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98th YEAR NO. 21

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2021

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FREE

Trinity Trojans defeat St. Martin de Porres Lions in real nail-biter!

The Lions of Saint Martin de Porres visited the Trinity Trojans in Garfield Heights last Thursday evening in an incredible boys basketball game which saw Trinity coming back from a 13-point deficit in the 4th quarter to win 70-69.

Junior Ian Anderson stole the ball at half court with 14 seconds left and made the layup to take the lead, which it turned out was all it took to take the game.



The "Workforce Cup" went to the Trinity Trojans boys basketball team Thursday as winner of the game between Trinity and St. Martin de Porres high schools.

The teams were playing for more than just a win. The two schools signed on to play an annual boys basketball game with the victor taking home the "Workforce Cup," which went to Trinity this year as game winner.

Both Cleveland area high schools are well-known for their unique job programs that give students real world work experience. Combined with the college preparatory education at both schools, students graduate both college-prepared and career-ready.

The "Workforce Cup" signifies how both schools are changing the workplace in Cleveland, while providing students the opportunity for successful careers beyond their educational journey.

Trinity head coach is Dan Urban, and Lions head coach is Ryan Schneider. Congrats to them both and their teams!



See P. 7 for Valentine Love Lines

Maple Heights Council OKs raises for safety director, other positions

By Judith Goldsworth

Maple Heights Council approved an ordinance to raise the annual salary of the safety director, along with the salaries of other non-bargaining unit city employees, at its teleconference meeting last week.

The ordinance approved by council amends and restates the pay schedule for a number of city employees for 2021, including the safety director position, setting the annual salary at \$15,000, and also sets the salaries of the police and fire chiefs, department directors and other positions.

According to the city charter, the mayor also serves as the city's safety director.

Mayor Annette Blackwell thanked council for passing the legislation, noting, "This is the first time in over a decade that they (non-bargaining unit city employees) have received a 3% raise. They were behind in terms of salaries, and it is difficult to retain talented people with no raise in 10 years... These are dedicated professionals, and they are dedicated to their professions."

Council also passed a resolution authorizing Blackwell to enter into a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Maple Heights Firefighters Association, IAFF Local 1184, for the period from Jan. 1, 2021 through Dec. 31, 2023, to set forth wages, hours and other terms and conditions

(Continued on Page 3)

First Garfield Heights Council meeting held with Mayor Matt Burke

By Ellen Psenicka

Garfield Heights Council met Monday night, the first meeting with Matt Burke as mayor and Mike Nenadovich as president of council. Burke's Ward 6 council seat, which was vacated when he became mayor, will be filled by the next council meeting on Feb. 22, when a new council president pro tem will be voted on.

The following pieces of legislation were passed:

- Authorizing all actions necessary to accept the NOPEC Energized Community Grants for 2021;

- Purchasing four Chevy Tahoes from Ganley Chevrolet of Aurora, three for the police department and one for the fire department;

- Entering into an agreement with North Coast Two Way Radio for the outfitting of three 2021 Chevy Tahoes with police equipment;

- Placing a temporary moratorium on construction of billboards within the city while the Master Plan Committee discusses permit options;

- Applying for the 2020 Assistance to Firefighter Grant through the Department of Homeland Security.

In his first mayor's report to council, Burke said he made his No.1 priority this week getting to the bottom of a Channel 19 news report on Garfield Heights "maliciously" turning off the water of an 88-year-old woman on Maplerow Ave. He said it was actually the city of Cleveland that shut her water off.

Burke said he took water over to the woman's home Sunday when he found out about the situation and spoke to her son about it.

The Maplerow home has a water leak in its driveway and it was the responsibility of the homeowner to repair it, Burke said. It did not become a safety hazard until the weather got frigid and the water from the driveway was running into the street and freezing, causing a slick road for motorists and emergency vehicles.

Burke advised the woman's son to speak to the Cleveland Water Department about the problem and any possible programs they might have to help the homeowner with the cost of fixing the problem.

Genealogical society to hold virtual meeting March 1

"City Directories" presented by Deborah Abbott, will be the topic at a virtual meeting of the Cuyahoga Valley Genealogical Society on Monday, March 1, at 7 p.m., discussing use of city directories in genealogical research. Dr. Abbott is a professional genealogist specializing in African-American research, manuscript collections and genealogy methodology. Register for this zoom meeting at Cuyahogavalleygensociety@gmail.com.

