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102nd YEAR

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2024

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

FREE

Maple Hts. Council OKs selling Morgan St. parcels to BNK Heating & Cooling

By Judith Goldsworth

At its meeting last week, Maple Heights Council passed legislation to sell two vacant city-owned parcels of land on Morgan St., to a business that is relocating from the west side of Cleveland to the old Post Office building at 16300 Broadway Ave.

The resolution authorizes Mayor Annette Blackwell to enter into an agreement to sell the two parcels through the city's Land Bank to BNK Heating and Cooling, LLC, for a total purchase price of \$32,800. The parcels are located directly behind the Broadway location, and BNK officials have indicated they will use the additional land for future expansion of the business, including parking and possible other uses.

The purchase agreement follows initial legislation passed at a recent meeting to approve a \$25,000 Small Business Administration loan to BNK to help the company renovate the Post Office building, which has been vacant for several years.

Planning and Development Director Geoff Englebrecht has stated that BNK will bring 30-plus jobs to the city, as well as improve the appearance of the building.

Also on agenda

- Council also passed two resolutions for continued improvements to the city's infrastructure. One authorizes Blackwell to enter into a Member Community Infrastructure Grant Program (MCIP) Agreement with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) for the Greenhurst Drive Sewer Improvements Project.

The other authorizes the mayor to enter into an MCIP Agreement with the NEORS for the Southwest Sewer District Sewer Repairs Phase 3 Project, to continue work that has been taking place in that section of the city.

District 2 Councilwoman Toni Jones said that this phase of the work, including replacement of the sewers, is expected to begin next year.

- Council passed two ordinances regarding health insurance for city employees at last week's meeting. One ordinance authorizes Blackwell to accept and enter into an agreement with Summit County to participate in a regional program with other political subdivisions to provide health insurance and prescription drug coverage to all full-time city employees from Jan. 1, 2025, through Dec. 31, 2027.

(Continued on Page 8)

Season ends for Wolves

The Cuyahoga Heights Red Wolves finished its remarkable season last Friday as the team came up short in the regional championship game with Jeromesville Hillsdale at Orrville's Red Rider Stadium.

In rainy, windy weather conditions for the game, Hillsdale defeated Cuyahoga Heights by a score of 44-14 to take the Division VII, Region 25 championship.



NN closed for Thanksgiving

The Neighborhood News will be closed this Thursday, Nov. 28, for the Thanksgiving Day holiday, and will close Friday, Nov. 29, at noon and reopen at 9 a.m. Monday, Dec. 2. Normal deadlines will apply. We extend to all our wish for a safe and blessed Thanksgiving Day holiday.

Garfield Hts. Council news

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

- Applying for and accepting the Body-Worn Camera Grant made available by the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services.

Last year this same grant awarded the city \$74,357 which it used to purchase 45 body-worn cameras and accessories. This year's grant would be used to purchase secure cloud storage for body-worn camera footage for the next two years, as well as the requisite online licensing fees and auto-categorization programs.

- Applying for and accepting the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Assistance to Firefighters Grant which the city would use for critical equipment upgrades at the Garfield Heights Fire Department. If awarded the grant, the city will be responsible for no more than 5% of the total cost of the project for which the funds are awarded.

An ordinance to amend and supplement the city's plan of classification and compensation for non-union pay positions was placed into committee for further discussion. The legislation would authorize the mayor to establish part-time positions and assign pay classes to those part-time positions as needed, subject to the availability of funds.

It would also authorize an automatic increase of 3% to the lowest and highest pay grade in each range on the first pay period of each year. In addition, it would add an administrative assistant in the Executive Office and adjust the pay class for the Management Information Systems manager to coincide with that of most other managers.

The next meeting of Garfield Heights Council is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 9, at 7 p.m.

Indy to light up town during Dec. 7th Tree Lighting Ceremony!

Every year the city of Independence's Tree Lighting Ceremony adds a special touch to make the event both spectacular and more memorable.

This year will be no different as the city ceremoniously lights up the town – and the skies – on Saturday, Dec. 7, beginning at 4:30 p.m. (note the earlier start time) in Elmwood Park and the Kiwanis Pavilion, 6363 Selig Dr. Residents will welcome a special visit by Santa Claus with a magnificent holiday fireworks display.



Ice sculptures will be featured at this year's Christmas Market in Independence, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., at Elmwood Park and the Kiwanis Pavilion.

Families can purchase items from Scott's Fire & Ice Catering and the Love Coffee-Barista Bus while perusing vendors and the Christmas Market, open from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.. The Christmas Market features such holiday items for purchase as a 28-inch swag, fresh greenery in a Santa hat, children's fleece scarves and holiday-themed pet scarves. Strolling carolers, an ice sculptor, Live Nativity, large Lite Brite board, penguin escape and a children's craft station will enhance the fun.

