

The Neighborhood News

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102nd YEAR NO. 13

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2025

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

FREE

Slavic Village celebrates Christmas



Last week's wintry weather didn't deter the residents and friends of Slavic Village from gathering in their block clubs and social centers to enjoy the year-end holidays. At Fleet Avenue's festively decorated P.L.A.V. Lincoln Post 13, Holidazzle rewarded attendees from across Greater Cleveland with a generous spread of home-cooked food and music by Donny Jone's Legends Band. Lansing Avenue's Polish American Cultural Center was packed for the traditional Wigilia banquet (shown above).

SKATE WITH SANTA THIS SUNDAY!



The Garfield Heights Parks and Recreation Department's annual Skate with Santa will be held on Sunday, Dec. 21, from 3 to 5 p.m., at the Dan Kostel Recreation Center, 5411 Turney Rd.

Special reduced admission is \$7.00 which includes rental skates. Ages 4 & under are free with a paying adult.

Santa will be here, so make sure your child brings their Wish List! Children 12 & under must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Ice skating experience is highly recommended, but not necessary.

Socks are mandatory if you wish to use our rental skates; gloves and hats are highly recommended.

All details are on the web site – www.garfieldhths.org – **Parks & Recreation Department** for this event and also all of our Winter Ice Skating public sessions and skating/hockey lessons.

216-475-7272

Santa to visit Slavic Village this Sunday

Children and their families are invited to enjoy Breakfast With Santa this Sunday, Dec. 21, from 9 a.m. to noon, at P.L.A.V. Lincoln Post 13 hall, 6009 Fleet Ave.

Attendees will enjoy a free breakfast plus cocoa and cookies. And Santa's bag will be packed with gifts for the kids. Come early; everything is first come, first served.

Garfield Block Watch Christmas Party

The Garfield Heights Ward 7 Block Watch Christmas Party, sponsored by Councilwoman Jenn Newrones, will take place Wednesday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m., in the cafeteria of St. Benedict School, 13633 Rockside Rd. Attendees are asked to bring a gift-wrapped tree ornament for our holiday game and a side dish or goodies to share. All welcome.



NN Holiday Schedule

This edition of The Neighborhood News will be our final one before Christmas, as there will be no December 24th issue. Publication will resume on Wednesday, Dec. 31st.

The offices at 8613 Garfield Blvd., Garfield Heights, will be closed this Friday, Dec. 19, and will reopen again on Monday, Dec. 29th. Monday 5pm deadline for articles and advertising for the Dec. 31st issue will apply.

The Neighborhood News management and staff extend to all our faithful readers and advertisers a heartfelt wish for a safe and happy holiday season as we all look forward to the coming year.



Community police reports

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

Garfield Heights Burglary

On Dec. 4, at 10:50 a.m., an officer was dispatched to the 12000 block of Valley Lane, for a report of stolen property. Upon arrival officers met with the victim who stated that at an unknown time in the last seven days, someone unknown came into her apartment through the window and stole her televisions. The victim had been staying at her mother’s for the week, but when she returned on Dec. 4, she found that her 82-inch and 32-inch televisions were gone. She saw that the unsecured window to her apartment living room was open, but there wasn’t any damage done to the property. Victim given a report number.

Disorderly Conduct

On Dec. 4, at 3:39 p.m., officers responded to Wendy’s, 5251 Turney Rd., for a report of a large group of teenagers with one person on the ground and a possible fight in progress. Upon arrival officers observed the same group crossing the street towards McDonald’s. As the group approached McDonald’s they began yelling at an occupied vehicle, challenging the occupants to fight. Officers activated their patrol vehicle’s sirens and told them to

leave the area, but a female continued to taunt officers, walking away and returning repeatedly disregarding lawful orders. An officer advised her to leave or she would be arrested for failure to disperse. The suspect then walked away, but returned once again to the McDonald’s area despite repeated commands to leave. She was placed under arrest for failure to disperse and was transported to GHPD for booking without incident. She was booked, processed and released to her father. Report forwarded to the Youth Bureau for review.

