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100th YEAR

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2023

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FREE

Suspect apprehended in Georgia for 13-year-old's Jan. 29 murder in Bedford

On Sunday, Jan. 29, two teenage boys, ages 13 and 15, were shot in the area of Corkhill and Lee Rd. South in Bedford. The 13-year-old boy, a resident of Maple Heights, later was pronounced dead as a result of his injuries.

Bedford PD Deputy Chief Rick Suts reports that the suspect, David Harden III, was identified, and through the cooperative efforts of the Bedford Police Department, the U.S. Marshals Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force, the U.S. Marshals Southeast Regional Fugitive Task Force and the Columbia County Sheriff's Department, he was located and taken into custody in Martinez, Georgia, on Feb. 9, and is being extradited back to Bedford.

Maple Hts. Police seek help in identifying female driver

On Sunday, Feb. 12, the Maple Heights Fire Department responded to a smell of smoke in the apartment complex of 16202 Maple Heights Blvd., about 4:25 a.m. The Bedford Heights Fire Department also responded to assist.

While the fire departments were investigating, a female in a gray, four-door vehicle dropped off an unresponsive female passenger and then left the area quickly. BHFD personnel attempted lifesaving measures and transported the passenger to the hospital, but she was not able to be saved. The cause of death is still under investigation.

The deceased was identified and notification is being made to next of kin. She was 26-years-old.

Maple Heights police are looking for information on the female driver of the gray vehicle. Anyone with information related to this case is urged to contact the Maple Heights Detective Bureau: 216-587-9624 or Detectives@mhpd-ohio.com. Information can also be supplied to Crime Stoppers.

Polish Paczki Party is tomorrow at Polish-Am Cultural Center in S.V.

Don't wait until Paczki Day (aka Fat Tuesday or Mardi Gras) to enjoy a traditional Polish doughnut filled with jelly, custard or other delicious things! Come to the Fat Thursday Polish Paczki Party on Feb. 16, at the Polish American Cultural Center, 6501 Lansing Ave., Cleveland. Doors open at 6 p.m.; admission is free.

The event, sponsored by the Cleveland Polish Constitution Day Committee, will include homemade Polish food, imported Polish beer, Polish music and dancing and a tour of the Polish Museum and Heritage Garden.

For more information visit: gorale@msn.com

Sokol gymnastic exhibition

Sokol Greater Cleveland will hold a Gymnastic Exhibition on Saturday, Feb. 25, at 6 p.m., in the Garfield Heights Middle School gymnasium, 12000 Maple Leaf Dr., Garfield Heights. Music by the Sokol's concert band will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Advance sale tickets are \$6, available from any class instructor or call 216-642-1429. Tickets at the door \$10; kids under 12 free.

An After Exhibition Social will be held at Sokol Greater Cleveland, 4939 Broadway Ave., Cleveland; free admission. Food and beverages will be available for all ages.

Scouts Indoor Garage Sale

The St. Therese Boy Scouts Indoor Garage Sale will be held this Saturday, Feb. 18, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at St. Therese Parish, 5276 E. 105 St., Garfield Heights. Admission is \$1 at the door. Tables are still available. Call 216-624-8802.

Cleveland Police distributing vehicle anti-theft devices

The Cleveland Division of Police secured a limited number of club-like, anti-theft devices for use on 2015 - 2021 Kia and Hyundai vehicles. The devices were donated to the Division of Police courtesy of KIA through the efforts of First District Commander Jarod Schlacht.

These steering wheel locks will be made available on a first come - first served basis to city of Cleveland residents and to citizens who work full-time in the city of Cleveland. Those eligible may request a device, free-of-charge, by bringing their vehicle to one of the five neighborhood police districts.

The criteria for claiming a device are:

- Must present vehicle for inspection together with the vehicle's registration and/or title
- 2015 - 2021 Kia or Hyundai vehicle
- Only cars that start with a key are eligible

Garfield Hts. police officers honored for saving woman from burning home

Garfield Heights Patrolmen Mike Malak and Youssef Ihiri received a special resolution at the Monday night meeting of Garfield Heights Council for their heroic rescue of a woman from a burning house on E. 84 St., near Garfield Blvd., on Tuesday, Feb. 7.

During the resolution presentation at the meeting, Garfield Heights Fire Chief Kenneth R. Strobe, Jr. commented that "the person in that house would have perished if not for these two officers."

Officer Malak was patrolling the area about 2:30 a.m., when he spotted a lot of heavy smoke rising from Garfield Blvd./Warner Rd. area and immediately called dispatch, as stated in the resolution.

