

The Neighborhood News

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102nd YEAR NO. 06

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2025

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

FREE

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

TRICK OR TREAT SCHEDULE:

Garfield Heights - Oct. 31, 6-8 p.m.

Bedford - Oct. 31, 6-8 p.m.

Maple Heights - Oct. 31, 6-8 p.m.

Cleveland - Oct. 31, 6-8 p.m.

Cuyahoga Heights - Oct. 31, 6-8 p.m.

Newburgh Heights - Oct. 31, 6-8 p.m.

Independence - Oct. 31, 6-8 p.m.

Revitalized Garfield Blvd. ribboncutting is today!

Cuyahoga County will join the city of Garfield Heights and the Cleveland Metroparks in celebrating the completion of revitalization efforts along Garfield Boulevard with a ribboncutting ceremony today, Wednesday, Oct. 29, at noon in the parking lot of Park Avenue Muffin Co., 8525 Garfield Blvd. (the old post office), in Garfield Heights.

The event will feature remarks from Cuyahoga County Executive Chris Ronayne, Cuyahoga County Councilman Pernel Jones, Jr., Garfield Heights Mayor Matt Burke, Cleveland Metroparks CEO Brian Zimmerman and Cuyahoga County Director of Public Works Michael Dever.

This project, which includes the resurfacing of Garfield Boulevard from Warner Road to Turney Road, and a vital trail connection to Garfield Park, is part of the county's broader effort to improve infrastructure and strengthen connections between neighborhoods, parks and businesses, while supporting recreation and access to multi-modal transportation.

Note that a portion of Garfield Boulevard from E. 85 St. to E. 88 St., will be closed from approximately 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., for the ceremony. Parking will be available at Park Avenue Muffin or on nearby side streets. The public is invited to come celebrate this exciting community milestone.

The transforming of Garfield Boulevard is expected to drive economic development efforts forward by attracting businesses and visitors to the community. Invested project partners include Cuyahoga County, Cleveland Metroparks, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, the state of Ohio and the city of Garfield Heights.

Tuesday, Nov. 4th is Primary Election Day!

Primary Election Day in Ohio is next Tuesday, Nov. 4, with polls in Cuyahoga County open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Voters must provide photo identification to vote on Election Day at their assigned polling location.



Acceptable forms of photo ID include an unexpired Ohio Driver's License, State ID card, interim ID form issued by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, a U.S. passport or passport card, U.S. military ID card, Ohio National Guard ID card, or U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs ID card that includes the voter's name and photograph.

Let your voice be heard! Vote!!

Coach Copeland honored by Garfield Heights Council

By Ellen Psenicka

Garfield Heights Council met Monday night and enthusiastically passed a resolution honoring Coach Darrell Copeland for outstanding leadership and dedication to the youth of Garfield Heights.

Coach Copeland has dedicated more than 20 years to coaching and mentoring young athletes throughout the city, serving as both a teacher and role model, the resolution noted. Under his leadership the Garfield Heights Middle School football team has achieved extraordinary success, the resolution continued, remaining undefeated this season and having lost only two games in the last five years. His teams have won the Lake Erie League Championship three times, and he has led the Garfield Heights Titan 16U travel team to a league championship.

In recognition of his excellence in the classroom as well as on the field, Coach Copeland has also been chosen a Garfield Heights City Schools Teacher of the Year.

New Planning/Zoning Code has first reading

An ordinance to adopt a new Planning and Zoning Code for the city of Garfield Heights was introduced at Monday night's council meeting and was passed for a



Coach Darrell Copeland is shown with some of the members of the Garfield Heights Middle School football team he coaches after receiving a resolution from Garfield Heights Council for outstanding leadership and dedication to the youth of Garfield Heights as a coach and teacher. Photo by Wendy Walters

second and third reading at future meetings.

The city of Garfield Heights had previously adopted the city's 2022 Community Master Plan, setting forth a vision for the city's future land use, economic development and quality of life. That Master Plan identified the current Planning and Zoning Code as a significant impediment to achieving the city's goals due to its outdated structure, lack of clarity and complexity, the ordinance states.

The city's current Planning and Zoning Code was adopted 63 years ago.

(Continued on Page 2)

New exhibit on life of 'Polka Varieties' host Paul Wilcox

On Saturday, Nov. 8, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., the Cleveland Gray's Armory Museum, 1234 Bolivar Rd., in downtown Cleveland, will open a new, free exhibit dedicated to the late Paul Wilcox.

If you don't know him, your parents or grandparents probably do. Wilcox was the affable host of "Polka Varieties" on WEWS-Channel 5 airing on Sundays for over 25 years, until 1983.

For many people with Eastern European roots, the show was an hour of music and dancing, right after church, featuring artists like Frankie Yankovic and many others.

But there was a much more serious side to his life. Wilcox, who died in 2010, flew 23 missions over Japan in World War II and then later served again in Korea, where he was shot down and held in a grueling prison camp by the Chinese for nearly a year.

He was one of the last POWs to be released and his fame among Clevelanders led to his job offer in television.

The new, permanent Armory exhibit of items from his military history, and humorous ones from his time as a show host, is free to the public. Refreshments and a fascinating tour of the historic 1893 Armory building will also be available with free parking.

Coach Copeland honored by Garfield Heights Council

Howley Foundation Medical, IT classrooms dedicated by Trinity High

(Continued from Page 1)

The ordinance states that, "It is urgent for the city to replace the antiquated code with a new, comprehensive and modern Planning and Zoning Code that incorporates clear definitions, illustrative graphics and an effective organizational structure."

