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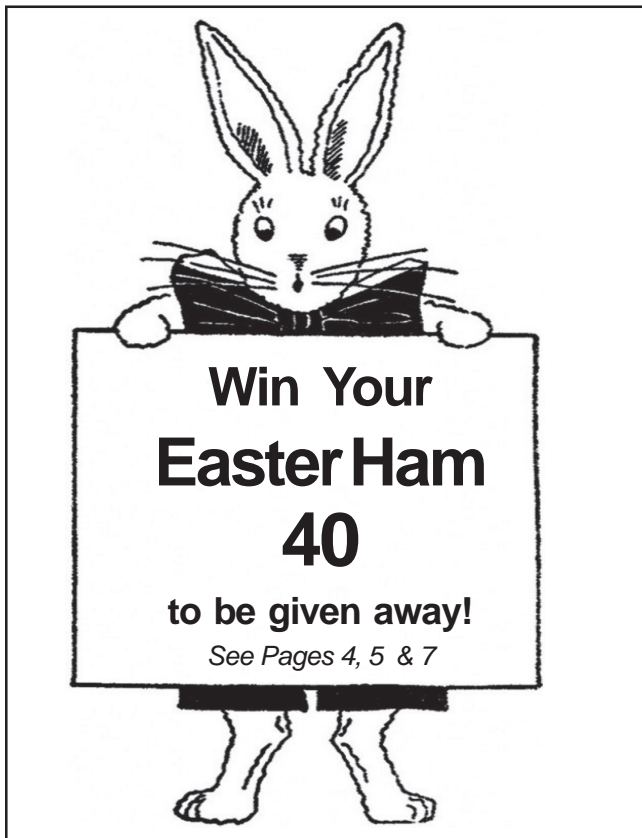
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98th YEAR NO. 27

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2021

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FREE



Garfield Hts. councilwoman appears to violate public employment rule; special meeting called

By Ellen Psenicka

At Monday night's teleconference meeting of Garfield Heights City Council, Ward 1 Councilman Michael Dudley, Sr. read the answer to a Public Records Request to the city of Cleveland asking if Garfield Heights Ward 4 Councilwoman Shayla Davis was employed by that municipality.

The reply in part, as read by Dudley, stated: "Shayla Davis is currently employed with the city of Cleveland as a Project Coordinator in Public Safety. Her original start date was Dec. 7, 2014. She resigned Aug. 18, 2015. She was rehired Sept. 30, 2019 and is currently still employed."

Davis, who has announced a run for the office of mayor this year in Garfield Heights, was elected to council in November, 2019. Under Section 9 of the Garfield Heights City Charter, "Members of Council shall not hold any other public office or public employment except as otherwise provided in this Charter."

A special meeting of city council was called for Tuesday, March 23, at 6:30 p.m. to address the issue. The meeting had not yet taken place as of press time yesterday. This subject was brought to the forefront at the council meeting

of Monday, March 8, when a Garfield Heights resident spoke during the Comments by Citizens portion of the agenda and said there were rumors spreading that Councilwoman Davis was a Cleveland public employee.

Following that meeting Councilman Dudley said he wanted to find out the truth and replace rumors with facts.

Cleveland journalist Kimberly Brown, co-owner of The Brown Report Newspaper, filed the Public Records Request with the city of Cleveland and provided the information it contained to Dudley.

"This was not a personal issue with me," Dudley told The Neighborhood News. "Somebody had to get the public the answers it deserved."

According to the Garfield Heights City Charter, Section 11, "Council shall be the judge of the election and qualifications of its own members. It may expel any member ...for violation of this Charter or persistent failure to abide by the rules of Council" by a two-thirds vote of its members.

According to the Charter, the next step in the process is to notify Davis in writing of the charge against her not less than 10 days in advance of a public hearing. "If Council fails to review the election and to monitor the qualifications of its members, the mayor shall authorize and direct the law director to take appropriate action."

An email seeking comment from Councilwoman Davis was not answered as of press time.

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MetroHealth opening vaccination clinic at Southgate

By Judith Goldsworth

MetroHealth Hospital Systems is opening a COVID-19 vaccination clinic in Maple Heights for MetroHealth patients, by appointment only, in the Southgate USA shopping center at Northfield and Libby roads, officials announced at last week's teleconference council meeting.

