# The Neighborhood News

### Your Community Newspaper Since 1923

#### SERVING SOUTHEAST CLEVELAND, GARFIELD HEIGHTS, NEWBURGH HEIGHTS, CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS, INDEPENDENCE, VALLEY VIEW, MAPLE HEIGHTS AND BEDFORD

99th YEAR NO. 12

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2021

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

### Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine appoints DiGeronimo to fill G.H. court vacancy

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine last Friday announced the appointment of Sergio I. DiGeronimo to serve as a judge on the Garfield Heights Municipal Court.

DiGeronimo, of Brecksville, will assume office on Dec. 20, 2021, on the GHMC and will be filling a judicial vacancy once held by Judge Jennifer Weiler, who retired effective September 30, 2021.



Sergio I DiGeronimo

DiGeronimo must run for election in November 2023 to retain the seat.

DiGeronimo has served as the prosecutor and assistant law director for the city of Brecksville since 1998, and prior to that spent time as an assistant to Brecksville Prosecutor Roger A. Wadsworth.

Throughout his professional career, he has worked as an attorney at law representing individuals and corporate clients.

DiGeronimo received his law degree from Case Western Reserve University's School of Law, and undergraduate degree from Baldwin-Wallace College.

### Churches urged to send in holiday services

The Neighborhood News will print worship services from churches in its readership area in the Dec. 22nd issue. To participate in this free listing, churches must email their holiday services to: nnews1923@aol.com by Monday, Dec. 20. The address and phone number of each place of worship should be included.

### 'Christmas in Bedford Falls' celebrated Saturday

#### By Judith Goldsworth

The city of Bedford, Ohio will be transformed into the fictional city of Bedford Falls this weekend from the 1946 Frank Capra holiday classic movie "It's A Wonderful Life," city officials announced at the council meeting Monday night.

The celebration will be held in Bedford's Historic tional Downtown District this Saturday, Dec. 11, from noon-3 p.m. Featured will be a photo opportunity with Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus, crafting, ice sculpting, goodies, holiday lights and music, and much more.

City Manager Mike Mallis and other city officials encouraged residents and visitors alike to come to the event, which is being sponsored by the city's Parks and Recreation Department.

(Continued on Page 3)

#### **run for county executive** Maple Heights Mayor Annette Blackwell has announced that she will be a candidate for the office of Cuyahoga County Executive in next year's race for that position.

Maple Heights mayor to

In an online posting of a letter from Blackwell, who has served as Maple Heights mayor since 2016, she said in part:

FREE

"Prior to my six years serving as Mayor, I was a very successful business professional and my employers include KeyBank working as an administrative professional in installment lending, University Hospitals of Cleveland, an Administrative Coordinator for the President and Chief Medical Officer of University Hospitals Primary Care Physician Practices, and 16 years as a Senior Commercial Property Tax Analyst at Deloitte and Ryan International Tax Services. Proudly, I was the Co-Leader of the Black Employee Network (BEN) at Deloitte and while at Ryan Global Tax Services was the United States India Liaison, a position where I hosted several of my Indian colleagues on their U.S. rotation to Ohio. Additionally, I trained and supervised their U.S. work assignments for the Hyderabad India Property Tax Department.

"While in the Mayor's Office, I serve on several boards to expand my knowledge, acquire influence, develop relationships with key businesspersons and organizations to positively affect the city's public relations, position for significant economic development and compete successfully for grants, as well as experienced and professional employee talent.

"I have assembled an impressive and competent administrative team who is poised to continue the noteworthy revitalization and reinvestment that is taking place in the city (Maple Heights) as well as the hard-fought financial stability, lifting the city out of the fiscal emergency designation. Therefore, it is with this body of work, confidence and faith that I look forward to the next executive office. More specifically, the Cuyahoga County Executive."

The mayor's campaign manager said more information will be available when Blackwell's campaign website is up and running. Stay tuned!

### Program set on human trafficking and child safety

The United States Marshals Office and Strong Hands United will present a program on Human Trafficking & Child Safety Awareness on Saturday, Dec. 18, at Christian Kingdom Assembly, 12700 Broadway Ave., Garfield Heights, OH 44125, from 2 to 5 p.m.

