

The Neighborhood News

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101st YEAR

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 2025

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

FREE

No NN issue next week

The Neighborhood News will take its annual summer vacation next week and will not publish a July 30th issue.

Our next edition will publish Wednesday, Aug. 6, with normal deadlines. The Neighborhood News offices will be closed from Friday, July 25, through Thursday, July 31.

Slavic Village Council Candidate Forum is July 30th

Residents of Slavic Village will get their first formal opportunity next week to meet and question the seven candidates running to represent them in Cleveland City Council. The public meeting will take place Wednesday evening, July 30, at the Polish American Cultural Center, 6501 Lansing Ave., Cleveland. Doors will open at 6 p.m.; the forum will begin at 6:30 p.m.

During last January's redistricting process, when the

number of wards was reduced from 17 to 15 due to population loss, the Broadway area was partitioned into three larger wards encompassing much of southeast Cleveland. The wards and candidates include:

Ward 2 (south of Fleet Ave.): Kevin Bishop, unopposed

Ward 3 (north of Fleet Ave., east of E. 49 St.): Deborah Gray, Sharon Spruill, Erich Stubbs

Ward 5 (north of Fleet Ave., west of I-77): Beverly Owens Jackson, Rebecca Maurer, Richard Starr

Candidates attending the forum will be asked to make brief opening statements after which they will answer questions submitted in writing by audience members.

All residents and friends of Slavic Village are invited to attend. Light refreshments will be served. The forum is being produced by the East 63rd Street Block Club with the support of Slavic Village Development and Neighborhood Connections. For further information, contact 216-789-1468.

Christmas in July packs the pool at Garfield rec center



The 15th Annual Christmas in July, held last Saturday at the Dan Kostel Rec Center in Garfield Heights, was a huge hit this year with a large crowd and the weather cooperating!

Fun was had by all in attendance with dancing on the pool deck, getting wacky balloons twisted by More Fun Entertainment's Doug Wilson, some lucky patrons winning prizes, and Savana Irvine, head lifeguard, leading the Hula Contest and the Limbo. It was a great day to be at the pool!

The highlight was Santa arriving on his surfboard with his big red bag full of toys for all the little ones there.

Rec Center staff would like to thank all the sponsors who made this event possible with their donations: Mayor Matt Burke (3 kids' bikes & gift card), the Recreation Department (bag of toys & other misc.), Isaac Ramirez'

"Dummy 13" made on his 3D printer, and residents Elizabeth Lawrence and Sue Pitts for their donations.

Big winners were Willey Coker, Callie Bosone and Andre Palmer, who each won bikes. Other winners were Sheriya Davis, Nicholes Dailey and dozens of others who won miscellaneous prizes.

Christmas in July was sponsored by the city of Garfield Heights, Paul Birk, Sr., director of Parks and Recreation, and coordinated by Mary Nichols. Also a big thanks to the awesome staff at the Recreation Department: Ken Dillon (music), James Bergholz, Melissa Irvine, Chris Migchelbrink, Shannon Montgomery, Jack Nikrasch, and the friendly girls at the concession stand – Jordyn, Nilah and Sammi.

Most of all thanks to Santa for helping make the day truly special (Bob Gruszewski)!!

Board of Elections to visit local libraries to educate voters ahead of Sept. 9th Primary Election

The Cuyahoga County Board of Elections has announced the Cleveland Library Week Voter Education Campaign. The campaign will promote participation in the Sept. 9, 2025 Primary Election and also help bring awareness to the Cleveland Ward boundaries implemented in May of 2025 and voting location changes.

There are 11 library branches that will be visited between July 29, 2025 and August 7, 2025. The public is encouraged to drop by any of the 11 library branches to receive the most current election information. The Board of Elections will provide Ward Maps, Voter Guides, Vote-by-Mail Ballot Applications and employment information.

The Sept. 9, primary includes seven wards in Cleveland and candidate contests in Cleveland Heights, East Cleveland, Garfield Heights and Maple Heights.

