The Neighborhood News

Your Community Newspaper Since 1923

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

98th YEAR NO. 19

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2021

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

Double homicide in M.H.

Last Wednesday, Jan. 20, the Maple Heights Police Department was dispatched to the area of the 5500 block of Elmwood Ave. for a report of someone who was shot and may be dead. Upon arrival, officers located two men with gunshot injuries, both of whom had a single gunshot wound to the chest. Both were transported to the hospital and died from their injuries.

While the investigation is still ongoing, Maple Heights police said in a press release that it was learned the males exchanged gunfire at each other and both were hit in the chest. The dead men were 20- and 23-years-old.

Anyone with information related to this case is urged to contact the Maple Heights Detective Bureau: 216-587-9624 or Detectives@mhpd-ohio.com. Information can also be supplied anonymously to Crime Stoppers.

Cleveland applies for grants to fight crime

Cleveland City Council held a virtual meeting last Wednesday, Jan. 20, and approved legislation authorizing the city to apply for and accept a series of government grants directed to fighting crime in the city. The one-year grants, distributed by the state, total more than \$400,000.

One portion of the funds will be assigned to the Northern Ohio Law Enforcement Task Force, which is a crime-fighting organization of state, federal and local agents. The funds will be used to fight drug and violent crime in the neighborhoods. Other grants fund the Police Homicide Review Commission and another the Impaired Driving Enforcement Program and Selective Traffic Enforcement Program.

The task force last year seized 42 firearms, 39 pounds of cocaine and prosecuted 62 people in Greater Cleveland.

Another highlight from last week's meeting included approving legislation amending an earlier ordinance to extend the expiration date of the Temporary Expansion Area Program from June 1, 2021 until November 1, 2021, in light of the continued pandemic, for the continued use of private parking lots, streets and other public rights-ofway, including on-street parking areas and parklets as outdoor restaurants.

Council will deliberate over legislation allowing the Director of Economic Development to enter into a Job Creation Incentive Program grant agreement (JCIP Agreement), for a period not to exceed five years, with Quicken Loans, LLC, (Rocket Mortgage) to facilitate the growth of this business in Cleveland. It is stipulated in the legislation that the JCIP Agreement shall not exceed grant funds in the amount of \$975,000.

FREE DRY

• FREE WIFI • LOW COST • VERY CLEAN

I-77 north ramp closures

The Ohio Department of Transportation has announced that I-77 north to I-490 west will be closed Friday, Jan. 29, at 6 p.m. through Monday, Feb. 1, at 5 a.m. for bridge deck repairs.

The detour is I-77 north to E. 30th St./Woodland Ave. to I-77 south to I-490 west.

I-77 north to I-490 west will be closed Friday, Feb. 5, at 6 p.m. through Monday, Feb. 8, at 5 a.m. for bridge deck repairs.

The detour is I-77 north to E. 30th St./Woodland Ave. to I-77 south to I-490 west.

COVID-19 vaccine info

The Cuyahoga County Public Library recognizes that there is an overwhelming amount of information out there about Phase 1B COVID-19 vaccinations, and they want Cuyahoga County residents to know they are here to help.

Call your local Cuyahoga County Public Library branch if you need assistance with any of the following:

- Finding a vaccination provider
- Registering for a vaccination appointment

• Preregistering for a vaccination appointment at University Hospitals

Garfield Hts. Council says goodbye to retiring mayor; passes final legislation for repaving of Broadway

By Ellen Psenicka

It was Vic Collova's final council meeting as Garfield Heights mayor Monday night as he announced his retirement as of Feb. 1 at a previous meeting, and council members were lavish in their praise for the former council president and three-term mayor and passed a resolution honoring him for "his outstanding service to the city and lifetime accomplishments.



