

The Neighborhood News

Your Community Newspaper Since 1923

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

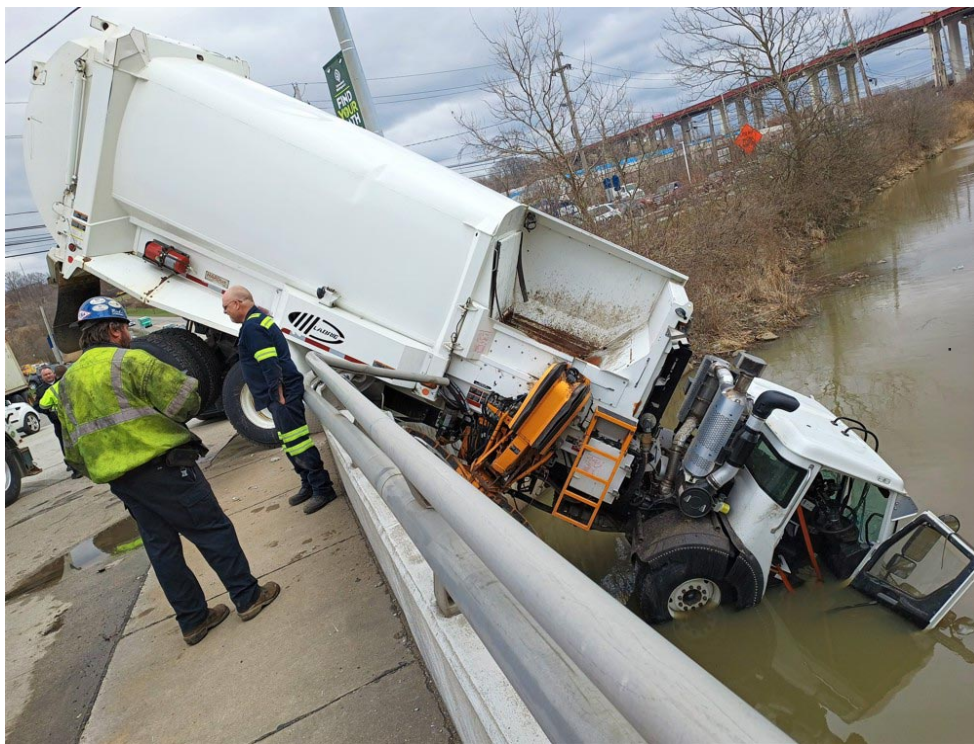
99th YEAR NO. 28

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2022

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

FREE

Garbage truck crashes into V.V. canal



An empty garbage truck being driven from Canada to a new owner in Ohio ended up in the Ohio & Erie Canal last Thursday, near the intersection of Granger and Canal rds., according to a news release from the Valley View Police Department.

The release said preliminary investigation indicates that this accident was not directly related to Granger Road Hill, notorious for accidents involving heavy vehicles.

VVPD said the driver of the garbage truck appears to have misjudged the clearance between the left side of his truck and struck another truck stopped at the traffic light at the intersection.

Police said video from the truck that was struck shows the impact was substantial and caused the garbage truck to swerve out of control. The garbage truck was reported to be operating normally prior to the impact.

Please contact the Valley View Police Department if you can provide any further information about this accident.

Photo by Elena Psenicka

Disgraced Newburgh Hts. mayor has reportedly agreed to accept plea deal

Newburgh Heights Mayor Trevor Elkins, accused of using money from his campaign account for personal use, has agreed to a plea deal, according to various local media outlets.

The plea deal, sources say, has Elkins pleading guilty to one count of attempted theft in office and two counts of attempted election falsification. He also would step down from his position as mayor once he enters his guilty pleas.

It has also been reported that as part of the agreement and to avoid jail time, Elkins will not run for any elected office in Cuyahoga County during the 2024-28 term.

Handling the investigation is G. Gary Tyack, prosecutor for Franklin County, who was brought in by Cuyahoga County to handle the investigation.