Economic Development Director Patrick Grogan-Myers said that his department and the Building Department had been working with MetroHealth on the projected opening for the site by the end of this month.

He added that the city's Human Services Director, Linda Vopat, will be acting in cooperation with MetroHealth officials, since

the Human Services Department is leading Maple Heights' coronavirus vaccination coordination efforts.

In correspondence last week to the city, Maple Heights Fire Captain Daniel Syphen stated that he had conducted a life safety inspection onsite at 5398.5 Northfield Rd., which is next to Octopharma Plasma. It formerly housed the Cuyahoga County Neighborhood Service Office, he stated.

MetroHealth has signed a six-month lease with Southgate which can be extended if needed, Syphen said. The clinic will be in operation Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. with vaccinations given by appointment only.

Only MetroHealth patients may schedule a vaccine at this location. More information is available at www.metrohealth.org/covid-19/covid-vaccine.

The possibility exists for an opportunity to get people who are not MetroHealth patients a vaccine, if it is available," Syphen added.

Vopat said she expects to hear more information from MetroHealth soon and will keep everyone apprised of the developments.

Mayor Annette Blackwell added that she had been in discussions with Police Chief Todd Hansen about security at the location, and confirmed that MetroHealth had its own security staff. However, Maple Heights police will assist MetroHealth's officers with

security issues, if needed, she said.

Slavic Village Bunny Hop this Saturday

Slavic Village's Community Yahoos grassroots organization will present their first annual Village Bunny Hop this Saturday, March 27, from noon to 3 p.m., along the recently renovated Fleet Ave. The event is free and open to children of all ages. Kids and parents are encouraged to dress in their Easter best, while respecting COVID-19 safety guidelines.

Entry will take place at two locations along Fleet Ave. On the west end, registration will occur outside Fleet Bike Shop at 5002 Fleet. Further east, a second registration point will be at 6012 Fleet Ave., next to PLAV Lincoln Post 13.

Easter bunnies will make socially-distanced appearances along the street. Candy and toys for the kids will be handed out by over 15 new and veteran Fleet Ave. merchants. Live entertainment will be provided courtesy of the Cleveland Federation of Musicians.

The event will operate in conjunction with Marcy Shannon's long-planned Easter Egg Roll, which was scheduled to take place last April but ended up being cancelled due to the pandemic outbreak.

It's not too late for more groups to participate in this event. Individuals, businesses and organizations interested in setting up along the street to hand out candy can call Odetta of the Yahoos at 440-975-6318, to get situated along the Easter promenade route. Sunny 50s weather is forecast.

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MetroHealth opening COVID-19 vaccination clinic at Southgate USA

(Continued from Page 1)

Funding for events passed

Approved at last week's meeting was a resolution authorizing the Community Life and Education Committee, chaired by Councilman Stafford Shenett, to expend public funds and accept private donations to host the following community events in Maple Heights this year: "Hoop It Up" in August; "Trunk or Treat" in October; "Gobble Gobble Turkey Giveaway" in November; and the "Youth Holiday Party" in December.

An ordinance on last week's agenda to help tenants impacted by the economic effects of the ongoing pandemic, known as "Pay to Stay" legislation, remained in the Housing and Economic Development Committee, and no action was taken at the meeting on the recommendation of the committee's chair, Councilwoman Toni Jones.

The legislation, which would enact a new chapter of the codified ordinances, would allow tenants to pay past due rent and late fees prior to an eviction filing. The ordinance will be discussed further in committee before possible passage at a future meeting.

A resolution on the agenda will also remain in the Housing and Economic Development Committee, also at Jones' recommendation, to approve the 2021 "Paint the City Program."

Blackwell and Grogan-Myers have proposed the grant program to provide eligible owner-occupants the opportunity to repaint the exterior of their homes with the assistance of the city to purchase painting supplies. The resolution will also be discussed by Housing Committee members before passage.

A motion to approve the appointment of architect Mike Wildermuth to the city's Architectural Review Board, as part of efforts to continue economic and housing development in the city, was unanimously approved by council.

Wildermuth's extensive professional experience includes serving as a State of Ohio Master Plans Examiner for several Northeast Ohio communities including Garfield Heights, North Randall and Macedonia; Senior Technical Director at Vocon Architecture from 2017 to present; employment with numerous architectural firms; and work as an adjunct professor at North Coast College and Ursuline College.

