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101st YEAR

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2025

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FREE



## 'We have to find another place!' GHMC Judge Deborah Nicastro tells Garfield Hts. Council

By Ellen Psenicka

Judge Deborah Nicastro, presiding judge in the Garfield Heights Municipal Court, spoke to Garfield Heights Council at its meeting Monday night and detailed the reasons why the Justice Center building, at 5555 Turney Rd., which houses the courts as well as the jail and police department, is a hazard to employees and the public and alternative facilities must be found.

She said the building has been deteriorating for many years, which city leaders have known, but have said the city does not have the financial resources to address the problem.

Nicastro said the urgency of the situation was brought to a head recently when she and the other Garfield Heights Municipal Court Judge, Sergio DiGeronimo, were away and a fire alarm went off in the clerk of courts' office. "No one vacated the building because two-thirds of the building does not have fire alarms," Nicastro said. It could have been a tragic situation caused by just one of the many hazards at the Justice Center, which she said included black mold, no internal ventilation and non-ADA compliant restrooms for the disabled.

"We have to find another place," she said.

Although it is located in the city of Garfield Heights and is called the Garfield Heights Municipal Court, the court has geographic jurisdiction over cases in Brecksville, Cuyahoga Heights, Garfield Heights, Independence, Maple Heights, Metroparks, Newburgh Heights, Valley View and Walton Hills, according to the GHMC website.

Nicastro said the Newburgh Heights Village Council and its mayor, Trevor Elkins, have said the court would be welcome to move from its present location to a facility in Newburgh Heights. She said that would mean the village would provide the venue, be responsible for maintaining the building and other expenses now being incurred by the city of Garfield Heights.

She said since Newburgh Heights has 80% of the cases coming before the Municipal Court because of the traffic cameras there, and only 8% are from Garfield Heights, it would make sense to move the court to Newburgh Heights.

"I think the move to Newburgh Heights is the best option but it's not up to me," the judge said. She said the decision would be in the hands of Mayor Matt Burke and Garfield Heights City Council.



The Neighborhood News reported the deplorable conditions in the Justice Center building that houses the Garfield Heights Municipal Court, police station and jail in a 2022 news story that featured these photos taken above by Elena Psenicka.

Nicastro said Judge DiGeronimo has been exploring getting funding from the State of Ohio for a new courthouse in Garfield Heights, but she said she has never heard of the state providing 100% of the money for a building.

"The city has no money to contribute," the judge said. "Everybody's willing but not able."

In the meantime, Nicastro said, starting next week the court will conduct everything it can remotely, which would exclude jury trials, but still drastically cut down on in-person court appearances.

City Council President Avery Johnson said a work session with council members and Judges Nicastro and DiGeronimo will be called within the next two weeks to make plans for the court going forward.

(Continued on Page 2)

## Sokol Gymnastic Exhibition

Sokol Greater Cleveland will hold a Gymnastic Exhibition on Saturday, Feb. 22, at 6 p.m., at Garfield Heights Middle School, 12000 Maple Leaf Dr., Garfield Heights, OH 44125. Enjoy the music of the Sokol Concert Band beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Advance sale is \$7 by calling 216-642-1429, or \$10 at the door; children under 12 are free.

A social will be held after the exhibition at Sokol Greater Cleveland, 4939 Broadway Ave., Cleveland. Admission is free and there will be food and beverages available for all ages.

## New member appointed to Zoning Appeals Board in Bedford Hts.; debate at council meeting over candidate selection process

By Tristan Douglas

Bedford Heights City Council held its first regular council meeting of the month on Tuesday evening and passed a resolution appointing Ethel Robitson to the city's Board of Zoning Appeals. Although all members of council expressed confidence in Robitson's ability to fulfill her duties on the board, there was some debate over the transparency and effectiveness of the candidate selection process.

Councilman Michael Willis, the only member to vote "no" on the 6-1 appointment of Robitson, explained his vote was due to concerns about the selection process and not Robitson's qualifications. This view was shared by Councilwoman Enid Thomas, who believes the process to appoint Ms. Robitson was rushed and lacked foresight. She also raised concerns about the transparency of the process and noted that council did not interview Robitson for the position.

In response, Councilman Alton Tinker assured the council that the city charter does not require interviews for Board of Zoning Appeals appointments. Additionally, Councilwoman Kathie Kelso-Perez stated that the selection process followed established city practices. Despite these assurances, Councilwoman Thomas maintained that "the process should be changed" in response to these concerns.

## Reducing youth marijuana usage

Councilman Lloyd Anderson, chairman of the Safety Committee, announced that he is collaborating with Police Chief Michael Marotta and Assistant Chief Ken Hatcher, Jr. to research educational programs aimed at reducing youth marijuana usage.

