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101st YEAR

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024

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

FREE

Easter Fest in Maple Hts.

Mayor Annette Blackwell invites Maple Heights residents to "Easter Fest" on Saturday, March 23, from 12:30 to 3 p.m., in the Maple Heights High Cafetorium, 1 Mustang Way, Maple Heights.

There will be photos with the Easter Bunny (bring your own phone), Easter cookie decorating, a Bounce House, Home Depot craft kit giveaway, make your own Easter basket, bike raffle, snack pack treats and much more!

These activities are for Maple Heights residents only; children 12 and under.

Area churches asked to email Holy Week services to NN

The Neighborhood News is continuing its long-standing custom of publishing Holy Week and Easter Services for all churches in its readership area free of charge in its March 27th issue.

Churches are asked to email their schedule of services, which may include Holy Thursday through Easter Sunday, to: nnews1923@aol.com by Monday, March 25, at 5 p.m.

Fleet Bunny Hop Saturday

Local Easter bunnies will converge on Slavic Village's Fleet Ave. this Saturday, March 23, from noon to 3 p.m., for the 4th annual Fleet Bunny Hop, the neighborhood's annual outdoor Easter party.

The event is produced by the Community Yahoos in cooperation with local businesses and service organizations. The Yahoo's head, Odetta Jordan, said children and their parents and friends are invited to stroll along the avenue from E. 50 St. to E. 63 St., to collect seasonal treats at tables set up by local merchants and nonprofit groups.

All residents and friends of Slavic Village are welcome to participate in this free event. Rain or shine.

Slavic Village has a long tradition of celebrating springtime, both in its many churches during the religious holiday of Easter and at civic events like Easter parties for children.

The Fleet Bunny Hop is part of the neighborhood's newest strategy of developing the area by adding life to its historic main streets.

To get involved in planning more events, join the Slavic Village Stakeholders at their next public meeting on Tuesday, May 21, at 6 p.m., at Seven Roses, 6301 Fleet Ave. Call 216-469-4806 for more details.

Groundbreaking held last Friday for Cleveland Browns' donation of new turf at GHHS athletic field

The Garfield Heights City Schools will receive a high-quality synthetic turf as part of a major donation from the Cleveland Browns and the Haslam and Johnson families, who comprise its ownership team, and where this past Friday, March 15, a special groundbreaking was hosted.

The synthetic turf will replace the grass athletic surface, which has significantly deteriorated over the decades. In fact, the playing surface has not been replaced in nearly 70 years.

Despite the best efforts of the district's maintenance staff, the field was rendered unplayable by local interscholastic officiating and student-athlete organizations. No home games took place at the football stadium last year for the Bulldogs because of the deplorable playing surface. No home track and field competitions have taken place at Garfield Heights in more than 20 years.

As part of the Browns commitment to education as well as youth and high school football, the organization will install ForeverLawn high-quality synthetic turf in association with Ohio Cat at the high school this spring.

GHHS will be the 15th field surface provided to Ohio schools and communities by the Haslam and Johnson families, as well as Browns Give Back, since the team's long-term field initiative launched eight years ago in May 2016.

"The Garfield Heights City Schools has a motto, and that is Every child... Every day... TOGETHER," said GHCS Superintendent Dr. Richard D. Reynolds. "This project, along with the generosity of the Cleveland Browns and Haslam Sports Group, gives us all the opportunity to experience the power of what TOGETHER truly means. This field turf will empower and enrich not only our students, but our community for generations to come."

Several representatives from the Cleveland Browns were in attendance to speak to the gathering, including Browns Head Coach Kevin Stefanski.

"We are thrilled to have officially broken ground on our 15th field surface project here at Garfield Heights High School and provide this great resource for the community," said Cleveland Browns Executive Vice President and partner JW Johnson.

The new turf at Garfield Heights High School is expected to in by the start of the 2024 fall sports season.

All of the new fields created through the program are lined for multiple sports, including but not limited to football and soccer, and serve as a resource to further engage athletes and students in their respective districts and programs.



Shown at the groundbreaking ceremonies Friday for the new field turf at GHHS are, from left: Board Vice President Heather Morrison; board members Ashley M. Thomas, Thandeka Cox and Nichelle N. Daniels; Superintendent Dr. Richard D. Reynolds; Browns Head Coach Kevin Stefanski; Browns Executive Vice President and partner JW Johnson; Coordinator of Pupil Services Gina Wilson; Board President Millette King and Treasurer Phillip J. Oko.

WIN YOUR EASTER HAM  SEE PAGES 4 AND 5



Garfield Heights Police Department provides update on juvenile issues

The following is a statement released by the Garfield Heights Police Department regarding the increase in problems created by juveniles in the city.

UPDATE ON JUVENILE ISSUES

We wanted to provide an update regarding the issues surrounding juveniles, both at school dismissal and incidents elsewhere in the city. It's important to note, the majority of kids walking home do not cause any trouble. They do, however, get caught in the groups watching those kids who are causing the problems. We've identified numerous students we believe are the crime drivers and are taking the appropriate measures with them, up to and including arrests. Also, we coordinated with the schools who have policies covering kids "door to door," meaning they can be disciplined for incidents going to and leaving school. Any kids found to be disorderly, fighting or causing disturbances of any kind are identified and that information is forwarded to the school for discipline. The final piece is that every day all our Officers who are not engaged in priority calls are in the area monitoring problematic behavior. Yes, they have pepper ball guns. Yes, if a large crowd refuses to disperse after multiple warnings, pepper balls will be deployed. Large unruly crowds are inherently unsafe to persons and property, and will be disbanded.