Prosecutors accused Elkins of using money from his campaign account in hundreds of instances between 2015 and 2019 for personal use. He reportedly said he always returned the money into his campaign account and was not aware he was doing anything illegal.

He is expected to change his not guilty plea to guilty at April 14th court proceedings in Cleveland.

When and if Elkins pleads guilty and resigns as mayor in Newburgh Heights, Village Council Pro-Tempore Gigi Traore would become the new mayor until a successor is elected. Elkins' term of office would have expired in January, 2024.

CLE Council opposes new state gun law

Cleveland City Council held its regular meeting Monday night and passed a resolution opposing the new state gun law and urged its repeal.

The newly adopted state law allows Ohioans 21 years and older to carry concealed handguns without a license and safety training.

The law, passed by the Ohio General Assembly and signed by Governor Mike DeWine last month, goes into effect in June. Current Ohio law requires a license to carry a concealed handgun across Ohio and includes eight hours of necessary safety and firing training, which will now be optional.

Council's resolution notes that, "While Cleveland works to reduce the number of guns that lead to violent crime, the State of Ohio's deregulation of handguns will increase gun ownership and proliferation of unregulated guns in our community."

The resolution was sponsored by Councilman Charles Slife, with all of the council joining as co-sponsors.

The gun bill was passed and signed over objections from law enforcement groups, including the Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio. Council's resolution urges the Ohio General Assembly to repeal the law.

In other action Monday, council approved legislation that would enable the Department of Public Safety to solicit home and business camera footage from areas where criminal activity has occurred, as well as solicit the footage from all vendors that provide similar home camera and security services. Earlier legislation had included only Ring camera footage.

It would allow investigators to get video from home and business cameras by working through whatever security company a business or resident may use for video surveillance. Access from the video would only apply to those residents and businesses who agree to it.

GHHS Class of '82 to hold 40th Reunion

Garfield Heights High School's Class of 1982 will hold its 40th Reunion on Sept. 10, 2022, at Briarwood Golf Club from 6 to 11 p.m. Contact Wendy Fekete Kohl for details at GHHSCLASSOF82@YAHOO.COM

WIN YOUR
EASTER
HAM

27

will be
given away!!



See Pages 4 & 5

Cleveland seeking applicants for Police Commission

The office of Cleveland Mayor Justin M. Bibb is now accepting applications for the new Cleveland Community Police Commission. Applicants must submit their application by April 30, 2022, to join the new commission, which will have increased oversight of the Cleveland Division of Police.

Commissioners must be Cleveland residents and represent the racial, social, economic and cultural diversity of the city. The criteria in Section 115-5 of the City Charter stipulates that three members may be representatives from police associations, at least two members must come from community organizations focused on civil rights, and at least one member must be an attorney or have relevant experience with the criminal justice system, mental illness or homelessness.

"We're proud to open applications for 13 members of the new commission, who will be carefully selected following a fair and rigorous application and evaluation process.

This is one of the most important steps in the process to implement police reform, which will serve as a model for the nation on strengthening citizen oversight," Mayor Bibb stated.

The 13-member commission will have the authority to make decisions on discipline for police misconduct, oversee and update police recruitment and training and make policy recommendations on processes and procedures.

"The new Commission has real teeth with new disciplinary powers to stamp out misconduct. This is not about targeting police officers; it's about setting a higher ethical standard in our police department to create a culture of respect and accountability. Residents should feel safe and assured that calling the police won't escalate into violence or brutality and police officers who do the right thing should not be afraid," Mayor Bibb added.

The new Community Police Commission will launch once a majority of members are appointed to four-year terms, replacing the existing Commission.

Applications will be screened for eligibility based on criteria outlined in Charter Section 115-5 with community input before Mayor Bibb makes recommendations to City Council for approval.

Residents are encouraged to apply to join the new Cleveland Community Police Commission by submitting an application at <https://mayor.clevelandohio.gov/police-reform>

LIBRARIES PLAN SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Garfield Heights Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library

Here are a few of the **FREE** programs coming up at the Garfield Heights Branch Library, 5409 Turney Rd. Call 216-475-8178 to register or for more information.

