

# The Neighborhood News

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INDEPENDENCE, VALLEY VIEW, MAPLE HEIGHTS, BEDFORD AND BEDFORD HEIGHTS**

101st YEAR

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025

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

FREE

## Two men found dead in car on Warner Road

Cleveland police are investigating the shooting deaths of two 25-year-old men who were found unresponsive inside a car pinned up against a telephone pole on Warner Road near Jeffries Ave., shortly before 1 a.m. Tuesday, according to multiple media reports.

Police closed off the area as their investigation continues. It is unknown at press time how many times the men were shot and where the shootings took place. Anyone with information is asked to call Cleveland police.

## Maple Hts. councilwoman withdraws ordinance to repeal Famous Supply grant agreement

By Judith Goldsworth

After extensive discussion in caucus before the Thursday, Jan. 2, council meeting and during the meeting itself, a piece of legislation that called for the repeal of an economic development grant agreement between Maple Heights and Famous Supply was withdrawn from the agenda.

District 7 Councilwoman Edwina Agee had introduced the ordinance to repeal legislation previously passed by council in December authorizing the city to make annual payments of \$25,000 for 10 years beginning in November 2025 to Famous Supply, an Akron-based HVAC/building/plumbing supply company, which has located its distribution facility in the former GOJO plant at 5700 Lee Rd. South.

Agee stated that she had requested additional information from Mayor Annette Blackwell "concerning the negotiation of the agreement, and justification for the amount of the annual payment," according to the withdrawn legislation.

Agee stated that Blackwell did provide the additional information. However, after reviewing it, Agee "believed she was misled and did not have all information necessary before her vote on the agreement on Dec. 18, 2024, and wished to rescind her vote," the legislation stated.

"All I ask you is to have the correct information so I can vote," Agee said.

Blackwell responded that she did provide council with the information, stating that the results of all the discussions and negotiations, which were an administrative function, not a legislative function, were made available to Agee and the rest of the legislative body.

(Continued on Page 2)

## Residential Holiday Lighting Contest winners announced at Garfield Hts. Council meeting

By Ellen Psenicka

Mayor Matt Burke presented certificates to the winners in the city's annual Residential Holiday Lighting Contest at Monday night's meeting of Garfield Heights Council.

Winners were chosen by the public in all seven wards in the city as well as a citywide winner. Acknowledged were:

Ward One: 13126 Forestdale Dr.

Ward Two: Ralph and Patricia Bednarz, 4894 Edgepark Dr.

Ward Three: Alfred and Sherri Wilcox, 8450 Doll Dr.

Ward Four: Mark and Kim Butcher, 10306 Grace Ave.

Ward Five: Crystal Hawthorne, 11112 McCracken Rd.

Ward Six: Michael Moore, 12117 Oak Park Blvd.

Ward Seven: Bill and Dana Dems, 13549 Foxcroft Dr.

CITYWIDE: Clayonne Garr, 13517 Cranwood Park Blvd.

The following ordinances were among those passed at Monday's meeting:

- To establish a maximum amount of \$77,250 for blanket certificates each fiscal year, also referred to as blanket purchase orders, for the purchase of equipment, materials, service, maintenance, utilities, insurance and supplies to be used for various departments of the city.

- To enter into an agreement with OHM Advisors to provide engineering services to the city for 2025 through 2027.

- To renew an agreement with the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District to participate in the Storm Water Pollution Prevention program. The agreement provides the city with on-site technical assistance, storm water pollution prevention reviews, monthly inspections and many other benefits. The renewal is for a period of 12 months with the fee not to exceed \$9,450.

- To extend the current moratorium on issuing all licenses, permits and certificates for the cultivation, processing, distribution or sale of adult-use cannabis



Shown above with Mayor Matt Burke are some of the winners in the Garfield Heights Residential Holiday Lighting Contest who attended Monday night's council meeting to be acknowledged and pick up their certificates.

in the city for a period not to exceed six months in order to establish a plan for the future of adult-use cannabis in the city.

- To purchase a snow and ice control equipment package and spreader and auger for use in the Garfield Heights Service Department's snow control fleet through Henderson Products at a total cost of \$86,424.

