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97th YEAR NO. 39

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2020

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

FREE

AWARD WINNERS



Shown here are Pastor Albert Lewis and Marnetta Bridget-Lewis, who were nominated for a Slavic Village Neighborhood Summit award for their work with the Mound Block Club, Safe Routes to School, and their free meal program at Fountain of Grace Ministries. They were inadvertently left out of the article on the awards in last week's The Neighborhood News.

City pool opens in Indy

On Monday, June 1, the Independence Civic Center's indoor pool and fitness center opened for residents only. Mayor Gregory Kurtz announced last Friday in his weekly online Administrative Update. Fewer people will be permitted in the building to accommodate social distancing, he said, and there will be reduced operating hours. The gymnasium, atrium, showers and all common areas will remain closed.

The recreation department's temporary summer hours are: Monday-Friday, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Monday-Friday, 8 to 11 a.m. reserved for seniors & immunocompromised individuals; Saturday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The ball fields opened on May 26 for Independence teams, organizations and residents only. Permits and reservations are required.

The pavilions, fieldhouse and Elmwood Recreation Center remain closed. However, the construction of Liberty Park, landscaping of Elmwood Park and clean-

ing of all recreational facilities, including the outdoor pool, continued last week.

Bulk pickup returns to CLE

Bulk pickup will be back in Cleveland twice this month, the week of June 15th and June 22nd. Residents can leave up to three bulk items and four tires out for pickup. Bulk items will also continue to be taken at the Ridge Road Transfer Station at 3727 Ridge Rd., from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Regular waste pickup will continue as scheduled; however, recycling has been suspended until further notice.

"I encourage residents to take their paper and cardboard to local collection bins such as those at local churches and civic groups," said Ward 12 Councilman Tony Brancatelli. "Aluminum cans may be taken to participating fire stations and metal to local scrap yards."

You may put up to 20 bags of yard waste outside your waste containers but no other waste outside of the collection bins. Brancatelli recommends placing all waste in one container and using the blue bin for overflow if needed.

Contact the councilman's office for any additional questions at 216-664-4233 or email to: abrancatelli@clevelandcitycouncil.org

READ THE N.N. ONLINE AT
theneighborhoodnews.com

ODOT bridge update

PROJECT

I-480 Valley View Bridge Deck Replacement - Construct a new bridge between the two existing Valley View bridges and replace the decks of the I-480 east and westbound Valley View bridges in Garfield Heights and Independence. Estimated Completion: June 2024

NEW IMPACTS

I-480 westbound between Transportation Blvd. and I-77 will have a right lane closure between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m. nightly for bridge work now through mid-June.

CONTINUING IMPACTS

All traffic on I-480 east and west - leading up to and across the Valley View Bridge - will be shifted to the right through late-2020.

Saluting area graduating seniors

The Neighborhood News will be saluting the 2020 graduating seniors from area high schools for the next few weeks. Due to the pandemic, these students are not having traditional graduation ceremonies as in years past, but it surely is a celebration they will never forget. See pages 4 and 8 of this issue for our first salutes to Garfield Heights High and Bedford High.

Bedford officials discuss protests, pool, pandemic at council meeting

By Judith Goldsworth

Bedford Mayor Stan Koci and other city officials addressed recent nationwide protests, including a peaceful protest in the city, and also continue to respond to the COVID-19 crisis and its effects on city events and facilities at their video conference meeting Monday night.

Major cities in the United States, including nearby downtown Cleveland, have seen rioting, vandalism, arson and looting that have accompanied protests against the death of Minneapolis resident George Floyd, who died while in police custody last month.

Koci acknowledged the unrest manifesting itself throughout the country, stating, "A protest is always a good thing. It's a necessary thing, and it's the right thing to do. It's when it gets out of hand, then it's no longer a protest, and that takes away from what did happen to the gentleman there in Minnesota, and it's just so sad what did happen."

Councilwoman Heather Rhoades praised the efforts of community resident Gabby Holt in organizing a peaceful protest in Bedford recently. "It was a beautiful memorial to lives that have been lost during these types of conflicts, and I think that it was absolutely appropriate, without getting violent, and I very much appreciate that... It brought our community together."