ADULT PROGRAMS

See Something, Say Something: Strategies for Confronting Injustice Join us for an open forum where we will discuss how to stand up in the face of opposition, speak up for those that don't have a voice, and create spaces for the unseen. Thursday, April 28, 6:30-8 p.m. Registration required.

Genealogy for Beginners Learn the basics of genealogical research in this virtual program and explore the library's subscription databases and other websites that will help get you started on your journey. Virtual program. Wednesday, May 4, 7-8:30 p.m. Registration required.

Deep Cover Cuyahoga County Learn about the overlooked and fascinating history of areas throughout Cuyahoga County with author Laura Peskin. Wednesday, May 18, 6:30-8 p.m. Registration required.

CHILDREN and FAMILIES

Sewing Basics for Kids School-age children can learn to sew a basic project with a caretaker. Tuesday, April 12, 6-8 p.m. Registration required.

Kindergarten Club Families can join us for freebies, fun and family activities to prepare you and your child to enter kindergarten this fall. Children attending will receive free books. Tuesday, April 19, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Continues to meet monthly through November. Registration required.

Families Innovate Families with school-age children can make a fairy garden while learning to use the laser engraver in the Innovation Center. Saturday, April 30, 10-11:30 a.m. Registration required.

Mothers Day Cards Design your own cut-out card for Mother's Day. Wednesday, May 4, 6-7:30 p.m. Registration required.

Channel your Inner Artist: Comic Book Edition Young artists are welcome to show their skills by creating a digital comic strip. Friday, May 20, 4-5 p.m.



CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS

COMMUNITY SHRED DAY

SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2022
9:00 AM - NOON

The "Shred-Rite" truck will be at **STAFFORD PARK**
5400 Mayville Ave., Maple Heights

Maple Heights Residents Receive a Free Jar Opener

Paper shred items only. Watch them shred it!
CALL 216-587-5481 FOR INFORMATION



Funds for this program provided through a grant from the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District



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We are buying Gold, Diamonds, Estate Jewelry, Sterling Silver, Silver Flatware, American Coins all types, Proof and Mint Sets, Collectible Foreign Coins and Paper Money.

HOURS:
Mon. thru Thurs. 10am-6pm
Friday, 10am-4pm; Sunday 12-5pm (with limited access)



5841 Turney Rd., Garfield Heights 216-475-4040



The Neighborhood News

Since 1923 - Published every Wednesday

Delivered in Southeast Cleveland, Garfield Heights, Newburgh Heights, Cuyahoga Heights, Independence, Valley View, Maple Heights and Bedford

LEGAL NOTICE

WARD 4 CITY COUNCIL VACANCY

Any Bedford Ward 4 resident interested in serving as the Council member, please submit a letter of interest and a brief background of yourself to **Tracy Simons**, Clerk of Council, City of Bedford 165 Center Road, Bedford, OH 44146, or email tsimons@bedfordoh.gov by April 8, 2022, at 4:30 p.m.

Minimum requirements and qualifications:

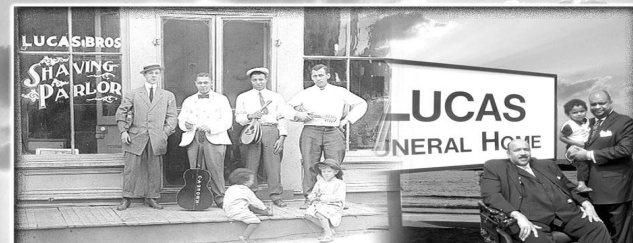
- Attend all Council meetings, not limited to the regularly scheduled 1st & 3rd Mondays of every month
- Continue to be a resident of the Ward from which they were elected or appointed
- Ward resident for at least six months
- Shall be a registered voter in the Ward and remain a qualified elector
- No member of Council shall be directly or indirectly interested in any contract, job, work, or service involving the City
- Term to begin immediately upon appointment and shall serve until November 2022
- The appointee will need to run for reelection in the November 2022 and November 2023 elections to continue as Ward Representative if they so desire
- Sign a waiver for a criminal and financial background check

Please reference the Charter on the City's website for additional information at: www.bedfordoh.gov


Tracy M. Simons
Clerk of Council
March 11, 2022

Published The Neighborhood News: March 16, March 23, March 30, April 6, 2022

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Garfield Hts. Youth Co-Ed Summer Sports Signups

Registration is currently going on now for the following sports at the Dan Kostel Recreation Center, 5411 Turney Rd.