Cleveland/Suburban Voter's Week will include the following libraries in The Neighborhood News readership area:

Monday, August 4, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

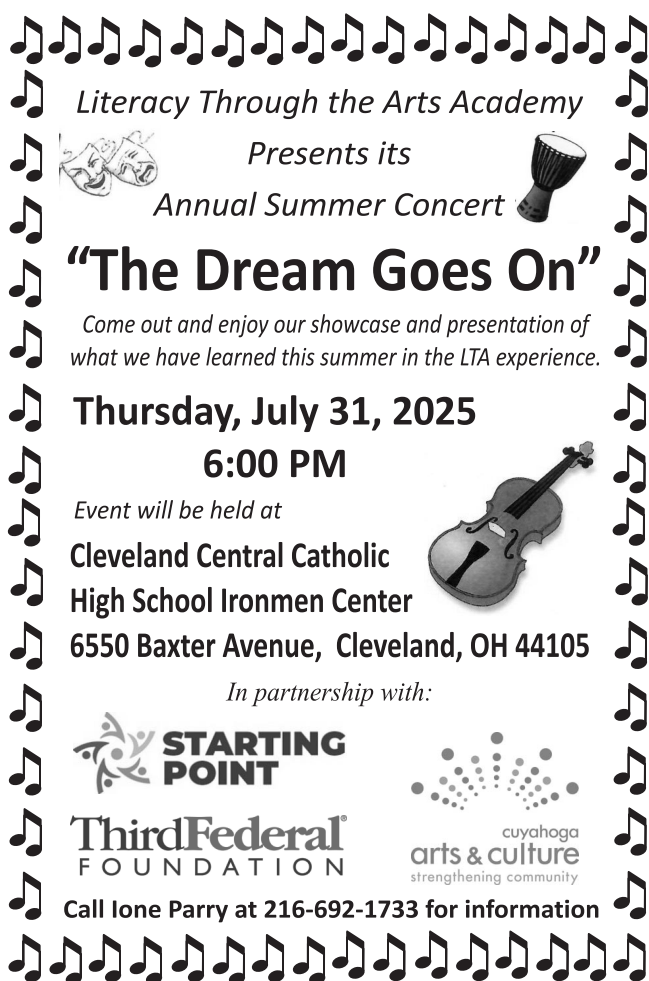
Ward 3: Fleet Branch, 7224 Broadway Ave., Cleveland, 44105

Wednesday, July 30, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Garfield Heights Branch, 5409 Turney Rd., Garfield Heights, 44125

Maple Heights Branch, 5225 Library Ln., Maple Heights, 44137

Additional information is available on the Board of Elections website: boe.cuyahogacounty.gov



Community police reports

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

Maple Heights

Officer Involved Shooting

On Sunday, July 20, at 1:56 p.m., officers from the Maple Heights Police Department responded to 5207 Henry St., for a report of a female being attacked by two dogs. When officers arrived the dogs were still actively attacking her. One of the responding officers fired shots from his weapon striking both of the dogs, who both succumbed from their injuries.

Officers then began performing life-saving emergency first aid on the victim, Rhonda Johnson, 62, until paramedics from the Maple Heights Fire Department arrived. She was then transported to MetroHealth Medical Center.

Witnesses on scene advised the officers the female was walking both dogs when they turned on her and began attacking her.

Johnson is in stable condition and has undergone surgery to repair her badly injured right arm. She also sustained injuries to her left arm, left leg, right leg and chest.

Johnson was the primary caregiver of the dogs and walked them several times a day, according to neighbors. Police said it is unclear what caused the dogs to attack her.

Anyone with information related to this case is urged to contact the Maple Heights Detective Bureau: 216-587-9624 or Detectives@mlhpd-ohio.com. As always, information can also be supplied to Crime Stoppers.

Garfield Heights

Theft

On July 11, at about 3:11 p.m., an officer was dispatched to a home in the 4900 block of Osborn Rd., for report of a theft. The caller told police that about eight days ago an unknown company cut down approximately 20 to 30 black walnut trees on her property, with each tree worth around \$3,000. She said she hadn't checked on the property for several weeks and neighbors believed she had a company come out to clear the land. Neighbors had Ring doorbell footage of red and white trucks clearing the land. Police will study the video to determine the company involved.