Theft-Shoplifting

On Dec. 5, at approximately 7:25 p.m., an employee at AT&T on Vista Way reported a stolen iPhone. Dispatch advised that the possible suspects were two black males, one in all blue and the other in all black who had been in the store from about 6:25 to 7 p.m. Upon arrival an officer met with an employee who stated he believed an orange iPhone 17 Pro Max demo phone was stolen when the two suspect males returned to the store and were still inside. The two males were identified and both denied taking the phone, but were taken for active warrants with other cities. The phone was not found on their persons. They were taken to Shaker Heights PD and Solon PD for active warrants. The company was advised to notify GHPD when surveillance footage was available.

Weapon Offense

On Dec. 6, officers were notified by dispatch that there was a person inside a black Jeep Wrangler shooting at another motorist. The caller who reported the incident stated that a subject from another vehicle shot at her vehicle and fled the area southbound on Turney Rd., then westbound on Danbury Ave. While touring the area for the vehicle, an officer observed the black Jeep Wran-

gler at the Wendy’s Drive Thru, 5251 Turney Rd. The officer entered the parking lot and positioned the cruiser behind the vehicle and confirmed it was the vehicle they were looking for. Other units were notified and came to box the vehicle in. Officers exited their vehicles with their weapons pointed at the driver and gave commands to the driver to turn the car off and put his hands outside the vehicle. The driver was later identified and complied with commands. He was removed from the car and placed in handcuffs without incident. The suspect was told why he was being detained, but stated he did nothing wrong. He was asked if he had any weapons on him or inside the car, which he denied. The suspect stated that the other driver was cutting him off on the freeway and brake checking him, and once they exited the freeway on Transportation Blvd., the other driver positioned her vehicle in front of his so he couldn’t continue. She then exited her vehicle and approached the suspect’s vehicle on the driver’s side window yelling at him. The suspect informed officers that he didn’t shoot any weapon because he didn’t have one and also informed them that he wasn’t alone when the incident took place. His girlfriend, his child and his girlfriend’s two kids were in his vehicle. The suspect was placed into the back of a police cruiser.

When officers searched the vehicle, a Glock 22 Gen 4 40-caliber weapon was located hidden in an opening above the glove compartment. The weapon was loaded with 14 rounds in the magazine and one chambered. Officers did not locate any spent casings inside the vehicle. The vehicle was towed by interstate, and officers transported the suspect to Garfield Heights Jail where he was booked without incident. Upon running a CCH it was discovered that he had prior felony convictions of violence. The incident took place at the intersection of the I-480 West off ramp and Transportation Blvd. City

cameras showed that the female caller was the aggressor in the road rage incident. The suspect in custody was charged with carrying concealed weapon and having weapons under disability.



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Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Joyful New Year!

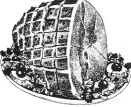


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Distributed every Wednesday in South East Cleveland, Garfield Heights, Newburgh Heights, Cuyahoga Heights, Independence, Valley View, Maple Heights, Bedford and Bedford Heights

ODOT seeking public input for major rehabilitation of I-77 between Grant Ave. and Broadway Ave.

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is proposing to replace the pavement on I-77 from south of Grant Ave. to Broadway Ave., in the city of Cleveland and villages of Newburgh Heights and Cuyahoga Heights.

The purpose of the project is to replace the aging pavement, improve the drainage system, and widen the median shoulders on I-77 in order to meet current design standards. ODOT will be presenting information online

and gathering feedback about this project. Public feedback will help ODOT make the best decisions about the project as it moves through the design and construction.

Estimated project cost is \$95.8 million. The project is estimated to begin in spring of 2027 and projected to be completed in summer of 2031.