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Cleveland City Council approves job creation grant to Quicken Loans

Cleveland City Council held a virtual meeting Feb. 3rd and approved the issuing of a Job Creation Incentive Grant to Quicken Loans for the expansion of the company's work force in Cleveland.

Quicken, a national mortgage lender, is bringing 700 new jobs into office space at the former Higbee building downtown. Quicken Loans, and subsidiary Rocket Mortgage, already have offices in the building.


The hiring will begin this year with 180 jobs and will reach at least 700 within five years. The city's initial grant this year is \$75,000, reaching a total of \$975,000 over the five years, providing the company's hiring hits the 700 mark. The new jobs would add about \$52.5 million in payroll with an average wage of about \$75,000. That would generate more than \$1.31 million a year for Cleveland in income taxes.

Quicken Loans currently employs 500 in Cleveland. A spokesperson for the company told council members that the new jobs are high-paying and include paid training in financial service technology and do not require college degrees.

Council members urged Quicken Loans to place special emphasis on hiring Cleveland residents and on ensuring its job force is racially diverse. Council President Kevin Kelley said he will reach out to Cuyahoga Community College and to the Cleveland Metropolitan School District to assist in recruiting.

Council will deliberate legislation introduced on efforts to determine the method and costs of renovating various fire stations to provide accommodations for mixed-gender staffing.

Council will also consider a resolution introduced condemning all manner of racism, xenophobia, hate speech, intolerance and discrimination in the city of Cleveland, especially against Asians and Asian American Pacific Islanders during this pandemic, and call upon the Ohio Department of Health and the City Health Department to incorporate anti-racism messaging in its public education and digital messaging.



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Maple Hts. Council OKs

(Continued from Page 1)

of employment for the city's Fire Department personnel.

Agreement with NEORS, other infrastructure legislation

Council passed a resolution for a Member Community Infrastructure Grant Program (MCIP) agreement for the Manhole Sewer Separation Project, Phase 2, in the north-east quadrant of the city, with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District.

City Engineer Ed Hren, in correspondence to the city, stated, "The agreement will provide the city with \$1,021,887 in grant funds to complete sewer repair work on Hansen, Watson, Raymond, Franklin, Hillgrove, Clare and Gardenview," with the work beginning this fall and extending into 2022.

Also passed was a resolution authorizing Blackwell and Hren to prepare and submit an application to participate in the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Recreational Trails Program/Clean Ohio Trails Fund Program for the Jackson Boulevard Recreational Trail Project in the city.

Hren stated that the legislation allows the city to apply to the ODNR for possible funding, adding, "The project would develop an 8-12 feet wide asphalt trail within the Jackson Blvd. right-of-way from Clement St. to South Blvd., a distance of approximately 2400 feet. About 1800 feet of the trail would fall within the undeveloped section of Jackson Blvd. between Dalewood Ave. and South Blvd."

Applications for the funding are due by March 15, and ODNR would fund up to 75% of the project cost, Hren stated, adding that other sources of state and county funding could be sought at a later date.

Legislation for another infrastructure related project, authorizing Blackwell to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the NEORS and the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to provide Phase II stormwater support services to the city, was approved by council.

An ordinance authorizing Blackwell to accept \$45,525 in funding from the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) under the NOPEC Energized Community Grant Program was okayed.

Hren explained that it is an annual grant program to be used for various eligible energy efficiency projects that the city can determine at a later date.

And also approved was a resolution determining that an unimproved residential city-owned lot at 5090 Greenhurst Dr. was no longer needed for municipal purposes, which allows the city to sell the property to neighboring property owners Glenn and Felicia Dinkins, according to documents provided by the city.

The Dinkins have expressed their intent to use the vacant lot to expand their garage and garden area, they stated in their application for the side yard purchase. Estimated cost of the proposed improvements was stated at \$12,500.

Updates

Members of the Maple Heights 2021 Charter Review Commission who were appointed by council members and Mayor Blackwell were sworn in during the teleconference meeting.

