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102nd YEAR NO. 08

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2025

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

FREE

2025 General Election roundup

Voters went to the polls last Tuesday, Nov. 4, with several mayoral contests, council candidates, board of education members and school levies to decide.

Locally, the proposed tax levy for the Garfield Heights City School District was passed by a margin of 54.46% for, 45.54% against.

In mayoral races, Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb won reelection handily, as did Cuyahoga Heights Mayor Jack Bacci and Garfield Heights Mayor Matt Burke.

Other winners in The Neighborhood News readership area include:

Bedford

Member of Council at Large Meyor: (Stan Koci).

Ward 1: Sandy Spinks, Ward 3: Frank J. Spiker, Ward 5: Cory Berry

Bedford Board of Education Members: Anthony A. Akins, Sr.; Chris Callender, Montez Morton, Sr.

Bedford Heights

Members Council at Large: Jennifer Lastery, Enid L. Thomas, Alton A. Tinker

Charter Review Commission: Yohlaunda Battle, Eva M. Boyington, Annette Brown, Terri Honer, Janice Hudson, Doris J. Kennedy, Joseph R. Lastery Sr., Rochelle L. May, Lynnette C. Tinker

Cleveland

Slavic Village Council Candidates: Ward 2, Kevin Bishop; Ward 3, Deborah A Gray; Ward 5, Richard A. Starr.

Cuyahoga Heights

Council Candidates: Todd D. Bloam, Robert W. Unger, David Volek

Cuyahoga Heights Board of Education: Carolyn Pajestka, Peter Rossi, Matt Rusch

Garfield Heights

Council Candidates: Ward 1, Stacey Collier; Ward 2, Tenisha Mack; Ward 3, Mark Smith; Ward 4, Avery Johnson; Ward 5, Rachelle A. Tonsing; Ward 6, Clifford Kelley Jr.; Ward 7, Jennifer Newrones

Garfield Heights Board of Education: Mitchell Dudley, Chloe Ervin-Dozier, Heather Morrison

Independence

Members of Council at Large: Matthew Benkner, Kevin Day, Stephanie Rodriguez, Rebecca G. Somnitz, Sarah Szveda, Anthony L. Togliatti, Dale Veverka

Independence Board of Education: Joseph Moeller, Scott T. Peters, Carrie Sears

Maple Heights

President of Council: Dana D. Anderson

Council Candidates: District 1, Stafford L. Shenett; District 3, Timothy F. Tatum; District 5, Shirley Merritt; District 7, Edwina Agee.

Maple Heights Board of Education: Alonzo Blackwell, Carla Hunter, Rosalind Moore

Whitehouse bridge to be replaced

The SR 14 (Broadway Ave.) Whitehouse Crossing bridge replacement project by the Ohio Department of Transportation will replace the bridge on Broadway over the railroad and Chaincraft Rd., in Garfield Heights.

Estimated completion: September 2028.

Chaincraft Rd. is under Broadway Ave., and will be closed through October 2026 for bridge construction. Detour utilizes a newly constructed access road.



Shaker Heights offers to gift Maple Heights PD two of its ambulance squads

By Ellen Psenicka

In her mayoral report to Maple Heights Council last Wednesday at its regular meeting, Mayor Annette Blackwell shared that Shaker Heights Mayor David Weiss had contacted her and offered to gift the city's police department two of its used squads no longer needed in his city. She said that accepting this gift would save the city thousands of dollars as new ambulances are priced at about \$100,000 each at the current rate.

She went on to say that her administration is seeking grants for many projects in the city, among them money for new playground equipment.

"All five of our playgrounds are in disrepair," Blackwell said. The mayor noted she had applied for \$550,000 grants from two sources but the city was denied both requests. The city will try again in February with the next cycle of grants, she said.

In her report, Blackwell also stated that new data has confirmed that Maple Heights has the second highest property tax delinquency in all of Cuyahoga County at \$11 million in back taxes owed. She has requested monetary assistance from the county, with its first help coming in the form of the First Suburbs Consortium grant to Maple Heights in the amount of \$27,299.98 to cover the first year's cost of a service agreement with Online Solutions Software for use in the building department.