Updates

Blackwell said that there had been significant progress made on the Dunham Road project. "The new concrete looks fantastic. They are looking to be done in mid-June, and there is a significant amount of infrastructure dollars being put into this project," she said.

She spoke briefly on a potentially successful collaboration with Global Cleveland. Blackwell said the city has been working with them for eight months on a refugee settlement in Maple Heights for immigrants from Somalia and the Congo.

In his report to council, Grogan-Myers stated that the city of Maple Heights' new website went live on Wednesday, March 17.

"With the launch of the website, we have migrated to a newer, more secure backend content management system, and have updated the city's marketing," Grogan-Myers said. "We will continue to add more content and features in the coming days and weeks."

He said that the final community meeting for the Southgate Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative Study is scheduled for Wednesday, March 31, at 6 p.m., and a flyer will be posted on the city's website with login details.

Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas said his department provided

mutual aid to Garfield Heights firefighters in responding to a fire on E. 131 on Sunday, March 14, that resulted in the death of a 3-year-old girl. Kavaliunas expressed his sympathy for the youngster and her family and urged all residents to make sure they had functioning smoke detectors, and to replace the batteries in them.

Vopat reported that the Internal Revenue Service has extended the federal income tax filing deadline to May 17, as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. Also, the Senior Center was coordinating with Cuyahoga County to get residents vaccinated at the Wolstein Center in downtown Cleveland.

"If you need transport, you can call us," she stated. The Senior Center number is 216-587-5481.

Bar patrons are victims of rash of car break-ins, thefts

Early last Saturday morning, between 12:30 and 1:54 a.m., police responded to Turney Town Shopping Plaza for a report of several vehicles being broken into. The victims were patrons of the UnKut Lounge, 5011 Turney Rd.

One of the vehicle owners told police unknown person(s) broke out the driver's side window of his car. He said the suspects stole his Springfield XD pistol and Gucci sunglasses from his glovebox. There was blood on the driver's side door, but the victim said it was not his. The blood was collected as evidence. The stolen gun entered into LEADS.

Also on March 20, about 2:30 a.m., another vehicle owner discovered that his car's rear passenger window had been shattered while parked at Turney Town. Two men traveling in the car had left their guns in the car and discovered both firearms had been stolen. There was a small amount of blood noted on the trunk of the vehicle, the rear passenger door and on a brown paper bag on the front passenger seat, which was swabbed and collected as evidence. The Detective Bureau is following up.

Another car was reported broken into about the same time by another patron of the UnKut Lounge. The rear passenger window had been smashed out and several Louis Vuitton clothing items with tags still on them had been stolen from the car. Again there was blood found on and in the car and was collected as evidence.

A car parked in front of Hana Beauty Supply, 4992 Turney Rd., was broken into on March 20, at about 1:30 a.m., while a woman was with friends at the UnKut Lounge or Showcase Bar. Missing from the car was a laptop computer, debit card, two credit cards, wallet containing about \$100 and misc. clothes and shoes.

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Garfield Hts. councilwoman appears to violate public employment rule

(Continued from Page 1)

The following ordinances and resolutions were passed by council at Monday night's meeting:

- To purchase 15 Motorola portable radios from Motorola Solutions for the Garfield Heights Police Department in an amount not to exceed \$69,000.

- To enter into an agreement with Kimble Recycling and Disposal through the city of South Euclid for refuse collection and disposal and curbside recycling services.

- To enter into an agreement with OHM Advisors, in an amount not to exceed \$23,000, to create and maintain a digital interactive zoning and ward map to be placed on the city's website for both city and public use. The map will give residents the opportunity to access information regarding their property, businesses and available properties throughout the city from their personal computer or cellphone.

- To request the cooperation of the county in the rehabilitation of Garfield Boulevard from Warner to Turney roads. The city will be responsible for 40% and the county for 60% of the cost of the preparation of construction plans and specifications. The city will be responsible for 20% and the county for 80% of the cost of construction, including the supervision and administration of the construction for the improvement.

- To enter into an agreement with OHM Advisors to provide engineering, bidding and construction tasks for the Antenucci Boulevard Rehabilitation Project. The Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency's Board of Directors has approved funding for this project in the amount of \$500,000. The portion of the project to be completed by OHM Advisors will be done at a cost not to exceed \$105,000.

- To apply for a Training and Equipment Grant from the Ohio Department of Public Safety – Division of Medical Services, for the Garfield Heights Fire Department.