The legislation goes on to state, "The adoption of a new, easily usable code is directly linked to supporting the community's vision to facilitate increased business investment, encourage new housing opportunities and promote predictable development standards."

Mayor Matt Burke encouraged interested residents to visit the city's website for a full viewing of the 200+ page document and will welcome questions at upcoming council meetings on Mondays, Nov. 10 and Nov. 24.

Legislation passed

Also passed at Monday's meeting were the following

- ordinances and resolutions:
- An ordinance to apply for and accept the Bureau of Workers' Compensation Safety Intervention Grant to buy safety equipment.
 - The city will use the money to buy two floor scrubbers, one portable snow blower and three large snow blowers to be used by the Garfield Heights Fire, Service, and Recreation departments. Under the terms of the grant, the BWC will fund 75% of the total cost, estimated at \$8,780.10, and the city will be responsible for the remaining 25%, estimated at \$3,000.
 - Ordinance to apply for and accept Community Development Supplemental Grant Funds for a Home Repair Grant Program and enter into an agreement with the Cuyahoga County Department of Development.
 - The city is eligible to receive up to \$50,000 from the CDSG program. The city's Home Repair Grant Program would be modeled after successful initiatives in neighboring communities.
 - A resolution amending a previous resolution to apply for and accept Community Development Block Grant Funds from the requested amount of \$150,000 to a total of \$250,000 to continue replacing aging and deteriorated infrastructure at city park locations identified by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Trinity High School in Garfield Heights, proudly dedicated its new Howley Foundation Medical Certification Center and Howley Foundation Information Technology Certification Center, made possible through an extraordinary \$750,000 grant from the Howley Foundation.

The morning began with a breakfast honoring Trinity's Howley scholars, followed by a dedication ceremony attended by Lorie Howley, Halle Martin, Kriste Duhigg, Allison Busser and Rachael Fox, along with members of Trinity's Board of Directors, faculty and staff, students, and Garfield Heights Mayor Matt Burke.

This remarkable gift from the Howley Foundation has transformed the learning experience for Trinity students, funding an Anatomage Table, creation of a medical simulation room, purchase of new IT equipment, and addition of a new teacher in each program. These state-of-the-art facilities provide hands-on learning opportunities and access to industry-recognized certifications right on Trinity's campus.

"Our Medical and IT programs are truly one-of-a-kind," said William Svoboda, Trinity's president. "Our students don't have to travel to another location for their certification training — they do everything right here at Trinity. And through our partnerships with several local hospitals, they also spend one day each week out in the field, gaining real-world experience working directly with patients."



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1.4% or 2% Heritage Home loans end on December 31, 2025!

HERITAGE HOME PROGRAM



Before



After

We expect the Heritage Home interest rate to increase significantly in 2026. Now is the time to lock in the rates of 1.4% in Cleveland or 2% in other participating cities in Cuyahoga County!

Before year end, follow these steps:

1. Get quotes for your project from the contractor of your choice
2. Submit a completed HHP Application and estimates to the Heritage Team for review and approval
3. Apply to KeyBank for the HHP Loan

You must apply to KeyBank by December 31, 2025, to obtain the 1.4% or 2% interest rate!

If you would like a home consultation with our Construction Specialists or help finding contractors prior to applying you can schedule a site visit on our website or connect with our staff by phone or email at: hhp@heritagehomeprogram.org 216-426-3116.

Heritage Home Program technical advice, site visits by HHP Construction Specialists, color consults, and contractor bid reviews will continue to be Free in participating cities.

Applications, eligibility information, and program parameters can be found on our website www.heritagehomeprogram.org.

★ BE AN INFORMED VOTER ★

I have been asked to publish the recommended Judicial candidates as I traditionally have done with the Judge4Yourself ratings. I have been speaking to numerous residents, block clubs, social and civic organizations in an effort to get more voters focused on our Judicial elections.

Since Judge4Yourself did not do ratings this year, below are the endorsed Judicial candidates as well as the local Council candidates by the editorial board from the Cleveland Plain Dealer, which can be seen in detail at cleveland.com/topic/endorsements/



Anthony Brancatelli

Cleveland Municipal Court

Jan. 1, 2026 term: In Son J. Loving
Jan. 2, 2026 term: Cheryl M. Wiltshire
Jan. 3, 2026 term: Khalilah Lawson
Unexpired ending Jan. 1, 28: Brett Earle Horton

Cleveland City Council Endorsements

Ward 3: Erich V. Stubbs
Ward 5: Richard A. Starr

Paid for by Tony Brancatelli



ENDORSED VOTE

NOVEMBER 4, 2025
Experience Leadership

Clifford Kelley - Ward 6
RE-ELECT FOR CITY COUNCIL
C: 216.253.0142
E: Ward6garfieldhts@yahoo.com

Matthew Burke - Mayor

Paid for by the Garfield Heights Democratic PAC



TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR ON SUNDAY, NOV. 2, 2025

ICE SKATING LESSONS **– SESSION 2 BEGINS** **NOV. 5TH**

Registration is now going on at the Dan Kostel Recreation Center, 5411 Turney Rd., Garfield Heights, during open office hours for Beginner Learn to Skate and Beginner Ice Hockey

LEARN TO SKATE LESSONS AGES 3-ADULT - COED

Classes held on Wednesdays beginning November 5, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., and also on Saturday mornings, 10:15 – 11:15 a.m., beginning November 8. Skate rental is included with all lessons at no additional charge.