They include Katurah Johnson, District 1; Rikki Brown, District 2; Michele Randolph, District 3; Almeida Dye, District 4; Lakiesha Nevels, District 5; Daphne Coleman, District 6; Linda Mitchell, District 7; Angela Oglesby and Herb Wilborn, appointed by Blackwell; and Jackie Albers and Lois Poole, appointed by Council President Ron Jackson.

In his report to council, Economic Development Director Patrick Grogan-Myers stated, "The Building Department closed the books on January 2021 and I am happy to report it was a very strong month." He said that 79 permits were issued, with \$50,311.73 in fees collected, and \$953,418.50 in the valuation of work performed.

For comparison, Grogan-Myers said that in January 2020, 52 permits were issued, with \$47,481.66 in total fees collected, and \$201,796.64 in valuation of work performed.

With the recent approval of the Dollar General project on Warrensville Center Rd. and other larger developments on the horizon, he said the city is projecting a strong and busy year ahead for economic development.



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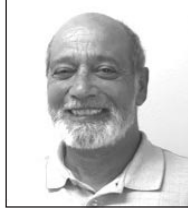
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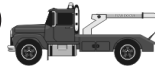
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WHO ARE THESE MASKED MEN?



Swearing-in ceremonies, officiated by then-Mayor Vic Collova, were held Jan. 28th in Garfield Heights for Mark Sikon and Paul Birk, Sr.

Sikon was named the city's new service director. He was hired Feb. 12, 1996, as a mechanic, promoted to foreman on Nov. 22, 2010, and named director Jan. 25, 2021.

Birk was promoted to director of the parks & recreation department. He was hired April 29, 2001, as a laborer, promoted to foreman Dec. 1, 2014, and named director Jan. 25, 2021.

Shown in the photo following the swearing-in ceremonies are, from left: Mayor Collova, Sikon, Birk, Sr. and (at the time) Council President Matthew Burke.

Davis joins crowded field for mayoral run in Garfield

Garfield Heights Ward 4 Councilwoman Shayla L. Davis is the latest to throw her hat in the ring for mayor of her city in the Sept. 14, 2021 primary election, joining candidates interim Mayor Matt Burke, Council President Michael Nenadovich, Ward 1 Councilman Michael Dudley, Sr., James S. Feeney and Tenisha Mack, who have all filed petitions with the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections.

Deadline to file is June 16. The two top vote-getters in the primary election will face each other in the November general election.

In her press release announcing her mayoral run, Davis notes that she comes with over 24 years of experience in city, county and federal government and has worked on issues of community engagement, protecting crucial social services and managing both personnel and budgetary matters.

Police seek missing girl



A 13-year-old Cleveland girl has been missing since Jan. 31, 2021. Her name is Ma'Niyjah Hunter, who lives in the 3900 block of Euclid Ave. She is 5'1", 100 pounds, black hair, brown eyes, African-American with medium complexion.

Possible destinations: E. 40th & Quincy; 3000 block of W. 47 St., Cleveland. She has run away before and was found in Maple Heights. Anyone knowing of her whereabouts is asked to call Cleveland police.

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Community police reports

CLEVELAND

Shooting

On Feb 7, about midnight, a 14-year-old boy was shot in the left buttock in the 5200 block of Broadway Ave., Slavic Village. The victim was in a car with friends picking up another juvenile when unidentified suspects fired at the vehicle. Friends drove the victim to Marymount Hospital. He was the only one injured.

Animal Incident

On Feb. 8, at 5:54 p.m., a 6-year-old child was bitten in the face by a dog in the 6100 block of Fullerton Ave. Animal Care and Control responded and took custody of the dog, which the family surrendered. The child was treated and released at MetroHealth Medical Center.

GARFIELD HEIGHTS

Criminal Damage

On Jan. 25, a woman living in the 4900 block of E. 85 St. told police that someone had broken the handle and lock on an exterior screen door sometime between noon and 6 p.m. She requested special attention be given to her residence.

Motor Vehicle Theft

•On Jan. 31, at 7:18 p.m., a caller told police her 2010

Hyundai Sonata had just been stolen from the driveway of her home in the 5000 block Donovan Dr. She told police someone had entered their open garage, found the spare car key and stolen the vehicle. She said her husband was out looking for the car and had just located it parked on Plymouth Ave. near E. 88 St. An officer in the area also found the car unoccupied in the street in front of a home in the 8800 block of Plymouth without the spare key inside. A witness told police a black male was observed leaving the vehicle and walking away north on E. 88 St. The area was checked with negative results.

