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101ST YEAR

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2023

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

FREE

Garfield Hts. man dead in officer-involved shooting

Garfield Heights police were dispatched to Hathaway Rd. last week to do a welfare check on what they believed was a suicidal man who had previously that day called GHPD asking for the Suicide Hotline number.

According to a post on the Garfield Heights Police Department's Facebook page, which did not include the victim's name but was later confirmed, the following is what occurred.

On Tuesday, Nov. 14, at about 12:25 p.m., Bernard Russell called police asking for the Suicide Hotline number but hung up as dispatchers began asking follow-up questions.

The address of the call was tracked to a residence on Hathaway Rd., where officers followed up with a welfare check on Russell. When they arrived at the home, Russell's wife answered the door and told officers her husband was in the basement alone.

Police went to the basement and found the 67-year-old Russell sitting on a couch with a firearm in his hand threatening to commit suicide. Officers then requested additional resources to be dispatched, including crisis intervention negotiators and medical personnel.

Officers spoke with the male for about 10 minutes trying to convince him to put the gun down. Russell then allegedly pointed the gun at the officers and two of them fired at Russell, causing him to fall to the ground. They immediately performed live-saving measures on Russell, but he ultimately died from his injuries. No officers or other individuals were injured.

The Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation was alerted and responded to the scene. Two officers have been placed on paid administrative leave, per department policy.

Maple Heights Council amends rules for public comments at meetings

By Judith Goldsworth

Maple Heights Council passed an ordinance at its meeting last week to amend its Rules of Order regarding comments at regular council meetings.

Comments may be accepted at meetings from "residents, owners of property within the city and authorized representatives of governmental offices, nonprofit organizations and businesses located and operating within the city," according to the legislation.

(Continued on Page 3)



NN closed for holiday weekend

The Neighborhood News will be closed Thursday and Friday this week for the long holiday weekend, and will reopen at 9 a.m. Monday, Nov. 27. Normal deadlines will apply. We extend to all our wish for a safe and blessed Thanksgiving Day holiday.

First Tee - Cleveland celebrates 20 years at gala

First Tee - Cleveland marked its 20th anniversary on Wednesday, Nov. 8, at its annual Grit, Gratitude & You annual event at Windows on the River in the Flats area of downtown Cleveland, with former Indians player Andre Thornton, founder of First Tee - Cleveland, on hand to accept special 20th anniversary recognition.



Shown above at First Tee - Cleveland's annual Grit, Gratitude & You event Nov. 8, at Windows on the River are, from left: honoree Marc A. Stefanski, First Tee - Cleveland founder and former Cleveland Indians player Andre Thornton and longtime civic activist Barbara Anderson. Photo by Tony Brancatelli

In 1997, First Tee began as a partnership among the LPGA, the Masters Tournament, the PGA of America, the PGA Tour and the USGA to provide access to affordable junior golf programming. Combining the rules of the game with life and leadership skills, kids learn important values and life skills found through golf in a safe, fun environment.

(Continued on Page 2)



Holiday Tree Lightings

Bedford

Bedford's annual Holiday Lighting Ceremony will be held at 6 p.m. sharp tonight, Wednesday, Nov. 22, in the Historic Downtown District. The ice sculpture displays start at 4:30 p.m., followed by a chance to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus after that.

During tonight's festivities, the Bedford Downtown Alliance will be holding a "Wine Pull" fundraiser from 5:30-6:30 p.m. outside the Bedford Falls Cafe, for the benefit of the Bedford Police "Shop With A Cop" program, in which officers escort area youngsters to local stores to buy holiday gifts.

The Bedford Historical Society Museum will also be open during the event, and visitors are welcome to come and get an early start on holiday shopping.

Cleveland

On Saturday, Nov. 25, Downtown Cleveland, INC. invites Clevelanders and visitors alike to experience the kickoff of WinterLand, a festive series of events and a holiday tree lighting on Public Square. Events and activities begin as early as noon, with main stage Public Square programming starting at 4 p.m. It will be a day of music, food, entertainment, holiday activities and fireworks. As always, Santa will make an appearance as well as various local favorite holiday characters.

Independence

Santa and Mrs. Claus will join Mayor Gregory Kurtz and First Lady Lyn Kurtz to help Independence residents light up Elmwood Park and Public Square during the city's annual Tree Lighting and Santa Drive-Thru on Saturday, Dec. 2.