(Continued on Page 2)



# Garfield Heights Council

(Continued from Page 1)

The following ordinances were passed at Monday night's meeting:

- To continue the city's agreement with Anago Cleaning Systems to provide regular cleaning of the Garfield Heights Civic Center and Police Department for the year 2025, for a total annual cost of \$30,432.00.
- To enter into an agreement with the Hunger Network of Greater Cleveland to allow the Garfield Heights Senior Center to receive and distribute pantry foods as part of the Food Bank. The city will only incur a cost for pantry foods if the cost of the food being purchased exceeds the monthly allocation provided by the Hunger Network.
- To prepare plans and specifications, per the OHM Advisors' proposal, and to go out for competitive bids for

the Thornhurst Avenue Reconstruction Project and authorizing payment of costs through funding by the NEORS MCIP.

The purpose of the project is to eliminate residential basement flooding and property damage, reduce flows to the district's infrastructure for treatment of removing storm water from the currently combined sewer system and improve water quality in area waterways.

•To enter into an agreement with Breezeline for the lease of a dark fiber network which is currently used to connect all the city's buildings to both the internet and its phone system. Under the terms of the new agreement, the city will contract with Breezeline for a period of 60 months at a monthly cost of \$1,375.00, totaling \$82,500 for the duration of the 5-year agreement.

•To adjust the disbursement of funds through the 2% local tax collected by the city to provide for a total of 78% deposited into the city's General Fund and 4% into the city's Debt Amortization Fund, both effective July 1, 2024, with the percentages for all other funds remaining unchanged.

•A resolution was passed recognizing February as Black History Month in the city of Garfield Heights, to honor and celebrate the rich cultural heritage, achievements and immeasurable contributions of African Americans in the United States.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 24, at 7 p.m.

# Bedford Heights Council

(Continued from Page 1)

One program under consideration is "Shifting Gears: The Blunt Truth About Marijuana & Driving," which is administered by the Ohio Traffic Safety Office in partnership with AAA Northeast and Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD). The program educates young drivers about the dangers of driving under the influence of marijuana. While a final program has not yet been chosen, Councilman Anderson emphasized that protecting the city's youth remains a top priority for his committee

## New Finance Director appointed

After 12 years of service in the Bedford Heights Finance Department, Finance Director Ted Gordon has stepped down from his position in the city. John Baranek, formerly the city's Assistant Finance Director, has been promoted to Finance Director following Gordon's departure on January 21.

## Senior Citizens Valentine's Day Dance

Mayor Philip Stevens reminded residents of the upcoming Senior Citizens Valentine's Day Dance, which is taking place on Saturday, February 15, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Bedford Heights Community Center. The event will feature music, dancing and light refreshments for attendees.

## Upcoming committee meetings

- Infrastructure & Capital Improvements Committee - Wednesday, Feb. 12, at 5 p.m. via Zoom
- Public Service/Water Reclamation Committee - Tuesday, Feb. 18, at 5:30 p.m.
- Cable TV Committee - Friday, Feb. 28, at 8:30 a.m.

Bedford Heights Civic Center will be closed on Monday, Feb. 17, in honor of President's Day. The next meeting of the Bedford Heights City Council will take place in person at the Bedford Heights City Council Chambers on Tuesday, Feb. 18, at 7 p.m.

# Pasta Dinner at Post 309

American Legion Post 309, 15521 Broadway Ave., Maple Heights, will hold a public Valentine's Day Pasta Dinner on Saturday, Feb. 15, serving from 3 to 6 p.m., eat-in or carryout. Menu includes pasta, meatballs only, salad, garlic bread and dessert. Donation \$13.

Advance dinner orders appreciated by calling 216-662-7768.

**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. 2 Issue: 1    SLAVIC VILLAGE COMMUNITY NEWS    February 12, 2025

## Slavic Village needs new housing. But what kind?

Slavic Village wants to grow its population, but it needs the right housing to do it.

Local residents are invited to help plan a major new development just south of Fleet Avenue, at a public meeting:

**Thurs February 13th at 6pm 5001 Fleet Avenue (across from Fleet Bike Shop)**


Fullerton Elementary School was closed five years ago and replaced with a new school about one mile away. Its buildings were cleared and the resulting multi-acre site just east of East 57th Street between Fullerton and Gertrude Avenues was pinpointed by local leaders as a future residential construction site. Columbus OH developer, Woda Cooper, submitted a proposal in response. They're now gathering public input to inform their design.

