drive.

Cleveland Fourth District detectives ask anyone who can help identify the suspect to call 216-623-5418.

Neighborhood News online

Neighborhood News readersdon't have to venture out to get their favorite newspaper. Just go online and visit:: theneighborhoodnews.com. The entire newspaper is available on the N.N. website every Wednesday morning and can be read in Adobe Acrobat. Just click on the front page to download the remaining pages.



Suspect

Slavic Village man arrested in 1987 murder of Garfield Hts. girl

On Dec. 20, 1987, Cuyahoga Falls Police responded to O'Neil Rd. near Blossom Music Center for a report of a female whose body was found in a wooded area. Detectives investigated countless leads throughout this 30-year cold case, according to the Cuyahoga Falls Police website.

Last Wednesday, James E. Zastawnik, of Indiana Ave. in Slavic Village, Cleveland, was arrested for the murder of Barbara Blatnik of Garfield Heights, based on new evidence provided through advancements in DNA technology

I am incredibly proud of the work that our Cuyahoga Falls Police Department has done to help ensure that Barbara Blatnik's family can finally find the closure that they deserve," said Cuyahoga Falls Mayor Don Walters. "I want to express an immense amount of gratitude to everyone at The Porchlight Project for the funding they provided to help get the needed DNA testing that was

Barbara Blatnik

done to close this case. They have done an incredible vice to the Blatnik family and our police department.²

This is the first case The Porchlight Project investigated after it announced last year an initiative partnering with the Cuyahoga Falls PD to solve Blatnik's murder.

When a loved one goes missing, friends and neighbors show their support by keeping their porch light on. The Porchlight Project, according to its website, was formed to lend special help to cases of abduction and murder that have gone cold. They provide free private investigative services, funding for DNA testing, and media support for a few new cases every year.

Listed as police liaison for The Porchlight Project is former Garfield Heights police chief Robert Sackett.

Around 10 a.m. on Dec. 20, 1987, the nude body of 17-year-old Barbara "Barbie" Blatnik was discovered alongside O'Neil Rd., a narrow access road that leads into Blossom Music Center off Steels Corners. Barbie was last seen alive the night before when she was dropped off by a friend at the corner of Warner Road and Grand Division in Garfield Heights, around midnight. Her injuries were consistent with being strangled, as identified in a Porchlight news release.

At the time of her murder, Barbie's sister, Donna Zanath, was preparing for her wedding. Barbie would have been her maid of honor.

Last August, the Cuyahoga Falls Police Department asked the Bureau of Criminal Investigation to conduct additional tests on DNA found under Barbie's fingernails to generate a more complete genetic profile of their suspect.

The Porchlight Project paid for the independent tests and the forensic genealogy team.

Commenting on The Porchlight Project's first-ever case last August, President James Renner said, "It's one of Ohio's most frustrating unsolved mysteries. I'm pleased our organization can help. We think we have a real shot at finally finding Barbie's killer, and soon.

Her alleged killer, James Zastawnik, was arraigned last Thursday in Stow Municipal Court; he did not enter a plea to his felony murder charge. Bail was set at \$1 million.

Garfield Jewelers has reopened with new hours

Garfield Jewelers, 5841 Turney Rd., Garfield Heights, until the end of May when the shop will expand its hours reopened yesterday with limited access and shorter daily of operation on June 1. For the protection of its customers hours to respond to the needs of its clients. Business and employees, no one will be admitted without facial hours are now Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., protection. Please call for any assistance, 216-475-4040.



FREE

Suspect James Zastawnik

MHHS secretary indicted for stealing school funds Local food pantry distributions

Cuvahoga County Prosecutor Michael C. O'Malley announced last week that a Cuyahoga County Grand Jury has indicted Karla Hopkins, 49, for stealing over \$40,000 in school funds while working as a secretary at Maple Heights High School.

embezzled money from various programs, some of which included.

• Class of 2018 dues and yearbook fees

• Auto Tech funds



8022 Broadway Avenue 216-341-8200

- Student Council funds
- Flag-drill team funds
- Books and ID badge fines

In her role, she was responsible for collecting dues, Between July 2017 and June 2018, Hopkins allegedly revenues and fees from individuals in charge of the various programs. Upon collecting the funds, she was responsible for issuing them a copy of the receipt and recording the transaction in a log before the money was transported to the district's main office and eventually deposited into a school account.