Mayor Collova began his service to the city when he was elected president of council in 2005, and has served as mayor since Dec. 1, 2009. He said he is grateful to all who have helped him along his life's journey and is looking forward to spending quality time with his family

FREE

President of Council Matt Burke will serve as mayor for Collova's unexpired term

In other legislative action, council passed the final agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation to resurface the entire length of Broadway Ave. from the eastern to western boundaries of Garfield

Heights. Included will be sidewalk and curb repair, curb ramp upgrades and pavement

Several city personnel decisions were approved by council at its meeting Monday night. Longtime Service Department employee and interim service director Mark Sikon was appointed service director for the city in the wake of former director Tim McLaughlin's retirement, and Paul Birk was chosen to direct the Parks & Recreation Department following the death of former director Bob Dobies.

Also passed was an ordinance reinstating the position of executive fire captain/fire captain in charge of training to enforce the state fire code and state and federal laws regarding hazardous materials and serve as commander designee in the fire department in the chief's absence for which an annual bonus of \$2000 will be awarded.

The position of recreation-lead for the Parks & Recreation Department was created by council with legislation to replace the position of light equipment operator to reflect added duties, in addition to snow plowing, operating landscaping machinery and the Zamboni for the ice rink. Other duties will include supervising staff for all Rec programs, activities and events, and other various jobs as designated in the legislation.

Also passed were the following ordinances and resolutions:

• Entering into an agreement with Ohio Plan Management Resources, Inc. to supply diversity training for all city employees;

• Entering into an agreement with N2Net to upgrade the Municipal Court's internet service

• Amending an agreement with N2Net to increase the internet service provided to the city;

•Authorizing an agreement with Teletronics, Inc. to provide Wide Area Network support;

• Authorizing an agreement with Phoenix Safety Outfitters to buy eight sets of fire gear at a cost not to exceed \$28,500;

• Entering into an agreement with Pitney Bowes for the lease/replacement of the mailing machine in the city's Finance Department at a total cost of \$16,947.60;



TURNEY TOWN LAUNDROMAT OPEN 8 AM to 8 PM Garfield Heights 4934 Turney Rd. www.clevelandlaundryservice.com



Mayor Collova markings within the city limits.

Bedford seeking candidates for Ward 5 council seat

By Judith Goldsworth

Candidates are still being sought to fill Bedford's Ward 5 council seat vacated by former Councilwoman Heather Rhoades, city officials reported at last week's city council meeting. She announced she was stepping down earlier this month due to illness. Deadline for applications is Monday, Feb. 8.

Mayor Stan Koci said the term will begin in February. "If you are interested in the position," he said, "there are some minimum requirements. You must attend all council meetings which are not limited to the regularly scheduled ones on the first and third Mondays of the month.

"Candidates must continue to be a resident of the ward from which they were elected or appointed, be a ward resident for at least six months, have had and continue to qualify as an elector, and no member of council shall be directly or indirectly interested in any contract, job, work or service that is in conflict with anything in the city," Koci added.

He said those interested in the position should send a briefletter to introduce themselves with some background



Legal Advertisement

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Garfield Heights ("Owner"), at the office of the Fiscal Officer, City of Garfield Heights, 5407 Turney Road, Garfield Heights, OH 44125 on the 11th day of February, 2021 until 10:00 am current local time for the:

"Broadway Avenue Watermain Replacement"

and will be publicly opened and read immediately thereafter. Each bid must contain the full names of the party or parties making the same, with an affidavit as to interested parties, and in the case of a corporation not chartered in Ohio, with a proper certificate that such corporation is authorized to do business in Ohio, and shall be accompanied by a Bid Guaranty Bond for the full amount (100%) of the Bid, in favor of the "Owner" or a certified check, cashier's check, or letter of credit pursuant to Chapter 1305 of the Ohio Revised Code, in the amount of 10% of the Bid, payable to the "Owner".

It is agreed that the bid guaranty shall be for the benefit of the "Owner pursuant to Section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code if the undersigned fails to execute the Contract in conformity with the Form of Contract incorporated in the contract documents and furnish Bond and insurance certificates within ten (10) days after the notification of the award of the Contract to the undersigned.

Copies of the Contract Documents are on file at SE Blueprint, Plan Room and may be obtained at cost (1) online at $\underline{www.ohm-bidderplanroom.plancycle.com}$, (2) in person at the SE Blueprint Akron Office, 540 South Main Street, Akron, OH 44311 or at the SE Blueprint Cleveland Office 2035 Hamilton Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44114, or (3) via phone SE Blueprint Cleveland (216) 241-2250.