•On Feb. 2, at about 9:15 p.m., officers were dispatched to Little Caesar's at 5721 Turney Rd. regarding a car theft that had just occurred. Police were told a silver Buick Regal was parked in the parking lot running and left unattended when stolen while its owner was inside paying for a pizza. Only item of value in the car was a laptop computer. City searched with negative results.

Weapon Offense

On Feb. 6, about 4:15 a.m., an officer was patrolling in the area of E. 102 St. and Granger Rd. when he observed a parked and running vehicle on E. 102 St. with a passenger slumped over. Vehicles are not permitted to be parked on city streets between 3 and 6 a.m. Police knocked on the front window of the car and the female driver rolled it down and was informed of the violation. Her passenger was observed to have a firearm in the middle of his waist band, which police retrieved. The passenger was taken out of the vehicle and placed in handcuffs. The suspect was found to have two pending court cases for weapons offenses and did not have a CCW permit. He was charged with improperly handling firearms in a motor vehicle.



Anita - You are one-of-a-kind! You have no idea how special you are!!

Jimi, You will always be my Forever. I Love You. Lisa

Rick, I miss you every day. I Love You. Happy Valentine's Day! Love, Kathye

Kathy, You will always be my Valentine, now and forever. Love, Arnie

Happy Valentine's Day Puddin. Luh-u! Love, Honeybunkin

I think you are awesome Mary M. Will you be my Valentine?

Desiree, you are so beautiful to me, can't you see. Happy Valentine's Day! Love, Johnny

Happy 55th Birthday Reggie!! Love always, Rish

Love, kisses and best wishes to the Basits and extended family. Happy Valentine's Day!

My love for you grows and grows Snowball and Andy and Rosie. Love forever, Jeanne

Happy Valentine's Day to Bob Halan. So what's new?

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To Bernie,

You've been my wife for 50 years, through all the laughter and the tears, through the good times and the bad, you've made me happy when times were sad.

♥ I Love You Forever ♥

Mickey

♥ TO FREIDA ♥

Happy Valentine's Day from Heaven, Always thinking of You! Love and Hugs!! Jack

Jack Always Grateful for Us I thank God You were Mine Happy Valentine's Day in Heaven Love, ♥ Freida

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50th wedding anniversary



Mr. & Mrs. Michael Nenadovich

Michael and Bernadette Nenadovich, of Horton Rd., Garfield Heights, will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary this Saturday, Feb. 13, with a Mass to mark their special day at 4 p.m. at St. Monica Church. Congratulations to a great couple!

Blood donor opportunities Cleveland

2/17/2021: 6 a.m. - 4 p.m., Dave McCall Union Hall, 3421 Independence Rd.

Garfield Heights

2/23/2021: 1 - 6 p.m., Marymount Hospital, 12300 McCracken Rd.

Blood donation appointments can be made by downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

As a thank-you for helping ensure a stable blood supply, those who come to give this February will receive a \$5

Amazon.com Gift Card via email, courtesy of Amazon. (Restrictions apply. Additional details are available at RedCrossBlood.org/Together.)

The Neighborhood News
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Community Awareness meeting

Join Garfield Heights Ward 5 Councilman Jason Blake on Wednesday, Feb. 10, for a Community Awareness meeting held virtually

via Zoom at 6:30 p.m. The speaker will be Barbara Biro, finance director for the city of Garfield Heights.

If there are specific questions/topics you would like addressed, please forward them to: jblake@garfieldhts.org. All residents are welcome to access the Zoom meeting at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89955187870?pwd=T1lZdkMyZXBSN0g1NlJkZy95bFBIUT09>

89955187870?pwd=T1lZdkMyZXBSN0g1NlJkZy95bFBIUT09

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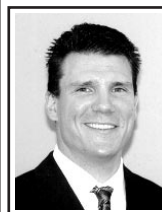
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- Saturday: 6:30 am - 10:00 pm
- Sunday: SOUL FOOD BUFFET 11:00 am - 6:00 pm