Juvenile(s)

On July 11, at 7:09 p.m., officers were dispatched to a home in the 4600 block of E. 90 St., for a caller who found a two-year-old boy on her porch. She told police that she had looked out her window earlier and saw a young black male child in just a diaper walking in the street going from west to east on Grand Division Ave. She then got notified by her security camera that someone was on her porch which turned out to be the child she had seen on the street.

(Continued on Page 7)



Heritage Home Program Informational Presentation

**If your home is 50 -years old or older,
this may be just the program for you!**

Join us Thursday, July 31, at 6:00 PM at the Garfield Heights Civic Center (5407 Turney Road) to learn about our home repair services and low interest financing.

Visit the Program's website at www.heritagehomeprogram.org for more information.





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Girls Hockey at Garfield Hts. Recreation Center

We are now taking registrations for the 2025-26 season for our Girls Hockey program. New this year is an In-House program for girls 19 and under. We will also have our Independent Bulldog Team for 12U/14U - Both with plenty of ice time during the season.

Sign up during the summer and bring a towel for swimming at our Pool and spend the day with us – no charge!! See our web page for more details at www.garfieldhts.org under Parks & Recreation Department.

Not sure if your daughter would like to play Hockey? We will have a free Try before you Buy Session on Saturday, September 20, at 11:15 a.m.

See details for this and all our Ice Skating programs for the Season.

We offer **In-house Hockey for ages 3 & up on Saturdays and Learn to Skate on Wednesdays and Saturdays.** Details coming soon!

CONTACT INFORMATION:

216-475-7272 – Rec Center

Coach Lindsay – ghgirlshockey@gmail.com
tes.dirosa17@gmail.com

Music featured at Ice Cream Socials in Indy

Join your friends and neighbors for free Sunday afternoon concerts at the Independence Town Hall bandstand on Independence Public Square as part of the city's Sunday Ice Cream Socials. The next ice cream social will be held on July 27th, at 3 p.m., featuring the barbershop-style harmonies of the Men of Independence.

Cleveland Public Theatre comes to Slavic Village

Cleveland Public Theatre's Student Theatre Enrichment Program (STEP) returns to Slavic Village's Iron Ward next Monday, July 28, at 7 p.m.

The live theatrical performance will take place not at Iron Ward's usual Dan Kane Park stage but up the street on the grounds of St. Stanislaus Church, 6549 Forman Ave.

STEP is a 16-year-old cultural project that recruits teenagers from many Cleveland neighborhoods to write, direct and produce an original theatrical production. It has entertained Slavic Village and seven other neighborhoods for over a decade.

Admission is free. For more information contact Iron Ward at 216-469-4806.

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Blood donor opportunity

The American Red Cross will conduct a blood donor drive on Tuesday, Aug. 5, from noon to 6 p.m., at the Independence Civic Center, 6363 Selig Dr., Independence. To register, visit redcrossblood.org.

Literacy Through the Arts Academy

You are cordially invited to our **Annual Fundraising Gala** with dinner and live entertainment

Friday, August 1, 2025
6:00 PM

Tickets for Adults, \$15 Donation
Event will be held at
Cleveland Central Catholic High School Ironmen Center
6550 Baxter Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44105
Call Lone Parry at 216-692-1733 for information or for limited complimentary tickets

Advertise your **SPECIAL EVENTS**

In The Neighborhood News
Call 216.441.2141 or
E-mail Information to:
NNEWS1923@AOL.COM
Include Name & Phone Number
Deadline: Mondays at 5:00pm

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JULY 24, 2025 4:30 TO 6:30 PM

Hotdogs will be cooking on the Grill!
Enjoy complimentary hotdogs, chips, water, & cookies!

Iron Springs Reserved Shelter is located off Wolf Creek Lane, off Garfield Park Boulevard in Garfield Park Reservation. Let's come together to discuss city issues.



Mayor Burke

Slavic Villagers draft a neighborhood platform

Residents of one of Cleveland's oldest neighborhoods took political matters into their own hands this week by drafting a major platform of policy priorities that they hope will lead the discussion during this year's campaigns for mayor, council and the courts. The platform covers the hot-button topics that have for years dominated talk at civic meetings and across backyard fences, including housing, public safety, main streets, youth and elderly, and general neighborhood development. (See Page 8 of

this newspaper for the platform text).