Pool's future

The coronavirus pandemic and the resulting social distancing guidelines have impacted Bedford and its residents in many ways, including the future of the city's pool operations for this summer, City Manager Mike Mallis stated.

Death Notices

FRANK J. VLASAK

Frank J. Vlasak, age 51, a journeyman carpenter, Local 435, for 25 years, passed away suddenly after a brief illness (non-COVID-19 related).

Beloved son of Marcy Shannon, community activist, and Frank J. Vlasak, Jr. of Northwood, Ohio. Loving father of Joe Vlasak, age 27. Dearest brother of Melissa Vlasak (Jason Bradley) and Katy Mansfield (John Rajic). Dear uncle of Jack Bradley and Fiona Rajic. He will be missed by his aunt, Shirley Shannon, and his uncles Tim, Rich and Kevin Shannon.

Frank was a resident of Slavic Village and will be missed by family and friends. He was a good-hearted, hard-working guy and generous to people in need. Frank was a lifelong chess player and skier. Friends will be received Thursday, June 4, 2020 at Golubski Funeral Home, corner of E. 65th and Fullerton Ave., from 5 to 7 p.m.



He said a decision on whether to open the pool and the new guidelines which would be enforced if the pool does open should be coming in the next 7 to 10 days.

Mallis said that playground areas remain closed, and events on Bedford's Public Square through June have either been cancelled or postponed. However, he stated that the rec department had been looking at creative programs that would be in accordance with the orders.

Also because of the coronavirus pandemic, the Strawberry Festival that would have been celebrated in September, along with the annual Arts Festival, has been cancelled, Councilwoman Sandy Spinks said.

(Continued on Page 3)

Blood donor opportunities

The American Red Cross has an urgent need for blood donations to prevent another blood shortage as hospitals resume surgical procedures and patient treatments that were temporarily paused earlier this spring in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Healthy individuals who are feeling well are asked to make an appointment to donate in the weeks and months ahead by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED

CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

All those who come to give June 1-30 will receive a \$5 Amazon.com Gift Card via email.

Local blood donation opportunities include:

Independence

6/9/2020: 1 p.m.-7 p.m., Elmwood Recreation Center, 6200 W. Pete Wisnieski Parkway

6/15/2020: 1 p.m.-7 p.m., Elmwood Recreation Center, 6200 W. Pete Wisnieski Parkway

FLEET AVENUE NEWS

SLAVIC VILLAGE—CLEVELAND OH
JUNE-JULY 2020

HAPPY SUMMER!

Thanks Fleet Stakeholders flag crew for installing new American flags on utility poles along the business district. The flags went up for Memorial Day and will fly through Independence Day.



FOURTH OF JULY BIKE PARADE!

The Community Yahoos will host a Fleet Avenue Bike Parade on Saturday, July 4th, including prizes for the best decorated bikes. As the event draws nearer, watch The Neighborhood News for updates on how everyone can participate.

BUSINESS REOPENING

Following the guidance of Ohio's public health authorities, many Fleet area establishments which closed during the COVID-19 emergency have reopened. Churches, restaurants, hair salons, a florist, ice cream stand, and other entities have altered their operations to conform to recently announced protocols enunciated to get the economy moving while keeping employees and customers safe. Patronize them!

THANK YOU, GARDENERS!

Fleet Stakeholders want to acknowledge resident Donna Smith, Fleet Bike Shop, PLAV Lincoln Post #13, Fairchild Printing, Vics Floral, Dynasty Barbershop, and others for their hard work planting, pruning, weeding, and cleaning the street plantings in the last few weeks. They need your help! Lend a hand, as your schedules allow, to help keep Fleet's flora looking sharp.

Gertrude Avenue plant stand—Gold Plum invites veteran and newbie gardeners to share their favorite plants with their neighbors. Give a plant, grab a plant, all for free. Please return containers. The outdoor plant stand is located on the side of Gold Plum studio, 6506 Gertrude Avenue.

MEETINGS

Block club meetings and many events remain dormant until Ohio gives the all-clear.

