

The Neighborhood News

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97th YEAR NO. 52

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

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

FREE

More potential victims sought of alleged Bedford child molester

Bedford Deputy Police Chief Rick Suts said last week that David Marek, age 38, of Bedford, has been arrested and charged by Bedford PD for sex crimes involving an 11-year-old female. He said police are trying to determine if there are any more possible victims. Anyone with information is asked to call Bedford PD at 440-232-1234.



David Marek

Bedford officers responded to a Regina Dr. home in the early morning hours of Monday, Aug. 24, for a welfare check called in by Niagara Regional PD in Canada. Officers spoke to an 11-year-old girl who said that day she had sent a message to her friend in Canada saying she needed police regarding abuse going on in the household. The girl said the abuse had been ongoing since 2018.

The Bedford Detective Bureau learned that from Aug. 25, 2019, to Feb. 29, 2020, Marek had been allegedly molesting the girl and secretly video taping her with a covert camera he had placed in the bathroom and taking lewd pictures of her.

On Aug. 31, after obtaining a search warrant, police searched the Regina Dr. home and arrested Marek at his workplace on charges of gross sexual imposition and took him to the Bedford jail. Additional charges may be filed.

According to the police report, Marek was interviewed by police and admitted to molesting the girl, filming her in the bathroom and taking the lewd photos.

On Sept. 2, Marek appeared in court with counsel and his bond was set at \$1 million. A preliminary hearing was waived and Marek was bound over to the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court.

Chief Murphy passes away

Retired Garfield Heights Police Chief Thomas Murphy, 74, passed away over the weekend. Chief Murphy was appointed with the GHPD on Dec. 1, 1966, where earned the ranks of sergeant, lieutenant, captain and eventually chief from Jan. 1, 1990, to his retirement on Jan. 18, 2011. Funeral services will be private with no calling hours.

Turn face masks into batteries

From Sept. 8th through Sept. 10th, Garfield Jewelers, 5841 Turney Rd., Garfield Heights, will be collecting donations of N95 or washable, reusable face masks; no paper or disposable masks will be accepted. Donors will receive a free watch battery for each mask brought in. All masks will be donated to Jennings Center in Garfield Heights.

File your 2020 Census form

By Garfield Heights Mayor Vic Collova

As a reminder, I want to encourage all residents to respond to the 2020 Census. The Census determines how \$675 billion dollars will be allocated to states and local governments.

The deadline to respond to the Census has been extended to Sept. 30. As of Sept. 2, the response rate for Garfield Heights was 64.5%, compared to 69.3% for the state of Ohio).

Responding to the Census is easier than ever. You can respond online by going to: 2020census.gov, or Google: 2020 Census Ways to Respond, or by phone, 844-220-2020 (in Spanish 844-468-2020).

G.H. Police seek info on fatal shooting

The Garfield Heights Police Department is seeking the public's help in obtaining information on the shooting death of a 54-year-old man last Wednesday, Sept. 2, shortly after midnight at the intersection of E. 136 St. and Christine Ave.

The man, later identified as Rodney Benson, was laying on his back in the intersection, with no signs of life. He was transported to Marymount Hospital where he was later pronounced deceased.

The incident is currently being investigated. Anyone with information is asked to call the Garfield Heights Detective Bureau at 216-475-5686.

I-480 east traffic will travel on new Valley View bridge starting Sunday

The Ohio Department of Transportation has announced upcoming ramp and lane closures due to the I-480 Valley View Bridge Deck Interstate 480 Valley View Bridge Deck Replacement Project that is constructing a new bridge between the two existing Valley View bridges and replaces the decks of the I-480 east and westbound Valley View bridges in Garfield Heights and Independence.

- I-480 eastbound between I-77 and Transportation Blvd. will have double lane closures beginning Friday, Sept. 11, at 8 p.m. through Saturday, Sept. 12, at 6 a.m. in order to shift eastbound traffic onto the new I-480 Valley View Bridge. Single lane closures will be implemented on Saturday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

- The I-77 north and southbound exit ramps to I-480 eastbound will be closed beginning Saturday, Sept. 12, from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. in order to shift eastbound traffic onto the new I-480 Valley View Bridge. Detour will be I-480 westbound to SR 17 westbound to I-480 eastbound.

