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102nd YEAR

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

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FREE

POLISH HARVEST FESTIVAL FUN



The Polish Harvest Festival, sponsored by the Cleveland Polka Association and the Polish-American Cultural Center, was held last Saturday, at the PACC on Lansing Ave. Music by John Góra & Górale from Toronto, Canada, got dancers to their feet at the festival, as well as the delicious Polish food and other fun activities. Photo by Elena Psenicka

Ohio School Report Cards attempt to measure schools' performance levels

2023-2024 Ohio School Report Cards were issued last week for each school district and each school within each school district accredited with the state. They are required by law to provide parents, caregivers, community members, educators and policymakers information about district and school performance — to celebrate successes and identify areas for improvement.

Districts and schools receive an overall rating of 1 to 5 stars in half-star increments. Star ratings are received for achievement, progress, gap closing, graduation and early literacy. Report cards also include student-level proficiency rates based on the results of Ohio's State Tests in English language arts, math, science, and social studies.

Achievement: Represents whether student performance on state tests met established thresholds and how well students performed on tests overall.

Progress: Looks closely at the growth all students are making based on their past performances.

Gap Closing: Measure of the reduction in educational gaps for student groups.

Graduation: Measure of the four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate and the five-year adjusted cohort graduation rate.

Early Literacy: Measures reading improvement and proficiency for students in kindergarten through third grade.

The following are star ratings for the school districts in The Neighborhood News readership area, listed in alphabetical order. These are overall star ratings for the districts, not the individual schools within that district.

The star ratings are an average of the stars received in each district for achievement, progress, gap closing, graduation and early literacy.

BEDFORD CITY

3 STAR RATING. Meets state standards. Rated 3 Stars the previous year.

Achievement: 2 Stars. Needs support to meet state standards in academic achievement.

Progress: 4 Stars. Exceeded student growth expectations.

Gap Closing: 4 Stars. Exceeds state standards.

Graduation: 2 Stars. 83.4% of students graduated in 4 years. 90.3% graduated in 5 years.

Early Literacy: 1 Star. Needs significant support to meet state standards.

CLEVELAND MUNICIPAL

3 STAR RATING. Meets state standards. Rated 2 Stars the previous year.

Achievement: 2 Stars. Needs support to meet state standards in academic achievement.

Progress: 4 Stars. Exceeded student growth expectations.

Gap Closing: 3 Stars. Meets state standards.

Graduation: 1 Star. 75.3% of students graduated in 4 years. 79.6% graduated in 5 years.

Early Literacy: 1 Star. Needs significant support to meet state standards.

CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS LOCAL

5 STAR RATING. Significantly exceeds state standards. Rated 5 Stars the previous year.

Achievement: 5 Stars. Significantly exceeds state standards.

Progress: 5 Stars. Exceeded student growth expectations.

Gap Closing: 5 Stars. Significantly exceeds state standards.

Graduation: 5 Stars. 98.8% of students graduated in 4 years. 100% of students graduated in 5 years.

(Continued on Page 2)

GHPD welcomes K-9 Ike

The Garfield Heights Police Department welcomed its newest officer, K-9 Ike, who is shown in photo with his handler, Officer Joseph Timko, as posted on the GHPD Facebook page.

K-9 Ike is a 14-month old German Shepherd who loves staying active and finding things with his nose. Officer Timko and K-9 Ike just attended a six-week long K-9 academy at Von Der Haus Gill in Wapakoneta, Ohio.

Ike will serve as a dual-purpose Police K-9, trained in patrol and narcotics. Last Friday Officer Timko and K-9 Ike successfully passed their State exam and are officially certified.



Polish History Day at Foundry

Polish History Day at The Foundry, 1813 Columbus Rd., Cleveland, will be held on Sunday, Sept. 29, from 2 to 6 p.m. The Foundry is the home of the Cleveland Community Rowing & Sailing Center. It is located on the site of St. Mary's on the Flats Church, the first Catholic church in Cleveland. From 1873 to 1879, Polish masses were held there under the patronage of St. Stanislaus.

