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98th YEAR NO. 16

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2021

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

FREE

Man indicted for murder of Garfield Hts. woman while inside car on I-77

Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Michael C. O'Malley last week announced that a grand jury returned an indictment charging Ellis Wilson, 34, for the murder of a Garfield Heights woman, 33, near the Harvard Ave. exit ramp of I-77.

"This barbaric individual executed the victim in front of her children," said Prosecutor O'Malley. "Our hearts go out to her family as they grieve this tragic loss."

On Dec. 19, 2020, prosecutors said Wilson and Breyana Presley argued inside her vehicle as she was driving along I-77 with her two children, ages 12 years and 8 months old, in the backseat. Wilson allegedly shot the Presley multiple times before the vehicle came to a stop near the Harvard Ave. exit ramp and he ran out of the car.

Officers with the Newburgh Heights Police Department and the Cleveland Division of Police, along with Emergency Medical Services, responded to the scene. Presley was transported to a nearby hospital and was pronounced deceased shortly thereafter. Her children were not injured but were transported to the hospital for further evaluation. Wilson was found hiding nearby in the brush alongside the freeway and was arrested.

CPD's Homicide Unit and Fourth District Bureau, along with NHPD, conducted an investigation that allegedly connected Wilson to the crime.

He has been indicted on the following charges: one count of aggravated murder, one count of murder, one count of felonious assault, two counts of improperly handling firearms in a motor vehicle and one count of having weapons under disability.

Wilson is currently being held at the Cuyahoga County Jail on a \$1 million bond. He will be arraigned at a later date. If convicted, he faces a maximum term of life in prison.

Pernel Jones, Jr. elected county council president

Cuyahoga County Council met Monday in an organizational meeting and unanimously elected Pernel Jones, Jr. as council president.

Jones, a lifelong resident of Cuyahoga County, was elected to a two-year term as vice-president beginning in 2015, and has made job retention and creation of new jobs in the county a top priority.

Jones represents District 8 on County Council.

Bedford Councilwoman Heather Rhoades steps down due to illness; calls for removal of Councilman Saunders at Monday council meeting

By Judith Goldsworth

In an impassioned statement at Monday night's teleconference council meeting, Bedford Councilwoman Heather Rhoades announced that she was stepping down from her position with the city due to illness, and also called for the removal of her fellow council member, Donald Saunders, for what she alleged were "racist and sexist comments" against residents and city employees, as well as other allegations.

"To Bedford residents, it's with great sadness that I have to announce that I will need to step down as your Ward 5 city council representative," Rhoades said at the meeting. She has served on council since January 2018.

She said she has been diagnosed with Stage 4 breast cancer, adding, "During these difficult times, I feel it is best to focus my energies on my family."

Immediately after announcing her resignation, Rhoades stated, "There is one matter I would like to clear up, that I could not legally do before this time, and that is my vote

to remove Councilman Donald Saunders from Bedford City Council."

"It is a fact of the matter that Councilman Donald Saunders' actions over the past few decades have resulted in multiple lawsuits against the city of Bedford... The city of Bedford has had to pay out on those lawsuits," she continued.

Rhoades also alleged in her comments, "It is also a fact that Councilman Don Saunders has been accused, on multiple occasions, of racist and sexist comments and actions, towards residents and employees of Bedford. Residents of Bedford, you deserve better than this."

Mayor Stan Koci responded, "Heather, thank you and our prayers are with you... You have done a great job for your residents in Ward 5, and for the city, and I want to thank you for that right now, up front. Keep us posted, and let us know what's happening."

When contacted after the meeting by this reporter to give her the opportunity to clarify her allegations, Rhoades stated, "I do not have further comment."

Rhoades referenced a lawsuit against a city inspector and the city of Bedford, adding, "There are others, but that one is interesting."

Inquiries were made after the meeting to City Manager Mike Mallis, Mayor Koci and Law Director John Montello on the nature and resolution of the lawsuit mentioned by Rhoades, and also what the procedure was for filling an unexpired term on council.

