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98th YEAR NO. 38

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 2021

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

FREE



Bedford's city pool opening next week, summer events planned as restrictions lift

By Judith Goldsworth

The Bedford Municipal Pool is scheduled to open to residents next week, and events are being planned in the city for this summer as COVID-19 pandemic restrictions lift, City Manager Mike Mallis announced at Bedford's teleconference council meeting Monday night. The pool is expected to open on Wednesday, June 16, Mallis said.

He said that he had been in constant communication with various event organizers, among them the Rotary Club, Historical Society, the Cleveland Pagan Pride, as well as Shadow of the Run, an immersive theatrical presentation about Cleveland's Kingsbury Run murders. "They are really working to plan events downtown this summer," he said.

Mallis said the Bedford Downtown Alliance was also involved in presenting events for residents this summer, including its "First Fridays," which according to Councilman Jeff Asbury, will continue with a "Party in the USA" celebration from 6-8 p.m. on Friday, July 2.

The entertainment planned for Bedford's downtown is expected to include a movie night on the Commons, as well as music and bands on Wednesday evenings throughout the summer.

Finance Director Frank Gambosi confirmed that the Bedford Rotary Club was planning a "Welcome Back" celebration the weekend of July 23-25, with beer tastings and barbecued ribs featured.

Legislation passed

All of the legislation on the Monday night's meeting agenda passed, including an ordinance authorizing Mallis to enter into a contract with iamGIS Group LLC, for asset management software and services for the public water and sewer infrastructure, at a cost of \$60,000. Multiple departments would be able to use the system, and the city would own all of its data, Mallis confirmed.

As it has for the past several years, according to Mallis, council passed an ordinance for an agreement with Light of Hearts Villa for various social work services as needed for Bedford's senior citizens, in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.

Also passed was an ordinance for Mallis to enter into an amended Community Cost Share Agreement with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District for the Community Cost Share Program, specifically, the Storm Line Root Cutting and TV Inspection Project, for additional work in an amount not to exceed \$13,230.75. This cost relates to sewer work done in the Eldred Ave. area, Mallis said.

Continuing work that was approved through prior legislation, council passed an ordinance for a contract with Allied Door Systems, LLC to install a second set of touch-free, automatic doors at the Ellenwood Recreation Center, at a cost not to exceed \$20,785.

An ordinance to amend previous legislation, to authorize a contract with Trojan UV for maintenance and inventory for the ultraviolet disinfection system at the city's Wastewater Treatment Plant was approved, at a cost of \$13,866.73. Earlier this year, council had approved an ordinance for a contract with Pelton Environmental Products for the items related to the disinfection, but since Trojan was distributing Pelton parts, the new legislation was needed to authorize the contract, Mallis said.

(Continued on Page 2)

Fleet Avenue Outdoor Flea Market is this Sunday

Slavic Village's PLAV Lincoln Post #13 is sponsoring its first annual Fleet Flea this Sunday, June 13, from 8 a.m. to noon. The market will be held outdoors across from the post's building at E. 61 St. and Fleet Ave.

Now is the ideal time to jump-start your household decluttering campaign, or to begin furnishing a new household at rock bottom prices. Items for sale will include antiques, collectibles, clothing, tools, knickknacks, toys, books, furniture and much more.

All residents and friends of southeast Cleveland are invited to participate as sellers or buyers. Tables are \$5 each. Call/text Cheryl at 216-327-0038 for details.

Garage Sale at St. John Lutheran

A Garage Sale will be held on Saturday, June 12, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at St. John Lutheran Church in Garfield Heights, corner of Turney and Granger rds.

All are invited to pick up some great bargains!

Karakul retires as Third Federal Foundation head

A farewell event was held last Friday for retiring Third Federal Foundation president and executive director Kurt Karakul.

"He is a tireless community activist, making an impact through his leadership and support of a wide-range of programs and projects that support the most vulnerable in our communities," said Third Federal Chairman and CEO Marc A. Stefanski. "He will be missed in an everyday capacity, but I know he will continue to be engaged with our Third Federal family and the community at large."

Accolades for Karakul also came from Ward 12 Councilman Tony Brancatelli. "Kurt Karakul has been a tremendous leader and inspiration to many of us as



Shown in photo from left are: Surprise guest CMSD CEO Eric Gordon, new Third Federal Foundation Director Emily Thome, Kurt Karakul and Councilman Brancatelli.

the founding executive director of the Third Federal Foundation. He has been extremely instrumental and

successful in the development of the Slavic Village P-16 program in support of children with critical wrap-

around services and programs to help them succeed in school and life," Brancatelli noted.

Six wounded in shootings

On Monday, June 7, at about 4:21 a.m., a shooting spree in the area of E. 81 St., near Harvard Ave., Cleveland, sent six people to the hospital with gunshot wounds.