Various housing styles are being talked about:

- apartments
- townhouses
- cluster homes
- senior housing
- detached single-family homes
- one-story or multi-story
- affordable units
- market-rate units

If plans materialize, the new housing could increase population density, create a model for future projects located near major transit routes, and spur retail development on Fleet Avenue. This virtuous cycle of commercial and residential development could snowball.

Thursday's meeting will be facilitated by Ward 12 Councilwoman Rebecca Maurer and Slavic Village Development. Light refreshments will be served. Call 216.429.1182 for more information.



**This snow covered Slavic Village landscape could be covered with new houses in coming years.**

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 Friday, 10am-4pm; Sunday 12-4pm  
 (with limited access)

### Legal Advertisement

Sealed bids will be received by the Village of Newburgh Heights ("Owner"), at the office of the Fiscal Officer, Village of Newburgh Heights, 3801 Harvard Avenue, Newburgh Heights, OH 44105, on the 4th day of March, 2025 until 10:00 am current local time for the:

**"E. 26<sup>th</sup> Street Sewer Separation"**

and will be publicly opened and read immediately thereafter. Each bid must contain the full 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 shall be accompanied by a Bid Guaranty Bond for the full amount (100%) of the Bid, in favor of the "Owner" or a certified check, cashier's check, or letter of credit pursuant to Chapter 1305 of the Ohio Revised Code, in the amount of 10% of the Bid, payable to the "Owner".

It is agreed that the bid guaranty shall be for the benefit of the "Owner" pursuant to Section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code if the undersigned fails to execute the Contract in conformity with the Form of Contract incorporated in the contract documents and furnish Bond and insurance certificates within ten (10) days after the notification of the award of the Contract to the undersigned.

1. Copies of the Contract Documents are on file at SE Blueprint, Plan Room and may be obtained at cost (1) online at [www.ohm-bidderplanroom.plancycle.com](http://www.ohm-bidderplanroom.plancycle.com), (2) in person at the SE Blueprint Akron Office, 520 South Main Street, Akron, OH 44311 or at the SE Blueprint Cleveland Office 2035 Hamilton Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44114, or (3) via phone SE Blueprint Cleveland (216) 241-2250.

Please note that in order to be considered as a "responsive bidder" for this project, you must purchase a set of plans and bid documents, and follow all instructions provided. Bids from contractors who are not on the **Plan Holders List** will be disqualified.

The "Owner" 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.

A pre-bid meeting will be held on February 25th, 2025 at 2:00 pm at the Village of Newburgh Heights, 3801 Harvard Avenue, Newburgh Heights, OH 44105.

The "Owner" is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate against the handicapped.

Cathleen Nagorski, Fiscal Officer  
 Village of Newburgh Heights

Publish Dates: Neighborhood News  
**Week of February 9th, 2025**  
**Week of February 16th, 2025**

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# Community Police reports

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

## Garfield Heights

### Menacing

On Jan. 22, at 12:38 p.m., dispatch notified police that there was a male in the lobby of the police department reporting that a resident had pulled a firearm on him. The victim said he works for a company called Tech Wave which is being contracted by AT&T to inspect utility lines. He stated he went to a residence in the 13100 block of Willard Ave., to inspect a utility pole and knocked on the door to notify the homeowner that he was there. When no one answered the door he went to the backyard to inspect the pole. Afterwards he said he was leaving the backyard and walking down the driveway when a male came out the front door of the residence and confronted him, accusing him of trespassing. The victim said he worked for AT&T and showed the resident his work identification. The man then lifted up his shirt showing what the victim believed to be a firearm, and then stated if he comes back on his property he might lose his life.

The victim then left in his vehicle, which had no markings of any company, and went to the police station to make a report. He was provided a report number and advised to contact police if he wishes to file possible charges. In the meantime a woman called police to report that a suspicious male pretending to work for AT&T had been trespassing on her property on Willard Ave. She told her son that someone was possibly trespassing and he confronted the male.

### Theft of Motor Vehicle

On Feb. 3, at 5:08 a.m., a female living in the 13000 block of Havana Rd. called GHPD to report her car stolen. An officer responded to the residence and talked with the car's owner, who said her 2003 Chevy Impala was stolen from her driveway during the night with keys inside the car. Entered into LEADS as stolen. On Feb. 5, Ohio State Patrol located the vehicle on I-480 in Brooklyn Heights. Owner notified.