There are some misconceptions with juveniles in regards to detention, arrest and transfer to the Cuyahoga

County Juvenile Detention Center.

Legally:

- Juveniles cannot be held at our facility for longer than three hours for a misdemeanor, six hours for a felony. For many crimes/offenses juveniles cannot be held securely either (i.e., in a jail cell).

- The Juvenile Detention Center has the sole discretion on whether or not they accept a juvenile into custody. We have no say in the matter. Currently, the Detention Center only automatically accepts first and second-degree felonies. All other charges are discretionary.

- If the detention center does not accept an arrested juvenile, we must return them to their guardian. Charges are filed by the Juvenile Prosecutor's Office at a later date.

We will be the first to admit that juveniles can be a handful, especially at school dismissal. We are addressing the issue with all the resources and strategies we have. We have all available officers in the area, along with numerous school staff and security. We have almost all of Turney Road from Rockside to the high school monitored constantly with surveillance cameras. We can identify juveniles causing issues and take the appropriate action after the fact.

What is helpful is citizens calling in with as specific information as possible regarding any juveniles causing disruptions. Any videos or pictures taken that can help us identify the problem kids is also helpful. What is not helpful is exaggerated social media claims of kids "wreaking havoc" and being "out of control" with no evidence or specific information. Or news stories depicting BB gun

incidents that happened over five years ago (GH report #20190678) as if they happened recently.

Often times what we are doing to address an issue is behind the scenes and not known to residents. We hope this information brings everyone up to speed on our past, current and future efforts to address this issue. As always, we deeply appreciate our residents support and assistance. Thank you.

Bulldogs season ends with buzzer winning basket by Toledo in regional finals

The Garfield Heights High School boys varsity basketball team played with passion and determination in its Division I matchup with Toledo Whitmer Saturday afternoon in the regional finals at the University of Toledo. But the Bulldogs came up short after a buzzer winning basket by Whitmer gave the Toledo team the victory over GHHS, 49-47. The Bulldogs had beaten Archbishop Hoban in the regional semifinals last Wednesday by a score of 52-43 in a game played at the University of Akron to advance to the regional finals, where their season ended.

Mr. Basketball contender

The Bulldogs Marcus Johnson, son of Coach Sonny Johnson, one of this year's boys basketball players of the year for the Northeast Lakes District, has been named a finalist for the 2024 Ohio Mr. Basketball Award from the Ohio Prep Sportswriters Association.

The winner will be announced at noon today, Wednesday, March 20. It is the same award Johnson's father, Coach Johnson, won in 1998.

Marcus Johnson is a 6'1" sophomore at GHHS and is coming off an All-Ohio first team season as a freshman and ranked 12th nationally in the Class of 2026. Johnson led the Bulldogs to a 19-0 start that included wins against Huntington Prep, Western Reserve Academy, defending Texas state champion Faith Family Christian and OHSAA champion Richmond Heights.

Johnson has offers from Ohio State to Alabama, Cincinnati, LSU and Villanova.

FOURTH ANNUAL... FREE EVENT!

Fleet Bunny Hop this Saturday!

March 23, Noon to 3pm
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CHILDREN, PARENTS AND FRIENDS CAN STROLL ALONG THE AVENUE FROM EAST 50th to EAST 63rd TO COLLECT SEASONAL TREATS AT TABLES SET UP BY LOCAL MERCHANTS AND NON-PROFIT GROUPS.

The event is produced by the Community Yahoos in cooperation with local businesses and service organizations. Join the Slavic Village Stakeholders at their next public meeting, Tuesday, May 21, 6pm at Seven Roses, 6301 Fleet Ave. For more information, call 216.469.4806

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All Mass times are Live streamed.

At March 4th meeting Bedford Council to allow group home on Archer Rd.

By Judith Goldsworth

At its meeting Monday, March 4, Bedford Council approved a motion to accept the Planning Commission's decision to allow James Wren to open a group home at 821 Archer Rd., a residential district of the city.

A representative of the group home spoke at the meeting to inform city officials that the plan for the Archer Rd. address is to house up to eight high-functioning autistic adults, and also that there will be a staffer on-site 24 hours to assist residents.

"We would be getting our clients from the Department of Developmental Disabilities, and if this is approved, we will have an interview process," the representative stated.

"...You still have to go through the building department and the fire department and the county and state to get licensed," Mayor Stan Koci said. "We have several group homes in town, and so far we have not had a problem."

Mizsak honored, other items approved

Council passed a number of other items on its agenda, including a motion to rename and dedicate the Palmetto Tot Lot between W. Grace and W. Glendale streets as "Paula Mizsak Park." The new name is in honor of former Ward 2 Councilwoman Paula Mizsak, who served on Bedford Council and in other city capacities for decades until her passing in February 2022.

Also passed was an ordinance authorizing City Manager Mike Mallis to enter into a contract with Ohio Plan Risk Management Inc. for property and liability insurance coverage for the city at a cost of \$221,219 for this year, beginning April 1.

The Ohio Plan pool is comprised of 800 municipalities across the state, City Manager Mike Mallis said. "The coverage is better and the biggest highlight is the cost, which is about \$19,000 cheaper than what we are currently paying."

Also passed was an ordinance to levy assessments for delinquent water bills to the real estate taxes of property owners who had not paid their bills in more than 60 days after receiving proper notification from the city.