Two resolutions were passed at the meeting, one to honor Holy Spirit Catholic Church, formerly known as St. Timothy Parish, for 102 years of service to the community, and the other to support the Ohio Municipal League's challenge of AT&T's tariff application at the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.

The legislation states that "AT&T's tariff application proposes tariff changes that will require any municipalities in which AT&T is located in the municipality's public right-of-way to pay the full cost of any relocation or undergrounding of AT&T facilities, regardless of the reason for the relocation. This is in direct contradiction of current Ohio law."

The next meeting of Garfield Heights Council is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 27, at 7 p.m.

## Police and Community meeting in Independence

The next Police and Community Engagement (PACE) meeting will be held on Thursday, Feb. 6, at 7 p.m., at the Independence Civic Center, 6363 Selig Dr.

If you have questions or concerns you would like to discuss with an officer, please attend this meeting. You can also call Officer Jim Green at 216-524-0375 with questions or concerns.

# M.H. councilwoman withdraws bill to repeal Famous Supply grant agreement

(Continued from Page 1)

"There is nothing I am hiding," Blackwell said.

She added that due to competition with other communities who might be interested in the same businesses that Maple Heights was working to attract, confidentiality agreements had to be respected until the deals were solidified.

District 1 Councilman Stafford Shenett stated, "This is more of an internal issue," and asked Councilwoman Agree to withdraw the legislation, which she agreed to.

## Escrow waiver fails to pass

An ordinance to waive the 100% escrow requirement for 2025, to correct violations resulting from point of sale inspections, failed to pass at the meeting with a 4-2 vote as 5 votes were needed to pass it.

Similar legislation has been passed by council each year for the past several years to provide an incentive to people who own and occupy residential properties. At the meeting, Agree and District 6 Councilwoman Tina Stafford-Marbury both voted against the legislation's passage.

"This just breaks my heart," Blackwell said of the ordinance's failure to pass, adding that it appeared to be a denial of allowing potential homeowners to own their own homes. "To deny this is extremely disappointing. I am just beyond words," she said.

## INVITATION FOR BIDS LEGAL NOTICE

Sealed bid proposals will be received by the City Manager of the City of Bedford, Ohio at his office, 165 Center Road, Bedford, Ohio until 12:00 Noon on the 31st day of January 2025 for:

### BEDFORD COMMONS

and will be publicly opened and read immediately thereafter. Each bid must contain the full name or names of the party or parties making the same, with an affidavit as to interested parties, and in the case of a corporation not chartered in Ohio, with a proper certificate that such corporation is authorized to do business in Ohio, and be accompanied by a certified or cashier's check on a solvent bank made payable to the order of the City of Bedford, the amount shall be equal to ten percent (10%) of the amount bid, drawn in favor of the Clerk of the City of Bedford, Ohio, or a Bid Guaranty/Bid Bond in accordance with Section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Each bidder must ensure that all employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, creed, color, sex, or national origin.

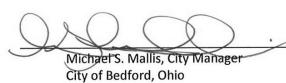
The price of material and labor bid for shall be separately stated.

Copies of the Specifications, Instructions to Bidders, Forms of Proposals and other contract documents are on file at the office of the Clerk of the City of Bedford. These documents may only be obtained through the office of GPD Group by emailing Ivan Valentic [ivanvalentic@gpdgroup.com](mailto:ivanvalentic@gpdgroup.com) and requesting a digital copy. Digital documents will be provided free of charge. Questions or inquiries should be directed to GPD Group at (440) 927-8684. No questions will be answered after 1 p.m. on January 27, 2025.

An optional Pre-Bid Meeting for all contractors is scheduled for Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 A.M. Local time at City of Bedford City Hall Building, 165 Center Road, Bedford, Ohio 44146.

The bid check or bid bond, as the case may be, will be held as a guarantee that, if the bid proposal is accepted, a contract will be entered into between the bidder and the City of Bedford, and the performance of such contract secured by said check or bond, and in default thereof said check or bond, and the amount represented thereby, shall be forfeited to the City of Bedford as liquidated damages.

The City of Bedford reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any informalities in the bids received, and to accept any bid which it deems most favorable to the City.



Michael S. Mallis, City Manager  
City of Bedford, Ohio

NN: January 8, 2025  
January 15, 2025

Stafford-Marbury said that there was no intent on her part to deny home ownership, stating that her issue with the legislation was that investors were coming into the city and purchasing homes. She expressed concerns about possible "slumlords," and voted against the legislation based on conversations she had had with District 6 residents expressing their own concerns, she said.

