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97th YEAR NO. 42

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2020

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

FREE

Maple Heights OKs jobs creation grant with GOJO

By Judith Goldsworth

At a special teleconference meeting last week, Maple Heights Council approved legislation authorizing Mayor Annette Blackwell to enter into an agreement with Akron-based GOJO Industries for a Job Creation and Retention Program Grant. The manufacturer will be investing about \$25 million to produce sanitizing products in a facility in Maple Heights.

GOJO makes Purell products, which are in extremely high demand in the midst of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and recently purchased a 325,000-square-foot facility at 5700 Lee Rd. South in the Rockside-Broadway neighborhood to manufacture Purell Surface Spray, Blackwell stated after council approved the resolution.

"This is bringing 100 jobs to the city through a partnership with Cuyahoga County, JobsOhio and Team NEO," Blackwell stated. She said that besides its facilities in Ohio, GOJO has operations in the United Kingdom, France, Australia, Japan, Mexico and Canada.

Economic Development Director Patrick Grogan-Myers, who Blackwell said was instrumental in bringing GOJO to Maple Heights, stated, "The total investment for GOJO Industries is approximately \$25 million. GOJO's Maple Heights facility will bring 100 jobs and over \$5 million in payroll to the city. This payroll is estimated to generate \$127,000 in income taxes for the city."

(Continued on Page 3)

Indy Council votes to expand outside restaurant seating; hires added law firm in 'traffic ticket quotas' lawsuit

At its June 9 meeting of Independence Council, a motion was approved to allow Mayor Gregory Kurtz to create or expand outside seating for restaurants within the city.

It also allowed the city's economic development director to let Independence restaurants know of its desire to assist them through permits in facilitating the creation or expansion of outdoor restaurant seating through Oct. 31, 2020, in response to COVID-19.

Also passed was an ordinance to retain the legal services of Mazanec, Raskin & Ryder Co., LPA, in connection with a federal lawsuit filed last year against the city and top officials.

Leonard Mazzola, a former lieutenant in the Independence Police Department, filed a federal civil-rights lawsuit in Oct. 2019, against the City of Independence and three of its top officials - then-mayor Anthony Togliatti, Police Chief Michael Kilbane and Law Director Gregory O'Brien - alleging First Amendment retaliation and related claims, according to The Chandra Law Firm's online posting, which Mazzola hired to represent him.

(Continued on Page 2)

Garfield Hts. police chief retires after media reports of violent arrest incident; residents call for police accountability at council meeting

By Ellen Psenicka

In a letter to Garfield Heights Mayor Vic Collova dated last Thursday, Police Chief Robert Byrne submitted his notice of retirement from the city's police department.

Widely covered media reports and video of a man diagnosed with mental disorders, Kenta Settles, 28, being detained by Officer Michael Malak last January on Turney Rd. without giving him a reason, and subsequently tackling him to the ground with Officer Robert Pitts and Tased in a violent confrontation played into the chief's decision to retire, Byrne said.

"Let me be clear," Byrne said in his letter to Collova, "I stand by my decision to support the officers involved in this incident."

"It is evident that many want changes in police departments across America including Garfield Heights. I do not believe I am the best person to instill this change," the chief continued.

At Monday night's telephone conference meeting of city council, Collova praised Chief Byrne for his distinguished 31-year career in law enforcement, and said how disturbed he was by the "slanted media reports" on the January incident, in which an internal investigation had found the officers innocent of any wrongdoing.

"There's a lot more involved with that incident that would certainly cast a different light on the case," Collova said at the council meeting. "But unfortunately because of litigation I can't comment now, but when the time comes I will comment loudly and clearly."

Attorneys Jeremy Tor, Dennis Lansdowne and Nick DiCello of Spangenberg Shibley & Liber LLP have brought a police brutality lawsuit against five officers of the Garfield Heights Police Department on behalf of Settles. The lawsuit claims the officers acted with excessive force and violated the plaintiff's civil rights, according to the law firm's online posting.

Residents phoning in to the council meeting questioned the police department's use of force, its lack of diversity and more than one called for Malak's firing.

"It's been a tough few weeks with the virus and racial tensions spilling over across the country into Garfield Heights," the mayor told residents. "But don't give up on this community. We will get through this, and we'll do it together."

Meeting on policing set

At the meeting, civic activist and Garfield Heights resident James Fruits announced a meeting on policing in Garfield Heights set for this Thursday, June 25, at 5:45 p.m. at The Rock Church, 9403 Garfield Blvd.

He said a neutral moderator will be on hand as well as facilitators who will lead small discussion groups, hopefully in an outdoor setting if the weather allows. Residents and city officials are urged to attend. Masks and social distancing will be the protocol for safety.