During construction two lanes of traffic will be maintained with a lane shift. The contra flow traffic shift will maintain one lane of traffic on the opposite side of the road separated by a concrete median wall. All entrance and exit ramps will be closed for 45 day periods, nonconcurrently. All detours will be posted. There will be weekend complete closures of I-77 for overhead sign and bridge work. These closures will be scheduled when least impactful to do so.

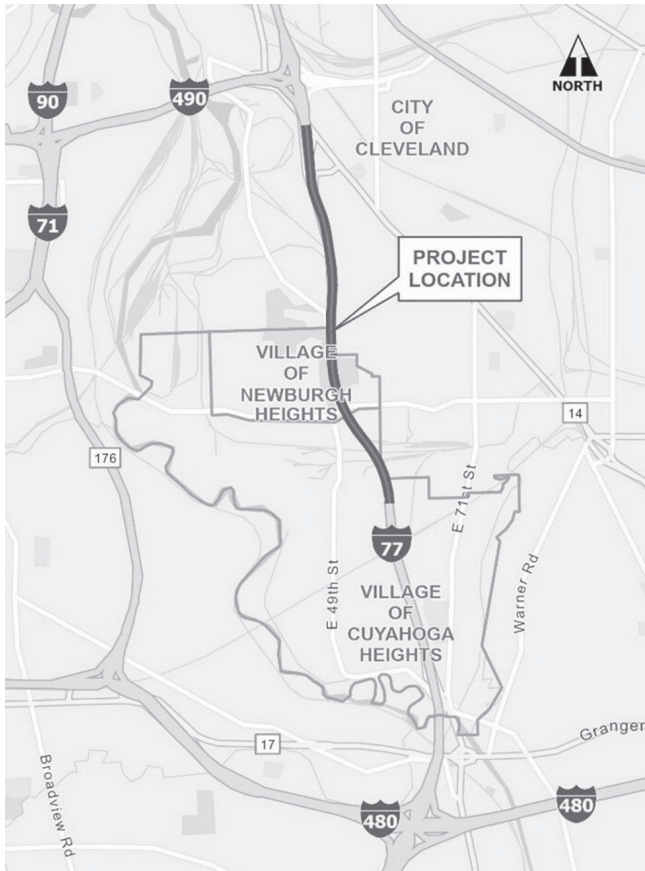
The project will impact 1.22 acres of wetland and 152 feet of stream. The project will temporarily impact the Morgana Run Trail. It will not impact cultural resources, with plans to minimize impacts to wetlands, streams and waterways/floodplains along the project corridor. Right-of-way does not need to be acquired for this project, which is sponsored and funded by ODOT.

ODOT is seeking public input regarding this project. Comments can be submitted through the following link: <https://www.transportation.ohio.gov/projects/projects/105743>

Comments can also be sent via mail to: Tom Sorge - District Environmental Coordinator, 5500 Transportation Blvd., Garfield Heights, OH 44125.

By phone at 216-584-2086 or email via tom.sorge@dot.ohio.gov.

Comments will be received until Friday, Jan. 16, 2026.



Map showing the proposed work limits on I-77 between Grant Ave. and Broadway Ave.

We wish You a Merry Christmas!



Garfield Hts. Ward 7
Councilwoman
**Jennifer Newrones
and Family**

*May you spend
your
holiday season
with family
and friends
and love
and laughter.*



Garfield Hts. Ward 5
Councilwoman
**Rachelle Tonsing
and Family**

**SUBMIT YOUR COMMUNITY EVENTS AND ADVERTISING
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Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



Wishing you peace and joy this Christmas season.

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37 indicted for involvement in drug trafficking group linked to 3 overdose deaths, one in Slavic Village Village

Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Michael C. O'Malley announced Monday that a Cuyahoga County grand jury has returned an indictment charging 37 individuals for their involvement in the drug trafficking organization linked to three overdose deaths. The investigation led to over six kilograms of drugs seized, over \$240,000 in cash seized, and 15 firearms seized, some of which were reported stolen.