Officer Youssef was patrolling nearby and immediately responded and found the location of the burning house on E. 84 St. Malak opened the common door to the double home to alert both up and down units of the danger and both officers called out to whoever might be inside as the house was engulfed in flames.

A woman then emerged from the front door of the lower unit, waking up after hearing the voices of the officers and they escorted her to safety. She was the lone occupant of the building.

Other units arrived on scene and neighboring homes were successfully evacuated. The fire was eventually extinguished thanks to the efforts of Garfield Heights firefighters.

The resolution from council the officers received at the meeting, sponsored by Ward 3 Councilman Jason Seither, noted that "the city of Garfield Heights would like to commend their heroism as they have proven to be exemplary members of the law enforcement profession."



Shown at Monday night's Garfield Heights Council meeting with Mayor Matt Burke (at left), are Patrolman Mike Malak, holding his daughter, Lilu, and Patrolman Youssef Ihiri, who were honored for saving a woman from a burning house. Photo by Wendy Walters

- Must provide proof of residency and/or proof of full-time employment in the city of Cleveland
- State issued identification
- Bills (utilities, taxes, etc.) showing Cleveland residency
- Pay stubs showing full-time employment within the city of Cleveland

One device per vehicle.

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Third District
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Cleveland, OH 44103

Fourth District
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Cleveland, OH 44104

Fifth District
881 East 152nd Street
Cleveland, OH 44106

Salary raise for Garfield Hts. Council members passes after three readings

By Ellen Psenicka

After its scheduled three readings, an ordinance to raise the salary of council members to \$18,000 a year effective Nov. 13, 2023, the first day of the next council term, was approved by Garfield Heights Council at its regular Monday night meeting.

An ordinance to raise the salary of the mayor to \$100,000 per year, effective Dec. 1, 2025, after the Nov. 2025, mayoral election, was passed to a second reading. The salary of the mayor was cut to \$85,000 per year in 2009, during the city's fiscal emergency and hasn't been raised since, it was stated at the meeting.

Other ordinances passed included:

- Entering into an agreement with OHM Advisors to provide municipal separate storm sewer system services to the city of Garfield Heights for 2023, bringing it into compliance with EPA regulations.

- Directing City Engineer David Krock to prepare plans

and specifications and go out for competitive bids for the Multi-Street Reconstruction & Waterline Replacement Project – Phase 8, and authorizing the payment of costs for this project, to be funded through the city of Garfield Heights, the Cleveland Water Department and an Ohio Public Works Commission Loan program.

- Directing City Engineer Krock to prepare plans and specifications and go out for competitive bids for the E. 126 St. & Wolf Creek Interceptor Improvements Project, and authorizing payment of costs for this project through funding by the NEORS MCIP, the NEORS/Community Cost Share Program and OPWC.

- Creating a section of the codified ordinances titled "Coffee, Meals, etc." authorizing the chief fiscal officer for the city to pay for coffee, meals, refreshments and other amenities at citywide meetings which are considered fringe benefits for municipal officers and employees of the city.

- Entering into an agreement with 12C Technologies, Ltd. to purchase new security cameras for all municipal buildings, to be paid for entirely from ARPA grant funding at a cost not to exceed \$172,000.

- Entering into an agreement with Burgess Ambulance Sales, Inc. to replace the chassis of a 2007 Garfield Heights Rescue Squad, at a cost not to exceed \$200,000.

- Entering into a purchase agreement with Toyne, Inc. for a 2024 Toyne Fire Engine, at a cost not to exceed \$663,000.

- Entering into an agreement with Teletronics, Inc. to provide Wide Area Network (WAN) support.

- Entering into an agreement with Teletronics, Inc. for purchase and installation of switches to power/operate security cameras at a cost not to exceed \$13,000 and to be

paid entirely from ARPA grant funding.

Resolutions passed

- Honoring and commending Officer Mike Malak and Officer Youssef Ihiri for the heroic rescue of a woman from a burning house.

- Applying for and accepting the 2022 Assistance to Firefighter Grant through the Department of Homeland Security.

- Accepting a grant of \$74,357 from the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services as part of the 2023 Body-Worn Camera Grant Program.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 27, at 7 p.m.

Maple Heights schools, city join forces to 'Light the Way' for students

Maple Heights City School students gave out over 300 light bulbs to Maple Heights residents last Saturday, at the Maple Heights Board of Education to "Light the Way" for students as they walk to and from school.