Please note that in order to be considered as a "responsive bidder" for this project, you must purchase a set of plans and bid documents, and follow all instructions provided. Bids from contractors who are not on the Plan Holders List will be disqualified.

The "*Owner*" reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any informalities in the bids received, and to accept any bid which it deems most favorable.

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

Barbara A. Biro, Finance Director **City of Garfield Heights**

Publish Dates: Neighborhood News Week of January 24th, 2021 Week of January 31st, 2021

information to clerk Tracy Simons, Bedford City Hall, 165 Center Rd., Bedford, OH 44146.

Police body cameras on first reading

Placed on first reading was the only piece of legislation on last week's agenda, authorizing City Manager Mike Mallis to enter into a contract with Axon Enterprise, Inc., for purchase and implementation of dash cameras and body cameras for the police department, including hardware, maintenance and license fees over a five-year period, at a total cost of \$273,160.

"It is needed in this day and age," Koci said, "and we're going to support it, but we need to do a first reading, just because of some of the tweaking of the language, not the idea of it, but the language in the ordinance.

GIS system discussed

Mallis said that he and Councilman Donald Saunders had been discussing a GIS (geographic information system) for the city, stating, "We've been working on both an internal GIS system for our Service Department, and we've been working to update and input a lot of information that's helpful for the everyday work of our staff."

But on top of that, we've also been working with Cuyahoga County officials," Mallis continued. "The county has a GIS system also, which includes maps and data, and all of that is now available directly on the city of Bedford's website. All of that went live today (Tuesday, Jan. 19) on our site, so anybody looking for data or information can recently. tie right into that information at bedfordoh.gov.'

COVID-19 updates

Regarding ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on residents, Mallis said that the city spent about \$49,000, much of that grant dollars, to distribute about 1500 boxes of food to families and individuals in need in Bedford. He said any residents needing help should call the city, go online or visit the atwww.bedfordohiohistory.org, she stated. city's website.

PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing will be held on Monday, February 8, 2021, at 6:30 p.m., before the Maple Heights Planning and Zoning Commission via video/teleconference to consider the following applications:

2021-PZ-02 An application from Donyette Manningham of Rising Stars Childcare Enrichment Academy LLC requesting approval of a Three (3) Year Conditional Use Permit to operate a Type A child day care as a home occupation business with a variance from the requirements of Sect. 1298.22(D) of the MH Codified Ordinances in a Residential Single Family-Medium Density (RSF-M) Zoning District at 15504 Shirley Avenue, 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:

1. Download the Go To Meeting App on your computer, tablet or smartphone: https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/165984597

2. 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:

1. Dial 1-646-749-3112

2. 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/PZC Secretary City of Maple Heights

The Neighborhood News Wednesday, January 27, 2021

He recommended anyone wishing to get more information on vaccinations should contact their primary care giver to help them navigate through the process.

Mallis praised the Bedford Police Department and Chief Marty Stemple for working on the first steps, through the Ohio Collaborative Community Police Advisory Board, to become certified.

We've met that first step," Mallis said of the department's efforts, stating that the OCCPAB had awarded Bedford for meeting the certification for their standards.

According to a Dec. 8, 2020 press release from the OCCPAB, Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services Executive Director Karhlton Moore announced that Bedford police "adopted and implemented state standards established by the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board... There are 471 agencies that are certified, and 113 that are in the process of becoming certified, by meeting standards for the use of force, including deadly force, and agency recruitment and hiring ... The standards are the first of their kind in Ohio, and were developed and established by the (OCCPAB) as part of the state's efforts to strengthen community and police relations."

"Obviously, there's a lot more work to be done, and we review those things annually, but it is definitely a big accomplishment for our department and our city," Mallis said.