- I-480 eastbound entrance and exit ramps at Transportation Blvd. will be closed beginning Saturday, Sept. 12, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. in order to shift eastbound traffic onto the new I-480 Valley View Bridge. Detour for I-480 eastbound exit to Transportation Blvd.: Granger Rd. to I-480 west to Transportation Blvd. Detour for Transportation Blvd. entrance to I-480 east: Granger Rd. to Broadway Ave. to I-480 eastbound.

All I-480 eastbound traffic will officially be traveling on the new I-480 Valley View Bridge beginning Sunday, Sept. 13, through Fall 2021 as crews work on the existing I-480 eastbound bridge. Eastbound traffic will still have access to the I-77 interchange and exit to Transportation Blvd. Estimated completion: June 2024.

Maple Hts. Council fails to get votes to declare racism public health crisis

By Judith Goldsworth

Mayor Annette Blackwell and other officials in Maple Heights have expressed their disappointment at failure of legislation at last week's council meeting that would have declared racism a public health crisis in the city but hope to address the issue in some form in the future.

The resolution, sponsored by Council members Dana Anderson and Richard Trojanski, stated in part: "Maple Heights City Council wishes to declare racism a public health crisis, and would like to commit to improving the overall quality of life of our minority residents, business owners and visitors."

At the meeting, held via teleconference, Council President Ron Jackson stated that at a Committee of the Whole meeting held earlier last week it had been recommended that the legislation be put forth for a vote at the Wednesday, Sept. 2 council meeting.

Before council's vote to suspend the rules and pass it on emergency, Councilwoman Toni Jones stated, "I am not sure everything is resolved on this piece of legislation, and I am asking the body if we want to put it on first reading right now."

Council voted to suspend the rules requiring first, second and third readings. However, when it came to passing it on emergency, Council's vote was 4-yes, 3-no, with Council members Christian Ostenson, Jones, Anderson and Trojanski voting for it. Council members Stafford Shenett, Tanglyn Madden and Edwina Agee voted against passage.

Law Director Frank Consolo clarified that the legislation failed to pass because there were not five out of seven members, or two-thirds majority, voting yes on passing it on emergency. "It fails and does not go to first reading," Consolo said.

In a statement released after last week's meeting, Blackwell stated, "I am deeply disappointed that this very important legislation did not pass, and that the effort of two city council members (Anderson and Trojanski) to prepare and introduce it was not supported or respected by the majority of council members."

(Continued on Page 3)

COVID-19 evictions could leave more women without a vote: Part I of II

(Editor's Note: This story was originally published by The Fuller Project, a nonprofit newsroom reporting on issues that affect women.)

By Malcolm Burnley and Rachel Dissell,
The Fuller Project

Lynn Rodemann walked up the driveway, a mask fixed tightly to her face.

A mother of five welcomed her into the backyard, where she was cleaning up the colorful, damp decorations from a child's birthday party the evening before.

Rodemann, a community outreach specialist, is part of a pandemic response team traversing Slavic Village to check on residents and offers information on a rent assistance program – and an application to vote by mail in the upcoming November presidential election.

Working the overnight shift as a corrections officer at a women's prison during a pandemic, coupled with limited

child care options is a daily struggle, the woman said.

"You could see how tired she was," says Rodemann, who broke social distancing protocol to give the woman, who started to cry, a hug. "I was so devastated for her."

After that encounter, she wondered how a mom like the one she had met could have any energy left to worry about voting. A few days later, Rodemann returned to the home with a care package: masks, alcohol wipes and a thermometer.

"If there's a possibility that they're losing their house, they don't give a s___ about voting," says 39-year-old Rodemann, who has worked for Slavic Village Development in the historic but under-resourced neighborhood for six years.

"They're worried about keeping a roof over their head and still eating."

And just as fears of evictions remain in this community 10 minutes south of downtown Cleveland, it's a concern facing thousands of Americans nationwide.

