

The Neighborhood News

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

101st YEAR

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025

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

FREE



MONDAY, MARCH 17th

Find Some Great Ways to Celebrate on Page 5!!

Bulldogs headed to state semi-finals Sunday

The Garfield Heights High School Boys Varsity Basketball team, under Coach Sonny Johnson, will be headed to the state semi-finals Sunday after defeating Akron Hoban 58-45 last Friday in the regional championship game.

They will take on Louisville this Sunday, March 16, at 6 p.m., at the Canton Memorial Field House as they continue to pursue a spot in the state championship game. Tickets will be available at the door, but fans are encouraged to purchase online in advance.

Six women recognized at Maple Heights Council meeting honoring National Women's History Month

By Judith Goldsworth

Six women were honored for their accomplishments and efforts in the Maple Heights community in recognition of National Women's History Month this month by the Community Life and Education Committee (CLEC) at the council meeting last week.

The CLEC made presentations to Joyce Casey, Tamitra Peavy, Pam Mason, Lynda Axson and Helen Worship; and also recognized Alfreda Abbadini, who was not present at the meeting. She will be honored with a presentation at the Wednesday, March 19, council meeting.

"Your dedication, your quiet strength and your unwavering commitment do not go unnoticed," said Councilwoman Edwina Agee. "We celebrate and thank you for your positive impact in our everyday life."

Mayor Annette Blackwell added, "I want to thank these women who are here, and thank the members of the committee for taking the time to start this month off with just an amazing group of women."

(Continued on Page 7)

Both Garfield Heights and Newburgh Heights agree to support relocation of Municipal Court to Newburgh

By Ellen Psenicka

At its Monday night meeting, Garfield Heights Council passed a resolution in support of the relocation of the Garfield Heights Municipal Court to the Village of Newburgh Heights "due to the outdated structure that currently houses the municipal court," according to the legislation.

At its meeting last Tuesday, the Newburgh Heights Village Council unanimously passed similar legislation in support of the court's move to Newburgh Heights.

The Garfield Heights Municipal Court currently serves the communities of Brecksville, Cuyahoga Heights, Garfield Heights, Independence, Maple Heights, the Metroparks, Newburgh Heights, Valley View and Walton Hills.

Newburgh Heights currently has the largest annual caseload of all the communities in the court's jurisdiction, having recently surpassed Garfield Heights, which is traditionally a hallmark of the community who houses the municipal court, according to the Garfield Heights resolution.

It goes on to say that "having reviewed all potential options and the costs associated with each, the city believes it is in the best interest to work in conjunction with the Village of Newburgh Heights to explore the possibility of relocating the municipal court to the village."

Newburgh Heights Mayor Trevor Elkins said the location for the relocated courthouse has not been confirmed yet but there are three locations on Harvard Ave. that would meet the court's needs for building size and parking.

Elkins said village officials were approached by the GHMC, as were all of the communities in the jurisdiction, as to whether Newburgh Heights would be willing to become the host community as a result of constraints around the current courthouse condition.

After research, internal meetings and numerous conversations, it was agreed that Newburgh Heights would work toward hosting the Court only if the city of Garfield

Cleveland man found dead in car on Northfield Road

Bedford Police found a man shot to death in a car last Friday at approximately 5:50 p.m., when they responded to shots fired on Northfield Rd., near Rockside Rd.

When police arrived at the location they discovered the victim, Clarence Houston, age 31, of Cleveland, seated in the driver's seat of a black Ford Explorer, according to a Bedford Police news release. The victim had no signs of life. He was transported to MetroHealth Medical Center where he was officially pronounced deceased.

Bedford detectives have been following up on leads since the incident. Any witnesses are asked to call the Bedford Detective Bureau at 440-232-3408.

Heights had no objection and it was a partnership in the relocation process, Elkins said.

The Village of Newburgh Heights would be responsible for construction and maintenance of a new courthouse in its community, he said.

"It would likely be near this time next year before ground would be broken," Elkins said, "and then roughly 6-8 months after that before the court was open for operation. So if all goes well it would be middle to end of 2026."

