# The Neighborhood News

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98th YEAR NO. 10

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2020

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### WIN YOUR THANKSGIVING TURKEY!!



Deadline to enter drawing is tomorrow, Nov. 19th

Coupons found in last week's NN

### Sentenced in string of burglaries, 3 in Valley View

Donna Ashcraft was sentenced to two years of probation and Russell Phillips was sentenced to seven years in prison by Judge Joseph Russo in Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court last Thursday for a series of burglaries, three of which were at homes on Murray and Fosdick roads in Valley View, occurring on Oct. 21, 2017, according to the county prosecutor's office.

Between Oct. 21 and Dec. 28, 2017, Ashcraft, 35, Phillips, 35, and co-defendant Nicholas Frye, 39, burglarized six residences in Parma, Seven Hills and Valley View. Between Dec. 30, 2017, and Feb. 22, 2018, Phillips and Frye burglarized seven residences in North Olmsted.

Frye previously pleaded guilty to 2 counts of burglary and 11 counts of attempted burglary andwas sentenced to two years in prison.

Stolen items in the Valley View burglaries included numerous firearms and ammunition.

Investigations conducted by Parma, Seven Hills, Valley View and North Olmsted police departments connected the trio to the crimes.

Ashcraft pleaded guilty to the following charges: four counts of burglary, two counts of attempted burglary.

Phillips pleaded guilty to four counts of burglary and nine counts of attempted burglary.

### Stuff the Ambulance

The Independence Fire Department will hold its 5th annual "Stuff the Ambulance" food drive this Saturday, Nov. 21, from noon to 4 p.m. in the Discount Drug Mart parking lot, 6160 Brecksville Rd., Independence.

Nonperishable dry food or canned goods can be dropped off to benefit South Hills Lend-A-Hand programs serving residents in Independence, Seven Hills and Broadview Heights

### Bedford to celebrate holidays differently this year

By Judith Goldsworth

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and accompanying social distancing guidelines, the city of Bedford lighting display of the Historic Downtown District, somewhat differently this year.

At council's teleconference meeting Monday night, City Manager Mike Mallis stated, "We are going to be putting something out in the coming days regarding our holiday display down on the Commons... our holiday display is going to be lit like it always is lit, but obviously there's

going to be some challenges this year and some changes."

Unlike previous years, there will be no refreshments served or a visit from Santa at the lighting of the display, will be celebrating the holidays, including the annual he said, adding, "We are going to be livestreaming that lighting, and we urge all of you in the public... take advantage of it and watch it online.

> Over the holiday season Mallis urged everyone to stop by and see the lighting display while safely socially distancing.

> > (Continued on Page 3

### HAPPY 103RD BIRTHDAY!



Happy 103rd birthday to Mary Pusateri, a resident at Jennings Center in Garfield Heights. Mary celebrated her birthday this month and received a proclamation from Mayor Vic Collova to commemorate the momentous

Mary says her best memory was getting married and enjoying 55 years with her husband. She is the mother of two sons and has 10 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. When asked how it feels to turn 103, Mary replied, "The same as 102!" She is shown here with Jennings administrator Stephanie Morley, who shares Mayor Collova's proclamation with the birthday girl.

### Leaf pick-up program beginning in Cleveland

Cleveland Ward 12 Councilman Tony Brancatelli said he is pleased to announce that the city of Cleveland will begin its seasonal leaf pick-up program this month. The program provides leaf pick-up in high leaf-generation areas, reducing the need for residents to manually collect leaves and continues its commitment to sustainability.

#### What to Expect

- Residents in the designated high leaf-generation areas should expect leaf pick-up signs posted one week prior to
- To streamline the pick-up process, residents are encouraged to rake leaves from their property onto the tree lawn. Residents are also asked to park off-street, if possible, during the service period to accommodate city
- Each area will be serviced a minimum of two times within the 8-week period (weather permitting).

High generation areas have the highest concentration of city-owned trees located on tree lawns and/or those areas potentially causing flooding or other hazardous conditions. The current high leaf-generation areas have been verified by the Division of Urban Forestry, the County Tree Canopy, the Office of Sustainability and the Department of Public Works.

The city's six service stations will systematically deploy sweepers, leaf machines, end loaders and leaf blowers in these areas on Mondays through Fridays from 7 a.m. - 9 p.m. from Nov. 9, to Dec. 31, 2020. Residents outside of the high-generation areas can bag any leaves gathered in their yards and set them out with their trash on their designated waste collection day. These residents are allowed up to 20 bags of leaves during the fall season.