Announcements

Officials offered their condolences to the family of Larry Graceffo, of LaGra Jewelers in the city, who passed away

Councilwoman Sandy Spinks said that bricks to commemorate individuals or occasions were being sold through the Bedford Historical Society's Memorial Brick Program, at a cost of \$60 apiece, including tax. The bricks will be installed in the Public Square area of Bedford's Historic Downtown District. Checks may be made payable to: Memorial Brick Program, Bedford Historical Society, P.O. Box 46282, Bedford, OH, 44146, or ordered online



YEAR IN REVIEW

2020 NN Year in Review

(Continued from last week)

SEPTEMBER

• City of Maple Heights announces it has filed a lawsuit against Netflix and Hulu seeking video service provider fees.

• Several area schools announce remote-only opening.

• Retired Garfield Heights Police Chief Thomas Murphy passes away.

• All I-480 eastbound traffic officially began traveling on the new I-480 Valley View Bridge on Sunday, Sept. 13, through Fall 2021 as crews work on the existing I-480 eastbound bridge.

• Neighborhood News owner Michael Psenicka passed away unexpectedly Sept. 14, at his office on Garfield Blvd. The world lost a bright, compassionate, generous and loving man who can never be replaced.



• In honor of National Voter Registra-

tion Week, residents in partnership Michael Psenicka with Slavic Village Development held pop-up events Sept. 18-20, to urge everyone to get registered to vote in the 2020 November presidential election.

• COVID-19 community testing was held on Sept. 23, at St. Therese Church in Garfield Heights.

•Agents from the Ohio Investigative Unit cited Vivid Cocktail Lounge in Maple Heights and Tavern Off Broadway in Bedford, as well as a third bar in Columbus Sept. 19-20, for violating orders in place to reduce the more delivered directly to your door. spread of the coronavirus.

Slavic Village Gateway, a \$20 million development consisting of 88 affordable apartments and townhouses and the new home of University Settlement on the site of the former St. Alexis Hospital in the North Broadway neighborhood.

• Earl Foote, former operator of Footes Valley Farm in Valley View for 64 years, passed away on Sept. 24.

• In early September, Cuyahoga Heights Mayor Jack Bacci presented Ohio Crankshaft Co. a proclamation honoring its 100th anniversary.

• Cleveland-Cliffs, Inc. announced it would buy the U.S. operations of Arcelor Mittal USA for \$1.4 billion in cash and shares to become the biggest flat-rolled steel producer in North America.

OCTOBER

• Adjusting to the pandemic way of life nowadays, the St. Stanislaus Polish Festival was held Oct. 3-4, like never before. A virtual Polka Party online featuring the local band "Rewind" with three hours of entertainment, church tours and more was available on the church's website and Facebook pages. The parish also held a drive-through food line featuring kielbasa, pierogi, sauerkraut, cabbage and noodles and lots of other Polish dinner items. And while waiting in line to pick up the dinners, drivers could munch on kielbasa or parowki sandwiches prepared by the St. Stan's Dads' Club! An online auction and livestream drawing of raffle winners rounded out the activities made much different in this year of COVID.

• The annual fundraiser for University Settlement, "Taste of Slavic Village," also went virtual on Oct. 7. For \$75 with your order at the Settlement's website, you gained access to exclusive online entertainment videos and recipe demonstrations. Patrons also received a gift box full of food and other goodies such as coupons, a cookbook and

•On Oct. 25, Garfield Heights held a Halloween &

Board of Education Vacancy

Have a Special Event you want to Advertise? **E-mail Information to:** NNEWS1923@AOL.COM Include Contact Name and daytime phone number The Neighborhood News Advertising deadline is Mondays at 5:00pm

Due to a resignation, the Garfield City School's Board of Education has a member vacancy as of January 19, 2021. The Board is now accepting letters of interest as a potential board member from eligible residents who desire consideration to fill the vacancy through the completion of the unexpired term that ends December 31, 2021. Interested eligible residents must deliver a Letter of Interest and Qualifications as a potential Board Member addressed to Board President Nichelle Daniels, c/o Treasurer Al Sluka, 5640 Briarcliff Drive, Garfield Heights, OH 44125, before 12:00 p.m., January 29, 2021, and be available for interview by Board of Education members during a special meeting held during the week of February 1st. Dates to be determined. The individual chosen to fill this vacancy will be appointed and sworn in during the Board's Special Meeting on February 8, 2021. N.N. 1-27-21



• Groundbreaking ceremonies were held Sept. 24, for Harvest Costume Parade since the city could not host its two very popular events, the annual Halloween Skate and Harvest Fest, due to the pandemic. Children and parents dressed for Halloween and paraded to several tents set up in the Civic Center parking lot, where volunteers handed out pumpkins and assorted treats to the little ghosts and goblins.