Policy experts predict an "avalanche" of evictions to hit low-income renters across the country this fall. Women are expected to be the majority of the 30 to 40 million Americans at risk of eviction by year's end, according to findings from the Aspen Institute. If income-insecure women face losing their homes - and access to a stable address to receive voting registration, ballots, applications, and critical change-of-address forms - this could impact how many of them vote in the upcoming presidential election, experts say, adding this could also have a significant impact on the outcome of the November election.

"These aren't issues that people look at together, but they should be looking at together," says Shailly Gupta Barnes, policy director for the Poor People's Campaign and the Kairos Center.

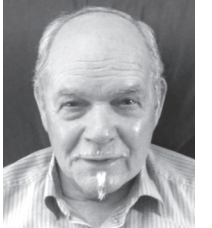
A recent NPR analysis found neighborhoods with higher evictions had lower voter turnout than the rest of the city, including other low-income neighborhoods.

(Continued on Page 4)

Death Notices

COLUMBUS MESSER

Columbus Messer, age 70. Predeceased by his first wife Merceta (nee Mack). Beloved husband of Janice (nee Lorince). Dear father of Tammy Messer (Donny Miller), Columbus Raymond Messer (Deidra Brown) and Amanda Lynn Messer; Stepfather of Sara, Michael Silbitzer (Nicole), and the late Patrick Silbitzer. Grandfather "Paw-paw" of Ashley, Jon Jon, Jeremy, Joshua, Tanya, Shaniah, Dylan, Sierra, Brooke, Isaac, Jonah, Alaina, Gabriella and Siena Sofia. Great-grandfather of Mason, Xavier, Alliyah, Hailey, J.J. and Jaiden. Dear brother of Maryellen (Lloyd), Alice (James), James (Donna), Junior (Emma), predeceased by Johnny Boy, Tiny and Harold.



VISITATION THURSDAY, SEPT. 10, FROM 3-7:00 P.M. AT THE FORTUNA FUNERAL HOME, 7076 BRECKSVILLE RD., INDEPENDENCE, OHIO 44131. FAMILY WILL RECEIVE FRIENDS ON FRIDAY, SEPT. 11, FROM 2-3:00 P.M. AT JENNIE'S CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH, 879 JENNIE'S CREEK RD., KERMIT, WEST VIRGINIA 25674. Burial immediately following in Carter-Messer Cemetery in Kermit, West Virginia. PLEASE NOTE: SOCIAL DISTANCING WILL BE OBSERVED AND MASKS ARE MANDATORY AT ALL TIMES. AT ANY GIVEN TIME, NO MORE THAN 40 PEOPLE WILL BE PERMITTED INTO THE FUNERAL HOME.

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Call Tony 440-591-0868 or Katie: 440-554-3915

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Future dates this year are: October 2 and October 16

Crispy Cod with Pirohi or French Fries

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The Neighborhood News Advertising Deadline
is Every Monday at 5:00 p.m.

Maple Hts. Council fails

(Continued from Page 1)

Shenett, as chair of council's Community Life and Education Committee, reported that the committee will be convening in the near future to discuss and create an initiative regarding community and race relations. "We will meet and work with the city council subcommittees, starting with the Housing and Safety Committees, to come up with a more comprehensive plan to address the issues and challenges around racism," he said.

Shenett added, "We will ultimately present our plan to the mayor and request that it is added as an attachment to a comprehensive resolution joining the national movement declaring racism as a public health crisis."

Other legislation on agenda

As GOJO Industries prepares to open at 5700 Lee R. South, providing potentially hundreds of jobs and needed income tax revenue in the city, council moved forward with plans to facilitate access to the 325,000-square foot plant, by approving a resolution authorizing Blackwell to enter into a contract with Ronyak Paving for the Lee Road South Repair project, at a cost of \$148,900.

Council had passed a resolution at its August meeting authorizing Hren to begin plans and to advertise for bids for the project, and Ronyak submitted the lowest and best bid, last week's legislation stated. Earliest start date for the project given by Ronyak is Monday, Sept. 21, with completion expected in 45 days, Hren stated.

Also passed was legislation authorizing Blackwell to enter into a contract with Terrace Construction Company, Inc., for the Mapleboro Avenue Watermain Replacement Project, at a cost not to exceed \$253,135.90.