Please contact Brancatelli's office with any questions about the Leaf Pick-Up program at 216-664-4233 or the Dept. of Public Works directly at 216-664-2510 or e-mail MFarris@ClevelandCityCouncil.org.



### **TURNEY TOWN LAUNDROMAT**

**OPEN 8 AM to 8 PM** Garfield Heights 4934 Turney Rd. www.clevelandlaundryservice.com



# State CARES Act funding to help residents, small businesses, nonprofits

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Lt. Governor Jon Husted have announced that the administration, in partnership with the General Assembly, is developing a package of more than \$419.5 million CARES Act funding to help Ohioans.

This package includes funding for small businesses, restaurants and bars, hospitals, higher education, arts, nonprofits and low-income Ohioans impacted financially by the pandemic.

The package includes \$125 million in CARES Act funding to provide grants to small businesses with no more than 25 employees. The grant funding will help businesses pay for a variety of expenses, including mortgage or rent payments, utility payments, salaries, wages or compensation for employees and contractors, business supplies or equipment and other costs.

The application for the Small Business Relief Program is available now at businesshelp.ohio.gov.

Help for residents

With this package, the administration is also allocating \$50 million from the Coronavirus Relief Fund to 47 Community Action agencies to provide rent, mortgage and water and/or sewer assistance to Ohioans in need. This assistance will help Ohioans pay outstanding balances back to April 1, 2020.

Ohio households behind on their bills with an annual income at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines will be eligible for assistance. For a family of four, that is an annual income up to \$52,400.

Ohioans can apply for assistance through their local Community Action Agency. A list of agencies can be found at businesshelp.ohio.gov.

### Cuyahoga Heights Council update

The Village of Cuyahoga Heights Council met last Wednesday, Nov. 11, and accepted a donation of a small parcel of land in the Bacci Park area.

A resolution passed authorized the village to enter into an access easement with the property owner of 4582 Willow Parkway for the Nicky Boulevard Storm Sewer Extension and Slope Stabilization Project, and another okayed a change of scope to the Canal Road Pavement Improvement Project.

A change of scope to the Nicky Boulevard Storm Sewer Extension and Slope Stabilization Improvements Project was approved.

Also passed was a resolution to contract with Zarney Creative for marketing services, and an ordinance to use CARES Act funds to cover various authorized village expenditures.

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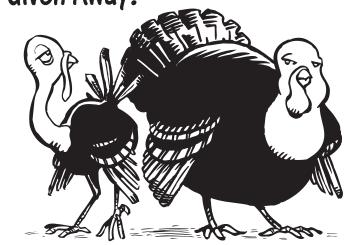
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or Call: 937-546-7834

# N.N. ANNUAL TURKEY DRAWING

Deadline to deposit coupons from last week's Neighborhood News is tomorrow, Thursday, Nov. 19 at Noon.

# WIN A TURKEY!!

48 Given Away! \*or gift card equivalent



### Bedford to celebrate holidays differently this year

More information on the lifestreaming event will be Approves seeking OPWC funding going out, he said.

#### Pandemic impact addressed in legislation

The impact of the coronavirus pandemic as it relates to the collection of municipal income taxes and Bedford businesses whose employees may be working from home in other communities was the focus of legislation passed Monday night.

The resolution passed by Bedford Council states, "The proposal (by the state legislature) would repeal the emergency provision instructing municipal corporations such as the city of Bedford to continue withholding income tax operations for the water department at a cost of \$70,042.50. at a taxpayer's place of work even if said tax payer is currently working from home in another local jurisdiction, due to the novel coronavirus pandemic, until 30 days after the end of Governor DeWine's declaration of emergency.

Repealing the state's emergency provision, according to the Bedford resolution, "would hurriedly and radically change the longstanding municipal income tax collection structure throughout the state of Ohio during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic... Ohio's cities rely on municipal income tax as their primary source of revenue to fund essential services... the repeal would create substantial revenue cuts and destabilize the budgets of Ohio's largest economic centers and stymieing future economic growth... Ohio businesses would suffer the added administrative burden of tracking, reporting and remitting municipal income tax based on employees' work-fromhome locations.

Finance Director Frank Gambosi said it was in the best interest of the city of Bedford to continue withholding income tax from employees working for businesses in the city, even those employees working at home who may live in another city. "We want no changes to the current law that is in effect right now," he said.





**EXPIRES 11-30-20** 

Council passed two resolutions at the meeting authorizing Mallis to seek financial assistance from the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) State Public Works Program to fund two separate infrastructure projects in the city, resurfacing of Union St., and waterline and roadway improvements on Broadway Ave.

