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99th YEAR NO. 15

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2022

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

FREE

Garfield Hts. girl missing Maple Hts. Council OKs pay hikes for members, council president; haven't seen raises since 2012

Garfield Heights police need help locating 13-year-old Asia Henderson, missing since Dec. 3, 2021. Asia is a black female, approximately 5'4" inches tall, 160 lbs., with black hair and brown eyes.



She is an 8th grader at Miles Park Elementary School and was last seen at home before deciding to sleep over at a friend's. Asia never made it to her friend's house. However, her family has received several text messages from Asia stating that she is okay.

Asia has a dark birth mark on the right side of her face and was said to be headed toward the Akron area. If anyone has information regarding her whereabouts, please contact the Garfield Heights Juvenile Detective Bureau at 216-475-5840.

By Judith Goldsworth

Maple Heights Council approved an ordinance to raise its own salaries and that of the council president at its last meeting of 2021, held Monday, Dec. 20.

As of Jan. 1, 2022, the salary of council president will be \$18,750 annually, and that of council members will be \$15,000 annually, per the legislation approved by council.

According to the city's codified ordinances, the last time the council president's annual salary was raised and that of council was in June 2012, when they were set at \$15,000 and \$12,000, respectively.

The legislation passed follows a charter amendment that was approved by voters in the November 2, 2021 election, which removed the requirements that "salaries of all elected officials be fixed at least 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," leading the way for the salary increases.

Law Director Frank Consolo noted that terms of council members in Maple Heights are staggered, explaining that representatives of the city's seven council districts are not elected to their positions all at the same time.

Also included in the legislation was a provision to compensate the council president and all council members for cell phone expenses "as they use their personal cell phones to conduct city business ... they should be entitled to receive a monthly cell phone expense allowance of \$30."

Salary increased for safety director

Also at last month's meeting, council passed an ordinance to increase the salary of the Safety Director for 2022 and 2023. Per the city's Charter, Mayor Annette Blackwell is also the city's safety director and is paid a separate salary for that position.

The ordinance also amended and restated increases in salaries and wages for non-bargaining city employees by 2% for 2022 and 2023, and provided for a high deductible health insurance plan with a Healthcare Savings Account (HSA) for non-bargaining city employees, also beginning in 2022 and 2023.

Council had passed legislation at its Dec. 1 meeting authorizing the pay schedule for all full time and part time non-bargaining unit employees for 2022 and 2023, and providing a health insurance plan and HSA, and establishing contribution amounts to the HSA.

The Finance Committee has since recommended that the pay schedule be amended to set the salary for the safety director at \$18,750 for 2022, and \$19,125 for 2023, repealing the previous ordinance passed Dec. 1. The previous ordinance had set the safety director's salary at \$15,300 for 2022 and \$15,606 for 2023; council's approval of the new legislation on Dec. 20 will supersede the ordinance passed on Dec. 1, and will establish the new increases.

Also approved was an ordinance amending the codified

ordinances requiring council approval for expenditures over \$25,000. This was increased from the previous amount of \$3,500, according to the legislation.

Finance Director Tinita Tillman had requested that the Finance Committee consider increasing the expenditure amount "so as not to delay the city paying its daily expenses."



Sr. Marie Veres passes away; Vesper Service set

SISTER MARIE VERES, H.M., 83, formerly Sr. M. Mercedes, died Thursday, Dec. 23, 2021 at Villa Maria Community Center, Villa Maria, PA. A 1956 graduate of Buckeye High School, Medina, she entered the Sisters of the Humility of Mary Congregation in 1958 from St. Francis Xavier Parish, Medina. She made her perpetual vows in 1965.



Gentleness and kindness personified Sister Marie, who ministered in various schools for 48 years as a teacher and principal. She taught at St. Philip Neri, Cleveland; St. James, Lakewood; and St. Christopher, Rocky River.

Sr. Marie had a special place in her heart for educating children, especially the poor. In 1995, after a year of research and study, Sr. Marie and Sr. Ann Solma established Villa Montessori Center in the Slavic Village neighborhood of Cleveland where she served as a teacher, principal and president for 20 years. She continued advocating for early childhood education through the P-16 Education Collaborative in Slavic Village from 2015-17. In 2017 she retired to Villa Maria Community Center where she joined her sisters in the Ministry of Prayer until her death.

The daughter of the late John J. and Theresa (Sikorsky) Veres, she is survived by her sisters Loretta Veres Alden, Joan Francis and Donna Frank; brothers Frank, John and Donald Veres; her nieces and nephews and their families along with her sisters in the Humility of Mary.