T-Ball - for ages 5 to 7 years old on or before July 1, 2022. Registration will run April 6th through May 20th deadline.

Co-Ed Softball - for ages 8 to 13 years old on or before August 1, 2022. Registration will run April 6th through May 16th deadline.

Birth certificates are needed at the time of registration, and residents must bring in two forms of proof, current utility bills, bank statement or paystub.

Fees: Residents - \$40 + \$15 for current Rec ID card = \$55 total.

Non-Residents - \$70 + \$40 for current Rec ID card = \$110 total.

Signups must be done in a timely manner for team assignments, scheduling purposes, uniform ordering, and allowing time for practices. **There will be a \$15 late administrative fee for both programs if past deadline date so sign up early!** The recreation department reserves the right to cancel any program due to lack of participation.

Register for these programs during our open office hours; some evening hours will be offered as well as some Saturdays - call 216-475-7272; press option #1. Please bring all proper credentials with you at the time of registration so our staff can serve you better.

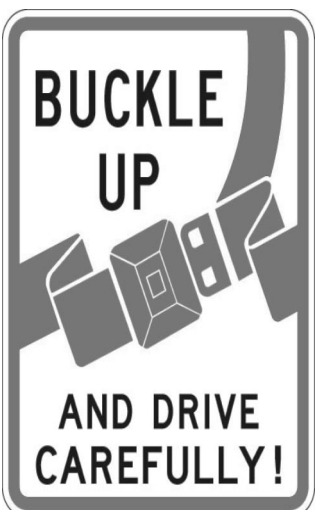
For details, please check the city's web page at: www.garfieldhts.org and go to Parks & Recreation-Youth Sports. Information coming soon on our swimming season - passes and lesson signups will begin on May 31st after Memorial Day.

N.N. 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.

The Neighborhood News accepts Visa, Mastercard and Discover for your advertising convenience
Phone: 216.441.2141
Email: NNEWS1923@AOL.COM



Bedford Council authorizes Fabrizi Trucking & Paving to reconstruct water line on Broadway Ave.

By Judith Goldsworth

Bedford Council passed legislation at its meeting Monday night authorizing City Manager Mike Mallis to enter into a contract with Fabrizi Trucking and Paving, Inc. for work on the Broadway Avenue Waterline Improvements Project, at a cost of \$1,298,791.50.

Fabrizi was the lowest and best bidder for the project, Mallis said, noting that the work will also include needed underground electrical work, curb replacement, miscellaneous sewer repairs and other improvements. He said a public meeting will be held soon for business owners and residents in the construction area, which will include the portion of the street from Five Points in the Broadway/Columbus area to the Wheeling and Lake Erie Railroad line approaching Union Street.

Mallis said the work would also include substantial construction at night, requiring the closing of Broadway from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. each day the work takes place.

"Closing that stretch during regular business hours was just not an option," Mallis said. "It would be very detri-

mental, especially to the downtown businesses, so we are requiring evening work hours. There will be more information that will come out once we hold a preconstruction meeting with the contractor."

Mallis said Fabrizi believes they can have the work completed in 90 days.


The improvements were very much needed, Mallis said. "But it's also important to have this completed by the end of this year because we'll be on schedule for ODOT to come through next year. They're planning the \$2.4 million complete resurfacing of Broadway, corp limit to corp limit. So we want to make sure that our work underground is done and addressed and buttoned up," he said.

(Continued on Page 7)

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BEEF BONELESS SQUARE CUT ROAST
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BONELESS PORK BUTT ROAST
\$2.99 LB.

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Nothing to buy, just deposit your coupons at the participating merchants before **12 noon, Thursday, April 14, 2022**. Winners will be notified by telephone. You must be 16 years or older to win and **only one coupon per person, per store is allowed**.