Those attending the Polish History Day event will meet Polish Olympian Wieslaw Kudja, renowned former rowing head coach and athlete and enjoy history presentations and displays from The Cleveland Metroparks, Slavic Village Development, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Slavic Village Historical Society and the Polish American Cultural Center, JPIL.

Ethnic foods including pierogi and grilled kielbasa will be available for purchase at the event.

Books & Media Sale at Maple Heights Library

The Friends of the Maple Heights Library will have its annual Large Book and Media Sale upstairs in the large meeting room on the Civic floor, 5225 Library Ln., on Thursday, Sept. 26, from 11:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Friday, Sept. 27, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday, Sept. 28, from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday is also \$5 Bag Day! Bags will be provided.

Please join the Friends and receive 10% off your purchases now through Aug. 31, 2025.

Ohio School Report Cards

(Continued from Page 1)

GARFIELD HEIGHTS CITY SCHOOLS

2 STAR RATING. Needs support to meet state standards. Rated 2 Stars the previous year.

Achievement: 2 Stars. Needs support to meet state standards.

Progress: 2 Stars. Significant evidence the district fell short of student growth expectations.

Gap Closing: 2 Stars. Needs support to meet state standards.

Graduation: 2 Stars. 88.7% of students graduated in 4 years. 89.4% graduated in 5 years.

Early Literacy: 1 Star. Needs significant support to meet state standards.

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INDEPENDENCE LOCAL

4.5 STAR RATING. Exceeds state standards. Rated 4 Stars the previous year.

Achievement: 5 Stars. Significantly exceeds state standards.

Progress: 3 Stars. Evidence the district met student growth expectations.

Gap Closing: 5 Stars. Significantly exceeds state standards.

Graduation: 5 Stars. 97.6% of students graduated in 4 years. 96.3% graduated in 5 years.

Early Literacy: 5 Stars. Significantly exceeds state standards.

MAPLE HEIGHTS CITY

3.5 STAR RATING. Meets state standards. Rated 3 Stars the previous year.

Achievement: 2 Stars. Needs support to meet state standards.

Progress: 4 Stars. Significant evidence that the district exceeded student growth expectations.

Gap Closing: 3 Stars. Meets state standards.

Graduation: 4 Stars. 95.1% of students graduated in 4 years. 97.4% graduated in 5 years.

Early Literacy: 2 Stars. Needs support to meet state standards.

Maple Hts. Council puts legislation to raise some salaries on first reading

By Judith Goldsworth

An ordinance to raise the annual salary of the safety director, a position that is currently held by Mayor Annette Blackwell, and another to raise the salaries of the council president and city council members, all retroactive to Sept. 1, 2024, were placed on first reading for further discussion by Maple Heights Council at their meeting last week.

The first piece of legislation proposes raising the safety director's salary from \$20,279.54 to \$30,000 annually. According to the city charter, the mayor also serves as safety director and is paid a separate salary for that position.

The second piece of legislation proposes raising the salary of council president, an office currently held by Ron Jackson, from \$18,750 to \$21,750 annually. Also proposed is raising the salaries of all seven council members from \$15,000 to \$18,000.

In the November 2021 General Election, Maple Heights voters passed a Charter Amendment to eliminate the requirement that elected officials' salaries be fixed at least 120 days prior to the date set for the municipal election for the terms beginning the next January.

Law Director Frank Consolo issued his opinion on the amendment in December 2021, stating, "Council may increase the pay for the council president and all councilpersons, regardless of whether such pay increase occurs before or during their term of office, without violating the laws of the state of Ohio."

