

# The Neighborhood News

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CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS, INDEPENDENCE, VALLEY VIEW, MAPLE HEIGHTS AND BEDFORD

99th YEAR NO. 17

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2022

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

FREE

## Indy officers go 'Above and Beyond' Two die in 4-car crash in Garfield Hts.

Three Independence Police officers are being recognized for their efforts to serve and protect citizens following the first significant snowfall of 2022 for Northeast Ohio.

On Monday during the storm an 81-year-old resident of Butternut Ridge Drive was concerned that he would become trapped inside his home due to the two-foot piles of snow and ice that were blocking his driveway. He dialed the Independence Police non-emergency police number with no one else to call and asked for help.

Patrol Officers Mario Mileti and Andrew Neuman responded to the call and shoveled the apron of the residence on Butternut Ridge Dr.

"I am proud that these officers did not hesitate to take action to make sure the resident was safe and had access to the outside world," said Police Chief Robert Butler.

After working all day Monday, Parma resident Cynthia Kucera found herself stranded on top of a plowed pile of snow at an RTA bus stop near 6801 Brecksville Road. She had taken a bus to work but was unaware that RTA had suspended service midday.

Kucera flagged Sergeant Brad Borowy to ask if he would check to find out if RTA was running buses. She wrote to Chief Butler, "I would have probably gone back to the office to stay the night, leaving my kitty at home hungry and worried sick."

Kucera asked if Sgt. Borowy could take her downtown to pick up another RTA bus. Instead, Borowy told Kucera he would take her safely home.

As Kucera wrote in her letter of commendation for Sgt. Borowy, "There was nothing for him to gain in this extraordinary act of compassion and courtesy."

"I salute these Independence Police officers who went above and beyond to help citizens needing assistance during a potentially life-threatening emergency," said Mayor Gregory Kurtz. "Our City is blessed to have a dedicated, high-caliber team of law enforcement professionals."



**Independence Police officers Mario Mileti, forefront, and Andrew Neuman shoveled out the apron of an elderly Butternut Ridge Dr. resident during Monday's snow storm.**

A male and female both perished in a multiple vehicle crash on Friday, Jan. 7, on Turney Rd. in Garfield Heights near Wallingford Ave., shortly before 11 a.m.

According to police reports, Lydda Ann Thornton, 59, and James D. Meadows, 53, died as the result of a 4-car accident at the intersection.

Officers found Meadows behind the wheel of one of the cars without a seatbelt on and with no signs of life. He was pronounced deceased at 10:53 a.m. after the Garfield Heights squad had attempted lifesaving measures.

Police found Thornton, the driver of one of the other cars involved in the crash, barely breathing. She was wearing a seatbelt but the impact from the crash caused significant injuries to her head area. She was taken to Marymount Hospital and was later pronounced deceased at 11:21 a.m.

While responding to the accident, police were notified by dispatch that a black male wearing a gray hooded sweatshirt was walking away from the scene southbound on Turney Rd. Police located the male on Turney Rd. near Penfield Rd. Officers said he had operated one of the vehicles involved in the crash and was found to be intoxicated. He was placed under arrest for OVI.

SEALE Accident Investigation Unit is handling the crash investigation. Video surveillance of the accident was uploaded to the police report.



**Interstate was dispatched to tow away vehicles from the crash site on Turney Rd. at Wallingford where two fatalities were reported recently in Garfield Heights.**

Photo by Amy Veres

## C.H. Council approves hiring of officials

The Village of Cuyahoga Heights Council met in regular session on January 12th and okayed the hiring and/or appointment of the following village officials:

Todd Sciano as village engineer for 2022 and 2023, Dean Depiero as village magistrate for the mayor's court for 2022; the appointment of Ben Chojnacki as law director for 2022-2023; Greg Gentile as prosecutor for 2022-2023; Norm Casini as building commissioner and architect for 2022 and 2023.

In other council business, a Village Scholarship was approved for graduating high school seniors residing in Cuyahoga Heights.

Ordinances and resolutions passed included entering into a purchase agreement with Fire Force, Inc./

Eagle Emergency for a washer extractor costing \$7,255; establishing the new powers and duties of the village clerk; providing that 5% of the monthly net income tax funds collected by the village are deposited into the Capital Project Fund; setting compensation schedule ranges for village employees.