Other legislation passed by G.H. Council

- Entering into an agreement with OHM Advisors to provide public sector engineering review and construction services to the city beginning March 1, 2025, and ending Dec. 31, 2026, at a cost not to exceed \$40,000.

- Selling and disposing of municipally owned property which is no longer needed by the city, including a fire engine and various equipment from the Fire Department.

- Accepting the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District 2025 Community Recycling Awareness Grant of \$4,267.

- Ratifying the mayor's appointment of Stephen Settle to the city's Recreation Board to complete the unexpired term of former member Kurt Mariola.

- Authorizing application for the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services Violent Crime Reduction Grant Program for 2025.

- Updating the Public Records Policy to place any cannabis funds distributed by the Host Community Cannabis Fund into the General Fund, per the recommendation of the Ohio Auditor of State.

The next meeting of Garfield Heights Council is scheduled for Monday, March 24, at 7 p.m.

One injured in M.H. shooting

On Monday, March 10, at 4:38 p.m., officers from the Maple Heights Police Department responded to an apartment complex at 15400 Maple Park Dr., for a report of shots fired and a male with a gun walking around outside. Officers arrived and found evidence of a disturbance and gunfire.

There were reports that the male with the gun had left the area in a white vehicle. While Maple Heights police were investigating the Maple Park Dr. scene reports came into the Garfield Heights Police Department that several males were in the area of York Blvd. and a male appeared to be injured. GHPD arrived on scene on York and found a male had been shot, presumably from the Maple Park Dr. incident. That male was transported to MetroHealth Medical Center with non-life-threatening injuries. The other men who had been with the gunshot victim were taken into custody for questioning.

Later on scene at Maple Park Dr., police located a male in a white vehicle matching the description of the male with a gun who was seen earlier walking around the area. He was taken into custody for questioning.

(Continued on Page 2)

Community police reports

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

Garfield Heights

Injury to Person

On Feb. 28, an officer went to the police station for an injury report. The male victim said he had gone to visit

his mother at her home in the 5500 block of Andover Blvd. the evening of Feb. 24, and when he exited the house around 11 p.m., he walked to his vehicle parked in his mother's driveway. While still in her driveway he saw two dogs outside another house in the area. One of them, a dark-colored pit bull, ran from the residence, came onto his mother's property and tried to bite him. He didn't get bit but fell down trying to run from the dog. He landed on his right arm and broke it. He spoke to the animal warden about the incident and wanted it documented.

Theft

On March 3, a resident of a home in the 4600 block of Warner Rd., went to the police station to report a theft. He told police that between 5 p.m. on March 1, and 8 a.m. on March 2, an unknown person had taken \$2,700 in cash from a bag on his living room table. He said he saw no signs of forced entry into his residence. Facts forwarded to the Detective Bureau.

Shots Fired

On March 9, at about 1:37 a.m., police were dispatched to a home in the 4600 block of Turney Rd., in regard to shots fired. Officers toured the area attempting to locate a casing and immediately noticed a single bullet hole in a window of the upstairs apartment of the residence. The tenant told police that about five minutes before she called 911, she heard a single gunshot followed by a vehicle driving off in an unknown direction. Officers observed a bullet hole in the window of the living room and it appeared the bullet was lodged somewhere in the wall. Police will follow up with possible surveillance video.

Legion Post 309 Fish Fry

American Legion Post 309, 15521 Broadway Ave., Maple Heights, will hold Friday Fish Fry dinners on March 14, April 4 and April 18, from 3 to 6 p.m. All invited! Dine-in or carryout. Advance orders appreciated. Call 216-662-7768.

G.H. garden meeting

Garfield Heights will host an informational meeting about its Community Garden program at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 19, at the Civic Center, 5407 Turney Rd. Returning gardeners and anyone new wanting to participate are encouraged to attend.

For additional information about the gardens, call Karyn Andel at 216-475-1100, ext. 2430, or e-mail kandel@garfieldhts.org.

One injured in M.H. shooting

(Continued from Page 1)

Several vehicles in the area of Maple Park Dr. were hit with gunfire. No other persons were injured.

Anyone with information related to this case is urged to contact the Maple Heights Detective Bureau: 216-587-9624 or Detectives@mhpd-ohio.com or report@mhpd-ohio.com

Information can also be supplied to Crime Stoppers by calling its hotline number: 216-252-7463, or anonymous text messaging to: TIP657 plus your message to CRIMES (274637).

