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99th YEAR NO. 04

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2021

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FREE

Maple Hts. Council adopts Southgate Connectivity Study

By Judith Goldsworth

Starting the process to improve access, safety and the appearance of Southgate USA shopping center at Warrensville Center, Libby and Northfield roads and the surrounding streets, the Southgate Connectivity Study (SCS) was approved by Maple Heights Council at its meeting last week.

It was noted in the legislation that the Southgate Connectivity Study first got its start in 2018, as the city had adopted its Master Plan that year, and within the plan, "recommendations were made to undertake a Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI) study of the Southgate area."

In 2018, Maple Heights was awarded an \$80,000 grant from the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA), to conduct community meetings and to develop a plan, "to improve the connectivity and safety of all modes of transportation in the Southgate area," the legislation states, adding, "City Architecture, the designated consultant for NOACA, started work on the Southgate Connectivity Tlci Study in the fall of 2018, including gathering input from city officials, residents, business owners and other stakeholders, accumulating and analyzing data about current conditions and traffic patterns, developing the city's vision for the future and goals and action steps to reach that vision and preparing the final document."

The ordinance describes the SCS "as an important planning tool that helps city officials... make informed decisions about future transportation, safety and signage improvements in the city," with City Architecture presenting the finished study at a meeting of council and the Zoning and Planning Commis-

sion in late September.

Asked by Mayor Annette Blackwell at last week's meeting to offer a further explanation of the study and its future impact on the city, Economic Development Director Patrick Grogan-Myers stated that the plan began as a series of public meetings, seeking feedback on how to

improve the Southgate area, "to be inclusive of all modes of transportation."

Grogan-Myers continued: "Anyone who's a public transit rider necessarily becomes a pedestrian the minute they exit the bus, as chances are you weren't getting off the bus as your final goal, so ultimately we need to be

mindful that people arrive at their destinations in the Southgate area by other means than vehicles."

"What this plan does is live off feedback," he said, adding, "and it was really community driven, on how we should reimagine the Southgate modes, and let

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Independence Primary School resource officer goes 'above and beyond' for kids



Independence Primary School Resource Officer Kevin Repicky is shown here with a group of fourth-grade students he installed a volleyball net for at the school when he found them playing with a chalk outline of one.

During the week of September 27th, a group of fourth-grade students at Independence Primary School were attempting to play volleyball using a court and net outlined in chalk. The school resource officer, Kevin Repicky, noticed this and immediately contacted Principal T.J. Ebert to get a volleyball net for use at recess.

After contacting Athletic Director Annie McGhee, they were able to secure the base needed for the nets (they were buckets) with the wood studs and eye hooks necessary to put up a volleyball net.

After setting it up the next week, Officer Repicky realized that it may be unsafe for students on the blacktop and could possibly tip over. Repicky asked the principal if it was okay to dig a hole in the back to help secure the net for the students. During recess that same day, Officer Repicky dug the holes and completed the volleyball court for the students.

"I have been so impressed with Officer Repicky; his daily interaction with students is to be commended," said Ebert. "Everyday he is outside with the students and building a relationship with them. He constantly goes above and beyond to help our students. We are lucky to have him at IPS, and also fortunate for the collaborative relationship with the city of Independence to have a resource officer like him with our primary school students."

Fall Jazz Fest in Slavic Village this Sunday

The Warszawa Triangle Fall Jazz Fest will take place outdoors in Slavic Village this Sunday, Oct. 17, from 3-5 p.m. near the intersection of E. 69 St. and Sebert Ave., in the Warszawa Historic District. Rain date is Sunday, Oct. 24. Cleveland's two mayoral candidates, entrepreneur Justin Bibb and City Council President Kevin Kelley, have been invited to attend and to meet the crowd.

This is the second year for the outdoor street party. It will once again feature live music by Donny Jones and the Infinity Band, fun food, fall-themed activities for kids and more. The event is free and open to all residents and friends of Slavic Village. Warszawa Triangle residents are event sponsors. For more information, call 216-375-6915.