### Recovered Stolen Auto

On Feb. 3, at 2:52 a.m., police attempted a traffic stop on a stolen 2021 Kia Rio while in the area of Garfield Blvd. and Turney Rd. At that time three males fled from

the vehicle on foot. They were apprehended and taken into custody with the assistance of K-9 Echo. Two of the suspects were located in the backyard of a home in the 9700 block of Robinson Ave., where it was discovered that one of the suspects was armed and had shot himself. Both were taken into custody and the suspect with the gunshot wound was taken to MetroHealth Medical Center for treatment and then to city jail.

The other suspect was found crouched down behind a utility pole in the backyard of a home in the 9800 block of Sladden Ave. and admitted he had a firearm in his coat pocket. The driver of the stolen car and one of the passengers, both of them armed, were under the age of 21 and were taken to city jail.

### Disturbance - Juveniles

On Feb. 4, at 3:30 p.m., an officer went to the GHPD lobby for a disturbance report that occurred earlier that day at the Garfield Heights Middle School. A woman and her son were at the station and the mother said she had received a call that day that her son was in the office with an injury to his face after an incident with a classmate. The son said he accidentally plunged a rubber band that struck his 6th grade classmate. The classmate then grabbed a pair of scissors and threw it at the other boy, striking him in the face below his eyebrow. His mother said she went to the school to meet with the principal and was told the school will conduct its own investigation. She drove her son to the Marymount Hospital Emergency Department to have him checked out. He was diagnosed with a facial laceration to the left side of his face. The victim's mother was issued a police report and advised to follow up with the school. The incident was referred to the Youth Bureau.

### Weapon Offense

On Feb. 9, at 11:25 p.m., an officer on patrol observed

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#### "E. 26<sup>th</sup> Street Watermain Replacement"

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Cathleen Nagorski, Fiscal Officer  
Village of Newburgh Heights

Publish Dates: Neighborhood News  
Week of February 9th, 2025  
Week of February 16th, 2025

a Jeep Grand Cherokee at a red light at the intersection of McCracken Rd. and Broadway Ave. A registration check showed the registered owner had an active warrant for domestic violence and child endangerment with GHPD. The officer initiated a traffic stop and found the driver to be the owner of the car with warrants outstanding. He was patted down for weapons and police felt the print of a metallic object in his front right jacket pocket which was apparent to the officer that it was a firearm. Police asked him several times what he had in his pockets but he refused to respond. During a search prior to arrest, a Sig Sauer P365 SAS firearm was found in the suspect's jacket pocket. One live 9mm round was in the chamber along with five 9mm rounds in the magazine. He was placed under arrest for warrants, having weapons under disability and improperly handling firearms in a motor vehicle.

SUBMIT YOUR COMMUNITY EVENTS AND ADVERTISING TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS VIA EMAIL: [NNEWS1923@AOL.COM](mailto:NNEWS1923@AOL.COM)

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# Lady Mustangs honored for two championship seasons by Maple Hts. Council

By Judith Goldsworth

The Lady Mustangs of Milkovich Middle School in Maple Heights and their coaches made an appearance at last week's council meeting and were honored with a proclamation from Mayor Annette Blackwell for winning two consecutive Lake Erie League Championships, in the 2023-2024 and the 2024-2025 seasons.

"Maple Heights recognizes these significant achievements," Blackwell said, noting that in 2023-24, the team had a 15-0 overall record, and in 2024-25, a 14-0 overall record.

"I also want to acknowledge your outstanding coaches," Blackwell said to team members. "Thank you for taking a moment to give recognition to this amazing team, and let's give their parents and support system a round of applause."

Maple Heights City Schools Superintendent Olympia Della Flora said, "I'm very proud of you and the city of Maple Heights equally is proud of you and your accomplishments. We continue to look forward to all the things you do, not just on the court, but also in your community and in your lives."

## Smoke shop moratorium extended

A 180-day moratorium on "smoke shops" in the city, first approved by council in September 2024 to address concerns about appearances, potential criminal activity and health hazards, was extended another 180 days, after council approved the legislation at last week's meeting.

The extension of the moratorium period, from March 3, 2025 to Oct. 30, 2025, continues the temporary suspension on permitting new establishments in the city that sell or distribute "tobacco products, vapor products, alternative nicotine products, and/or electronic smoking devices," according to the ordinance.

The city will continue to study the impact of having these establishments in Maple Heights. The city's Building Department will not accept applications from businesses seeking to sell or distribute tobacco and vapor products; and the Planning and Zoning Commission will not grant use permits or zoning variances for these businesses.

"The city has a legitimate, substantial and compelling interest in encouraging economic investment in the city

while protecting residents from criminal activity and health risk," the legislation states. "Council believes that the operation of businesses that sell or distribute tobacco and vapor products may have an inappropriate impact on minors, and the location of businesses that sell or distribute tobacco and vapor products near schools, playgrounds, parks, residential neighborhoods and small businesses may be inappropriate and have an adverse impact on property values, health, safety and welfare in the city."