Ordinances and resolutions passed

Passed at Wednesday's council meeting were the following pieces of legislation:

- By a vote of 5-2, an ordinance was passed amending a section of the city's codified ordinances which would require council approval for all city funds spent 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. The former section specified only amounts over \$5,000 would require council approval.

- Passed was a resolution authorizing an application to the Cuyahoga County Department of Development Community Development Supplemental Grant Program for 2026 and authorizing signing of relevant contracts and other documents. Grants in this program are financed by the County Casino Revenue Fund and would potentially provide up to \$50,000 to Maple Heights for its Exterior Home Repair Grant Program.

(Continued on Page 4)

Man dead, woman injured in Maple Hts. home invasion

Last Wednesday, Nov. 5, around 9:44 p.m., officers from the Maple Heights Police Department responded to a home in the 21400 block of Libby Rd., for a report of a female who had been shot in the hand.

When they arrived they found a man and woman, both with gunshot wounds, which officers later learned they received during a home invasion robbery of the residence.

The female was taken to Metro Health Medical Center, and the male was transported to Southpointe Hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries after arriving at the hospital.

This case is being investigated by the Maple Heights Police Detective Bureau, with assistance from Ohio BCI. Anyone with information related to this case is urged to

contact the Maple Heights Detective Bureau: 216-587-9624 or Detectives@mhp-dc.com

Information can also be supplied to Crime Stoppers at its Hotline, 216-252-7463; submit a tip online at WebTips; or text message anonymously to: Text TIP657 plus your message to CRIMES (274637).

Stuff the Ambulance at Independence Drug Mart

The Independence Fire Department's 10th annual "Stuff the Ambulance" food drive will be held on Saturday, Nov. 15, at Discount Drug Mart, 6160 Brecksville Rd., from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Bring nonperishable food items or a monetary donation to help make brighter holidays for local families.



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.

CanalWay Center – Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation

Nov. 13: Coffeehouse Trivia Night - Under the Surface. Join us after hours at CanalWay Center for our monthly cozy trivia night! Enjoy coffee, tea, hot chocolate and snacks as we test your knowledge of Ohio's wildlife. Come solo or bring some friends—everyone is welcome. This month we'll talk about animals that live underground. Please bring a fully charged mobile device to participate. 6:30–8 p.m. CanalWay Center. Age: 18 years & over.

Nov. 15: Hike to a Hidden Ravine: Discover a lesser-known ravine with towering trees and scenic views of the Cuyahoga Valley below as a naturalist leads you on a rugged hike. The mature forest will make you feel miles away from the industrial valley that surrounds this area. 1–3 p.m. CanalWay Center. Terrain: natural surface, steep hills, icy conditions possible, 3-4 miles.

Nov. 15 – Jan. 19: Mystery Room. Bring your friends and family to follow clues, complete puzzles and resolve problems to solve this year's mystery. Non-scary challenges are appropriate for adults and children aged 7 and older. Recommended group size is 2-6 individuals and must include one adult participant. The experience lasts approximately one hour. Call to reserve a time; limited walk-up registration may be available. 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. CanalWay Center. Age: 7 years – adult. Fee: \$15 per group of 2–6 individuals.

Nov. 22: Preschoolers in the Park: Campfire and a Story. Stop by CanalWay Center this morning to enjoy a campfire and a sweet treat. We will have some biofacts of our local wildlife for you to explore. Story time starts at 11 a.m. around the campfire on the patio behind the center. 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Age: 2–6 years w/adult.

Garfield Park Reservation

Nov. 13: Adaptive Hike & S'mores - Enjoy a scenic hike around the new Garfield Park Pond under the guidance of Cleveland Metroparks staff followed by s'mores around a campfire. 4:30–5:30 p.m. Garfield Park Program Center. Registration Required – Fee: \$5.

Nov. 19: Garfield Park Walking Club. Join our new Wednesday Walking Club as a naturalist leads you on an exploration of the many scenic and tranquil pathways and trails of Garfield Park. Joining the club is easy and free - just show up in your favorite walking shoes, bring a water bottle, and be ready to meet new people! 10–11 a.m. Garfield Park Pond (outside of Program Center). Terrain: paved, gravel, some hills, icy conditions possible, 1–2 miles.