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 Expires March 31, 2025

LEGAL NOTICE
 BEDFORD BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS WILL HOLD A MEETING ON **TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2025**, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF BEDFORD CITY HALL AT **6:00 P.M.** TO CONSIDER THE APPEAL OF THE FOLLOWING:

A. ROZ PATRICK OF PATRICK'S ENTERPRISES PROPOSES TO BUILD A NEW HOME AT P.P.N. 81314038 ON JOHNSON AVE. THE APPLICANT IS SEEKING A VARIANCE FROM:

VARIANCE #1 - THE LOT IS 4,808 SQ FT. 5,000 SQ FT IS THE MINIMUM REQUIRED TO BUILD PER:

1927.05 LOT AREA, FRONTAGE AND YARD REQUIREMENTS.
 THE FOLLOWING MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS SHALL BE OBSERVED IN R-2 DISTRICTS, SUBJECT TO THE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS, EXCEPTIONS AND MODIFICATIONS IN SECTIONS 1951.03 TO 1951.05, INCLUSIVE. EACH ONE-FAMILY RESIDENCE SHALL BE LOCATED ON A LOT CONTAINING AT LEAST FIVE THOUSAND SQUARE FEET (5,000 SQ. FT.)

A VARIANCE IS REQUESTED FOR 192 SQ FT.

VARIANCE #2 - THE LOT IS APPROXIMATELY 36 FEET AT THE BUILDING LINE. 50 FEET IS MINIMUM WIDTH FOR A BUILDABLE LOT PER:

1927.05 LOT AREA, FRONTAGE AND YARD REQUIREMENTS. MIN. LOT WIDTH 50 FEET

A VARIANCE OF 14 FT IS REQUIRED

VARIANCE #3 - THE PROPOSED HOUSE HAS 5.03 FT SIDE YARDS. THE HVAC EQUIPMENT IS LOCATED IN THIS REDUCED SIDE YARD AS WELL. MINIMUM SIDE YARDS ON BOTH SIDES ARE 8 FEET MINIMUM PER:

1927.05 LOT AREA, FRONTAGE AND YARD REQUIREMENTS. MINIMUM SIDE LEAST WIDTH 8 FEET.

A VARIANCE OF 2.97 FEET IS REQUIRED FOR BOTH SIDES OF THE HOME AND THE HVAC EQUIPMENT NEEDS TO BE RELOCATED.

ATTENTION: THE APPLICANT'S ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY, AND FAILURE TO ATTEND WILL RESULT IN DENIAL.

Tracy M. Simons
 Clerk of Council
 Published in Neighborhood News: 3/12/25

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25% OFF REPAIR SERVICES
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5841 Turney Rd., Garfield Heights 216-475-4040

LEGAL NOTICE
 The Annual Financial Report of The Village of Walton Hills for the year ended December 31, 2024 has been completed and is available for public inspection between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. in the office of Finance at the Walton Hills Village Hall, 7595 Walton Road, Walton Hills, Ohio. A copy of the report can be provided upon request by contacting Fiscal Officer Nickol Sell at 440-232-7800.
 NN: 3-12-25

Village of Newburgh Heights
 Housing & Building Department
 3801 Harvard Avenue
 Newburgh Heights, Ohio 44105
 216-641-4654
 newburgh-oh.gov

NOTICE FOR PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
 The Planning Commission of the Village of Newburgh Heights will meet on Thursday, March 27, 2025 at 6:00pm in the Village Hall Council Chambers located at 3801 Harvard Ave. in Newburgh Heights.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Minutes (10/24/2024)
- III. Review of site plan for construction of commercial shop by Paint Medics Inc. at vacant lots 2727 & 2729 Harvard Ave (PPN 511-06-094, 511-06-093, 511-06-092, 511-06-091, 511-06-090, 511-07-042, 511-07-040, 511-07-039, 511-07-038, and 511-07-018).
- IV. Public comment
- V. Action
- VII. Adjournment

Notice posted at Village Hall, Village Facebook, The Neighborhood News and mailed on March 10, 2025. The Neighborhood News: March 12, March 19, 2025

South East Area Law Enforcement (SEALE) FISCAL OFFICER (part-time)
 SEALE is taking resumes for the position of Fiscal Officer. Materials may be submitted for review via email to: Chief Hansen
 mhpdchief@mhpd-ohio.com
 <mailto:mhpdchief@mhpd-ohio.com>
 Any questions will be handled via the same email address.

