

The Neighborhood News

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CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS, INDEPENDENCE, VALLEY VIEW, MAPLE HEIGHTS AND BEDFORD

98th YEAR NO. 39

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 2021

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

FREE

Saluting GHHS Class of 2021

On behalf of everyone in the Garfield Heights City Schools, please join the District in formally congratulating the Class of 2021, who graduated in a memorable commencement celebration at Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse on Thursday, June 3. Graduating members of the Class of '21 assembled on the floor of the magnificent venue and, masked per protocols, had the unique opportunity to be together one, final time snapping selfies, pictures with family and friends and greeting staff members.

Once underway, the approximately 270 Bulldog graduates listened to inspired remarks from Principal Tammy Hager, Superintendent Chris Hanke and Board President Nichelle Daniels. Special student speeches were delivered by Danae Hoskins, who spoke about "The Change," and James Newton, who remarked that this moment was "Our Time." Creatively decorated caps, enthusiasm during the ceremony and support from the audience blended together to demonstrate one of the most unique ceremonies in recent memory.



Lots of the GHHS graduating seniors got creative with decorated caps and joyous enthusiasm at their commencement celebration June 3, at Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse in downtown Cleveland.

Congratulations Class of 2021! Great work in meeting and overcoming challenges. All the best to you in your future endeavors!

Animal Cruelty in Garfield Heights

On June 5, at about 7:35 p.m., an officer was dispatched to the 13100 block of Rexwood Ave. for a report of two dogs that had been abandoned in an apartment. Residents had complained about a foul smell coming from the apartment for the past one to two weeks and the complainant had discovered two pitbull/boxer dogs that had been abandoned. He then contacted GHPD. The officer observed the two dogs in cages, extremely malnourished, sitting in a large amount of feces and urine with no source of food or water. The apartment's air conditioning was not on and the temperature inside the apartment was about 100-degrees. The animal warden was notified and responded to the scene. Police noted that there was little to no information on the owner of the dogs other than possibly a name of the owner. The animal warden took possession of the dogs and will follow up with an investigation.



See Page 8 for Great Ways to Celebrate Father's Day on June 20th!

Book Sale

The Friends of the Maple Heights Library are having a great sale this month, with all hard-back fiction books at only 10 cents each. DVDs and books on CD are buy one, get one free. All are invited to the library during the month of June to pick up some great bargains. The Maple Heights branch of the Cuyahoga County Library is located at 5225 Library Ln., Maple Heights.

Newburgh Heights Hires Full-time Fire Department

For the first time in its history, the Village of Newburgh Heights will be staffed with full-time firefighters. The inaugural staff was appointed on Monday, June 14, 2021 and ensures that the Village of Newburgh Heights is guaranteed the quality emergency response to which they have become accustomed.

Mayor Elkins stated, "the part-time staffing model was no longer sustainable due to the diminished recruiting sizes in firefighter academy classes and the need to ensure our personnel were 100% committed to doing everything in their power to protect our residents against what is now the second most deadly pandemic in U.S. history."

Fire Chief Brian Higginbotham added, "this is a plan that has been discussed between the Mayor and myself a number of times over the years and has always been our long-term objective. Staffing insecurity simply accelerated the timeline for implementation. I'm excited to take our department to the next level and provide an even more advanced level of security to the residents of Newburgh Heights than we have up to this date."

The inaugural class of full-time firefighters will consist of 6 firemen, a full-time Lieutenant, and our full-time Fire Chief representing over 100 years of experience. New firemen will make \$52,000 with annual raises. All appointments were unanimously approved by Council.

"As Safety Director it is my responsibility to ensure the safety and security of our residents. That is exactly what I've asked Council to do and they've stepped up to the challenge. Now we have a staff whose first commitment is the residents of Newburgh Heights," said Mayor Elkins.



Photo L to R: Chief Brian Higginbotham, Lieutenant Gregory Jordan, Mike Tusai, Mike Keszei, Dave Modarski, Nathan Barnett, Scott Nemet, Greg Zavesky, Assistant Fire Chief Mike Wasielewski.

Neighborhood Pets expanding size, services

Neighborhood Pets is expanding its Wellness Clinic & Resource Center in Slavic Village into an empty storefront adjacent to its location.

By doubling in size, Neighborhood Pets, 3711 E. 65 St., will be able to increase walk-in hours for wellness services and make more wellness appointments available.

"The expansion is great for the neighborhood, filling in an empty storefront, but more importantly it's great for all the residents who need the help that Neighborhood Pets offers," said Ward 12 Councilman Tony Brancatelli.