FLEET HISTORY FUN FACT

St. John Nepomucene Roman Catholic Church stands as the western anchor of Fleet Ave.; at E49th Street and I77. It is also the historic anchor of the community of European immigrants who arrived from Czechoslovakia in the 1870s and 1880s to work in the city's steel industry. They originally lived in Cleveland's Flats, around E37 St. and Croton Ave (St. Wenceslas Church), then expanded to E55 St. and Broadway Ave (Our Lady of Lourdes Church). As their population grew, they settled around E 55 St and Fleet Ave, in a community they named Karlin. The parish was founded in 1902. It is named after a patron saint of the Czechs.

Are you an entrepreneur, planner, or motivated citizen?
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Letters to the Editor

Legion thanks Drug Mart

Dear Editor:

Thank you, on behalf of American Legion Post 572, to all our friends at the Independence Drug Mart who helped us raise \$1468 during our Memorial Day Poppy Drive.

Dave Domzalski, Post 572 member

Cuyahoga Heights resident

O'Reilly Auto Parts opens in Slavic Village

O'Reilly Auto Parts has opened a new store this week at 6535 Broadway Ave. in Slavic Village. They are a full service parts store with free automotive testing and services. This nearly \$1 million investment compliments the other new retailers and businesses opening in the Slavic Village neighborhood and bringing new jobs to the community.

Check The Neighborhood News for O'Reilly's grand opening ad in August when they hope to do an appropriate public ribboncutting ceremony.

Local food pantries

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

Southeast Cleveland

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

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

First Tabernacle Beth El, 3561 Independence Rd. - Greater Cleveland Food Bank distribution on June 4, July 2, August 6, 4-6 p.m.

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

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Bedford officials address

(Continued from Page 1)

Response to Tinkers Creek tragedy praised

Mallis and other officials praised the expedient and thorough response of Bedford police and firefighters and Metroparks rangers to a recent incident in Tinkers Creek in the Metroparks Reservation within the city, resulting in the recovery of the body of Bedford resident Tarik Seaberry, 23.

Officials offered their condolences as Seaberry apparently had drowned in the water. Two other people were rescued near the viaduct area after a large group of people went into the creek the evening of Thursday, May 28, police stated.

Mallis cautioned, "Everybody's looking to get out or even swim, but I urge you, that is not the place to swim. We have had over 10 rescues over the last decade and multiple fatalities."

Legislation on agenda

All legislation on Monday night's agenda passed, including an ordinance for the city to enter into a contract with Burton Scott Contractors, LLC, for the Forbes Road resurfacing project, at a cost not to exceed \$234,153.70. Cuyahoga County will reimburse one half of the cost of the project, up to \$194,000, according to the legislation.

Also given the green light was a contract with Chagrin Valley Paving for the 2020 Street Improvement Program, at a cost not to exceed \$289,341.50, which does not include construction inspection and engineering fees. The Cuyahoga County Public Works Department will reimburse the city up to \$29,000 for material cost of the project, pursuant to its crack sealing program, the ordinance states.

Council passed legislation for a contract with Nerone and Sons, Inc., for emergency repairs to the Wood Creek Trunk Sewer at a cost of \$80,000, as erosion has exposed the sewer and eradicated its support.

Also approved was legislation declaring the property and structure at 96 John St. a nuisance and condemning it.

And an ordinance amending the codified ordinances entitled "penalty, interest, fees and charges" regarding the city's income tax code, was passed by council.

Announcements

Mallis said that a new dog was being trained for the police K-9 Unit, to serve as the successor to beloved K-9 Officer Mike, who passed away last year.

Sinkholes throughout the city, including on Brune, Broadmoor, West Glendale, Greencroft and other areas will be addressed by the service department, Mallis stated.