Yesterday Mallis responded: "Unfortunately, I do not have any information to add and any communication regarding litigation would come from the law department."

As for the council vacancy, Mallis said city council will appoint a resident within the ward to serve the remainder of the term, which is through 2021."

Saunders made no response to Rhoades' allegations during the meeting. He was contacted by this reporter after the meeting to give him the opportunity to make a statement, but no response was received as of press time.

As there was no legislation on Monday's agenda, the meeting consisted of reports from various city officials, who wished all Bedford residents a Happy New Year even as the city continues to deal with the effects of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Officials also gave their condolences to the families of residents Ernie Walker and Iris Dawson, both very active community members who passed away recently.

Deadline to pay real estate taxes extended to Jan. 28

The 2020 first half real estate tax deadline has been extended by one week to Jan. 28, 2021, for Cuyahoga County taxpayers. The deadline is being extended due to concerns that the postal service may not get bills to taxpayers in a timely manner. Bills were set to be mailed this week but tax bills can be viewed online now.

"We are encouraging people to view and pay their tax bill online or through one of our other recommended payment options, including by mail, phone or through the drop box located to the right of the main entrance of the County Administrative Headquarters," said Cuyahoga County Treasurer W. Christopher Murray II.

Taxpayers can still pay by cash, check, money order, credit and debit card in the Cashier Department located on the first floor of the County Administrative Headquarters. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If taxpayers are experiencing difficulties with making their payment, they should contact the County Treasurer at 216-443-7420 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, or email Treascomment@cuyahoga-county.us.

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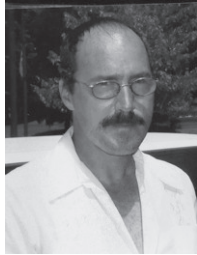
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Death Notices



CHRISTOPHER D. HUKILL

Christopher Dale Hukill, age 52, passed away in his home on Dec. 3, 2020, after losing his fight with cancer. Born Sept. 16, 1968. Christopher is survived by his mother, Donna Daniels; father, Billy Hukill (Jan); sister, Dawn Hukill-Lukehart; brother, Robert

(Linda); half-brothers Nicholas, Joshua and Ryan Hukill. Father of Christopher, Jr. and Matthew Hukill, daughter Brandy Restifo. Grandfather of Damion and Kira. Beloved partner in life, Cheryl Lunger Biggins; stepfather to Rachael Jones (T.J.); and uncle to many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his stepfather, Dennis Daniels.

Chris was an avid Cleveland Browns fan, NASCAR enthusiast and loved the outdoors. He prided himself in taking care of his family and friends and always had a project in motion. Christopher was loved by many and his joking, fun-loving nature will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Family and friends are welcome on Friday, Jan. 8, 2020, from 4-6 p.m., at the Bican Bros. Funeral Home, 5215 Fleet Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44105.

VINCENT R. LIOTTA

Vincent R. Liotta, age 75, of Garfield Heights, passed away on Dec. 31. He was the beloved husband of Kathleen (nee South); loving father of Deana Liotta (Eric), Vincent Liotta, Jr. (Amy) and Shelby Pastva (John); devoted grandfather of Adam, Lauren, Kyle and Luke, Tiffany (Trevor) and great-grandfather of Anthony, Giovanni and Vincent; dear brother of Nick Liotta (Maryann); dear uncle, great uncle, cousin of many.

Vince was past president of the Bedford Lions Club, a 10-year member of Garfield Heights City Council from Ward 3, past ward leader and precinct man, Executive Democratic Board member, past Garfield Heights Baseball commissioner and member of the Garfield Heights



Baseball Hall of Fame. Due to the pandemic, all services will be private.

DAVID W. WINGENFELD



David W. Wingenfeld, age 66, councilman for the Village of Valley View, passed away on Dec. 17, 2020, at Swan Farm in Valley View. Beloved father of Meghan Wingenfeld (Zachary Bubnick), Danny (Jess), and Noah; dear brother of Sue Sizler, Dan, Pat (Steve); best friend of Brody. Dave is also survived by many loving friends and was honored to serve the citizens of the Village of Valley View.

