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99th YEAR NO. 21

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2022

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

FREE

SAYING IT WITH FLOWERS



Love was in the air Monday for Valentine's Day in Slavic Village as workers at Vic's Floral on Fleet Ave. filled orders on their busiest day of the year. Mail carrier Brooklyn, at left, stopped by to pick up a colorful Valentine gift for her little one at home. Of course she'll "deliver" it herself. Photos by Elena Psenicka

Trinity High announces appointment of new school president/principal

The Board of Trustees of Trinity High School announced last week that President Sister Shawn Lee and Principal Linda Bacho will retire effective June, 2022. These retirements prompted the Board to vote on a change in the administrative structure of Trinity High School and have announced that William Svoboda has been promoted to president/principal of Trinity High School effective June, 2022.

Svoboda is a 1981 graduate of Trinity, where he was accomplished in Trinity's religious formation and athletic programs. He will become Trinity's third president since Marymount High School transitioned from an all-girls school to co-ed in 1973, changing its name to Trinity.

After graduating from THS, Svoboda earned his BBA and educational degree from Cleveland State University, and then returned to his alma mater in 1985. He went on to earn his master's degree in Educational Administration and principal license from Ursuline College in 2007.

He has served in many roles at Trinity during his 37 years of service, including teacher, head basketball coach, IT director, campus minister, assistant principal, chief financial officer and director of Religious Formation. The Board endorsed Svoboda based on his wealth of experience and passion for Trinity High School.

Sister Shawn Lee is a 1962 graduate of Marymount High School, serving as a teacher and ultimately as president of her alma mater for more than a quarter century. Sister Shawn was instrumental in the inception of Trinity's unique internship program and the creation and growth of the school's biggest benefit, Out of the Blue.

Linda Bacho is a 1973 graduate of Marymount High School, the final graduating class of Marymount before the transition to Trinity. Under her direction, more than 95% of Trinity graduates have gone on to higher education.

Both Sister Shawn and Mrs. Bacho will remain as active members of Trinity's Board of Trustees. Svoboda also announced two new members of his administration, adding math teacher Mary Sorozak and guidance counselor Francine Wisinski to his team.



William Svoboda

Boys & Girls Clubs of NE Ohio issues statement on search for new jail site

(The following statement was received via email on Monday, Feb. 14, from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio following its news conference that afternoon).

"Cuyahoga County's misguided and secretive pursuit of a new jail site in the Slavic Village/North Broadway area is a flagrant slap in the face to all the young people who find hope and inspiration at our flagship Broadway Boys & Girls Club. It is also an affront to all the families and businesses in a neighborhood still reeling from the foreclosure crisis 15 years ago.

"Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio strongly opposes locating the new jail in this neighborhood and stands in unity with the nonprofit and city government entities fighting this proposal.

"Our kids deserve better. Our neighborhood deserves better.

"Slavic Village/North Broadway has done so much work to invest and create a pathway forward. Building a county jail at this site would set back the community in a significant way and undermine so much progress. It is beyond troubling that the county is seriously considering this site even though it has not sought input from the people who live and work in this neighborhood.

"The county had a moral obligation to engage the community in this decision. It failed to meet that obligation in spectacular fashion.

"The county should consider other locations in commercial and industrial districts, sites that do not impact a residential neighborhood. Some will argue that this project would create jobs. We believe what Slavic Village/North Broadway really needs is more impactful county, city and private investment, not a taxpayer-funded enticement to attract bail bondsmen and payday lenders.

"Cleveland ranks No. 1 in the country for child poverty. Don't allow the kids in one of the city's poorest neighborhoods to grow up in the shadow of a jail. By doing so, you would be sending a terrible message."

Garfield Hts. Council OKs purchase of 7 new police cars at meeting Monday

By Ellen Psenicka

Garfield Heights Council met in regular session Monday night and approved the purchase of up to seven police vehicles this year with a budget of up to \$350,000. The vehicles to be purchased will be limited to Ford Explorers and Chevrolet Tahoes.

Finance Director Barb Biro and Police Chief Mark Kaye both noted that supply chain issues are causing huge delays in getting new police vehicles and those ordered now will probably not be delivered until well into the end of this year.