Councilman Brancatelli has supported the center, with proceeds from the Ward 12 annual Pancake Breakfast as well as with block grant funding.

They've served over 4,000 Clevelanders since 2016 out of a 1,000 square-foot space, but there's an ever increasing demand. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Neighborhood Pets has seen a significant increase in the number of Clevelanders who need help caring for their pets.

The organization's pet food bank served 50% more households in 2020. The increase in need, driven in large part by the Covid-19 pandemic, shows no sign of slowing down. Besides the pet food bank, Neighborhood Pets offers free spay/neuter, low-cost wellness care and pet supplies.

"Unfortunately, the need for Neighborhood Pets services are greater than ever before," said Becca Britton, executive director of Neighborhood Pets.

Neighborhood Pets opened in Slavic Village five years ago, and the non-profit will be occupying a previously vacant and boarded up storefront adjacent to its existing Resource Center location.

There will be art installations and several major improvements on the building. Most recently completed is a mural installation in the new lobby by Cleveland artist Sean Kelly.

While the building/wellness clinic expansion is funded in part by lead sponsors PetSmart Charities and Embrace Pet Insurance, the nonprofit is open to donations, including buying items for the organization off its "wish list."



HEY NEIGHBORS! LET'S COME TOGETHER!

BRILLIANCE SCHOOL COMMUNITY DAY JUNE 26TH

Join the Brilliance family for an afternoon of family fun! At this month's Community Day on June 26, you're invited to our campus, located at the historic St. Therese Parish School on Granger Road. Enjoy free food, professional face painting, a game truck, an ice cream truck, bounce houses, carnival games, and a raffle to make your Saturday fun for the whole family!



Principal Brian Hairston wants to meet you at the event.

As we get to know our new neighbors in Garfield Heights, we create a network of social support and joy that will support our scholars and fuel the community.

To all the moms, dads, and aunties, whether you have questions about the school or just want to share a laugh, the Brilliance family is here for you.

Brilliance Garfield's building is under renovation to prepare for our scholars' arrival in August, so we're bringing Brilliance to you! Meet Principal Hairston, a career educator dedicated to bringing out the best in every scholar. As a native Clevelander, Principal Hairston is prepared to meet and support every family in the Brilliance community.

"In my scholars, I see myself, my children, and my family. I constantly fight for those families and treat them like I would treat my own," Hairston said. He lives out this idea by connecting with families.

Brilliance is a high-performing, college preparatory school dedicated to the idea that all children are brilliant. We offer scholars a tuition-free, high-quality education. Scholars in grades PreK-8 will grow personally and academically because teachers and staff know that they are already brilliant.