5-week Session Fees:

ID Card – Residents - \$20 – onetime annual fee

ID Card – Non-Residents - \$50 – onetime annual fee

Lessons – Residents - \$60 – per 5-week session

Non-Residents - \$85 – per 5-week session

IN-HOUSE HOCKEY AGES 3 & UP - COED

This In-House Beginner Hockey Program is held on Saturdays from 9 – 10 a.m. Also 5-week sessions with Session 1 starting on Saturday, November 8. If you decide to sign up your child, equipment is available with a returnable cash deposit. See office for details.

Fees:

ID Card – Residents - \$20 - onetime annual fee

ID Card – Non-Residents - \$50– onetime annual fee

Residents - \$100 – for 6-week session

Non-Residents - \$150 - for 6-week session

NOT SURE IF YOUR CHILD OR YOU WOULD LIKE ICE SKATING?

**COME AND JOIN US FOR OUR FREE TRIAL –
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, FROM 5:45-6:45 P.M.**

Children must be accompanied by an adult to sign waiver. Socks must be worn for our rental skates. Dress comfortably and come try this great sport of ice skating for either figure skating or beginner hockey program.

All details & individual flyers are on the website – www.garfieldhts.org – Parks & Recreation Department. Or call 216-475-7272 during open office hours & press 0.

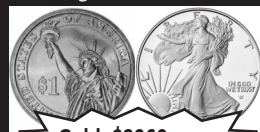
SVD neighborhood plan will be discussed at free community dinner

For the past several months, Slavic Village Development has embarked on a neighborhood-wide planning initiative to identify the priorities of residents for the neighborhood and match them with land use and development goals for the future. As the first phase of community engagement has concluded, SVD would like to report back and chart the path forward through the start of 2026.

SVD invites those interested to a free community dinner on Thursday, Nov. 6, at St. Stanislaus Social Center, 6521 Baxter Ave., Cleveland, starting at 5:30 p.m. The SVD and SmithGroup team will share a presentation about the neighborhood plan, initial findings, and guide the community through exercises that expand upon this work.

All are welcome to attend, but RSVP is required. Please call by Thursday, Oct. 30, at 216-429-1182, ext. 1127 to confirm your seat.

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CITY OF BEDFORD, OHIO

List of Meetings for November 2025

Monday, November 3, 2025	Council Work Session - TBD Regular Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, November 4, 2025	Planning Commission (if needed) Work Session - 5:30 p.m. Regular Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, November 12, 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, November 17, 2025	Council Work Session - TBD Regular Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, November 18, 2025	Planning Commission (if needed) Work Session - 5:30 p.m. Regular Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, November 25, 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 or call Tracy M. Simons, Clerk of Council, at 440-735-6510.

*Tracy M. Simons
Clerk of Council*

NN: 10-29-25

Letter to the Editor

The residents of Maple Heights deserve a better city council Part 2.

Part 1 published August 20, 2025.

Before you vote on November 4th, here are additional issues for your consideration.

- Currently, the city does not have a full time Finance Director. Why? The majority of council won't approve the Mayor's recommendation. This is an administrative position, appointed by the Mayor but must be approved by council. Shouldn't the Mayor pick their staff and not council? Say it, "council control". We voted for a Mayor to be the CEO of the city not city council.

- Pending Legislation: 2025-76, reads in part, "any city monies expended or allocated for the refurbishing of City buildings and offices and for the purchase of office furniture, decorations and amenities, regardless of the amount of such expense or allocation are here-by required to be approved by Council". Even though Council approved the budget for 2025, only one-third of this line item has been spent and it has NEVER GONE into a negative balance. Say it again, "council control?"

- While limiting the mayor's spending some council members recently approved spending that likely will cause the council budget for 2025 to go in the negative. By passing legislation 2025-63 in June to purchase equipment and hiring a contractor to operate it to broadcast council meetings on YouTube has paid for it with money from the council budget that was not accounted for in 2025.

For these reasons and more, a change is needed on City Council.

As Council President for the last 7 ½ years I am in a UNIQUE AND HIGHLY QUALIFIED POSITION to make recommendations for the 2025 November 4th election and I pray that you consider them.

My recommendations are: Council President - Lawrence Lane, District 1 - Devin Nelson, District 3 - Timothy Tatum, District 5 - Shirley Merritt and District 7 - Travian Atkins, and the re-election of Alonzo Blackwell for School Board President. Please vote for these candidates for sensible and logical collaboration.

Paid for by Ron Jackson

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

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Letters to the Editor
CVS on Harvard closing

Dear Editor:

Not sure if your readers are aware that the CVS at 6301 Harvard Ave., in Slavic Village is closing November 19, 2025, after over two decades of service to the Broadway Slavic Village neighborhood. The pharmacy indicates that prescriptions can be transferred to the Target CVS in Steelyard or any other CVS pharmacy.

This is the third drug store to close recently after the proliferation of openings 20 years ago. Rite Aid on Harvard and E. 71 St. have closed, as well as both

Meet and Greet with
Ward 6 Council Candidate Joe Randazzo
This Saturday, November 1, 2025
Time: Noon to 2 PM

All are invited to join Council Candiate Joe Randazzo

Elect

Joseph
Randazzo

Ward 6 ★ Council

Join Joe Randazzo and his many Supporters
at the Marathon Gas Station and Convenience Store
5571 Turney Rd., Across from the Police Station
(corner of Oakpark Blvd and Turney Rd)
Free Hot Dogs - Free Pop - other Free Goodies and Food items

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Joseph Randazzo

Walgreens locations at Broadway and E. 65 St.