Drawings will be held at each store at 12 noon, Thursday, April 14. Participating stores should call their winners names immediately to The Neighborhood News (216-441-2141) to check for duplicate winners.

Only one winner per family. Employees of participating stores and their families and of this newspaper are not eligible to win.

DEADLINE TO ENTER FREE DRAWING IS THURSDAY, APRIL 14th at NOON!



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7700 HARVARD AVE.
SLAVIC VILLAGE

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PHONE _____

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GARFIELD HEIGHTS

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 ADDRESS _____
 PHONE _____

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ACCOUNTING, INC.
 6116 FLEET AVE.
 SLAVIC VILLAGE

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 PHONE _____

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INCOME TAX SERVICE
 5258 TRANSPORTATION BLVD.
 GARFIELD HEIGHTS

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 PHONE _____

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 NEWBURGH HEIGHTS

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 PHONE _____

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Death Notices

Kelly R. Dunning, age 55

August 18, 1966 - March 15, 2022

Loving daughter of Robert and Rosemarie Dunning (deceased); loving mother of son Jeremy A. Host; loving sister of Craig Dunning (Lynn), Corrine Savage, Tracy Dunning (deceased). Aunt of Jady, Hannah, Jillian & Ryan.



Kelly will be truly missed by all her family and loving friends, Shannon Scott & Lynn Niskala.

Private services by Slone & Bican Funeral Services, 13115 Lorain Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44111.

LIBRARY SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Bedford (Bedford Heights/Oakwood Village) Branch Library

Here are some of the **FREE** programs for April 2022 at the Bedford Branch of the 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.

Kids Café - 18 & younger Monday-Friday, 3-4 p.m.

Kids ages 18 and under can get a **FREE** grab-and-go lunch provided by the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, while supplies last.

Homework Center - K-8th grade Monday-Thursday (school days) 4-6:30 p.m.

Since 2002, our **FREE** Homework Centers program has helped thousands of students in grades K-8 improve their grades and subject comprehension. Homework Centers are available at 10 branches. Students who participate in the program receive homework assistance from trained tutors in the following subjects: language arts, math, reading, science, and social studies. **MUST REGISTER**

Getting Started with Herb Gardening Saturday, April 2, 11 a.m.

Starting your own herb garden is a fun, fragrant and delicious way to learn about gardening. Even better, growing herbs is super easy and adds so much flavor to a variety of dishes and baked goods. You can also use them to brew your own tea. One of the best things about growing herbs is - they smell wonderful! In this program, we'll talk about everything you need to know to make your herb garden a success including what herbs to grow, buying plants vs. starting them from seed, where to locate your garden, how to care for your plants and harvesting your herbs. **MUST REGISTER**

Nursery Rhymes at Noon

Tuesdays, April 5, 12, 19, 26, 12 noon

Join us each week for stories, rhymes and activities as we add pages to our nursery rhyme book and make a related craft! This program is in person and virtual. **MUST REGISTER**

Zoom Virtual Storytime (Family) - For children 0-5 and their families

Tuesdays, April 5, 12, 19, 26, 6:30 p.m.

Join us for rhymes, songs, fingerplays and stories. A meeting link will be emailed to registered participants approximately one hour prior to the start of the program. Staff will be available for help with connecting to Zoom and technical issues beginning 15 minutes prior to the program. You will need a device with audio and/or video and an internet connection to join. If you have questions about registering for this program, please contact a librarian at the Bedford Branch at 440-439-4997. **MUST REGISTER**

Baby Club

Ages birth-35 months with parent/caregiver

Thursdays, April 7, 14, 21, 28, 10:30 a.m.

Join us for a five week club for caregivers and children ages birth to 35 months. Connect with your kids and other families and get answers about your growing child. Siblings welcome! **MUST REGISTER**

Teen Maker Meetup - Grades 6-12 Wednesday, April 13, 7 p.m.