Xellia not closing, officials say

In response to questions from a resident at the meeting, both Mallis and Koci confirmed that the Denmark-based Xellia Pharmaceuticals was not closing. However, about 80 employees had been laid off recently from the Northfield Rd. plant.

Xellia, which occupies part of the former Ben Venue/Boehringer Ingelheim property, is a manufacturer of specialty pharmaceuticals, according to the company's website.

Mallis also said that the U.K.-based Hikma Pharmaceuticals, a separate company which occupies another facility at the same location as Xellia, was not closing either and had in fact added more employees.

"They are now approaching 70 very skilled Research and Development positions," Mallis said of Hikma's operations, which he said does not include manufacturing at the site. "They're doing well. They just invested \$1.5 million in the building last year and there's going to be more this year," he stated.

Announcements

Mallis announced that the city had been informed that it was being awarded \$150,000 in Cuyahoga County grant funding, which will be used to buy two additional cruisers for the Bedford Police Department.

Mallis also said that residents needed to keep their car doors locked as thieves had been committing "crimes of opportunity" by going through unlocked cars and stealing items. "Just a friendly reminder," he said.

Work to begin Monday on Antenucci resurfacing

Beginning Monday, March 25, (weather permitting), The Perk Company will begin construction on the ODOT 23-0535 Antenucci Boulevard Resurfacing Project from Transportation Blvd. to Turney Rd.

The project will include rehabilitation of 0.7 miles of Antenucci Blvd. from Transportation Blvd. to Turney Rd. Improvements include pavement milling and resurfacing, full-depth and partial-depth pavement repairs, new curb realignment at Transportation Blvd., curb repair, new walks, catch basin reconstruction, guardrail removal on the south side of Antenucci, new pavement markings, sign replacement and the removal of two remnant intersections at Carol Jean Blvd. and Andover Blvd., with associated drainage improvements.

The project will be constructed in two phases on Antenucci Blvd. One-way traffic will be maintained at all times in the eastbound direction of Antenucci Blvd. Westbound traffic will be detoured along Turney Rd. to Granger Rd., then to Transportation Blvd. Access to businesses will be maintained at all times. All work will be performed during normal working hours. However, it may be necessary to perform intersection resurfacing during evening or off hours.

Work will begin at the Carol Jean and Andover Blvd. remnant intersections then proceed to Antenucci Blvd.

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Drawings will be held at each location at 12 noon, Thursday, March 28th. **Participating merchants should call their winners names immediately to The Neighborhood News (216-441-2141) to check for duplicate winners.**

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Students get hands-on eclipse presentation at PACC from senior astronomer at Natural History Museum

On a beautiful sunny afternoon last Saturday, at the Polish American Cultural Center JP11, on Lansing Ave., in Slavic Village, students of the Maria Konopnicka Polish Language School and Henryk Sienkiewicz Polish Language School had a wonderful time learning about the upcoming solar eclipse from Nick Anderson, senior astronomer of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Anderson used visual aids and a hands-on approach to engage the children, taking them on a tour of the heavens and discussing the different types of eclipses. He even introduced the children to the concept of a pinhole projector, which they made themselves, that allowed them to view the sun outside safely.

The children also had the opportunity to use the museum's cutting-edge solar telescope and observe the sun through welder-style glasses. Following the presentation, the children enjoyed pizza and Torunskie Pierniki cookies, while parents enjoyed beverages in the cafe and explored the center's museum. All parents and children expressed gratitude for the invitation to this CMNH presentation at the PACC.

"As the organizer of this event, I would like to extend special thanks to all the volunteers; this would not have been possible without your help," said PACC Director Gary Kotlarsic.



Polish language school students listen to Nick Anderson, senior astronomer at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, explain the upcoming solar eclipse at a special presentation at the Polish American Cultural Center in Slavic Village.

At March 18th meeting

Bedford Council OKs security cameras at Muny pool

By Judith Goldsworth

In the interest of increasing safety for residents, Bedford Council approved an ordinance to install security cameras at the Municipal Pool at its meeting on March 18, and several other pieces of legislation towards preparing the city for the upcoming summer season.

Council authorized City Manager Mike Mallis to enter into a contract with the Business Network Team for the purchase of a security camera system at the Municipal Pool and surrounding parks, at a cost of \$20,812.

The camera system will also cover areas of the Skate Park, as well as the area behind the Ellenwood Recreation Center, Mallis said, explaining that the cameras were part of a city facility improvements project.

"Our staff at the Ellenwood Center will be able to monitor the pool from the Center, and we'll be able to monitor them from the Police Department," Mallis said.

Also passed was an ordinance to raise the pay ranges for various positions in the city, including in Recreation, Pool and seasonal jobs. Mallis said it had been at least 20 years since the pay ranges had been addressed.

And passed was an ordinance authorizing Bedford Finance Director Jennifer Howland to continue a rebate program for Bedford residents who register to become members of the Community Center in the neighboring city of Bedford Heights, and raising the amount of the rebate from \$50 to \$75 for Bedford residents.

Bedford and Bedford Heights have a longstanding agreement to allow Bedford residents to become members of the Bedford Heights Community Center, entitling them to complete use of the facility upon paying the yearly applicable fees, according to the legislation. This agreement will continue, and Bedford residents will be eligible for a \$75 rebate once they pay the annual fee and provide a receipt as proof of payment.

Other ordinances passed

- Authorizing a contract between Mallis and Ganley Chevrolet of Aurora to buy two 2024 Chevrolet Tahoes for the Police Department, for a total amount of \$106,900.