> • Community members in the Forest City neighborhood of Slavic Village rallied volunteers to help the new pastor of Greater New Beginnings Missionary Baptist Church, Michael Fletcher, give his church a facelift. During two sessions over 50 volunteers did the Lord's work, scraping, priming and painting the outside of the church.

> • After nearly 42 years in the Garfield Heights Service Department, Timothy McLaughlin announced his retirement effective Oct. 30.



BAG



G.H. residents can still apply to join PR Committee

The mayor's office of the city of Garfield Heights is continuing to accept letters of interest and resumes from Deadline is Feb. 28, 2021. residents for its newly revamped Public Relations Committee.

The committee is comprised of seven members as follows: the mayor of Garfield Heights or his designee and six members to be chosen by the mayor and ratified by a vote of council. The committee will select from among its members a chairperson to run the meetings and present reports and findings to council when necessary.

Each member of the Community Relations Committee will serve a term of three years and must be a resident of the city throughout their term of office.

It is stipulated in the city charter that "members of the committee shall be diverse and reflective of the diversity of community at the time of their appointment.'

No member can be an elected official from either the city or the Garfield Heights City Schools and positions on the committee are unpaid.

The purpose of the committee "shall be to foster, encourage and stimulate the improvement of community and intergroup relations among and between citizens of all races, colors, religions, sexes, gender identity, ages, ancestries, familial statuses, physical disabilities, mental disabilities, and national origins, and all economic and educational levels, so as to provide all individuals with an opportunity to grow, participate and share to the best of their ability in the economic, educational, political, social and judicial system."

Duties of the members include advising city council and officials in fields of community and diversity, promoting communication and understanding between institutions, citizens and citizen groups in the community, improving equity of opportunity in government, education, employment and housing in the community, and conducting research and studies in the fields of community and diversity in an effort to lessen prejudice and discrimination.



are asked to send a letter to: Office of the Mayor of Garfield Heights, Attention: J. Duber, 5407 Turney Rd., Garfield Heights, OH 44125.

Letters can also be emailed to Jduber@garfieldhts.org.



CLEVELAND

Shooting

On Jan. 24, at 7:58 a.m., a 35-year-old male was shot in the thigh in the 7800 block of Jeffries Ave. The victim reported that he was getting something out of the trunk of his car when he was shot in his driveway by suspects unknown. EMS transported the man to MetroHealth Medical Center.

GARFIELD HEIGHTS

Weapon Offense

On Jan. 18, at approximately 10:30 p.m., officers were dispatched to the 12000 block of McCracken Rd., regarding a 911 call. The caller stated to send police, and whispered there is a weapon. She said her son was threatening to shoot her.

Upon speaking with an officer on scene she stated her son threatened to shoot her vehicle, not her. She confirmed there was a weapon in the apartment. The son was observed by police coming out of the apartment building with who they later learned was his girlfriend. They asked the son if there was a gun in his room and he said it was gone and were given permission by him to search his room.

Police found a window in the son's room wide open and saw a blanket laying on the ground below on the freshly fallen snow. They went outside to the blanket and found another blanket there with an American Tactical M-16 rifle wrapped inside. The serial number on the gun was scratched off and no numbers were legible. The weapon was loaded with one round in the chamber.

The son was then handcuffed and placed under arrest in the rear of a police cruiser. He told officers he was holding

Garfield Heights City Council Vacancy Ward 6

The City of Garfield Heights has begun its search for the next Ward 6 Councilmember. The vacancy will occur on February 1 2021 when Councilman Matt Burke transitions into the position of Mayor. Garfield Heights City Charter requires that the six remaining members of Council appoint a replacement within thirty (30) days of the vacancy. Accordingly, the term of the appointed Ward 6 Councilmember will begin no later than March 2, 2021 and conclude on November 7, 2021.