Light the Way is an effort to light up the Maple Heights community to create a brighter path for students during this darker season. Thanks to the partnership between Maple Heights City Schools, the city of Maple Heights, True Value Hardware in Maple Heights, and Home Depot, homeowners are being encouraged to turn on their porch lights to help brighten the streets for students making the journey to and from school – and now they've got free light bulbs to make this happen.

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Fatal shooting of teen, ongoing UH talks updated at Bedford Council meeting

By Judith Goldsworth

The recent fatal shooting of a 13-year-old boy in the city and the ongoing talks between Bedford and University Hospitals on last year's closing of UH Bedford Hospital's emergency room and other facilities were among the topics of discussion between residents and city officials at the council meeting Monday night, Feb. 6.

One resident expressed concerns about the Sunday, Jan. 29, shooting incident at Corkhill Rd. and Lee Rd. South, very close to the Bedford-Maple Heights border, that resulted in the death of Hysheen Thomas, 13, of Maple Heights. Another boy, 15, was injured in the shooting, according to Bedford police reports.

Both boys were taken to MetroHealth Medical Center, where Thomas died of his injuries, the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office stated. The other boy was hospitalized. Bedford police continue to investigate the incident.

City Manager Mike Mallis said what happened in the incident was a tragedy and he has full faith in the Bedford PD and their ongoing investigation of the case. "I'm pretty confident we're going to have a resolution to that very quickly," Mallis said.

UH closing issue still in courts

Concerned about last year's closing of UH Bedford's emergency room after almost 100 years of caring for patients in the southeast suburban area, other residents at last week's meeting asked about the possibility of bringing community-based care back to the city.

UH officials have cited an employee shortage due to the COVID-19 pandemic as a reason for closing the ER and some other services. The 280 staffers from Bedford have been transferred to other UH facilities in the system, hospital officials have stated.

In response, Bedford officials filed a restraining order in Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court following the closure, seeking to retain emergency services at the Blaine Ave. hospital. Judge Steven Gall subsequently rejected the restraining order. However, the case has been continued, Koci said, after Gall encouraged ongoing discussion between the city and UH officials.

Mayor Stan Koci explained, "The whole reason we are in court with UH, and we are still fighting and working with them to get some resolution, is we have plenty of ideas. But because we are in litigation, there's a lot I can't say."

"We want emergency care here," he continued. "We've been for fighting this, and we will continue to fight for it... but our hands are tied because of the courts."

Chickens in city?

Also, many residents at the meeting requested that Mayor Koci, Mallis and council members consider allow-

ing chickens, but not roosters, be kept at private residences to supply eggs and to be used as food.

One resident stated, "We are here to ask our city council to reevaluate the current restrictions that we have regarding backyard chickens. Most of our neighboring communities have already amended their ordinances to allow for backyard chickens. We are simply asking for the same opportunity to reap the benefits that our neighbors are already sowing."

Another resident said that having chickens would contribute to the "hometown feeling" of Bedford, while another resident expressed that raising chickens in the city could end up being a needed food source in an uncertain economy.

No statement was given at the meeting on whether the city would consider permitting chickens to be kept in the future.

Northfield Rd. property condemned

The only piece of legislation passed by council at the

(Continued on Page 8)

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Garfield Hts. Community Police Reports

(All information is preliminary and subject to change pending investigation.)

Theft of Vehicle

•On Feb. 8, a stolen auto report was made by a woman living in the 4600 block of Blythin Ave. She said that on Feb. 8, sometime between midnight and 8 a.m., her 2018 Hyundai Sante Fe was stolen from her driveway. She said she is current on her payments. Vehicle entered into LEADS.

•On Feb. 8, at 8:38 p.m., an officer responded to the 12900 block of McCracken Rd., for the theft of a 2011

Ford Expedition. The driver of car told police it was his grandfather's car and he had parked it, unlocked, with the keys in the ignition in the driveway of the McCracken Rd. home, went inside for several minutes and found it gone upon his return. The license plate reader observed the car traveling east on Granger Rd. and Broadway Ave., in Maple Heights, but it was not located by officers.

Theft - Firearm

On Feb. 12, an officer was dispatched to the 5200 block of Turney Rd., for a firearm theft.

The complainant said that on Feb. 11, at about 11 p.m., he had parked and secured his Infiniti Q56 in the rear of his complex and when he returned the following morning he saw that someone had broken the window out of his car and that two firearms, both loaded Taurus 9mm semi-automatic weapons, were missing.

Incidents reported at G.H. Middle School

Garfield Heights Police reports were filed last week on three separate incidents at Garfield Heights Middle School, one involving a student and the other two involving teachers who all said they were victims of crime at the school.