Organizers said they were prompted to act after last winter's redistricting presented them with entirely new ward lines as well as unfamiliar politicians interested in leading them.

Planks in the platform were gathered at block club meetings, in social media groups and in private conversations. The process demonstrated that Slavic Villagers agree on alot - but not everything. Organizers concede that residents are likely not in sync with each individual plank. They nevertheless view them as a worthwhile basis for policy talk as the election cycle proceeds, starting with next week's City Council Candidates Forum at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 30, at the Polish American Cultural Center, 6501 Lansing Ave., Cleveland.

The policy platform is a work-in-progress and still open to more ideas. If residents see anything they'd like to change or add, they are invited to email at: civitascle@gmail.com.

New GHPD patrolman



Alexis Medina was sworn in Monday morning as the newest patrolman with the Garfield Heights Police Department. She was with the Broadview Heights PD for three years before coming to Garfield Heights. Patrolman Medina is shown in photo above with Mayor Matt Burke, at left, and Police Chief Mark Kaye, at right.

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FRIDAY AUGUST 1 11 AM - 6 PM

SATURDAY AUGUST 2 8 AM - 1 PM

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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Garfield Heights joins CLE Restoration Society

The city of Garfield Heights has announced that it has joined the Cleveland Restoration Society, marking a significant milestone as the community's first-ever membership with the largest non-governmental regional historic preservation organization in Ohio. This partnership brings multiple new resources to residents, including the Heritage Home Program.

The Heritage Home Program offers free technical assistance and low-interest financing for a variety of home repair and maintenance projects, which can include everything from roof replacements and foundation repairs to window restoration and electrical upgrades.

"Our city is among the oldest First Suburbs, with 97% of its residential structures age 50-years or older," said Mayor Matt Burke. "So our new partnership with the Cleveland Restoration Society can provide options to assist with home repairs associated with older homes."

The mayor invited interested residents to a meeting on Thursday, July 31, at the Civic Center, 5407 Turney Rd., at 6 p.m., for Cleveland Restoration Society's information session on the Heritage Home Program.

Independence Branch Library news

Here are some of the **FREE** programs being offered at the Independence Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, located at 6361 Selig Dr., Independence. For more information or to register for any program, please call 216-447-0160.

TEENS

VolunTeens. Registration required. Volunteer at the library, earn service hours. We will work on a project benefitting the library or for a need in the community. Wednesday, Aug. 6, 7 p.m.

Make crepes! Registration required. Join us to learn the art of cooking, flipping and filling these French classics. Bon appétit! Saturday, Aug. 9, 2 p.m.

CHILDREN

Family STEM Fun. Registration required. Drop in for some fun family STEM activities geared towards families with children in grades K-5. Saturday, Aug. 2, 2 p.m.

Annual Summer Concert

Literacy Through the Arts Academy will present its annual Summer Concert, "The Dream Goes On," being held on Thursday, July 31, at 6 p.m., at Cleveland Central Catholic High School's Ironman Center, 6550 Baxter Ave., Cleveland.

All are invited to enjoy a presentation by students who participated in the LTA experience at its summer camp, sponsored by Jones Road Family Development.

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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.

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- 2 CARTONS** Empty & Rinse, Flatten, discard cap in trash
- 3 GLASS Bottles/Jars** Empty & Rinse
- 4 PAPER & BOXES** Flatten cardboard items & cereal boxes to save space
- 5 PLASTIC Bottles/Jugs** Empty & Rinse Replace the cap

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CITY OF BEDFORD, OHIO

List of Meetings for August 2025

Monday, August 4, 2025	Council Work Session - TBD Regular Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, August 5, 2025	Planning Commission (if needed) Work Session - 5:30 p.m. Regular Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, August 13, 2025	Southeast Area Law Enforcement (SEALE) Board of Trustees Meeting (if needed) Work Session - 10:00 a.m. Regular Meeting - 12:00 p.m.
Monday, August 18, 2025	Council Summer Session - No meeting
Tuesday, August 19, 2025	Planning Commission (if needed) Work Session - 5:30 p.m. Regular Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, August 26, 2025	Board of Zoning Appeals (if needed) Work Session - 5:30 p.m. Regular Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

It should also be noted that the Board of Building Standards and Appeals, Civil Service Commission, Bedford Arts and Cultural Board, Bedford Historical Preservation Board, Assessment Equalization Board, Public Hearings, Planning Commission, Animal Appeals Board, Board of Zoning Appeals and Tree Board meet **as needed**. Notification of these meetings will be posted at the five most public places in the City per **Ordinance No. 8461-09**.