> In May 2018, the Maple Heights Police Department responded to the Maple Heights Board of Education for a report of theft after the school district's treasurer noticed a large amount of money was missing from the senior class fund. Further investigation by the MHPD, Maple Heights City School District and State Auditor's Office allegedly linked Hopkins to the crime.

> Hopkins has been indicted on one count of theft in office - a felony of the 3rd degree. She will be arraigned at a later date.

> > ELDONPC.COM

216-475-0661

FINANCING OPTIONS AVAILABLE

The following food pantry distributions are taking place in our readership area. Registration may be necessary.

Garfield Heights

Garfield Heights Civic Center, 5407 Turney Rd. -Third Wednesday of the month from 1-2 p.m., and third Thursday from 6-7 p.m. Garfield Heights residents only.

The Rock Church, 9403 Garfield Blvd. - Third Saturday of the month (May 16) from 8 to 11 a.m. for Garfield Heights residents only. Saturday, May 30, 10 a.m. to noon, drive through only. People with carts need to queue in line with the cars. All zip codes welcome.

Southeast Cleveland

University Settlement, 4800 Broadway Ave., back of building – Tuesday-Friday from 11:30 to 2 p.m. If you or someone you know has needs, please call 216-641-8948 or email to: usiemergency@universitysettlement.net

Holy Name Church, 8328 Broadway Ave. - Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon. 216-271-4242

Elizabeth Baptist Church, 6114 Francis Ave. - second and fourth Saturdays of the month, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 216-429-2922

Greater Cleveland Food Bank - Call for times and pickups: 216-738-2067

LEGAL NOTICE

Redi Storage, 17101 Rockside Rd., Maple Heights, OH 44137, 216-662-6610 is hosting the following auction on www.storagetreasures.com, Items to be auctioned off by whole unit. Friday, May 29th, 2020. CASH only and \$100 cleaning deposit.

Kimberly Bobo, 11702 Lenacrave Ave., Cleveland, OH 44105, #313, 10x20, Ending at 1:00PM. Unit appears to contain: household furniture, lawn furniture, outdoor equipment, lamps, baskets, compressor, shelving units, totes, boxes, misc. items. NN: 5-6-20 & 5-13-20



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THESE NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCHES WELCOME YOU

Jones Road Church 8000 Jones Rd., Cleveland, 44105 (216) 883-8572 Sunday Service: 11:00 a.m. Rev. Lovel Henderson, Pastor

The Lutheran Church of the Covenant 19000 Libby Rd., Maple Heights, Ohio (216) 662-0370

St. Monica Church 13623 Rockside Road Garfield Heights 216-662-8685 Pastor: Rev. Thomas Haren Parish Mass is now being Live Streamed at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday morning

FREE

Joseph Nero

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Cost is \$10 per week for this size ad To Advertise, Call Mary at 216-441-2141

Lots of grant applications passed on busy night for Garfield Council

By Ellen Psenicka

It was a busy night Monday as Garfield Heights Council met through telephone conference to consider 11 pieces of legislation on its agenda, many of them grant applications for the police and fire departments.

The following were passed:

• Providing for holiday council meeting changes this year. Council will meet the day after Memorial Day, Tuesday, May 26, and the day after Columbus Day, Tuesday, Oct. 13;

•Accepting NOPEC Energized Community Grants for 2020 in the amount of \$74,558;

•Recommending that the mayor declare a state of emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and do all things necessary to protect residents and employees effective March 9, 2020;

•Purchasing 10 bulletproof vests for the Garfield Heights Police Department through a grant from the 2019-2020 Ohio Law Enforcement Body Armor program which would pay 75% of the cost while the city picks up the remaining 25%;

•Applying for a grant from the Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership to purchase additional vests for the police department, with the city responsible for 50% of the cost; •Entering into an agreement with FEMA for a grant to provide firefighters with evidence collection equipment, cameras, laptops, iPads and software with a projected cost of \$12,600 with the city paying 10%;

• Entering into an agreement with FEMA for a grant to purchase equipment in response to the COVID-19 pandemic for the fire department including N95 masks, surgical masks, goggles, gowns and 2 Clorox Total 360 machines for disinfecting trucks and the station, at a cost of \$14,000 of which the city would pay 10%;

•Authorizing plans, specs and bidding for the Antenucci Sidewalk Phase One and payment of costs through funding by the Cuyahoga County Community Development Block Grant and the city;

•Authorizing plans, specs and bidding for the Broadway Watermain Replacement Project and authorizing payment through funding by the city of Cleveland, Division of Water;

•Applying for grant funding through the Federal Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding program for the Garfield Heights Municipal Court.