Community Meal
Thursday Nov. 27
12pm to 2pm (Free)
 Call for Take-Out Order 216-641-4149
 Have Thanksgiving With Us!
 Garfield Heights United Methodist Church
 4977 Turney Road
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 Phone: 216.641.4149
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5841 Turney Rd., Garfield Heights 216-475-4040

GARFIELD HEIGHTS ZONING CODE UPDATE
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU
 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)
 5407 Turney Road

FREE Monthly Community Meal
 At The Lutheran Church of the Covenant
 19000 Libby Road
 Maple Heights, Ohio 44137
 5:00 - 6:00 PM
NOV. 20, 2025
ONE WEEK EARLY DUE TO THANKSGIVING
 Come to the back of the church to enter the church hall. **DINE-IN ONLY**
 (Take-out available for those physically unable to attend)
 Questions? Call Mary, 216-924-6096
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LIBRARIES PLAN SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Bedford (Bedford Heights/Oakwood Village) Branch Library

Here are some of the **FREE** programs coming up at the Bedford Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, located at 70 Columbus Rd., Bedford, Ohio 44146. For more information, or to register for any program, please call 440-439-4997.

Kids Café. 18 & younger Kids ages 18 and under can get a **FREE** lunch provided by the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, while supplies last. Monday-Friday, 3-4 p.m.

Student Success Center. K-8th. Since 2002, our **FREE** Student Success Center's program has helped thousands of students in grades K-8 improve their grades and subject comprehension. Student Success Centers are available at 10 branches. Students who participate in the program receive homework assistance from trained tutors in the following subjects: language arts, math, reading, science, and social studies. Monday-Thursday (school days) 4-6:30 p.m. **MUST REGISTER**

Family Storytime. Children with caregiver - Morning Join us for a music and movement storytime, with stories, songs and fingerplays. Tuesdays, Nov. 18, 25, 10 a.m.

Family Storytime. Children with caregiver - Evening Join us for a music and movement storytime, with stories, songs and fingerplays. Tuesdays, Nov. 18, 25, 6 p.m.

Engineering Hour. Grades 1-5 Bring your creativity and dexterity for an hour of building! Thursday, Nov. 20, 3:30 p.m.

Pokemon TCG Club. K-5 Join our weekly Pokémon Trading Card Game Club and dive into a world of strategy and fun. Learn how to play and meet fellow fans in a friendly, welcoming environment. Bring your cards or use ours! Fridays, Nov. 14, 21, 4 p.m.

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Worship Sundays at 11:30am
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Pastor Lisa Thomas

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.

Reptiles of the Cleveland Metroparks Join us for a special presentation learning about and identifying different reptile species in Ohio. Presented by the Cleveland Metroparks. Thursday, Nov. 13, 4 p.m.

Word Basics Learn Microsoft Word using tools such as entering and formatting text, copying, pasting, saving and printing. Prerequisite: Computer Basics or equivalent experience. Friday, Nov. 14, 10 a.m. **MUST REGISTER**

Magic Tree House Mondays. Grades 2-4 Whether you finished the book or not, join us for Magic Tree House discussion and fun. #6 Afternoon on the Amazon. Monday, Nov. 17, 6:30 p.m. **MUST REGISTER**

Family Photo. Fun For Kids and their caregiver Strike a pose! We provide a variety of backdrops, you bring a camera and your photogenic flair! Saturday, Nov. 22, 2 p.m. **MUST REGISTER**

Cleveland Public Library: Fleet Branch

Fleet Campus, 7224 Broadway Ave., Cleveland, is hosting some wonderful **FREE** programs this month for youth, adults and families. For more information or to register for any programs, please call 216-623-6962.

Teen Trivia – Teens: Thursday, Nov. 15, 3-4 p.m.

Banned Book Coffee Chats – Adults: Wednesday, Nov. 19, 12-1 p.m. This month's title will be "The Handmaid's Tale" by Margaret Atwood. Limited copies of the book will be available to check out.

Preschool Storytime – Ages 3-5: Nov. 20, 4-4:30 p.m.