The Independence Fire Department will be selling its popular Fire House Chili in the Kiwanis Pavilion, and the wives of the Independence Police Department will be selling Donuts for Dawgs to raise funds for the Police Department's K-9 unit. Families can gather inside the Kiwanis Pavilion to watch the holiday classic film "It's A Wonderful Life."

Two photo booths will be set up in the park, creating the perfect backdrop and opportunity for family Christmas card photos. A Polar Express Train will run through Elmwood Park beginning at 5:30 p.m.



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

Bedford Reservation

December 20: Preschoolers: Hike with Me. Bring your preschooler out to hike through the woods of Bedford. We will travel under the trees and along the rocky ledges as we look for evidence of what other animals are still moving about in December. We will end our hike at the overlook of Bridal Veil Falls. Dress for the weather; bring a water bottle and maybe a snack. 10 – 11:30 a.m.

Bridal Veil Falls parking lot. Ages 2–6 years w/adult. Terrain: natural surface, hills, 1.5–2 miles.

CanalWay Center – Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation

December 1-31: Mystery Room. Gather a group of 2–6 of your friends and family, adults (required) and children, and see if you can solve the latest mystery to emerge at CanalWay Center. Challenge yourself with this non-scary hunt for clues and revelations. Call or drop by for today's availability, 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Ages: adults and children 6 years & older w/adult. Fee: \$16 per group (2–6 in a group). 216-206-1000.

December 1: Winter Bird Update. Join Naturalist Justin Willard at CanalWay Center for an indoor presentation followed by a short hike. We will discuss where the songbirds went and which birds we should expect to see this winter. 1–2:30 p.m. CanalWay. Terrain: paved, natural surface, one hill, trail may be slippery, 0.75 mile.

December 5: Story Time Sunday - We're Going on a Leaf Hunt! Come and join Naturalist Emily for a reading of the story "We're Going on a Leaf Hunt" to admire the autumn season! We will be talking about how trees lose their leaves, and the different changes fall brings! We will take a short walk around the park to admire the beautiful fall colors of our reservation. After, we'll head back to CanalWay Center to make our own leaf tracings to take home. 10–11:30 a.m. Ages 3–6 years w/adult. Terrain: paved, hill, 1 mile.

December 6–7: Eagle Weekend Sunrise Van Tour. Join a naturalist for a ride along the towpath and to the eagle's nest as the sun rises and starts the day. We'll take some time at the nest to watch for wildlife and enjoy a morning pastry and beverage. 7–9 a.m. CanalWay Center. Fee: \$10.50 per person. Terrain: paved surface, 0.1 mile. Register online, 7 people.

December 6–7: Eagle Weekend Sunset Hike. Join a naturalist for a guided walk to get a view of the eagle's nest while the sun sets. Will several eagles settle in as darkness approaches? We'll be on the lookout! 3:45–6 p.m. CanalWay Center. Terrain: paved surface, decreasing daylight, 2 miles.

December 6–8: Bald Eagle Weekend. Ohio and Erie Canal Reservation is a great place to see bald eagles along the Cuyahoga River and celebrate them indoors at CanalWay Center. Join us this weekend for hikes, cart tours, children's activities, a live eagle, and more! Stop by between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. to enjoy activities in the center. Time-sensitive activities listed separately online.

Garfield Park Reservation

December 3: Garfield Nature Kids. Join us on the first Tuesday of each month to explore the nature found in and around Garfield Park with a naturalist. This month we'll meet at the new Garfield Program Center to hear a story, explore nature and have a fun morning together. 10–11:15 a.m. Ages 3–6 years w/adult. Terrain: natural and paved surface, 0.25 mile. 216-206-1000.

December 12: Garfield Park Adventure Club – Fire Building & Pie Iron Pizza. Join Cleveland Metroparks Youth Outdoors for "Fire Building & Pie Iron Pizzas" on Thursday, December 12, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. at Garfield Park. Staff will walk you through how to build your own fire, followed by creating your own pie iron pizzas over the fire. Location: Red Oak Picnic Shelter. Ages 8-18. Contact Jennifer at JLD1@clevelandmetroparks.com to RSVP.

Submit Community events to NN via Email: nnews1923@aol.com

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Happy Thanksgiving

Wishing you a blessed and beautiful holiday!