• Providing for the issuance and sale of bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$3,475,000 to refund at a lower interest certain of the city's outstanding Various Purpose Improvement Refunding Bonds.

I-77 weekend closures

As construction continues on the I-77 bridge widening over I-490, several closings of parts of I-77 will take place on Friday, May 15, at 8 p.m., through Monday, May 18, at 5 a.m.

• I-77 northbound between I-480 and Broadway Ave. will be closed. The detour will be I-480 westbound to SR 176 northbound to I-490 eastbound to Broadway Ave. north to I-77.

•I-480 eastbound and westbound ramps to I-77 northbound will be closed. The detour will be I-480 to SR 176 northbound to I-490 eastbound to Broadway Ave. north to I-77.

• I-77 northbound to I-490 westbound will be closed. The detour will be Pershing Ave. north to I-490 west.

Limited local access will be maintained within the I-77 closure.

Bedford Lions Club plans Day of Service on May 17

Ohio Lions clubs have chosen to celebrate their 100th anniversary with a Day of Service this Sunday, May 17. From Ashtabula to Zanesville, and from Archbold, Clyde, Dover, East Liverpool, Fletcher and Goshen, the over 400 Lions clubs with over 11,000 members will serve their various communities.

The Bedford Lions Club has chosen to participate in a car parade to Bedford City Hall to honor first responders in the fire and police departments by providing lunch this Sunday.

From there Bedford Lions will proceed to the Bedford High School to present Thomas Cashman with a \$2,000 Scholarship Award and Collin Kennedy with a \$500 Lion Bob & Helen Paulson Scholarship Award.





Catholic Diocese of Cleveland announces date to resume public worship

In keeping with the Catholic bishops in Ohio directive that dioceses throughout the state may select a soft opening date for the resumption of the public celebration of weekday Mass, the Diocese of Cleveland announces that the celebration of weekday Mass will resume on May 25, 2020, in order to prepare for the public celebration of the solemnity of Pentecost on the weekend of May 30-31. Pandemic EBT plan

This soft reopening of churches for weekday Mass on May 25 reflects a desire to allow sufficient time for pastors and parish staffs to prepare to welcome the faithful back to church on the weekend of Pentecost being respectful of the governor's directives relative to this pandemic.

After proper research and consultation, the diocese has developed guidelines which provide general instructions for parishes and the faithful for the resumption of public Mass. This information is available on the Diocese of Cleveland website, https://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/ forward-in-christ/overview.

Cooperation with these guidelines is expected in order do not need to apply to be eligible. to preserve the safety and health of all.

In addition, the dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains in effect. The Easter duty obligation is extended for a period of one year from the that will go to our grocery stores and other eligible end of the Easter season 2020.

PUBLIC NOTICE BUDGET HEARING

A Budget Hearing for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2021 will be held at 7:00 p.m. on May 18, 2020 in the Council Chambers of the Bedford City Hall, 165 Center Road, Bedford, Ohio. The residents of the City of Bedford are invited to provide written and oral comments and ask questions concerning the entire budget for the 2021 calendar year. This Tax Budget will have a third and final reading on May 18, 2020 and a final reading by Council on June 8, 2020. Senior citizens are encouraged to attend. Special assistance is available to handicapped persons wishing to attend.

TAX BUDGET 2020 for Collection in 2021

General Fund	17,897,735
Community Development	-0-
First Suburbs Consortium	53,895
State Highway Improvement	90,000
Indigent Drivers, Alcohol Treatment Fund	100,000
SEAL Narcotics Task Force Fund	-0-
Enforcement & Education Fund	7,200
Street Lighting Fund	360,000
Street Construction, Main & Repair Fund	817,370
Drug Law Enforcement Fund	50,000
Motor Vehicle Fund	90,000
Fire Equipment Improvement	157,000
Grants Fund	45,840
Fire Medic Levy Fund	3,451,880
Municipal Court Improvement Fund	222,550
Indigent Interlock and Alcohol Monitoring Fund	45,000
Safety Force Levy Fund	3,152,090
BMC Legal Resource Fund	44,505
Refuse Fee Assessment Fund	794,350
G.O. Bond Retirement Account	1,002,480
Bedford Muni Court Clerk of Court Computer Fu	nd 95,000
Bedford Municipal Court Computer Fund	65,000
Capital Improvement Fund	529,000
Water Fund	3,286,375
Waste Water Fund	2,499,940
Health Insurance Res. Fund	2,562,000
State Inspection Fee	-0-
Police Pension Fund	605,870
Fire Pension Fund	648,760
SEALE Narcotics Unforfeited Fund	0
Cemetery Trust	1,000
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	38,674,840

The City of Bedford Tax Budget is available for public inspection at the office of the Director of Finance, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m, Monday through Friday. If you have any questions, call (440)232-1600.