Craft, code, or create with other teen makers! We will explore a different activity each month. **MUST REGISTER**

Chapter Book Champs - Grades 3-5 Monday, April 18, 6:30 p.m.

Join us for activities & a book discussion about "The Birchbark House" by Louise Erdrich. Registration will close one week before the program. If you would like to attend after registration closes, please call the Bedford branch at 440-439-4997. This event is virtual. **MUST REGISTER**

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Bedford Council authorizes

(Continued from Page 3)

Opioid settlement passed

Council passed two resolutions at the meeting, one regarding the disbursement of \$808 million in opioid litigation settlement proceeds from pharmaceutical companies to the state of Ohio, the other to establish the One Ohio Opioid Settlement Special Revenue Fund to accept the proceeds.

Both pieces of legislation followed council's approval late last year to accept the terms of the settlement with pharmaceutical companies for their role in the opioid crisis.

Finance Director Frank Gambosi said the \$808 million awarded to Ohio in the settlement would be distributed to municipalities throughout the state over the course of 18 years.

Other legislation

Council also passed an ordinance authorizing a contract to accept Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) 2022 Energized Community Grant funding, which, Mallis stated, could be used for energy related improvement projects in the city.

He said that over the years the grant money has brought the city anywhere from \$33,000 to \$39,000 annually," Mallis said, adding that NOPEC had expanded the program to include more potential improvement projects.

Also passed was an ordinance amending previous legislation to provide for continuing membership in the Ohio

Municipal League Joint Self Insurance Pool, and providing for payment in the amount of \$221,321.

Speeding concerns

Councilwoman Sandy Spinks expressed concern about continued problems of speeding in her ward and the possible consequences, citing a recent incident in which a car went out of control and into a Bedford automobile dealership, damaging several vehicles.

Several residents of Union Street also spoke at the meeting on their own speeding concerns in the wake of another recent accident in which an impaired motorist crashed his van into a house and narrowly missed the residents sleeping inside. "We could have been killed," one of the residents stated.

The residents asked if signage, more guardrails or reflective material on the existing guardrails could be placed in front of their property. Mayor Stan Koci promised the residents that he and other city officials would look into it.

Announcements

Koci said that residents of Ward 4 had until this Friday, April 8, to submit their letters of interest to the city for the position of council representative in that ward, after long-time Councilwoman Paula Mizesak passed away in February.

Koci congratulated Gambosi on receiving the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) award for excellence in financial reporting for the 34th time.

The annual Easter Egg Hunt for Bedford children only will be held by the Parks and Recreation Department on Saturday, April 9.

Call Crime Stoppers with anonymous tips

Crime Stoppers encourages members of the community to assist local law enforcement agencies in the fight against crime. It provides an anonymous telephone number, Text Tips and Web Tips to encourage citizens to volunteer vital information helpful to law enforcement agencies.

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Community police reports

GARFIELD HEIGHTS

Shots Fired

•On Saturday, March 5, at about 10:46 p.m., an officer was dispatched to the Transportation Blvd. bridge over I-480 for a motor vehicle accident and parties arguing. While en route, another caller advised dispatch the parties were now shooting. When the officer arrived there was no sign of vehicles involved in an accident, but shattered glass and six 9mm brass shell casings were found near the glass. Dispatch advised the officer that a witness believes the cars involved were a white Jeep and a gold Toyota Corolla, and one of the drivers was wearing a blue shirt. From the Transportation bridge the officer could see an incident occurring on the I-480 westbound lanes of the Valley View bridge. Valley View PD responded along with GHPD and GHFD. The bridge incident involved a silver Jeep Commander hitting the center barrier. While on scene assisting Valley View PD, the Garfield Hts. officer observed a fully loaded gun on the rear seat of the Jeep. The driver denied being involved in the initial accident on Transportation and the scene was turned over to Valley View PD. It was further learned that the gun found in the Jeep had different ammunition from the casings found on Transportation and appeared not to have been fired. The Jeep driver was turned over to Valley View PD for weapon charges and the accident investigation on the bridge. The Toyota Corolla was not located.