Other legislation passed Monday night included the following:

Ordinances

- Entering into an agreement with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's 2021 Fire Prevention and Safety Grant to purchase an LED sign to be placed in front of Fire Station Two to communicate fire prevention and safety information to the residents.

- Participating in the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District programs to purchase or lease a 2023 Gapvax combination jet/vacuum machine and executing all paperwork that is required by NEORS in order to secure the funds requested.

- Accepting the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council Energized Community Grants for 2022. This year the city is eligible to receive \$54,198. The city currently has \$102,000 in funding escrowed with NOPEC.

Resolutions

- Opposing Ohio Senate Bill 215 and Ohio House Bill 227. Ohio Senate Bill 215 and Ohio House Bill 227 are two pieces of legislation currently in the Ohio State Legislature

(Continued on Page 2)

Greater Cleveland Food Bank

City of Maple Heights, Ohio
Human Services

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The City of Maple Heights will have a
Mobile Food Pantry on Thursday, February 17, 2022
at St. Andrew Eastern Orthodox Church
16029 Maple Park Drive, Maple Heights, Ohio 44137
from 9:30 - 11:30 AM

We will continue to provide a drive-thru service to comply with COVID-19 social distancing guidelines. Please be sure to remain in your cars and wear a mask!

Garfield Hts. Council OKs

(Continued from Page 1)

awaiting the signature of Governor Mike DeWine. The legislation would allow Ohioans aged 21-and-up to carry concealed weapons without undergoing any background check or firearms training and would also remove Ohio's duty under current law to "promptly" notify police during a traffic stop if the person stopped is carrying a weapon.

- Honoring the memory of Lawrence K. Collier, civic leader and children's advocate and father of Ward 1

Councilwoman Stacey Collier, and extending sincere condolences to his family.

- Applying for the 2022 Community Recycling Awareness Grant. The grant was created by the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District to help communities educate residents about recycling and create more awareness regarding proper disposal.
- Appointing for 2022 all nine members of the Garfield Heights Charter Review Committee: Alan Yax, Mary Carter, Joseph LaMalfa, Michael Nenadovich, Wendy Williams, Kathryn Dent Price, Debbie Ballachino, Barbie West, William Douglas.

In his report to council Mayor Matt Burke announced his Zoom Coffee with the Mayor will resume this Saturday, Feb. 19, at 10 a.m. Meetings will be held bi-weekly. See the GarfieldHts.org website for all scheduled meetings.

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Laws in Garfield Heights

758.03 REGULATIONS AS TO THE PROCEDURE OF SNOW REMOVAL

(a) Any contractor, as defined in Section 758.01(b)(1), who removes snow from any driveway, parking lot or sidewalk, either public or private, shall dispose of such snow on the lot or parcel from which the same is being removed, or upon the tree lawn immediately in front of such parcel or parcels.

(b) Snow removal equipment shall be equipped with such safety devices as is provided by the laws of Ohio.

(c) No provision herein shall be interpreted to require that the owner or immediate family member of a single or two-family dwelling be registered to remove snow from the premises of the single or two-family dwelling which that person owns, or is a member of the immediate family therein.

(d) No snow pile shall be allowed by a snow removal contractor or the like, to exceed three feet high within fifteen feet of any commercial, industrial or public ingress or egress along the main roads of Turney, Rockside, Granger, McCracken, Warner or Garfield Boulevard.

(Ord. 76-2010. Passed 11-22-2010.)

the custom. The first order of business is the Mayor's Letter of Transmittal, with a question and answer period after with Mayor Justin Bibb.

During the hearings, which could take up to two weeks or longer, council members will hear from every city department and division. Council has the power to make changes large and small to the spending plan.

By law council must approve the budget—including any changes—in March so that it is finalized as required under state law by April 1. Passage of the budget requires three readings but cannot be changed after the second reading. The budget must "sit" or "layover" for seven days after publication in the City Record.

Cleveland City Council to begin budget hearings

Cleveland City Council held its regular meeting Monday night, both in person in Council Chambers and through live streaming. The agenda was light, as Council President Blaine A. Griffin had indicated it would be until after the budget hearings are over. Cleveland City Hall is closed Feb. 21 for the President's Day holiday. The next council meeting is Feb. 28.