- Designating Thornton Avenue between Turney Road and East 112 Street a "No Parking/Tow Away Zone" between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

GHUMC Holy Week Services

Garfield Heights UMC, 4977 Turney Rd., Garfield Heights, has reopened its Sanctuary for public worship. Lead Pastor Daniel Drew invites everyone to come this week for a festive Palm Sunday Service, on March 28th, at 10:30 a.m.

On April 1, at 7 p.m., to remember the meaning of the last supper on Maundy Thursday, the church will host a service of Holy Communion and Tenebrae, and all are welcome to receive the sacrament.

A Polish Boy

I had the pleasure a few weeks ago to serve one of my famous Polish Boys to the Mayor of Garfield Heights, Matt Burke. My wife is the owner of the Wine Down Bistro located at 9812 Garfield Blvd., in Garfield Heights, where I helped develop the menu and serve as the chef.

Mr. Burke loved the Polish Boy and I love people to enjoy my food, which then led to a conversation about riding bikes which I also love. I found him to be a very down to earth guy, not at all like a politician that was after anything - a likable guy that you could hang out with.

However, what concerns me is Mr. Burke was accused of trying to connect with a black business for political reasons. My wife and I opened up the Wine Down Bistro in March 2020 after the loss of our former business, the Basque Entertainment Complex, was completely destroyed in an electrical fire. So when the COVID pandemic hit, it stopped our Grand Opening for the Bistro. We were devastated and like many other small businesses, struggling to stay open.

Mr. Burke, who is now a regular at our restaurant, mentioned my Polish Boy during a Black History Month event that a good friend, Councilman Mike Dudley, does every year. The mayor said he enjoyed our food and conversation, which prompted others to get a Polish Boy and try our food.

My point is that Mayor Burke did the exact thing that you would expect from the mayor of a small city at a time when the pandemic is closing businesses everywhere. He simply introduced himself and supported a Garfield Heights business. Isn't that what a mayor is supposed to do?

Is there racial tension in Garfield? I do believe there is some. That's what makes us who we are. And we have a right to be who we are and think the way we like. Should racial inequities be discussed as we work towards equality for all? Of course, that's what makes this democracy work. But to be used as a weapon in our politics is wrong.

Garfield Heights has many black businesses. Mayor Burke cannot help but be connected to my business and others in this community. There is nothing false or self-serving about that. How about discussing true issues that need to be solved here in Garfield Heights. This could be a great time for Garfield to show that diversity can make our city a special place where we all work together, talk like adults and deal with real issues.

There are really only two choices for a mayor here in Garfield Heights, in my opinion. Matt Burke and Mike Dudley both have the wisdom and experience to lead. I can't choose one over the other because I consider them both good people with a true heart for the city and its people. I have a business in Garfield but do not live here so I can't vote in the mayoral election anyway. I truly pray, however, the election will not be decided because our mayor stopped by my business for a Polish Boy.

Lawrence Lane, business owner

G.H. Community Meeting

Join Garfield Heights Ward 5 Councilman Jason Blake and Ward 6 Councilman Frank Tagliarini for a Community Awareness Meeting on Wednesday, March 24, at 6:30 p.m. There will be a speaker from the Garfield Heights Historical Society. All residents are welcome to attend via Zoom.

Join the Zoom meeting at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83024473764?pwd=NHVmRElZSWNPVVVNNkdvaDZGVURNZz09>

Meeting ID: 830 2447 3764 Passcode: 440379

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City manager hopeful Bedford pool will open this year

By Judith Goldsworth

As state guidelines and restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic move into the second year this month, Bedford City Manager Mike Mallis is “keeping his fingers crossed” that they will ease in the coming months to allow the city’s municipal pool to open this summer, he stated at council’s teleconference meeting on Monday, March 15.

The meeting was marked by some masked and socially distanced council members actually present in Council Chambers for the first time in about a year. However, in the interest of safety, the meeting was still conducted via Zoom, with other council members appearing via remote locations.

Council approved an ordinance authorizing Mallis to enter into a contract with M&G Pools, LLC, of Twinsburg, in an amount not to exceed \$12,575, for costs associated with opening and closing the pool, located at 26 Ellenwood Ave. The pool was closed to all activities last summer due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Mallis asked that the city move forward on the legislation quickly, “as it takes months to get the pool up and running.”