•On Sunday, March 6, shortly before midnight, police responded to the 12300 block of Havana Rd. for a report of shots fired. Upon arrival they met with two men in the driveway, the homeowner and his friend. They told police that about 10 minutes before they had heard shots fired outside the home. The shots came from the front of the house and when the men went out to check they observed a dark-colored SUV leave the apron of the driveway and head west on Havana. Officers toured the area but could not locate the vehicle. Police did find one spent shell casing on the sidewalk in front of the home.

Theft

•A report was completed for a man who said that between March 21 and March 22, someone stole the catalytic converter from his car while it was parked in the driveway of a home in the 10300 block of Plymouth Ave.

•A woman told police that on March 26, about 3:15 p.m., while shopping at Dave's Supermarket in Turneytown, someone stole her two-tone brown wallet from her shopping cart. She said she was notified the same day at 6:30 p.m., someone had attempted to use her debit card at the Walmart in Steelyard Commons. She said her wallet contained her driver's license, two credit cards and a debit card. She was advised to contact her bank.

Assist Other Departments

On March 28, at about 7:30 p.m., officers were dispatched to Marymount Hospital for a male that was dropped off with a gunshot wound. They saw a car parked in front of the emergency door of the hospital with two Cleveland Clinic police officers and the cousin of the victim standing outside the car. One of the people inside the car told police she believed that the victim was shot on Canal Rd. where they had picked him up. The victim told police he was driving on Warner Rd. with someone else

in the vehicle with him. As he approached Bancroft Ave. he noticed a red Volkswagen Golf following closely behind him. It appeared to be trying to pull up beside him or get around him. The Volkswagen then pulled up next to his door while driving and shot several rounds into his vehicle. He was struck twice, once in the left hip and once in the right forearm. He said he continued driving south on Warner Rd., made a left turn onto Canal Rd., then parked his car in the lot of A&H Towing, 5325 Canal Rd. Officers located the vehicle in the lot. The scene and both vehicles were turned over to CPD, in whose jurisdiction the shooting reportedly occurred.


Weapon Offense

On March 31, about 10:50 p.m., police responded to Bonkers Cafe, 5147 Turney Rd., for multiple reports of shots fired there. As officers approached the parking lot, they saw a parked car which appeared to be occupied and several shell casings around the rear of the car. Two men were inside the vehicle and police spoke first to the driver, who they observed had slurred speech and watery eyes and smelled of alcohol. As he got out of the car officers saw the handle of a black gun in plain view extending from the driver's right pants pocket. After police removed the gun from his pocket, the suspect was handcuffed and arrested without incident. While in the jail, the suspect was told of the results of the comparison between the spent casings and the live rounds in his firearm, which produced an identical match. He told police he was not shooting at a person or vehicle, only straight up in the air. He refused to submit a breath sample. The suspect was found to be a convicted felon of a prior felonious assault with a weapons specification. He was charged with having weapons under disability, carrying concealed weapons, using weapons while intoxicated, discharging a weapon within the city limits.

The passenger in the vehicle was detained briefly and found to have a warrant with Cuyahoga Heights. After a short interview with an officer, he was released and given a courtesy transport to his residence following Cuyahoga Heights advising on the warrant.

Menacing

On Saturday, April 2, shortly after 9 p.m., an officer was dispatched to Marco's Pizza, 4791 Turney Rd., for reports of a customer brandishing a handgun. The on-duty manager said a man had entered the pizza shop and identified himself to an employee as a Doordash driver who was picking up an order. A delivery driver for Marco's stepped in to assist as the man was giving the employee a hard time about showing his phone to confirm that he was picking up an order. The driver said the man was becoming increasingly irate when asked to produce his phone and began swearing at the driver. When asked to leave, the man revealed a handgun tucked in his waistband and told the driver to step outside so he could show him his phone. The driver went outside and went to turn off his vehicle. The suspect then pulled his vehicle up towards the other man and began waving his gun in the air inside his vehicle. He then left the area driving a black Chevrolet hatchback. The driver said he felt threatened by the behavior and he would like to pursue charges. Through Doordash, police were able to find out the suspect's name. The Detective Bureau will follow up.