Council hearings on the proposed annual budget will begin Feb. 22, the day after Presidents' Day as has been

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Phone: 216-365-2842

Please bring your photo ID and proof of residency. Please note that the Maple Heights Food Pantry serves Maple Heights residents only. July is the month to re-verify eligibility. We are a choice food pantry. Come shop for your favorite nutritious foods.

Maple Heights Residents are able to come to the Food Pantry twice a month or every 15 days.
Six (6) days worth of food will be provided for each family member at each visit.
"This will be significant in our efforts to alleviate food insecurity in our community."
Anjenette Whitted, Maple Heights Food Pantry Coordinator.

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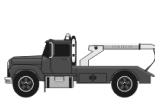
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PLACING A DISPLAY ADVERTISEMENT:

Call The Neighborhood News at (216) 441-2141 to place your ad. Our office is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Ad information can also be E-mailed to: nnews1923@aol.com.

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Advertisers should check the first insertion of their ad. The Neighborhood News cannot be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion. Upon noting an error, the advertiser should call the Advertising Department at (216) 441-2141. Adjustments are made to the degree the error reduced the value of the ad. Publisher shall not be liable for any costs or damages if for any reason it fails to publish an advertisement.

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Bedford (Bedford Heights/Oakwood Village) Branch Library

Here are some more of the **FREE** programs for February 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**

Puppet-Building Workshop with Ohio Arts Council (8-wk. series) -grades 3-5
Wednesday, Feb. 16, 23, 4 p.m.

Eight students in grades 3-5 and eight adults 55+ will experience intergenerational puppet building and puppet show creation with Ohio Arts Council roster artist

Sheela Das. All participants receive supplies to build colorful puppets and create a stage for the show. Each week participants will learn new skills in the arts. Final performances take place in person (or via video) during the last class. **MUST REGISTER**

Nursery Rhymes at Noon
Thursday, Feb. 17, 24, 12 p.m.

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 virtual. **MUST REGISTER**

Relaxing with Aromatherapy
Saturday, Feb. 19, 11 a.m.

Aromatherapy can be a natural remedy for stress. Learn the basics of essential oils and simple ways to incorporate aromatherapy into your day. We will make some aromatherapy play dough to take home. **MUST REGISTER**

Picture Book Palooza (grades pre-K-3)
Saturday, Feb. 19, 2 p.m.

Reading books from some of your favorite authors on specific themes and creating crafts... what could be more fun? This event will be held virtually on Zoom. **MUST REGISTER**

Chapter Book Champs (grades 3-5)
Monday, Feb. 21, 6:30 p.m.

Whether you finished the book or not, join us for activities and a book discussion about: "The Seventh Most Important Thing" by Shelley Pearsall. Registration will close one week before the program. If you'd like to attend after registration closes, please call the Bedford branch at 440-439-4997. This event is virtual. **MUST REGISTER**

Winter weather intensifies Red Cross blood crisis

As severe winter storms continue to move through the country, the American Red Cross asks members of the community to schedule the earliest-available blood or platelet donation appointments in their area.

Dangerous snow and ice conditions have contributed to about 600 blood drive cancellations since the beginning of the year, resulting in nearly 17,500 uncollected blood and platelet donations. In the Northern Ohio Region, 33 blood drives have been canceled, resulting in nearly 1,150 donations uncollected due to recent storms.

Since the Red Cross issued its first-ever blood crisis in January, thousands of generous donors have come forward to give, but patient care remains at risk

More donors are needed to make appointments now for the weeks ahead to help ensure accident victims, cancer patients and new mothers experiencing complicated childbirths have access to lifesaving blood product transfusions without delay. Make an appointment to give blood or platelets by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-REDCROSS (1-800-733-2767).

All who come to give blood or platelets Feb. 1-28, 2022, will receive a \$10 Amazon.com Gift Card by email, thanks to Amazon (terms apply).

BLOOD DONOR OPPORTUNITIES

Garfield Heights

2/22/2022: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Marymount Hospital, 12300 McCracken Road

Independence

2/28/2022: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m., Independence Community Center, 6363 Selig Drive

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

Open Interview Day



Thursday, February 24th

10:00am-4:00pm

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Community police reports

CLEVELAND

(All information is preliminary and subject to change.)