Mayor Stan Koci added, “Especially with the length of time that pool’s been closed, there could be some serious issues; I think this is a good idea.”

Also in connection with the pool possibly opening this summer, council passed legislation authorizing Mallis to enter into a contract with Terrace Construction Co. for the Ellenwood Water Line Replacement Project, at a cost of \$424,031.50.

The contract does not include construction inspection and engineering fees, which must not exceed \$50,000, in accordance with the terms of the contract, according to the ordinance.

Mallis explained that the intent was to replace the waterline on Ellenwood from Broadway to Kenyon. In the base bid, he said, an alternative was included to resurface the entire roadway and not just the area where the waterline is being replaced.

“Those numbers came in very favorably,” Mallis said. “Our engineer’s estimate for the entire project was \$513,000. So as you can see, we’re around \$85,000 under the estimate... We would like to begin the project as soon as possible.

Union St. legislation passed

Council also passed an ordinance authorizing the approval of an engineering fee in the amount of \$36,750 to GPD Group of Akron, for services associated with the repair and resurfacing of Union St. from its northern intersection of Broadway Ave. to its southern intersection of Broadway.

The project, which will include removal of existing asphalt, repair of base pavement, removal and replacement of curbs, replacement of curb ramps to ADA standards, adjustment and reconstruction of sewer and water castings, and installment of new asphalt pavement will be primarily funded by the Cuyahoga County Engineer, according to the legislation.

The county will be funding 80% of the construction cost and 60% of the engineering design costs. The county will

also manage the construction project and provide the construction inspection.

Mallis added that the county granted Bedford’s request to design the project, which he estimated would begin in September, but the county will still manage it.

Additional appropriations passed

Council passed an ordinance amending the existing appropriations ordinance to make additional appropriations for current expenditures in the city for this year.

Finance Director Frank Gambosi said, “We’re allowing for an advance back to the General Fund/Reserve Fund, to set money aside for COVID, any hits we have based on net profits, losses, things like that in the income tax, the revenue side and expense side, and refunds.”

Gambosi added that in the legislation the city was also budgeting for the Bedford Board of Education’s costs for the final demolition phase of the former St. Peter Chanel High School property on Northfield Rd.

Ward 5 appointment resolution removed

Council approved a motion at the meeting to remove a resolution from the agenda to appoint David C. Berry as the new Ward 5 Council representative to serve the rest of the unexpired term of former Councilwoman Heather Rhoades, who stepped down in January. No information on the reason for removing the appointment resolution was available from city officials.

Council is still in the process of considering candidates for the position.

Updates

Mallis said that bidding for the city street resurfacing program would be coming up this year, with a projected cost of about \$600,000. Also, the city was in the design phase of “a major infrastructure program” on Broadway Ave., which may go to the construction phase in 2022.

He praised city departments for their work that resulted in Bedford being awarded a \$15,000 grant through the Environmental Protection Agency for electric vehicle charging stations, to be installed in the Historic Downtown District. The city also received a \$45,000 grant through Cuyahoga County for maintenance work to take place on the Egbert Road Bridge, Mallis said.

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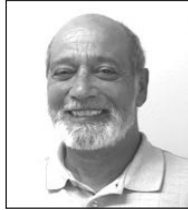
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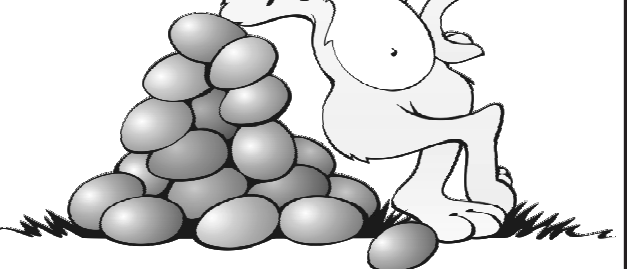
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Community Police reports

CLEVELAND

Motor Vehicle Crash

On March 16, at 8:25 p.m., a serious motor vehicle crash occurred in the 3600 block of E. 55 St. EMS transported two patients in serious condition to MetroHealth Medical Center.