The city has been awarded a \$150,000 Cuyahoga County Community Block Grant for reimbursement of the purchase and outfitting costs for the vehicles.

- Authorizing a contract between Mallis and GPD Group for a Financial Capability Assessment to supplement the No Feasible Alternatives (NFA) analysis, at a cost of \$67,810. The city is mandated by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency to conduct an NFA analysis to address overflows impacting the city's Wastewater Treatment Plant, to reduce flow and suggest potential upgrades.

- Authorizing renewal of a contract between Mallis and iamGIS Group, LLC ("GIS") for asset management software and services for the city's public water and sewer infrastructure, at a cost of \$45,900.

- Authorizing a purchase agreement with Thundershine LLC, to buy property on Willis St., at a cost of \$25,000, to create additional public parking spaces as part of the ongoing Bedford Commons Expansion Project. The city was awarded a Cuyahoga County Supplemental Grant of up to \$50,000 for the property acquisition, which will cover all costs of the purchase.

- Council approved a motion to appoint Christopher Bulanda to the Civil Service Commission for a four-year term.

Announcements

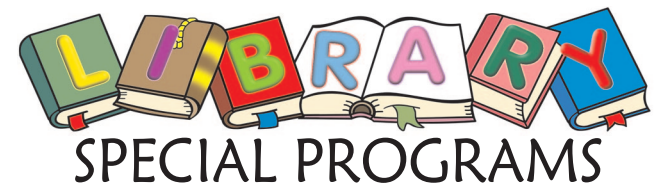
Mallis announced that the annual Easter Egg Hunt by the Parks and Recreation Department for children ages 12 and under will take place at Bedford Bearcat Stadium, 481 Northfield Rd., at 10 a.m. sharp on Saturday, March 23. Children and grandchildren of Bedford residents only; registration required. Go to bedfordoh.myrec.com for more information.

Mallis also said that beginning on Monday, March 25, the contractor for ODOT will begin "substantial improvements" to the Northfield Rd. Bridge. The project will include repair and replacement of the sidewalks, parapet walls, expansion joints, railings, fencing and drainage, he said. Traffic will be maintained.

Garfield Hts. to hold Ice Skating Exhibition

All are invited to the 54th Ice Skating Exhibition in Garfield Heights, called "Garfield Goes to Cartoonland," on Saturday, March 23, at 3 p.m., at the Dan Kostel Recreation Center, 5411 Turney Rd.

Doors open at 2:30 p.m., with admission fees for youth ages 5-13, \$5; adults ages 14-65, \$10; seniors 66 and up, \$5, with proper ID.



Bedford (Bedford Heights/Oakwood Village) Branch Library

Here are some of the **FREE** programs coming up in March at the Bedford Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, located at 70 Columbus Rd., Bedford, Ohio 44146. For more information, or to register for any program, please call 440-439-4997.

iPhone 101 - Adults, Saturday, March 23, 10 a.m. Get to know your iPhone better in this introductory class. Your iPhone is a state-of-the-art device that can make calls, send texts, browse the web, take photos and so much more. Learn the basics, as well as some of the lesser-known built-in features, that can make organizing your life a little easier. **MUST REGISTER**

African American Authors Book Group - In-Person or Virtual. All Adults are Welcome, Thursday, March 28, 7 p.m. March Title: "Deception: A Novel," by Stacey Abrams, under her pen name Selena Montgomery. Join us for a lively discussion of this suspense novel that includes a woman professional poker player, a murder, a small southern town AND romance.

Self-Care Saturday - Ages 13-18, Saturday, March 30, 11 a.m. Ease your mind with calming activities. Art, yoga, writing and more! A release form must be completed by a parent/guardian prior to the program in order to participate. **MUST REGISTER**

Chapter Book Champs, Saturday, March 30, 3:30 p.m. Whether you finished the book or not, join us for activities and a book discussion based on the book "The Last Mapmaker" by Christina Soontornvat. Registration will close one week before the program. If you would like to attend after registration closes, please call the Bedford Branch at 440-439-4997. This program is both in person and virtual. **MUST REGISTER**

Independence Branch Library

Here are some of the **FREE** programs being offered in March at the Independence Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, located at 6361 Selig Dr., Independence. For more information or to register for any program, please call 216-447-0160.

Adults

Wednesday Night Book Discussion. No registration required. Please join us for a casual and lively book discussion of "Anxious People" by Fredrik Backman. The books will be available approximately one month before the discussion date. Wednesday, March 20, 7:15 p.m.

Thursday Afternoon Book Discussion. No registration required. Please join us for a casual and lively book discussion of "Anxious People" by Fredrik Backman. The books will be available approximately one month before the discussion date. Thursday, March 21, 2:15 p.m.

March Madness in the Library: Mansions of Madness Edition. Registration required. Dive into the eerie universe of H.P. Lovecraft's cosmic horror at our library program. Join fellow enthusiasts for an afternoon of tabletop gaming in the atmospheric setting of Mansions of Madness. Saturday, March 23, 12 p.m.

Cuyahoga Hts. Schools celebrate World Inclusion Day with t-shirts, banners, video



Staff and students from Cuyahoga Heights Elementary, Middle and High schools came together on the ballfield on March 7, to conclude the day's celebration of World Inclusion Day 2024.

“You Are Welcome” “You Are Capable” “You are Appreciated”

These were just a few of the signs teachers held as they greeted students entering the Cuyahoga Heights Schools last Thursday, March 7. The teachers' greetings kicked off the district's all-day celebration of World Inclusion Day 2024.