Garfield Heights Branch Library

Here are some of the **FREE** programs available at the Garfield Heights Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, 5409 Turney Rd. Call 216-475-8178 to register or for more information.

ADULT PROGRAMS

African American Book Discussion Join our monthly African American book discussion. This month's book is "Love After Midnight" by Sister Souljah. Monday, Nov. 17, 6-7 p.m.

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Tuesday Evening Book Discussion Join us for our monthly book discussion. This month's title is "Where They Last Saw Her" by Marcie Rendon. Nov. 18, 6-7 p.m.

Independence Branch Library

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.

Peruvian Cuisine: Causa. Registration required. Explore Peruvian cuisine and learn how to make this popular dish with helpful time saving tips! Open to cooks of all experience levels who enjoy international cuisine. Part demo, part hands-on, this class will lead you through the origins of Peruvian cuisine and how to make causa, a popular Peruvian dish of spiced potatoes and chicken or tuna. All will have fun assembling and decorating their own individual creations. Wednesday, Nov. 12, 7 p.m.

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Shaker Heights offers to gift Maple Heights PD two of its ambulance squads

(Continued from Page 1)

•An ordinance authorizing the mayor to enter into an agreement with Cuyahoga County for the rehabilitation of the McCracken Rd. bridge over Mill Creek in the cities of Garfield Heights and Maple Heights.

Passed for third reading

An ordinance authorizing the mayor to approve the editing and inclusion of certain ordinances as parts of the various component codes of the codified ordinances: to approve, adopt, enact and publish new matter in the updated and revised codified ordinances; and to repeal ordinances and resolutions with which they are in conflict.

This legislation was necessary to conform the city's codified ordinances to state law.

Passed for second readings

•Ordinance authorizing the mayor to enter into a professional services Municipal Engineering Consulting Contract with engineer Matthew M. Jones, P.E., assistant engineers Edward J. Hren, P.E. and James T. Shea, P.E., and their engineering firm, Chagrin Valley Engineering, LTD, effective Jan. 1, 2026.

•Ordinance authorizing the mayor to enter into a subscription order form and one-year service agreement for 2026 with Online Solutions LLC (Citizenserve) for 11 users to access and use Citizenserve software in the building department, including setup, training, implementation and data migration, at a total cost of \$27,299.98, with annual service fees of \$19,800 thereafter.

People's Budget hiring in Slavic Village

PBCLE, a citywide grassroots organization, is about to launch the first ever People's Budget pilot project in Slavic Village, and it's recruiting local residents to join its steering committee.

The approximately 15-member group will be charged with writing the project's rules and overseeing their implementation. PBCLE will choose its membership based on commitment to developing a stronger, more democratic neighborhood and how well applicants reflect its cultural, economic and geographic diversity.

People who live or work in the neighborhood are eligible. A \$1,000 stipend will be paid to committee members in good standing at the conclusion of the six-month-long project.

Deadline for nominating yourself or a neighbor is Monday, Nov. 17, 2025. For more information and to nominate, visit www.pbcle.com.

Connecting for Kids free Nov. programs

Registration is required for these programs. Register online: www.connectingforkids.org/register, via email: info@connectingforkids.org or call/text: 440-570-5908.

Music Therapy & More Join us for a hands-on program designed to teach families how to use music to improve their child's academic, motor, communication and social skills as well as behavior. This program is designed for families and their children, ages 0-6 years, who have concerns about development. connectingforkids.org/music. **Saturday, Nov. 22, Maple Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library**

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

Behavior Chat: Tracking and Tackling Problem Behaviors Do you want strategies to motivate your child toward positive behavior? Join Ochanya McRoberts-Wells, MEd, who will lead a discussion guided by your questions on a variety of behavior topics. Submit your questions before or during this virtual session and learn how to use the tools in our Behavior Toolkit to help your child. Each session will focus on a new behavior tool, but questions on any behavior concern are welcome. The content in this program is geared toward caregivers of children ages 18 months-6 years, with or without developmental concerns. Each attendee will receive a free Behavior Toolkit. **Thursday, Nov. 13, 6 p.m. Virtual**

Caregiver Support Group: The Highs and Lows of the Holidays Are you dreading spending the holidays with extended family? Does the break from the school routine wreak havoc on your child's schedule? Would you like to talk to other parents and caregivers who "get it?" Share & Support is a peer support group where caregivers can meet families on a similar journey. Join CFK staff for a virtual session where we'll share tips for getting through the holidays with your child while we foster connection and support. **Monday, Nov. 24, 7 p.m. Virtual**

G.H. man dead after car crashes into pole

A 61-year-old Garfield Heights man was pronounced dead at Marymount Hospital on Saturday, Nov. 1, after his car struck a utility pole in the 5769 Turney Rd. area in Garfield Heights.