GARFIELD HEIGHTS

Burglary

On March 7, at 2:35 a.m., police were dispatched to the 4600 block of Turney Rd. for a burglary. The complainant said he was house-sitting for a friend. He said he left the house on March 6, at 2:30 p.m. and returned on March 7, at 2 a.m. to find a flat screen television and some shoes missing from the living room. He said the refrigerator and freezer doors were open in the kitchen and an upstairs bedroom had been ransacked. He is not sure if anything else is missing.

Recovered Stolen Auto

On March 7, at 10:11 p.m., an officer observed a man get out of the passenger side of a vehicle and get in the driver's seat at the intersection of Bangor and E. 135 St. The vehicle was run through LEADS and found to be stolen through the Cleveland Police Department. The car went north and pulled into a driveway in the 5400 block of E. 135 St. The officer executed a traffic stop in the driveway at which time the occupants got out of the car and fled on foot. A short time later a Broadview Heights K-9 officer and CPD units arrived and started tracking the suspects through backyards of Bangor going towards Roland Ave. After a short food pursuit, the driver and passenger were apprehended without further incident in the area of Roland Ave. CPD said they would handle the charges and tow the vehicle.

Traffic Offense – OVI

On March 9, at about 4:17 a.m., police were dispatched to Speedway at 5122 Turney Rd., for a report of an intoxicated male. Police were told the man was driving a silver Audi and causing a disturbance at the service window. The officer saw the vehicle move through the parking lot and come to a stop at a gas pump and park. The officer initiated a traffic stop and told the driver to stay in the vehicle. The driver attempted to get out of the car anyway, slurring his speech and losing his balance. The officer got him in handcuffs and placed him in the back of the cruiser with much difficulty due to the suspect's belligerent behavior and extreme intoxication. He was charged with OVI, OVID refusal, driving under suspension and obstructing official business.

Motor Vehicle Theft

On March 11, a patrolman was dispatched to DRS Enterprises, 5339 Canal Rd., for a motor vehicle theft sometime that day between 1:40 a.m. and 2:23 a.m. An employee said when he arrived at work that day he saw that the rear gate was open and broken. Surveillance video showed a white male walking around the parking lot at 1:40 a.m. He is observed entering into numerous vehicles and removing tools and putting them into the back bed of one of the trucks. He is seen cutting the lock to the gate with a saw. He then entered the truck and drove off.

Weapon Offense

On March 16, at 4:44 a.m., police responded to E. 131 St. and Broadway Ave. for a vehicle that crashed into a pole. The woman on scene said she was picking up her friend near Marymount Hospital when a black SUV did a U-turn and started to follow her all the way to E. 131 St. and Broadway. The woman told police the driver of the SUV, a black male with dreadlocks, rolled his window down and fired one shot at her car and said, "That's what you get," as he drove westbound on Broadway. The victim said she had no idea who fired the shot.

Shots Fired

At about 10:50 p.m. on March 19, police responded to the 12800 block of Woodward Blvd. for a report of attempted robbery and shots fired. The victim was hiding in his detached garage and said he had just been shot at, although he was not struck by the gunfire. He said he parked his 2020 BMW in his garage and as he was exiting the vehicle he saw two men standing in his driveway. One of them brandished a handgun and told the victim to drop his car keys. Then a few seconds later the man fired a single shot at him. The two suspects ran down the victim's driveway and fled eastbound on Woodward Blvd. This information was broadcast to all GHPD officers on duty and they established a perimeter while Independence Police sent a K-9 officer to assist. The K-9 officer led police to a home in the 13700 block of Eastwood Blvd., but then lost the scent. Officers found a spent shell casing

in the victim's Woodward Blvd. driveway. Surveillance video will be reviewed.

Seniors can Zoom Chat with Garfield Hts. mayor

The city of Garfield Heights is inviting its senior residents to a regular Zoom meeting, hosted by Mayor Matt Burke, so they can discuss their concerns with the mayor and get answers to their questions.

On the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, beginning April 14, from 2 to 3 p.m., the Zoom Chat with the mayor will be held.

For those who do not have access to a computer or the internet or those with computers which will not support the Zoom application, you can also call-in to the meeting and participate from your phone.

Participants will need to call the Meeting Number, +1-646-558-8656, then the Meeting ID: 870 5487 8177.

If you would like to access from your computer, first have Zoom downloaded to your computer. Then type the URL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87054878177> into your internet browser and click "Launch Meeting."

Call the Senior Center at 216-475-3244 with questions.