The day is celebrated around the world by advocates for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who join together to “Spread the Word” about the power of inclusion within our schools and communities. In the Cuyahoga Heights Schools, staff and students vowed to “Take Inclusion to New Heights.”

As a show of support, each staff member wore a specially designed t-shirt with the words “To the Heights of Inclusion” and greeted students entering the building beginning at 7 a.m. Students were invited to sign a large banner that the cheerleaders made to pledge to be inclusive of their peers. Students were also presented with inspirational stickers.

High school students in the creative productions class and students from the Middle/High School Resource Room produced a video in which staff members shared how they help their students “reach new heights” and reflected on why they chose to work at Cuyahoga Heights. The video was shared with all students and staff in the high school auditorium to get them motivated for the school day.

The recently renovated Resource Room was also made available to view the recent improvements. The district used Career Technical Education grant funds provided by the Cuyahoga Valley Career Center which some Cuyahoga Heights students attend, to remodel the former classroom into a life skills learning space for middle and high school students with intellectual disabilities. The room features a bed, washer and dryer, oven, dishwasher and other appliances that are used to help students learn practical daily living skills to prepare them for independent living after graduation.

“We are excited to join together to show our support for World Inclusion Day and we look forward to continuing what we do best - helping all of our students reach new heights,” said Superintendent Tom Evans. “It was a great opportunity to show our students how much we care about them and want them to be successful in school and beyond.”

Clevelanders to benefit from grant for smoke, carbon monoxide detectors

Cleveland City Council held its regular meeting Monday night and passed legislation to accept a grant of \$77,619.04 for the purchase of smoke/carbon monoxide detectors, including installation and installation tools for residents of the city.

The grant is from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security from the Fire Prevention and Safety Grant Program. Cleveland is required to provide matching funds of \$3,880.96.

The grant program is specifically designed to assist fire prevention programs. Cleveland's Fire Department wants to be more proactive in providing residents with smoke detectors with 10-year batteries and carbon monoxide detectors so applied for this federal grant. The Red Cross partners with the city to also provide these detectors.

•2024 Budget Passed: Council also passed the city's 2024 budget, that includes a \$779,212,735 General Fund. The total city budget, which includes the Special Revenue Funds, Internal Service Funds, Enterprise Fund, Agency Fund and Debt Service Funds comes to \$2,060,216,048.

Firefighters Health: Council approved a bill to accept a grant in the amount of \$812,404.47 from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant. Cleveland must provide \$81,240.45 in matching funds. The funding will be used to conduct cancer and behavioral health screenings and medical and fitness evaluations and expanding health and cancer screenings.

Plan for Good Health

Protect your health and the people you love.

- Vaccines are safe, save millions of lives, and are the best defense against many infectious diseases.
- If you are 65+ or have a compromised immune system, you may be more vulnerable.

Flu

For more information on how **Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging Public Health** can help you plan for good health, scan this QR code.

COVID-19

For additional information about our services, contact WRAAA's **Aging & Disability Resource Center** at 216.621.0303

This project is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through USAging as part of a financial assistance award to USAging totaling \$74,880,835 with 100 percent funding by ACL/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official view of, nor an endorsement, by USAging/ACL/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

AGING & DISABILITY
Vaccination
Collaborative
powered by USAging

Western Reserve
Area Agency on Aging

**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, March 20, 2024** from the **Clerk of Council Office**, 5353 Lee Road, Maple Heights, Ohio, 44137, to fill one (1) open position for the term expiring **May 31, 2029**.

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, April 3, 2024.** For further information, call the Clerk's office at (216) 587-9000.

Leonette Cicirella Johnson
Clerk of Council/PZC Secretary
City of Maple Heights

The Neighborhood News
March 20, 2024
March 27, 2024

GET HOOKED ON THESE NEIGHBORHOOD FISH FRY'S AND LENTEN SPECIALS!

HARBRY'S STEAK HOUSE

5664 Brecksville Road
Independence • 216-524-5300

FISH FRY

Every Wednesday & Friday
During Lent

**Beer Battered Cod, Includes:
Choice of Side, Plated Salad,
Homemade Rolls & Cole Slaw**

\$22.99 (No Seconds)

HOLY NAME PARISH

FISH FRY

4:00-7:00 PM
HAREN HALL

Feb. 16, 23
March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

JOIN US EVERY FRIDAY DURING LENT!

All dinners include Coleslaw & Bread w/Butter Dine-In includes Free Coffee or Hot Tea w/dinner purchase

2-pc PERCH Dinner w/French Fries ... \$15	... SIDES AVAILABLE ...
6-pc SHRIMP Dinner w/French Fries ... \$16	Fish (1pc) ... \$5
5-pc PIEROGI Dinner w/Sour Cream/Onions ... \$11	French Fries ... \$4
2-pc BAKED TILAPIA Dinner w/Baked Potato... \$15	Mac & Cheese ... \$3
COMBINATION DINNER ... \$15 ...	Desserts ... \$2
(3-Pierogi, 1-Fish & Cabbage and Noodles)	Cabbage & Noodles ... \$4
	Pierogi (2pcs) ... \$4
	Bottled Water ... \$1

*** NO SUBSTITUTIONS *** NOW ACCEPTING CREDIT CARDS WITH SERVICE FEE ***
Holy Name Catholic Church, 8328 Broadway Ave., Cleveland, 44105, 216.271.4242