At this time, Garfield Heights City Council is requesting that interested residents of Ward 6 please submit a letter of intent to Council Clerk Barbara Molin at bmolin@garfieldhts.org by no later than February 15, 2021.

Garfield Heights City Charter Section 9 lists the qualifications of prospective Councilmembers. A qualified applicant shall:

 $\bullet have resided in the City continuously for a period of at least three (3) years immediately preceding this appointment;$ have resided in Ward 6 for at least one (1) year immediatelyprecedingthisappointment;

 not hold any other public office or public employment except as otherwise provided in the Charter, and that of Notary Public or member of the State Militia or the Reserve Corps of the United States, and shall not be interested in the profits or emoluments of any contract job, work or service oftheCityofGarfieldHeights NN: 1-27-21

Those interested in applying for a committee position the gun for a friend. The suspect was recently released from prison and was currently out on bond. He was transported to Garfield Heights jail and charged with having weapons while under disability and possessing a defaced firearm Report forwarded to the Detective Bureau.

Your ONLY Newspaper For Community News! The Neighborhood News

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

By order of the Council of the City of Maple Heights, sealed bids will be received by the Purchasing Agent, at Maple Heights City Hall, 5353 Lee Road, Maple Heights, Ohio 44137, until 12:00 Noon, local time, on the 11thth day of February, 2021 for the "MAPLE HEIGHTS CITY HALL NEW VESTIBULE & ELEVATOR ADDITION PROJECT in the City of Maple Heights, Ohio, NO FAXED COPIES ACCEPTED.

The bid documents, specifications and drawings may be examined without charge online at www.cvelimited.plancycle.com. To become a Registered Bidder, documents, specifications and drawings must be purchased at either www.evelimited.plancycle.com, SE Blueprint at 2035 Hamilton Avenue Cleveland, OH 44114 or SE Blueprint at 520 South Main Street, Suite 2411 Akron, OH 44311 at the cost of \$100.00 + tax and delivery which includes bid registration, one (1) hard copy set of the bid package and one (1) complete set of pdf files. Additional sets of bid documents can also be ordered online at www.cvelimited.plancycle.com or by emailing seblue@seblueprint.com, calling 216-241-2250 or visiting an SE Blueprint location.

Each bidder is required to furnish with its proposal, a Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond in accordance with Section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. Bid security furnished in Bond form, shall be issued by a Surety Company or Corporation licensed in the State of Ohio to provide said surety. Each bid must be made upon the Proposal Form provided in the set of specifications and must be accompanied by a bank check or cashier's check drawn on a solvent bank in Cuyahoga County in an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the amount bid, or a bid bond in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the amount bid, as a guarantee that if said bid is accepted, a contract will be entered into and a Surety Bond satisfactory to said City in an amount equal to 100% of the total bid will be furnished. Checks shall be made payable to the City of Maple Heights, Ohio.

Each Proposal must contain the full name of the party or parties submitting the proposal and all persons interested therein. Each bidder must submit evidence of its experiences on projects of similar size and complexity

Bids will be opened and read at the time and place stated above. Those who submitted Proposals or their representatives are invited to attend.

The Maple Heights City Hall New Vestibule & Elevator Addition Project is partially funded by the Cuyahoga County Department of Development's Block Grant Program. A bidder/contractor will be deemed committed to the Department of Labor's goals and timetables for the Cleveland, Ohio area as specified in the Notice of Requirements for Affirmative Action to ensure Equal Employment Opportunity Order 1246 by submitting a properly signed bid. Each bidder must insure that all employees and applicants for the employment are not discriminated against because of their race, creed, color, sex or national origin.

A copy of the Bid Specification package for the Maple Heights City Hall New Vestibule & Elevator Addition Project will be available for review by all potential bidders at the offices of the Cuyahoga County Department of Development located at 2079 East Ninth Street; Cleveland, Ohio 44115.