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Local churches asked to email their schedule of Holy Week services

The Neighborhood News will continue its long-standing custom of publishing Holy Week and Easter services for all churches in its readership area free of charge in next week's paper.

All places of worship are asked to get their services schedule emailed to: nnews1923@aol.com by Monday, March 29th, at 5 p.m., for inclusion in our March 31st Easter issue.

Free lunch

Jones Road Church, 8000 Jones Rd., Cleveland, will hold its next free lunch this Saturday, March 27, with a hot meal available for pickup between noon and 1 p.m. Just drive up to the front of the church. All welcome.

Cleveland FBI warns residents of scammers

The Cleveland Division of the FBI is issuing a warning not to fall victim to scams demanding money. Various scams are occurring in the area and the FBI is advising the public these are not legitimate. It is difficult for law enforcement to determine the original source of these scams as most originate overseas. Therefore, the best intervention is prevention, - don't be a victim, says FBI officials

Recently the Cleveland Division of the FBI has received calls from victims reporting the following occurrences:

- One elderly female wire transferred an approximate total of \$173,000 over three months in a lottery scam. The elderly female was promised a prize of \$2.5 million and an added bonus of a 2019 Mercedes.

- Scammers have represented themselves as FBI employees trying to help. In one instance, a lady received a pop up on her computer and was advised to call a tech support phone number. The lady called and was advised she was speaking to an FBI "cyber encryption" specialist and she needed to secure her money in cyber vaults. The victim tried to wire money to the scammers; her bank was suspicious and rejected the wire transfer request. She then tried to send the money via UPS; the store returned the package to her. The bank and UPS store both notified police.

- In the last few days scammers have been convincing their "potential victims" that their bank accounts have been compromised, therefore, they should liquidate their bank accounts and send all of their funds to a new financial account for safe keeping.

- One individual, an FBI employee, received a voicemail from the Social Security Administration indicating the individual would be arrested if they did not return the phone call and pay the fine.

Individuals receiving these types of solicitations demanding money should report any suspicious solicitations online at www.ic3.gov.

An FBI spokesperson said it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, for law enforcement to retrieve the funds once they have been sent. Do not be a victim in the first place.

Dinner is served!

The free monthly Community Meals are returning to The Lutheran Church of the Covenant, 19000 Libby Rd., Maple Heights, on the fourth Thursday of each month from 4:30 to 6 p.m., starting this Thursday, March 25, for takeout only.

Drive to the back of the church and your food will be brought to your car. Call Mary with questions, 216-924-6096.

M.H. officer-involved shooting

Last Sunday, March 21, at 5:04 a.m., Maple Heights officers were on Hansen Rd., checking on previously reported complaints for parking and noise disturbances.

While they were out of their patrol cars writing parking citations, they heard four shots fired and observed a vehicle heading towards them at a high rate of speed. It was heading straight at the officers and was not slowing down. The officers fired at the vehicle and it crashed into the two police vehicles. The male suspect was then taken into custody.

He was struck by the gunfire and was transported to MetroHealth Hospital, treated for non-life-threatening wounds and released to police custody. The Bureau of Criminal Investigation was contacted and responded to process the crime scene and will be handling the investigation. No officers were injured during the incident.

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 to Crime Stoppers.

52nd Garfield Hts. Ice Skating Show - 'Magical Moments on Ice'

The Garfield Heights Ice Show was cancelled in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic, but this year the skaters will be able to display the talent and gracefulness they have accomplished during this very challenging year, where even parents were not allowed to watch the skaters during practice.

The show will be on Saturday, March 27th, at 6:30 p.m., with 0 spectators. While this year's show is not being presented in the magnitude it has been in the past, you will be able to view through this link: http://www.twitch.tv/go_cle_dj

Looking for yearbooks

The Garfield Heights Historical Society is looking for donations of Garfield Heights High School yearbooks, especially from 2007 and later. Call 216-475-3050 and leave a message. Also, the museum has issues of some earlier years that it is offering for sale at \$5 each. If you are looking for a particular year, call and leave a message or email at: info@ghhist.org.

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Garfield Heights Summer Sports Programs

T-Ball & Co-ed Softball for boys and girls

By following the State of Ohio, Cuyahoga County and local guidelines, the city of Garfield Heights will be bringing back its summer sports programs. Registration for both T-Ball & Co-Ed Softball will be held at The Dan Kostel Rec Center, at 5411 Turney Rd., beginning April 1st through the May 5th deadline.