At about 10:30 a.m. Saturday, police were dispatched for a call that a vehicle had struck a utility pole on Turney Rd., and bystanders were performing CPR on the driver while he lay on the roadway. The driver was later identified as Andrew Tarr.

The vehicle involved, a Buick Lacrosse, was nearby on the tree lawn, its airbags deployed. The car's front bumper was resting against the pole. Garfield Heights Fire Department personnel arrived on scene and assumed care of the victim.

He was taken to Marymount Hospital where he was pronounced deceased. Cause of death was not known at the time the report was written. Police noted in the report that they had not observed any visible injuries to Mr. Tarr.

Due to the position of the car supporting the damaged utility pole, officers determined it was unsafe to tow the car until CEI employees arrived on scene, noting significant structural damage to the pole.

The resident of the home near where the pole was located reported to police that structural damage to his home had occurred as a result of the pole being struck. A CEI worker advised that electrical sparks had caused an arc flash, resulting in structural damage and holes in the gutter on the east side of the residence where the power line connects to the electric meter.

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Beef-n-Cheddar - \$15.50 lb.

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From the Mayor's Desk

By Garfield Heights Mayor Matt Burke

To the Residents of Garfield Heights

First, I want to thank you for reelecting me as your Mayor. I am deeply honored and humbled by your trust and confidence. Serving this community continues to be one of the greatest privileges of my life.

Over the past four years, I've learned that local leadership is where real impact happens. We see both the struggles and the successes of our residents — from families working hard to make ends meet, to seniors balancing rising costs, to businesses choosing Garfield Heights because of our strong neighborhoods, central location, and community spirit.

While national politics often dominates the headlines, local leaders are on the front lines. When residents need help, they call us — their Mayor and City Council representatives — and we listen. Together we find solutions. Recently, through our collaboration with other mayors, council members, county leaders and state officials, we helped secure support for residents affected by cuts to essential programs like SNAP.

Unfortunately, this past election season also revealed how negativity and division can overshadow progress. We must rise above falsehoods and personal attacks and focus on what truly matters — improving our community and treating one another with respect.

I believe leadership is about service — not self-interest or popularity, but genuine care for people.

I have often said, "The actions you take dictate the person you become."

Garfield Heights has grown tremendously over the past few years thanks to teamwork between our city administration and city council. Programs like our exterior home repair grant and citywide road improvements are the direct result of collaboration and resident input. I'm proud that when it's time to get the job done, our city leaders stand side by side to make it happen.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for allowing me to continue serving this great city.

I wish everyone a safe and joyful holiday season. I look forward to seeing you around town and sharing in the pride we all feel for Garfield Heights.

Czech Holiday Fair kicks of season in S.V.



The Czech Holiday Fair at Sokol Greater Cleveland Saturday, was a huge success with hundreds of guests enjoying this annual ethnic tradition. Visitors from Illinois to Pennsylvania and all across Ohio enjoyed the marionette performances, toured the Czech Cultural Center Museum and shopped for rare garnets, jewelry, crystal, pottery and vintage items from the Czech Republic. There were long lines of guests ready to enjoy the homemade chicken paprikash, dumplings, pork as well as delicious bakery.

"As a board member I am amazed at all the Sokol volunteers who make this annual tradition such a huge success. It is such a wonderful representation of our Broadway community and their ethnic history," said Tony Brancatelli.