(Continued on Page 5)

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 10th day of October, 2024** for the "2024 CONCRETE PROGRAM" 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 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, "2024 CONCRETE PROGRAM"

Tinita Tillman
Finance Director
Maple Heights, Ohio

PUBLISHED: *The Neighborhood News*
September 25, 2024
October 2, 2024

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, October 1st 2024, commencing at 12-1pm and 5-6pm at the Village of Cuyahoga Heights, Village Hall, 4863 East 71 Street, Cuyahoga Heights, Ohio 44125, the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council ("NOPEC"), on behalf of the Village of Cuyahoga Heights, a NOPEC member, will hold public hearings with respect to the Plan of Operation and Governance for the aggregation of competitive retail natural gas (the "Aggregation Program"), as authorized by such member pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 4929.26 and 4929.27. The Aggregation Program will apply to all eligible customers of retail natural gas within the Village of Cuyahoga Heights, without the prior consent of each customer for NOPEC's natural gas opt-out natural gas program and with prior consent of each customer for NOPEC's natural gas opt-in program. NOPEC seeks to provide competitively priced natural gas for consumers by selecting a supplier through a negotiation process and leveraging the combined resources and buying power of member communities in NOPEC. The Plan of Operation and Governance addresses the following topics regarding the Aggregation Program: (1) goals, operations and funding; (2) consumer participation; (3) customer care; (4) organizational structure and management of NOPEC; and (5) the steps toward establishing the Aggregation Program.

Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council
Published: The Neighborhood News
September 18, 2024 & September 25, 2024

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Ward 7 Block Watch meets

The Garfield Heights Ward 7 Block Watch, sponsored by Councilwoman Jenn Newrones, will meet Thursday, Sept. 26, at 7 p.m., at the St. Monica Church outdoor pavilion off Rockside Rd. Nonperishable items for the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry would be appreciated. All are welcome. For more information call Gail, 216-662-9213.

Sunday activities at The Foundry in the Flats

Slavic Village Development Director of Sustainability Krystal Sierra will make a presentation on the Cleveland Metroparks Broadway/Slavic Village Downtown Connector Trail on Sunday, Sept. 29, at 3 p.m., at The Foundry Rowing and Sailing Center located at 1813 Columbus Rd., Cleveland.

The Slavic Village Connector presentation will be part of a day of activities at The Foundry, sponsored by the Polish American Cultural Center from 2 to 6 p.m., and include performances by the "Pias" Polish Folk Song and Dance Ensemble, Cleveland Metroparks local history from Doug Kusak and remarks from Poland's Olympic rower, Wieslaw Kujda. Lessons on rowing and indoor tank practice will be available for sign up in advance. The entire day of activities is free and open to the public.

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Garfield Hts. Fall Festival

The annual Garfield Heights Fall Festival will be held from noon to 3 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 5, at the Garfield Heights Civic Center, 5407 Turney Rd. The event includes pumpkin decorating, a hayride, balloon twister, airbrush tattoos, Cleveland Metroparks NatureTracks, Cuyahoga County Library and Cleveland Water resources, crafts, games, music and more. Prize raffle tickets and food will be available for purchase. Cash only.

For information, call Pat Salemi at 216-475-1100, ext. 2425 or email psalemi@garfieldhts.org.

Baked Chicken Dinner

American Legion Post 309, 15521 Broadway Ave., Maple Heights, will serve a Baked Chicken Dinner today, Wednesday, Sept. 25, from 4 to 7 p.m.; open to the public. Menu includes baked chicken, fettuccini alfredo, broccoli, salad, garlic bread and dessert. \$13 dinner donation. Dine-in or carryout. Reserve orders by calling 216-662-7768.

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CITY OF BEDFORD, OHIO

List of Meetings for October 2024

Tuesday, October 1, 2024	Planning Commission (if needed) Work Session - 5:30 p.m. Regular Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
Monday, October 7, 2024	Council Work Session - TBD Regular Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, October 9, 2024	Southeast Area Law Enforcement (SEALE) Board of Trustees Meeting (if needed) Work Session - 10:00 a.m. Regular Meeting - 12:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 15, 2024	Planning Commission (if needed) Work Session - 5:30 p.m. Regular Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
Monday, October 21, 2024	Council Work Session - TBD Regular Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 22, 2024	Board of Zoning Appeals (if needed) Work Session - 5:30 p.m. Regular Meeting - 6:00 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.