#### Also on agenda

Council passed an ordinance authorizing Mallis to enter into a contract with Bain Enterprises of Stow, to purchase a valve maintenance trailer to continue efficient

This price represents a 10% discount from Bain, which is the sole provider of the equipment, Mallis said, adding that valve maintenance was an important part of asset management in the city.

This will allow our water department to exercise and maintain all of the valves and this part of the infrastructure," Mallis said, adding, "If we are regularly maintaining and replacing the valves, this piece of equipment will allow us to do this in a much more efficient manner. This way, if we do encounter a break we can isolate that break to affect the least amount of residents or businesses in that

Also passed was an ordinance to purchase a 2020 Ford Explorer and a 2021 Ford Explorer from Liberty Ford for the fire department at a total cost of \$63,482, which is below the State Cooperative Purchasing Contract mini-

Mallis said the fire department had two Chevy Tahoes, both with more than 100,000 miles on them, and the city was looking to replace those two vehicles with the Explorers. In turn, the Tahoes will be moved to other departments in the city to replace other vehicles.

Council passed an ordinance to extend the contract with

Senior Transportation Connection to continue providing transportation services to Bedford residents, at a cost of

Also passed was an ordinance allowing eligible city employees to make insurance plan premium contributions on a pretax basis for 2021, so that participants will not have to include as taxable income the amount of compensation they use to pay their premium contributions to eligible insurance plans.

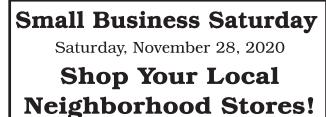
Gambosi said, "This is our hospitalization deferral plan. The payments that employees make to the plan are included in the union contract and requires us to have those taxes deferred in regard to those programs.

An ordinance setting the city's 2021 budget, estimated at \$39.3 million, was placed on second reading.

#### **Update**

Jennifer Kuzma of the Economic Development office will be looking into obtaining a total of \$200,000 in county grants, and ideas for use of the funding will be discussed at an upcoming virtual public meeting, Mallis said. More information is available on the city's website, bedfordoh.gov.

Other information, including assistance to residents during the pandemic, is also available on the website.







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### Cuyahoga Arts & Culture announces 2021 grants

Cuyahoga Arts & Culture announced last week more downtown Cleveland summer concert, which was postthan \$12 million in grants to 295 nonprofit organizations poned to 2021. in 2021. CAC will invest \$1.8 million in public funds to 230 organizations through its 2021 Project Support grant programs, as well as \$10.2 million to 65 organizations through the 2021 General Operating Support program.

The grants were approved by CAC's Board of Trustees during a public virtual meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 10. At the meeting, the public agency also accepted a grant from Cuyahoga County for \$2,664,000 in federal CARES Act funds to be distributed to eligible CAC-funded nonprofits in 2020 for COVID-related costs.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the CAC Board also approved a grant in the amount of \$125,000 for a

CAC's General Operating Support program provides unrestricted, multi-year support grants to arts and cultural organizations based in and serving Cuyahoga County. Grants range from \$13,000 to \$1.1 million and support nonprofits that have a primary mission to provide arts or cultural services for the public.

The following local agencies were among the recipients of CAC grants:

- Bedford Downtown Alliance: \$5,000
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland: \$21,400
- Broadway School of Music & the Arts: \$19,553

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

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

REHABILITATION OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3917 E. 42 ST.

As one of the oldest communities in Cuyahoga County, the Village of Newburgh Heights possesses architectural features that are of both historic and aesthetic significance. It has been demonstrated in communities across the country that preservation of historic features and better coordination of architecture through tools such as architectural standards help to maintain property values, and can enhance community identity and pride. Newburgh Heights is committed to preserving and protecting the Village's housing stock, increasing home ownership, and providing tools and opportunities to improve the quality of life around the community.

The Village of Newburgh Heights Community Improvement Corporation is happy to announce that they are now accepting applications from individuals with a passion for preserving older houses to rehabilitate a 1913 colonial single-family home located at 3917 E. 42 ST. The property is required to be owner-occupied.

Applications can be found online at newburgh-oh.gov or by calling the Newburgh Heights Housing and Building Department at 216-641-4654 or by emailing <a href="mailto:ajensen@newburgh-oh.gov">ajensen@newburgh-oh.gov</a>. The office is available Monday-Thursday, 9am-3:30pm if more information is required.

An open house of the property will be held on December 1st from 9-11am and on December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 3-5pm.