On Aug. 16, 2024, John Lee, 56, was found deceased in a residence from a suspected overdose near E. 71 St. and Indiana Ave., in Cleveland's Slavic Village. The Cleveland Division of Police (CDP)'s Narcotics Unit learned the supplied narcotics were linked to the drug trafficking organization. On Sept. 17, 2024, Angela Staehr, 41, was found deceased in a residence from a suspected overdose near Sackett Ave. and Rhodes Court in Cleveland. The CDP Narcotics Unit linked the supplied narcotics to the same drug trafficking organization that supplied the narcotics to John Lee. **Continued on page 4)**

**SANTA IS COMING TO SLAVIC VILLAGE
THIS SUNDAY**
DECEMBER 21
FROM 9AM-NOON

Children and their families are invited!

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
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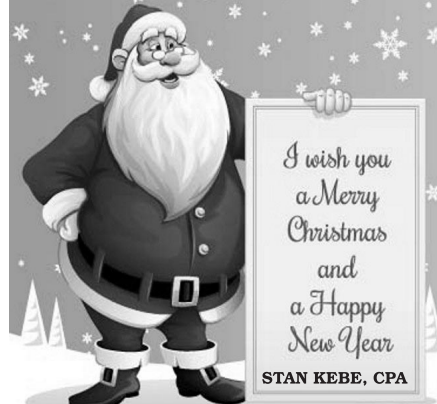
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a Happy
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37 indicted for involvement in drug trafficking group linked to 3 overdose deaths, one in Slavic Village Village

(Continued from Page 3)

The investigation was conducted by the CDP Narcotics Unit with assistance from the Euclid Police Department, the Ohio High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, and the U.S. Marshals. The investigation identified 37 individuals involved in the drug trafficking organization's supply chain. The organization was utilizing multiple locations to store, manufacture and distribute the narcotics.

Over the course of the investigation, search warrants were conducted in 12 locations that resulted in the seizure of over six kilograms of fentanyl, xylazine, cocaine and methamphetamine. In addition, over \$240,000 in cash was seized, as well as 15 firearms, several of which were reported stolen.

The investigation also linked a third previously un-

solved overdose that occurred in 2022, the overdose death of 26-year-old Amanda Garrison in Cleveland.

"This indictment reflects the strong collaboration between the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office and our law enforcement partners. By dismantling this organization, we are removing dangerous individuals, lethal narcotics, and stolen firearms from our community. These arrests will save lives throughout northeast Ohio," O'Malley commented.

The complexity of this case speaks volumes about the extraordinary quality of the investigatory work behind it and just how skilled our detectives truly are. Their efforts brought this sprawling operation to light and ensured that those responsible are now facing their day in court. This indictment is a great reminder of what happens when we partner with other local, regional, state, and federal agencies – all of which we'll continue doing."

Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb also weighed in on the grand jury indictments. "I commend the outstanding work of the investigators involved in this case. Each day, the men and women of our Division work alongside our

law enforcement partners to make our city safer. Investigations of this complexity and duration require persistence, expertise and relentless dedication.

"The damage inflicted by these individuals cannot be overstated. What is clear, however, is that a substantial quantity of drugs, firearms and dozens of dangerous, crime-driven individuals will be removed from our streets."

Last month the 37 individuals were indicted on a total of 180 charges, including:

- Engaging in a Pattern of Corrupt Activity
- Involuntary Manslaughter
- Aggravated Drug Funding
- Drug Trafficking
- Drug Possession
- Illegal Manufacturing
- Having Weapons Under Disability

On Dec. 10, 2025, an arrest operation was held by the U.S. Marshals Service and CDP. 23 of the 37 individuals were arrested without incident. They will be arraigned at the Cuyahoga County Justice Center at a later date.