The city has been awarded \$365,061 from the Cleveland Division of Water, through the Suburban Water Main Renewal Program, and the project will be funded in part through that grant, Hren stated. The earliest start date given was Monday, Sept. 28, with completion expected in 45 days.

Council also passed a resolution authorizing Blackwell to execute an agreement with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) for Community Cost Share Program Funds to obtain leaf collection equipment and rehabilitation of composting facilities at the city-owned property at 14580 Schreiber Rd., at a cost of \$87,500.

Service Director Tony Ciresi has informed Blackwell and Hren that municipal leaf collection and composting can be provided most cost effectively by utilizing Service Department personnel.

The legislation also directs Ciresi to seek proposals for the leaf collection equipment and authorizes Hren to prepare plans and seek proposals for the compost facility rehabilitation.

Council also passed an ordinance to remove all references to a garage sale permit fee from the codified ordinances after it was found that legislation passed in 2016 failed to amend conflicting garage sale fee provisions, adopted by council in 1993.

Residents must still obtain a garage sale permit from the Building Department before holding garage sales, but all references to fees were deleted. However, the phrase "During any 12-month period, no property or premises in the city shall be used for more than three garage sales," remains as before.

Announcements

Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas announced that the Maple Heights Fire Department responded to a fire in the 17000 block of Maple Heights Blvd. on Monday, Aug. 10, resulting in the death of Larry Wilkerson, 62. City officials expressed their condolences.

Officials congratulated Lt. Donald Grossmyer on his retirement this month after more than 29 years with the Maple Heights Police Department.

Blackwell commented briefly on the ongoing lawsuit brought by the city in U.S. District Court against Netflix and Hulu on the grounds they have not been paying

Maple Heights a mandated video service provider fee, amounting to 5% of their respective gross revenues.

"I think we are going to prevail, and as mayor I will take every opportunity on behalf of our residents to go after these fees."

Blackwell stated that residents were applying for jobs at GOJO, a grand reopening of the Farmer Jones Market was planned and two new houses were being built on Jefferson Avenue. Jones also stated that Reddi's Pizza was going to reopen soon under new ownership.

Tax levies on Nov. 3 ballot

With absentee ballots being mailed out and people starting to vote, these are the two issues in the Nov. 3 presidential election affecting readers in The Neighborhood News distribution area:

CLEVELAND MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Proposed Tax Levy (Renewal and Increase): A renewal of 15 mills and an increase of 5 mills to constitute a tax for the benefit of the Cleveland Municipal School District for the purpose of current expenses of the school district and of partnering community schools at a rate not exceeding 20 mills for each one dollar of valuation (of which 1.5 mills is to be allocated to partnering community schools), which amounts to \$2.00 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for ten years, commencing in 2020, first due in calendar year 2021.

CUYAHOGA COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT Proposed Tax Levy (Additional): An additional tax for the benefit of the Cuyahoga County Public Library at a rate not exceeding 1 mill for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to 10 cents for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a continuing period of time, commencing in 2020, first due in calendar year 2021.

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Sale prices good through September 12, 2020

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All contents of advertisements are subject to publisher's approval. Publisher reserves the right to reject or cancel any advertisement, insertion order, space reservation or position commitment at any time.

Positioning of advertisements is at the discretion of the publisher except where a request for a specific preferred position is acknowledged by the publisher.

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All advertising may be paid by using your VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER or AMERICAN EXPRESS credit cards; Cash or Check. Payment in advance is required in certain instances. Please place your ad early to allow payment to reach us before deadline.

CANCELLATIONS:

Deadline for cancellations is 5 p.m. on Mondays. Save your cancellation number in case an adjustment on your bill is necessary. Ads placed for only one week cannot be canceled.

ERRORS/ADJUSTMENTS:

Advertisers should check the first insertion of their ad. The Neighborhood News cannot be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion. Upon noting an error, the advertiser should call the Advertising Department at (216) 441-2141. Adjustments are made to the degree the error reduced the value of the ad. Publisher shall not be liable for any costs or damages if for any reason it fails to publish an advertisement.

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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 October, 2020 until 10:00 am current local time for the:

“Orchard Slide Slope Repair (Re-Bid)”

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. If a bidder purchased a copy of the Contract Documents for the original bid on August 13th, 2020 bid, then the updated Contract Documents will be mailed to that bidder at no additional cost.