The good news is that Drug Mart at 3889 E. 71 St., Metro Hospital Broadway Health Center Pharmacy at 6835 Broadway Ave., and Broadway Pharmacy at 6630 Broadway Ave., are open 6 and 7 days a week, including evenings, offering the same prescription services as well as flu, pneumonia and shingles shots and other services including home delivery. They all provide quality service and are an important part of our Broadway/Slavic Village neighborhood. And all three will fill prescriptions as ordered by any medical provider.

We are fortunate to have three professional pharmacies in our community with wonderful staffers and offering a variety of home health needs.

Tony Brancatelli
Slavic Village resident

THE PRESIDENT’S CHOICE

**A Roadmap to a Better
Maple Heights City Council**

Endorsed by Maple Heights Current
City Council President, Ron Jackson

City Council President — **Lawrence Lane**
District 1 — **Devin Nelson**
District 5 — **Shirley Merritt**
District 7 — **Travian Atkins**
School Board President — **Alonzo Blackwell**

Paid for by: Ron Jackson

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THE NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Elect Cheryl Wiltshire
For Cleveland Housing Court Judge
Change You Can Trust!



I am proud to endorse Cheryl Wiltshire as Cleveland Housing Court Judge to help restore integrity and efficiency to this office. She is knowledgeable, experienced and passionate about Housing Court.
After serving 17 years as Ward 12 Cleveland City Councilman and 17 years as the Director of Slavic Village Development. I can attest to the importance of the Housing Court in restoring our neighborhoods and the need for a Judge who can help connect tenants and landlords to the resources needed to help our families and community.

Paid for by Tony Brancatelli



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

NOTICE FOR PLANNING COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING

The Planning Commission of the Village of Newburgh Heights will meet on Thursday, November 13, 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 (09/11/25)
III. Review of building plans for installation of solar panels mounted on proposed accessory structure at 4427 Gamma Ave (PPN 511-10-107)
IV. Ave (PPN 511-10-107)
V. Public comment
VI. Action

Notice posted at Village Hall, and Village Website, October 29, 2025.
Notice printed in The Neighborhood News on October 29 and November 5, 2025.

★

**SPECIAL
EVENTS**

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The Neighborhood News
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JAMES FEENEY
FOR MAYOR
GARFIELD HEIGHTS
A Plan for Real Change



1. UPDATE CITY ORDANCES AND RESTORE STANDARDS

As Mayor, I'll update and enforce our city ordinances to improve housing, support local businesses, and eliminate blight. By holding property owners and landlords accountable. We'll raise community standards, protect property values, and bring pride back to Garfield Heights.

2. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR RESIDENTS

I'll restore trust by publishing easy-to-read quarterly financial reports online, so residents know exactly how tax dollars are spent. No more secrecy – just open, honest government.

3. REDUCE CITY DEBT THROUGH SMART SOLUTIONS

We'll cut city debt by improving efficiency and partnering with local colleges to create internship programs. Students gain experience, the city saves money, and services improve – a win for everyone!

4. IMPROVE RECREATION FOR ALL RESIDENTS

I'll make the Recreation Department more accessible by expanding program hours, improving facilities, and creating affordable, inclusive programs for all ages. Stronger recreation builds stronger families and a stronger community.

5. PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY & SAFER NEIGHBORHOODS

I'll work with the law department to implement Euclid's Parental Responsibility Program to address juvenile delinquency by enforcing existing ordinances. Parents will be held accountable, early intervention encouraged, and families connected with resources to keep our neighborhoods safe.

Paid for by the Committee to Elect James Feeney for Mayor

Cleveland City Council candidates for S.V. wards answer residents' questions

Below are questions and answers submitted to candidates running for Cleveland City Council in the newly formed Slavic Village Wards 3 and 5. They were compiled by members of the Slavic Village Stakeholders and the Fullerton-East 71st Block Club.

Many but not all of the candidates for Cleveland City Council submitted answers to residents' questions about safety, housing and general neighborhood development.

No responses were received at press time from two incumbents: Kevin Bishop, unopposed in the new ward 2, and Deborah Gray of the new Ward 3. Some certified write-in candidates did not respond or included no email address in their Board of Elections profile by which to reach them.

Answers have been edited for space limitations.

Question 1: How does your academic background and career qualify you to sit on city council?

Ward 3

Ras Asan Olugbenga (certified write-in candidate): Sociology/Morehouse College—the same discipline studied by Dr. Martin Luther King. Education - Entrepreneurship/University of PA. As Cleveland's first Entrepreneur-in-Residence, I helped return over \$1 million in funds to small businesses. My work founding platforms like BREAUX Capital and Million Dollar Scholar shows I can turn ideas into impact—creating jobs, opportunities, and hope.

Eric Stubbs: I have over 20 plus years as a retail executive with responsibilities for over 20 million dollars in sales and over a 1000 employees and almost 20 years in public service with a priority in community engagement.

Ward 5

Rebecca Maurer: Law degree/Stanford. My legal background is one way of being prepared to serve on City Council. I'm also really proud of my community-based work and neighborhood organizing.

Richard Starr: MBA/Baldwin Wallace University. I am a well-known activist dedicated to creating positive change, a councilman representing Ward 5, and heavily involved with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio.

Question 2: In a nutshell, what is your platform?

Ward 3

Ras Asan Olugbenga: My platform centers on Youth Power, Block by Block Revival, and Grow Where We Live. These pillars reflect my lifelong commitment to empowering young people, revitalizing our streets, and building a stronger local economy: youth employment pipelines, cleaning and securing neighborhoods, and helping small businesses access capital and contracts.