WORK UNDERWAY AT STELLA WALSH REC



Capital repair work is underway at Stella Walsh Recreation Center, 7245 Broadway Ave., Slavic Village, and will remain in place through July 2021. The center will be closed for the summer during early stages of construction but is planned to open in the fall. However, staff will continue to serve "Grab and Go" meals throughout the summer for youth weekdays from 4 to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from noon to 1 p.m. *Photo courtesy of Ward 12 Councilman Tony Brancatelli*

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NOTICE OF BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS MEETING

The Village of Newburgh Hts. Board of Zoning Appeals will meet on Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the Village Hall Council Chambers located at 3801 Harvard Avenue in Newburgh Heights. Residents may view the public meeting live on the Village of Newburgh Heights Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/NewburghHeights/>.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of minutes (2-20-2020)
- III. Appeal of Declaration of a Public Nuisance, 5217 Brow Avenue (511-15-019)
- IV. Public Comment
- V. Discussion/Action on Application
- VI. Adjournment

Posted at Village Hall, Village website, and in The Neighborhood News, June 3, 2020

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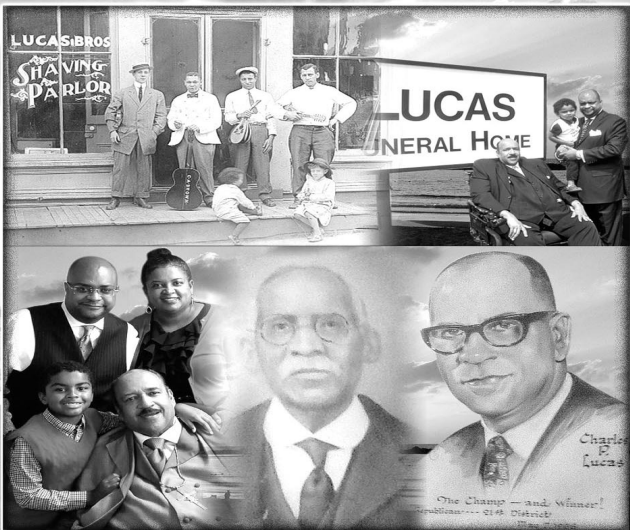
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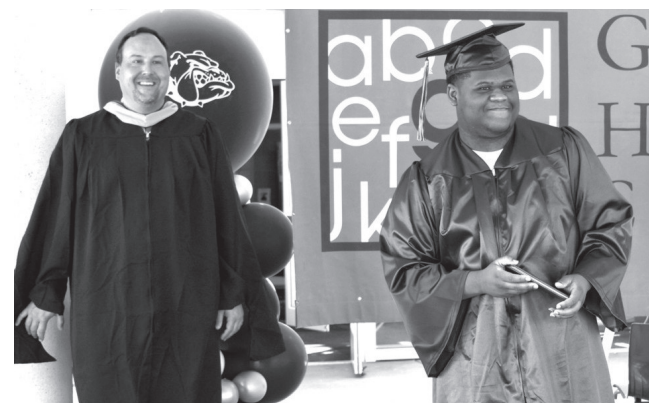
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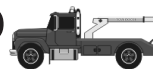
FARMER'S MARKET

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**PERSONALS****PERSONALS****PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, who light all roads, so that I can attain my goal. You who give me the Divine gift to forgive & to forget all evil against me & that in all instances of my life you are with me. I want this short prayer to thank you for all things, to confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you even in spite of all material illusions. I wish to be with you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine.

The person must say this prayer for 3 consecutive days, after 3 days the favor will be granted even if it may appear difficult. This prayer must be published immediately after the favor is granted without mentioning the favor. Only your initials should appear at the bottom. **D.D.**

NOVENA TO SACRED HEART

Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past, I have asked for many favors; this time I ask you for this special one (mention favor). Take a dear Heart of Jesus and place it within your heart where your Father sees it, then in his merciful eyes, it will become your favor, not mine. Amen. Say this prayer, 3 times for 3 days and your favor will be granted. Never known to fail. Must promise publication of prayer. **D.D.**

HELP WANTED**HELP WANTED****Help Wanted****Garfield Heights Service Department**

Part-time, seasonal workers wanted for grass crew. Applications are available at www.garfieldhts.org. For more information, please call Garfield Heights Service Garage (216) 475-1107 from 8am-9am daily. Please return the applications to, info@garfieldhts.org