The event takes place in Elmwood Park and the Kiwanis Club Pavilion from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., and culminates with a spectacular fireworks display.

Residents can register their children ages 12 and under to receive a stocking from Santa at the Drive-Thru. Registration is required by Nov. 27, and can be made by calling 216-524-7373.

During the Tree Lighting celebration, attendees can shop for beautiful live evergreen décor at the Christmas Market.

Maple Heights

The Holiday Lighting Ceremony in Maple Heights, featuring a visit from Santa Claus, will be held at Maple Heights City Hall, 5353 Lee Rd., on Sunday, Nov. 26, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. All are welcome to visit with Santa and enjoy holiday music and refreshments.

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First Tee - Cleveland celebrates 20 years at gala

(Continued from Page 1)

In 1999, Andre Thornton took the lead to found a First Tee chapter in Cleveland, and in 2003, First Tee - Cleveland, in cooperation with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, the city of Cleveland and the Cleveland Metroparks, secured 60 acres of land at the Washington Park Horticultural Center in Newburgh Heights, to construct a nine-hole golf course, practice facility, clubhouse and the Iris S. & Bert L. Wolstein Life Skills Education Center.

The golf course and life skills center are operated by the Cleveland Metroparks, while the youth programming is under the direction of First Tee - Cleveland.

Marc Stefanski honored

At the celebration, Third Federal Savings & Loan Chairman and CEO Marc A. Stefanski was presented this year's Del de Windt Leadership Award for Civic Engagement.

In 2007, under Stefanski's leadership, Third Federal made a minority public offering and directed the creation of the Third Federal Foundation from the company's IPO, which has now donated almost \$60 million to the communities Third Federal serves, supporting education, housing and other community development initiatives.

Third Federal's main headquarters is located at 7007 Broadway Ave., Cleveland, in the Slavic Village area of the city.

"First Tee - Cleveland has been a wonderful addition to the Slavic Village community that we can be proud of, providing amazing opportunities to young children," commented former Ward 12 Councilman Tony Brancatelli, who was present at the First Tee gala.

Letters to the Editor

NN founder's story inspiring

Ms. Ellen Psenicka, Editor, The Neighborhood News
Your series of articles in recent weeks depicting your founder, Mr. Vaclav Psenicka, from his boyhood in Europe to his founding of The Neighborhood News in his new home in the Cleveland, OH area, was most inspiring.

Even crossing the Atlantic Ocean did not prove too great an obstacle to fulfilling his dream of participating in a free press in America.

Thank you for all the work The Neighborhood News staff put into bringing his story to us.

Joseph Bell

Resident, Jennings Center For Older Adults, Garfield Heights

Ward 7 Block Watch meets

The Garfield Heights Ward 7 Block Watch, sponsored by Councilwoman Jenn Newrones, will meet Thursday, Nov. 30, at 7 p.m., in the cafeteria of St. Benedict School, 13633 Rockside Rd. All are welcome to come and meet our new councilwoman. For more information contact Gail, 216-662-9213.

Wishing You a Very Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving

Cuyahoga Heights Mayor Jack Bacci & the Bacci Family



A Time to Give Thanks



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May you enjoy the holiday with the love of friends and family.

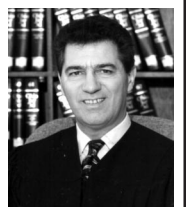
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City of Maple Heights



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City of Maple Heights

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List of Meetings for December 2023

- Monday, December 4, 2023 Council Work Session - TBD
Regular Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 5, 2023 Planning Commission (if needed)
Work Session - 5:30 p.m.
Regular Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 13, 2023 Southeast Area Law Enforcement (SEALE)
Board of Trustees Meeting (if needed)
Work Session - 10:00 a.m.
Regular Meeting - 12:00 p.m.
- Monday, December 18, 2023 Council Work Session - TBD
Regular Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 19, 2023 Planning Commission (if needed)
Work Session - 5:30 p.m.
Regular Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 26, 2023 Board of Zoning Appeals (if needed)
Work Session - 6:30 p.m.
Regular Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

It should also be noted that the Board of Building Standards and Appeals, Civil Service Commission, Bedford Arts and Cultural Board, Bedford Historical Preservation Board, Assessment Equalization Board, Public Hearings, Planning Commission, Animal Appeals Board, Board of Zoning Appeals and Tree Board meet as needed. Notification of these meetings will be posted at the five most public places in the City per Ordinance No. 8461-09.