All are invited to gather at St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church, 14600 Turney Rd., Maple Heights, on Saturday, Jan. 9, 2021, at 11 a.m. to celebrate Dave's Mass of Christian Burial. A further celebration of Dave's life will take place at Swan Farm during the summer of 2021. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested in his name to the Western Reserve Land Conservancy or Countryside Food and Farms.

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5841 Turney Rd., Garfield Heights 216-475-4040

Washington Park Community School

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

The Board of Directors Meeting scheduled for January 11, 2021 has been postponed.

N.N.: 1-6-21

PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing will be held on **Monday, January 11, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.**, before the **Maple Heights Planning and Zoning Commission** via video/teleconference to consider the following applications:

2021-PZ-01 An application from Lionell Rutherford of Our Daily Links & LDR Media Group requesting approval of the following: 1) a conditional use permit under Section 1278.04(P) of the MH Codified Ordinances to operate an Office providing social media and news services to correctional facilities; 2) a conditional use permit under Sect. 1278.04(Q) of the MH Codified Ordinances to operate a Personal Services Business to provide concierge services for clients and 3) a variance from the off-street parking requirements of Sect. 1290.06 of the MH Codified Ordinances in a Neighborhood Commercial (NC) Zoning District at 5225 Warrensville Center Road, Maple Heights, Ohio.

Planning and Zoning Commission Members, Administrative Staff, Applicants and the Public may access the meeting by the following methods:

By computer (if have a camera and microphone), tablet or smartphone:

- Download the Go To Meeting App on your computer, tablet or smartphone: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/165984597>
- Once installed then download the link below onto your computer, tablet or smartphone to join the Council meeting: <https://www.gotomeet.me/FrankConsolo>

By telephone:

- Dial **1-646-749-3112**
- Enter Access Code **165-984-597**

Members of the public will only be allowed to speak during the Public Hearing portion of this meeting.

The application and all supporting materials are available for review during normal business hours in the Maple Heights Building Department, 5353 Lee Road, Maple Heights, Ohio.

Leonette Cicirella Johnson
Clerk of Council
City of Maple Heights

The Neighborhood News
Wednesday, January 6, 2021

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LEGAL NOTICE

CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS

2021 PUBLIC MEETINGS SCHEDULE

In accordance with Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code, and Chapter 208 of the Administrative Code of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Maple Heights, notice is hereby given for the **2021 Public Meetings Schedule for the City of Maple Heights, Ohio.**

The **Council of the City of Maple Heights, Ohio** shall meet on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 7:00 pm (with Caucus Meeting at 6:30 pm) via video/teleconference until further notice. Council may amend their regular meeting schedule during the summer months. A regular meeting that falls on a holiday shall be held on the day following the legal holiday. The Mayor, President of Council or any three (3) members of Council may call a Special Meeting of Council upon written notice served at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the time fixed for such meeting, except in the case of a public emergency. Any such request for a Special Meeting shall state the specific subject(s) to be considered at the meeting and no other subject(s) shall be discussed. Nothing in this section shall prohibit, limit or restrict the right of Council or any of the other public bodies to cancel or reschedule any scheduled meeting or to adopt, in accordance with law, a different schedule of meetings at any time during the remainder of the year.

The **Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Maple Heights, Ohio** shall meet on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 pm (with Caucus Meeting at 6:00 pm) via video/teleconference until further notice. If the need arises, the Building Commissioner may call a second meeting during the month on the fourth Monday of the month with proper notice. Please call the Clerk's Office at least one week before the meeting at 216-587-9000 to arrange for handicap assistance if needed.