Tracy M. Simons, CMC
 Clerk of Council

NN: 9-25-24

Neighbors on Duty meets

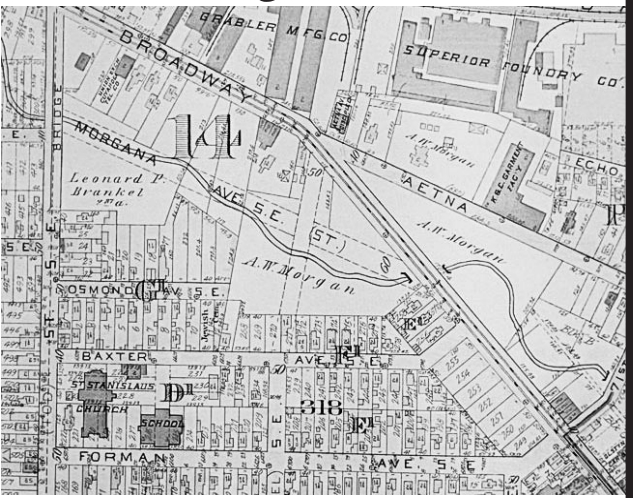
The next Neighbors On Duty meeting will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 2, at the Garfield Heights Civic Center, 5407 Turney Rd., at 6:30 p.m., and is open to all Garfield Heights residents.

Guest speakers will include GHPD Chief Mark Kaye, who will give a video presentation, Judge Sergio DiGeronimo, a representative from the Ohio State Highway Patrol and Mayor Matt Burke. Refreshments served. RSVP by calling Ward 4 Councilman Avery Johnson or Ward 6 Councilman Clifford Kelley, 216-253-0142 or visit neighborsonduty.org

THE IRON WARD NEWS
Iron Ward is the nineteenth century nickname for the Broadway Avenue neighborhood around which Cleveland's great iron and steel industry flourished. Originally known as Newburgh Township, it was annexed by Cleveland in 1878. It has used the tagline Slavic Village since 1978.

Vol. 1 Issue: 7 SLAVIC VILLAGE COMMUNITY NEWS September 25, 2024

Slavic Village's Watershed



1905 insurance map showing the Broadway Ave. Bridge over Morgana Run at Aetna Avenue.

Historic maps as late as 1900 show many prominent waterways coursing through the old neighborhood. These brooks and streams were sourced from the higher land of Cleveland's eastern suburbs and travel west toward the Cuyahoga River and Lake Erie. They helped shape the regional landscape and delineate neighborhood boundaries.

While most of these water features have disappeared, they continue to flow underground in deeply buried culverts. They are an essential part of the city's natural and cultural legacy.

Among them:

- Kingsbury Run--**it carved the deep valley that is the northern boundary of Slavic Village and became a site of major industry in the nineteenth century.
- Morgana Run--**prominent bridges at East 65th Street and Broadway Avenue once spanned this waterway. The stream can still be heard at a manhole in front of the new Mound School.
- Burke Creek--**flowed down Worley hill, defined the dropoff behind Ottawa Road, and fed a large pond on the Isaac Reed farm where Harvard Grove Cemetery now lies.
- Mill Creek--**this stream feeds the largest waterfall in Cuyahoga County at Warner Road. It winds its way through Goosetown toward the Ohio and Erie Canal.

For more information on the area's natural history, read The Encyclopedia of Cleveland History and Images of America Cleveland's Slavic Village.

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

Community police reports

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

Garfield Heights

Burglary

•On Sept. 17, at 10:47 a.m., police were dispatched to a home in the 12400 block of Woodward Ave., for a report of a juvenile male who broke into the residence and was sleeping in the complainant's daughter's bedroom. The mom told police that when she returned home about 11 a.m., her daughter found the suspect sleeping in her bed. When police arrived the suspect was gone. They found prints on a window of the home where he had presumably entered. Police found the suspect running west on Woodward then north through backyards. He was eventually taken into custody next to a garage on Shady Oak Blvd. and taken to city jail. The complainant also told police she had found the same juvenile sleeping on a couch in her garage when she arrived home on Sept. 13, around

midnight. A rear window of the garage was found broken out. GHPD has dealt with the suspect on 24 different occasions since April 13, 2024. The incidents range from missing juvenile, criminal damaging, breaking and entering, trespassing, arson and burglary. Charges for burglary are pending through the Youth Detective Bureau.