This annual event funds American Sokol which is a multi-faceted organization which guides its members throughout life supporting physical and moral health, good citizenship and responsible patriotism, combined with continuous self-improvement. Photo by Tony Brancatelli

Mayor Bibb announces 30-day moratorium on utility disconnections

As families across the country feel the mounting pressure from the ongoing federal government shutdown and the recent cuts to SNAP benefits, Cleveland Mayor Justin M. Bibb, in partnership with the Department of Public Utilities, last Thursday announced a 30-day moratorium on utility disconnections for nonpayment.

Effective Friday, Nov. 7, customers of Cleveland Water and Cleveland Public Power will not face service interruptions due to unpaid bills during this period.

Account balances will continue to accrue, but the city is taking this step to ensure residents maintain access to essential services during a period of heightened financial insecurity.

This action came as the federal government shutdown entered its 37th day — now the longest in U.S. history — leaving families without paychecks and facing uncertainty around critical supports such as SNAP benefits, which have not been delivered for November.

Mayor Bibb emphasized that the city remains committed to supporting residents with empathy, compassion and common sense action.

Residents seeking assistance or payment plan options can contact: Cleveland Water Customer Service: 216-664-3130; Cleveland Public Power Customer Service: 216-664-4600.

The city will continue to monitor the shutdown's impact and stands ready to implement additional support measures as needed.



A Message from
Garfield Heights City Schools
Superintendent Dr. Richard D. Reynolds

Every Child | Every Day | Together.



Thank You Community!

Dear Garfield Heights City Schools Community,

On behalf of the entire Bulldog Family, thank you to our citizens who by a margin of 54% to 46%, affirmed the need of Issue 48 and passed our important renewal issue!

Many individuals are to be thanked for the success at the ballot, which ultimately stands to benefit the students of the Garfield Heights City Schools. We thank our dedicated Board Members who worked tirelessly for this issue... Mayor Burke and members of City Council who openly spoke up in support. Thank you to GHSA who played an active, involved and impassioned role. Our staff volunteered to help distribute literature, make contributions, hold signs, and more. The parents of this district fought hard, supported our efforts, and are to be commended! Our gratitude is expressed to our voters who recognized the improvements that are being made and believing in our future.

Our Commitment Remains the Same!

With Issue 48 now passed, our mission remains the same: **Every Child, Every Day, Together.** We will continue to pursue every available grant opportunity, strengthen community partnerships, and ensure that each school is actively sharing factual information with families. We are committed to transparency, responsible financial stewardship, and protecting the core instructional experiences of our students.

I am grateful to everyone who helped to play a role in Issue 48's passage. Thank you... and GO BULLDOGS!

Sincerely,

Dr. Richard D. Reynolds
Superintendent

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Garfield Heights Council elects council president, pro tem for next two-year term

By Ellen Psenicka

Garfield Heights Council members met Monday night and began their new terms of office much like their old terms, as all members were re-elected to their council seats.

Council President Avery Johnson was reelected by his fellow members to lead council again as council president for the new two-year term, with Ward 5 Councilwoman Rachelle Tonsing elected as president pro tem, taking the mantle from previous president pro tem, Ward 1's Stacey Collier.

Clerk of Council Lottie Overby was once again appointed to her position.

The following ordinances were passed at Monday's meeting:

- To enter into an agreement with Quadient Leasing USA for the lease of a postage machine at the Garfield Heights Civic Center for a 60-month period at a cost of \$174.63 per month.

- To consent to improvements proposed by Cuyahoga County to rehabilitate McCracken Road Bridge over Mill Creek, located in Garfield Heights and Maple Heights.

- To authorize the sale and disposal of court equipment from the Garfield Heights Municipal court which is no longer needed.

- To participate in the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District program for the Thornhurst Avenue Sewer Separation Project, including doing everything necessary to secure the funds requested per the application as prepared by the city engineer. The legislation states that sewer separation is "undersized and deteriorated to a point that it causes flooding of residents' basements. With this ordinance the city wishes to apply for NEORSF funding for the project through its Community Cost Share program.

Passed for a third and final reading was an ordinance to adopt a new planning and zoning code for the city of Garfield Heights, and repealing the existing planning and zoning codes within the codified ordinances.