**Shown above is Cuyahoga Heights Mayor Jack Bacci being sworn into office for another term at the Jan. 12 village council meeting by CFO Angel Meriwether.**

## CLE Public Library open to visitors again

All Cleveland Public Library locations are now open to the public again from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. with capacity limits. Visitors are required to wear masks and follow social distancing guidelines regardless of vaccination status.

The library has also resumed the following services:

- Meeting room reservations for small groups
- Passport services, tours and wedding photography
- Payphones, charging stations and water fountains are available

Virtual events and programs continue while in-person programming will resume on March 7. Curbside and walk-up services are still being provided. Patrons can call their neighborhood branch or visit [cpl.org](http://cpl.org) to reserve their next book or movie at all locations.

# Valley View welcomes two new police officers

Two full time police officers, John Letner and Ryan Passanisi, were sworn in at the regular January 4th meeting of the Valley View Village Council.

A number of resolutions were passed authorizing repayment of an advance of funds from the Capital Projects Fund to the General Fund, all on an emergency basis.

Also passed was the following legislation:

- Repayment of an advance of funds from the Special Assessment Bond Retirement Fund to the General Fund;
- Entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health to provide Phase II stormwater services for 2022-2025.

## Miscellaneous

Mayor Jerry Piasecki asked for nominations for council president pro-tem for 2022. Councilman Westfall was nominated and approved for the position by council.

The mayor then asked for nominations for council representative to the Planning Board for 2022. Councilman Wyatt was nominated and approved for the position by council.

Mayor Piasecki announced the reappointment of Nita Justice and the appointment of Don Paulson to the Recreation Board for two-year terms.

Also announced by the mayor was the appointment of David Birth, Joni Piasecki, Frank Gosselin, Melissa Ratkosky and Renee Rosenlieb to the Valley View Historical Society Advisory Board for four-year terms, and the reappointment of Alan Sprague, Joe White, Tony Fini and Mike Bertovich to the Planning Board for one-year terms.

Council authorized a Finance Committee motion to hire Adelmo's Electric Sewer Cleaning to do a sanitary sewer video inspection for the pavilion and restroom at Pavilion A in Valley View Woods at a cost not to exceed \$5,000, and approved a change order for the FEMA FMA 2017 program for the home at 11350 Tinkers Creed Rd.

Approval was also given to purchase new volleyball poles for the community center from Adler Team Sports, at a cost not to exceed \$3,070.

# Call Crime Stoppers with anonymous tips

Crime Stoppers encourages members of the community to assist local law enforcement agencies in the fight against crime.

Crime Stoppers provides an anonymous telephone number, Text Tips and Web Tips to encourage citizens to volunteer vital information helpful to law enforcement agencies.

By offering anonymity and cash rewards for information leading to indictment or arrests, the program encourages otherwise reluctant callers to provide information.

The 24/7 hotline number, 216-252-7463, allows the caller to remain anonymous. The phone does not have a caller ID function and calls are not recorded.

Those with information can also text TIP657 plus your message to 274637, or can submit information online at [www.25crime.com](http://www.25crime.com).



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# Community Police reports

## Cleveland

(All information is preliminary and subject to change.)

### Fatal Overdose

Jan. 14, 5:39 a.m. 5100 block of Ira Ave. 40-year-old male victim of fatal overdose. Evidence on scene.

### Shooting/Stabbing

Jan. 15, 3:25 a.m. 8400 block of Rosewood Ave. 25-year-old male victim of gunshot wound to the leg, 53-year-old male victim of gunshot wound to the arm, 19-year-old male victim of stab wound to the face.

EMS transported all to MetroHealth Medical Center.

## GARFIELD HEIGHTS

### Breaking and Entering

On Jan. 11, at 3:18 p.m., officers were dispatched to Mike's Pool Supply, 12500 Broadway Ave., for a report of a suspicious person on the property. An employee told them he observed a man on the site dressed all in black and attempting to steal property. Officers found him as he stood up after attempting to take heat exchangers off the pool heaters. He was placed in handcuffs, arrested and charged with breaking and entering and possessing criminal tools. He had a duffel bag in his possession which contained numerous tools, screw drivers with bits, hand saws, wire cutters and other tools. Report forwarded to the Detective Bureau.