Village of Newburgh Heights
 Housing & Building Department
 3801 Harvard Avenue
 Newburgh Heights, Ohio 44105
 216-641-4654
 newburgh-oh.gov

NOTICE OF BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS MEETING
 The Village of Newburgh Heights Board of Zoning Appeals will meet on Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 6:00pm in the Village Hall Council Chambers located at 3801 Harvard Ave. in Newburgh Heights.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Minutes (05/29/2024)
- III. Review of a rezoning of parcel located at 4051 E 44 St (PPN 511-12-049) from Commercial to Residential.
- IV. Public comment
- V. Action
- VI. Adjournment

Posted at Village Hall, Village Facebook, The Neighborhood News and mailed, March 5, 2025
 The Neighborhood News: March 5, March 12, 2025

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.

Bedford Heights Council passes two measures, discusses city's summer camp, community projects

By Tristan Douglas

Bedford Heights City Council held its first meeting of the month on Tuesday, Mar. 4, where members passed two pieces of legislation and discussed multiple ongoing community projects.

The first item approved appointed resident Melissa Bracey to the city's Planning Commission.

Council also passed an ordinance authorizing the mayor to enter into an agreement for the sale of vacant city-owned property located at 5711 Columbia Dr..

Summer Camp applications opening

During his committee report, Community Life Chairman Paul Bounds announced that applications for the city's summer camp would soon be available at the Bedford Heights Community Center. The city will also begin accepting staff applications for the summer camp program in the coming weeks.

Chairman Bounds also highlighted several ongoing capital improvement projects in the city, including the replacement of boilers at the indoor pool and updates to the Wi-Fi at the outdoor pool.

Roadway improvements

Cold patching has begun in Bedford Heights for the 2025 season. Cold patches are a temporary fix for pot-holes and roadway cracks until hot patches, a more permanent solution, can be applied when temperatures rise.

Public Service Committee Chairman Michael Willis announced that the repaving of Rockside Rd. is slated to begin in early spring. This project will repave the stretch of Rockside between I-271 and Aurora Rd. This project will coincide with repairs to the welcome sign located on

Rockside Road, for which the city is currently procuring bids.

Upcoming meetings

Planning Commission - Thursday, March 13, 5 p.m. in the Council Chambers

Cable T.V. Committee - Thursday, March 20, 5 p.m. in the Caucus Room

Legislative/Education Committee - Tuesday, March 25, 5 p.m. in the Caucus Room

Civil Service Committee - Friday, March 28, 8:30 a.m. on Zoom

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- Medical Negligence
- Criminal Law
- Drunk Driving/DWI
- Wrongful Job Termination
- Wills & Trusts
- Probate Estates
- Workers' Comp



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GET HOOKED ON THESE NEIGHBORHOOD LENTEN FISH FRYS AND SPECIALS

HOLY NAME PARISH FISH FRY

4:00-7:00 PM
HAREN HALL
March 7-14-21-28
April 4-11-18

JOIN US EVERY FRIDAY DURING LENT!

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

2-pc PERCH Dinner w/French Fries \$15	6-pc SHRIMP Dinner w/French Fries \$16	5-pc PIEROGI Dinner w/Sour Cream/Onions . . . \$11	2-pc BAKED TILAPIA Dinner w/Baked Potato... \$15	COMBINATION DINNER ... \$15 ... (3-Pierogi, 1-Fish & Cabbage and Noodles)
... SIDES AVAILABLE ...	Fish (1pc) ... \$5	French Fries ... \$4	Mac & Cheese ... \$3	Cabbage & Noodles ... \$4
	Pierogi (2pcs) ... \$4	Shrimp (2pcs) ... \$5	Coleslaw ... \$1	Desserts ... \$2
	Hush Puppies (8pcs) ... \$4	Pop or Water ... \$1		