City of Bedford Heights



PHILLIP STEVENS
Mayor/Safety Director



Happy Holidays!

5661 Perkins Road
Bedford Heights, Ohio 44146
mayorstevens@bedfordheights.gov

Phone: 440-786-3211
www.bedfordheights.gov

Merry Christmas





Dorene Kray, Council@large
Village of Newburgh Heights

MERRY Christmas

To All Our Neighbors in Ward 4
from **Rochelle and Avery Johnson**



City Council President
Garfield Heights
Councilman Ward 4

Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year.



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special of God's blessings
during this holy season.

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OPPORTUNITY TO THANK YOU
AND WISH YOU THE VERY BEST FOR
THE NEW YEAR!

HAPPY Holidays

FROM YOUR COUNCILMAN

Mark Smith
Ward 3

(216) 641-8762
Msmith@garfieldhts.org

Mark my words; I will call you back.



The Neighborhood News wishes
you a
Merry Christmas



Call us at 216-441-2141
or email: nnews1923@aol.com

WORSHIP With US

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH, 6705 Brecksville Rd., Independence, 44131

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Wednesday, Dec. 24: 6 p.m.

Christmas Day Service, Thursday, Dec. 25: 10 a.m.

GARFIELD HEIGHTS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 4977 Turney Rd., Garfield Heights 44125

Christmas Eve Service, Wednesday, Dec. 24: 7:30 p.m.

HOLY NAME CHURCH, 8328 Broadway Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44105

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24: 4 p.m. (Family Mass); 9:30 p.m. Christmas concert; 10 p.m. Christmas Vigil Mass

Christmas Day, Dec. 25: Masses at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

New Year's Day (Holy Day of Obligation)

New Year's Eve, Dec. 31: 4 p.m. Vigil Mass

New Year's Day, Jan. 1: 9 a.m. Mass

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH, 6700 Lansing Ave., Cleveland, OH 44105

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass, Wednesday, Dec. 24: 4 p.m. (3:30 p.m., Christmas concert.)

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass, 10 p.m. Polish Pasterka. (9:30 p.m. Christmas concert.)

Christmas Day, Thursday, Dec. 25: Masses at 8 a.m. (English); 10 a.m. (Polish); 12 Noon (English)

INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 6624 Public Square, Independence 44131

Christmas Eve Service, Wednesday, Dec. 24: 7 p.m. with carols and candles

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH, 3395 E. 53 St., Cleveland 44127

Christmas Eve Masses, Wednesday, Dec. 24: 4 p.m. (English); 7 p.m. (Spanish)

Christmas Day Mass, Thursday, Dec. 25, 10 a.m. (English)

New Year's Eve Vigil Masses for Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Wednesday: Dec. 31: 4 p.m. (English); 7 p.m. (Spanish)

New Year's Day Mass for Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God: Thursday, Jan. 1: 10 a.m. (English)

SAINT CASIMIR CATHOLIC CHURCH, 8223 Sowinski Ave., Cleveland 44103

Christmas Eve, Wednesday, Dec. 24: Traditional Pasterka or Shepherds' Mass at 10 p.m. preceded by our Choir Concert and singing of carols and koledy at 9:30 p.m.

Christmas Day, Thursday, Dec. 25: Solemn Mass of Christmas Day at 11:30 a.m.

New Year's Day, Thursday, Jan. 1: Feast of Mary, the Mother of God, 11:30 a.m. Mass.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH, 11333 Granger Rd., Garfield Heights 44125

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Holy Communion, 6 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion, 9 a.m.

ST. MONICA CATHOLIC CHURCH, 13623 Rockside Rd., Garfield Heights, 44125

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24: Vigil Masses: 4 p.m. & 10 p.m.

Christmas Day, Dec. 25: Masses at 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

(Continued on Page 9)

Merry Christmas
and Happy Holidays enjoyed with family and friends.