All Meetings will be held at Bedford City Hall, 165 Center Road, Bedford, Ohio 44146. For agendas and minutes please go to www.bedfordoh.gov, <https://bedfordoh.primegov.com/public/portal>, or call the Clerk of Council, at 440-735-6510.

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Clerk of Council

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Maple Heights Council amends rules for public comments at meetings

(Continued from Page 1)

Also, prior to the start of a regular council meeting, persons wishing to comment must register by completing a sign-in sheet providing their name, property address within the city and residence address if different, the name of the governmental office, nonprofit organization or business they represent, and the subject upon which they intend to give comment. All registration information is public record.

The legislation also states that the council clerk shall call persons to give their comment in the order in which they registered on the sign-in sheet. When called, the person shall come forward and give their comment.

Comments shall be limited to four minutes per person, with no person being allowed to speak more than once, with no profanity or comments of "a personal or inflammatory nature" accepted. The total amount of time for comments during a regular meeting is limited to 45 minutes total, except under special circumstances, according to the ordinance.

Council President Ron Jackson said that the legislation is designed to spell out who may speak at council meetings and will include residents but also those who are not residents but who have a stake in the city.

The second change within the legislation, Jackson said, is the provision that people who wish to speak must provide their name and address, which would include, in the case of nonresidents, where their property and/or business is located within the city.

City asks \$50K grant to help homeowners

Council also approved a resolution authorizing Mayor Annette Blackwell and Director of Planning and Development Joe Duffy and other city officials to apply to the Cuyahoga County Department of Development for a Community Development Supplemental Grant (CDSG) for 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$50,000, to fund the Maple Heights Exterior Home Repair Grant Program.

The CDSG funds are available to eligible municipalities to fund projects "meeting a community development need related to the health or welfare of the community," including the home repair grant program.

Commission, board members to get raise

Also passed at last week's meeting were three ordinances regarding pay raises. The first was to increase the rate of compensation for Civil Service Commission members from \$75 per meeting to \$90 per meeting. The second was to increase compensation for Planning and Zoning Commission members from \$75 per meeting to \$90 per meeting, not to exceed \$2,160 per year, and also increasing the compensation for the chairperson from \$85 per meeting to \$100 per meeting, not to exceed \$2,400 per year. The third ordinance increase the compensation for Architectural Review Board members from a rate of \$60

per hour to \$90 per hour. All three ordinances will be effective January 1, 2024.

Also approved was an ordinance amending the city's 2023 budget. In correspondence and documents provided to council, Finance Director Tinita Tillman stated that one of the amendments, regarding the Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, will move the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) appropriations from the "Other" category to the "Personal" category. It also appropriates the total grant amount that was split up into multiple payments.

Tillman also stated that the other amendment, regarding the Police Levy Fund, "will allow the city to expend the insurance proceeds that we received from our insurance company." The city's current estimated 2023 appropriations stand at about \$45 million, according to the documents.

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Smoked Kielbasa - \$5.39 lb.
Wieners - \$6.69 lb.
Kiszka/Hurka - \$5.09 lb.
Horseradish -
White or Beet Red - \$2.79 each
Pierogies - \$7.00/Bag
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WeldonPC.com offering free online computer classes

Embracing the spirit of lifelong learning and digital literacy, WeldonPC.com, a renowned provider of digital and tech services in Northeast Ohio located right here in Garfield Heights, is offering a series of free online tech classes.

These classes, hosted on Zoom every Tuesday at 5 p.m., are designed to cater to a wide range of interests and skill levels, ensuring that everyone in the community has the opportunity to enhance their tech savvy.

The series kicked off with a deep dive into Microsoft's latest operating system, and the program continued with "Navigating the Internet Safely," for anyone looking to understand the intricacies of safe online browsing.

Upcoming classes cover a variety of topics. The "Beginners Guide to Zoom" is perfect for those wanting to get to

grips with one of the leading online meeting tools, while "Cyber Security Essentials" offers critical insights into protecting oneself in the digital space. For those looking to optimize their home networks, "Home Network Setup and Optimization" will be a key session.