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Holy Name Catholic Church, 8328 Broadway Ave., Cleveland, 44105, 216.271.4242

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St. Andrew Eastern Orthodox Church
DINE-IN/TAKE-OUT • SERVING 5:00-7:00 PM
March 14th St. Andrew's Dinners

CRISPY COD WITH PIROHI OR FRENCH FRIES
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Future Dates:
March 21-28
April 4, April 11

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MAPLE HEIGHTS

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Every Wednesday & Friday
During Lent

Beer Battered Cod, Includes:
Choice of Side, Plated Salad,
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FRIDAY FISH FRY

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

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

Takeouts available: 216-341-9556

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Cod Dinner ... \$13.99
w/French Fries or Mac & Cheese
...with Pierogi ...\$15.99

Walleye Dinner ... \$15.99
with French Fries or Mac & Cheese
...with Pierogi ...\$17.99

Whitefish Dinner ... \$14.99
with French Fries or Mac & Cheese
...with Pierogi ...\$16.99

Petite Shrimp Basket
with French Fries ... \$11.99

St. Michael Church

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

FISH FRY

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

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

March 7 thru April 11, 4-7pm

Every Friday in Lent except Good Friday

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

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

Adult dinners \$15; Children's meals \$7.50; Desserts \$1.00

Fish Sandwich w/Fries/Drink \$9.

Side Dishes Weekly \$3
(Pizza, Mac&Cheese, Cabbage&Noodles)
Cash or Check accepted

ADVERTISE Lenten Specials or Fish Frys in this box for only \$25 per week.

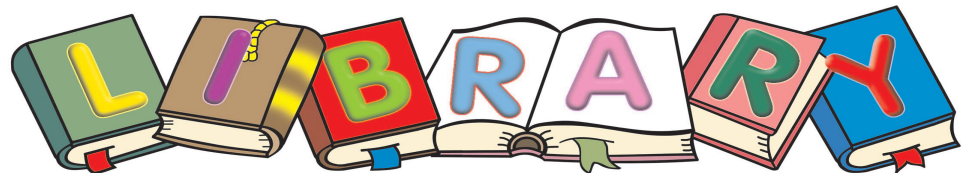
Call Mary at
The Neighborhood News
for details, 216-441-2141

St. Monica Fish Fry

13623 Rockside Rd, Garfield Hts.
Fridays during Lent, March 7, 14, 21, 28,
April 4, 11. Serving 4:00 - 7:00pm.

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

Senior & Child Dinners Available
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SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Bedford (Bedford Heights/Oakwood Village) Branch

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.

Ellenwood Book Discussion - Adults. Wednesday, March 12, 2 p.m. Attend our monthly book discussion held at the Ellenwood Community Center, 124 Ellenwood Ave., in Bedford. Copies of the book will be available at the Bedford Branch and at the Ellenwood Center one month before the date of the discussion. March 12: "The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store" by James McBride.

Kids Cook! - Grades 3-6. Thursday, March 13, 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. Participants may be recorded and/or surveyed to capture this program's effectiveness. **MUST REGISTER**

Self-Care Saturday - Grades 6-12. Saturday, March 15, 2 p.m. Ease your mind with calming activities. Art, yoga, writing and more! A release form must be completed by a parent/guardian prior to the program in order to participate. **MUST REGISTER**

Beeswax Candles - Adults. Saturday, March 22, 2 p.m. In this class, participants will learn how to make rolled beeswax candles out of beeswax sheets. **MUST REGISTER**

Pokémon Training Camp - Grades 3-6. March 24, 25, 26, 6:30 p.m. Learn how to play the world-famous Pokémon Trading Card Game. Train for Bedford Branch Tournament #1 which will be on Thursday, March 27, at 2 p.m. Bring your own deck or use one of ours! **MUST REGISTER**

African American Authors Book Group. In-Person or Virtual — Adults welcome. Thursday, March 27, 7 p.m. The African American Authors Book Group meets the last Thursday of the month. March Title: "Sisters With A Side of Greens" by Michelle Stimpson. Join us for this novel about sisterhood, forgiveness, regret, second chances and Southern food. This book comes in many formats, regular print, eBook and eAudio.