The first report was taken on Feb. 9, when a woman told police her daughter, who is autistic, has recently been the victim of bullying and physical assaults at the middle school by other students. She said on Feb. 7, her daughter was assaulted by an older female student and she had viewed a video of the altercation and wishes to pursue charges. The video showed the female student punching the woman's daughter and throwing her to the ground. The video was forwarded to the Youth Bureau for charges and identification.

In a Feb. 10 report, an officer spoke with a male teacher at the middle school, who stated on his online submission that he was assaulted by a male eighth grade student. He said the student was going back and forth to the classroom door trying to wave and entertain someone in the hallway. The teacher told him to stop and get back to his desk. The student started swearing and screaming at the teacher and then was asked to leave the classroom by the teacher, who walked to his desk to call and have him removed. The student threw a Chromebook at the teacher, hitting him in the chest and arm before security arrived. The teacher told police he has pain in his chest and arm due to the assault.

A report was also made on Feb. 10, by a female teacher at the middle school who told police that about 2 p.m. that day, she believes someone stole her vehicle keys off her desk at the school. Her car was parked in the middle school lot and she was concerned someone would try to steal it. She said she was going to get a ride home and get her spare keys and return for her car. She said there is a school camera right outside her door and assumes there will be video footage around the time of the incident. School security will review the video.

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LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

By order of the Council of the City of Maple Heights, sealed bids will be received by the Purchasing Agent, at Maple Heights City Hall, 5353 Lee Road, Maple Heights, Ohio 44137, until 12:00 Noon, local time, on the **2nd day of March, 2023** for the "CITY HALL GRADING, DRAINAGE, & LANDSCAPING PROJECT" in the City of Maple Heights, Ohio, NO FAXED COPIES ACCEPTED.

The bid documents, specifications and drawings may be examined without charge online at www.cvelimited.plancycle.com. To become a Registered Bidder, documents, specifications and drawings must be purchased at either www.cvelimited.plancycle.com, SE Blueprint at 2035 Hamilton Avenue Cleveland, OH 44114 or SE Blueprint at 520 South Main Street, Suite 2411 Akron, OH 44311 at the cost of \$100.00 + tax and delivery which includes bid registration, one hard copy set of the bid package and one complete set of pdf files. Additional sets of bid documents can also be ordered online at www.cvelimited.plancycle.com or by emailing seblue@seblueprint.com, calling 216-241-2250 or visiting an SE Blueprint location.

Each bidder is required to furnish with its proposal, a Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond in accordance with Section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. Bid security furnished in Bond form, shall be issued by a Surety Company or Corporation licensed in the State of Ohio to provide said surety. Each bid must be made upon the Proposal Form provided in the set of specifications and must be accompanied by a bank check or cashier's check drawn on a solvent bank in Cuyahoga County in an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the amount bid, or a bid bond in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the amount bid, as a guarantee that if said bid is accepted, a contract will be entered into and a Surety Bond satisfactory to said City in an amount equal to 100% of the total bid will be furnished. Checks shall be made payable to the City of Maple Heights, Ohio.

Each Proposal must contain the full name of the party or parties submitting the proposal and all persons interested therein. Each bidder must submit evidence of its experiences on projects of similar size and complexity.

Bids will be opened and read at the time and place stated above. Those who submitted Proposals or their representatives are invited to attend.

Bidders must comply with the prevailing wage rates on Public Improvements in Cuyahoga County and the City of Maple Heights, Ohio, as determined by the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services, Wage and Hour Division, (614) 644-2239.

The right is reserved to accept any bidder, to reject any or all bids, and to waive informalities should it be deemed to be in the best interests of the City of Maple Heights to do so.

Bids are to be submitted in accordance with the plans and specifications on file in the office of the Purchasing Agent. Sealed bids must be marked, "CITY HALL GRADING, DRAINAGE, & LANDSCAPING PROJET"

Tinita Tillman
Finance Director
Maple Heights, Ohio

PUBLISHED: The Neighborhood News
February 15, 2023
February 22, 2023

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Longtime Slavic Village civic leader feted at surprise 90th birthday party

Congratulations to Mrs. Betty Rodes, who celebrated her 90th birthday at a surprise party on Saturday at American Legion Post 627, in Newburgh Heights, hosted by her daughter, Kathy Bartoszek, and family.

Over 100 family and friends were on hand for the special occasion and to honor Betty for her many accomplishments and contributions to the Slavic Village community.