Leonette Cicirella Johnson
Clerk of Council
City of Maple Heights

The Neighborhood News
January 6, 2021

G.H. community meeting

Join Garfield Heights Ward 5 Councilman Jason Blake and Ward 6 Councilman Matt Burke for the January 2021 Community Awareness meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 13, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. Speaker will be Dave Krock of OHM Advisors who oversees engineering projects for the city of Garfield Heights. Topic: Community Awareness meeting; Meeting ID: 837 5053 7669; Passcode: 371779

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Redi Storage is hosting the following auctions on www.storagetreasures.com. Items to be auctioned off by whole unit, cash only, \$100 deposit on each unit. 17101 Rockside Rd. Maple Hts., OH 44137, on January 29th, 2021.

Darlene Moore 5046 Philip Ave Maple heights. OH 44137, Unit 507 10X20, auction ends at 12 PM. **Unit appears to contain: wooden ladders, sewing machine, lawn equipment, and misc. boxes.**

Darlene Moore 5046 Philip Ave Maple heights. OH 44137 Unit 512 10x10, Auction ends at 11:55 AM. **Unit appears to contain: misc. boxes, and table top with tarp.**

Redi Storage is hosting the following auctions on www.storagetreasures.com. Items to be auctioned off by whole unit, cash only, \$100 deposit on each unit. 4620 Northfield RD. North Randall, OH 44128, on January 29th, 2021.

Arline Gant 154E. Aurora Rd. Northfield, OH 44067, 1036 10X20 12PM. **Unit appears to contain: misc. style office chairs, wooden desk, and filing cabinets.**

NN: 1-6-21 & 1-13-21

Community Police reports

CLEVELAND

Arson

At 4:22 a.m. on Dec. 29, an incendiary device was used to break into an ATM at 5841 Broadway Ave. Fire/Arson to handle. No arrests at time of report.

Shooting

•At 1:36 a.m. on Dec. 30, a 34-year-old man suffered a gunshot wound to his thigh in the 3800 block of E. 50 St. Neighbors observed two men arguing and shooting at one another. Detectives continue to investigate.

•At 2:32 a.m. on Jan. 1, a 24-year-old man was shot in the chest in the 4400 block of Douse Ave. He was taken to MetroHealth Medical Center by EMS.

GARFIELD HEIGHTS

Robbery

On Dec. 28, at 1:55 p.m., a woman reported she was in her car in the driveway of a home in the 5800 block of Turney Rd., when a man robbed her at gunpoint. The suspect opened the woman's car door and she fled into the home. The suspect then took off in her car as police arrived. They followed the suspect in a pursuit which lasted about 13 minutes through various municipalities. When the suspect approached the intersection of Miles and E. 160 St., he traveled left of center through a red light and nearly struck a van traveling northbound. Police then terminated the pursuit due to both the length and increased recklessness of the suspect. A car was found stuck in the mud in the backyard of the victim's home, which was listed as stolen and might have been driven by the suspect.

Weapon Offense

On Dec. 27, about 9 p.m., officers responded to a report of shots fired at the Sunoco at 6009 Turney Rd. Police viewed footage from the Sunoco security cameras but could not locate a victim of the shooting or any involved vehicles.

Theft

A man living in the 5000 block of Claremont Blvd. reported to police that he had gotten a phone call on Jan. 3, at 11:30 a.m. on his home phone. A woman told him her name was Jessica Rease and that she was with Amazon Security and that the victim's account had been hacked. She gave him a case number and a call-back phone number and requested \$2500 in Amazon gift cards to fix the issue. The victim said he got the gift cards and gave all the access details to the woman. The man also said the caller was able to remotely access his computer.

The Neighborhood News
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FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION, (Garfield Hts. Only)



Saturday, Jan. 16th, 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, Jan. 16th from 10am-Noon.

Those walking also need to queue in car line.

All food distributions will be drive-through only till further notice.

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2021



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Garfield Hts. Council update

Garfield Heights Council met in a special meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 22, and passed an amended ordinance to the collective bargaining agreement between the city and the Fraternal Order of Police, Ohio Labor Council, Inc. regarding jailers and records clerks.

Records clerks and jailers (probation) will see a 3% wage increase and a 3.55% wage increase for jailers. All increases are effective Jan. 1, 2021.