All Meetings will be held at Bedford City Hall, 165 Center Road, Bedford, Ohio 44146. For agendas and minutes please go to www.bedfordoh.gov, <https://bedfordoh.primegov.com/public/portal>, or call Tracy M. Simons, Clerk of Council, at 440-735-6510.

Tracy M. Simons
Clerk of Council

NN: 7-23-25

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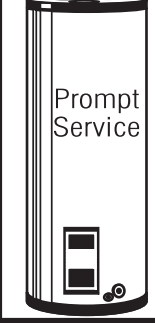
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FURNITURE SALE

Furniture Sale - Saturday, July 26, 10am=3pm. Exercise bike, stair lift chair and much more! No deliveries, must take. 5095 E. 86 St., Garfield Hts.

GARAGE SALE

5532 Briarcliff Dr., Garfield Hts. Thursday through Sunday, July 24-25-26, 9am-5pm. Hot Wheels, Stamps, Records, Lots more!

YARD SALE

Mi-T-M pressure washer. Rigid wet saw. Titan commercial trash pump. Paint sprayer. Finish nailer's. Tile cutter. Drills, Router. Full body harnesses. Planer. Hopper gun. Electrical. Plumbing. Painting. Drywall. Woodworking. A variety of DeWalt, Skil, Ryobi & Rigid tools. Misc. Toys, Clothing, Household items, etc. 4877 East 94th, Garfield Heights. Saturday, August 2, 2025 @ 9:00

GARAGE SALE

ONE DAY ONLY

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 2025 • 9AM-3PM

200+ Teen & Ladies Clothes \$1 each (Walton Hills Community Sale) 18150 LOGAN DR.

Household
Toys
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Something for Everyone!

VALLEY VIEW

VILLAGE WIDE GARAGE SALE

25+ HOMES • LOTS OF ITEMS FOR SALE!

FRIDAY, JULY 25 4pm-8pm

SATURDAY, JULY 26 9am-4pm

Maps/Directories can be picked up at the Community Center at 6828 Hathaway Road

WALTON HILLS

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

THURSDAY, JULY 31 through SATURDAY, AUGUST 2

MANY HOMES ARE PARTICIPATING DURING THIS 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM EVENT

Maps/Addresses of participating homes will be available the week of July 28th at 7595 Walton Road or on our website: www.waltonhillsohio.gov

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

The City of Maple Heights is hiring!

Come join our team and serve our community.

Current vacancies include:

Finance Director

Clerk of Council

Police Officer, Lateral

Mechanic

Laborer - Service Department

Crossing Guard

For more information and to apply, visit
www.citymapleheights.com<<http://www.citymapleheights.com>>.

or stop by Maple Heights City Hall,
5353 Lee Road, Maple Heights 44137.



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Community Police Reports

(Continued from Page 2)

She tried to speak to him but he was not saying anything, just singing. The woman then called police. The officers walked down Grand Division with the child to see if he could recognize his house. Someone on Grand Division recognized the child and pointed out the house he lived in. There were multiple people on the home's back porch when police arrived who then went inside. The child was handed over to a female and taken inside as well. The child's mother came outside and said she had been busy and the other kids in the house should have seen him leave. She said the child is autistic and the doors should have been locked so he couldn't get out. The mother was charged with child endangering. The report will be forwarded to the prosecutor for review.

Weapon Offense

On Wednesday, July 16, at 12:19 a.m., a police officer responded to the station to take a report from a male victim who said that someone shot four bullet holes into his vehicle. He said around 11:15 p.m., he left the Get Go gas station and was driving his GMC Sierra pick-up truck in the far right lane on Transportation Blvd. towards Antenucci Blvd., when a dark gray sedan pulled up on the left side of his vehicle and shot at his truck four times. Bullets struck his driver's side door and shattered the window. He then started chasing the sedan on Antenucci until they reached Turney Rd., where the sedan turned right and the victim went left.