Indy Road resurfacing

The city of Cleveland has begun the process of asphalt resurfacing on Independence Road, in Slavic Village. The project includes milling the existing asphalt pavement, adjusting utility castings, full depth pavement repairs, partial depth pavement repairs, placement of compliant ADA ramps, placing new asphalt and pavement markings. The work will take place during the hours of 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. This project is expected to be completed in early November 2021. The Independence Road resurfacing will be done from Bading Avenue to Crete Road for an estimated cost of \$376,320.00.

One lane of traffic will be maintained for local traffic for the duration of the project and no detours are expected. Access to all businesses, residences and side streets will be maintained during construction.

No on-street parking will be permitted for the duration of the project in the affected areas and "No Parking" signs will be posted.

CLE Council highlights

Cleveland City Council held its regular weekly meeting Monday night and approved legislation authorizing the city to enter into agreements with various agencies to provide food cards for low-income families. The efforts were paid for by council members' Casino Revenue Funds, which are pools of money that each council member receives to help fund neighborhood projects and other services and programs.

Council also authorized the director of Public Health to accept a grant of more than \$2.5 million from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for financial assistance for the operation of the Division of Air Quality and to perform air pollution control activities throughout Cleveland and Cuyahoga County as delegated by the Ohio EPA.

And introduced was a resolution strongly opposing Issue 24 on the upcoming November ballot, which would establish, through a change in the city charter, an unelected group of 13 Cleveland residents as a Community Police Commission that would have final authority on disciplining officers.

Community Police Reports Cleveland

Shooting (self-inflicted): Oct. 4, 12:07 p.m. 7700 block of Jeffries Ave. 12-year-old male victim of gunshot wound to the leg self-inflicted.

Fatal House Fire: Oct. 6, 12:58 a.m. 4078 E. 68 St., off Harvard. Working house fire at this location. 8-year-old boy pronounced deceased; one firefighter with burn injuries. Two adults, three children escaped injury, according to media reports.

Pedestrian Struck: Oct. 8, 5:38 a.m. 3900 block of Dille Ave. 70-year-old pedestrian struck. EMS to MetroHealth.

Dog Bite: Oct. 8, 8:51 a.m. 3600 block of E. 59 St. Officer sustained minor dog bite. Conveyed to MetroHealth.

Fatal Overdose: Oct. 9, 3:30 p.m. 9900 block of Rosewood Ave. 37-year-old male victim of fatal overdose.

Overdose: On Oct. 11, at 10:34 a.m., a 30-year-old male was the victim of a suspected drug overdose in the 3300 block of E. 65 St.

Garfield Heights

Weapon Offense

• On Sept. 29, at 1:46 a.m., police responded to the Aura bar, 4912 Turney Rd., for a report by security guards there was a large fight in progress with "a lot of guns." First officer to arrive on scene was flagged down by a security guard standing on the sidewalk. He pointed to a vehicle going northbound on Turney, which police

stopped around the intersection of Turney Rd. and Robinson Ave. The driver showed them his CCW permit and was found to have three guns in his possession, two being on his person. For officers' safety and the nature of the call, police removed the driver from his vehicle and put him in handcuffs. The two guns on him were loaded and were later checked through LEADS and found to be stolen. He said he had been only holding his guns at Aura, and did not threaten anyone. Officers confirmed there were no victims there. The passenger in the car was found to have warrants and was arrested, and found to have a large amount of money on him. The driver was also arrested when it was learned his guns were stolen. Officers searched the vehicle and found a large bag of marijuana, a digital scale, clear sandwich bags and a cup with residue, indicating drug trafficking. Money was seized from both men due to the indication of it being proceeds from the sale of marijuana. Both suspects transported to city jail and will be held on drug trafficking charges.

(Continued on Page 3)

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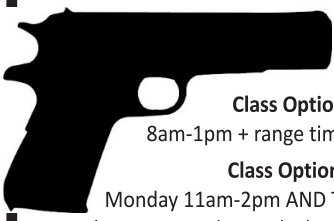
Dr. Ringo is a Cleveland native who graduated from Bedford High School and was inducted into the Bedford High School Hall of Fame in 2003.