Preliminary information indicates that the victims were outside on the porch of a residence when shots were fired from a field across the street; no suspect information, according to Sgt. Jennifer Ciaccia, Senior Public Information Officer, Cleveland Department of Public Safety.

She said the victims initially believed the gunfire to be fireworks until one of them was struck.

Victims included a 25-year-old male with gunshot wounds to the left leg and hip, 25-year-old female with a gunshot wound to the hand, 19- and 20-year-old males with gunshot wounds to the foot, and two 18-year-old males with graze wounds. All the victims were taken to MetroHealth Medical Center.

The matter remains under investigation.

Bedford city pool opening

(Continued from Page 1)

An ordinance authorizing Gambosi to establish and maintain a new fund for the city, to be called the "American Rescue Plan Act Fund," was approved. This fund was required by the State Auditor's Office for the purpose of con-

ducting transactions associated with the American Rescue Plan Act passed by Congress earlier this year to continue helping communities throughout the nation with the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

An ordinance to amend the 2021 budget was approved to make additional appropriations for the current expenditures of the city. Gambosi said the appropriations included accepting a \$50,000 Community Development Supplemental Grant from the county for the downtown area, accepting other grants and accept-

ing funds confiscated by Southeast Area Law Enforcement.

Two resolutions were also passed: one to approve and accept the proposed 2021 tax budget for the year Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2022, and the other approving an update to the city's Debt Management policy and Debt Disclosure policy. This update, as recommended by Gambosi, will be used in conjunction with the city's Capital Improvements and Master Plan, "in decision making concerning funding for Capital Improvement Projects and to comply with best practices."

Motions on agenda

Several motions were on the agenda for council to approve decisions of the Planning Commission, including accepting a conditional use approval to engineer Matthew Benovic of Westlake, representing Chemtron Corporation of 7013 Krick Rd., in a proposal for an exterior alteration/renovation to the existing structure at that address.

Also passed was a motion to approve a conditional use approval to Leon Sampat of Fairview Park, representing Damian Williams of 650

Broadway Ave., to use the existing structure at this address, formerly an attorney's office, to open a cigar store. Patrons would be able to purchase cigars, and seating would be provided for them to enjoy their purchase if they chose to smoke it on the premises, according to the proposal.

Council upheld the commission's decision to deny a conditional use approval to Asia Love of Bedford Heights, who was requesting using the existing tenant space at 633 Broadway Ave. to provide makeup and skincare services to clients.

Love said she would reapply for the conditional use, thanking Mayor Stan Koci for speaking to her on the issue and clarifying the situation.

Councilman Vic Fluharty reported that the Meals on Wheels program had resumed daily meal deliveries to the homebound, and additional volunteers were always needed and welcome.

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Shootings, violence discussed at meeting of Maple Heights Council

By Judith Goldsworth

Maple Heights Councilwoman Edwina Agee, who with other colleagues held a special council meeting last month to address violence and other issues in the community, said at last week's council meeting that the Community Life and Education Committee would host a Zoom Town Hall Meeting at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 23, as a continuation of the discussion of the issues, to include citizen comments "so the voices of the residents can be heard."

In her report at the meeting, Mayor Annette Blackwell acknowledged resident concerns, saying, "Gun violence is a huge issue for the administration... we are looking at all of the avenues and how to address crime."

Blackwell stated that federal gun legislation reform was needed, adding, "We need this to get these deadly guns out of the hands of our youth." She praised the police department for their work in arresting the suspects in the Gardenview homicides, which was accomplished with the assistance of and information from residents, "but that doesn't bring back the two young men who lost their lives."

"This is a very scary time for many mayors in Cuyahoga County, and crime is up significantly all over the county," Blackwell said. "We are concerned about crime happening in Maple Heights, and we are very, very clear on what that crime is. That's why police calls have tripled. You see police cars up and down the streets literally every two minutes, to try to get to the dangerous scenes, abate the crimes and find the perpe-

trators, and bring some sense of security to everyone who lives here."

Blackwell said that she would be attending a meeting with Governor Mike DeWine to address crimes and the loss of life. "It is going to take a concerted effort, and many, many branches of government, resources, nonprofits, people willing to step up, and clergy to address these dangerous times in our cities," the mayor said.

LGBTQ+ legislation goes to 3rd reading

A resolution recognizing June 2021 as "LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, Plus) Pride Month" in Maple Heights, which failed to pass on emergency at a council meeting last month, also failed to pass again at last week's meeting.

Councilman Richard Trojanski, who has publicly stated his status as an openly

gay member of council, stated that it was "very disheartening" that the legislation failed to pass at last week's meeting.

Before the vote, residents and LGBTQ community activists spoke during the comments portion on the agenda.

Residents commenting at the meeting stated that they didn't see an issue with discrimination against LGBTQ members of the Maple Heights community, and

questioned the need for the legislation when the city was facing serious safety issues such as fatal shootings, including the homicide of two men on Gardenview Drive on May 8.