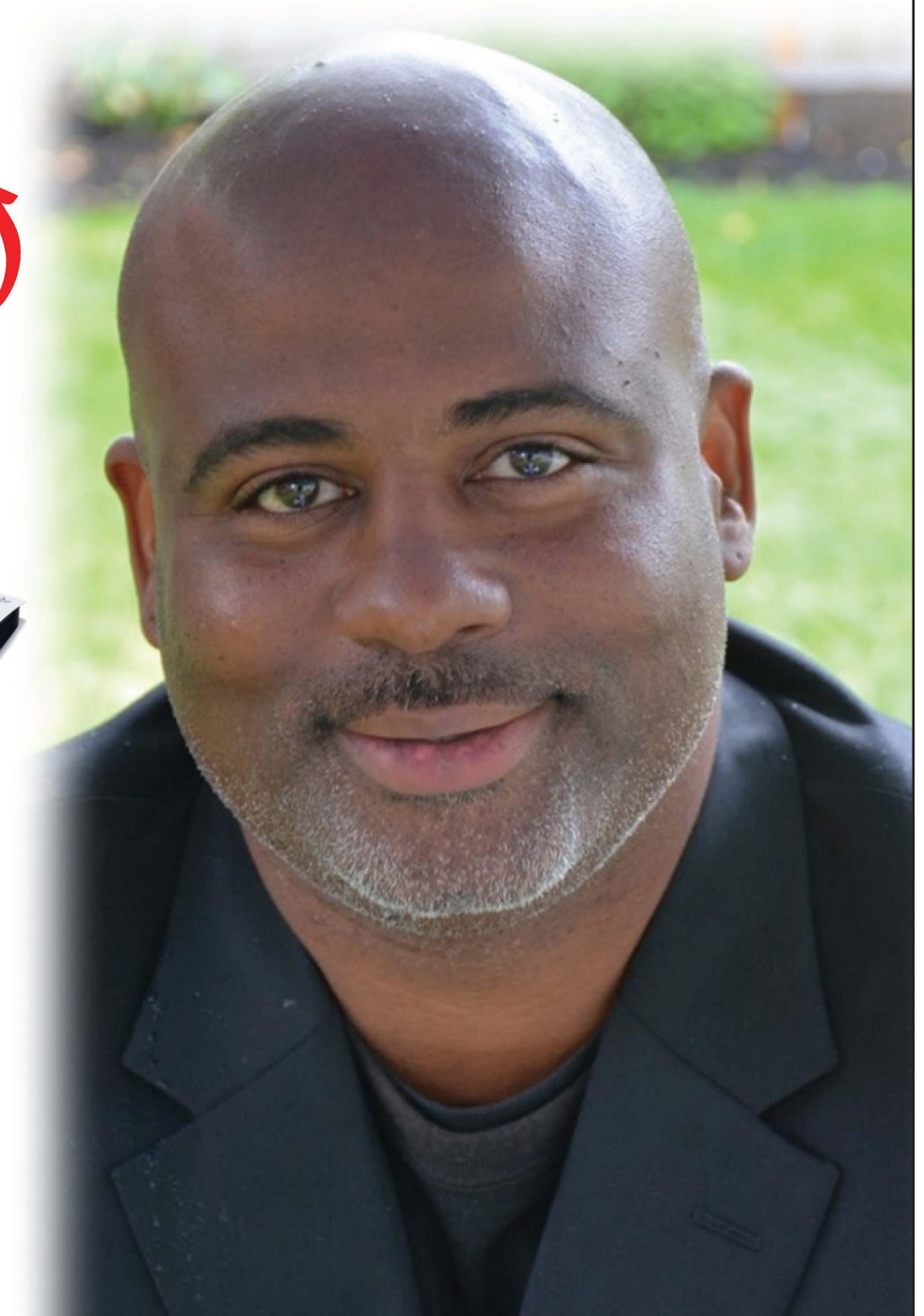
Our hallways are silent but our classrooms are vibrant. Cheers, chants, and high-quality learning materials bring instruction to life. In this safe, bully-free zone, scholars can all demonstrate their brilliance. Experience the Brilliance atmosphere on June 26!



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Meet new Indy PD officers



Independence Mayor Gregory Kurtz swore in two new members of the Independence Police Department on Thursday, June 3. Leanne Harvan is a 2013 graduate of Independence High School. Her late father, Tom, served with the Garfield Heights Police Department, and her uncle, Jon Golden, is the Macedonia chief of police. Leanne returns home to Independence after serving with the Peninsula Police Department.

Tyler Mercado always knew he wanted a career in public safety. He graduated from St. Edward's High School and Cleveland State University and interned two summers with the federal Drug Enforcement Agency. Tyler's great-grandfather was the chief of police for the city of Uhrichsville in Tuscarawas County.

Shown in photo, from left: Independence Police Chief Michael Kilbane, IPD new hire Tyler Mercado, IPD new hire Leanne Harvan and Mayor Gregory Kurtz.

Garfield Hts. Police Reports

Theft

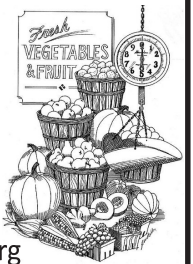
An officer received an online report from an Eastwood Ave. resident who said he had lost \$3000 by purchasing gift cards in an online computer scam involving a third party that had somehow gained authorization to use the victim's computer mail and calendar. Victim to notify Key Bank of the situation to get increased security on his account.

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Include Contact Name and daytime phone number

The Neighborhood News Advertising deadline is Mondays at 5:00pm

FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION, (Garfield Hts. Only)

Saturday, June 19, 10am-Noon, Inside

The Rock Community Church, located at 9403 Garfield Blvd., Will be having a food pantry distribution for Garfield Heights residents only on Saturday, June 19, from 10am-Noon. We will be transitioning back to inside the building with an expedited distribution with some choice of product. Numbers and signup sheets will be distributed at the parking lot entrance starting at 8 am. Masks will be available but not mandatory. Please have photo ID available.