Mayor Gregory P. Kurtz

Finance Director Vern Blaze

Independence City Council

LIBRARIES PLAN SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Bedford (Bedford Heights/Oakwood Village) Branch Library

Here are some of the **FREE** programs coming up 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.

Windows 11 Lecture - Adults, Friday, Dec. 6, 10 a.m. Learn how to use the newest operating system for PCs and tablets in this lecture-style class. Explore new features, including the redesign start menu, system requirements and updated interface. Classes start promptly! We cannot hold seats. Anyone not on the registration list will be given an available seat on a first-come, first-served basis. **MUST REGISTER.**

Art Quest - Grades 2-5, Fridays, Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27, 11 a.m. Join library staff as we learn about famous artists and try our best at replicating their styles!

Garfield Heights Branch Library

Here are some of the **FREE** programs available at the Garfield Heights Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public

Library, 5409 Turney Rd. Call 216-475-8178 to register.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Innovation Center Orientation Learn about the equipment and policies of the Innovation Centers throughout Cuyahoga County Public Library. Attending this orientation allows users to utilize the Innovation Centers throughout the library system. For adults 18 years and older. Upcoming sessions: Thursday, Dec. 5, 6-7 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 21, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Registration required.

Google Docs and Slides Learn how to use Google's web-based applications Docs and Slides. Monday, Dec. 9, 1-3 p.m. Registration required.

Tuesday Evening Book Discussion Join us for our monthly book discussion. This month's title is "The Maid" by Nita Prose. Tuesday, Dec. 17, 6-7 p.m.

TEENS

Winter Comic and Graphic Novel Club Join us in the Teen Room to talk about and read graphic novels and comics! Wednesday, Dec. 4, 6-7 p.m.

AV Club Teens can come and use the technology in the branch's Innovation Center to make a craft. Tuesday, Dec. 10, 3-4:30 p.m.

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High. —Psalms 50:14.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, December 3rd, 2024, commencing at 12-1pm and 5-6pm, at the Village of Valley View, 6848 Hathaway Road, Valley View, Ohio 44125, the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council ("NOPEC"), on behalf of the Village of Valley View, 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 Valley View, 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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 November 20, 2024 & November 27, 2024

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Fleet decorated for Christmas AIDS Memorial Quilt to be on display at Darl Ctr.



Slavic Village began to look alot like Christmas this week, as Fleet Ave. was decorated Monday afternoon with painted plywood wreaths and candy canes. Shown here is resident carpenter Anthony Andreoli hoisting a candy cane decoration into position. Organizers ran short of candy canes but more will be put up for the weekend.

MetroHealth Medical Center has been hosting a display of the AIDS Memorial Quilt every other year from 2009 to 2021 to commemorate World AIDS Day. It will be on display this year from Dec. 2-19 at MetroHealth Outpatient Plaza Atrium, 2500 MetroHealth Dr., Cleveland 44109; the LGBT Center of Greater Cleveland, 6705 Detroit Ave., Cleveland 44102; and locally at The Darl Center for the Arts, 5437 Broadway Ave., Cleveland 44127.

View the Quilt at The Darl Center Mondays through Thursdays from 2 to 8 p.m., between Dec. 2 and 19. There will also be a special reception at The Darl Center on Thursday, Dec. 5, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Please note that The Darl Center is not an ADA accessible location. Climbing a flight of stairs is required to view the Quilt. Please plan to visit the Quilt at MetroHealth or The LGBT Center if you are unable to walk up one flight of stairs.

The AIDS Memorial Quilt was founded in San Francisco, CA in 1987 by Cleve Jones. It is a 54-ton tapestry that honors the lives of those who have died from HIV/AIDS and includes the names of over 94,000 people who have succumbed to the disease. It is composed of more than 49,000 panels on almost 6,000 blocks. Portions of the Quilt are constantly on display around the country.

For more information on when the Quilt will be on display at all the Cleveland locations, visit: <https://www.metrohealth.org/aids-quilt/view-the-quilt>

Happy Thanksgiving

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**Mayor Matt Burke
and family**

City of Garfield Heights



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Holiday Tree Lightings

BEDFORD

The annual Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place in the Bedford Public Square area of the Historic Downtown District on Wednesday, Nov. 27, at 6 p.m. sharp. Shortly after 4:30 p.m. on that same day, fun holiday activities, including ice sculpting and other family-friendly events, will take place. All are invited.

GARFIELD HEIGHTS

The Garfield Heights Holiday Lighting Ceremony will take place on Sunday, Dec. 1, from 5 to 6:30 p.m., at the Civic Center, 5407 Turney Rd. At 5 p.m., inside the Civic Center, there will be holiday tunes with the St. Monica Catholic Church Choir, crafts, treats, face painting, photos with Santa, Adopt-a-Senior-for-Christmas Pro-

gram and a 50-50 raffle to support the Senior Center.