Business owners and professionals are not left out, with classes like "Business IT Solutions" and "Creating a Mail Merge with Microsoft Excel & Word 365," tailored to enhance their operational efficiency using technology. Creative minds can look forward to "Intro to Web Creation with WordPress," perfect for budding web designers or entrepreneurs aiming to establish their online presence.

In a nod to the evolving tech landscape, WeldonPC has also included a session on "ChatGPT: Introduction and Getting Value from the FREE Model," providing a peek into the world of AI and how it can be leveraged effectively.

In addition to these skill-based classes, WeldonPC is also addressing the needs of families and parents with "Parent's Guide to Tech Safety," ensuring that guardians are equipped to protect and guide their children in the digital age. For those interested in participating, there's no need for any registration links. Simply visit <https://weldonpc.com/class> from your mobile device or computer to register for these free sessions.

Free holiday meal to go at Third Federal Savings

Free holiday meals to go will be served on Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, Nov. 22, from 3-5 p.m., in the parking lot of the headquarters of Third Federal Savings, 7007 Broadway Ave. Vehicles can enter through the 7100 Aetna Rd. gate. Pedestrians and those using public transportation will have access through a walk up gate and door.

Happy Thanksgiving

from the Ferfolia Family and Staff



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Mayor Gregory P. Kurtz
Finance Director Vern Blaze
Vice Mayor David Grendel
Independence City Council



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Harvest Love, Joy and Peace this Holiday Season.



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 **First Federal Lakewood**

Spectrum

LIBRARY SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Maple Heights Branch Library

Here are a few of the **FREE** programs being offered in December at the Maple Heights Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, located at 5225 Library Lane, Maple Hts. For more information or to register, please call 216-475-5000.

Adults

Small Business Speaker Series: Terry Murphy, Tuesday, Dec. 5, 6:30 p.m. Learn from local entrepreneur and owner of Fresh Lyfe, Terry Murphy. Fresh Lyfe is a clean

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for a
Happy Thanksgiving*

Dorene Kray,
Council@large

Village of Newburgh Heights



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Happy & Blessed Thanksgiving**

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Thanksgiving Day...

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A day to feast and enjoy, but most of all make a visit to Holy Name Church, 8328 Broadway Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44105.



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-D. Stys

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Don't Fall For Fake News! Tuesday, Dec. 19, 7 p.m. Learn how to identify fake news, disinformation and misinformation using tools, fact checking, critical thinking and common sense.

Celebrate Kwanzaa: Ujima, Thursday, Dec. 28, 6:30 p.m. Join us for a Kwanzaa celebration led by The Cleveland Association of Black Storytellers. Ujima, the Kwanzaa principle for today, means collective work and responsibility.

Children and Families

Playdough Party, Thursday, Dec. 7, 10:30 a.m. Ages

2-5. Little hands can roll, sculpt and squish with play dough!

Weekend Wind Down, Friday, Dec. 15, 4 p.m. Teens grades 6-12. Decompress at the end of the week with an open craft hour.

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Happy Thanksgiving

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and family**



City of Garfield Heights

*Wishing a Blessed
Thanksgiving*



from my family to yours.

Jennifer Newrones
Councilwoman Ward 7
City of Garfield Heights



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Pastor Andrew Scott

Jones Road Church
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(216) 883-8572
Sunday Service: 11:00 a.m.
Community Lunch at 12 Noon

**The Lutheran Church
of the Covenant**
19000 Libby Rd.,
Maple Heights, Ohio
(216) 662-0370
Sunday Service: 9:00am

St. Monica Church
13623 Rockside Road
Garfield Heights 216-662-8685
Pastor: Rev. John J. Mullee
Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 pm
Sunday Mass: 9:00 am and 10:45 am
All Mass times are Live streamed.

Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus
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Happy Thanksgiving!

God of all blessings, source of all life, giver of all grace:
We thank you for the gift of life: for the breath that sustains life,
for the food of this earth that nurtures life,
for the life-giving love of family and friends.
We thank you for this day, for the companionship we share
and the bountiful goodness of the bread we break together.

(prayer excerpt reprinted from Catholic Health Association)

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BUSINESS and SERVICE DIRECTORY

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FOR SALE

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First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association

GREAT GIFT IDEA!! \$20 each

All proceeds go to St. Augustine's Hunger Center

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Call 216-441-2188 M-F, 9am-5pm



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All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All person are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an Equal Opportunity basis.