Eric Stubbs: 1. Safety services working with neighboring cities. 2. Community development.

Ward 5

Rebecca Maurer: I want to build a Cleveland that works for all of us, for day-to-day issues like getting the streetlights turned on, trustworthy, reliable city services, but also for larger policy issues like holding out-of-state landlords accountable and ensuring that jobs in this city are well-paid and family-sustaining.

Richard A. Starr: I am seeking re-election to continue my mission of bringing positive change and improvements to the city of Cleveland. My focus areas: 1. Economic development: Attracting new businesses, creating jobs. 2. Affordable housing. 3. Community safety and services: Prioritizing public safety, investing in infrastructure improvements, and supporting essential city services. 4. Education and youth development.

Question 3: How can the city enhance public safety (to reduce both violent and property crime) and reckless driving?

Ward 3

Ras Asan Olugbenga: Public safety begins with trust and visibility. I'll advocate for more street lighting, traffic calming, and enforcement of reckless driving laws. But policing alone isn't enough—we must invest in prevention: youth mentorships, workforce opportunities, and neighborhood cleanups that create shared pride. My Block by Block Revival initiative combines enforcement with engagement, building safer streets through community cooperation and city responsiveness.

Eric Stubbs: Work with neighboring communities and more community involvement.

Ward 5

Rebecca Maurer: Filling the vacancies within Public Safety would go a long way. However, we need to do more to ensure police aren't responsible for every problem in the city. I am the co-sponsor of Tanisha's Law which would send behavioral

health teams to our neighbors when they're in a mental health crisis. I also support changing our charter to allow for red-light cameras and also truck-enforcement cameras.

Richard Starr: Here are some possible solutions: 1) Community-based policing: Build strong relationships between law enforcement and communities through regular engagement. 2) Data-driven crime analysis: Utilize data and analytics to identify crime hotspots, patterns, and trends. 3) Invest in youth programs: Provide resources and opportunities for young people to participate in positive activities such as after-school programs, mentorships, and job training. 4) Improve street lighting and security measures: Make sure public spaces are well-lit, add surveillance cameras, promote neighborhood watch programs. 5) Automated traffic enforcement: Set up red-light cameras and speed cameras.

(Continued on Page 7)

MEDICARE ANNUAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD

October 15 -
December 7
2025

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GARFIELD HEIGHTS ZONING CODE UPDATE



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU



Scan QR Code

Should you have any inquiries regarding the zoning code update during the final adoption phase of the project, please note that there are still several opportunities for input during the upcoming Planning Commission and City Council meetings. Be advised that only these two entities will be authorized to submit revisions to the zoning code draft from this point forward.

MEETING DETAILS!

DATE:

City Council Meetings: 7:00 PM

October 14, 2025

November 10, 2025

October 27, 2025

November 24, 2025

Planning Commission Meetings: 6:00 PM**

October 15, 2025 – (7PM)

November 5, 2025 – (6PM)

November 19, 2025 – (6PM)

** Note all Planning Commission meeting beginning on November 5th with be held at 6PM

LOCATION:

Garfield Heights Civic Center

Council / Caucus Chambers (Located on lower level)

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Council OKs plans for new restaurant in Bedford

By Ellen Psenicka

A new restaurant will be coming to Bedford, as council passed legislation at its meeting last Monday, Oct. 20, accepting the Planning Commission's decision to give it the green light.

The restaurant, called Kitchen & Cocktails, to be located at 22759 Rockside Rd., will be new construction by Michael Myer of J. Michael Myer Architect.



Shown above are new Bedford firefighters/paramedics Nick Kucera, at left, and Travis Poznik, who were sworn in by Mayor Stan Koci at the council meeting on Monday, Oct. 20.

Also passed by council at its Monday meeting were the following:

- Ordinance making additional appropriations for 2025 expenditures by the city.
- Separate motions were passed by council to accept the Planning Commission's approving Sunery Solar LLC to install roof-mounted Solar Photovoltaic Systems at 99 Gould Ave., and 716 Northfield Rd.
- An ordinance authorizing the city manager to enter into a contract with Atlantic Emergency Solutions for the purchase of a new Freightliner/Horton ambulance for the fire department at a cost of \$407,222. The delivery of the emergency squad will take approximately three years and the administration recommends the purchase from Atlantic to avoid a price increase.
- Ordinance authorizing the city manager to enter into a purchase agreement with Buckeye Homes, LLC for the purchase of a vacant lot at 158 Flora Dr., in Bedford. The administration recommends the sale of the property in the interest of residential development for the tax values plus any closing costs as negotiated by the parties as being reasonable and in the best interests of the city.

Passed for second reading

- Two ordinances amending separate chapters of the codified ordinances called "Stormwater Management and Site Development."

• An ordinance to amend a chapter of the codified ordinances called "Illicit Discharge and Illegal Connection Control," concerned with control of illicit discharges and protection of water quality.

The above ordinances were necessary for the city to comply with EPA standards.

Passed for third reading

- An ordinance amending a previous ordinance regarding "Certificate of Inspection for Rental Unit Fees" which would clarify the fees charged are in direct relation to the cost to provide the services and raise the fees to \$150 for single, double and three-family units and \$50 per unit for four-family or more units.

GHUMC Community Meal

The Garfield Heights United Methodist Church, 4977 Turney Rd., will host its monthly Community Meal on Sunday, Nov. 2, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. The meal is free and all are welcome.