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Cathleen Nagorski, Fiscal Officer
Village of Newburgh Heights

NN: 4-6-22, 4-13-22



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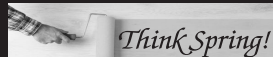
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Independence wrestler wins state championship

Independence fifth-grade student A.J. Bechlem claimed his first state wrestling championship recently during the Ohio Athletic Committee Grade School competition in Youngstown.

A.J. (short for Adam James) was among 1,300 youth wrestlers who competed in the two-day, state-wide event winning the 71-pound division.

In January, A.J. competed in the Tulsa Nationals championship and is currently ranked fifth in the nation in his weight class!

The 10-year-old has been wrestling since first grade. This year's first place win was his fourth trip to an O.A.C. state competition, previously placing 4th, 7th and 5th.

Parents Adam and Jessie Bechlem are proud and excited for their son. He will take part in the "Tournament of Champions" in West Virginia next month. This invitation-only tournament is the "next step" after state competitions.

(Taken from the Weekly Update email from Independence Mayor Gregory Kurtz.)



A.J. Bechlem

Program on 'Justice for Cubans' held at Bohemian Hall

The American Nationalities Movement sponsored a discussion on Cuba recently at the Bohemian National Hall in the North Broadway area of Slavic Village, and the quest of the Cuban people for freedom. The program, called "Justice for Cubans," was the first in a series of programs designed to highlight those seeking freedom within their countries.

The main speaker was local musician Justo Saborit, who was born in Cuba and emigrated to the United States with his family. They waited five years for the Cuban government to give him and his family final approval to allow them to emigrate to the United States.

Saborit told the audience that they have most necessities like bread, milk and medicine in Cuba, but demand exceeds supplies and lines are long. Yes, they have a fine medical system, he said, but it's mostly for the visitors and the elite in Cuba. The majority of the citizens must wait for medical service or medication. They have the expertise but supplies are limited. And on education, it's free for all up through college but somehow this does not integrate well with the economic system or else Cuba would be better off, he said. Their water and sewer systems are not up to par as well; don't drink the water applies.

The Cuban government blames their economic failures on the American embargoes, Saborit said. However, they are allowed to trade with many other countries for goods and services. So why is their economy so poor? It's their system, Communism, he said. Without an economic engine to produce goods and services there are never enough to fulfill the wants and needs of the people.



Shown here at Bohemian National Hall at a talk recently on Cuba are, from left: Marija Georgievski, director of the United Macedonian Diaspora National Advocacy; Justo Saborit, event speaker and local musician (www.lustosaborit.net); and Ralph Perk, president of the American Nationalities Movement, which sponsored the program.

One reason that the Cubans demonstrated for freedom recently, Saborit noted, despite extreme consequences for anyone who goes against government policies, is that many Cubans have nothing and, therefore, little to lose. They were hungry and hoped to get outside support. Which didn't come.

(Bohemian National Hall was provided to the Nationalities Movement as a public service as is its practice for local community organizations.)

Bunny Hop set for Fleet Ave.

The 2nd Annual Slavic Village Bunny Hop will be held on Sunday, April 10, from noon to 3 p.m., on Fleet Ave. from E. 50th to E. 63rd sts. Organizers need volunteers to help on the day of the event and also are asking for candy and/or monetary donations.

If anyone is interested in having a table at the Bunny Hop to hand out candy/surprises to the children, contact Odetta Fields: cell 440-975-6318, or email: odmother1@aol.com. Last year 350 children came with their parents to the first Bunny Hop and this year organizers are expecting that number to increase. The table spaces are free; you just have to provide your own table, chair and candy for the kids.

Last chance to send in Holy Week services

The Neighborhood News is continuing its long-standing custom of publishing Holy Week and Easter Services for all churches in its readership area free of charge in the April 13th issue.

All places of worship are asked to get their services schedule, which can include Holy Thursday through Easter Sunday, emailed to: nnews1923@aol.com by Friday, April 8th, at 5 p.m., for inclusion in our April 13th issue.

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