•On Sept. 20, about 10 a.m., an officer was dispatched to a home in the 10200 block of McCracken Rd., for a burglary report. The homeowner said that about 4:30 p.m., on Sept. 19, she went to work and at 9:10 a.m. the next day her brother observed her front door to be partially open and the house ransacked with no one inside. Missing were two Playstation PS5 consoles, 32" television and 60" Samsung television. Several rooms had their contents scattered, dressers tipped over and beds flipped. There were no signs of forced entry on the door itself. The victim can think of no one who could be responsible. Report forwarded to Detective Bureau.

Suspicious Activity

On Sept. 18, at 5:13 p.m., GHPD dispatch broadcast that a man had just been robbed of his 2012 white Ford truck at Boulevard Convenient, 8808 Garfield Blvd. The victim told police he had been sitting in his truck in the parking lot directly in front of Convenient's main doors when a man approached him and asked him for a lighter. The man was described as a black male wearing a black

baseball cap, black t-shirt, jean shorts and a black face mask. He said the man then pointed a black firearm at the victim, who got out of his truck. He said the suspect then got into the driver's seat and fled south on E. 88 St. Police then learned that the man whose truck was supposedly stolen also had a gray Toyota parked on E. 90 St., near Reed. Police asked him why he parked his Toyota on E. 90 St., and how he got his truck to the store. He said he lives on E. 131 St., and drove his Toyota from his home and parked it on E. 90 St. He said he then walked to his friend's house on Rosewood in Cleveland, where he keeps his truck parked. He said he then drove the truck to Boulevard Convenient where he was meeting "AJ" to sell the truck. The store's camera shows the truck coming from E. 90 St., not Rosewood. Police also noted the truck hit on Flock cameras at Canal and Warner Rds. just 17 minutes prior to it being reported stolen. He said he didn't know how his truck would have hit on that camera. An officer advised him his statements seemed inconsistent and based on footage the direction of travel was off, but the truck owner was adamant in sticking to his story. He told police he wished to pursue charges and said he has Progressive Insurance on the truck. A GHPD detective spoke with the truck owner as he walked back to get his parked Toyota, and he admitted to the detective that the incident was false and he was trying to get money from his insurance company. Report forwarded to the city prosecutor for review of charges against the truck owner.

Illegal Dumping

On Sept. 20, about 1 p.m., an officer was dispatched to the 10600 block of Mountview for an illegal dumping incident. The complainant said that the same person has been coming down his street and dumping trash out of his car at the dead end. He said he dug through the dumped trash and founded a discarded Amazon package with a name on it, which he gave to police. He also has video of a blue Nissan Sentra with the license plate number as its driver went to the dead end and threw trash out. The plate came back to the same person as the Amazon package was addressed to. Officer will continue to follow up.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, October 8th 2024, commencing from 11am to 12pm at the Maple Heights Senior Center, 15901 Libby Road, Maple Heights, Ohio 44137, the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council ("NOPEC"), on behalf of the City of Maple Heights, a NOPEC member, will hold public hearings with respect to the Plan of Operation and Governance for the aggregation of competitive retail natural gas (the "Aggregation Program"), as authorized by such member pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 4929.26 and 4929.27. The Aggregation Program will apply to all eligible customers of retail natural gas within the City of Maple Heights, without the prior consent of each customer for NOPEC's natural gas opt-out natural gas program and with prior consent of each customer for NOPEC's natural gas opt-in program. NOPEC seeks to provide competitively priced natural gas for consumers by selecting a supplier through a negotiation process and leveraging the combined resources and buying power of member communities in NOPEC. The Plan of Operation and Governance addresses the following topics regarding the Aggregation Program: (1) goals, operations, and funding; (2) consumer participation; (3) customer care; (4) organizational structure and management of NOPEC; and (5) the steps toward establishing the Aggregation Program.

Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, October 8th 2024, commencing from 5pm to 6pm at the Maple Heights City Hall, 5353 Lee Road, Maple Heights, Ohio 44137, the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council ("NOPEC"), on behalf of the City of Maple Heights, a NOPEC member, will hold public hearings with respect to the Plan of Operation and Governance for the aggregation of competitive retail natural gas (the "Aggregation Program"), as authorized by such member pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 4929.26 and 4929.27. The Aggregation Program will apply to all eligible customers of retail natural gas within the City of Maple Heights, without the prior consent of each customer for NOPEC's natural gas opt-out natural gas program and with prior consent of each customer for NOPEC's natural gas opt-in program. NOPEC seeks to provide competitively priced natural gas for consumers by selecting a supplier through a negotiation process and leveraging the combined resources and buying power of member communities in NOPEC. The Plan of Operation and Governance addresses the following topics regarding the Aggregation Program: (1) goals, operations, and funding; (2) consumer participation; (3) customer care; (4) organizational structure and management of NOPEC; and (5) the steps toward establishing the Aggregation Program.

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Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, October 15th 2024, commencing at 12-1pm and 5-6pm, at the City of Garfield Heights, Civic Center (Community Room), 5407 Turney Road, Garfield Heights, Ohio 44125, the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council ("NOPEC"), on behalf of the City of Garfield Heights, a NOPEC member, will hold public hearings with respect to the Plan of Operation and Governance for the aggregation of competitive retail natural gas (the "Aggregation Program"), as authorized by such member pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 4929.26 and 4929.27. The Aggregation Program will apply to all eligible customers of retail natural gas within the City of Garfield Heights, without the prior consent of each customer for NOPEC's natural gas opt-out natural gas program and with prior consent of each customer for NOPEC's natural gas opt-in program. NOPEC seeks to provide competitively priced natural gas for consumers by selecting a supplier through a negotiation process and leveraging the combined resources and buying power of member communities in NOPEC. The Plan of Operation and Governance addresses the following topics regarding the Aggregation Program: (1) goals, operations and funding; (2) consumer participation; (3) customer care; (4) organizational structure and management of NOPEC; and (5) the steps toward establishing the Aggregation Program.

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Maple Heights Council puts legislation to raise some salaries on first reading

(Continued from Page 2)

A resident at the meeting questioned when the salaries were last raised, and how council's Finance Committee arrived at the figures.

District 1 Councilman Stafford Shenett, who serves as chair of the Finance Committee, explained that when the committee met recently the amount of salary increases was proposed to committee members by Finance Director Tinita Tillman.

"I believe we do have an excellent finance director who gives us the information and rationale for that information. Based on that discussion, which was public record, we decided that it was fair," Shenett said.

Shenett stated that based on information that he received, "what we're currently making now goes back about 20 years."

Passed at last week's meeting

- Resolution authorizing a third Change Order for Eclipse Co., LLC, increasing the contract by \$20,121.14 for the Schreiber Road Sewer Improvement Project. The city has received funding and assistance from the Northeast Ohio Sewer District (NEORS) and from state and county entities towards the repairs of storm and sanitary sewers in the area.

- Resolution authorizing Blackwell to execute a Quit-Claim Deed to transfer a vacant lot on Kohout Street from the Maple Heights Land Reutilization Program to U.S. Bank to resolve a title issue.

- Resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Cuyahoga County Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Officer.

- Ordinance providing for a second amendment to the city's Fiscal Year 2024 budget, dated Sept. 18, 2024, "to account for certain additional expenditures."

Also on agenda

- An ordinance to approve the plan of operation and governance for the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) Opt-In Gas Aggregation Program, for the purpose of jointly establishing and implementing an Opt-In Gas Aggregation Program as a NOPEC member, was placed on first reading.

A NOPEC representative who spoke at council's caucus before last week's meeting explained that NOPEC wishes to simplify the opt-in process for gas customers in the city and improve customer service. Two public hearings on the program will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 8, at 11 a.m. at the Maple Heights Senior Center, 15901 Libby Rd., and 5 p.m. at Maple Heights City Hall, 5353 Lee Rd.