All are invited to this event to educate and spread awareness about this worldwide threat to our communities. Sponsors will also be giving away free toys for youth ages 1-12. Please come and bring your children. Food and refreshments will be served.

Special guests will include Mayor Matt Burke, former Garfield Heights City Council President Michael Dudley, Sr. and other community and religious leaders.

### Newburgh Heights gets first book locker in area

Cleveland Public Library leadership joined Newburgh Heights leaders last Friday morning in a ribboncutting celebrating the opening of the first book locker in the area, bringing a new way to get books, movies and other library materials to the village.

The Grab & Go lockers at the Village Hall, 3801 HarvardAve., serve as a standalone, fully automated branch that allows users to pick up books and other materials during business hours.

All patrons have to do is go online and place an item on hold, select Cleveland/ Newburgh Heights Lockers as the pickup location, receive item available notification and scan library card at locker to get items. Got a return? Use return slot on lockers. More info at cpl.org.



Shown left to right at the library ribboncutting ceremony at Newburgh Heights Village Hall are: N.H. Councilman Bill Dunman, N.H. Councilwoman Dorene Kray, N.H. Councilwoman Linda Giersz, N.H. Mayor Trevor Elkins, N.H. Councilwoman Gigi Traore, Cleveland Public Library Executive Director Felton Thomas, Jr., CPL Board President Martiza Rodriguez, CPL Boardmember Teleange Thomas, County Councilman Pernell Jones, Jr. Photo by Elena Psenicka

### **Bedford Council passes 2022 budget**

#### By Judith Goldsworth

Bedford Council passed the city's 2022 budget at its regular meeting last week amounting to \$39.3 million to fund services, equipment and operations, Finance Director Frank Gambosi stated.

"We are actually operating at a higher efficiency for less money than we did just a few years ago," Mayor Stan Koci said. "I think that's a testament to our administration sitting up here, and department heads and employees doing their part to lowering the budget and keeping it in line with running the city as efficiently as possible."

Council also passed legislation to amend the city's 2021 budget to reflect changes in funding and expenses throughout this year, Gambosi stated.

Also passed were three ordinances declaring properties at 32 Mapledale Ave., 65 Talbot Dr., and 132 Greencroft Dr. "dangerous, unsafe and unfit for human habitation or occupancy," and condemning them for possible future demolition.

City Manager Mike Mallis said the city had been trying to work with the respective



property owners for years to renovate and clean up the structures but to no avail.

Two ordinances, one to accept the dedication of Hubbell Circle and Hubbell Way extensions in the Center Road-Willard Ave. neighborhood, the other to accept the dedication of the Belle Court extension in the Turney Road-West Glendale neighborhood, were approved by council.

Approving the legislation accepts the roadways for public use and maintenance within the city, and also fulfills a filing requirement with Cuyahoga County that the streets be dedicated, Mallis stated.

An ordinance authorizing Mallis to enter into a contract between the city and the Firefighters Local 1683, International Association of Firefighters, was approved by council. The contract is the last of three contracts to be approved this year between the city and union workers, another being for police officers, and yet another for American Federation of State, County and Municipal (AFSCME) employees, Mallis stated.

As with the other two contracts, firefighters will receive a 6.5% raise which will be distributed as 2% (retroactively) for 2021, 2.5% for 2022, and 2% for 2023.

Council approved legislation to enter into a contract with Acuity-VCT for the purchase and installation of a new server, video capture system VCS surveillance, and video management software for the Municipal Complex, at a cost of \$13,327. The need for an update was "immediate, due to cyber threats and to strengthen the current security for the safety of the general public and employees," according to the legislation.

Also approved was an ordinance for the city to buy a John Deere 1200A Bunker and Field Rake for the Parks and Recreation Department from Revels Turf and Tractor, LLC, at a cost of \$14,424.80. This will take the place of aged equipment, which needed to be replaced for some time, Mallis stated.

And legislation to adopt the city's Fixed Asset (Capital Asset) Policy, to conform with the requirements of the Ohio Revised Code, and also to clarify procedures, per Gambosi, was approved.

#### **Donation for 'Meals'**

In a special presentation at the meeting, Dinah Mouat of the Southeast Clergy Meals on Wheels received a \$1,000 donation from Koci on behalf of Bedford city employees for the program that assists elderly and disabled homebound residents in Bedford and other nearby communities.