### Menacing

On Jan. 12, at about 12:43 p.m., police were dispatched to GetGo, 5637 Transportation Blvd., for a report of a multi-vehicle accident that escalated into someone threatening others with a gun. When police arrived several parties were observed yelling at one another even with

officers present. A man driving one car and a woman driving another appeared to be the main individuals involved in the disagreement. Two passengers were in the man's vehicle. The male driver told police that after he and the woman had the accident, they got into a heated verbal altercation and the woman lifted a black gun from her purse and began to gesture with it and point it at him. The Glock 19 was loaded with seven live rounds and seized from her purse. The male driver completed a witness statement and at the time of the incident was indifferent about pressing charges. All parties were released on scene. The case was forwarded to the prosecutor's office for further review.

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**CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION PUBLIC NOTICE FOR OPEN POSITION**

Applications for the City of Maple Heights Planning and Zoning Commission will be available to qualified Maple Heights residents beginning **Wednesday, January 12, 2022** in the Clerk of Council Office, 5353 Lee Road, Maple Heights, Ohio, 44137, to fill one (1) open position for the term expiring **May 31, 2026**.

The Planning and Zoning Commission consists of five (5) qualified electors of the City not holding any other official position in the Municipality, who have resided in the City not less than two (2) years prior to appointment, and who shall retain such residency during their appointed term.

Completed application forms are to be submitted only to the Clerk of Council Office, Maple Heights City Hall, 5353 Lee Road, Maple Heights, Ohio, 44137. **The deadline for submission of said applications is by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 26, 2022.** For further information, call the Clerk's office at (216) 587-9000.

**Leonette Cicirella Johnson**  
Clerk of Council  
City of Maple Heights

The Neighborhood News  
January 12, 2022  
January 19, 2022

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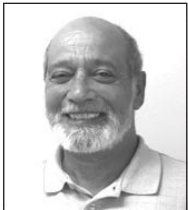
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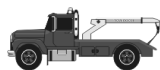
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Call The Neighborhood News at (216) 441-2141 to place your ad. Our office is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Ad information can also be E-mailed to: nnews1923@aol.com.

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## Indy Police promotions

The city of Independence held a swearing-in ceremony on Tuesday, Jan. 11, to recognize the promotions of Sergeants Mike Murphy and Mark Buehner to the rank of lieutenant.

During his 16 years with the IPD, Lt. Murphy has been a detective, sergeant, and oversaw the Field Training Program. He began his career with the Garfield Heights Police Department where he served for seven years.

He attended Padua Franciscan High School and Cleveland State University. Lt. Murphy and his wife Brandy (pictured below far right) and their two sons are proud Independence residents. Lt. Mike Murphy's brother is a lieutenant with the Garfield Heights Police Department.



Lt. Buehner, a 10-year veteran of the Independence Police Department, began his law enforcement career with the Euclid Police Department. He has been a SWAT member, firearms instructor, representative to the DEA task force, and an instructor with the Independence Field Training Program. Buehner holds a bachelor's degree in criminology from Ohio University. He and wife Raquel are pictured above (far left), with Mayor Gregory Kurtz, (center).

## Cuyahoga Valley National Park lists January schedule

The Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP), running through portions of Valley View, Independence, Brecksville and Bedford, invites the public to register for outdoor ranger-guided activities throughout the upcoming winter and spring seasons. Visit Calendar - Cuyahoga Valley National Park (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov) for a full listing of activities and registration links. Here are some of the things going on in January:

**Friday, January 21-** Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad: Cleveland Dinner & Event Train. CVSR's Cleveland Dinner & Event Train will host our signature dinner, beverage, and entertainment events. Head to our Independence Station and take a ride through the Cuyahoga Valley National Park as you enjoy your Friday on the rails. Train departs Rockside Station at 6:30 p.m. [www.cvsr.org](http://www.cvsr.org)

**Saturday, January 22-** Saturday Adventure: Winter Wildlife Trek. Go on a trek looking for signs of life in the winter wonderland. Explore how animals and humans adapt to the winter. Programs will include a ranger-led hike and activity. Location provided upon registration. 10 - 11:30 a.m. <https://www.nps.gov/cuva/planyourvisit/calendar.htm>

**Saturday, January 22-** Countryside Farmers' Market at Old Trail School. Shop local and direct from over 50 nearby farmers, food entrepreneurs, and artists in the scenic Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Shop in person or pre-order (pick up from vendors or curbside). 9 a.m. - noon. <https://countrysidefoodandfarms.org/events/countryside-old-trail-school-winter-farmers-market/>;

**Saturday, January 22-** Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad: National Park Scenic Train Ride. Climb aboard the train and enjoy Cuyahoga Valley National Park from a  
**(Continued on Page 7)**

## Exclusively Skin opens in Garfield Heights

Advertisement

Dr. Tracy Ringo is pleased to announce that Exclusively Skin, specializing in the treatment of skin diseases, has opened up in Garfield Heights at 9565 Midwest Ave., Suite C.