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Mentoring program for M.H. girls to hold fundraiser

C.O.O.R. (Creating Our Own Reflections) Mentoring Program is a nonprofit organization with a mission to journey alongside adolescent girls in the Maple Heights area to empower and encourage them to adopt a positive self image and grow into women of noble character.

On Saturday, Oct. 23, from 5 to 8 p.m., at St. Andrew Orthodox Church, 16029 Maple Park Dr., Maple Heights, the group will host its inaugural fundraising event, the Masquerade Fundraising Ball. The community will have an opportunity to come out and learn more about C.O.O.R. Mentoring Program and offer their support while enjoying networking, food, raffles, live music and silent auctions.

Admission is free - simply RSVP on their website: <http://www.coormentoring.org>. 100% of donations will go to the building and sustainability of the organization. For more information, visit www.coormentoring.org

Community Police Reports

(Continued from Page 2)

•On Sept. 29, at 5:05 a.m., an officer noted that a vehicle was in the drive-through window of Burger King, 4869 Turney Rd., with its lights on while the restaurant was closed. The officer called for backup and found a man in the driver's seat of the vehicle asleep. A black semiautomatic handgun could be seen under the man's right

hand. An officer was able to open the passenger side of the vehicle and get the gun without startling the man. He was then escorted out of the car and placed in handcuffs. He said he did not have a CCW permit, and there was no record it was stolen. The suspect was placed under arrest and booked without incident. Inside the vehicle were found three small baggies of marijuana, a digital scale, a ledger, two cell phones and about \$891 in cash. Suspect booked for improper handling of a firearm and possession of criminal tools. Possible drug trafficking charges may be added.

Breaking & Entering

On Oct. 6, an employee of Family Dollar, 5068 Turney Rd., told police someone had broken into the store and stolen cigarettes from a cabinet, sometime between 2 and 5 a.m. Surveillance cameras showed a black male approaching the front of the store about 2:18 a.m., break into the store and load handfuls of cigarettes into bags he

was carrying. He then exited the store through the same front door he had entered from and was last seen walking south along the front of the business toward the area of Walgreens. Report forwarded to the Detective Bureau.

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Maple Heights Council adopts Southgate Connectivity Study

(Continued from Page 1)

me be clear, we're talking about modes of transportation, public safety, when we are talking about how we can make safety improvements to the area."

Grogan-Myers said, "The plan makes multiple suggestions, as far as what lane configuration might look like, so right now there are four lanes on Libby Road between Warrensville Center Road and Northfield. They contemplated an idea of maybe there's three lanes, with bike lanes in each direction. They contemplated the idea of maybe better signage for the city entryways, so you know you've arrived in Maple Heights, and it creates a sense of place."

He added, "There's a lot of great recommendations in this study, so I recommend that you take the time to look through it... this is the start. The plan is the starting point because that is the first point where we hear from the community, what you want to see executed, as a goal for the future."

Grogan-Myers explained that there will continue to be public meetings to serve as a framework for reimagining Warrensville Center, Northfield and Libby roads for all modes of transportation.

The Southgate Connectivity Study, a document of more than 100 pages, has been published on the city of Maple Heights website for all interested members of the public, Grogan-Myers stated. Go to <https://citymapleheights.com/wpfb-file/2021-southgate-connectivity-study-pdf/> to view it in its entirety.

Nuisance legislation repealed

Following recent court actions against other nearby communities challenging the constitutionality of ordinances declaring certain criminal activities as a nuisance and assessing costs to property owners to abate the nuisance, council passed legislation to repeal a section of the codified ordinances that imposed criminal penalties and costs for enforcement.

"A good example is a domestic violence situation at a house," Law Director Frank Consolo stated. He said there was a situation in a neighboring city where a disabled child lived and would become unruly and cause all types of disturbances where police and sometimes fire would have to be summoned. "That city enforced its Criminal Nuisance Activity ordinance, and charged the cost of those police and fire visits to the property to the tune of in excess of \$12,000.

"So the courts have said, and the reason we're repealing it, is you have a constitutional right to petition your government to redress grievances," Consolo said, noting that citizens have the right to call police and fire as many times as required in a health or safety situation.