City employees pay a dollar into a special fund to "dress down" on Fridays throughout the year and the money goes to the Meals on Wheels program, Koci said.

#### Railroad companies to be fined

Mallis said that after a railroad company had been blocking crossings in the city recently, one time as long as five hours, the company will be fined under an ordinance passed this past summer prohibiting blocking of city crossings for more than five minutes at a time. Civil fines of up to \$1,000 may be imposed for each violation.



FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION, (Garfield Hts. Only)

Saturday, Dec. 18, 10am-Noon, Inside



The Rock Community Church, (9403 Garfield Blvd.), will have a food pantry distribution for **Garfield Hts. residents only** (income limits apply) on Saturday, December 18, from 10am-Noon.

We will be inside the building with an expedited distribution with some choice of product. Numbers and sign-up sheets will be distributed at the parking lot entrance starting at 8:00 am.

Masks will be available but not mandatory. Please have photo ID available and a pic of the ID for those you will pick up for.

### **Cleveland Council holds last meeting of the year**

Cleveland City Council held its final meeting of the year Monday night, with the new council being sworn in on the city's sewer lines, including constructing and install-Monday, Jan. 3, 2022.

Here are some of the highlights of action council took at its final meeting of the year.

•Authorized the city to enter into grant agreements totaling \$3.5 million with the Hitchcock Center for Women to support the construction of a new residential treatment facility.

The Hitchcock Center at 1227 Ansel Rd., provides treatment and recovery services for women with substance abuses. Since 1992, the center has been operating out of health services. the former St. Mary's Seminary built in 1924.

children. It has teamed up with the Finch Group for the the extensive fire damage at NEON's Hough neighborconstruction project. Finch is proposing a new building hood facility. The \$2 million grant comes from the city's containing updated state-of-the-art facilities and recovery housing.

Other organizations have pledged millions in support loan to an affordable housing project on E. 66 St. in the of the project. The city's grants would come from emergency funds from the federal government - the CARES

•Adopted an ordinance for the public improvement of ing replacement sewers and repairing and rehabilitating existing sewers and sewer connections, relining sewers and constructing and repairing catch basins and manholes at various locations throughout the city.

Authorized the payment of \$2 million to Northeast Ohio Neighborhood Health Service (NEON) to assist the agency with pandemic-related community health and social service programing. The funding would go for food distribution, educational programing on healthy eating, lead poisoning testing and safety measures, and mental

A portion of that award - \$200,000 - will go toward Currently the treatment center serves 223 women and 23 upgrades, outside of what insurance covers, in repairing American Rescue Act funding.

> •Authorized the city to direct a \$3 million forgivable Hough neighborhood.

### 'Christmas in Bedford Falls'

#### (Continued from Page 1)

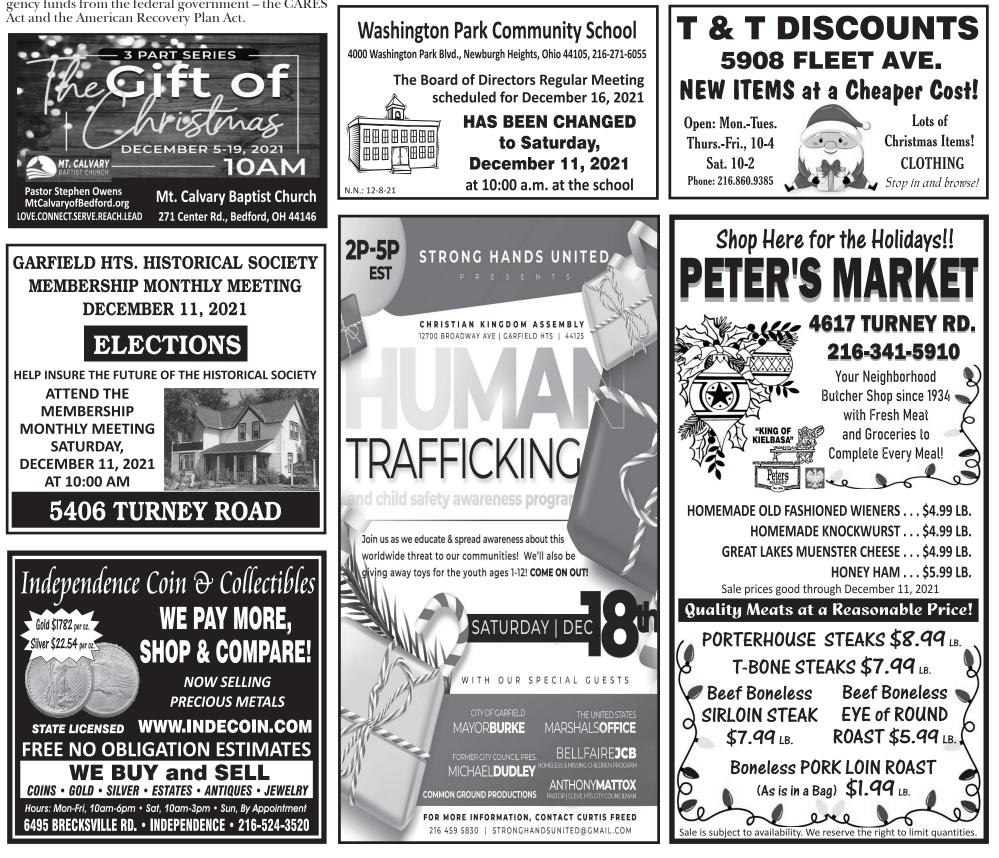
The celebration will be held in Bedford's Historic Downtown District this Saturday, Dec. 11, from noon-3 p.m.