Red Cross Blood drive

An American Red Cross blood donor opportunity will take place on Monday, Nov. 3, from noon to 6 p.m., at the Independence Civic Center, 6363 Selig Dr., Independence. For more information or to schedule an appointment, download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-733-2767.

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Cleveland City Council candidates for S.V. wards

(Continued from Page 5)

Question 4: What's your housing priority: affordable, market-rate, rentals, owner-occupied?

Ward 3

Ras Asan Olugbenga: I believe in balanced housing — protecting longtime homeowners while expanding affordable and attainable options for working families. As a Mount Pleasant homeowner, I've seen how stability builds community. I'll support home repair grants, down-payment assistance, and clear pathways for renters to become owners. Development must preserve each neighborhood's history and character while welcoming responsible, inclusive growth that keeps legacy residents rooted in place.

Eric Stubbs: Affordable housing within existing housing.

Ward 5

Rebecca Maurer: We all want to see higher owner-occupancy rates. Ensuring Clevelanders can buy and maintain their homes is one of our tickets to building wealth. However, we cannot set aside affordable and rental options. We need diversity in the housing market to keep Cleveland affordable. So in other words my answer is "All of the above."

Richard Starr: Expand, preserve and improve affordable housing; support homeownership opportunities.

Question 5: Will you fully fund Slavic Village Development, especially its community organizing department?

Ward 3

Ras Asan Olugbenga: Yes. I've seen firsthand how effective local organizing drives neighborhood transformation. Fully funding Slavic Village Development's organizing department ensures residents are directly involved in shaping policy and investment. My record in economic development shows I know how to turn city programs into community-driven progress.

Eric Stubbs: Yes.

Ward 5

Rebecca Maurer: I have supported SVD and would continue to. My goal is to make sure SVD is set up for success and neighbors have clear expectations about what SVD should be providing to residents.

Richard Starr: Yes, I have been actively involved in Slavic Village Development initiatives and am supportive of their efforts. I have proposed ordinances and amendments related to Slavic Village Development, such as establishing a Slavic Village Neighborhood Development Fund to provide grants for local programs and initiatives.

Question 6. Will you fight to include Slavic Village in Mayor Bibb's Southeast Side Strategy?

Ward 3

Ras Asan Olugbenga: Absolutely. The Southeast Side deserves a unified strategy that includes Slavic Village, Mount Pleasant, and all the southeast neighborhoods. My work on the Steel Yard TIF redirected over \$1 million in public funds to support small businesses — including several in Slavic Village. My focus will be to ensure Slavic Village is not left out but instead positioned as a cornerstone of the Southeast Side's revitalization.

Eric Stubbs: Yes.

Ward 5

Rebecca Maurer: Yes, of course. But I want to be honest with Slavic Village and say that the Bibb Administration has already moved forward with spending dollars on the Southeast Side Strategy without Slavic Village. There may not be any more money there.

Richard A. Starr: I continue to passionately champion the inclusion of Slavic Village in Mayor Bibb's Southeast Side Strategy, advocating tirelessly for this community.

Question 7: Our neighborhood is now divided into three wards, most notably along Fleet Avenue. Will you attend our meetings and work with other council members to develop Slavic Village?

Ward 3

Ras Asan Olumbenga: Without question. I'll attend Slavic Village meetings regularly and work across ward lines to ensure a unified development strategy based on a shared vision and joint action. I'm running not to represent one part of Ward 3, but to uplift all of it.

Eric Stubbs: Yes. I would create a commission so that all three council members would meet with SVD monthly to help with development.

Ward 5

Rebecca Maurer: Of course.

Richard Starr: I am likely to be willing to attend meetings and work with other council members to support the development of Slavic Village, including areas separated by ward boundaries like Fleet Avenue. My dedication to community engagement and past collaborations with various organizations indicate that I recognize the importance of teamwork and communication.

Womankind to celebrate 50th year with Windows on the River gala

Womankind Prenatal and Maternal Care Center in Garfield Heights, a beacon of hope and support for women across Northeast Ohio, is celebrating its 50th anniversary year and wants to invite everyone to Windows on the River on Saturday, Nov. 15, 2025, from 6 to 11:30 p.m., with a cocktail reception and hosted bar, silent auction, raffles, dinner and entertainment.

Founded in 1975 by Michele Rogers, RN, and Elaine

Eberlin, Womankind was born out of a vision to create a free, prenatal clinic staffed by compassionate, non-judgmental volunteers.

Their mission was simple yet profound: to meet the medical and emotional needs of women who were pregnant or thought they might be, especially those lacking health insurance, financial resources or emotional support.

Over the decades, Womankind has provided free, confidential, comprehensive and compassionate care to countless women, ensuring that no one faces a pregnancy without hope, help and possibility.

Its mission is also to support any family with children under two years old with baby items, such as diapers, formula and clothing. Womankind has experienced a significant increase in the number of prenatal patients it has served over the past several years, but remains a steadfast source of support, embodying its commitment to walking alongside women through pregnancy and beyond.

To learn more about Womankind, including the upcoming 50th Gala, check its website: www.womankind-cleveland.org, send an email to: info@womankind-cleveland.org or call 216-662-5700.

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Legal Advertisement

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Garfield Heights ("Owner"), at the office of the Fiscal Officer, Garfield Heights City Hall, 5407 Turney Road, Garfield Heights, OH 44125 on the 20th day of November, 2025 until 2:00 pm current local time for the:

"S. Parkway Drive Reconstruction and Thornhurst Avenue Reconstruction"

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, (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 November 6th, 2025, at 10:00 AM at Garfield Heights City Hall, 5407 Turney Road, Garfield Heights, OH 44125 followed by a visit to the project site at 12900 South Parkway Drive, Garfield Heights, OH 44105.