Polish Legion of
American Veterans

LINCOLN POST 13

6009 FLEET AVE. Use Side Door Entrance

FRIDAY FISH FRY

Every Friday thru Good Friday
Serving 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Fish or Shrimp Dinners ... \$13
Fish Sandwich ... \$8
Pierogi Dinner ... \$6
Cheeseburger ... \$8

Takeouts available: 216-341-9556

RED CHIMNEY RESTAURANT

EVERY FRIDAY FISH FRY

6501 FLEET AVE
216-441-0063

Cod Dinner ... \$12.99
w/French Fries or Mac & Cheese ...with Pierogi ...\$14.49
Walleye Dinner ... \$14.99
with French Fries or Mac & Cheese ...with Pierogi ...\$17.99
Whitefish Dinner ... \$11.99
with French Fries or Mac & Cheese ...with Pierogi ...\$13.49
Petite Shrimp Basket
with French Fries ... \$10.99

St. Michael Gharck

6540 Brecksville Road, Independence, OH
Corner of Chestnut and Brecksville

FISH FRY

Dine-In or Carry-out, Info?
Call Gary, 216-272-0220

Sponsored by: St. Michael Holy Name Altar & Rosary Society

February 16 thru March 22, 4-7pm

Every Friday in Lent except Good Friday

Choice of: BAKED or FRIED COD or SHRIMP Dinner or PIEROGIS or COMBO

All Dinners include: French Fries or Baked Potato, Fresh Cole Slaw or Applesauce or Fruit Cup, Rolls and Butter, Beverage, Condiments.

Adult dinners \$15; Children's meals \$7; Desserts \$1.00
Fish Sandwich Pizza for Two • Mac & Cheese w/Fries & Drink \$7. SPECIALS EACH WEEK!

St. Monica Fish Fry

13623 Rockside Rd Garfield Hts.
Fridays, February 16th - March 22nd
Serving 4:00 - 7:00pm

Battered Cod, Baked Salmon,
Shrimp, Homemade Cabbage &
Noodles, Homemade Macaroni
& Cheese, Potato Pierogi.

Senior & Child Dinners Available
Free Coffee & Ice Tea with Dine-in
Dessert included With All Meals

Dine-In or Carryout
Handicapped Accessible
Debit & Credit Cards Accepted
Questions 216 662 8685

SLOVENIAN NATIONAL HOME

3563 E. 80th St.
Cleveland, 44105

Lenten Fish Frydays

Open Bowling 6-11pm

Fry-day: March 22

Dinner served: 5:30 to 7:30pm in Hall
Cost vary based on Entree \$8-\$15

Breaded Walleye, Tilapia, Shrimp, Pierogies and Mac & Cheese.
All dinners come with side. A la Carte Options available.

LIVE POLKAS! Bring your friends!
March 22
Joe Novak and Friends
Reservations encouraged: Katie: 440-554-3915
Open Bowling: 6:30 to 11pm

Community police reports

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

Garfield Heights

Obstructing Official Business

On March 6, about 3 p.m., police were searching for a male who had an active felony warrant with GHPD for improperly furnishing a firearm to a minor. Police found the suspect walking south through the parking lot of McDonald's, 5240 Turney Rd. They advised him that he was under arrest at which time he fled on foot west towards his home in the 11000 block of Penfield Ave.

While officers chased the suspect they saw that he was clenching his waistband as if he could be carrying a weapon. Police arrested the suspect outside his home with charges pending for obstructing official business. Also cited for jay walking. There was no mention of his being armed at the time of his arrest in the report. His phone was seized as evidence in the felony case.

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 **28th day of March, 2024** for the "HILLGROVE AVENUE WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT 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. The owner intends and requires that this project be completed no later than June 1st, 2025.

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

All contractors and subcontractors involved with the project will to the extent practicable use Ohio products, materials, services, and labor in the implementation of their project. Additionally, contractor compliance with the equal employment opportunity requirements of Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 123 is required.

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 Department of Commerce, Bureau of Wage and Hour Administration, 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 interest 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, "HILLGROVE AVENUE WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT".

Tinita Tillman
Finance Director
Maple Heights, Ohio

PUBLISHED: The Neighborhood News
March 13, 2024
March 20, 2024

Juveniles

On March 8, at 2:35 p.m., officers observed two juveniles, well known to them due to frequent interactions, walking south on Turney Rd. at Chester, with a large group of individuals wearing ski masks and medical gloves. Police instructed them to go straight home, warning them they would be arrested if they caused any issues. They said they were going to a friend's house on Mapleleaf Dr. They continued past Mapleleaf Dr. to Turney and Thraves rds., where a fight broke out. Officers observed one of the juveniles with a bloodied lip. One of the combatants began screaming at officers inciting a large crowd. He was placed under arrest and continued screaming profanities around a large group of children. He was held at GHPD jail for disorderly conduct. The Juvenile Detention Center advised it is only accepting juvenile arrestees for felony 1 and 2 crimes. The boy was released to his guardian.

Improperly Discharging Firearm into Habitation

On March 9, an officer responded to a home in the 13700 block of Saybrook Dr., where the homeowner said that on that day at about 2:30 a.m., he heard about four gunshots coming from the front yard of his house. He discovered about 10 a.m. that there was a hole in his television set, a hole in the north facing picture window and concluded that one of the bullets fired from the street in front of his house had hit the picture window, then struck the television and traveled into a dining room wall. The officer found three spent casings in the front yard of the home. Homeowner said he doesn't have any issues with anyone.