"This will be a time to sit together and let our voices be heard as we share our experiences," Fruits said.

Legislation passed

The following legislation was approved by council at Monday night's meeting:

- Establishing the local Coronavirus Relief Fund and affirming that monies received will only be spent for lawful purposes.

- Executing a Master Tax-Exempt Lease-Purchase Agreement between Key Government Finance, Inc. and the city to acquire a fire engine and related appurtenances at a cost not to exceed \$440,000 and interest on rental payments with an annual rate not over 2.97%. The final renewal term of the lease shall end not later than 10 years from the commencement date of the lease.

An ordinance to sponsor The Cleveland Clinic in its effort to submit a Transportation Review Advisory Council application for funding of the I-480/Granger Road Interchange Improvement Project was moved to the Legislative Committee.

Improving the interchange would allow for easier access to Marymount Hospital, the legislation notes, for both emergency vehicles and patrons, as well as improve traffic flow and provide a positive impact for area businesses, and would be a no cost to the city.

Giant Eagle at City View open for public shopping

Giant Eagle, Inc. has announced that it has resumed regular operations at its Garfield Heights location on Transportation Blvd. The location has been operating exclusively as a curbside pickup center since April.

"The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic created an urgent need for food retailers to innovate and find ways to make contactless pickup and delivery options available to more people, and converting our Garfield Heights store was critical for our ability to meet the needs of Cleveland area Giant Eagle guests," said Giant Eagle spokesperson Jannah Jablonowski. "We are now in a position to meet the increased demand for grocery pickup and home delivery services with same-day and next-day slots available to guests at most locations, and with that, felt it was time to welcome guests back into our Garfield Heights supermarket."

Shoppers can continue to place curbside pickup and home delivery orders from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., daily. The Garfield Heights in-store pharmacy will continue to operate for prescription pickup or drop off both in-pharmacy and at the drive-thru from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Patients are encouraged to speak to a pharmacy Team Member to determine the best way to obtain their medications.

Indy Council votes

(Continued from Page 1)

The complaint, as outlined in Chandra's posting, relates how Independence officials pursued a policy of setting traffic-ticket quotas to increase revenue. The policy, which the police chief called a "performance standard," required each patrol officer to write 10 tickets per month or face discipline, according to Chandra.

The suit is still pending in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio. Presiding Judge James S. Gwin is assigned to the case.

Also approved at the June meeting were the following:

- Tax budget for 2021;
- Project agreement with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District for the West Creek at Patriots Way Culvert Replacement Project, which includes reimbursement from NEORSO of up to \$46,850, and the city to pay \$33,850;

• Acquisition, installation, equipment and improvement of certain public improvements in cooperation with the Northeast Ohio Advanced Energy District for the Pleasant Valley Road Project in connection with Redwood's purchase of the old ADP building. Officials said this economic development project will bring jobs to the city and massively upgrade the building. Also passed were two related pieces of legislation to levy special assessments for the project;

• Proposal of Euthenics, Inc. for professional services in connection with the Hillside Road Sidewalk Improvements Project (Hawthorn Trace to S. Great Oaks Parkway), not to exceed \$15,000, which will cover about 30% of the engineering work;

• Allocating of up to \$50,000 towards the purchase and distribution of personal protection products (masks, sanitizer, etc.) for vulnerable, at-risk residents of the city in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic;

• Approval of a preliminary plan for sublots for Timothy

J. Lee, Daisy, LLC, and Daisy May, LLC.

• Requesting the city's share of funds (\$121,000) from the County Coronavirus Relief Distribution Fund.

Grab and Go lunches at Fleet branch library

The Fleet Branch of the Cleveland Public Library, 7224 Broadway Ave., in Slavic Village, has started to serve Grab and Go meals for children ages 18 and under and will continue throughout the summer between 10:30 a.m. and 12 p.m. each weekday, as announced by Ward 12 Councilman Tony Brancatelli.

The Stella Walsh Recreation Center across the street from the library is not opening this summer. All meals there will be canceled as of July 3.

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Maple Heights OKs jobs

(Continued from Page 1)

The structure of the grant is as follows: the city will award GOJO an annual grant payment from city non-tax revenues equal to 25% of the income tax withheld on GOJO's employee payroll for a period of five years, beginning August 1, 2020, capped at \$31,000 per year, with the stipulation that during the five-year period, GOJO stays in the city, maintains a minimum annual payroll of \$5 million and annually employs at least 100 workers.

Blackwell explained GOJO's need to expand its operations, given the increased demand for Purell products due to the pandemic, and also noted the facility's large area, which formerly housed Blue Coral products, and its close proximity to rail transport and to the company's headquarters in Akron as reasons for GOJO's decision to locate in the city.