"People who continue to commit criminal activity on their premises will be penalized by police and court enforcement instead of trying to get things resolved informally," Consolo added.

Parking restrictions

After Blackwell and council "have found that there has been a significant increase in vehicles standing and being parked in prohibited places throughout the city, including on sidewalks, tree lawns, in front of driveways and on areas of residential property other than driveways," council passed an ordinance declaring such activities a nuisance and

enforceable "by the mayor and other designated administrative personnel, in addition to the police department."

Allowing enforcement of the parking law by other personnel will "allow the police department to concentrate on enforcing the general offenses provision" of city and state laws, according to the legislation, which also states that an offending vehicle may be towed if parked in a prohibited place.

(Continued on Page 7)

ELECTION NOTICE

CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS

NOTICE is given that pursuant to Ordinances Nos.: 2021-61; 2021-62; 2021-63; 2021-64; and 2021-65, adopted by the Council of the City of Maple Heights, Ohio, on June 2, 2021; and Ordinance No.: 2021-75, adopted by the Council of the City of Maple Heights, Ohio, on August 4, 2021, the following proposed Charter Amendments shall be submitted to a vote of the qualified electors of the City, at the general election to be held on Tuesday, the 2nd day of November, 2021, as prescribed by general law, and shall appear as the following Issues 42-47.

The full text of the Charter provisions if they are amended by the passage of said Issues will read as follows. (Proposed additions are underlined and proposed deletions struck through with a line.)

ISSUE 42 – Shall Article IV, of the Maple Heights Charter be amended in order to eliminate the requirements that the salary of all elected officials be fixed at least one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the date set for the municipal election for the terms beginning on the next succeeding first day of January and that such salary cannot be changed during such term?

ARTICLE IV – SALARIES

The Council shall have the power to fix the salaries of all employees of the Municipality whether elected or appointed. ~~The salaries of all elected officials shall be fixed at least one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the date set for the Municipal election for the terms beginning on the next succeeding first day of January, and shall not thereafter be changed in respect to any such term or terms or any part thereof.~~ The Council may authorize the payment or reimbursement of expenses incurred by any official, employee, or member of any department, board or commission of the Municipality for travel or expenses incidental thereto incurred in the furtherance of the interests of the Municipality.

ISSUE 43 – Shall Article V, Section 8 and Article III, Section 4, of the Maple Heights Charter be amended in order to allow the Mayor to hold private employment so long as such employment does not conflict with the duties of Mayor?

ARTICLE III, SECTION 4. ACTIVITIES RESTRICTED; CONFLICT OF INTEREST.

The Mayor and the President of Council shall be allowed to serve on any federal, state, regional or metropolitan board or committees thereof.

~~The Mayor shall hold no other public employment. The Mayor may hold private employment which does not conflict with the duties of Mayor.~~ Councilpersons may hold non-elected public employment outside the City of Maple Heights which does not conflict with Council duties. No elective officer shall be interested in the profits or emoluments of any contract, work or service for the Municipality.

ARTICLE V, SECTION 8. LOCATION OF OFFICE.

~~The Mayor shall have an office at the City Hall, and, effective the first day in January of the new term, shall hold no other public or private employment.~~

ISSUE 44 – Shall Article VII, Section 3, of the Maple Heights Charter be amended in order 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?

ARTICLE VII, SECTION 3. MEETINGS.

At seven (7) o'clock p.m. on the first Wednesday of the new term following a regular Municipal election and certification of the newly elected officials by the Board of Elections of Cuyahoga County, or as soon as practicable thereafter if the first Wednesday is a legal holiday, the Council shall meet at the usual place of holding Council meetings, at which time the newly elected members of Council shall be officially sworn in and assume the duties of their office. Thereafter the Council shall meet at such times and places as may be prescribed by ordinance or resolution. The Mayor, President of Council, or any three (3) members thereof may call special meetings of the Council upon written notice served by electronic transmission or personally upon each member at his or her usual place of residence, at least twenty-four (24) hours previous to the time fixed for such meetings, except in cases of public emergency. Any such request for special meetings shall state the specific subjects to be considered at the meeting and no other shall be there considered.