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.

A bidder/contractor will be deemed committed to the Department of Labor’s goals and timetables for the Cleveland, Ohio areas as specified in the Notice of Requirements for Affirmative Action to ensure Equal Employment Opportunity Executive Order 11246 by submitting a properly signed bid.

Each bidder must ensure that all employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, creed, color, sex or national origin.

Small Business Enterprises (SBE’s) are encouraged to participate on this project. The goal for SBE participation is 35% of total.

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.

The “Owner” is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate against the handicapped.

Barbara A. Biro, Finance Director
City of Garfield Heights

Publish Dates: The Neighborhood News
Week of August 30th, 2020
Week of September 6th, 2020

COVID-19 evictions could leave more women without a vote
(Continued from Page 2)

In Slavic Village, the worry is that voter turnout, which hasn’t rebounded from the last housing crisis more than a decade ago, could get worse. In 2016, only 38.5 percent of eligible voters cast ballots, the second-lowest among neighborhoods in the city.

Cleveland and Cuyahoga County have allotted \$18.1 million in federal CARES Act and Community Development Block Grant money to help renters. As she goes door-to-door, Rodemann and others spread the word about the rental assistance program, administered by CHN Housing Partners, a housing nonprofit, which can cover rent for up to three months.

Energizing people to vote in a community like Slavic Village could prove difficult. The same has been true for encouraging people to fill out the U.S. Census.

The neighborhood has followed the pattern of other industrial and urban communities: a booming population at the start of the century, then deindustrialization post World War II, urban flight, and declining populations, empty homes and increases in poverty and crime rates.

By the Great Recession, the 5-square-mile neighborhood had more foreclosures in its 44105 zip code during the spring and summer of 2007 than any other zip code



Lynn Rodemann, 39, stands in front of a mural on E. 55th and Fleet Avenue created by local artist Scott Pickering in Slavic Village. (Courtesy Autumn Bland)

in the United States. The housing market, then in crisis across the country, was devastated in Slavic Village. As it continues its climb to recovery, the community again staves off another wave of housing displacement wrought by COVID-19.

Now get-out-the-vote efforts are more difficult as coronavirus cases top 5 million in the U.S. and nearly 4,500 in Cleveland. That’s why a vote-by-mail application is included in the same handout packet alongside rent payment assistance information that Rodemann hands out.

Organizers are also helping voters navigate Ohio’s ballot request process through smaller hands-on events at places like Daisy’s Ice Cream on Fleet Avenue, and Neighborhood Pets, a local pet food pantry and resource center.

Women have consistently outpaced men in voter turnout across racial groups and education levels since the 1980s. And because women, as a voting bloc, have historically leaned toward Democratic party candidates, evictions could mean a partisan impact. In 2016, then -Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton led among women voters by 13 percent compared to President Donald Trump.

That gap has widened in 2020, putting former Vice President Joe Biden ahead of President Trump by 25% among women voters, according to recent polling.

(See next week’s paper for the final part of this story)

LEGAL NOTICE

Redi Storage, 17101 Rockside Rd., Maple Heights, OH 44137, 216-662-6610 is hosting the following auctions on www.storagetreasures.com, Items to be auctioned off by whole unit, Friday, September 25th, 2020. CASH only and cleaning deposit as listed below.

Hampson Fareed, 7389 Foghorn Lane, Northfield, OH 44067, 10x10, Ending at 12:00PM. Unit appears to contain: furniture, chairs, table, bags, boxes, stroller, fan, misc. items. \$50 cleaning deposit.

Paris L. Howard, 5790 Lee South Rd. Apt #7, Maple Heights, OH 44137, 5x5, Ending at 11:45AM. Unit appears to contain: computer, blankets, backpacks, totes, bags, misc. items. \$50 cleaning deposit.

Redi Storage, 4620 Northfield Rd., North Randall, OH 44128, 216-714-5869 is hosting the following auctions on www.storagetreasures.com, Items to be auctioned off by whole unit, Friday, September 25th, 2020. CASH only and cleaning deposit as listed below.