CARES legislation, other items passed

Council also passed a resolution at last week's meeting to affirm that funds from the Cuyahoga County Coronavirus Relief Distribution Fund will be expended only to cover Maple Heights' costs consistent with the requirements of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, signed into federal law in March.

Blackwell said the distribution of the funds was the work of the Ohio Municipal League to offset "significant losses of revenue to cities due to COVID-19."

Council also passed a resolution authorizing Blackwell to enter into the 2020 Construction Season Master Cooperative Agreement with Cuyahoga County for preventive maintenance services.

"Pursuant to an award letter dated February 24, 2020 and May 7, 2020, the municipalities will be reimbursed by the county for performing preventive maintenance activities on county roadways," including pavement resurfacing,

base repairs, curb replacement and repairs, rebuilding catch basins and manholes, pavement striping, crack sealing, pavement joint repair and other maintenance services.

Also passed was an ordinance amending the city's codified ordinances concerning side yard fences on properties purchased by homeowners as adjacent side yards from the city's Land Bank.

The maximum height of fences in side yards (except for living fences) "shall be six feet from the finished grade to the top of any portion of the fence," and as amended, "side yard fences shall be located at least 30 inches from the property line, and not be constructed in front of the dwelling."

Council also approved a motion to authorize the Community Life and Education Committee's "Bridge The Gap Rally and Parade," which was held over the weekend, "to further the public purposes of promoting good will, civic pride, harmony and understanding throughout the entire Maple Heights community by fostering interaction between residents... and the police department."

~Laws of the Land~ in Garfield Heights

Do you live in Garfield Heights and have a question about its ordinances - what may or may not be legal in any given circumstance? This column will answer your questions with the help of members of Garfield Heights City Council.

Question – What is the city's policy on animal excrement?

Answer – No owner, keeper or person in charge of any animal shall allow or permit such animal to void urine or

excrement on any public or private property other than the property of the owner, keeper or person in charge of such animal, except that animals may be allowed or permitted to void urine or excrement between the curbs of public streets or alleys and on vacant, unoccupied and unused public or private land, provided the owner of such unused public or private land does not publicly and prominently post notice thereon that such acts are prohibited.

No owner, keeper or person in charge of any animal shall fail to pick up and properly dispose of any fecal matter left by his animal on any public or private property. **Ordinance 90-1991.** Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.

E. 55th detour in S.V.

Cleveland Ward 12 Councilman Tony Brancatelli said he is pleased to announce "we are on the home stretch" for the last phase of the million-dollar E. 55th Street Restoration Project.

There will be one-way traffic on E. 55 St. for the next 30 days southbound from Harvard to Fleet aves. Northbound traffic will be detoured from Harvard Ave. east to E. 71 St. north to Fleet Ave. west.

Washington Park Community School

4000 Washington Park Blvd., Newburgh Heights, Ohio 44105, 216-271-6055

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING DATES 2020-2021

All meetings will take place in the meeting room of the Washington Park Community School beginning at 5:30 p.m.



Thursdays:
June 11, 2020
July 9, 2020
August 6, 2020
September 10, 2020
October 22, 2020
November 12, 2020

December 3, 2020
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Two shot at Marathon station in Maple Heights

Last Wed., June 17, at 2 a.m., the Maple Heights Police Department received a call from the Cleveland Police Department stating they were with a male who was shot at the Marathon gas station, located at 5012 Warrensville Center Rd.

The Maple Heights Police Department never received any calls about shots being fired, said Lt. Joseph T. Mocsiran, in a MHPD press release.

When units became available they went to the area of the Marathon gas station and found between 18-20 spent shell casings.

While on scene, they received another call from Cleveland Police stating that they were informed that there was a second shooting victim at South Pointe Hospital being

transferred to MetroHealth Medical Center. Both males were treated and are in stable condition with non-life-threatening injuries.

After reviewing the surveillance video, MHPD noted there were two groups of African-American males who began shooting at one another at the Marathon station. The group of three males were parked in front, in a red vehicle, and the other two males involved were in a black vehicle. The males started to argue and as the black vehicle pulled away both groups started shooting at each other, according to the press release. Police are looking for a black Nissan Sentra and a red Toyota Camry.

Pictures of all males involved and the vehicles of interest are included are shown at right.

Anyone with information related to this case is urged to contact the Maple Heights Detective Bureau: 216-587-9624 or Detectives@mhpd-ohio.com

As always, information can be supplied anonymously to Crime Stoppers.