Frank C. Gambosi, CPA - Director of Finance Published: N.N., May 13, 2020

COVID-19 Update: Pandemic EBT: additional services to reopen; Staying Connected program initiated

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, Lt. Governor Jon Husted and Dr. Amy Acton, MD, MPH, yesterday provided the following COVID-19 updates.

Governor DeWine announced that the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (OJFS) has received approval from the United States Department of Agriculture for its Pandemic EBT plan. The Pandemic EBT program was included in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020.

The approval will allow OJFS to distribute SNAP benefits to \$50,000 students across Ohio who relied on free or reduced-price meal programs when school was in session to have access to a hot, nutritious meal. The benefits will be mailed directly to students, and families

Families will receive approximately \$300 to purchase healthy and nutritious foods to feed their children. These benefits amount to more than \$250 million retailers.



Village of Newburgh Heights Housing & Building Department 3801 Harvard Avenue Newburgh Heights, Ohio 44105 216-641-4654 newburgh-oh.gov

NOTICE FOR PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

The Village of Newburgh Hts. Planning Commission will meet on Thursday, May 28, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. The Meeting will be held at Village Hall, Council Chambers, located at 3801 Harvard Avenue in the Village of Newburgh Heights, Ohio and via an online conferencing.. AGENDA

Call to Order Ι.

- Approval of minutes 11.
- Review and recommendation of Ordinance 2020-10, AN Ш. ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING ZONING REGULATIONS FOR TOBACCO PRODUCT STORES AND VAPING PRODUCT STORES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. IV. Public Comment
- Action V.
- VI. Adjournment

Posted at Village Hall, Village website, April 9, 2020, and in The Neighborhood News May 13, 2020



N.N. 5/13/20

Village Hall

Village of Newburgh Heights 3801 Harvard Avenue Newburgh Heights, Ohio 44105 216-641-4654 newburgh-oh.gov

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public is invited to attend a hearing to voice their opinions or to submit written opinions to the address above regarding proposed legislation: Ordinance 2020-11, as amended, "AN ORDINANCE ENACTING CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 1137.07 ENTITLED "SOLAR PANELS," AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY." A brief overview of the proposed Ordinance will be given at the hearing which will be held on June 2, 2020 at 7:30 pm in Village Hall, 3801 Harvard Avenue, Newburgh Heights, OH 44105. A copy of the proposed Ordinance will also be available for review at Village Hall during regular village office hours. Please send written comments to Fiscal Officer Cathleen Nagorski at the address listed above. Any persons who wish to attend and require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please contact Village Hall at 216-641-4650 no later than 72 hours prior to the public hearing.

> Cathleen Nagorski Fiscal Officer

New openings

Lt. Governor Husted announced that sectors licensed by the State Medical Board of Ohio, including massage therapy, acupuncture, cosmetic therapy will be permitted to reopen on May 15 with the implementation of proper safety measures.

To ensure that these establishments operate in the safest manner possible, the State Medical Board of Ohioworked with members of Governor DeWine's Personal Services Advisory Group and the Ohio Department of Health to create a detailed list of guidelines and best practices for these service providers to follow. The full list of mandatory and recommended best practices can be found at coronaviurs.ohio.gov.

Tattoo and body piercing services will also be permitted to reopen on May 15 with the implementation of proper safety measures.

Older adults - Staying Connected

To help ensure that older Ohioans stay connected while staying at home, Ohio Department of Aging Director Ursel McElroy announced a new service yesterday that will provide a daily check-in by phone for Óhioans age 60 or older.

The Staying Connected program will call older adults who sign up for the service during a predetermined window of time. When participants answer the phone, they will be asked to respond via touch-tone to confirm that they are OK or to access live support.

If no one answers after three attempts, a call is then made to an alternate contact (if provided) or to non-emergency services. The service can be canceled at any time.

"Especially during this very challenging time, we encourage older Ohioans to sign up for the Ohio Department of Aging's Staying Connected phone program. This program will help reduce isolation and support the health and well-being of older adults in our state," said Robert Cornwell, executive director, Buckeye State Sheriff's Association.

Eligible Ohioans can sign up at aging.ohio.gov or by calling 1-800-266-4346.