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

Barbara A. Biro, Finance Director
City of Garfield Heights

Publish Dates: Neighborhood News
Week of October 26th, 2025
Week of November 2nd, 2025

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Community police reports

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

Garfield Heights Shots Fired

On Oct. 13, an officer responded to the Garfield Heights Police Department lobby for a report of a male being shot at after work. The victim stated he was hanging out in the parking lot with a female coworker outside the Villa at Marymount when they noticed a man came out from behind a bush and started to run in their direction. The complainant told his female friend to get into her car. The suspect began shooting at the man and he was able to drive off in his car while the male continued to follow and shoot at him. The suspect then ran into the park towards Granger. The shooting took place around 7:30 p.m. No one was injured. The complainant's vehicle was damaged by two shots to the rear fender, which was documented by police. The victim showed officers where the shooting took place, but officers could not locate any evidence of the incident there. The report was forwarded to the Detective Bureau for further investigation.

Vandalism

On Oct. 15, an officer spoke with a city employee of the Garfield Heights Recreation Department. He reported

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damage to the new bathroom facility at the basketball courts on Granger Rd. He stated that since the restrooms have been open there have been multiple incidents of damage to the facility. The bathrooms have had toilets damaged and items stuffed in the plumbing. The most recent incidents were between Oct. 14 and Oct. 15, when the ventilation window was broken out by a brick. The employee provided pictures of the damages and submitted them to the officer for follow-up.

Animal complaint

On Oct. 16, an officer was dispatched to the police station to take a report from a woman regarding her dog being stolen from her yard in the 5100 block of 115 St. She stated that she let her dog out at roughly 5:30 p.m. She then noticed that after a few minutes her dog didn't come back like it regularly did. The women searched around her yard and concluded that her dog seemed to have run away. She posted pictures of the dog on social media and began to receive messages from an account (dog_missing_) indicating that this person had her dog. This unknown person began demanding money from her. The suspect wanted \$500 through cash app to get her dog back. The victim was advised to keep all of the messages from the suspect's Instagram and the cash app. Dispatch notified the animal warden.

Assault

On Oct. 16, around 8 a.m., a Garfield Heights School Resource Officer was made aware of an assault that occurred on Thursday, Oct. 9. The officer spoke with the victim's mother, who stated that her son was assaulted outside the Garfield Heights Library on Turney Rd. The victim was allegedly jumped by multiple kids who he didn't know. During this incident his Apple watch was damaged and they took his black Nike sandals. The officer went to the library and reviewed the footage and couldn't find the incident from the date and time given. The victim doesn't know the names of his assailants, but believes they go to Garfield Middle School and are in the eighth grade. If they are identified, the report will be supplemented.

Traffic Complaint

On Oct. 18, at 2:16 a.m., an officer responded to the 13400 block of Bangor Ave., for a reported traffic crash. Upon arrival police observed a 2017 Honda with air bags deployed was off the road. The car had struck a pole and a fire hydrant and was inoperable, but the female driver wasn't hurt. Officers observed an alcoholic odor coming from the vehicle and performed a sobriety test. The suspect was taken to GHPD jail without incident and arrested for OVI and cited for failure to control.

Traffic Offense-DUS

On Oct. 22, at about 4:18 p.m., police responded to the 11400 block of Granger Rd., for a vehicle striking a house. The male suspect was driving his 2015 Chrysler 300 when he lost control going east on Granger Rd. His car struck a home on Granger with such force that it took off the cement/brick front porch of the house while at the same time striking the parked vehicle in the driveway. Witnesses on scene said the suspect attempted to leave the scene but they blocked his car from re-entering Granger. The witnesses also said the suspect was traveling at a high rate of speed and lost control. He was arrested for willful or wanton disregard and transported to the city jail without incident. He was also cited for failure to control, driving under suspension and expired plates.