Fatal Overdose

On Sunday, Feb. 6, at 2:07 p.m., a 33-year-old female was the victim of a fatal overdose in the 3400 block of Kimmel Rd.

GARFIELD HEIGHTS

Theft

Police spoke by phone with a teacher from Maple Leaf School, 5764 Turney Rd., regarding a theft report. She said her debit and credit cards and driver's license were stolen from her wallet sometime between Feb. 7 and Feb. 10, while she was out of the classroom. School security is reviewing video from the building to see who may have entered her classroom and taken the cards.

Telecommunication Harassment

On Feb. 8, an officer went to the police station and spoke to a complainant over the phone. He said he met a man on an online dating service this past December. The man has called him everyday since and complainant stopped taking his calls about two weeks ago. Complainant told the officer the man was more interested in a romantic relationship than he was. The man threatened to have someone come over and break out all the windows to his home and beat up his roommate and himself and that he will call their employers to get them fired by telling the employers the two smoke crack. Complainant advised to contact the prosecutor's office.

Theft of a Motor Vehicle

On Feb. 9, at about 7:42 p.m., police responded for a stolen vehicle report. The owner of a 2010 Lexus RX 350

said she parked her car in front of a storefront in the 4700 block of Turney Rd., unlocked with motor running. She said she could see a black male wearing a black hoodie inside the car when it was driven away northbound on Turney Rd. The only thing of value in the car was her Iphone 11. She was not able to track her phone on scene. The report will be forwarded to the Detective Bureau for further investigation.

On Feb. 13, at 9:38 a.m., an officer was dispatched to the 8400 block of Grand Division for the theft of a 2017 black Kia Sorento SW. The vehicle's owner said he left the car running in the driveway with the keys in the ignition when he saw his Kia pull away headed eastbound on Grand Division. Entered into LEADS as stolen.

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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.

She is in the Ohio Army National Guard and is the first African American female to reach the rank of Colonel. She celebrates 30 years of service this year.

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Legal Aid offers free legal help with tax problems

By Tonya Sams

Tax season is once again here and there are many community organizations helping Northeast Ohio residents with tax preparation.

The pandemic has affected how and when we file taxes, as well as what we file. One of the most recent federal tax policy changes is the Child Tax Credit. The Child Tax Credit gives up to \$3,000 for each dependent child under the age of 17 and \$3,600 if under the age of 6. Through this program, taxpayers may also qualify for a refund if the unused tax credit is larger than the total amount of their tax bill.

If you have questions, you definitely need to reach out for help. You can call 2-1-1 to find free tax prep help near you or visit www.lasclev.org/taxhelp for a list of organizations that help you file taxes for free.

In addition to great community resources that help you file taxes, Legal Aid is here to help with legal problems related to taxes. Legal Aid has a tax practice that works closely with community organizations not just during tax season, but throughout the year. Legal Aid's Low Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) is a free legal service that helps to

resolve taxpayer disputes with the IRS regarding federal income tax matters.

Legal Aid helps people resolve legal issues related to tax issues. For example, Legal Aid attorneys can help people negotiate with the IRS to settle a debt for less than the full amount owed, or lower/eliminate taxable income from debts that were forgiven from banks and credit card companies.

Legal Aid also helps:

- Prevent the IRS from taking property, wages, and social security benefits;
- Solve identity theft problems;
- Correct tax preparer fraud;
- Help H-2A workers file taxes (an important step towards gaining citizenship);

- Help people obtain income tax records;
- Protect against spousal abuses in connection with tax returns;
- Advise taxpayers on their rights and obligations regarding the health care marketplace, and more.

You can learn more about the Legal Aid tax practice at www.lasclev.org/get-help/work/tax-problems. If you run into a legal issue with your taxes, Legal Aid is here to help. Call Legal Aid at 216-687-1900 or apply for help online 24/7 at www.lasclev.org.

Tonya Sams is the Development and Communications Assistant at The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland.

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Saturday, Feb. 19,
10am-Noon, Inside

The Rock Community Church, (9403 Garfield Blvd.), will have a food pantry distribution for **Garfield Hts. residents only (income limits apply)** on **Saturday, February 19, 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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