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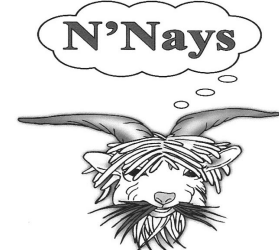
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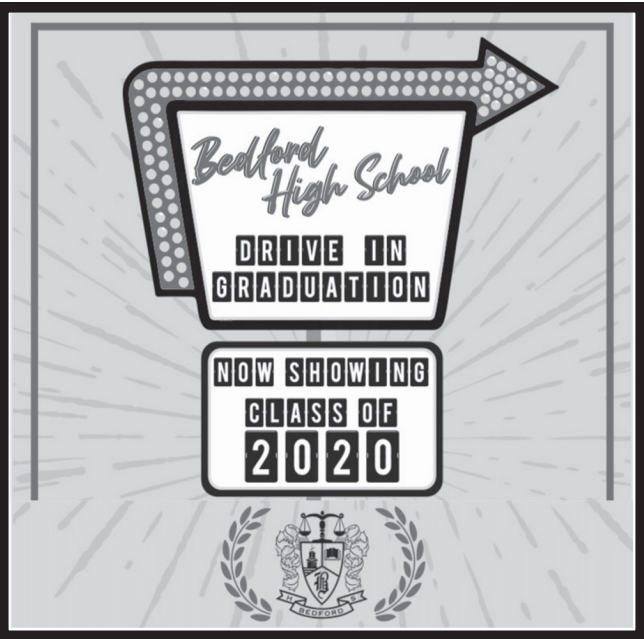
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Saluting the Bedford High School Class of 2020

Jose Maria Acosta
Zaria Zenée Adams
Cameron Christopher Allen
Laura Anne Askew
Amari Aliyah Atkins
Nicholas Daromero Atkins
Ashley Nicole Austin
Marvin Willis-Lovelle Bagley, Jr.
Alexis Nicole Barnes
Jaela Denise Savalia Barnes
Jazmine Alexis Barnwell
Owen Matthew Barzal
Ja’lon Nehemiah Baxter
Sarabeth Lilly Begg
Jalah Aure Bell
Torrán Lashawn Bell, Jr.
Ariel Lynay Bennett
Andre Kenon Bethea, Jr.
Bria Lynnice Billings Fitzgerald
Bernard Blue, Jr.
Tylance Jermaine Brazell
Jayda Monique Brewster
Brandon Dontel Briggs
Samira Gabriell Brown
Kayla Caprise Burton
Ancusto Serpeto Butler, III
Jasean Jawaan Calloway
Erik Logan Caporale
Joseph Thomas Caporale
Johnathan Vincent Carter
Melvin Lee Carter, III
Thomas Everett Cashman
Sharea Cashe Churn
Sandra Cecilia Cisneros Cabrera
Marcus Eugene Jeremiah Cloud
Dakota Lee Coleman
Kennedy Gabrielle Copeland
Aaliyah Makayla Courtland
Jayla Diane Monae Dailey
Dasjon Lamont Dash
Marlon Carlos Davis
Wezleighon Terrea Davis
Sarah Grace Davison
Chaize Merrin Deloach
Tyriq Lyndell Derouen
DreSean Marquis Dixon
Precious Janaya Duncan
Tierra Marie Dunnican
Mina Iliasa Edge
Christerpher Eugene
Edmonds-Hall, Jr.
Joshua James Edwards
Brandice Chakquera Evans
Joshua Allen Michael Evans
Shabrionna Renee Fadzl
Alexander Thomas Marley Fields
Jaydin Yanai Foster
Joshua Perry Fouche