Tracy Grant, 18320 Scottsdale Blvd., Shaker Heights, OH 44120, 5x5, Ending at 11:45AM. Unit appears to contain: Bulletin board, books, bags, totes, boxes, misc. items. \$50 cleaning deposit.

Ebony Gray, PO BOX 201501, Cleveland, OH 44120, 5x6, Ending at 11:40AM. Unit appears to contain: Curtain rods, bags, boxes, misc. items. \$50 cleaning deposit.

NN: 9-9-20

NOTICE OF CITY OF STRONGSVILLE
CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION
FOR ENTRANCE EXAMINATION FOR THE POSITION
OF FIRE FIGHTER/PARAMEDIC

WRITTEN TEST – SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2020 AT 9:00 A.M.

Applications and requirements can be downloaded from City of Strongsville website at www.strongsville.org, Human Resources Tab; or picked up at Strongsville City Municipal Offices at 16099 Foltz Parkway, Strongsville, Ohio, 44149. You must be at least nineteen (19) years of age on or prior to November 14, 2020. Completed applications along with the required \$25.00 fee and all other required documents **must be returned in person beginning September 8, 2020 and no later than Monday, October 26, 2020 by 4:30 p.m. to the Civil Service Secretary at the Strongsville Municipal Offices.**

Please note that there is a Physical Agility Test component, and a Certificate confirming the same which must be obtained from Cuyahoga Community College dated no earlier than October 26, 2019.

Test is limited to the **first 150** properly completed applications received by the City.

The City of Strongsville is an Equal Opportunity Employer

NN: 9-9-20 & 9-16-20



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Felonious Assault Shooting

On Sept. 6, at 8 p.m., police were called to the 7100 block of Clement Ave. for a male shot. Police found the victim laying in the driveway with blood on the ground and under him. While police stopped the bleeding as he lay on the ground, the victim told officers his brother had shot him. Police recovered a loaded Smith & Wesson MMP rifle on the driveway. Victim transported to MetroHealth Medical Center. 4th District detectives to follow up.

GARFIELD HEIGHTS

Traffic Offense-OVI

On Aug. 24, at 10:50 p.m., officers followed up on a report of a Buick LeSabre which had crashed into an apartment building in the 4900 block of E. 141 St. GHFD removed the driver from the vehicle and as he was sitting on the ground, it was noted that a firefighter had to hold the driver up to prevent him from falling over. It appeared that he was under the influence of some type of drug. His eyes were glassy, eyelids half closed and he could not speak. He was transported to Marymount Hospital. Officers remained on scene due to the driver striking two

vehicles that were parked and unoccupied, in addition to hitting the apartment building. Driver issued traffic citation for OVI, failure to control and no operator's license.

Felonious Assault

On Aug. 25, at 11 p.m., officers were flagged down by a victim of a felonious assault at E. 131 St. and Maplerow Ave. Victim told police he was in the driveway of a home in the 4500 block of E. 126 St. to visit the homeowner when about 10 males surrounded his car. Some of them told the victim to leave and produced guns. One of them broke his driver's side window and struck him in the face with a gun. Police found five of the suspects at the E. 126 St. home. The victim positively identified one of them as having struck him with the gun; he sustained a broken jaw. Victim refused transport. Three suspects taken to jail. Police discovered a handgun inside a cinder block on the ground in the driveway of the E. 126 St. home, which was found to be stolen from that residence.

Robbery

On Aug. 28, at about 3:06 p.m., a complainant went to GHPD to make a report about an attempted robbery that happened earlier that day at 3 a.m. The incident was at the Huntington ATM, located on Rockside Rd. The victim met with officers and told them a suspect came up to him brandishing a weapon and pointed the gun toward him, but his ATM transaction was already completed when the suspect approached him and he was able to flee the area safely. He told police he had a picture and a video of the incident, which shows the suspect to be a light-skinned black male wearing a white t-shirt with gray sweat shorts and white tennis shoes, and appearing to have two-toned dreadlocks tied up in a pony tail, and a goatee with a mustache. In the video the suspect was carrying what was believed to be a black semi-automatic handgun in his left hand.