Mayor Matt Burke
and family
City of Garfield Heights



Seasons Greetings

from the
City of Maple Heights

Mayor Annette M. Blackwell



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



from **The Perk Family**



Christmas holds a special meaning to us all. It's a time of hope and peace . . . a time of faith and love . . . as we're reminded anew that all people from all walks of life are brothers in His eyes. At Christmas and throughout the year, let's live by His words as we share His love with those around us . . . and pray for peace and unity throughout the world. May you and your families enjoy a merry and memorable Christmas. We truly appreciate the goodwill and friendship you have shown us.

Shown above is the family of Mayor and Mrs. Ralph J. Perk. Although Mayor Perk and his wife, Lucy, (inset) are now deceased, their children continue in public service. Ralph J. Perk, Jr. is a retired judge of the Cleveland Municipal Court. Judge Perk's wife, Kelli, is the Director of Risk Management for the County's ADAMHS Board. Tom Perk is a retired Cleveland firefighter and retired councilman in Valley View, and Ken Perk is a former member of the Cuyahoga Heights School Board. The Perk family extends to the entire community their best wishes for a happy and holy Christmas holiday and a healthy and prosperous year ahead.

Christmas Party Extravaganza held by Garfield Dems at Civic Center



The Garfield Heights Democratic Party's 2025 "Christmas Party Extravaganza" was held Monday evening at the Garfield Heights Civic Center, where top Democratic politicians, business owners and residents from throughout Cuyahoga County came to enjoy great food, holiday cheer and each other's company. See how many people you recognize in the photos above!

Photos by Elena Psenicka

Garfield Commons

Rockside Road near Turney Road in Garfield Heights

Happy Holidays!!



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Spectrum



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

MICHAEL WILLIS
Councilman - Ward 3
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www.bedfordheights.gov

BLESSINGS OF THE SEASON



When a blanket of snow embraces the land,
The beauty we see is the work of God's hand.
Each snowflake unique in its own special way,
Reminds us that soon it will be Christmas day.
So give thanks to the Lord for the birth of the Savior;
May you always enjoy both His love and good favor.

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South East CLE Kiwanis supports local Literacy Through the Arts program



The Kiwanis Club of South East Cleveland presented a donation last week to Ione Parry, executive director of Jones Road Family Development, in support of her Literacy Through the Arts program. The children's initiative sponsors free after-school tutoring and a six-week Summer Camp which both emphasize the importance to learning of the arts: music, dance, painting, theater, poetry, sports activities and more, for children in the Slavic Village area of Cleveland. Shown in the photo, from left, are S.E. Kiwanis Treasurer David Thomas, Ione Parry, and S.E. Kiwanis President Tony Brancatelli. For more information about the Literacy program, visit: jonesroadfamily.org

Holiday Decorating Contest

For the 20th year, Slavic Village will honor its best-decorated homes and businesses during the Christmas season. Rules are simple: go all out making your house or building look great in December and the committee will do the rest; no need to apply. Especially remember to keep your lights on during the weeks before and after Christmas, when judges will be touring the streets.

A BOUNTY OF GOOD WISHES

No matter where you spend your Christmas holiday, we hope it's overflowing with all the blessings this magical season has to offer.

Thanks aplenty for your kind support

The Ferfolia Family and Staff

Ferfolia Funeral Home

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Sagamore Hills



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

December 19: Preschoolers - Hike with Me. Bring your preschoolers out to CanalWay Center this morning as we hike along the Cuyahoga River. At this time of year we tend to see bald eagles and great blue herons flying in the area. We will explore the valley in search of animal activity. Dress for the weather, as the path may be slippery. 10–11 a.m. Ages: 2–6 years w/adult. Terrain: paved, hill, 1 mile.

December 20: Weekend Hike to the Eagle's Nest. Join a naturalist for a guided hike to an active bald eagle nest while we look for birds, beavers and other wildlife that call the Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation home. On the way we will compare observations of animal activity throughout the

winter. This hike is offered several times each month when the eagle's nest is visible. 10 a.m.–noon. CanalWay Center. Terrain: paved, hills, icy conditions possible, 3 miles.