## Senior Center levy renewal legislation on first reading

Placed on first reading was a resolution to submit the renewal of an existing 1.3 mill tax levy to pay current expenses and general operations of the Senior Center to Maple Heights voters for the Tuesday, May 6, ballot.

The resolution follows legislation passed in December, which declared it necessary to renew the levy for an additional five-year period and submit the proposal to the Cuyahoga County fiscal officer to certify the total current tax valuation of the city and the dollar amount of revenue that would be generated. The county has conducted the certification clearing the way for placing the levy on the May ballot.

## Announcements

Lt. Brian Kevern, reporting on behalf of the Maple Heights Police Department, announced that the department had gone on 29,727 calls last year, made 1,643 reports, responded to 421 accidents, wrote 1,153 traffic citations, arrested 671 people, and recovered 157 guns off the street.

Fire Chief Dan Sypen announced that the Fire Department installed 165 smoke detectors, courtesy of the Red Cross, in city residences last year. The department also responded to 6,394 calls in 2024, he said.

## Other legislation passed at Dec. 30 special meeting

Council held a special meeting on Monday, Dec. 30, and passed all five pieces of legislation on the agenda. Three of the ordinances were geared towards improving earnings and working conditions for non-

bargaining unit employees in Maple Heights, effective Jan. 1, 2025.

The three ordinances passed were to:

- Fix the salary and wage schedules for full-time and part-time employees, reflecting 3.5% raises.

- Add a new section to the codified ordinances to provide longevity pay, up to 4.5% of the employee's annual base pay, after 25 years of service.

- Add a new section to the codified ordinances to increase vacation time, up to six weeks following 20 full years of service, and also to give Blackwell the ability to offer different vacation time to attract employees to fill director or assistant director positions.

The intent of the three pieces of legislation is to attract and retain employees in the city with the increased pay, added longevity pay, and faster attainment of vacation time, Blackwell said.

Also passed at the Dec. 30 meeting were two other ordinances, one to pass the final amendment to the 2024 budget, the other to approve the city's budget for 2025. The figure for this year's budget is \$44,541,798.43, Finance Director Tinita Tillman stated on Monday, Jan. 6.

## City to advertise for bids on Bedford Commons expansion

By Judith Goldsworth

The city of Bedford will be advertising for bids for the Bedford Commons expansion project in the Historic Downtown District, City Manager Mike Mallis announced at the first Bedford Council meeting of 2025, on Monday night, Jan. 6.

"It will be advertised for multiple weeks," Mallis said. "We will have a non-mandatory meeting to answer questions from interested contractors near the end of January, with bids due at the end of the month," with the administration hopefully presenting city council with the recommendations in February.

Mallis also announced that at the next regular council meeting, to be held on Tuesday, Jan. 21, due to the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday observance on Jan. 20, new Assistant Fire Chief Tim Grote will be sworn in. Grote's most recent post is as a lieutenant in the Fire Department and will be taking over from Assistant Chief Dan Dopslaf, who is retiring. A new police officer will also be sworn in at the Jan. 21 meeting, Mallis said.

## Final 2024 budget amendment approved

The only piece of legislation that was passed at Monday's meeting was an ordinance regarding the 2024 city budget, to amend previous legislation to make additional appropriations for expenditures.

Finance Director Jennifer Howland explained, "This is a handful of a few budget updates that came up after the last appropriation ordinance. I ask that these be approved, as I have to report everything to the county by the end of the week... These are in regards to personnel issues, such as pension and health insurance claims."

Placed on second reading at the meeting was an ordinance amending previous legislation, authorizing the city to enter into a contract with GPD Group for engineering services in the city for 2025.

It was noted in the legislation that GPD Group has served as the city engineer "for several years and is well versed in all aspects of the city's infrastructure... the administration has determined that it is in the best interest of the city to continue the relationship."