The resolution to recognize June 2021 as LGBTQ Pride Month in Maple Heights will now go on third reading at the July council meeting.

Legislation on agenda

Council passed numerous pieces of legislation on last week's agenda, including five ordinances to submit the following charter amendment issues for the Tuesday, Nov. 2 ballot:

To remove requirements that salaries of all elected

(Continued on Page 7)



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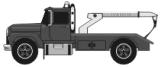
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Shootings, violence discussed

(Continued from Page 3)

officials be fixed at least 120 days prior to the election and that the salaries cannot be changed during the terms;

To allow the mayor to hold private employment as long as it does not conflict with the duties of mayor;

To provide an alternate meeting date for the swearing in of newly elected officials, if the original date is a legal holiday, and to provide notice of special meeting dates by electronic transmission;

To delete a section of the charter because the service director and service department are no longer solely responsible for determining the manner of making public improvements;

To allow the mayor to designate a representative to sign contracts.

Also passed was other legislation:

To authorize Blackwell to sell a vacant lot at 15417 Greendale to YRM Corp. for \$5,000 to construct a single family, owner-occupied home;

To apply for a Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Grant to hire additional officers, with the city matching 25% of the amount if the grant is awarded;

To apply for an award with the Cuyahoga County Division of Senior and Adult Services for meals and transportation for residents served by the Senior Center for the period Jan. 1, 2022-Dec. 31, 2023;

To repeal previous legislation creating the "Housing Reinvestment Grant Fund," per notification from the state auditor's office that it will not approve the special revenue fund;

To amend the codified ordinances to permit Type B Family Day Care Homes in residential districts;

To amend existing legislation regarding fee schedules for residential and commercial rental registration and licenses;

To authorize City Engineer Ed Hren to prepare preliminary cost estimates for pavement repairs on various streets throughout the city (estimated cost of preparation of project development documents not to exceed \$10,500);

To support submitting an application to the Ohio Association of Regional Councils through the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency for federal congestion mitigation and air quality funding for the Citywide Signal Safety and Efficiency Upgrades Project in the city. Total cost of the project is estimated at \$5 million, and if Maple Heights is awarded the funds, the city will pay a local portion of 21%, or \$1,050,000.

Passed by unanimous consent were three resolutions to sell vacant city-owned lots to separate property owners on Schreiber Rd., Grant Ave. and Gerard Ave., for the owners to use as side yards.

New council member chosen in Cleveland's Ward 4

Cleveland City Council held a virtual meeting Monday and swore in the interim Ward 4 council member Marion Anita Gardner. Her term ends Dec. 31, 2021. She takes the place of former longtime Ward 4 councilman Kenneth Johnson, who has been accused of stealing thousands from city coffers.

Other meeting highlights included:

- Approval of legislation that authorizes the city to spend \$2.7 million to set up and operate trauma counseling programs in the city's 22 recreation centers.

The project aims at providing youth and their families with skills to prevent violence and the knowledge to over-

(Continued on Page 8)

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Summer Academy kids' programming offered by Jones Rd. Family Development

Literacy Through the Arts Summer Academy, presented by Jones Road Family Development, features vocal and instrumental music, creative movement, reading enrichment, visual art, drama and lots of fun for children kindergarten through 5th grade.

This program is being held Mondays-Fridays, June 21 to July 30, 2021, from 8 a.m. to noon, with an academic supplemental program from 1-3 p.m., with reading and math enrichment activities.

Due to the needs brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and generous contributions from donors, all fees for this program have been eliminated.

The free program is held at Cleveland Central Catholic High School, 6550 Baxter Ave., Cleveland, with free breakfast and lunch provided.

Registration dates are Thursday, June 10, 1-6 p.m., and Sunday, June 13, 1-6 p.m., at Jones Road Family Development, 8000 Jones Rd., Cleveland.

For more details, call Mrs. Parry at 216-692-1733, or Ms. Lloyd-Smith at 216-309-1636.

Meetings New council member chosen

(Continued from Page 7)

The E. 63 St. Block Club will meet on Thursday, June 10, at 7 p.m. in the St. Stanislaus School basement. A representative from University Settlement will speak.

The Garfield Heights Historical Society will meet on Saturday, June 12, at 10 a.m., at the Veterans Memorial, directly behind the museum at 5405 Turney Rd., weather permitting. Masks are optional. The museum will open again each Saturday between 1 and 4 p.m.

come challenges associated with trauma and toxic stress.

- Adopting an ordinance authorizing the city to go out for contracts to continue a home repair program for seniors and disabled adults.

The program, under the Department of Aging, provides assistance for items such as roof and gutter repair, exterior painting, porch repairs, installation of ramps or lifts, major electrical work, major plumbing repair including water tank replacement, broken window repair, floor repair and furnace repair or replacement.

The program is not to exceed \$2.5 million per year. The legislation authorizes the city to enter into one or more contracts with up to three qualified organizations to provide consultation, development, operation and implementation of the program.



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