Suspects



NOTICE OF ELECTION

FOR A PROPOSED TAX LEVY (RENEWAL)

FOR THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Resolution No. 2020-02, adopted on January 15, 2020 and Resolution No. 2020-11, adopted on February 5, 2020, by the Council of the City of Maple Heights, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, there will be submitted to the electors of the City of Maple Heights, at an election to be held on August 4, 2020, the question of a renewal of a tax for the benefit of the City of Maple Heights for the purpose of payment of current expenses and general operations of the Maple Heights Senior Center not to exceed 1.3 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to 13 cents for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for five years. If a majority of the voters voting thereon vote in favor thereof, that levy will be first placed on the tax list and duplicate commencing in 2020, and first due in calendar year 2021.

Leonette Cicirella Johnson,
Clerk of Council, City of Maple Heights

The Neighborhood News
June 24, 2020
July 1, 2020

Legal Advertisement

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Garfield Heights (“Owner”), at the office of the Fiscal Officer, City of Garfield Heights, 5407 Turney Road, Garfield Heights, OH 44125 on the 1st day of July, 2020 until 2:00 pm current local time for the:

“2020 Paving Program”

and will be publicly opened and read immediately thereafter. Each bid must contain the full names of the party or parties making the same, with an affidavit as to interested parties, and in the case of a corporation not chartered in Ohio, with a proper certificate that such corporation is authorized to do business in Ohio, and shall be accompanied by a Bid Guaranty Bond for the full amount (100%) of the Bid, in favor of the “Owner” or a certified check, cashier’s check, or letter of credit pursuant to Chapter 1305 of the Ohio Revised Code, in the amount of 10% of the Bid, payable to the “Owner”.

It is agreed that the bid guaranty shall be for the benefit of the “Owner” pursuant to Section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code if the undersigned fails to execute the Contract in conformity with the Form of Contract incorporated in the contract documents and furnish Bond and insurance certificates within ten (10) days after the notification of the award of the Contract to the undersigned.

Copies of the Contract Documents are on file and may be obtained at the office of the City of Garfield Heights, 5407 Turney Road, Garfield Heights, OH 44125, upon payment of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00), none of which will be refunded. Checks shall be made payable to the City of Garfield Heights.

Please note that in order to be considered as a “responsive bidder” for this project, you must purchase a set of plans and bid documents, and follow all instructions provided. Bids from contractors who are not on the **Plan Holders List** will be disqualified.

The “Owner” reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any informalities in the bids received, and to accept any bid which it deems most favorable.

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Barbara A. Biro, Finance Director
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Week of June 14th, 2020
Week of June 21st, 2020

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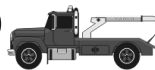
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D.D.**PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT**

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.**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.

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Community police reports

Garfield Heights

Breaking and Entering

Officers responded to Jamaica's Drumpon Jerk, 4980 Turney Rd., for a breaking and entering sometime during the night of June 9-10. A window of the restaurant was broken and the only thing the owner could see missing was a tip jar kept on the counter in the lobby. Owner was advised to contact police if anything was found on the surveillance video. The next day a suspect was in custody who admitted to the break-in.

Criminal Damaging

On June 11, shortly before 1 a.m., police responded to

Garfield Auto Center, 4923 Turney Rd., for a commercial glass break alarm. While en route, officers observed a male crossing Turney Rd. westbound from the area of Garfield Auto. He was stopped but had no weapon or criminal tools on him and was released. There was a large crack in the business's lobby window but it was still intact. At about 5 a.m., police responded to an alarm at Boulevard Garage and found the man they had previously detained attempting to break into that business. He was arrested and admitted to his involvement in this incident.

Breaking and Entering

A man in the 5500 block of Cumberland Dr. reported the theft of a scooter and charger from his garage on June 14. He was unaware how someone could have entered his garage as it only opens with a garage door opener.

Theft-Shoplifting

Officer responded to the Get-Go gas station on Transportation Blvd. on June 14, at about 9:20 p.m., for a

robbery that occurred a few minutes prior. The manager told police a man had parked a red Chevy Cavalier near the entrance of the store, walked inside to the cooler and took an unknown number of cases of Red Bull, loaded them onto a two-wheel dolly and left the store.

The manager said he verbally confronted the suspect as he left the store. The suspect then loaded the cases into his car trunk, but there was no physical altercation. The man then left the area traveling north on Transportation Blvd. Value of the stolen Red Bull was estimated at \$400.

Shots Fired

At 1:51 p.m. on June 17, police were sent to North Drive for shots being fired from a moving auto. An officer spoke to a resident of the 12700 block of North Drive who said a black auto came down the street and the driver shot at least four times into the air from his car window. Officers did not find the car but did locate a single 22 Mag casing in the street.

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