Featured will be a photo opportunity with Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus, crafting, ice sculpting, goodies, holiday lights and music, and much more.

City Manager Mike Mallis and other city officials encouraged residents and visitors alike to come to the event, which is being sponsored by the city's Parks and Recreation Department.

Councilman Jeff Asbury said that the Bedford Downtown Alliance would be offering a "Make and Take" holiday craft for kids at 661 Broadway Ave., next to Broadway Cyclery.

Ice sculptures will also be featured, Asbury said, along with a DJ. The Bedford Historical Society will be open from noon-3 p.m., as will the Dunham House, which is expected to be decorated like an old fashioned Christmas from 1876.



THE NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2021



### **NN Holiday Schedule**

The last issue of the year for The Neighborhood News will be its Christmas issue on Wednesday, Dec. 22. There will be no December 29th issue and publication will resume on Wednesday, Jan. 5.

The office will be closed on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th, through Thursday, Dec. 30. The office will reopen on New Year's Eve, Dec. 31. Normal deadlines for the Jan. 5th issue will apply.

This advance notice is given so that those with advertising and news items can plan accordingly.

### **Fitness programs offered** at Garfield Senior Center

Now that the Garfield Heights Senior Center is open again, Carolyn Lockett, activities assistant, would like to welcome Garfield Heights seniors and those from surrounding communities to join in the various fitness programs the center offers.

Activities include:

Line Dancing with the Line Dancing King Rob Johnson, Jr.: Tuesdays, 10:30-11:15 a.m. Cost: \$3.

Cardio Drumming: Coming soon Mondays at 1 p.m.

Chair Aerobics: Wednesdays 10-11 a.m. Cost \$3.

**Zumba:** Thursdays, 10:30-11:15 a.m. Cost \$3.

TheraBand Movement: Beginning Nov. 29.

The Senior Center is located in the Civic Center, 5407 Turney Rd. It is open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call Carolyn at 216-475-3244, ext. 2435 for more details.

### **Christmas with The Cleveland Opera: a free** concert at St. Stan's Church

The Cleveland Opera invites you to enjoy Christmas with The Cleveland Opera in a free concert of beloved music for voices and instruments on Sunday, Dec. 12, at 3:30 p.m., at the Shrine Church of Saint Stanislaus, 3649 E. 65 St., in Cleveland's Slavic Village.

This one-hour program will feature performers: Dorota Sobieska, soprano, violin, mandolin; Brian Skoog, tenor; Philip Formes, tenor, clarinet; Julian Sobieski, bass, double bass; Wanda Sobieska, violin, viola; Jacek Sobieski, piano.