Shots Fired

•On March 11, about 6:08 a.m., police were dispatched to the area of the 9900 block of Greenview Ave., for a report of several shots being fired in the street. Officers found no homes or vehicles struck by gunfire in the vicinity but did locate 11 spent 40-caliber casings in the street. Detective Bureau to follow up.

•On March 11, shortly before 8 p.m., GHPD units arrived in the area of Robinson and Parkview aves., for a report of shots being fired. An officer found 14 spent shell

casings in front of a home in the 10000 block of Parkview Ave. They were laying in the street with a few closer to the driveway. Police spoke to a resident who explained to police that she had just got into a verbal argument with her ex-boyfriend. She said he had been threatening her life for the past two days because they were no longer together. She said because she would not come outside and give back the ex-boyfriend's pistol he decided to discharge his "Draco" into the air in front of her house. When he was done shooting he drove off in his Cadillac SUV. The ex-girlfriend was unsure if she wanted to pursue charges. The report was forwarded to the prosecutor for review of charges.

•On March 12, at 2:21 a.m., officers were dispatched to the 10800 block of Vernon Ave., for a report of about 9 gunshots heard in the area and a boxy SUV leaving the area towards the park. Police drove down Vernon and spotted a man looking over his truck in the driveway of a home in the 10700 block of Vernon Ave. He told officers his Ford truck may have been hit gunfire. It appeared his vehicle had damage from gunfire in the rear window and on the passenger side door. He told police he had been inside his house and had heard gunfire from outside the home. He went out and checked his truck and saw it had been hit with gunfire. He was not able to provide a suspect or suspect vehicle involved. Upon further inspection, it was found that a Jeep that was also in the victim's driveway had two flat tires and a punctured gas tank as a result of gunfire. Police found the victim's house was also struck once and two impacts in the front yard. More shell casings were located in the street. A city-owned camera showed a gray Dodge Durango or newer Jeep Grand Cherokee pull onto Vernon from Turney Rd., shut its lights off and continue down Vernon east shortly before the shooting calls came in. Report forwarded to the Detective Bureau.

Personal Welfare

Officers responded to the intersection of Grand Division and Burleigh Rd., on March 11, at 6:17 p.m., for a located shoeless toddler walking in the area. A neighbor had seen the boy, about 3-years-old, in his neighbor's driveway in the 8400 block of Grand Division Ave., Cleveland side of the street. The neighbor followed the little boy down the street until officers arrived to assist. Police checked with all the surrounding homes for a parent or guardian of the child but no one knew him. The toddler wasn't communicating his name, home location or any information about a parent to the officers. He was transported to the station until Child Services could come for him. Later in the evening the parents came forward to claim their child, according to a post from newsbreak.com.

Washington Park Community School

4000 Washington Park Blvd., Newburgh Heights, Ohio 44105, 216-271-6055



The Washington Park
Board of Directors
will meet on Thursday,
March 21, 2024,
5:30 p.m. at the school.

N.N.: 3-20-24

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS 2024 GRASS NUISANCE ABATEMENT SERVICES

Sealed Requests for Proposals (RFP's) will be received by the Planning and Development Department at Maple Heights City Hall, 5353 Lee Road, Maple Heights, Ohio 44137, until **4:00 p.m.**, local time, on the **5th day of April, 2024** for the "2024 GRASS NUISANCE ABATEMENT SERVICES" in the City of Maple Heights, Ohio. NO FAXED COPIES ACCEPTED. RFP's may be submitted in person, through the U.S. Postal Service or via e-mail to jduffy@mapleheightsohio.com within the solicitation period.

The Requirements for Proposals and Bidder Information Forms may be procured at the office of the Planning and Development Director or on the City's RFP web page at: www.citymapleheights.com/government/city-bids-rfps/.

Three (3) successful contractors will be required to register as a contractor with the Maple Heights Building Department.

RFP's are to be submitted in sealed envelopes marked, "2024 GRASS NUISANCE ABATEMENT SERVICES."

Joseph Duffy
Planning and Development Director
City of Maple Heights

PUBLISHED: The Neighborhood News
March 13, 2024
March 20, 2024

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.

 **The Neighborhood News**
Since 1923 - Published every Wednesday
Delivered in Southeast Cleveland, Garfield Heights, Newburgh Heights,
Cuyahoga Heights, Independence, Valley View, Maple Heights and Bedford

Jason Iverson pleads guilty to murdering his pregnant sister and her husband at Stafford Park in Maple Hts.

Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Michael C. O'Malley announced last week that Jason Iverson has pleaded guilty to the aggravated murders of his pregnant sister, her unborn child, and her husband in Maple Heights on Sept. 4, 2023. In addition, he pleaded guilty to felonious assault for shooting his son.

"Jason Iverson violently gunned down his sister, her unborn child and his brother-in-law at a church picnic," said O'Malley. "In the process, he shot at his own 13-year-old son, grazing him in the face. Iverson displayed a horrific level of violence that day and today's conviction holds him accountable for that. My thoughts and prayers remain with the victims' family during this time."

Last Sept. 4, Iverson started to engage in an altercation with his sister, 30, and her husband, 31, at a church picnic at Stafford Park near Mayville Ave. and Beverly Ave. in Maple Heights prosecutors said. The victims and Iverson's 13-year-old son attempted to leave and entered their vehicle in the parking lot.

Iverson followed them and shot his sister and his 13-year-old son. The 31-year-old male victim got out of the vehicle and fled on foot into the park bathroom. Iverson followed his brother-in-law into the bathroom, shot him multiple times and fled on foot. The Maple Heights Police Department responded to the scene and arrested Iverson. The 31-year-old male was pronounced deceased at the scene. The 30-year-old female and her unborn child were transported to a nearby hospital and pronounced deceased.