ISSUE 45 – Shall Article VII, Section 17, of the Maple Heights Charter be amended by deleting it in its entirety because the Service Director and Service Department are no longer solely responsible for determining the manner of making public improvements, and reserving Section 17 for future Charter provisions?

SECTION 17. MANNER OF MAKING PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS. Section 17 shall be reserved for future Charter provisions

Public improvements, works and repairs of all kinds shall be made by the Department of Service, either by direct employment of labor, and the purchase of the necessary supplies and material, with separate accounting as to each improvement so made, or by contract. The Council shall by ordinance determine by which method any improvement shall be made. All contracts shall be executed in the name of the City by the Director of Service only after approval by Council, and shall be entered into only with the lowest and best bidder after public competitive bidding. ~~The Director of Service may enter into a contract without competitive bidding in the manner provided by the statutes of the State of Ohio.~~

ISSUE 46 – Shall Article VII, Section 18, of the Maple Heights Charter be amended in order to allow the Mayor to designate a representative to sign contracts?

SECTION 18. CONTRACT SIGNATURE.

All contracts shall bear the signature of the Mayor, or the Mayor's designee, in addition to such other signature as may be required by this Charter or by ordinance."

ISSUE 47 – Shall Article XIX, Section 5, of the Maple Heights Charter be amended by deleting it in its entirety to remove its prohibition on the use of photo monitoring devices for the enforcement of traffic laws?

SECTION 5. LIMITING THE USE OF PHOTO MONITORING DEVICES.

The City shall not use any traffic law photo-monitoring device for the enforcement of a qualified traffic law violation, unless a law enforcement officer is present at the location of the device and personally issues the ticket to the alleged violator at the time and location of the violation; and that the City shall not enter into, renew, amend, modify, or make any payment under a contract with a vendor for traffic law photo-monitoring devices or services if the contract involves payment to the vendor that is contingent upon the number of tickets issued or the amount of fines levied or; and that qualified traffic violations shall be tried only before a judge in either a municipal or common pleas court, and the accused will be afforded all rights then generally afforded to defendants in criminal cases under the constitutions and laws of the United States and the State of Ohio."

By: Leonette Cicirella Johnson, Clerk of Council, City of Maple Heights

The Neighborhood News: October 6 and October 13, 2021

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Maple Heights Council

(Continued from Page 5)

Also passed at last week's meeting:

• A resolution for a two-year contract with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health to provide health services to the city of Maple Heights, at a cost of \$142,206 for 2022 and \$156,427 for 2023. Per state law, all Ohio municipalities must provide health services to residents, either through their own health department or their respective county health department.

• A resolution for a contract with FirstEnergy, Inc. for the first phase of the Dunham Road LED Streetlight Replacement Project, at a cost of \$6,500. The city has received a \$45,525 grant for energy projects from (NOPEC), which will be used towards the cost of the streetlight project, the legislation states.

• Also concerning Dunham Road, a resolution authorizing City Engineer Ed Hren to begin preparing plans and specifications for the Dunham Road Pavement Reconstruction Project, due to the deteriorated condition of the existing pavement between Turney and Libby roads. Council has already passed a cooperation agreement with Cuyahoga County stating that Maple Heights will be responsible for 40% of the project, with the county paying 60% towards the plans and improvements.

• A resolution accepting a total of \$2,256,503 in three separate grants from the Cleveland Water Department Suburban Water Main Renewal Project Fund for water main replacement projects on Franklin Road, Hillgrove Avenue and Tabor Avenue, and directing Hren to prepare plans, bid specs and cost estimates and to go out for bids.

• A resolution to buy a 2022 Chevrolet Silverado truck with snow plow package for the fire department from Tim Lally Chevrolet, at a cost not to exceed \$50,000.

• A resolution to buy a 2019 Ford F550 work truck with

snow plow package for the service department from Valley Ford Truck, Inc. at a cost not to exceed \$90,200.