Garfield Heights Council members have been sworn in for the November 2025 to November 2027 term. All members from the previous term were re-elected to their seats. Shown above are council members, from left, in order from Ward 1 through Ward 7: Stacey Collier, Tenisha Mack, Mark Smith, Avery Johnson, Rachelle Tonsing, Clifford Kelley and Jennifer Newrones.

Garfield Ward 7 Block Watch meeting

The Garfield Heights Ward 7 Block Watch, sponsored by Councilwoman Jenn Newrones, will meet Wednesday, Nov. 19, at 7 p.m., in the cafeteria of St. Benedict School, 13633 Rockside Rd.

Nonperishable items or cash donations to help the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry with the approaching holidays would be appreciated. All are welcome. For more information contact Gail, 216-662-9213.

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Community police reports

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

Garfield Heights

MVA Injury

On Oct. 31, at approximately 11:55 p.m., an officer was dispatched to the 13700 block of Thraves Ave., for a report of a vehicle that crashed into a parked car. Dispatch advised that the owner of the parked vehicle was notified, and that the suspect driver was attempting to leave the scene, but her vehicle was disabled and there was a child seated in the front passenger seat. Upon arrival police observed the suspect's vehicle was in the center of the roadway east of the incident location. When officers approached the vehicle they observed blood on the child's face and clothing from striking the dashboard during the crash. The driver was unsure of what happened during the incident. Officers noticed the driver's speech was slurred and her eyes were red and glossy. The suspect admitted to having two drinks before leaving the residence she was visiting.

After being requested to exit the vehicle, the suspect was asked to participate in a field sobriety test to which she agreed. The driver was placed under arrest for operating under the influence and child endangering. The child was taken to Marymount Hospital and later turned over to her father. The child suffered a cut to the inside of her lip along with several bruises to her face. The suspect was booked into Garfield Heights City Jail and refused to provide a breath sample. She was charged with child endangering and cited for OVI, failure to control, driving under suspension and no child restraint used. Bond was set at \$8,500.

Weapon Offense

On Nov. 2, an officer noticed a blue Toyota with its motor running while parked incorrectly in a parking spot at the police station. After a registration check the officer approached the vehicle and saw a male sleeping at the wheel. Officers observed that there was a loaded handgun in the center cup holder of the car. Officers boxed the

vehicle in and were able to secure the firearm and assist the suspect out of the vehicle and into a police cruiser. Inside the vehicle officers also found cans of alcoholic beverages. The firearm serial number was checked through LEADS, where it was confirmed stolen from Beachwood. The suspect was taken to Garfield Height Police jail without incident.

The suspect emitted an alcoholic odor, had slurred speech, slow responses, red glossy eyes, and was unable to keep his balance. He declined to perform a field sobriety test and also refused to provide a sample of his breath for testing. The suspect was asked about how he ended up in the parking lot of the police station with a stolen firearm. He did not know how he got there with it. City cameras later confirmed the vehicle entered the parking lot at approximately 5:35 a.m., and remained stationary until officers arrived. The driver was arrested and charged with receiving stolen property, OVI, and having weapons under disability - while intoxicated. The firearm recovered (9mm gun with six rounds, one in the chamber) was placed into evidence. The investigation is ongoing with the Detective Bureau.

Assist Other Departments

On Nov. 4, at 11:16 a.m., GHPD officers responded to the Get Go gas station, 5637 Turney Rd., for a disturbance reported by an Independence PD officer. The IPD officer said he was in the Get Go parking lot on a prisoner transport while a male there was causing a disturbance. The male began to scream and shout at a white female and the IPD officer. The male approached the officer and yelled, "Why are you here?" and continued obscenities. At one point the male placed one of his hands in his jacket pocket, and the officer had to delay his prisoner transport, get out of his vehicle and ensure the male was not reaching for a weapon. At some point the male got behind the police cruiser and the officer called for additional units and GHPD as backup. GHPD officers arrived on scene, learned what happened and took the male into custody. The male was charged with disorderly conduct

and obstructing official business and given a Garfield Heights Municipal Court date.