Extending the moratorium period will enable the city "to consider the need to enact reasonable regulations as to the size, number and location of businesses that sell or distribute tobacco and vapor products in the city," according to the ordinance.

## Also passed:

• Resolution authorizing City Engineer Ed Hren to begin preparing plans and specifications and to advertise for bids for the Summit and James Avenue Pavement Repair Project. The city has been awarded \$1.4 million from the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District for the Southwest Sewer District Sewer Repairs Phase 2 Project, which includes repairs of storm and sanitary sewers on Dunham, Turney, Carol, Summit, Rochelle, Lisa, Janet, James, Wheeler, E. 146, Mustang, Thunderbird and adjacent areas.

The Ohio Department of Public Works has committed to pay up to \$625,000 to complete the sewer work and pavement repairs on those streets, and resurfacing Summit and James at the completion of the sewer work was included within the scope of the Ohio Public Works Commission grant agreement.

• Resolution authorizing the city, through its Planning and Development Department, to expend public funds and accept private donations to organize and run the following 2025 community events: Easter Fest, Music in the Park, Fall Fest and Holiday Lighting Event "to promote goodwill, civic pride, harmony and understanding throughout the entire Maple Heights community."

• Ordinance authorizing Blackwell and Planning and Development Director Geoff Englebrecht to provide a forgivable loan through the Maple Heights-SBA Small Business Performance Grant Program, to Levels Barber and Beauty College, in the amount of \$2,775 from the

city, and \$8,325 from Cuyahoga County for a total loan amount of \$11,100 to allow the business to make enhancements to its location at 20880 Southgate Park Blvd.

• Resolution authorizing Blackwell to accept a quote and enter into a purchase agreement with Southeastern Equipment Company Inc., through the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Program, for the purchase of a 2024 Case front wheel loader at a cost of \$173,694.56.

• At the request of District 4 Councilwoman Dana Anderson, who serves as chair of the Community Life and Education Committee, council unanimously approved the appointments of District 5 Councilwoman Tanglyn Madden and District 7 Councilwoman Edwina Agee to fill two vacancies on the committee.

• Placed on first reading was a resolution authorizing Blackwell to enter into a Professional Services Contract with Strategic Health Care Company, to provide lobbyist services for the period from Feb. 15, 2025, to Dec. 31, 2025, at a cost of \$5,000 per month. If council approves the legislation at a future meeting, Strategic Health Care will lobby for funding from the State of Ohio in 2025 for community projects, such as youth engagement/playgrounds, infant mortality health care, senior care housing and affordable housing and home repairs.

## Announcements

Fire Chief Dan Syden announced that the Maple Heights Firefighters, Local 1184, will be participating in a Climb For Clean Air and Lung Health, by climbing the 52 stories of Key Tower in downtown Cleveland, on Sunday, March 2. The goal is to raise \$5,000 for the American Lung Association. Visit the Maple Heights Local 1184 Facebook page or go to [https://action.lung.org/site/TR/Climb/ALAMS\\_MidlandStates...](https://action.lung.org/site/TR/Climb/ALAMS_MidlandStates...) to donate and for more information.

Blackwell announced she had received a letter from Cleveland Heights Fire Chief James Harry, thanking the Maple Heights Fire Department for their mutual aid in helping to fight a massive fire on Cedar Rd. in Cleveland Heights during the frigid weather last month. "Please let them know that we appreciate them," Harry's letter stated.

Blackwell also said the city has received two grants. One is from the Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works County Road Preventive Maintenance Program, in the amount of \$183,000, to be used for crack sealing, restriping and joint repair on Dunham, Granger, Lee, Schreiber, Turney and Warrensville Center rds.

The other grant is for \$624,000 from Ohio Public Works funds to cover \$298,000 of the Southwest Phase 3 Construction Project, for the specific streets of Ramage, Dunbury, Evening Star, Morning Star, Steinway, Walvern and Longvale.

Human Services Director Jaimie Hasenohrl stated the city will be introducing a new Senior Hour at the Food Pantry on Wednesday, March 5, from 9-10 a.m. for residents aged 60 and older.