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KELCO TRANSPORTATION is seeking full and part-time drivers for their non-emergency medical transportation division. Dodge Caravans with ramp and wheelchair lockdowns for transporting patients to their appointments. Clean motor vehicle record. When calling number below, choose option 2 for Cleveland office. Ask for Joe, 440-542-4410

## **Death Notices**

#### ALBERT J. DVORSACK

Albert J. Dvorsack, age 73, and greatly adored, of Russellville, Arkansas, passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2021. He was born on December 18, 1947.

Cremation arrangements are under the trusted direction of A Natural State Funeral Service, 2620 W. Main St., Jacksonville, Arkansas, 72076. 501-982-3400.

online guestbook is available An at: www.anaturalstatefuneralservice.com.

#### Attention Local Churches

Have your church events printed in your community newspaper free of charge!... ...when you advertise your church services every week in

#### The Neighborhood News Church Directory

Minimum cost is \$10 per week for a block 1-5/8" wide by 1" tall, with a three month commitment. Blocks can include: the church name. address, phone number, website and services.

Advertising deadline is every Monday at 5:00 p.m. For more information or if you have any questions, call Mary at 216-441-2141 or e-mail: nnews1923@aol.con

Worship Services for the Holidays

The Neighborhood News would like



to print your religious services of all denominations in our Wednesday, December 22nd edition at no charge.



#### Email services to: nnews1923@aol.com

Deadline is Monday Dec. 20th at 5:00 p.m.



**Garfield Heights Greater Holy Ghost Missionary Baptist Church United Methodist Church** 4977 Turney Rd. 216-641-4149 12210 Miles Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44105 Garfield Heights Services 11:30 am Sundays Sunday Worship at 10:30am Rev. Daniel Drew, Pastor Rev. Robinson Crenshaw, Pastor

**Mt. Calvary Baptist Church** The Lutheran Church 271 Center Road, Bedford, OH 44146 of the Covenant Pastor Stephen Owens 19000 Libby Rd., Sunday Worship: 10 AM Maple Heights, Ohio

(216) 662-0370

Phone: 440-232-6702 www.MtCalvaryofBedford.org



Cleveland, Ohio 44105 St. John Lutheran Church (216) 587-4222 11333 Granger Road Garfield Heights, Ohio 44125

Worship Sundays at 9AM In Church and Online stjohnlutherangarfieldhts.com



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





#### (All information is preliminary and subject to change.) Cleveland

#### **Fatal Overdose**

November 29, 5:30 p.m., 39-year-old female, fatal OD in 6400 block of Gertrude Ave.

#### Homicide

On Wednesday, Dec. 1, at approximately 8:23 p.m., officers responded to Adolpha Ave. and E. 65th St. in left in a dark blue Chevy Malibu. Moments later the Slavic Village in connection with a male slumped at the wheel. The victim was discovered by a passerby on a bicycle. Officers located the vehicle at Adolpha and Portage aves. Inside the vehicle was a 58-year-old man in the driver's seat who had sustained a gunshot wound to his handgun, that was now located in the center console the head. EMS arrived on scene and transported the male to MetroHealth.

On Thursday, Dec. 2, the male was pronounced deceased. Members of the Homicide Unit responded for

#### THE NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS ADVERTISING POLICY

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 reques for a specific preferred position is acknowledged by the publisher.

#### PAYMENT IN ADVANCE:

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 of damages if for any reason it fails to publish an advertisement.

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#### THE NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

investigation. Preliminary reports reveal the victim drove to a house in the 3300 block of E. 65 St. and had contact with a male at the residence prior to the shooting. A 42year-old man has been identified and arrested. This matter remains under investigation. Anyone with information is asked to contact investigators at 216-623-5464. Anonymous information can be provided by calling CrimeStoppers at 216-25-CRIME, and a cash reward of up to \$5000 may be available.

#### **GARFIELD HEIGHTS**

#### Weapon Offense

On Nov. 28, at 10:43 p.m., Garfield units were dispatched to the Sunoco station at 5326 Turney Rd., for a report of a male pointing a firearm at someone. As officers were enroute to the area, dispatch advised that the suspect vehicle was spotted on Granger Rd., just past Dunham Rd., and a traffic stop was initiated. The suspect told police he had just come from the Sunoco station and he did have an argument with a woman there and did remove of his car, from his waist during the argument. Police removed a loaded semi-automatic pistol from the center console. After checking with LEADS, police learned the suspect's CCW license had expired.