Iverson pleaded guilty to the following charges: three counts of aggravated murder and one count of felonious assault. He will be sentenced on April 17, at 12:30 p.m.

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5001 TURNEY ROAD • GARFIELD HEIGHTS



CITY OF BEDFORD, OHIO

List of Meetings for April 2024

Monday, April 1, 2024	Council Work Session - TBD Regular Meeting - 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 2, 2024	Planning Commission (if needed) Work Session - 5:30 p.m. Regular Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 10, 2024	Southeast Area Law Enforcement (SEALE) Board of Trustees Meeting (if needed) Work Session - 10:00 a.m. Regular Meeting - 12:00 p.m.
Monday, April 15, 2024	Council Work Session - TBD Regular Meeting - 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 16, 2024	Planning Commission (if needed) Work Session - 5:30 p.m. Regular Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
Monday, April 22, 2024	Wards 1 & 6 - 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 23, 2024	Board of Zoning Appeals (if needed) Work Session - 5:30 p.m. Regular Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
Monday, April 29, 2024	Wards 3 & 4 - 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 Tracy M. Simons, Clerk of Council, at 440-735-6510.

*Tracy M. Simons
Clerk of Council*

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For more information, call Garfield Heights Service Office - (216) 475-1107. GRASS - Return applications to pbirk@garfieldhts.org ROAD - Return applications to: servicegarage@garfieldhts.org or drop off at: GH Service Garage, 13600 McCracken Rd.



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Brooklyn Hts., Valley View girls basketballers are co-champions of South Suburban League

"The future looks bright for Heights girls basketball," said Coach Bill Stegmaier, who offered to coach both the Brooklyn Heights and Valley View 5th and 6th grade recreational girls basketball teams at the beginning of the season.

He had only one stipulation: the teams would not have to play each other. And both teams have finished their seasons as co-champions of the South Suburban League with impressive undefeated records of 12-0.

Addressing both his teams, the coach said, "Girls, we are so proud of you, and we are grateful for all that you do."



Shown here are the Brooklyn Heights 5th and 6th grade basketball team members. Front row, from left: Eve Kadas, Madison Rabant, Aly Wysocki, Claire Gannon. Back row: Coach Bill Stegmaier, Rose Jackson, Mackenzie Childs, Gianna Sciano, Kayleigh Tyna.

The Valley View 5th and 6th grade basketball team members are shown, from left: Jenna Skinner, Siena Snyder, Julia Nichols, Kalee Conte, Ava Stiles, Lily Smith and Coach Bill Stegmaier behind them.

Walking the Path to Easter at St. John Lutheran Church

Walk the **PATH to EASTER** at St. John Lutheran Church, 11333 Granger Rd., Garfield Heights, on Saturday, March 30, beginning at 10 a.m. This year there will be six short stops for each family to do an activity or create something to take home with them.

At the end of the Path, all the children will be gathered together for a traditional Easter Egg Hunt on the church grounds.

If you have questions please contact Karen at the church, sjlutheran@att.net or call the church office 216-587-4222. Please be sure to leave your name and a phone number. **AND** watch for details to come soon for the Summer Super Sundays at the church.



For questions or to register for programs, please see clevelandmetroparks.com or call CanalWay Center at 216-206-1000. All programs free unless otherwise marked.

CanalWay Center – Ohio & Erie Canal Res.

March 23: Preschoolers Play in the Park - Frogs. Bring your preschooler to discover some springtime sounds, aka frog calls. We will learn about what frogs sound like and when they are most likely to call. We will go for a walk down to the wetland to hear who is out there making noise. Dress for weather, may be muddy. 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Meet at CanalWay Center. Age: 2–6 years w/adult. Terrain: paved and natural trails, hill, less than 1 mile

March 24: Bird Refresher Course - Warblers. Do you want to get into birding but don't know where to begin? Or maybe you are a beginner birder looking to touch up on your identification skills before the spring migration. Join naturalist Justin Willard for a session in the classroom to learn how to identify a different group of birds each week and a short hike afterwards. 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Terrain: paved and natural surface, one hill, 1 mile.

March 24: Spring Hike to see the Eagle Nest. We only have about a month left before the leaves hide the Ohio and Erie Canal eagle nest from view. Walk with a naturalist to see what's happening at the nest and explore life around the towpath. 1 – 3 p.m. Meet at CanalWay Center.

March 30: Bunny Myths & Facts. Hop on over to CanalWay Center to put your knowledge to the test about one of our most common backyard animals, the notorious eastern cottontail rabbit. A short outdoor nature walk will follow. 10 – 11 a.m. Ages 7 years & over w/adult. Terrain: paved, 1 mile.

March 30: Towpath Trail and Tails: Dog Friendly Walk. Bring your beloved dogs and join us for a stroll along the Ohio and Erie Canal and learn about the history of our "big ditch" with historian Judy MacKeigan. Dogs must be on a leash. Puppy lovers without dogs are also welcome! 11 a.m. – noon. Terrain: paved, incline, 1.5 miles.

SPECIAL EVENTS

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Tired of renting? Want to own a home?

Third Federal Savings and Loan, the City of Garfield Heights, and Cleveland Clinic are hosting an informal discussion on Homebuyer Education.

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Email: Toniya.Powell@thirdfederal.com or call 440-461-9583

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