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of our lives together  
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the cars we drove,  
The things we possessed  
won't matter  
What will matter is that  
I had you and you had me

Missing you always,  
Dan, Dan Jr., Karen, Dean,  
Kim, Donnie and grandchildren

# 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.

**Kids Cook! - Grades 3-6. Thursday, Jan. 16, 4 p.m.** Expand your cooking skills with quick, simple and delicious recipes. This program may include activities that could be considered harmful. In order for your child to participate you must sign the Release and Hold Harmless form and return it to the program location at least one week prior to the program's start date. To access the form and learn more about parent options, please visit [www.cuyahogalibrary.org/parent-options](http://www.cuyahogalibrary.org/parent-options). Participants may be recorded and/or surveyed to capture this program's effectiveness. **MUST REGISTER**

**Drawn Together Book Discussion for Teens and Adults. Saturday, Jan. 18, 2 p.m.** Join us to discuss "Maybe an Artist" by Liz Montague. Adults and teens welcome. Copies of the book will be available at the Bedford Branch one month before the discussion. "A heartfelt and funny graphic novel memoir from one of the first Black female cartoonists to be published in the New Yorker, when she was just 22 years old." **MUST REGISTER**

**Chapter Book Champs - Grades 3-5. Saturday, Jan. 18, 3 p.m.** Whether you finished the book or not, join us for activities and a book discussion based on the following book: January 18: "The Wild Robot" by Peter Brown. **MUST REGISTER**

**"Civil War Camp Cleveland" & "Cleveland Ghost Stories" with author Kit Whipple. Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2 p.m.** Being the largest Civil War training grounds in Ohio, Camp Cleveland, located in the current-day Tremont area, has a fascinating history. Join Kit Whipple to learn about its training camp, hospital and Confederate POW camp. Cleveland is an old wealthy city with many ghost stories, and the tale of a murder involving a famous Clevelander will add an intriguing layer to our lore. **MUST REGISTER**

**Word Basics - Adults. Friday, Jan. 24, 10 a.m.** Learn how to enter and format text and images,

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change line spacing, and copy and paste in Microsoft Word. Saving and printing tips will also be discussed. Prerequisite: Experience using a mouse or Computer Basics. Earn a Northstar Digital Literacy Certificate for this class with the successful completion of an assessment. Learn more about this certification. Classes start promptly! We cannot hold seats for attendees who arrive after an in-person class has started. Anyone not on the registration list will be given an available seat on a first-come, first-served basis. **MUST REGISTER**

**African American Authors Book Group - In-Person or Virtual. All Adults Are Welcome, Thursday, Jan. 30, 7 p.m.** The African American Authors Book Group meets the last Thursday of the month. January Title: "Sharks Don't Sink: Adventures of a Rogue Shark Scientist" by Jasmin Graham. The book is a riveting, moving, and ultimately triumphant memoir at the intersection of science and social justice. A guidebook to how we can all learn to respect and protect some of nature's most misunderstood and vulnerable creatures, and grant the same grace to ourselves.

## 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 or for more information.

## ADULT PROGRAMS

**Button Maker Basics** Learn how to use the Button Maker in the Innovation Center to create commemorative buttons in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Thursday, Jan. 16, 6-8 p.m. Registration required.

**Tuesday Evening Book Discussion** Join us for our monthly book discussion. This month's title is "Death at the Sign of the Rook" by Kate Atkinson. Tuesday, Jan. 21, 6-7 p.m.

**Civil War Camp Cleveland & Cleveland Ghost Stories** Join local historian and medium Kit Whipple for fascinating tales of Cleveland history and Camp Cleveland, the largest Civil War training grounds in Ohio. Tuesday, Jan. 28, 6:30-8 p.m.

**Innovation Center Hands on Help** Need help with a project in the Innovation Center? Bring your ideas and materials and staff will be available to help you get started. This program is open to users who have already completed an Innovation Center Orientation. Wednesday, Jan. 29, 6-8 p.m.

## CHILDREN and FAMILIES

**Family Storytime** Children of all ages, with a caregiver, are welcome to join us for stories, songs and fingerplays. Thursdays, 6-6:30 p.m.

**Food for Thought** Join the Central State Nutrition Program to learn about fueling your body and then learn to make some tasty snacks! Mondays, 4-5 p.m.

**Music and Movement** Join us for music and movement-themed stories, songs and activities. Wednesdays, 10-10:30 a.m.

## Maple Heights Branch Library

Here are a few of the **FREE** programs being offered at the Maple Heights Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, located at 5225 Library Lane, Maple Hts. For more information or to register, please call 216-475-5000, or visit: [cuyahogalibrary.org/events](http://cuyahogalibrary.org/events).