THE ROCK
COMMUNITY CHURCH

CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS

2021 MUSIC IN THE PARK SERIES IS BACK!

June 29th
Kevin Conwell & the Footprints 6:30-8:30 PM

July 27th - Blue Lunch 6:30-8:30 PM

August 24th - Hubb's Groove 6:00-8:00 PM

Performances at Stafford Park
 5400 Mayville Avenue
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Legal Notice of Public Hearing

A Public Hearing will be held on Thursday, June 17, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

The following issue will be discussed: Ordinance 47-2021 to rezone certain parcels of land at Rockside Road (specifically: 12501 Rockside Road (PP# 543-13-014) and PP# 543-12-001 from U-4 Retail District to U-11-b Industrial Park.

This request is pursuant to Section 58 of the Charter of the city of Garfield Heights, by order of the Ways & Means Committee, Michael Dudley, Chairperson. Adjacent property owners are welcome to attend with questions/comments.

Please note, due to the current Covid-19 outbreak, the Ways & Means Committee Public Hearing will be held as follows: to join the Zoom meeting, please go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89315474985> - Meeting ID: 893 1547 4985 or visit the City of Garfield Heights website, and click on the link for the meeting under the City Council web page.

Dial in to attend: 1-301-715-8592 or 1-312-626-6799 - Meeting ID: 893 1547 4985.

NN:6-16-21

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One bedroom apartment, remodeled. Driveway parking. Security lighting. \$460 month + security deposit. No pets. 57th/Harvard. (440) 669-9300.

Huge garage sale - One day only! Saturday, June 19, 9:30am-4:00pm. New snowblower, porch glider, microwave, toaster, designer purses, shop tools, huge popcorn machine. 8130 Green Dr., Garfield Heights.

RENT ROOMS

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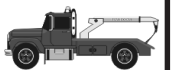
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Phillip James Skipper of Cleveland, Ohio, requests name change to: Phillip James Balli. DOB 5/8/2003.

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HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

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Reception held for president, assistant principal as they leave Central Catholic

Cleveland Central Catholic High School President Leo Hyland and Assistant Principal Sister Erin Zubal, OSU have announced that they will be leaving CCC at the end of June. On May 19, a reception was held in the Ironman Center to thank them both for their dedication to the



Pictured, from left, are: Cleveland Ward 12 Councilman Tony Brancatelli, CCC Principal Sister Allison Marie Gusdanovic, SND, CCC President Leo Hyland and Sister Erin Zubal, OSU. Brancatelli presented Hyland and Sr. Erin with resolutions from Cleveland City Council thanking the pair for their years of service to Central Catholic.

Cleveland Central Catholic community.

Hyland is taking on the role of president at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School in Akron, and Sr. Erin has accepted a position at Boys Hope Girls Hope in Garfield Heights.

Hyland thanked all those who attended last Wednesday's reception. "While it was in part a farewell gathering, it was mostly a celebration of gratitude! I am feeling so blessed to have served at this amazing ministry for the past 11 years."

"Looking out at the gathering, it was most satisfying to see our teachers, staff, administrators, board members, community partners, friends and colleagues in

the important mission of Catholic education," he continued. "Know that you all have a special place in my heart - and that CCC will always remain an important

part of who I am and what I value."

CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Please take notice that a Public Hearing will be held on **Wednesday, June 30, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.** for the purpose of receiving comments regarding the following addition to the Civil Service Rules of Garfield Heights, Ohio:

Section 14 (i): Candidates eligible for lateral transfer under these rules shall be credited for any time worked for any EMS agencies that operate a primary 911 service. All such time will be credited toward the one-year (full-time) or 2080 hours (part-time) employment required to be eligible for lateral transfer.

Said Public Hearing shall take place in Council Chambers. Entry shall be through the rear entrance of the Civic Center. The Guidelines for entry shall be posted.

Frank Przybojewski, Chairman
Sharon A. Overturf, Secretary NN: 6-16-21

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Future 2021 dates:
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July 22 Sept. 23
Oct. 28

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Deadline: Mondays at 5:00pm

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Parish Mass is now being Live Streamed at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday morning

NOTICE OF CITY OF STRONGSVILLE APPLICATIONS FOR LATERAL TRANSFER FOR PUBLIC SERVICE DISPATCHERS

Applications and requirements can be downloaded from City of Strongsville website at www.strongsville.org, Human Resources Tab; or picked up at Strongsville City Municipal Offices at 16099 Foltz Parkway, Strongsville, Ohio, 44149. Applications, with all requirements, will be available beginning Monday, June 21, 2021. You must be at least eighteen (18) years of age and have a valid driver's license. Applications along with the required materials **must be returned in person, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. to the Civil Service Secretary at the Strongsville City Municipal Offices.**

The City of Strongsville is an Equal Opportunity Employer
NN: 6-16-21 & 6-23-21

NOTICE OF CITY OF STRONGSVILLE CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION FOR DISPATCHER

WRITTEN TEST SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 2021 AT 9:00 A.M.