December 27: Preschoolers in the Park - Eagles. Bring the kids to learn about bald eagles. We'll go for a walk along the Cuyahoga River to see if we can spot any eagles perched or flying above the water. This time of year we see more bald eagles along the river looking for food and friends. We will have some binoculars for families to borrow, but feel free to bring your own. Dress for the weather. 10:30–11:30 a.m. CanalWay Center. Ages: 2–6 years w/adult. Terrain: paved, hill, 1 mile.

December 29: Career Exploration - Naturalist 101. Are you passionate about nature and connecting others with the outdoors? Join naturalists from CanalWay Center to learn more about how to pursue a career as a naturalist and what it takes to do what they do. Activities may include hiking, animal care and naturalist trivia! Lunch will be provided. 10 a.m.–4 p.m. CanalWay Center. Ages: 14–17 years. Fee: \$45. Terrain: paved and natural surfaces, some hills, 3 miles. Registration: 16 people.

December 30: Winter-break Family Fun Day. Stop by CanalWay Center today with the kids to enjoy fun activities and learn about the nature of winter nights.

10 a.m. - noon: Enjoy activities, gathering around a campfire, making crafts and taking a short hike. The fun

(Continued on Page 8)

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

FROM THE GARFIELD HEIGHTS CITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION

MAY THE PEACE AND JOY OF THIS
HOLIDAY BE WITH YOU ALWAYS



Millette King, Ed.D., L.S.W. - President

Heather Morrison - Vice President

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Nichelle N. Daniels - Member

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Dr. Richard D. Reynolds - Superintendent

Phillip J. Oko, M.B.A. - Treasurer



NEXT ISSUE IS WED., DEC. 31st
Advertising and News deadline is Monday, Dec. 29 at 5pm

CLE Metropark programs

(Continued from Page 7)

doesn't end at noon – stay later to explore the night sky indoors and watch a movie!

10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.: We're celebrating the wonders of the night sky. Join us to enter the StarLab and let the night sky come to us. StarLab experience is approximately 25 minutes. Sign up for a time slot when you arrive; spots will be limited.

10:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. StarLab for little kids w/adult (8 and under).

11:30 a.m. and noon: StarLab for big kids w/adult (8 and over).

A festive Christmas card from St. John Funeral Home. It features a white background with a small evergreen tree and ornaments at the top. The text reads: "ST. JOHN FUNERAL HOME WISHES YOU A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON". Below this is the website "STJOHNFH.COM". Two addresses are listed: "923 Broadway Ave. Bedford, OH 44146 440-232-1155" and "16381 Chillicothe Rd. Bainbridge Twp., OH 44023 440-708-1855". It also says "Follow us on Facebook! @STJOHNFUNERALHOME" and includes a circular seal for "108th Anniversary 1913-2021".

1–3 p.m.: Bring a comfy blanket to sit on and join us for a kid's movie on this wonderful winter afternoon. Pop-corn and hot cocoa will be provided.