Common issues treated include abscess/boils, acne, cellulitis, dark spots/blemishes, dry skin and scalp, eczema, hair loss, mole removals, psoriasis, skin cancer screenings, wart removal and many more.

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.



Dr. Tracy Ringo

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.

Contact Exclusively Skin at 216-508-6500 or visit website: [www.exclusively-skin.com](http://www.exclusively-skin.com).

## SPECIAL EVENTS

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Include Contact Name and daytime phone number

The Neighborhood News Advertising deadline is Mondays at 5:00pm

Distributed every Wednesday in South East Cleveland, Garfield Heights, Newburgh Heights, Cuyahoga Heights, Independence, Valley View, Maple Heights and Bedford

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## The Neighborhood News accepts Death Notices via Email

Information for death notices must be submitted by the funeral home handling the arrangements via email. Send information to: [nnews1923@aol.com](mailto:nnews1923@aol.com). Minimum fee is \$50 (up to six column inches). Notices larger than six column inches will be subject to additional fees. Deadline to submit notices is Monday by 5:00 p.m. For further information and pricing, email The Neighborhood News or call us at 216-441-2141.

**Garfield Heights United Methodist Church**  
4977 Turney Rd. 216-641-4149  
Garfield Heights  
Sunday Worship at 10:30am  
Rev. Daniel Drew, Pastor

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

**Greater Holy Ghost Missionary Baptist Church**  
12210 Miles Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44105  
Services 11:30 am Sundays  
Rev. Robinson Crenshaw, Pastor

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

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

**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

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

**St. John Lutheran Church**  
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Garfield Heights, Ohio 44125  
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Business Directory Deadline: Fridays 5pm

## Indy Council update

Passed at the Jan. 11 regular meeting of Independence Council was the following legislation:

- Authorizing payment to the Division of Water for the annual fees for use of water from city fire hydrants in an amount not to exceed \$25,617.96;

- Authorizing funding for road and right-of-way repairs necessitated by numerous water main breaks, leaks and/or water valve and/or hydrant repairs not to exceed \$150,000;

- Amending an ordinance accepting the bid of Petroleum Traders Corp. and Ports Petroleum Co., Inc. for the purchase and delivery of unleaded fuel and diesel fuel for city vehicles through the Joint Municipal Improvement Consortium;

- Purchasing vehicle diagnostics tracking devices for the Service Department not to exceed a total of \$18,176.40;

- Retaining Johnson Controls Fire Protection LP to provide fire alarm/life safety system testing and preventative maintenance services for the Technical Service Department for 2022, not to exceed \$15,000;

- Retaining Johnson Controls, Inc. to provide preventative maintenance services for the city's building technology systems for 2022, not to exceed \$22,161;

- Authorizing a contract with Mansour Gavin, LPA for legal services commencing Jan. 2, 2022;

- Amending a resolution relative to extraordinary legal services of Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP commencing Jan. 2, 2022;

- Authorizing John T. Kurtz to retain possession of his firearm and badge of office upon retirement.

## National Park schedule

(Continued from Page 5)

one-of-a-kind vantage point. Passengers will have the opportunity to see a variety of wildlife including an eagle's nest, deer and other habitats. Trains depart from Rockside Station, Peninsula Station, and Akron Station. [www.cvsr.org](http://www.cvsr.org)

**Sunday, January 23-** Sunday Stroll. Get moving on a 2-mile stroll and explore the park at a leisurely pace. Let the rest of the world rush by as you slow down and enjoy the beauty all around you. Location provided upon registration. 10 – 11:30 a.m. and 2 – 3:30 p.m. <https://www.nps.gov/cuva/planyourvisit/calendar.htm>

**Friday, January 28-** Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad: Cleveland Dinner & Event Train. CVSR's Cleveland Dinner & Event Train will host our signature dinner, beverage, and entertainment events. Head to our Independence Station and take a ride through the Cuyahoga Valley National Park as you enjoy your Friday on the rails. Train departs Rockside Station at 6:30 p.m. [www.cvsr.org](http://www.cvsr.org)