- An ordinance authorizing Blackwell to enter into a purchase agreement with the Sutphen Corporation to buy a Heavy Duty Custom Pumper on a Sutphen Monarch Chassis for the Fire Department, at a cost of \$869,861 through the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Program, was also placed on first reading. The legislation will go to the Finance Committee for further review, Jackson stated.

- An ordinance authorizing Blackwell to enter into an agreement to purchase property located at 5391 Lee Rd., adjacent to the Maple Heights Police Department and City Hall, at a cost not to exceed \$135,000 plus closing costs, was placed on second reading. If council approves the legislation at a future meeting, the city will use the property to provide additional space to be used by the police and municipal departments. Blackwell has applied for \$100,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funding from the county to be used towards the purchase, the legislation states.

- A resolution for a contract between the city and Cats Construction, Inc., for the 2024 Concrete Roadway Repair Program, at a cost not to exceed \$195,780, was withdrawn from the agenda.

Announcements

Shenett announced that a District 1 Block Watch meeting will be held from 12:30-1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 28, at St. Martin of Tours Church, 14600 Turney Rd.

The Maple Heights Fall Festival will also be held on Saturday, Sept. 28, from 12:30-4 p.m. at Stafford Park. Music by Kevin Conwell and the Footprints, Jungle Terry's Animal Show, a Pumpkin Patch and decorating and other activities will be featured.

The city will be holding a "Restaurant Week" the week of Sept. 30-Oct. 4, with about eight restaurants participating, Jackson said.

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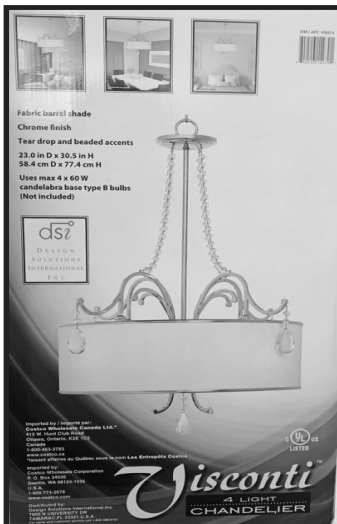
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Garfield Council update

The following ordinances were passed by Garfield Heights Council at its meeting Monday night:

- To apply for and accept the Bureau of Workers' Compensation Firefighter Exposure to Environmental Elements Grant to be used to purchase safety equipment. The city is eligible to receive up to \$15,000 within a 3-year cycle and a match requirement of 20% by the city. The funding would be used to purchase 45 pair of flame gloves and 45 BarriAire Gold complete coverage hoods.

- To apply for, accept and utilize the 2024 Department of Justice Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant. The city is eligible to receive up to \$14,901 in support of criminal justice or civil proceedings.

- Establishing a section of the codified ordinances of the city entitled "Interment of the Dead."

In September 2023, council imposed a moratorium on family cemeteries on residential property in the city. The new codified ordinance would prohibit interment of the dead except in cemeteries registered with the Division of Real Estate of the Ohio Department of Commerce as of the date of passage of this ordinance.

- Amending appropriations for current expenditures during the fiscal year ending Dec. 31, 2024.

Passed on first reading was an ordinance establishing an Opt-in Natural Gas Program in the city, jointly through the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council as a NOPEC member, to expand the natural gas supply options available to residents, businesses and other consumers in the city by allowing them to act jointly with any other city, village, municipality, county or other political subdivision in the State of Ohio.

Also passed on first reading was an ordinance approving the plan of operation and governance for the NOPEC Opt-in Aggregation Program which jointly establishes and implements an Opt-in Gas Aggregation Program as a NOPEC member. Two public hearings will be held on Oct. 15, 2024, regarding this plan.

Both the NOPEC bills will be voted on for a second reading at a coming council meeting.

Also passed was a resolution of support by the mayor and council for Issue 50, a renewal levy proposed by the Garfield Heights City School District Board of Education to maintain funding levels for normal and routine district operations for the next 10 years.