(Continued on Page 4)

Neighborhood News online

Neighborhood News readers can now 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.

Brancatelli opposes sale of Raus Park; sponsors bill to keep it greenspace

Ward 12 Cleveland Councilman Tony Brancatelli, in one of his final acts before his term ended at midnight on Dec. 31, 2021, sponsored a resolution opposing the sale by the city of Raus Park. The park is owned by the city of Cleveland and located in the Village of Newburgh Heights at the terminus of Brow Ave., north of E. 52 St. and east of I-77.

Several years ago Newburgh Heights proposed acquiring the park, established in 1920, to develop housing. Brancatelli's legislation opposing the park's sale is scheduled to be introduced at council's first formal session of the new year.

"Slavic Village residents, since 1894, have worked to have parks in the neighborhood," said Councilman Brancatelli. "They formed a South Side Citizens committee specifically for this reason."

Emil and Katherine Raus sold the land to Cleveland in 1920 for its preservation as park land. They had fought American Steel and Wire, filing a lawsuit in 1909, because its "slag crusher" was creating dust, gasses and destroying this property.

Raus Park has a long history, with neighborhood sled riding to Bohemian Athletic Sokol Club, and hosting annual exhibitions. In 1947, the city improved the park to create baseball and play fields. Until it closed, South High School used the park for baseball and football.

"I do not support the sale of Raus Park," Brancatelli said, "depriving our kids the use of greenspace. I welcome the opportunity to bring back our Little League and also work with the boys and girls from local schools to utilize the ballfield for organized sports."

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

Garfield Heights officer shoots suspect following police chase into Cleveland

Garfield Heights police received several calls of shots fired about 11:39 p.m. on Dec. 21, at the Valley Lane Apartments near Rockside and Turney rds. Callers said that a blue SUV was fleeing and that someone in a red SUV may be injured, according to a media release from GHPD.

Garfield Heights officers observed the blue SUV fleeing at a high rate of speed, at which point they attempted to pull the vehicle over, but it continued to flee. Police pursued the vehicle and it ultimately stopped at the train tracks at E. 88 St. and Aetna Rd. in Cleveland. The driver exited the vehicle brandishing a handgun and attempted to flee.

A Garfield Heights officer fired his weapon and a passenger in the SUV, a 20-year-old female, was struck once and taken to University Hospitals by EMS with non-life-threatening injuries. The driver got away.

Per policy, the officer was placed on paid administrative leave. The Cleveland Police Department is conducting the investigation with the full cooperation of the GHPD.

Community police reports

Cleveland

(All information is preliminary and subject to change.)

Shootings

• On Dec. 31, at 7:09 p.m., in the 7500 block of Aetna Rd., a 31-year-old male was the victim of a gunshot wound to the knee. EMS transported him to MetroHealth Medical Center.

• On Jan. 1, at 3:44 a.m., on Jones Rd., a 35-year-old man was the victim of a gunshot wound to the shoulder. EMS transported him to Metro.

COMMUNITY MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT
All Are Welcome


Plans are being made to improve the parking lot, landscaping, fencing, and adjoining grass area at Sokol Greater Cleveland, and we want to share our plans with the community!

Presentation ■ Questions ■ Answers

Where: Sokol Greater Cleveland/Bohemian National Hall, 4939 Broadway Ave., Cleveland
-in the 2nd floor ballroom-

When: 7pm on Tuesday, January 11, 2022


Free on-site parking
Following COVID protocols, masks strongly encouraged



We welcome you as an active part of Slavic Village!

Distribution: Sokol Newsletter, Slavic Village Voice, Southeast Neighborhood News, and websites: SGC/SVD and area nonprofits


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from the
City of Maple Heights

Mayor Annette M. Blackwell

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LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS
2022 PUBLIC MEETINGS SCHEDULE

In accordance with Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code, and Chapter 208 of the Administrative Code of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Maple Heights, Notice is hereby given for the **2022 Public Meetings Schedule for the City of Maple Heights, Ohio.**

The Council of the City of Maple Heights, Ohio shall meet on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 7:00 pm (with Caucus Meeting starting at 6:30 pm) at the Maple Heights Senior Center located at 15901 Libby Road, Maple Heights, Ohio. Council may amend their regular meeting schedule during the summer months. A regular meeting that falls on a holiday shall be held on the day following the legal holiday. The Mayor, President of Council or any three (3) members of Council may call a Special Meeting of Council upon written notice served at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the time fixed for such meeting, except in the case of a public emergency. Any such request for a Special Meeting shall state the specific subject(s) to be considered at the meeting and no other subject(s) shall be discussed. Nothing in this section shall prohibit, limit or restrict the right of Council or any of the other public bodies to cancel or reschedule any scheduled meeting or to adopt, in accordance with law, a different schedule of meetings at any time during the remainder of the year.

The Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Maple Heights, Ohio shall meet on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 pm (with Caucus Meeting at 6:00 pm) in the Maple Heights City Hall Council Chambers, Second Floor, 5353 Lee Road, Maple Heights, Ohio. If the need arises, the Building Commissioner may call a second meeting during the month on the fourth Monday of the month with proper notice. Please call the Clerk's Office at least one week before the meeting at 216-587-9000 to arrange for handicap assistance if needed.

Leonette Cicirella Johnson
Clerk of Council
City of Maple Heights

The Neighborhood News
January 5, 2022

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2022

From the



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newburgh-oh.gov
Mayor Trevor Elkins

LIBRARIES PLAN SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Garfield Heights Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library

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

ADULT PROGRAMS

Gratitude Journaling Learn the process of making a gratitude journal with Lauren Burnett, from the Center for Inner Quality. Virtual program. Wednesday, Jan. 5, 6:30-8 p.m. Registration required.

Virtual Innovation Center Orientation Adults 18 years and older can participate in an orientation over Zoom. After this orientation, participants are able to use Innovation Center spaces. Virtual program. Saturday, Jan. 15, 10-11 a.m. Registration required.

A Conversation with Neil J. Smith Join us for a virtual conversation with author Neil J. Smith about his book "On The Ropes." Virtual program. Wednesday, Feb. 16, 7-8 p.m. Registration required.

African Masks Learn about African artists' use of symbols in mask-making, how they are used in ceremonies and more. Virtual program. Thursday, Feb. 24, 7-8 p.m. Registration required.

CHILDREN and FAMILIES

Virtual Family Storytime All ages are welcome to join us for stories, songs and fingerplays. Virtual program. Mondays, Jan. 3-Jan. 31, 6:45-7:30 p.m. Registration required.

Virtual Preschool Storytime Preschool-aged children and caregivers are welcome to join for rhymes, songs, fingerplays and stories. Virtual program. Tuesdays, Jan.

(Continued on Page 7)

Best Wishes for a Happy, Healthy... **2022!**



Cuyahoga Heights Mayor Jack M. Bacci & Family

May God richly Bless You throughout 2022 and always.



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SLAVIC VILLAGE

Happy New Year!!

from

Slavic Village Development Board and Staff

Chris Alvarado	Executive Director
Greg Knapp	Board President
Tim Verba	Vice President
Kate Vinciguerra	Treasurer
Jamie Pawlak	Secretary

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Sr. Marie Veres passes

(Continued from Page 1)

"The neighborhood lost another great," said Sr. Ann Solma. "Hopefully our HM Spirit and mission of bringing about more abundant life for God's people will live on through the lives of all children and families served through Villa Montessori Center under Sr. Marie's leadership."

Due to COVID considerations, a Memorial Mass will be scheduled at a later date. A Vesper Service and sharing of memories will take place via Zoom on Wednesday, Jan. 5, at 7 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88430004011>

Meeting ID: 884 3000 4011

Passcode: email request for a passcode to info@humilityofmary.org

By phone: +1 646 876 9923

Meeting ID: 884 3000 4011

Memorial contributions may be made to the Sisters of the Humility of Mary, Development Office, PO Box 534, Villa Maria, PA 16155. See www.humilityofmary.org. Arrangements by McCauley Funeral Home of Youngstown.

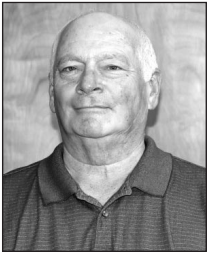
In-person business at Civic Center in Garfield suspended

As a result of the current COVID situation, the city of Garfield Heights is experiencing staffing issues and has been forced to close the Civic Center to all in-person business transactions, Mayor Matt Burke said Monday.

He said all in-person transactions will be done through the drop box provided at the rear entrance of the building as was done when it was initially shut down for the pandemic. All meetings, with the exception of City Council, Planning and Zoning meetings, will be conducted virtually.

Happy New Year!

May health and happiness follow you throughout the coming year!