Weapon Offense

On Aug. 30, about 10:51 p.m., officers responded to the E. 135 St. and Granger Rd. area for reports of eight gunshots and multiple black males fleeing the area on foot. Officers on scene quickly created a perimeter between E. 132 St. and E. 135 St. Four suspects were seen running eastbound on E. 134 St. between houses. Police located one of them in the driveway of a home in the 5300 block of E. 134 St. and he was detained without incident. Maple Heights and Valley View PD arrived on scene to assist. Officers then located a female in the backyard of a different home in the 5300 block of E. 134 St. who had a Taurus G2C firearm with a light and laser accessory attached to the frame containing a 32-round extended magazine near her feet.

She was detained and the firearm secured without incident. She told police she had been at a house party in the 5400 block of E. 134 St. and ran out once gunshots broke were heard. She denied every having possession of the firearm. Police transported her to her mother's home in Maple Heights and released her. The mother said her daughter and son may have stolen the firearm from a house in Garfield heights and they both have pending cases for burglary. Officers were unable to find the other two suspects. Pending charges through the Youth Bureau.

Traffic Offense

At 7:41 p.m., on Sept. 4, officers initially received a call for a hit-skip MVA and an additional call that a car had struck the building at Rockside Tavern, 12929 Rockside Rd. It was learned that the same vehicle was involved in both incidents. Upon arrival at Rockside Tavern, police spoke to the driver, who appeared to be too intoxicated to do the standard sobriety tests. She was transported to Marymount Hospital and cited for OVI, failure to control and hit-skip.

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Letters to the Editor

Kurt's Getaway owner responds to criticism

Dear Editor:

I would like to thank Garfield Heights community and surrounding cities for attending Kurt's Getaway 11th Annual People's Choice motorcycle event on August 22, 2020. It was not my intention to offend anyone or not to follow the direction of our city officials. I spoke to all business owners in the area prior to hosting the event. No one expressed any concerns. I took all the necessary steps and followed all guidelines to put the event on. I paid off-duty Garfield Heights police officers for security for the event.

The Bike event had no incidents, no arrests or disorderly conduct. The bike show received positive feedback from the community. The majority of people that came to the bike show expressed how great it was to come to an event that had no drama. I did, however, make sure that all patrons that entered my bar had masks on and were social distancing once they entered into the bar. I could not enforce people wear masks when they were not on my premises (example: across the street from the bar or in other parking lots). There were off-duty police officers patrolling the area; no one expressed to the officers or myself that bikers were parked in driveways or blocking driveways. If any resident would have expressed their concerns to me or the officers we would have addressed their concerns immediately.

Sincerely,
Kurt Houston

Business Owner & Garfield Heights resident

Cuyahoga County Health & Human Services Dept. launches new website combining eight agencies

From babies to older adults, the Cuyahoga County Department of Health and Human Services provides programs that help thousands of residents from all walks of life. Some services are critical for safety and basic needs, while others help individuals and families build a brighter future through education, training and jobs.

In the past residents had to visit 10 different websites to get all this information. Now it's all in one place. The new website HHS.CUYAHOGACOUNTY.US has information from eight agencies so residents can easily find what they need.

"This is a big step toward helping Cuyahoga County residents get the help they need during an historically challenging time," said David Merriman, director, Cuyahoga County Department of Health and Human Services. "Many people who never needed our help before are reaching out and we want to give them quick and easy access to information and services. Having everything in one place helps people learn more about what we do, how we can help them or their neighbors, and the value we bring to the community."

Features include:

- A listing of all departments and services by topic.
- Don't know what program you're looking for? Just click on "I Need" and discover all the ways to get help.

• Services for moms, dads, teens, seniors and more using the "I Am" feature.

• Select a program for details and how to apply.

• Online Community Resource Guide has information on other agencies where residents can find help close to home.

• Get Involved section provides opportunities to help your community by donating, volunteering, mentoring or becoming a foster parent.

Get help. Give help. Find everything you need in one place at HHS.CUYAHOGACOUNTY.US. You can also look on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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Neighborhood News readers can now get their favorite newspaper on the web at: theneighborhoodnews.com.

The entire newspaper is available on the N.N. website every Tuesday night and can be read in Adobe Acrobat. Just click on the front page to download the remaining pages. Archives and other features will be added as the website evolves.

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Those walking also need to queue in car line.

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