• Two resolutions, one to reappoint Frank Consolo and Consolo Law Firm Co. LPA as the city's law director from Jan. 1, 2022, through Dec. 31, 2023; and the other to reappoint the Consolo Law Firm and John E. Thomas as the city's assistant prosecutor and assistant law director, also from Jan. 1, 2022, through Dec. 31, 2023.

Reports

Grogan-Myers announced that two new businesses, Fresh Lyfe, a takeout restaurant at 17203 Broadway, and Yum Yum Hibachi, a hibachi restaurant at 5830 Lee Road South, were recently welcomed to the city.

Police Chief Todd Hansen reported that the license plate reader cameras would be installed soon, and that Halloween Trick or Treating would be observed on Sunday, Oct. 31, from 5-7 p.m.

Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas said the fire department had responded to 4458 calls to date, also responding to fires in Bedford, Garfield Heights and Warrensville Heights.

Human Services Director Linda Vopat said that a meeting for residents to discuss their property tax bills would be held at the Maple Heights Senior Center, 15901 Libby Road, on Wednesday, Oct. 27, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

"Residents can come and discuss any problems they might have," Vopat said. "We will have information for the public on payment plans; please let your neighbors know."

Death Notices



EDWARD A CHIMILESKI, JR.

Edward A. Chimileski, Jr., age 63, loving father of Edward A. Chimileski, III (Amberly), Joseph Chimileski (Jamie) and Thomas Chimileski (Betty). Son of Bonnie Chimileski and the late Edward A. Chimileski, Sr. Dearest grandfather of Briana, Dominic, Angel, Emerald, Edward, Hailey, Skylar, Madison and Christy. Great-grandfather of Brooklyn, Abel, Eli and Melanie. Brother of Bonnie, Debbie, Marlene, Rosie (deceased), Lori and Robert. Uncle and great-uncle of many.

Family and friends are welcome on Friday, October 15, 2021, from 4-8 p.m. at the BICAN BROS. FUNERAL HOME, 5215 Fleet Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44105.

Read The Neighborhood News online

Neighborhood News readers can get their favorite newspaper on the web at: theneighborhoodnews.com.

The entire newspaper is available on the N.N. website every Wednesday morning and can be read in Adobe Acrobat. Just click on the front page to download the remaining pages.

Archives and other features will be added as the website evolves.

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New firefighter sworn in to Garfield Hts. Fire Dept.



Daniel Hough was sworn Oct. 4th as a firefighter/paramedic with the Garfield Heights Fire Department. He is a lateral transfer from the Loveland-Symmes Fire Department and started his new job on Oct. 6. Hough is shown above being sworn in by Mayor Matt Burke.

LIBRARIES PLAN SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Southeast (Bedford/Bedford Heights/Oakwood Village) Branch Library

Here is one of the **FREE** programs for October 2021 at the Southeast Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library, located at 70 Columbus Rd., Bedford, Ohio 44146. For more information, or to register for any program, please call 440-439-4997.

African American Authors Book Group

Thursday, October 28th, 7 p.m.

Join us to read books from some of your favorite authors and subjects, followed

by a related craft. It's a done-in-one picture book club for kids. **MUST REGISTER**

Garfield Heights Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library

Here are a couple of the **FREE** programs available at the Garfield Heights Branch Library, 5409 Turney Rd.,

in October. Call 216-475-8178 to register or for more information.

Adult Programs, Steps to an Effective Job Search

Tuesday, October 26th, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Looking for a new job but not sure where to start? Learn tips for a successful job search strategy, how to research companies, about popular job search websites and more in this program. **MUST REGISTER**

Children and Families

Homework Center, Mondays through Thursdays, 4-6:30 p.m.

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The Rock Community Church, (9403 Garfield Blvd.), will have a food pantry distribution for **Garfield Hts. residents only on Saturday, October 16, from 10am-Noon.** We will be inside the building with an expedited distribution with some choice of product. Numbers and sign-up sheets will be distributed at the parking lot entrance starting at 8:00 am. Masks will be available but not mandatory.

Please have photo ID available and a pic of the ID for those you will pick up for.



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