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

A Pre-bid Conference for the Maple Heights City Hall New Vestibule & Elevator Addition Project will be held at 10:00 Å.M. local time on the 4th day of February, 2021 in the Council Chambers at the Maple Heights City Hall, 5353 Lee Road, Maple Heights, Ohio 44137 for all interested parties. Information will be disseminated concerning proper completion of bid package documents

The right is reserved to accept any bidder, to reject any or all bids, and to waive informalities should it be deemed to be in the best interest of the City of Maple Heights to do so.

Bids are to be submitted in accordance with the plans and specifications on file in the office of the Purchasing Agent. Sealed bids must be marked, "MAPLE HEIGHTS CITY HALL NEW VESTIBULE & **ELEVATOR ADDITION PROJECT**

> Tinita Tillman Finance Director Maple Heights, Ohio

PUBLISHED: The Neighborhood News January 27, 2021 February 3, 2021



Y EARINREA

(Continued from Page 3)

•The Rock Community Church on Garfield Blvd., Garfield Heights, held a free family-friendly celebration of Halloween on Oct. 31, with a drive-through event that featured several stops for candy, hot dogs and lots of other

NOVEMBER

• Mary Pusateri, a resident at Jennings Center in Garfield Heights, celebrated her 103rd birthday this month and received a proclamation from Mayor Vic Collova to commemorate the momentous occasion. When asked how it feels to turn 103, she replied, "The same as 102!"

•At the Nov. 10 meeting of Independence Council, an ordinance was passed to lease and install 31 automated license plate readers and software for the police department. The sophisticated, remote-controlled technology allows dispatchers to monitor the entire Rockside Rd./I-77/I-480 area and identify a vehicle's make, type, color and license plate with high resolution precision to prevent and solve crimes.

•At the Nov. 17 council meeting of the Village of Newburgh Heights, Mayor Trevor Elkins reported that "it looks like the village will finish 2020 with an approximate \$2 million surplus" in its coffers. He said all the debt of the village had been paid off except for the new municipal building and the tax sharing plan with Cuyahoga County for the former RTA bus garage.

•A Cuyahoga County grand jury returned a secret indictment on Nov. 17, against 10 members of the Percy Homies gang, mainly operating out of the Harvard-Miles neighborhood. Charges ranged from high level drug trafficking and carrying concealed weapons to aggravated robbery

• The Neighborhood News didn't let a little thing like a once-in-a-century pandemic stop its annual Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway. Merchants, local officials and civic groups teamed up to give away 48 turkeys this year to the lucky winners.

•Maple Heights officials had another reason to be thankful this Thanksgiving. After almost six years, Ohio State Auditor Keith Faber declared the city to be officially out of fiscal emergency, as announced at council's teleconference meeting Nov. 18.

•At its Nov. 18 meeting, Cleveland City Council amended legislation striking the requirement that residents must hire police officers to oversee neighborhood social gatherings. The legislation removed the costly burden of hiring officers for block parties and private gatherings of less than 100 people.

DECEMBER

•The city of Independence held a "drive-through" Holiday Tree Lighting Dec. 5. All the city departments worked to ensure that all necessary coronavirus restrictionswere followed.

USINESS an

•At the Dec. 14 Garfield Heights Council meeting, Mayor Vic Collova addressed rumors that he would retire before his term is up in November 2021. "If I do leave, which is a very good possibility, then the president of council, (Ward 6 Councilman Matt Burke) is next in line to become mayor," Collova said.

• Free COVID-19 testing continued for the month of December at Elizabeth Baptist Church on Francis Ave., Cleveland. Everyone who received a test was also given a food box.

• The Ohio Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects bestowed its top honor, the Award of Excellence, on Morgana Bluffs Nature Preserve, the fouracre park in the Slavic Village neighborhood.

• In a partnership with the Cuyahoga County Land Bank, the city of Maple Heights is seeing the first new homes constructed in the city in 10 years on Jefferson Ave., in the Presidents' Row neighborhood.