At 6 p.m., the festivities will go outside with a welcome and introduction of dignitaries by Mayor Matt Burke, invocation by Ward 3 Councilman and Pastor Mark Smith, the lighting of the holiday display by Santa and Mayor Burke and singing Christmas carols led by the Garfield Heights Girl Scouts. All are invited to kick off the season at this festive event.

MAPLE HEIGHTS

The city of Maple Heights invites everyone to this year's Annual Holiday Lighting Ceremony on Sunday, Dec. 1, 5:30-7 p.m., at Maple Heights City Hall, 5353 Lee Rd.

There is a full slate of events for you and your family to enjoy. Santa Claus arrives at 5:45 p.m., in time for the Holiday Lighting at 6 p.m. Choral holiday music by Voices of Praise from Christian Unity Baptist Church begins at 6:15 p.m., and there will be hot chocolate and cookies for all! We hope to see you there!

Wishing You a Very Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving

Cuyahoga Heights
Mayor Jack Bacci
& the Bacci Family



With Best Wishes on Thanksgiving

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



Mayor Annette M. Blackwell
City of Maple Heights

With Best Wishes
for a
Happy Thanksgiving



Dorene Kray,
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PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing will be held on **Monday, December 9, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.**, before the **Maple Heights Planning and Zoning Commission** in the Maple Heights City Hall Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 5353 Lee Road, Maple Heights, Ohio, to consider the following application(s):

2024-PZ-23 An application from Vasily Kaeka of BNK Heating and Cooling LLC requesting Approval of a Variance from the requirements of Sect.1296.09 of the MH Codified Ordinances to install a sign that is 556 sq. ft. larger than the maximum allowable size for a commercial sign on property located in the Central Business District (CBD) Zoning District at 16300 Broadway Avenue, Maple Heights, Ohio, 44137.

2024-PZ-24 An application from Jerry Coleman III of JC Reliable Rentals LLC requesting Approval of a Conditional Use Permit under Sect. 1282.04(AA) of the MH Codified Ordinances to operate a Vehicle Rental Business in the Central Business District (CBD) Zoning District at 15901 Broadway Avenue, Maple Heights, Ohio, 44137.

All Applicant(s) and/or their representatives are required to attend this meeting. Members of the public are invited to attend, but will only be allowed to speak during the Public Hearing portion of the meeting.

The application(s) and all supporting materials are available for review during normal business hours in the Maple Heights Building Department, 5353 Lee Road, Maple Heights, Ohio.

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

Garfield Commons

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Community Police reports

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

Garfield Heights

General Assistance

On Nov. 19, at about 12:49 p.m., the Garfield Heights School resource officer was asked to respond to Elmwood Elementary School for an unruly student. When the officer arrived the mother had already picked up her son and staff advised the officer what had occurred. They said the student was having an episode and was running through the hallways with a pair of scissors in his hand and trying to get into classrooms. Staff placed the school on lockdown and attempted to de-escalate the situation with negative results. The boy tried to stab staff members with the scissors, kicked security staff and slapped a board member in the face multiple times. Staff said they did grab the student's hand to remove the scissors but didn't use any more force than that. The resource officer is familiar with the student due to a prior contact. He suffers from ADHD and takes medication to combat the issue.

A short time later the boy's mother went to the police station to report that there was a mark on her son's back. She explained there was an incident at the school and staff called her to pick her son up. She said on her arrival at the school nobody could explain what had taken place. She later noticed the mark on her son's back. The officer

told the mother he would review video footage from the school to see if there was any unjustified use of force.

Suspicious Activity

On Nov. 20, dispatch received a call from a woman who lives in an apartment in the 6000 block of Andover Blvd., saying that her kitchen was on fire. It was confirmed she was calling from a specific apartment on Andover. Police arrived at 3:13 a.m., and found no signs of a fire and no smoke was observed in the building or near the apartment in question. They did observe eviction notices in front of the door to the apartment. GHFD arrived and went inside the apartment and found it vacant. There was clearly no fire or sign of one. The female caller had called 911 multiple times, one time to report the fire in her kitchen which was entirely untrue. Dispatch contacted Verizon Wireless who confirmed the phone number was theirs but would not give out further information without a subpoena. At 3:58 a.m., the phone number was used again to call 911 and report the above incident, but this time it was a male caller pinging at the same address and said he was in fear of his life, then hung up. Detectives to followup.