Applications and requirements can be downloaded from City of Strongsville website at www.strongsville.org, Human Resources Tab; or picked up at Strongsville City Municipal Offices at 16099 Foltz Parkway, Strongsville, Ohio, 44149. Applications, with all the testing requirements, will be available beginning Monday, June 21, 2021. You must be at least eighteen (18) years of age on or prior to the date of the examination. Applications along with the required \$25.00 fee **must be returned in person no later than Friday, July 23, 2021 by 4:30 p.m.**

Test is limited to the **first 150** properly completed applications received by the City.

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Newburgh Heights Council passes mandatory vaccination of city employees, with exceptions

The Village of Newburgh Heights met in regular session on June 1, and amended the village's COVID-19 vaccination policy and authorized a stipend of \$500 to any village employee who demonstrates proof of full vaccination on or before Sept. 30, 2021.

The amended COVID-19 vaccination policy states that all employees of the village must obtain a COVID-19 vaccination. Exceptions to this policy are allowed for employees who maintain sincerely held religious beliefs protected under Title VII or have a medical condition which makes receipt of the vaccine dangerous or otherwise inappropriate for that individual.

The legislation states: "Where an employee qualifies for one of the exceptions, the village will seek to make a reasonable accommodation, depending on the facts and circumstances of the particular position and job duties. Where an employee meets either the religious beliefs or medical exceptions described herein and no reasonable accommodation can be made, such employee shall be placed on paid administrative leave until the United States Center for Disease Control lifts its state of emergency in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Thereafter, the employee shall be permitted to return to work. The safety director may consider requests for a reasonable accommodation from employees who do not meet an exception on a case-by-case basis.

"An employee will receive a written warning, to be placed in their personnel file, for noncompliance if the employee is not fully vaccinated on or before July 1, 2021. Where a reasonable accommodation cannot be made, an employee will receive a two-day suspension if the employee is not fully vaccinated on or before August 1, 2021. Where a reasonable accommodation cannot be made, an employee will be terminated if the employee is not fully vaccinated on or before September 30, 2021."

Other legislation passed

Other council legislation passed included:

- Amending penalty provisions for garbage and rubbish pickup violations. Whoever violates any provision of this section shall be subject to the following schedule of fines and penalties: \$50 fine upon a first offense; \$100 fine upon a second offense that occurs within 12 months of the first offense; \$250 fine upon a third offense that occurs within 12 months of the second offense; and \$250 fine and 1st degree misdemeanor charge for a fourth offense that occurs within 12 months of the third offense.

- Entering into an affiliation agreement with Lake County Community College to provide EMS training.

- Consolidating the pay, remuneration and benefits provisions for all fire department and police department personnel.

- Authorizing the mayor to enter into a Healthy Urban Tree Canopy Grant Program Year 2021 Project Agreement with the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission.

Purchases and approvals

Also passed by council at its June 1 meeting was \$17,500 to Specialized Construction for pavement repairs to Harvard Ave.; appointment of Anthony Colon to the Newburgh Heights Police Department as a part-time officer.

Passed was \$47,555 to Dura Mark for street striping of Harvard Ave.; \$179,100 to OHM Advisors for preliminary engineering on Harvard Ave.; outfitting two Ford Interceptor SUV police cruisers by Hall Public Safety at a cost not to exceed \$35,000;

Approval of up to \$85,000 to purchase and demolish 4421 Harvard Ave.; up to \$85,000 to purchase and demolish 4425 Harvard Ave.; up to \$35,000 to the Newburgh Heights CIC for the purchase of 3881 E. 42 St.; and up to \$115,000 to purchase 5301 Harvard Ave.

Council also consented to spend up to \$44,941 to construct a pole barn in Kathy Edwards Park.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of Newburgh Heights Village Council is set for July 20.

The Garfield Heights pool at the Dan Kostel Recreation Center officially opened on Saturday, June 12th



Daily pool hours are 2:00 pm-7:00 pm weather permitting. We have a few COVID-19 restrictions (showers are closed and lounge chairs are not available, please bring your own, wearing masks is optional but highly recommended for those who have not been vaccinated. Register for Learn to Swim Lessons starting Monday, June 14th – class sizes are limited, sign up early – we are offering levels 1, 2, 3 & adult.

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Karen, Frank, Jim & John




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