After talking to the victim the police officer checked the city cameras and located a video with the victim driving off I-480 east onto Transportation Blvd. The sedan was in front of the truck and the truck was following the sedan too close, as if it was road rage. Both vehicles made a right turn onto Vista Way and entered the parking lot of Starbucks. A few moments later, the truck drove out of the parking lot and onto the middle lane of Transportation Blvd. The sedan was traveling right behind the GMC truck until the truck came to a complete stop in the middle of the roadway blocking the sedan from driving forward. The sedan attempted to drive around the truck on the left side, but was stopped by the GMC once again, as the victim positioned his truck in front of the sedan. That is when the sedan possibly shot four rounds at the GMC. The video showed one apparent muzzle flash coming from the sedan. After the shooting the sedan drove around the GMC truck and turned onto Antenucci at a high speed rate with the truck chasing it. When both vehicles approached Turney they went in opposite directions.

After reviewing the camera footage of this incident, the police officer determined that the victim was the aggressor and falsely stated the actual events leading up to the shooting. Police could not identify the sedan driver and no spent casings were found at the scene, but shattered glass from the window of the GMC truck was located on the roadway. The report will be forwarded to the Detective Bureau for follow up.

Traffic Offense-Fleeing

On July 19, at 8:36 a.m., police officers responded to a report of a domestic violence incident in the 13200 block of Havana Rd. The complainant stated that a male with a gun had just "jumped on her" and was fleeing towards Turney Rd. on a black motor bike. The police located a potential suspect between Turney and Woodward Blvd., but as police tried to pull him over he accelerated and led police on a pursuit that lasted over four miles. The suspect failed to stop at multiple stop signs, traffic signals, swerved into the opposite lanes of traffic, rode on the sidewalks and disregarded the safety of pedestrians. He ended up crushing his gas-powered bicycle at the corner of Darlington Ave. and E. 133 St., and kept fleeing on foot. While he was fleeing police observed him reaching into his waist band with his right hand and it looked like he was securing or pulling something out, common gesture of a person trying to remove a firearm. The police and K-9 Creed began a foot pursuit. The suspect was captured in the driveway of a house on Willard Ave. No weapon was found on his person at the time of arrest. He was charged with fleeing and eluding, domestic violence, obstructing official business and issued various traffic citations.

Bedford Hts. Council debates new RV restrictions

By Tristan Douglas

Tensions ran high at the July 15th Bedford Heights Council meeting as council members passed several measures to regulate land use, including an ordinance creating new restrictions on recreational vehicle parking and a proposed ban on short-term rentals.

An ordinance was proposed to implement new restrictions on the parking and storage of recreational vehicles in the city.

The ordinance stated that RVs may not be stored on any street, public or private property unless it is registered or leased to the owner of the property. Any vehicle parked outside of a garage must be on a paved surface at the side or rear of the property, no closer than five feet from the side property line and no closer than ten feet from the rear property line. The vehicle may not be used for living, business or housekeeping while being stored.

Sponsor of the legislation, Councilwoman Kathie Kelso-Perez, said the ordinance was created in response to improperly stored RVs that have become a concern in the community. She explained that RVs stored incorrectly in front and back yards can impact the appearance of the community and the quality of life of neighboring residents. She added that the city has also been made aware of individuals living inside RVs parked in residential areas, which violates single-family zoning regulations. She believes the restrictions proposed in the new ordinance will address these violations moving forward.

Her sentiment was not shared by everyone in attendance. Multiple residents who own RVs expressed concern that the ordinance will make storage of their vehicles more difficult and asked that the council consider alternatives that would more directly target problematic RVs.

Council President Alton Tinker also expressed doubt about the proposed legislation and questioned whether the problem is as significant as Kelso-Perez suggests. Tinker said he personally counted just 12 RVs in the city and is unsure of the ordinance’s purpose or urgency. Tinker hopes changes can be made before final approval.

Council approved the ordinance as a first reading rather than an emergency measure. Two additional readings will be required before the legislation takes effect.

Legislation passed

- Resolution to authorize the acceptance of a bid from KAM Construction for the reconstruction of the Bedford Heights welcome wall. The estimated cost of the project is \$69,500.