**Saturday, January 29-** Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad: National Park Scenic Train Ride. Climb aboard the train and enjoy Cuyahoga Valley National Park from a one-of-a-kind vantage point. Passengers will have the opportunity to see a variety of wildlife including an eagle's nest, deer and other habitats. Trains depart from Rockside Station, Peninsula Station, and Akron Station. [www.cvsr.org](http://www.cvsr.org)

**Sunday, January 30-** Healthful Hike. Increase your physical and mental wellbeing on 6.5 miles of the unpaved, uneven, rocky, and hilly trails of Boston Run and the Ledges Trails. Location given upon registration. 9 – 11:30 a.m. <https://www.nps.gov/cuva/planyourvisit/calendar.htm>;

**Friday, February 4-** Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad: Cleveland Dinner & Event Train. CVSR's Cleveland Dinner & Event Train will host our signature dinner, beverage, and entertainment events. Head to our Independence Station and take a ride through the Cuyahoga Valley National Park as you enjoy your Friday on the rails. Train departs Rockside Station at 6:30 p.m. [www.cvsr.org](http://www.cvsr.org)

**Saturday, February 5-** Countryside Farmers' Market at Old Trail School. Shop local and direct from over 50 nearby farmers, food entrepreneurs, and artists in the scenic Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Shop in person or pre-order (pick up from vendors or curbside). 9 a.m. – noon. <https://countrysidefoodandfarms.org/events/countryside-old-trail-school-winter-farmers-market/>

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# SHOVELING OUT IN GARFIELD



There was a lot of shoveling going on Tuesday after the storm Monday that left over 12 inches of snow over the Garfield Heights area and most of Northeast Ohio. But it didn't seem to faze these two teenagers on E. 93 St., who were most certainly up to the task. Photo by Elena Psenicka

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## NOTICE OF CITY OF STRONGSVILLE CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION FOR ENTRANCE EXAMINATION FOR THE POSITION OF FIRE FIGHTER/PARAMEDIC

WRITTEN TEST – SATURDAY, March 5, 2022 AT 9:00 A.M.

Applications and requirements can be downloaded from City of Strongsville website at [www.strongsville.org](http://www.strongsville.org), Human Resources Tab; or picked up at Strongsville City Municipal Offices at 16099 Foltz Parkway, Strongsville, Ohio, 44149. You must be at least nineteen (19) years of age on or prior to March 5, 2022. Completed applications along with the required \$25.00 fee and all other required documents **must be returned in person beginning Monday, January 24, 2022 and no later than Friday, February 25, 2022 by 4:30 p.m.** to the Civil Service Secretary at the Strongsville Municipal Offices.

Please note that there is a Physical Agility Test component, and a Certificate confirming the same which must be obtained from Cuyahoga Community College dated no earlier than February 25, 2021.

Test is limited to the **first 100** properly completed applications received by the City.

The City of Strongsville is an Equal Opportunity Employer

NN: 1-19-22 & 1-26-22

## G.H. Ward 7 meetings suspended

The Garfield Heights Ward 7 Block Watch meetings have been temporarily suspended due to COVID. The meetings will resume again in May at St. Monica's pavilion - exact date to follow. Organizers look forward to seeing you there.

For more information contact Gail, 216-662-9213.

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Does your home need a new roof? What about new carpeting, windows, washer and dryer, or air conditioning? With Third Federal's Fixer Upper Home Repair Loan, you can do just that! At 2.99% APR, this rate is much lower than loans from other lenders.<sup>2</sup> And, unlike many lenders, 2.99% APR is fixed for the life of your loan.

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Questions? ... Call Mary at 216-441-2141



<sup>1</sup>Actual monthly payment for above example is based on 252 month term and is \$16.09 at a fixed APR of 2.99%. Rates effective as of 8/26/21 and are subject to change. <sup>2</sup>Fixed APR is 2.99%. Homeowners insurance required. Flood insurance required, if applicable. Maximum LTV 85%. Minimum loan amount \$1,000. Maximum loan amount \$9,900. 21-year term. A Third Federal Home Repair Loan is available as a first or second lien on owner-occupied primary residences and can be the only HELOC on your property. \$0 annual fee and \$10 minimum monthly payment. Must originate loan to get gift card. Borrowers must meet certain income, geographic and other requirements to qualify. Product features subject to change without notice. ©2021 Third Federal.