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LOCAL TOWING • For Cars within 10 mile radius of Maple Hts. \$50

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY



Help Support Our Community

FOR SALE

FOR SALE

INDOOR ELECTRIC

TURKEY FRYER

BY BUTTERBALL

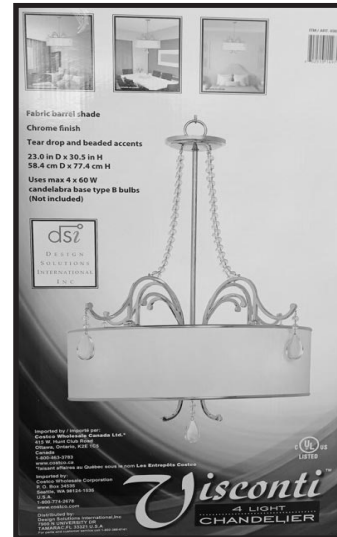
MSRP \$314 **FOR SALE: \$105**

BRAND NEW - UNOPENED BOX



Frys up to 14 lb. Turkey, stainless steel, easy cleaning, comes with cooking basket and lifting hook. The safe way to deep fry turkey.

Call 216-441-2188 M-F, 9am-5pm



DRUM CHANDELIER

MSRP \$90

FOR SALE: \$35

Fabric barrel shade, chrome finish, teardrop and beaded accents, 23" D x 30.5" H, uses max 2x60W bulbs (not included).

New unopened box.

Call 216-441-2188 M-F, 9am-5pm

HELP WANTED

Auto Mechanic. Full time, part time. Good pay! Must have tools. Transmission shop. (216) 477-5915.

ADVERTISE in The N.N. Deadline every Monday before 5:00 p.m.

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

Warehouse worker/Delivery driver. No weekends, flexible hours, clean driving record. Ability to lift 40 pounds. This is an enjoyable environment for someone looking for flexible, part-time hours. (440) 934-6879.

HELP WANTED

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Apply In Person - Open Everyday 8-8

22777 Rockside Rd., Bedford, OH 44146

CHRISTMAS FUN AT CIVIC CENTER Drawing to benefit GHPD



Holiday Lighting ceremonies took place on Sunday at the Garfield Heights Civic Center with lots of afternoon activities going on before Santa and Mayor Matt Burke flipped the light switch at dusk. Shown above are the children and Mayor Burke participating in a good old-fashioned Christmas sing-a-long inside the Center. **Photo by Elena Psenicka**

'Shop with a Cop' event

The Garfield Heights Police Department is once again participating in this year's "Shop with a Cop," hosted by the Fraternal Order of Police on Saturday, Dec. 16. For every 150 tickets sold, officers will take one child shopping for the holidays.

To provide the children money for their shopping excursion, GHPD is holding a prize drawing on Thursday, Dec. 21. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Grand prize is a 50" television, second prize an iPad and third prize is \$100.

To buy tickets or to donate, see the Records Department at the police station, 5555 Turney Rd., Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. If you need help outside of

these hours, contact Dispatch at 216-475-1234.

The Neighborhood News
Serving the Southeast Cleveland area since 1923

Give thanks onto the Lord, for he is good, his love endures forever.
 1 Chronicles 16:34

JOIN US FOR
Thanksgiving Dinner
 NOVEMBER 23, 2023
 11 AM - 3 PM
 SPONSORED BY
SANCTUARY BAPTIST CHURCH
 PASTOR MARK SMITH / PASTOR CHRIS SCOTT
 4004 CRENNEL AVE. E 131 ST (NEAR HARVARD)
 CLEVELAND OHIO 44105
 (216) 752-2500

All are welcome!

Councilman Mark Smith - City of Garfield Heights - Ward 3

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From, Mike, Bruce, Ronald, Kevin and staff.

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EST. One Stop Shop 2023

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OPEN EVERYDAY
 8:00AM - 8:00PM



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MAYOR ANNETTE M. BLACKWELL INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THE

Annual Holiday Lighting Ceremony



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2023
 5:30-7:00 PM
 MAPLE HEIGHTS CITY HALL
 5353 LEE ROAD | MAPLE HEIGHTS

FEATURING:
 HOLIDAY MUSIC BY ERIN NICOLE NEAL 5:30 PM
 VISIT FROM SANTA 6:00 PM
 CITY HALL LIGHTING 6:15 PM
 HOT CHOCOLATE & COOKIES