- Two resolutions which accepted bids for the resurfacing projects of Tupelo Dr. and Fargo Ave., respectively. Both projects were awarded to Vandra Brothers Construction for a total cost of \$638,982.

- Council also considered a resolution which proposes a ban on the operation of short-term real estate rentals in Bedford Heights, including Airbnbs. This measure was also presented by Kelso-Perez, who believes short-term rentals are often the source of nuisances and prevent

homes from being rented long-term or sold, potentially creating housing challenges.

Originally proposed as an emergency resolution, the council elected to consider it as a first reading. It passed 6-1, with Kelso-Perez casting a “no” vote in protest of the change from the emergency status.

- An ordinance to amend the Codified Ordinances to add new guidelines for the use of temporary storage containers such as pods was passed as a first reading. According to the proposed guidelines, residents will only be permitted two temporary storage pods per year, with only one granted at a time for a period of 30 days. Residents may apply for an extension of 15 days if necessary. They may not be used for habitation or for business materials.

- Lastly, council considered a resolution to ban the granting of certificates of occupancy or permits for smoke and vape shops in the city. Councilman Paul Bounds said the ban is a proactive measure to avoid potential community decline. The measure passed 6-1, with Councilman Michael Willis casting the only “no” vote.

Ham Dinner at Post 309

American Legion Post 309, 15521 Broadway Ave., Maple Heights, will hold a Christmas in July Ham Dinner on Wednesday, July 23, serving from 3 to 6 p.m. The dinner is open to the public; \$13 donation; eat-in or carryout.

Call to reserve your dinner at 216-662-7768.



Slavic Village Platform

A summary guide to residents’ policy views, for the candidates running to lead us.

Housing

- Encourage home ownership.
- Don't create a housing shortage through excessive demolition.
- Encourage the restoration of as many existing houses as possible.
- Build detached, single-family homes like those that were always here.
- Build houses at different price points, for different income levels: affordable housing, market-rate housing, townhomes for singles on main streets, tiny houses as starter homes.
- Offer vacant houses to people who are willing and capable of fixing them. Set construction time limits.
- Extend property tax abatement to old house rehabilitation.
- Enforce building codes inside and outside.
- Crack down on slum landlords, out-of-state landlords. Monitor them closely.
- Protect tenants from irresponsible landlords.
- Outlaw tent encampments. They're unsanitary, dangerous, beneath human dignity and the dignity of the neighborhood.
- Strengthen trespassing laws and anti-squatting laws.

Main Streets

- Identify our many historic pocket neighborhoods and strengthen their main streets.
- Revise zoning laws to promote density, mixed uses, walkability, public transit.
- Create tax incentives to encourage restoration of our historic business districts.
- Enforce building codes for businesses.
- Encourage land assembly for new business and industry.
- Support the solar farm at Harvard Ave.

Public Safety and Quality of Life

- Hire more police.
- Hire more mental health workers to assist police.
- Increase police visibility with foot patrols.
- Enforce traffic laws, including red lights, stop signs, speed limits.
- Install more speed bumps to slow traffic.
- Enforce gun laws, fireworks laws.
- Enforce drug laws.
- Enforce noise ordinances.
- Enforce laws against prostitution.
- Sponsor citizen court watches to pressure lenient judges.

Youth

- Expand recreation facilities to give youth productive things to do: swimming pools, sports leagues, Morgana Park Little League.
- Support libraries, encourage longer open hours.
- Add personal monitors to playgrounds to protect safe play.
- Start work programs. Hire youth to beautify public spaces, to help elderly residents with house repairs, grass cutting, snow shoveling.

Elderly

- Expand transport services to doctor's appointments.
- Simplify home repair assistance applications to encourage elderly to stay in their home.
- Lobby for property tax relief.

General Neighborhood Development

- Support and fund a strong, fully-staffed Slavic Village Development.
- Encourage the formation of block clubs in every pocket neighborhood.
- Build more parks. Beautify our main streets.
- Encourage more public events where people can gather.
- Encourage marketing programs to showcase our neighborhood as a good place to live, to grow our population.

The planks in this platform were compiled at meetings, on social media, and in private conversations. We are looking for more ideas to improve this platform. If anything is missing, let us know at civitascle@gmail.com.