•Valley View Councilman David Wingenfeld passed away on Dec. 17. Council appointed Ken Pytlak to fill his in theater, and Destiny Huff of Maple Heights, a freshunexpired term.

Free community lunch

Serving the community with free lunches was the favorite program at Jones Road Church, 8000 Jones Rd., Cleveland, among many of its members and the Broadway-Slavic Village residents. The last Saturday of the month lunch stopped last March due to COVID-19.

This month the meal resumes as a hot takeout lunch from noon to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 30. Just drive up in front of the church. All are welcome.

Heidelberg Dean's List

Heidelberg University in Tiffin, OH has announced the names of 422 students who have earned academic recognition on the fall semester Dean's List. Included on the list are the following area students:

Natalie Joritz of Garfield Heights, a freshman majoring man majoring in psychology.

Nalentine's Day Love Lines		
Tell your Husband, Wife, Sweetheart, Parents, Kids,		
Grandparents or that Special Someone		
Just How Much You Really Love Them!		
Send Love Line and Payment to: THE NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS, 8613 Garfield Blvd., Garfield Hts., OH 44125 or send an Email: NNEWS1923@AOL.COM Deadline is Feb. 8th at Noon	Published on Wednesday, Feb. 10th	PRINT ONE WORD IN EACH BOX Attach a separate sheet with additional words at 10¢ each
	\$5500 Only Deadline to place your ad is Feb. 8th at Noon	
	15 words or less +10¢ each word after that Please include:	
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Independence Council passes several bills dealing with city's infrastructure

Independence City Council met on Jan. 12, and passed several pieces of legislation dealing with the city's infrastructure needs.

Infrastructure ordinances passed included:

•Contracting with South Shore Utility Locating, Inc. of Norwalk, OH to provide underground utility locating and protection services for the city's conduit system, sanitary sewer and storm sewer systems for one year in an amount not to exceed \$20,000;

Utility and Infrastructure Maintenance and Repairs Contract with Geotech Services;

•Authorizing a change order in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 for additional work related to the city's 2020 Creek, Utility and Infrastructure Maintenance and Repairs Contract with Catts Construction Co., Inc.;

• Authorizing change orders to the city's 2020 Sanitary and Storm Sewer Maintenance and Repairs contracts with United Survey, Inc. and C&K Industrial Services, Inc., to extend their contracts for an additional calendar year through Dec. 31, 2021, at the same unit prices as originally bid;

•Authorizing a change order to the city's 2020 Concrete Road Maintenance and Repairs Contract with Catts Construction Co., Inc., to extend its contract for an additional calendar year through Dec. 31, 2021, at the same unit prices as originally bid, in an amount not to exceed \$400,000.

Other ordinances passed included:

•Accepting proposals of GPD Group and R.C.U. Architects, Inc. for professional services in connection with improvements to City Hall and the Community Services Center security;

•Amending the city's codified ordinances relating to fences, walls and hedges;

• Authorizing payment to the Division of Water for annual fees for use of water from

city fire hydrants based on the total number of hydrants in an amount not to exceed \$26,000;

• Entering into various Memoranda of Understanding with the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District for assistance with the city's Public Involvement Public Education Program and for technical assistance provided for construction site erosion and sediment control monitoring and post-construction stormwater quality requirements at a total cost not to exceed \$32,000;

• Retaining Donald G. Bohning & Associates, Inc. for professional surveying services in connection with Maple Shade Cemetery, in an amount not to exceed \$22,500.

•Authorizing a change order in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 to the 2020 Creek, American Red Cross seeks blood donors

The American Red Cross is urging healthy individuals to make an appointment to give blood or platelets.

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 information and details are available at RedCrossBlood.org/Together.)

Make your appointment to give blood, platelets or plasma with the Red Cross 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.

Independence

2/1/2021: 1 - 7 p.m., Elmwood Recreation Center, 6200 W. Pete Wisnieski Parkway 2/15/2021: 1 - 7 p.m., Elmwood Recreation Center, 6200 W. Pete Wisnieski Parkway

Valley View

2/3/2021: 1 - 7 p.m., Valley View Community Center, 6828 Hathaway Rd.