**Family Storytime** All ages with caregiver. Every Thursday through Feb. 27, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Join us for stories, songs and fingerplays.

**Circuit Lab.** Grades 4-8. Every Monday, through Jan. 27, 4 to 5 p.m. Let's get creative with electricity! Learn about electricity, circuit design and electronics in a fun environment.

**Adult Activities for All Abilities.** Thursday, Jan. 16, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Join us for a fun, adapted program with a different theme each month. Open to all adults but is specifically designed for adults with developmental disabilities and their caregivers. This month we will discuss our goals for the year, then make our own vision board!

**Celebrate MLK Day.** Monday, Jan. 20, 2 to 4 p.m. Celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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# Community police reports

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

## Garfield Heights

### Criminal Damage

• On Jan. 1, at around 11 a.m., police responded to a home in the 8400 block of Care Dr. regarding a criminal damaging report. Upon arrival officers spoke to the caller, who stated she woke up around 10 a.m. that day and found her kitchen ceiling had a bullet hole in it. Police found the projectile of the bullet laying on the kitchen floor just a few feet away from the damaged ceiling. The caller stated she went to bed around midnight and didn't hear or see anyone.

• On Jan. 10, at 9:30 a.m., an officer was dispatched to a home in the 4600 block of Burleigh Rd. for a report of criminal damaging to a residence. The resident told police that she had surveillance video of a white, thin male who walked down her driveway at 3:47 a.m., on Jan. 9, unlatched the gate and walked to the back of the garage and stayed there until she and her husband left in their truck about 5:05 a.m. When they returned they found their garage had been spraypainted. The video also shows the suspect appeared to be armed.

### Aggravated Robbery

On Jan. 5, at 4:33 a.m., officers responded to a caller who stated she was just involved in an attempted carjacking. Officers met with the female caller who stated she works for Lyft and two young black males attempted to carjack her at gunpoint. The caller stated she went to pick up the first male at around 11:23 p.m. in Cleveland, and the second passenger at around 11:30 p.m., at a different address in Cleveland, although it appeared that the two males knew each other. She then drove the passengers to their destination on Royal Blvd., in Garfield Heights, about 10 minutes later, but the men refused to give her the street address they wanted. The female said one of the men then placed a metallic object to the right side of her head which she believed to be a handgun and ordered her to place the vehicle in drive and park, which she refused to do. She then asked the males to get out of the vehicle but they did not. She tried to press the emergency button on her phone for Lyft but one of the men tried to grab her phone and it dropped to the floor. She accelerated her vehicle and started swerving in an attempt to get the males out of her vehicle. She heard one of the males say, "She's trying to kill us, get out!" Both males then jumped out of the vehicle. Report forwarded to the Detective Bureau.

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**GAME DAY  
RECIPES**

You can find it at:

Ferrara's Imported Foods (5750 Mayfield Rd.)

Giant Eagle (1825 Snow Rd.)

Gibbs Butcher Block (9858 E. River Rd.)

Jaworski Meats (7545 Pearl Rd.)

Lake Road Market (20267 Lake Rd.)

K & K Portage Market (3364 Warren Rd.)

Pinzone's Market (6046 Broadview Rd.)

Maple Hts. Catering (17330 Broadway Ave.)

Buckeye Quality Meats (9356 OH-14)

Fairfax Market (2190 E. 105 St., Cleveland)

Vermilion Farm Market (2901 Liberty Ave.)



BBQ  
PIZZA  
WINGS  
DIPPING  
COOKING

**SAUCE**



### Theft-Shoplifting

• On Jan. 11, about 6:39 a.m., an officer was dispatched to Speedway, 5122 Turney Rd., and was told that just before calling police a middle-aged white male and white female tried to buy a variety of merchandise, including a 12-pack of Rolling Rock beer. The female began arguing with the cashier when asked to provide ID to buy the beer and walked off with merchandise worth \$80.02. Her male companion yelled at the woman to come back and pay for the items but she ignored him and drove off in a red Ford Freestar van registered to a Park Heights address. Police responded to the Park Heights address but there was no response at the door and the van was not at the residence. Speedway is willing to pursue charge against the female. Security footage captured the incident and will be provided when available.