The deadline to submit an application for consideration is December 10th by 5pm. Late submissions will not be accepted. Applicants must be available to attend a meeting of the Community Improvement Corporation on Thursday, December 17th at 6:30 pm. • Jennings Center: \$9,694

- Jones Road Family Development: \$13,225
- Slavic Village Development: \$11,497

To connect with the grant recipients and thousands of cultural experiences each month, the public is invited to visit: ClevelandArtsEvents.com or connect on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

# **ommunity** police reports

### GARFIELD HEIGHTS

#### **Shots fired**

On Monday, Nov. 9, at 12:19 a.m., officers were dispatched to the 13100 block of Cranwood Park Blvd., for a report of shots fired. The couple in the home told police they were sitting in their living room and heard a single gunshot come from the area of Forestdale Dr. A bullet then entered the home about 8-to-12 inches from the head of the man sitting in his recliner. The couple then heard a vehicle's engine driving off. Officers found a spent 9mm shell casing lying on the roadway in front of a neighboring home and a bullet fragment recovered from inside the complainant's address.

• Officers responded to a home in the 13800 block of Maplerow Ave. on Monday, Nov. 9, at about 9 p.m. for a report of shots fired. They observed a loaded pistol magazine lying outside the home and a vehicle parked in the driveway, which had been struck several times in the hood and grill area. They found a single bullet hole in the garage door. The owner of the vehicle told police he and an unidentified woman were sitting in her car also parked in the driveway outside the residence when the man saw a green Pontiac SUV drive slowly southbound past the vehicle where he was seated in the driver's seat. He said the Pontiac went around the block then stopped in front of his driveway and fired several rounds striking his vehicle sitting in the driveway, then fled the scene. The man then got out of his girlfriend's car and she drove off.

(Continued on Page 7)

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12210 Miles Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44105 Services 11:30 am Sundays Rev. Robinson Crenshaw, Pastor

### Jones Road Church

8000 Jones Rd., Cleveland, 44105 (216) 883-8572 Sunday Service: 11:00 a.m. Jeff Bodziony, Pastor

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#### 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

### Shrine Church of Saint Stanislaus

3649 East 65th Street Cleveland, Ohio 44105

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# police reports

(Continued from Page 4)

He refused to identify his girlfriend and said he could not identify the shooters. Evidence was collected and

• On Thursday, Nov. 12, at 2:41 a.m., police responded to the area of Rockwood Rd., south of Garfield Blvd., for a report of shots fired. The complainant told officers he was driving his Ford Focus home on Rockwood behind a small Honda that stopped in front of his house. The driver's door was then opened and the Honda driver began shooting at the victim, who immediately reversed his vehicle, drove around the block and returned home. The Honda fled northbound and turned right on Garfield Blvd. Victim said he had no idea why anyone would want to shoot him. Police saw about five notable gunshots on the Ford's front hood area and one on the windshield. The engine was smoking and oil was seen leaking underneath and on the roadway. The victim said he did not wish to pursue charges or fill out a written statement.

#### Assault

On Tuesday, Nov. 10, at about 10 p.m., police went to Bonker's, 5147 Turney Rd., for a report of a disturbance. Dispatch had observed city cameras appearing to show a woman being assaulted in or near a dark vehicle, which was speeding off from the area and was later observed by police parked in the area of South Highland and Turney rds. Awoman was seen hysterical and heavily intoxicated standing near the intersection. Police also observed injuries to the woman's head, arm and both knees. The woman's boyfriend was also seen in the area. The woman told police she had been assaulted by a female she had been with at Bonker's. Camera footage showed the woman engaging in a heated verbal argument with several other unidentified parties in the Bonker's parking lot. They went out of camera range and when the woman was seen again she looked as if she had been in a fight. Her boyfriend got her into the car, although she was highly intoxicated and continually attempting to exit the vehicle. They left Bonker's parking lot shortly before police located them on South Highland. Woman taken by a squad to Marymount Hospital for treatment.

### **Assist Other Departments**

On Friday, Nov. 13, about 8:15 p.m., GHPD received

information from Cleveland police about a stolen vehicle that was just taken in their city at gunpoint by three armed males. The vehicle owner was tracking the car and giving updates to CPD and in turn to GHPD. Dispatch advised the car was in the area of E. 95 St. and Garfield Blvd., and shortly after was tracked to the dead end of Vineyard Ave. Police saw the vehicle pull out of a driveway in the 7600 block of Vineyard, and pursued it until the chase was terminated at E. 103 St. and Aetna Rd. Officers returned to the Vineyard address the car had pulled out from. Residents inside the home denied any knowledge or involvement in the stolen vehicle. While on scene, three sets of license plates were located and recovered, all entered as stolen into LEADS. One plate was found on the sidewalk in front of another home in the 7600 block of Vineyard, one on the sidewalk directly across the street, one on the porch of a Vineyard Ave. home and another on a tree lawn.