**Happy Valentine's Day!**

# Garfield Commons

Rockside Road near Turney Road in Garfield Heights



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## THESE NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCHES WELCOME YOU

**Garfield Heights United Methodist Church**  
4977 Turney Road  
Garfield Heights, Ohio  
Worship Sundays at 11:30am  
In Church and on Facebook Live  
Pastor Andrew Scott

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



**NEW CORNERSTONE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
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Sunday Worship 11:30 AM or JOIN BY ZOOM MEETING ID:  
946 127 593 Passcode: 483512  
Dr. Blanton Harper, Pastor or Conference Call In: 646-876-9923



### NN Freebies offered

The Neighborhood News is giving away two tickets to the Sokol Greater Cleveland Gymnastic Exhibition on Saturday, Feb. 22, at 6 p.m., at Garfield Heights Middle School, 12000 Maple Leaf Dr., Garfield Heights. The Sokol Concert Band will perform before the exhibition at 5:30 p.m.

Stop by The Neighborhood News office, 8613 Garfield Blvd., to enter a free drawing for the tickets, Monday through Friday, during regular business hours. Deadline to enter the drawing is Wednesday, Feb. 19, at noon.

### Red Cross blood drives

The American Red Cross will host a blood drive on Monday, Feb. 17, from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at Marymount Hospital, 12300 McCracken Rd., Garfield Heights, and on Monday, Feb. 24, from noon to 6 p.m., at the Independence Civic Center, 6363 Selig Dr., Independence. Identification required; appointments encouraged. Visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or call 800-733-2767 to register.

As a thank-you, all who come to give through Feb. 28, 2025, will get a \$15 e-gift card to a merchant of choice.

### CLE City Council stands united in wake of attacks on immigrant families

Cleveland City Council is committed to ensuring Cleveland's residents, visitors and businesses enjoy safety, freedom and resources to improve their economic status, as announced in a press release by council last week. The recent, deliberate targeting of Latino residents nationwide - and in our region - is a direct threat to these goals, said council.

"We are in constant communication and partnership with our mayor, police chief and leaders from the business, nonprofit and community sectors to address the needs of our residents and provide vocal and active support for our residents and families," council stated.

Cleveland's first settler, Moses Cleaveland, was an immigrant to America. Every ward, neighborhood and community in Cleveland is impacted by immigrants, with arguably the wards represented by Ward 7 Councilwoman

Stephanie Howse-Jones and Ward 14's Jasmin Santana having the largest immigrant communities. Both council members have been vocal in their opposition to the inhumane separation of working families in the region.

Councilwoman Santana shared, "These detainments, sometimes without legal warrants, directly impact families in our city. What affects one, affects all. We cannot and will not idly sit by as our neighbors, friends and families face these threats. These migrants must be given due process and access to adequate legal representation."

Council President Blaine A. Griffin, Ward 6, said that Cleveland truly is a melting pot, with thousands of immigrants from Latin America, Africa, Asia and Europe contributing to our healthcare, arts, culture and economy. "Their valuable contributions have played, and continue to play a vital role in shaping Cleveland into the city we know and love. We stand united with immigrants from every part of the world in preserving equitable practices to make Cleveland the place we love."

Council has published a list of resources and contacts for those looking to learn more about the targeted raids. The resources are available at [clevelandcitycouncil.org/immigrantresources](http://clevelandcitycouncil.org/immigrantresources).



**Valentine's Day is this Friday, February 14, 2025**

MOZART - Happy Valentine's Day! We make beautiful music together. From your Sweetheart.

To all our SENIORS at the Garfield Heights Senior Center - We hope you have a wonderful Valentine's Day! Love, The Senior Center Staff.

FRAN, My Honey Bunny. All my Love XOXO Tony Ski. You are the best!

COFFEE CUP'S Great Owner and Staff - Thanks and Love for 30 years of great service!

Happy Valentine's Day to BOB HALAN (Santa Claus)! From your friends at The Neighborhood News!


You and Me against the Verld! I love you! Your Denny forever.

Happy Valentine's Day! Love and Kisses from Malcolm and Maxwell and Michael. Love You Forever!

Von, you complete me in ways you'll never understand. I love you to infinity and beyond. ALWAYS! Kris

♥ Sending LOVE ♥ to GARFIELD HEIGHTS - ALL Police and Fire, Former Councilmen, ALL Mayors, All Service Depts., for the 37 years that we owned a home. Marymount Hospital for Health Services and making RICHARD A. PFLUG SR. your Employee of the YEAR and for the loving care through his illness. To my neighbors, friends and relatives and Sts. Peter/Paul Church, ALL schools, we will never forget you. ♥ LOVE, from Lucille Pflug and the late, Richard A. Pflug Sr. ♥



Happy Valentine's Day! From  **Mike Dudley Sr.** Former City Council President Pro-Tem Garfield Heights [mdudleysr@gmail.com](mailto:mdudleysr@gmail.com)

 **MATRIX III INCOME TAX SERVICE, LLC** 5258 Transportation Blvd. Garfield Hts., OH 44125 (Across Granger Rd. between Midwest Ave. & S Highland) **\$25 Off TAX PREPARATION WITH THIS AD EXPIRES MARCH 31, 2025** **SECURE ACT 2.0 TAX BREAKS** ★ EXPERT YEAR ROUND SERVICE ★ INDIVIDUAL, BUSINESS & CORPORATIONS ★ FEDERAL, STATE & LOCAL ★ DROP OFF - PICK UP **CALL TODAY! 216-332-SAVE** 216-332-7283   "Our Phone Number Says It All!"