• On Jan. 12, about 9:20 a.m., police once again responded to Speedway, 5122 Turney Rd., for a theft report. This time it was reported that a black male, about 50 years-old, had stolen three cases of alcoholic beverages from the store the night before, worth a total of \$129.61. The incident was caught on the store's surveillance system, which will be emailed to police as soon as possible. The suspect's identity is unknown. He was last seen walking from the store north-bound.

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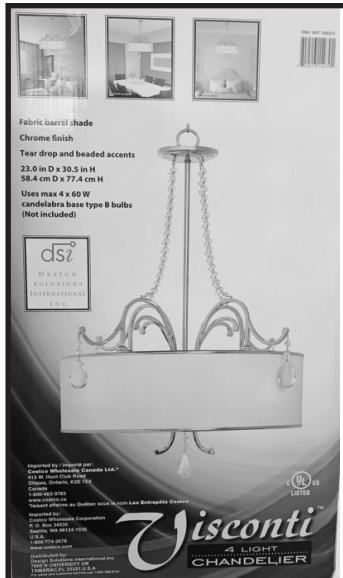
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Distributed every Wednesday  
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Starting in 2025: Bedford Heights

**The Neighborhood News**

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Phone: 216-441-2141

Email: nnews1923@aol.com  
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## HELP WANTED

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Call The Neighborhood News at (216) 441-2141 to place your ad. Our office is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Ad information can also be E-mailed to: nnews1923@aol.com.

Advertising deadline is 5:00 p.m. Mondays. Advertising Display rate is \$12.00 per column inch (minimum \$48).

Business Directory deadline is 5:00 p.m. Fridays. Ads must print for 4 weeks. Advertising rate is \$10 per column inch (minimum \$20).

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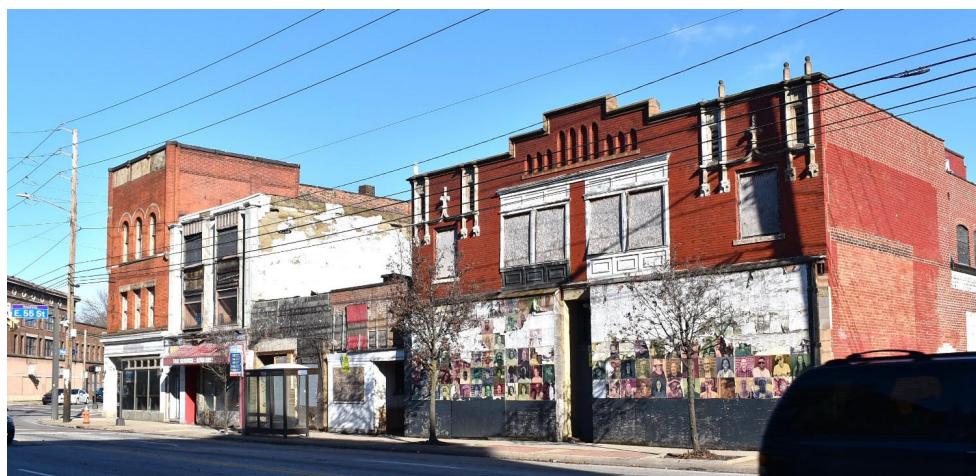
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**TOP  
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PAID**

## State to support historic preservation projects in Slavic Village, Cuyahoga Hts.

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, Lt. Governor Jon Husted and Ohio Department of Development Director Lydia Mihalik last week announced more than \$56 million in tax credits to support the rehabilitation of historic buildings across the state, two of which are in The Neighborhood News readership area.

The credits were awarded as part of the Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program, which provides financial incentives for the private redevelopment of Ohio's historic buildings.