Betty is shown in the photo with her Resolution of Congratulations from Cuyahoga County Councilman Martin Sweeney. Shown from left are: 4th District Cleveland Police Sgt. Ray O'Connor, 4th District Patrol Officer Brooklyn Barnes, Betty Rodes, Police Special Projects Assistant to the Chief of Police Brandon Kutz and Tony Brancatelli, who presented the resolution on behalf of Councilman Sweeney.



Pork Chop Dinner at Ss. Peter & Paul

Ss. Peter & Paul Church in Garfield Heights, is sponsoring its annual Pork Chop Dinner on Saturday, Feb. 18, in Rajan Center, 9438 Dorothy Ave.

Dinner will be served from 5 to 7 p.m., dine-in or carry-out; advanced sale only.

Adult meals include a choice of one (\$15) or two (\$20) pork chops. Children under 10 meals (\$10) include chicken tenders. All meals are served with mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, roll w/ butter and dessert.

Tickets are being sold at Ss. Peter & Paul Parish Office, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Come enjoy great food, raffles and fellowship!

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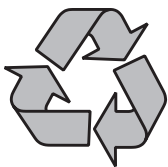
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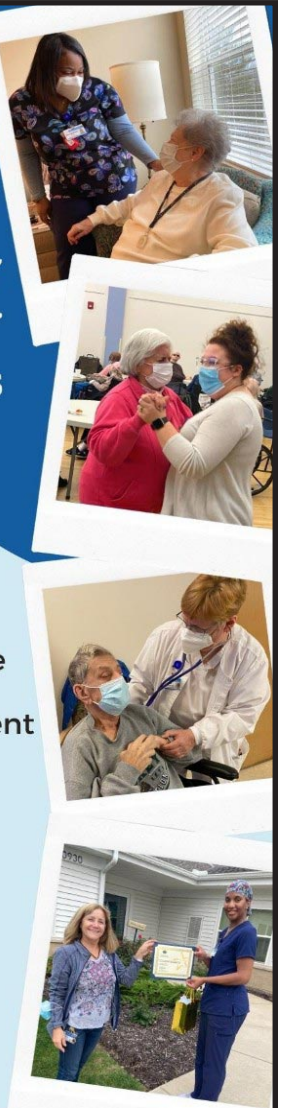
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Bedford Council meeting 'Freebies'

(Continued from Page 1)

meeting was an ordinance declaring the property and structure located at 97 Northfield Rd., a nuisance and condemning it as "dangerous, unsafe and unfit for human habitation or occupancy." The ordinance authorizes taking any action necessary to eliminate the conditions, including demolition.

Mallis said that the legislation allows the city some additional tools to get in touch with the owners to try to remediate the problem.

Announcements

Mallis reported that road projects would be starting soon, including the Ohio Department of Transportation's reconstruction of the entire length of Broadway Ave., in the city with a starting date yet to be determined. ODOT has not given an official starting date for repairs to the Northfield Rd. bridge, he said, but it is anticipated that the work would start sometime in March.

Councilman Jeff Asbury advised residents to be alert to solicitors going door-to-door in the city without permits. He said that a family member answered the door at his home recently to someone claiming to be from a cable company. The family member told the man to leave, but after the incident Asbury said an unauthorized cable account was set up for his residence, and unwanted equipment was delivered.

Asbury said residents can call the city's non-emergency number, 440-232-1234, with questions or to report problems.

The Neighborhood News has two free tickets to raffle off for the Sokol Greater Cleveland Gymnastic Exhibition on Saturday, Feb. 25, at 6 p.m., at the Garfield Heights Middle School gymnasium. Just stop in to The Neighborhood News office, 8613 Garfield Blvd., Garfield Heights, during regular business hours and enter to win. Deadline to enter the raffle is Wednesday, Feb. 22.

G.H. Ward 7 Block Watch

The Garfield Heights Ward 7 Block Watch will meet Thursday, Feb. 23, at 7 p.m., in the St. Augustine Room of St. Benedict School, 13633 Rockside Rd. Guest speakers will be Garfield Heights Schools Superintendent Dr. Richard Reynolds and School Board President Nichelle Daniels. 216-662-9213.



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Mayor of Maple Heights



Matt Burke
Mayor of Garfield Heights



FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION, (Garfield Hts. Only)

Saturday, Feb. 18,
10am-Noon, Inside



THE ROCK
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The Rock Community Church, (9403 Garfield Blvd.), will have a food pantry distribution for **Garfield Hts. residents only (income limits apply)** on **Saturday, February 18, 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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