T-Ball is for ages 5-7 on or before July 1, 2020. Co-Ed Softball is for ages 7-15 on or before August 1, 2020. It is highly recommended that a 7-year-old has had at least one year in T-Ball.

Fees

Residents - \$40 + \$15 recreation ID card = \$55

Non-Residents - \$70 + \$40 recreation ID card = \$110

After May 5th deadline, there will be a \$15 late fee if applications accepted. So don't wait - Sign up Early!

Things to bring with you when registering

Birth Certificates required for ALL PLAYERS at the time of registration, whether your child has played before or not.

Two current utility bills are required for proof of residency for ALL RESIDENTS. We accept cash, credit, debit and checks with current ID (drivers license) and only a parent or legal guardian can register a child.

Sign-ups must be done in a timely manner for team assignments, scheduling purposes, ordering uniforms and allowing scheduled practice times. Coaches are always needed - your time and talents will be greatly appreciated. Call the Rec Center if you would be interested. The office generally opens at 8 a.m. daily & will be open most evenings for your convenience. Please call ahead and press "0" for a team member or option "1" for office hours as they are subject to change without notice - **216-475-7272**. You can check the city's web page at www.garfieldhts.org for details on all rec center programs.

Anonymous donor gives \$50,000 to S.V. Development

Slavic Village Development (SVD) announced last week that it has received a \$50,000 gift from an anonymous donor to be used for housing stability assistance, business assistance fund, support of Community Stewards and SVD's operating reserve fund, per the donor's request.

The donation was made in response to a January 2021 article, "Eviction aid: Slavic Village Development helps residents struggling with rent," published by The Land, Ideastream, and FreshWater Cleveland and paid for and commissioned by the Northeast Ohio Solutions Journalism Cooperative.

The story discussed the challenges many renters are facing during the pandemic and how issues are exacerbated by paperwork requirements and housing inspections. It focused on how SVD has been able to cut through some of those restrictions and provide relief to some renters facing eviction.

"We were completely floored by the generosity of our donor. They emphasized how touched they were by the care shown by our staff towards our residents," said Christopher Alvarado, SVD executive director. "While community development corporations usually

work almost exclusively on 'bricks and mortar' projects that build new homes or create spaces for businesses, we have taken direction from our residents who have asked us to help folks stay in place."

Lynn Rodemann, SVD's Housing Outreach specialist who was profiled in the article added, "This donation will go to help over 500 families in Slavic Village who are in need of a safety net in these trying times. These funds are helping to make sure we all make it to the other side of the pandemic together, and safely."

SVD's Healthy Home Initiative led by Rodemann works directly with residents who are in danger of eviction due to missing rent or who may lose access to power, water or heat when utility bills are missed.

Slavic Village Bunny Hop

The Community Yahoos will present The Village Bunny Hop with candy and games on Saturday, March 27, from noon to 3 p.m. on Fleet Ave. from E. 50 St. to E. 61 St.

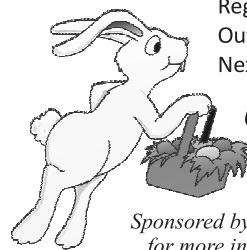
Check-in starts at 11:30 a.m. on Fleet at E. 50 St. by Fleet Bike Shop, and on E. 61 St. by Lincoln Post 13.

This is a free event and all are welcome to come for some Easter fun.

SLAVIC VILLAGE ... FIRST ANNUAL BUNNY HOP ON FLEET AVENUE THIS SATURDAY, MARCH 27th

THIS FREE EVENT IS OPEN TO CHILDREN OF ALL AGES FROM NOON TO 3 P.M.
KIDS & PARENTS DRESS IN YOUR EASTER BEST!

This event will operate in conjunction with Marcy Shannon's long-planned EASTER EGG ROLL



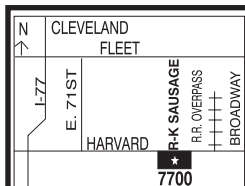
Register at Two Locations:
 Outside Fleet Bike Shop, 5002 Fleet Ave.
 Next to Lincoln Post 13, 6012 Fleet Ave.

*Candy and Toys for the Kids
 Live Entertainment*

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 ...for more information, contact Odetta, 440.975.6318*

Submit Community events to NN via Email: nnews1923@aol.com

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