Disturbance

On Nov. 4, about 3:15 p.m., police responded to Garfield Heights Municipal Court, outside Courtroom #1, for a report of a female causing a disturbance. Upon arrival the officer saw two courtroom security bailiffs restraining a large female. She was cursing at the officers as she tried to pull away from their grasp. The GHPD officer observed that blood was streaming from the left hand of one of the bailiffs as the two of them tried to get her into handcuffs. Judge Nicastro ordered the woman to be taken into custody. She was escorted down to the city jail by police and placed in a holding cell. As she was led away she continued to curse and struggle with officers. Police learned the woman was at the courthouse to appear for an unrelated case. She was held on no bond for contempt of court and resisting arrest.

Traffic Offense-Fleeing

On Nov. 6, at 12:51 a.m., officers attempted to stop a black Kia K4 for no headlights and expired plates, and at Sladden Ave. and Turney Rd., the car began to actively flee, sometimes at a high rate of speed. The Kia eventually stopped at E. 116 St. and Craven Ave., in Cleveland. Officers approached the driver and passenger in the Kia at gunpoint. They checked the vehicle for additional occupants, then holstered their weapons and placed the driver and passenger into the police cruiser. An additional officer responded to the scene and transported the driver to city jail, while the passenger was taken to the GHPD lobby to await a ride. The driver was charged with fleeing and eluding. Report forwarded to the Detective Bureau.

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

Business Directory deadline is 5:00 p.m. Fridays. Ads must print for 4 weeks. Advertising rate is \$12 per column inch (minimum \$24).

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

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CLE City Council to name park after late Judge Pianka

GHHS presents comedy

Cleveland City Council convened its regular in-person meeting Monday and passed legislation that will result in a renovation of Herman Park.

The park renovation is currently in the conceptual design phase with an estimated cost of \$585,752, with Councilmember Jenny Spencer setting aside \$200,000 NEF funds for the Herman Park renovation and site improvements.

A tax abatement was awarded to Heirloom Company for its residential multi-family new construction project at 6400 Herman Ave., with a \$660,000 voluntary payment in lieu of meeting affordable housing requirements. Upon the receipt of any Heirloom payments, the funding will go to the Herman Park renovation and site improvements.

Legislation was recently passed to rename Herman Park to "Judge Raymond L. Pianka Park" once the renovation of the park is complete.

Union agreements finalized

Council approved seven separate collective bargaining agreements which included those with: Service Employees International Union, Laborers International Union, International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

Warner and Swasey redevelopment moving forward

Council passed two pieces of legislation, first authorizing the city to enter into a forgivable loan with Pennrose Holding, to provide economic development assistance to partially finance the construction, predevelopment and renovation costs associated with converting two buildings into affordable apartments for seniors and families, and other associated costs necessary to redevelop the properties.

The other is to enter into a Tax Increment Financing Agreement with Pennrose Holding to assist with the financing of the Warner and Swasey Projects at 5701 Carnegie Ave., that will ensure payments to the Cleveland

Metropolitan School District and to declare certain improvements to real property to be a public purpose.

Introduced

Legislation was introduced for council to enter into an agreement with Western Reserve Land Conservancy, dba Thriving Communities Institute, to provide professional services regarding signature green space creation, planning and policy, vacant land reforestation, and Reforest Our City program.

State of the Cuyahoga Valley Region Discussion

A panel discussion luncheon on the State of the Cuyahoga Valley Region, sponsored by the Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce, will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 19, at the Holiday Inn-Rockside, 6001 Rockside Rd., Independence. \$30/members; \$40 nonmembers. RSVP to: www.cuyahogavalleychamber.com

Moderated by Ed "Flash" Ferenc, the panel discussion will include mayors of Brooklyn Heights, Cuyahoga Heights, Independence, Seven Hills, Valley View and Walton Hills.

Garfield Heights High School will present the production of "Bad Auditions by Bad Actors," directed by Andrea Belser, at the Center for the Performing Arts, 4900 Turney Rd., on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 21 and 22, at 7 p.m., and Nov. 23, at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$5 at the door.

The play is a comedy about a new director who has one day to cast the lead roles for "Romeo and Juliet," but finds the job impossible due to a lineup of bizarre and terrible auditioners.

A free preview performance of the play will be held on Thursday, Nov. 20, at 10 a.m., for any senior who wishes to attend, regardless of where they live. Just show up and take a seat!



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