#### **Breaking and Entering**

Officers responded to McDonald's at 5240 Turney Rd., for a breaking and entering report. An employee said he arrived at the store about 4:30 a.m. and found the safe was left unlocked and the rear security door had not been secured. He also said the alarm had not been set when the night shift crew left at about 12:30 a.m. He said there was no money in the safe or the deposit bag. Video footage seems to implicate an employee in the incident.

### **Call Crime Stoppers** with anonymous tips

Crime Stoppers encourages members of the community to assist local law enforcement agencies in the fight against crime.

Crime Stoppers provides an anonymous telephone number, Text Tips and Web Tips to encourage citizens to volunteer vital information helpful to law enforcement agencies. By offering anonymity and cash rewards for information leading to indictment or arrests, the program encourages otherwise reluctant callers to provide information.

The 24/7 hotline number, 216-252-7463, allows the caller to remain anonymous. The phone does not have a caller ID function and calls are not recorded.

Those with information can also text TIP657 plus your message to 274637, or can submit information online at www.25crime.com.

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### One more reason to donate blood

Health emergencies don't pause for a pandemic or holiday celebrations. That's why the American Red Cross and country music star Martina McBride have joined together this holiday season to urge people to take care of one another, sharing comfort and joy with hospital patients through the gift of blood donations.

 $Eligible\ individuals\ are\ urged\ to\ make\ an\ appointment\ to\ donate\ blood\ now\ to\ help$ patients in need. Find a donation opportunity using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

In thanks for helping ensure patients have access to lifesaving blood, platelets and plasma during this crucial time, all who come to give Nov. 15-Dec. 15 will be automatically entered for a chance to win an Outdoor Living Experience, donated by Suburban Propane.

The lucky winner will enjoy socially distanced celebrations with family and friends this holiday season. The prize includes a propane-powered pizza oven, fire pit, outdoor heater and stipend towards propane.

### Local blood donation opportunities

#### **Independence**

12/1/2020: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m., Elmwood Recreation Center, 6200 W. Pete Wisnieski Parkway

#### Valley View

12/2/2020: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m., Valley View Community Center, 6828 Hathaway Rd.

### **FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION, (Garfield Hts. Only)** Saturday, Nov. 21, 10am-Noon

The Rock Community Church, located at 9403 Garfield Blvd., Garfield Heights, will be having a food pantry distribution for Garfield Hts. residents only on Saturday, Nov. 21 10am-Noon.

Those walking also need to queue in car line. There will be a choice between a turkey (limited supplies, limit 1 per family) or a bag of assorted meat in addition to our other perishable and non-perishable food items. All food distributions will be drive-through only until further notice.

# The Neighborhood News

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### Library, PCs for People expand service to include job seekers, senior citizens

The Cleveland Public Library is teaming up with PCs for People to get computers and hotspots in more Cuyahoga County homes.

'Cleveland Public Library is committed to helping bridge the digital divide," said Felton Thomas, Jr., executive director and CEO of the Cleveland Public Library. "Our partnership with PCs for People will get more families access to essential devices needed for virtual schooling, career assistance and more.'

Starting this month, PCs for People is expanding the program to now provide free computers and hotspots to qualified job seekers and senior citizens. Program requirements can be found at pcsforpeople.com/eligibility. Interested job seekers and senior citizens should call 216-777-4441 or email cuyahoga@pcsforpeople.org.

 $Families with students in grades \ K-12 \ attending \ public \ and \ charter \ school \ who \ need$ a computer or hotspot can also call 216-777-4441 to leave a message for assistance.

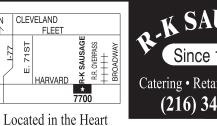
"There's a great need for computers and internet connectivity in the Greater Cleveland area," remarked Bryan Mauk, executive director for PCs for People. "The COVID-19 pandemic has shown how essential the internet is for families to stay connected and access the things they need. Whether it's remote classes, searching for work or social services, our partnership with Cleveland Public Library will help us increase our reach in Cuyahoga County.

The Cleveland Public Library will serve as a pickup location for PCs for People clients. Approved applicants can pick up their devices at one of three neighborhood branches: South Brooklyn, West Park and Woodland.

The computer and hotspot giveaways are part of an initiative between Cuyahoga County and the Cleveland Foundation to support residents during the pandemic.

Families can visit PCs for People or visit the Cleveland Public Library branches for more information. The Library is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6







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