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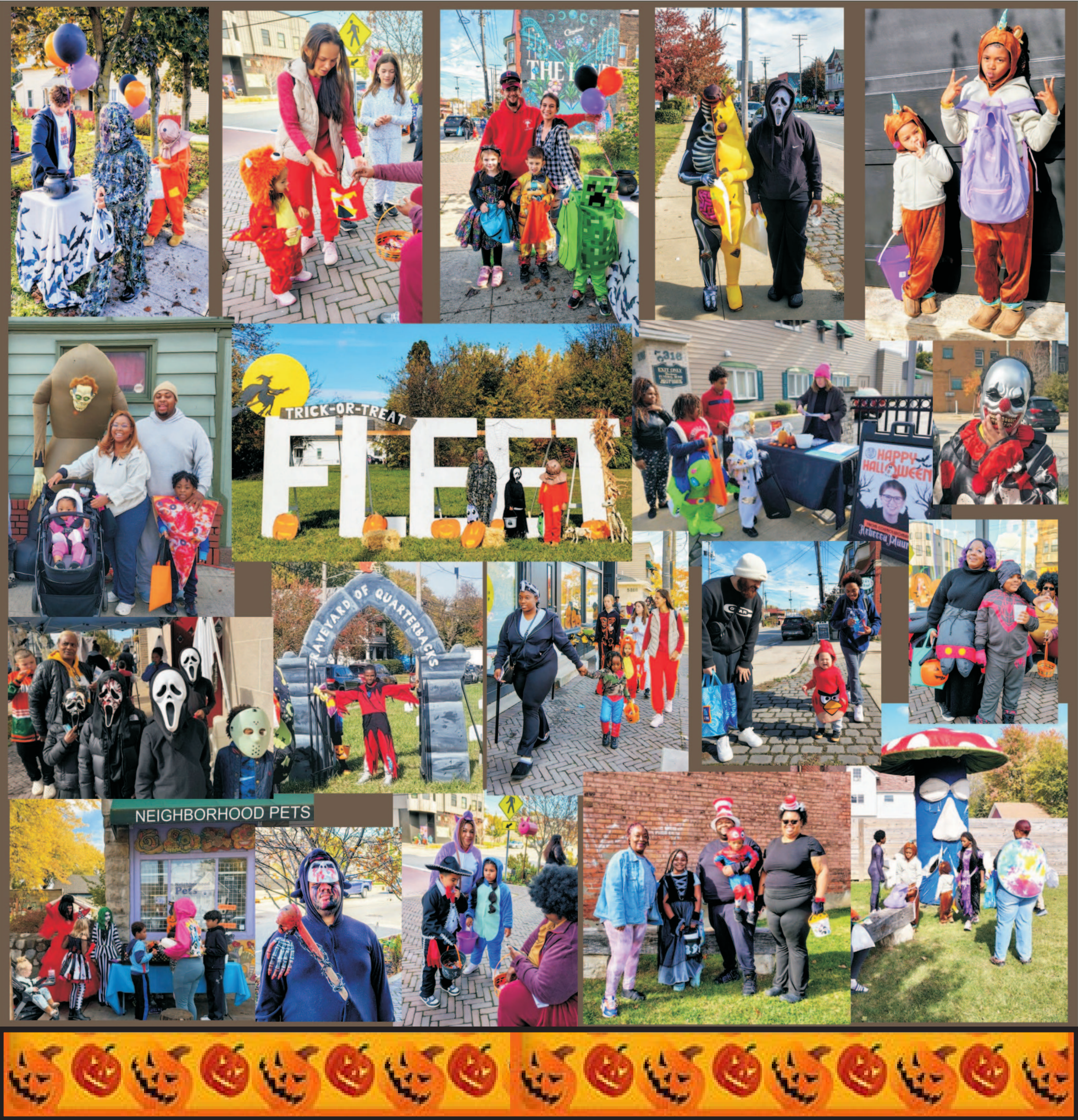
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Business Directory Deadline: Fridays 5pm

HUNDREDS OF KIDS ENJOY TRICK-OR-TREAT ON FLEET

Little ghosts and goblins were out in full force last Saturday as hundreds of kids took full advantage of some pre-Halloween fun in Slavic Village at the Trick-or-Treat on Fleet celebration. This was the seventh year for the popular event growing in attendance with each passing year, becoming one of the most popular Halloween festivals around.

Photos by Meeka Compton and Elena Psenicka



Krusinski's grants 'special request' to 13-year-old girl

By Ellen Psenicka

Krusinski's Finest Meat Products, famous for their sausages and Janka pierogis, homemade in their shop since opening in 1951, granted a special request last Friday, made by one of their longtime customers.

Jim Sluzewski wrote to new Krusinski's owner Dave Bundus on Oct. 2, and explained that five generations of his family have been shopping at Krusinski's almost since the time the market opened. Jim said the association with the market started when his grandparents lived on E. 63 St. back in the 1950s, near where the shop is located, and passed on the love of their Polish pierogis to Jim's parents, and on to the next generation and the next.

"The biggest Janka pierogi fan in our family now is our 12-year-old granddaughter, Charlotte, a 7th grader at St. Ann School in Cleveland Heights," Jim wrote. "For the past eight months, Charlotte has been in a difficult and often painful struggle with a rare form of cancer. While she is now able to live a fairly normal life and attends school as usual, Charlotte remains in ongoing cancer treatment and will, for at least another year."

He wrote Dave that Charlotte's birthday was coming up Oct. 8, and he and his family had a special request - to have Charlotte join the Janka crew for a few hours some day to make pierogi with the Krusinski experts.

Jim included a P.S. to the email saying, "Just for the record, Charlotte's favorite fillings are cottage cheese, apple and apricot. She is quite obsessed with them."

That same day Dave emailed back to Jim saying, "We would be more than excited to have Charlotte join our pierogi-making team anytime it would fit into her schedule."

So last Friday, Oct. 24, was the big day for Charlotte to visit Krusinski's and join in the pierogi-making. Jim said Charlotte was "thrilled" at the prospect.

Charlotte worked hard with the Krusinski pierogi-makers and learned the five-step process to make the filled dough treats, as she wore a monogrammed apron Dave's wife had made for her for the occasion.

Dave said she caught on quickly and made several dozen of the newly christened "Charlotte's pierogi," cottage cheese and apple with a dash of cinnamon, which were boxed up for her to take home.

Charlotte said she loved making the pierogis and wants to get her family together to make pierogis for Christmas. She and Jim thanked Dave and his wonderful staff for making a little girl's wish come true.



Charlotte is shown, seated in center, with the "pierogi experts" at Krusinski Meats as she fashions the delicious morsels filled with cottage cheese, apple and cinnamon, a special flavor named by the owner in her honor. Photos by Elena Psenicka



The Krusinski crew and Krusinski's new owner, Dave Bundus, in back of the group on the right, are shown surrounding Charlotte after a hard day's work and a labor of love for the young pierogi-lover.

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