Excel Basics. Friday, March 28, 10 a.m. This session will introduce spreadsheets using Microsoft Excel. Topics covered include entering data, using autofill and performing calculations using formulas and functions.

using formulas and functions. Earn a Northstar Digital Literacy Certificate for this class with the successful completion of an assessment. Prerequisite: Word Basics or experience using Excel. 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**

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.

ADULTS

Tuesday Evening Book Discussion Join us for our monthly book discussion. This month's title is "The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store" by James McBride. Tuesday, March 18, 6-7 p.m.



Drop in during our

OPEN INTERVIEW DAY

LPNs • RNs • STNAs

Friday,
March 21
1pm - 4pm

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Tired of renting? Want to own a home?

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

Join us Wednesday, March 26 for a free home buying seminar at the Garfield Heights Library.

6:00 PM-7:30 PM

- ✓ Steps to Homeownership
- ✓ Financing Options
- ✓ Learn how you may qualify for up to \$13,000 in down payment assistance

Registration required

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

Presented by:



Cleveland Clinic



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thirdfederal.com



Happy St. Patrick's Day

HERE'S SOME WAYS TO CELEBRATE ON MARCH 17 AND BEYOND!



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--	--	--

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Six women recognized at Maple Hts. Council meeting

(Continued from Page 1)

"These are women with exemplary service," Blackwell continued. "They are mentors, they are role models in their churches and all of their organizations in their communities. And I stand with the members of the Community Life and Education Committee to say, 'Congratulations.' And thank you for what you're doing."

City receives \$208K towards sewers

Blackwell announced that late last month the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) had notified the city that the Southwest Sewer District Phase 3 Construction Project had been selected for \$208,000 in a forgivable loan, through the 2025 Water Pollution Control Loan Fund Principal Forgiveness Program.

"These are for areas on the west side of Maple Heights," Blackwell said, citing the streets of Ramage, Dunbury, Evening Star, Morning Star, Steinway, Walvern, Lee Road South, Longvale and Dunham as being included in the project.

The \$208,000 in funding will go towards upgrading the sewer system in these areas, Blackwell said, adding that the work would begin this summer.

In a release from the city, it was stated that the WPCLF funds will be used to pay the city's 25% local match for the sanitary sewer repair project.

Sherwood Foods closing impact discussed

In his report to council, Planning and Development Director Geoff Englebrecht spoke on the impending closing of Sherwood Foods at 16625 Granite Rd., and the impact it will have on the city.

Sherwood Foods, headquartered in Detroit, announced in February that the company was closing down all operations nationwide by Monday, April 21, resulting in 1,500 workers losing their jobs in 13 states, among them 273 at the Maple Heights location.

"It's a huge hit for the city," Englebrecht said, also stating property taxes at the Sherwood Foods location in Maple Heights were about \$561,000 annually.

"The hope is that the building does not stay vacant for long once it does close," he said.

He explained that Blackwell had been in touch with the local union which wants to make sure the workers there are able to find employment at other plants locally.

Resolutions passed:

Authorizing Blackwell to enter into an agreement with Chagrin Valley Dispatch Council to purchase 50 Motorola portable radios and related equipment for the police department, at a total cost of \$209,529.45. Police Chief Todd Hansen said the new radios and related equipment are required to continue use of the communications network.

• Authorizing Blackwell to enter into a purchase agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc., to buy 40 tasers and related equipment, including cartridges and battery packs and training, at a cost of \$213,184. Chief Hansen said his department would like to add tasers to its tool belt to handle situations with non-lethal force. He said the MHPD has not used tasers before.

• Authorizing Blackwell to enter into an agreement with Stephen Hovancsek and Associates, Inc., to provide engineering services as the owner's representative for the Southgate Park Boulevard Reconstruction Project. The Ohio Department of Transportation advised city officials that, due to conflict-of-interest regulations, the city must secure the services of a qualified third party consultant to serve as the owner's representative.

• A similar resolution to enter into an agreement with the Hovancsek firm was also passed to provide engineering services as the owner's representative for the Greenhurst Drive Bridge Demolition Project.