Timmia Crayton-Pringleau (Coach T) was honored with a resolution at Monday night's Garfield Heights Council meeting for her work as an assistant track and field coach at Garfield Heights High School, where she mentors and motivates student athletes. She is shown in photo holding her resolution, flanked by her mother and Mayor Matt Burke and Garfield Schools Superintendent Dr. Richard Reynolds and members of council. Photo by Wendy Walters



Independence Branch Library

Here are some of the **FREE** programs being offered 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.

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Baby & Toddler Storytime. No registration required. Join us for rhymes, songs, fingerplays and books. Mondays, 11 a.m. Wednesdays, 10 a.m.

Preschool Storytime. No registration required. Join us for rhymes, songs, fingerplays and stories. Thursdays, 10 a.m.

Death Notices

LINDA GARSTKA



Born June 17, 1950, Linda went to her heavenly home on August 24, 2024 at the Villa of St. Joseph in Garfield Heights. Except for a few years in Florida, Linda spent her life in Cleveland. She attended Sacred Heart of Jesus Elementary School and Jane Adams High School. She then followed her mother, working as a waitress all her adult life. She primarily worked at Bob Evans and Cracker Barrel.

Linda was preceded in death by her parents, Raymond and Stephanie Garstka, and four brothers-in-law and a sister-in-law. She leaves behind five sisters: RoseMarie (Rosie) Ash, Ann Ezzo, Rae Therese (Teri) Zimmerman, Barbara Garstka, Sandra (Chris) Slaby, and brother Joseph (Gina). Dementia sadly stole her memory but she always knew her three great-nephews: Noah, Hunter and Jeremiah. If Sandy visited without them, Linda would ask about them. That is, until recently, when she knew no one. Besides the boys, Linda leaves 5 nieces, 2 nephews, 4 great-nieces and 4 great-nephews, plus dear friends Jackie Kovacs and her daughter and family: Yvonne, Chip, Daytona, Tisha, and Angie Kozlowski.

A private family service will be held at a later date. "See you when we get to heaven, Linda!"

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Monday, September 30 - Friday, October 4, 2024

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<div style="border: 1px solid #333; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>Taste of Kingston</p> <p>6172 Dunham Rd.</p> <p>MON-SAT 11 AM - 9 PM; Closed Sunday</p> <p>Free side with any entree</p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid #333; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>Tee Deez</p> <p>5229 Warrensville Ctr. Rd.</p> <p>T-TH 11:30 AM - 9 PM; FRI-SAT 12 PM - 11 PM</p> <p>Oxtail Rice Bowl Special: Yellow rice, sauteed tri-colored peppers, red onion, steamed broccoli & asparagus topped w/braised oxtails. Accompanied w/a side cup of white wine sauce</p> </div>
<div style="border: 1px solid #333; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>The Breakfast Faktory</p> <p>14517 Granger Rd.</p> <p>M-F 7 AM - 3 PM; SAT-SUN 9 AM - 4 PM</p> <p>Daily specials at reduced prices</p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid #333; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>The Red Velvet Cake</p> <p>21350 Libby Rd.</p> <p>TUES-FRI 11 AM - 7 PM; SAT-SUN 9 AM - 4 PM</p> <p>10% off Cupcakes of the Day Buy 5 "NEW" sugarless Chocolate Chip Cookies, Get 1 Free, while supplies last. Purchase must be a Clover or in-store purchase only. Must present coupon Code 326228. One coupon per customer.</p> </div>
<div style="border: 1px solid #333; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>Yum Yum's Hibachi Cuisine</p> <p>5830 Lee Rd. S</p> <p>TUES-SAT 11 AM - 8 PM</p> <p>\$1.00 discount off of menu prices</p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid #333; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>Viva Mexican Grille</p> <p>16941 Broadway Ave.</p> <p>M-F 12 PM - 12 AM; SAT 12 PM - 1 AM; SUN 12 PM - 9 PM</p> <p>Chunky Guacamole \$7. Viva Street Fries \$8. Viva Wings & Fries \$10. Viva Quesadillas \$10. Viva Taco Salad \$10. Taco Sampler \$12. Chicken Philly Rolls \$10. Mexican Burger \$10. Seafood Dip \$10.</p> </div>