Theft from Auto

On Nov. 20, at 7:23 a.m., police responded to another apartment in the 6000 block of Andover Blvd., for a theft from motor vehicle report. The complainant told the officer that she had parked behind her apartment building at about 8 p.m. the night before and went to her car that morning about 6:45 a.m. and noticed her car door was open. She discovered her work laptop computer was gone.

Shots Fired

On Nov. 21, at 5:03 p.m., police were dispatched to the area of E. 85 St., for reports of shots fired. Witnesses said

the shots came directly from E. 86 St., around the 4700 block. Police learned that two women living in separate units of a house in the 4700 block of E. 86 St., were having ongoing issues about parking. The woman in the upstairs unit admitted to officers that she was upset with her new neighbor and shot two rounds out of her window. She was issued a summons for discharging a weapon within city limits.

Felonious Assault

On Nov. 24, at 6:46 p.m., police responded to the Sunoco gas station at 4935 Turney Rd., for a report of a male who was shot. He was later identified as a 17-year-old who officers found behind a school bus in the back of a daycare near the Sunoco station. Officers rendered medical care to the youth, who had been shot in the right thigh. He was transported to the hospital for treatment and police went back to the Sunoco station to see if there was any evidence/video footage of the incident. One of the Sunoco employees had picked up two spent shell casings in front of gas pump #3 before customers could run them over. Police reviewed video footage showing three unknown males wearing masks getting out of an SUV parked in front of the gas pump and standing near the car while facing the victim and his two friends. It appears they are having words with each other. Shortly after that a thin person who looks like a male wearing a mask and all black clothing stands at the rear left end of the SUV, reaches in his waistband and takes out a gun. He points the gun at the victim and discharges three shots. The victim and his two friends immediately run off in a southbound direction. After the shooting all three suspects get back into the SUV and the car flees north onto Summerdale Ave. After viewing the footage, at about 7:04 p.m., an officer recovered the third spent shell casing in front of gas pump #3 which matched the other two the employee had collected. The investigation continues.



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HELP WANTED

Maple Hts. Council OKs selling Morgan St. parcels to BNK Heating and Cooling

(Continued from Page 1)

Council approved the agreement in order to participate in the program, which "will result in significant cost savings and expected future stability in health insurance rate increases," the ordinance states.

The other ordinance provides a high deductible health insurance plan with a Healthcare Savings Account (HSA), and establishing contribution amounts to the HSA Accounts for non-bargaining unit city employees, effective Jan. 1, 2025.

Non-bargaining unit employees will make monthly deductible contributions of \$150 for single plan coverage (\$1800 per year) and \$300 for family plan coverage (\$3600 per year), into their HSA account, "with the city contributing into the non-bargaining unit employee's HSA account the remaining monthly amount necessary to fully fund the annual deductible for each employee's HSA plan," the legislation states.

Change in council rules fails to pass

An ordinance to amend council's rules of order, introduced by District 6 Councilwoman Tina Stafford-Marbury, failed to pass at last week's meeting by a 4-yes, 2-no, 1 abstention vote.

Stafford-Marbury, Madden, Shenett and District 7 Councilwoman Edwina Agee voted to pass the legislation, while Jones and District 3 Councilman Timothy Tatum voted against passage, and District 4 Councilwoman Dana Anderson abstained from voting. Five affirmative votes were needed to pass the legislation, Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella Johnson stated.

The legislation had proposed that whoever serves as council president should annually submit a budget for council expenditures, with the amendment that "it has been prepared and approved by the Finance Committee, for consideration by the Finance Director."

After Law Director Frank Consolo advised council that he had received additional information from the State of Ohio, two pieces of legislation that would have raised the salaries of the safety director, council president and all seven council members, retroactive to Sept. 1, 2024, were withdrawn from last week's agenda.

Announcements

Shenett said a District 1 Block Watch meeting will be held at St. Martin of Tours Church, 14600 Turney Rd., from 12:30-1:30 p.m., on Saturday, Dec. 7.

Stafford-Marbury announced that a District 6 meeting will be held at the Maple Heights Library, 5225 Library Ln., at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 10.


Tatum announced that Districts 2, 3 and 4 will host a Town Hall Meeting at St. Andrew Church, 16029 Maple Park Dr., on Wednesday, Dec. 11. More information will be released as it becomes available, he said.

S.V. Holidazzle coming late December

The Slavic Village Stakeholders have announced that it plans to bring back the popular Holidazzle, the Christmas/Winter Solstice party this year. It is scheduled for Saturday evening, Dec. 21. As always, it'll be a free, public event open to all residents and friends of the neighborhood, with great food, music and holiday cheer.

Read The Neighborhood News in coming weeks as details are finalized.

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