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**Business and Service Directory**  
 ADVERTISING DEADLINE: EVERY FRIDAY AT 5 PM  
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**THE NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS ADVERTISING POLICY  
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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).

**CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING:**  
Classified Advertising rate is \$12.00 for 15 words or less and 10¢ a word over 15 words. Boxed classified rate is \$12.00 per column inch (starting at \$24).

**PUBLISHER'S DISCRETION:**  
All contents of advertisements are subject to publisher's approval. Publisher reserves the right to reject or cancel any advertisement, insertion order, space reservation or position commitment at any time. Positioning of advertisements is at the discretion of the publisher except where a request for a specific preferred position is acknowledged by the publisher.

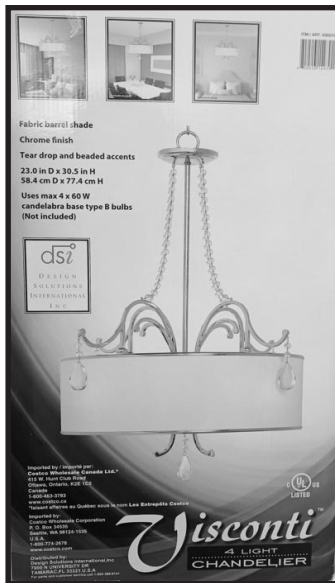
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All advertising may be paid by using your VISA, MASTERCARD or DISCOVER credit cards; Cash or Check. Payment in advance is required in certain instances. Please place your ad early to allow payment to reach us before deadline. All credit card payments will have an additional charge of 3.75% added due to the high cost of credit card processing. We appreciate your understanding and thank you for your business.

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Deadline for cancellations is 5 p.m. on Mondays. Save your cancellation number in case an adjustment on your bill is necessary. Ads placed for only one week cannot be canceled.

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**FOR SALE**



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

**(4) TRUCK TIRES FOR SALE**  
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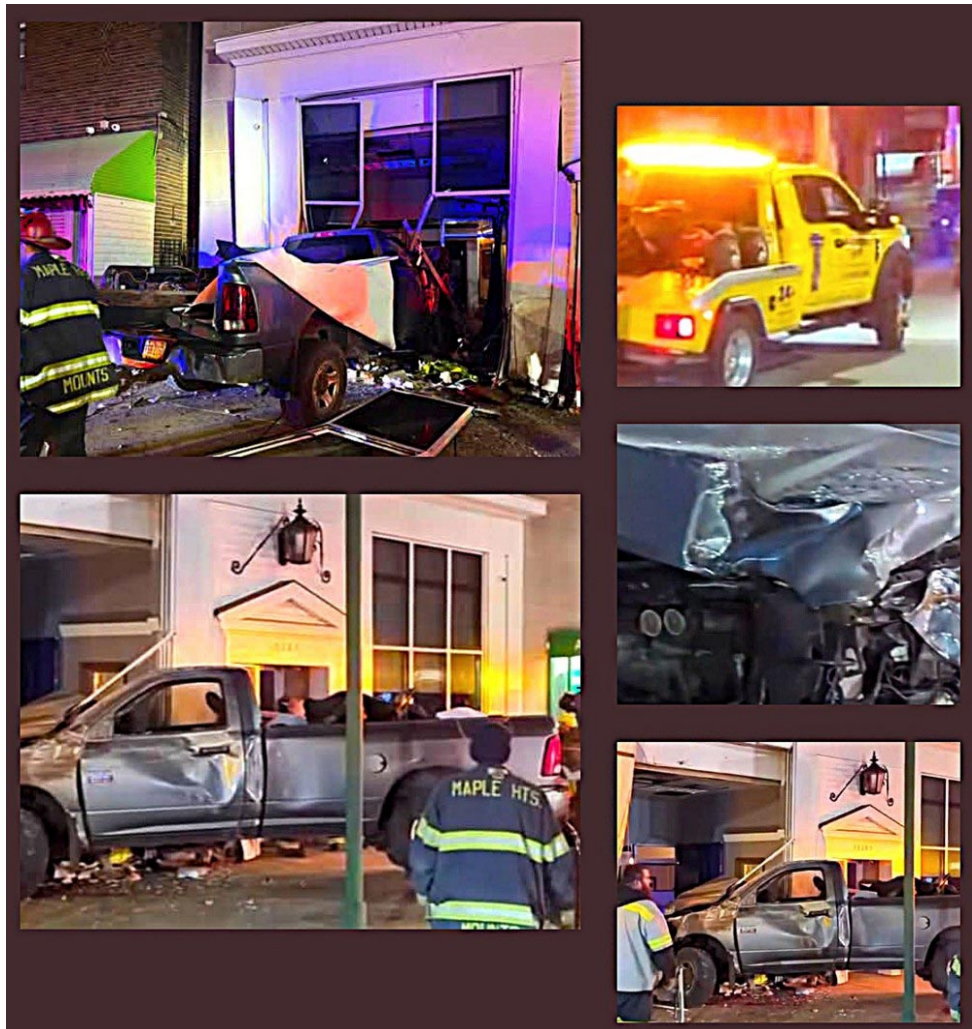
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# Pickup crashes into Maple Hts. business