Kyle Bruce-Darnell Fowler
Jayvon Jermyn Franklin
Seth Elijah Freeman
Kathryn Victoria Garberich
India Renee-Taylor Gardener
Kayla Syann Garner
Shantia Marie Gary
Jose Manuel Gonzalez, III
Victoria Gonzalez
Madison Jade Greer
Angel CHI Griffin
Mario Jamale Gross, Jr.
Tyshon Da’vonte Hall
Marcel Richard Hampton, Jr.
Taniah Dajanae Hayes
Keith Lawrence Henderson, Jr.
Devin Delano Lior Hibbitt
Robert Otis Hicks
Kayla Renee Hill
Marc Edward Jay Hood, Jr.
Maiya Kayshay Hooks
Mark Richard Howard
Vanessa Roxanne Howard
Lorilea Andrea Rose Hudak
Ciara Mercedes Hudson
Jaize Savon Hudson
Kamille Ajani Noel Hughes
Adam Matthew Incarnato
Cameron Isaiah Jackson
Cassidy Camille Jackson
Deshayla Rachelle Jackson
James Shamar Jackson
Jamiyonna Da’shawa Jackson
Makya Tajaya Jackson
Rodney Robert Jackson, Jr.
Shaniah Denise Jackson
Shania Miriam Jeffrey
Elijah Jeffries
Thomas Hulon Jeffries, V
Ajanae Loren Johnson
Brandon Hall Johnson
Jada Diane Johnson
Jame Keichele Marie Johnson
Stacy Lamar Johnson
Tori Janeese Rosa Johnson
Ian Vincent Jones
Kiya Michelle Jones
Collin Ray Kennedy
Jonneko La’chae Knight
Yolanda Breanna Lavender
Catarius Earl Santeze Lee
Ryan Wade Lemasters
Bria Cherie Leverett
Charles Daniel Lindsey, Jr.
Noah Jay Linen
Hunter Charles Joseph Long
Jaden Aliyah Lowe

Cameron Jamel Lucky
Jerome Henry Luster, III
Destyne Olivia Macklin-Robinson
Ayren Kayla Magic
Kylan Andrew Lorenzo Maloney
Jaylen Romond Marbuery
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Nevaeh Lazalle Marketa Rand
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Dy’nasti Lashone Reed
Ranique Vilrose Otencia Rhoden
Deandra Raylise Richardson
William James Rist, III
Angel Matthew Rista
Stephen Joseph Rodono
Daniel Romero, Jr.

Bedford High School 2020 Top Grads

All graduated Summa Cum Laude with a 3.9 or higher cumulative GPA.

1. Anijah Slaughter
2. Celeste Sanders
3. India Matthews
4. Anja Vanhuffel Gouldlock
5. Luke Mohnasky
6. Kayla Hill
7. Brayon Miller
8. Thomas Hailey
9. Ian Jones
10. Shabrionna Fadzl

Hector Yandel Rosario
Austin Lee Rowell
Celeste Emma Sanders
Nicholas Andrew Schroeder
Elizah James Simpson
Darnnell Brandon Sims
Aerynne Simone Singleton
Sarah Elizabeth Skizenta
Anijah Jean Latrice Slaughter
Verterio Leeneal Smith-Lowery
Justin Shamar Sneed
Alysia Lynn Soltau
Tessa Marie Soltis
Ashley Taylor Speight
William Julius Speight, IV
Ivory Stanton, III
Zachary Joseph Starr
Sage Muse Stephens
Brinden Wayne Stewart
Shemar Stewart
Danielle Chenay Stokes
Madison Colleen Stover
Bruceon Lavarius Streeter
Jamir Ellijah Sullivan
Antonio Rodriquez Taylor, Jr.
Joshua Anthony Terry
Hailey Shantel Thomas

Jamil Anton Thomas
Khalil Rodney Thomas
Kyree Alonzo Thomas
Mia Marie Thomas
Mya Nicole Thomas
Jasmyne Alexis Thompson
Romello Lorenz Tompkins
Spencer Matthew Toohey
William Tubbs, III
Enya Arieal Turner
Matthew Thomas Twitt
Brianna Marie Underwood
Anja Dorothy VanHuffel Gouldlock
Savannah Lynn Vrtachnik
Freedom James Walker
Jamyra Pearl Watkins
Kiara Da’janae Whaley
Arianna Maria White
Jordan Ashley Whittaker
Rufus Alvin Williams, IV
Taylor Imani Williams
Juwaan Ross Willis
Jayla Christine Wilson
Henry Clay Woodard, IV
Council Jimille Wright, Jr.
Madison Elizabeth Wright
Sema’ja Nataya Young
Marisa Anya Zenda