Lobbyist legislation fails

• A resolution failed to pass that would have authorized Blackwell to enter into a professional services contract with Strategic Health Care Company to provide lobbyist services to lobby for funding from the State of Ohio at a cost of \$5,000 per month through the end of this year.

The legislation stated that Blackwell and Englebrecht had recommended the city retain Strategic Health Care to lobby for funding from the state which, if funding had been secured, would have been used for community projects including playgrounds, addressing infant mortality in the city, senior care housing, and affordable housing and home repairs.

Announcements

Applications for the 2025 Exterior Home Repair Grant Program will be available for pickup at the Maple Heights Building Department, 5353 Lee Rd., beginning Monday, April 14. Income guidelines and other requirements must be met. Contact Housing Administrator Ashley Holloway at 216-587-9026 or at aholloway@mapleheightsohio.com for more information.

A District 6 meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 12, in the Maple Heights Library. Districts 1 and 7 will have a Joint Block Watch meeting on Tuesday, March 25, also at the library. A District 2 and District 3 Combined Town Hall meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 9, at St. Andrew's Eastern Orthodox Church, 16029 Maple Park Dr.

A produce distribution event will be held at 5345 Warrensville Center Rd., on Friday, March 14, from 5-6:30 p.m.



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Cleveland Metroparks News

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

March 19: Wednesday Woodland Wander. Explore floodplain and upland forests with a naturalist as we hike up and down the lower section of the Tinker's Creek Gorge. Will we see any early signs of spring? 10 a.m.– noon. Meet at Hemlock Creek Picnic Area. Terrain: natural surface, hills, 4 miles, icy conditions possible.

March 30: Early Spring Evening. Join Naturalist Carly Martin to explore the wonders of an early spring evening. Will we hear a peeper? Or see a woodcock? Let's find out together. 5:30–7:30 p.m. Meet at Astorhurst Picnic Area. Terrain: natural surface trail, rolling hills, 1.5 miles.

CanalWay Center – Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation

March 15: Irishtown Bend Presentation. A lot of its past, a touch of its present, and what's planned for the near future. Dr. Margaret Lynch of the Irish American Archives Society and Historical Interpreter Doug Kusak discuss that famous hillside along the Cuyahoga River which provided community for many of the Irish immigrants that poured into the region in the 1800s. Those settling in the area we call Irishtown Bend were literally and figuratively looked down upon by other Cleveland residents, who often mistakenly referred to the area as a shantytown. We'll consider area conditions, property ownership, employment opportunities, and other considerations of the community. We'll also take a glimpse at the ongoing complicated bank stabilization feats of engineering, as well as the recreational wonders and greenspaces planned for the area. 1–4 p.m. CanalWay Center. Registration required: 100 people.

March 16: Sunday Hike to the Eagle's Nest. Join a naturalist for a guided hike to an active bald eagle nest while we look for birds and other wildlife that call Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation home. On the way, we will pass a beaver lodge as we travel along the Cuyahoga River and the Ohio and Erie Canal. 1–3 p.m. Meet at CanalWay Center. Terrain: paved surface, 3 miles.

March 16: Get Ready for Firefly Season. Enjoying summer evenings chasing fireflies is a magical connection with nature. But the wonder of fireflies does not need to be saved for childhood. Join Naturalist Carly Martin to learn a little more about these amazing insects and how we can explore and enjoy them on a new level as adults. This will be an indoor presentation at CanalWay Center. 3-4:30 p.m. Adults.

Garfield Park Reservation

March 14: Waterfall & Springs Hike. Garfield Park preserves in time natural springs and a charming waterfall. Go a little off the beaten path with a naturalist to discover Garfield Heights' rugged and wild past. 3–5 p.m. Meet at Iron Springs Picnic Area. Terrain: natural surface, paved, hills, 3–4 miles.

March 21: Preschoolers: Hike with Me. Bring your preschooler out to Garfield Park Reservation to explore. We will have an adventure around the new pond area looking for signs of spring and tracks in the mud. This area was just completed in the fall and is a great place to enjoy a short walk with your family. We will meet just over the bridge at the Garfield Park Program Center. 10–11 a.m. Ages 2–6 years w/adult. Terrain: paved and natural trails, hills, about 1 mile.

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