Also passed were two emergency ordinances to make final appropriations for current expenses of the city

during the fiscal year ending Dec. 31, 2020, and the fiscal year ending Dec. 31, 2021.

Another emergency ordinance passed will increase the number of lieutenant positions in the Garfield Heights Fire Department from no more than six to no more than seven, effective immediately.

The next regularly scheduled council meeting will be held Monday, Jan. 11.

Special offer for blood donors

The American Red Cross and the National Football League are teaming up this month during January's National Blood Donor Month to urge individuals – especially those who have recovered from COVID-19 – to

give blood and to help tackle the national convalescent plasma shortage.

Those who come to donate blood or platelets this January will be automatically entered to win two tickets to next year's Super Bowl LVI in Los Angeles. In addition, those who come to give January 1-20, will also be automatically entered to win the Big Game at Home package for an awesome viewing experience safely at home, with a 65-inch television and a \$500 gift card to put toward food and fun. Local blood donation opportunities this month include:


Independence

1/6/2021: 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Crown Centre II, 5001 Rockside Rd.

1/19/2021: 1 - 7 p.m., Elmwood Recreation Center, 6200 W. Pete Wisnieski Parkway.

Valley View

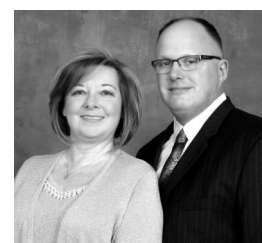
1/6/2021: 1 - 7 p.m., Valley View Community Center, 6828 Hathaway Rd.



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Jason and Anne Marie Blake
Councilman Ward 5 City of Garfield Heights

**Wishing Everyone a very
Happy & Blessed New Year**

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5316 Fleet Avenue, Cleveland OH, 216-641-0046

Happy New Year!

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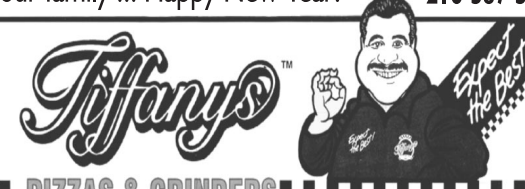
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Welcome 2021

Happy New Year!

Councilman
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City of Garfield Heights Ward 7

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New Year's GREETINGS

The time has come for us to wish you much happiness and success in this exciting new year.

Best Wishes in 2021
From the Ferfolia Family and Staff

Ferfolia Funeral Home

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Sagamore Hills



Maple Hts. Council passes \$31.7 million budget

By Judith Goldsworth

At its last meeting of the year on Dec. 16, Maple Heights Council passed an ordinance to approve the city's budget, to make appropriations for current expenses and other expenses for the fiscal year ending Dec. 31, 2021, and to submit the legislation to the Cuyahoga County fiscal officer.

The total figure for the 2021 budget is \$31,704,397.76, Finance Director Tinita Tillman had stated.

Also approved was an ordinance to amend the 2020 budget before the end of the year to include \$1700 in CARES Act funding for police and personnel.

Other legislation passed by council at its Dec. 16 meeting included:

- An ordinance to adopt and enact a new section of the codified ordinances creating a special revenue fund entitled "Housing Reinvestment Grant Fund," after the city established the Maple Heights Home Ownership Program (MHOP), a partnership with Slavic Village Development and the Cuyahoga County Land Reutilization Corporation to provide for affordable home ownership in the city.

The new grant will provide funding for maintenance, paint, repair or replacement of roofs, gutters, downspouts, siding, windows, doors and other items, as well as Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible ramps.

- A resolution authorizing Blackwell to enter into a contract with Medical Mutual of Ohio for health insurance coverage for full time employees of the city, effective Jan. 1, 2021 through Dec. 31, 2021. Increase in deductible amounts was from \$2800 to \$3500 for single coverage plans and from \$5600 to \$7000 for family coverage plans, with the same coverage and benefit levels currently in effect.