CHARLES DONAHUE & FAMILY
Garfield Heights Councilman, Ward 2 • 216-501-7665

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Council President and Councilman Ward 7
City of Garfield Heights

Tom Vaughn and wife, Barb

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Garfield Heights
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Rev. Daniel Drew, Pastor

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12210 Miles Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44105
Services 11:30 am Sundays
Rev. Robinson Crenshaw, Pastor

Start 2022 with a visit to our church and St. Joseph

Msgr. Richard Antall Holy Name Church
216-271-4242 ~ 8328 Broadway Ave. Cleveland, Ohio 44105

Jones Road Church
8000 Jones Rd., Cleveland, 44105
(216) 883-8572
Sunday Service: 11:00 a.m.
Jeff Bodziony, Pastor

The Lutheran Church of the Covenant
19000 Libby Rd., Maple Heights, Ohio
(216) 662-0370

Mt. Calvary Baptist Church
271 Center Road, Bedford, OH 44146
Pastor Stephen Owens
Sunday Worship: 10 AM
Phone: 440-232-6702
www.MtCalvaryofBedford.org

St. Monica Church
13623 Rockside Road Garfield Heights 216-662-8685
Pastor: Rev. Thomas Haren
Parish Mass is now being Live Streamed at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday morning

St. John Lutheran Church
(216) 587-4222
11333 Granger Road Garfield Heights, Ohio 44125
Worship Sundays at 9AM In Church and Online
stjohnlutherangarfieldhts.com

New Year's GREETINGS

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THE NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS ADVERTISING POLICY

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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.

Advertising deadline is 5:00 p.m. Mondays. Advertising Display rate is \$10.00 per column inch (minimum \$40).

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2022
happy new year



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LIBRARIES PLAN SPECIAL PROGRAMS

(Continued from Page 3)

4-Feb. 1, 10-10:30 a.m. Registration required.

Virtual Baby and Toddler Storytime Children, ages birth-35 months, with a caregiver are welcome to join us for rhymes, songs, fingerplays and books. Virtual program. Thursdays, Jan. 6-Feb. 3, 10-10:30 a.m. Registration required.

K Ready on Zoom Preschool-aged children are welcome to join for fun activities to build kindergarten readiness skills. Virtual program. Wednesday, Feb. 2, 6:45-7:30 p.m.

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

Here are more of the **FREE** programs for January 2022 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.

Kids Café -18 & younger

Monday-Friday, 3 p.m. - 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**

Tunes 'n' Tots Virtual Playgroup -For children 0-5 with caregiver

Thursday, Jan. 6, 10:30 a.m.

Join us for a music-themed virtual play group! Learn new songs and movements, connect with other parents and caregivers, and give your children the opportunity to have fun in a safe, virtual setting! 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**

Nursery Rhymes at Noon

Thursday, Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27, 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. In-person and virtual. **MUST REGISTER**



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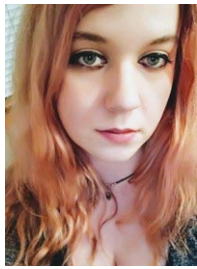
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Death Notices



AUTUMN MARIE PARKS, age 33, of Garfield Heights, passed away Dec. 11, 2021, the day before her 34th birthday. Loving mother of Michael Kingsmill. Beloved daughter of Tammy Parks (DeSalvo) and the late William Parks, Sr. Dearest sister of Kara Parks, Isabella Parks, Haylee Parks, William Parks, Jr. and James "JT" Parks. Beloved granddaughter of James and Rebecca Parks, Robert DeSalvo, Sr. and Shirley Oravetz. Dearest niece and cousin to many.

Family and friends are welcome on Saturday, Jan. 8, 2022, from 2-4 p.m., at the BICAN BROS. FUNERAL HOME, 5215 Fleet Ave., where memorial services will be held at 3:30 p.m.

Maple Hts. City Schools back to virtual classes; swearing-in ceremonies for city council postponed

Due to the rise in positive COVID-19 cases, Maple Heights City Schools have returned to virtual classes for this first week of January 2022.

And with an abundance of caution and concern for residents and fellow councilpersons, city leaders have determined that the council meeting scheduled to take place at Maple Heights High School with the swearing-in ceremony and refreshments served afterward has

been cancelled. Council members will be sworn-in on their normal meeting night, Jan. 5, at the normal meeting location, Maple Heights Senior Center, at 7 p.m. No legislation or other items will be on the agenda

and no refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the meeting.

Specific COVID restrictions including masks to be worn by all individuals (even those who have been fully

vaccinated) and social distancing will be followed.

The Neighborhood News

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FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION, (Garfield Hts. Only)

Saturday, Jan. 15, 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, January 15, 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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