Police talked to the complainant/victim, who told them that while she was at the Sunoco station she had gotten into a verbal argument with a male over both parties attempting to pull up to the same gas pump. The woman went to a different pump, but while inside the station the male continued to argue with her and revealed a black handgun in his waistband and then got in his car. The woman started taking pictures of the man's car and license plate. He exited the vehicle and pointed the gun at the victim and said he would shoot her. She then left the station while calling 911. The suspect was arrested and transported to city jail. He was charged with no CCW permit and aggravated menacing and held on no bond.

#### Theft

An officer was met at the station by a woman living in the 12000 block of Maple Leaf Dr. who wanted to report theft of her identity. She said she was notified on Nov. 29, that someone had filed for unemployment in her name. She learned that this person had opened accounts with Chase Bank and Cash Net USA back in 2016. The unemployment checks were sent to her former residence in Maple Heights. She said she moved from there a while ago and doesn't know who lives there now. She was advised to contact the Ohio Attorney General's Office and keep an eye on her credit report for suspicious activity.

ROOFING

BBF



## **BUSINESS and SERVICE DIRECTORY**

#### PLUMBING



#### **SNOWPLOWING**



Celebrate the seasonal return of bald eagles to the

Metroparks' Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation, 4524 E. 49

St., in Cuyahoga Heights, this weekend, December 11

Join a naturalist on a hike to the eagle's nest, meet a live

For more information visit: https://www.

clevelandmetroparks.com/parks/calendar/2021/cwc/

december/eagle-weekend-1 or call 216-206-1000.

eagle, listen to an indoor presentation or reserve your spot

for a cart tour. Times of activities vary.

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Independence

Dr.

and 12.



Shown at left is Cleveland Councilman Tony Brancatelli packing up his downtown office, with the help of his assistants Molly Farris (center) and Maggie Phillips, after council's last meeting of the year Monday night.

They filled up 30 boxes which were labeled and coded for new Councilwoman Rebecca Maurer and her staff, along with a formal transition document so they can all "hit the ground running," Brancatelli said.

Maurer moves in January 3rd. Brancatelli said he will continue working remotely along with staff as they close out the year helping residents and businesses.

### Want to improve your home? Borrow \$3,000 and pay only \$16 per month!



Does your home need a new roof? What about new carpeting, windows, washer and dryer, or air conditioning? With Third Federal's Fixer Upper Home Repair Loan, you can do just that! At 2.99% APR, this rate is much lower than loans from other lenders<sup>2</sup>. And, unlike many lenders, 2.99% APR is fixed for the life of your loan.

And we didn't stop there. With the Third Federal Fixer Upper Loan:

- No hidden fees.
- No upfront costs whatsoever.
- The fixed rate of 2.99% is not an introductory or teaser rate-it's good for the life of your loan.
- No minimum draw—borrow as much or as little as you want!



Actual monthly payment for above example is based on 252 month term and is \$16.09 at a fixed APR of 2.99%. Rates Packaa montmy payment for above example is based on 252 month ferm and is \$16.00 at a fixed APR of 2.99%. Rates effective as of 8/26/21 and are subject to change -fixed APR is 2.99%. Homeowners insurance required, Flood insurance required, if applicable. Maximum LTV 85%. Minimum Ioan amount \$1,000. Maximum Ioan amount \$9,900. 21 year term. A Third Federal Home Repair Loan is available as a first or second lien on owner-occupied primary residences and can be the only HELOC on your property. \$0 annual fee and \$10 minimum monthly payment. Must originate Ioan to get gift card. Borrowers must meet certain income, geographic and other requirements to qualify. Product features subject to change without notice \_02021 Third Federal without notice. ©2021 Third Federal.

### Special G.H. council meeting

A special meeting of Garfield Heights Council will be held in council chambers at the Garfield Heights Civic Center, 5407 Turney Rd., on Wednesday, Dec. 8, at 6:30 p.m. to interview and appoint a clerk of council.

### E. 63rd Block Club to meet

The E. 63 St. Block Club in Slavic Village will meet on Dec. 9, at 7 p.m., in the basement of St. Stanislaus School. It is the club's holiday meeting with a 50/50 raffle; members are asked to bring a covered dish to share. All are welcome.