Staying Connected is not an emergency response service, and participants should always use 911 or their emergency response system if they are injured or in need of emergency assistance.



Village of Newburgh Heights 3801 Harvard Avenue Newburgh Heights, Ohio 44105 216-641-4654 newburgh-oh.gov PUBLIC NOTICE

The public is invited to attend a hearing to voice their opinions or to submit written opinions to the address below regarding the proposed Alternative Tax Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2021. A brief overview of the proposed Resolution will be given at the hearing which will be held on June 2, 2020 at 6:30 pm in Village Hall, 3801 Harvard Avenue, Newburgh Heights, OH 44105. A copy of the proposed Resolution will also be available for review at Village Hall during regular village office hours. Please send written comments to Fiscal Officer Cathleen Nagorski at the address listed above. Any persons who wish to attend and require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please contact Village Hall at 216-641-4650 no later than 72 hours prior to the public hearing.

> Cathleen Nagorski Fiscal Officer

N.N. 5/13/20 Village Hall

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Maple Heights to apply for FEMA grant to help firefighters with COVID-19 response

By Judith Goldsworth

At its video/teleconference meeting last week, Maple Heights Council passed legislation to apply for a FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) grant, which if approved, would be used towards personal protective equipment and supplies "needed to prevent, prepare for and respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency."

The ordinance also addressed the need to protect the city's safety forces from coronavirus, while responding to emergency calls in the city.

Mayor Annette Blackwell and Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas recommended the city apply for the grant, in an amount not to exceed \$75,000, according to the legislation.

Kavaliunas said during the meeting that if the grant was awarded, the funds would be used to buy PPE for the fire department such as gowns, masks and other protective gear.

Council also passed legislation declaring it necessary to renew an existing 1.3-mill, five-year tax levy for expenses and operations of the Maple Heights Senior Center, to appear on the November 3, 2020 ballot. The renewal was last approved by voters in 2015.

Council had passed similar legislation earlier this year to put the levy on the ballot in the August 4, 2020 special election. Councilman Stafford Shenett asked, "Is this backup legislation that we are passing just in case we are unsuccessful in the special election?

Human Services Director Linda Vopat stated it was backup. "If we are unsuccessful in August, then it will go to the November election."

Other legislation passed

owned lot on Dunham Road is not needed for municipal purposes, following an application by Anthony Provenzale to purchase the lot as a side yard for his residence.

Also passed was a resolution authorizing Blackwell and Economic Development Director/Housing Director Patrick Grogan-Myers to accept the donation of vacant property in the 19500 block of Raymond Street into the Maple Heights Land Reutilization Program, from Del Renee Blevins-Williams.

Council also passed a resolution to change its regular meeting schedule for the summer months of June, July and August, to hold only one meeting for each of those months.

The summer council meetings will be held at 7 p.m. on the following Wednesdays: June 3, July 1 and August 5, 2020, however, "Special council meetings may be held as needed, with proper notice," according to the legislation.

laced on first reading

Placed on first reading was a resolution for the city to enter into a contract with Catts Construction, Inc., for the Hollywood Avenue water main replacement project.

In February 2019, City Engineer Ed Hren applied to the Cleveland Division of Water to fund the project, under the Suburban Water Main Renewal Program. Subsequently, the Division of Water awarded the city \$752,032 for replacement of the water main on Hollywood, from Maple Heights Boulevard to Waterbury Avenue, the legislation states.

Council passed a resolution determining that a city- Catt Construction submitting the lowest and best bid at a currently attempting to obtain a location on the vehicle.

cost of \$596,767.36 for the project, per the resolution. Council will discuss the legislation further before possible passage at a future meeting.

Community police reports Cleveland Assault

On Tuesday, May 5, about 4 p.m., an assault was reported in the 3800 block of E. 50 St. The victim, a 57 year-old male, told police he was riding his bicycle from CSL Plasma, near E. 65th and Chambers, when two young black males, about 13-15-years-old, approached him head on. Then a third teenager arrived, around 17-18years-old, grabbed the victim by his jacket and attempted to punch him. The victim was able to fight his way out, get on his bike and get away from the suspects. The victim sustained no injuries and refused EMS.

Garfield Heights

Officer was dispatched to CUI Grounds Mgt. on NEO Parkway on April 30, for a theft complaint. Victim stated that when employees arrived for work that day, they discovered several enclosed equipment trailers had been broken into and a large quantity of landscape power equipment had been taken. Surveillance video showed two unknown persons removing equipment from the trailers and loading it into an enclosed trailer hitched to a pickup truck, then leaving in the truck northbound on NEO Parkway. Investigation continues.