(Pictures and story taken from Maple Heights Firefighters Local 1184 Facebook posting)

Last Friday evening at 6:31 p.m., Maple Heights Firefighters responded to Vault Lofts, 15765 Broadway Ave., for a pickup truck that had crashed into the building. Amazingly there were no injuries, but there was heavy damage to the front of the building. Vault Lofts houses an upscale boutique which includes both salon lofts and a barbershop. The crash is under investigation by the MHFD.

## Donate Blood



Help Save A Life.

## Polish Paczki Party

SAVE THE DATE! A Fat Thursday Polish Paczki Party will be held on Thursday, Feb. 27, beginning at 4 p.m., with Polish Happy Hour at the Polish American Cultural Center, 6501 Lansing Ave., Cleveland. Admission is free.

Featured will be homemade Polish food, imported Polish beer, museum and garden tours, music by Tom Katrenich Orchestra and Opus 216 and paczki, paczki and more paczki! Call 216-233-7234 for more details. Polish Paczki Party

## Slavic Village Stakeholders

to meet

The next meeting of the Slavic Village Stakeholders will be Tuesday, Feb. 18, at Seven Roses, 6301 Fleet Ave. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with a 6 p.m. meeting start. Members are welcome to bring a snack or appetizer to share.

# Letters to the Editor

With Valentine's Day around the corner, FirstEnergy Corp. is reminding customers that if helium-filled foil balloons come into contact with power lines, they can cause power outages as their metallic coating conducts electricity and can disrupt the electric system.

Foil balloons are not the only balloons that turn love into loss. Even "biodegradable" latex balloons take months to decompose — and electrical outages represent a fraction of the damage.

On land or at sea, animals who ingest balloons or their fragments can choke or slowly starve to death. And their strings or ribbons can entangle squirrels, birds, turtles, fish and other animals, break their limbs, or strangle them. Nobody wants that.

Love is in the air — keep balloons out of it and celebrate with bubbles instead.

Melissa Rae Sanger, The PETA Foundation

**Happy Valentine's Day** To Our "Sweet" Customers!

See You in the Spring!

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<p><b>RESIDENTS</b></p> <p>One Program \$50 Two Programs \$75 Three Programs \$100</p> <p><b>NON RESIDENTS</b></p> <p>One Program \$70 Two Programs \$125 Three Programs \$175</p> <p><b>DROP IN FEE</b></p> <p>Resident \$7 Non-Resident \$10</p> <p>*Only 1 permitted*</p> <p><b>LOCATION</b></p> <p>Garfield Heights Civic Center 5407 Turney Road 6 PM to 8 PM</p> <p>Contact the Rec Center today at 216-475-7272!</p>	<p><i>Ultimate</i> <b>LINE DANCE MARCH</b> 4, 11, 18, 26</p> <p><b>LATIN Dance class</b> MARCH 5, 12, 19, 26</p> <p><b>ZUMBA</b> MARCH 6, 13, 20, 27</p> <p>Price includes - 4 (2 hour) Sessions</p>	<p>Join us for the <i>Ultimate</i> <b>LINE DANCE CLASS</b></p> <p>Hosted and Instructed by Chloe Ervin-Dozier</p> <p>TUESDAYS (4 Sessions) MARCH 4, 11, 18, 25 6:00pm - 8:00pm Urban Dance Fusion</p> <p>Garfield Heights Creating Memories... and Friendships...</p> <p>For more information: 216-475-7272</p>
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