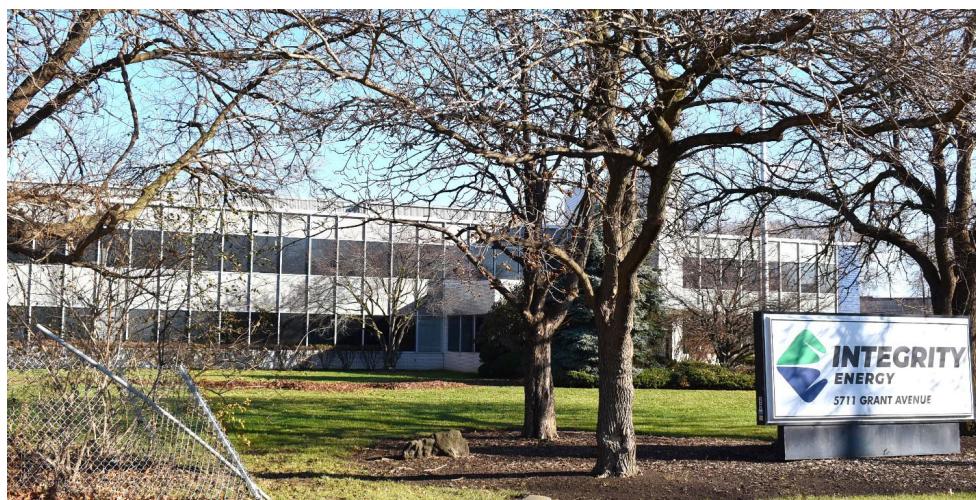
**Columbia Savings and Loan Co. building, 5601 Broadway Ave., Cleveland**

The Columbia Savings and Loan Co. building, 5601 Broadway Ave., Cleveland, was awarded a total tax credit of \$250,000, with total project cost estimated at \$1,155,022.

Constructed in 1891, this three-story Romanesque Revival building now sits vacant in the heart of Cleveland's Slavic Village and Broadway Avenue Historic District. The building was home to numerous businesses throughout the years, including a drug store and cleaners.

Rehabilitation efforts will restore the terra cotta and brick façade, as well as the terrazzo floors and marble wainscot interior. Once completed, the project will be transformed into a mixed-use property, including a local coffee shop in the first-floor space and office suites on the second and third floors.

The E. F. Hauserman Administration Building, 5711 Grant Ave., Cuyahoga Heights, was awarded a tax credit of \$250,000, with total project cost estimated at \$2,303,000.



**The E. F. Hauserman Administration Building, 5711 Grant Ave., Cuyahoga Heights**

The E.F. Hauserman building was constructed in 1958 and housed the headquarters, offices, research and engineering for the E.F. Hauserman Company. The building also served as a showcase for company products, including movable interior walls for offices, factories, schools and hospitals.

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All Mass times are Live streamed.

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for this size ad  
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at 216-441-2141

The rehabilitation project will restore the building to continue to be used as an office space, with much of the work focused on fixing windows and replacing mechanical systems.

"By preserving our historic buildings, we're retaining the unique identity of Ohio's communities," said Gov. DeWine. "Through the tax credit program, we're ensuring that future generations can experience the character and stories that shaped our state in the spaces where they happened."

In total, 37 projects will be awarded \$56,125,248 in tax credits to preserve 42 buildings across Ohio. The projects are expected to leverage approximately \$715 million in private investments.

Among the 15 communities receiving tax credits are Akron, Barberton, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Cuyahoga Heights, Dayton, Hamilton, Marion, Middletown, Niles, Steubenville, Toledo, Wellington and Youngstown.

## Letters to the Editor Art for Soul Slavic Village not defined Saturdays by ward boundaries

Dear Editor:

Most Slavic Village residents are upset about the new ward maps that Cleveland City Council passed last week. They should be. Ward maps are always changing, and never for the betterment of the community.

Council representatives have an impossible task to perform to deliver basic city services to their residents.

Slavic Village isn't a ward. It's a neighborhood rich in history with a working class culture and family values that haven't changed. As long as we continue to stand up for those values and for each other, we will be fine.

Our job will be to look for council candidates who understand us and help us grow as a community.

Sincerely,

Kevin Shannon  
Slavic Village resident

New Cornerstone Baptist Church and Celebrate the Arts Performance Academy, 19000 Libby Rd., Maple Heights, is presenting Art for the Soul Saturdays, now through May 17, 2025. This free program runs every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and offers children ages 5 to 18 a unique opportunity to combine creativity, spirituality and hands-on learning.

The program will feature spiritual instruction, art education and sustainable urban farming and food preparation. A nutritious breakfast will be served to all participants. Register today at CAPACADEMYCLEVE.ORG.

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