Theft of Motor Vehicle

Theft

Police took a stolen auto report via telephone on Friday, May 8. Resident living in the 10700 block of Vernon Ave. In April 2019, council passed a resolution authorizing said sometime during the night on May 8, someone stole Hren to begin preparing plans and specs and to go out for his locked 2014 GMC Sierra while it was parked in his bids, and on May 1, 2020, Hren opened the bids, with driveway. The vehicle is equipped with On Star, which is



Class action lawsuit proceeds against Garfield Heights over 'noxious odor' claims at City View

By Ellen Psenicka

The city of Garfield Heights could be headed to court, possibly as soon as August, to defend itself against a lawsuit that claims the city breached a contract with the Environmental Protection Agency in relation to conditions at City View Center by failing to abate and control the nuisance caused by noxious odors emanating from a prior landfill.

The city denies any wrongdoing. It has asserted that former Garfield Heights Mayor Tom Longo lacked the authority to bind the city to any obligation to comply with the EPA regulations, according to Garfield Heights Law Director Tim Riley, who is also representing the city in the lawsuit.

Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas records provide case information which states that the plaintiffs in the case are John Berdysz, Colette Berdysz, John Drab, Marianne Eckhoff, Patricia Masa, Alberta Krupp and Kathleen Tucciarelli. They are all residents of Garfield Heights and complain that noxious odors in their neighborhood affected the use and enjoyment of their properties.

The original lawsuit was filed in May, 2014, and in December, 2015, a trial court granted plaintiffs motion to certify this case as a class action, meaning over 200 more plaintiffs with similar claims residing in the specific geographical area relative to City View could join the lawsuit and share in any monetary distribution that could be realized.

The city of Garfield Heights appealed the lawsuit's class action status and in May, 2019, the Court of Appeals of Ohio, Eighth Appellate District, County of Cuyahoga, upheld the class action status of the litigation and ordered the case to proceed to trial.

A trial by jury has been scheduled in the court of Judge Deena R. Calabrese for Aug. 31, 2020, at 9:30 a.m. at the Justice Center.

Riley said a mediation hearing will be held to see if a trial can be avoided and the matter resolved to everyone's satisfaction.



Other defendants in the case, which included Boyas Excavating, have settled claims with monetary awards to the plaintiffs in this case over two years ago, Riley said.

What plaintiffs claim

Court records document the plaintiffs assertions:

"The plaintiffs claims against the defendants revolve around the development of property in Garfield Heights that previously was the site of two landfills from the 1960s through the 1980s. In 2002, the waste materials on the property were disturbed as developers explored ideas for using the property. In 2005, the property was developed into the City View Center shopping center.

"Residents in the neighborhood immediately surround the City View property complained of odors, and as a result, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency issued orders in March 2005 obligating Garfield Heights to take actions necessary for full compliance with environmental regulations. As of November 2014, most of the tenants in the shopping center had vacated..."

Class action explained

The court has decided that the eligible "Class" in this class action suit consists of "All persons and entities (including trustees) that own or reside in a home within the Class Area which home was purchased by the Class Member prior to December 31, 2002.

The Class Area is described as being "the intersection of Transportation Boulevard and Antennuci Boulevard as the northwest point to the intersection of Antenucci Boulevard and Turney Road as the northwest point, south down the center line of Turney Road, and bounded on the south by the full length of Maple Leaf Drive."

Lawyers for the plaintiffs are Edward Cochran, Esq., and Thomas J. Connick, Esq, of Connick Law LLC.

Letters to the Editor Incentivize recycling

Discussion concerning the environment has focused primarily on alternative sources of fuel for the purpose of transportation.

However, another very important pro-environment tool is recycling. The effort needs to involve more than the consumer and the government. It needs to involve those who sell (and profit) from those products that can be recycled.

The manufacturers of bottles and cans, the producers of what's sold inside them and the grocery stores that distribute them must take on a greater economic role in the process of recycling.

Some time ago bottlers would charge a five-cent "deposit" on a bottle to be "refunded" when the consumer returned the bottle. It would seem that this concept could be re-operationalized for a whole host of products. The consumer could clean the bottle or can, return it to the grocery story for a "refund" and the grocery store would return it to the producer, receiving a "refund" along the way.

When all parties involved have an economic incentive to participate, recycling will make a much larger contribution towards preserving the environment.

Joe Bialek

Cleveland