Blackwell, Tillman and Finance Director Frank Consolo have recommended that the city "continue to forgo collecting a monthly premium copay amount from the

employees and instead allow employees to contribute \$100 per month for single plan coverage and \$200 per month for family plan coverage into their respective health savings accounts in order to partially fund their deductible, with the city contributing the remaining amount necessary to fully fund the deductible for each employee."

- An ordinance waiving the 100 percent escrow requirement to correct violations resulting from point of sale inspections for the year 2021, a continuation of a waiver that has been in place for the past several years.

(Continued on Page 8)



Happy New Year, 2021!
As the new year rolls in we want to thank you for your trust and friendship throughout the past year.

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From My Family to yours



Matt Burke
Garfield Heights President and Councilman Ward 6

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Jones Road Church
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Sunday Service: 11:00 a.m.
Jeff Bodziony, Pastor


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



Happy New Year!!
from
Slavic Village Development Board and Staff


Chris Alvarado	Executive Director
Greg Knapp	Board President
Tim Verba	Vice President
Michael Czapor	Treasurer
Jamie Pawlak	Secretary

Best Wishes for a Happy, Healthy ... 2021!



Cuyahoga Heights Mayor Jack M. Bacci & Family

To the Residents of Ward 3 in Garfield Heights




Wishing you and your family all the best in 2021.

Michael Nenadovich and Family
GARFIELD HEIGHTS COUNCILMAN WARD 3

BLESSINGS IN THE NEW YEAR

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Maple Heights Council

(Continued from Page 4)

The waiver is intended to offer an incentive to individuals who purchase residential properties and occupy them and to encourage individuals to purchase and renovate residential properties.

- An ordinance amending and restating a section of the codified ordinances concerning the Architectural Review Board, "to establish the intent, membership, power and duties, organization and proceedings of the Architectural Review Board."

The ARB was created to review applications to ensure that new development and redevelopment are compatible and harmonious with the existing overall character of the city. The ARB consists of three architects licensed to practice in the state of Ohio, and a fourth architect may be appointed at the mayor's discretion to serve as an alternate.

The ARB will serve as an advisory board to the Planning and Zoning Commission, with a compensation of \$60 a piece to each member, the ordinance states.

- A resolution directing City Engineer Ed Hren to prepare and submit improvement plans and environmental and project development documents to the Ohio Department of Transportation for the Dunham Road Safe

Routes to School (SRTS) Infrastructure Project, after the city was awarded \$150,000 for the project.

The SRTS project "will enhance the sidewalks and crossing along the main routes to school, including curb ramps and sidewalks, high visibility signage and thermoplastic pavement markings and striping" along Dunham, from Turney to Rockside rds.

ODOT will advertise for bids and oversee construction of the project upon receiving the plans from Hren, the legislation states.


- A resolution for the collective bargaining agreements with FOP Lodge 67 for the city's patrol officer/detective and sergeant/lieutenant bargaining units for the time

period Jan. 1, 2021-Dec. 31, 2023, to set wages, hours and other terms and conditions of employment for the city's police department.

- A resolution scheduling a public hearing on the recommendation of the Planning Commission that 22 permanent parcels of land, currently zoned residential single family medium density district, be rezoned to residential multifamily district for the development of an affordable senior housing community to be known as Hazelwood Courts.

A public hearing will be scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021, at 6 p.m., before the regularly scheduled meeting of council to consider the proposed rezoning ordinance.

**With Best Wishes
for a Happy and
Prosperous New Year!**



from the
City of Maple Heights

Mayor Annette M. Blackwell

Happy New Year! ... 2021!!

From: **SHANNON LANDSCAPING AND SNOW PLOWING**




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The year 2021 is here, and we hope everyone enjoys all good things throughout the coming days and months.




Tony, Gail, Jack, Kluber and Casey

Councilman Anthony Brancatelli
Cleveland, Ward 12
216.664.4233 ABrancatelli@ClevelandCityCouncil.org

**HAPPY NEW YEAR
2021**

*May you have New Hopes, Aspirations
and Resolutions for the coming new year.*



**Mayor Vic and
Jeannie Collova**
City of Garfield Heights

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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