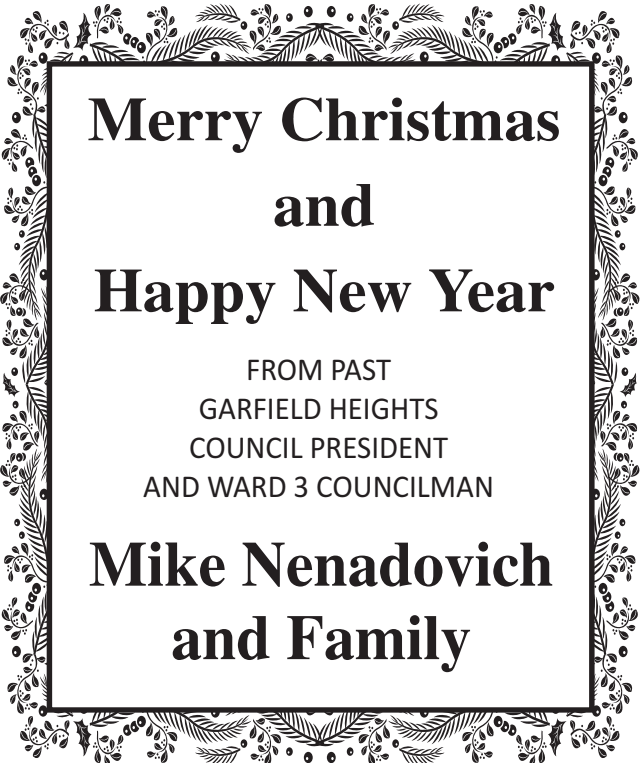
10 a.m.-3 p.m., CanalWay Center. Hike terrain: paved surface, 0.5 mile. Register by calling 216-206-1000.

Garfield Park Reservation

December 17: 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. Meet at Garfield Park Pond (outside of Program Center). Terrain: paved, gravel, hills, icy conditions possible, 1–2 miles.

Garfield Hts. accepting nominations for annual Holiday Lighting Contest

The city of Garfield Heights is accepting nominations for its annual Holiday Lighting Contest through Dec. 22. Send the address of your favorite display to Pat Salemi,

A festive announcement for Mike Nenadovich and Family. It features a decorative border with holly leaves and berries. The text reads: "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year". Below this, it says "FROM PAST GARFIELD HEIGHTS COUNCIL PRESIDENT AND WARD 3 COUNCILMAN". The name "Mike Nenadovich and Family" is prominently displayed in a large, bold font.

Garfield Heights Civic Center, 5407 Turney Rd., Garfield Heights, OH 44125, or email psalemi@garfieldhts.org. Nominations also are accepted at the Civic Center. For more information, call 216-475-1100, ext. 2425.

Steering committee chosen for Slavic Village initiative

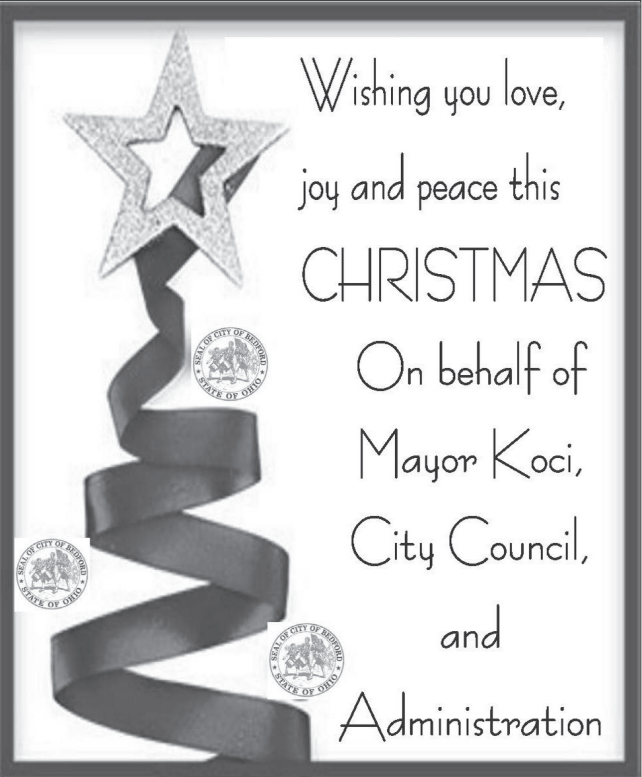
Participatory Budgeting Cleveland (PBCLE) late last week announced its selections for a steering committee that will help guide an unprecedented, citizen-driven planning process in Slavic Village for the next several months. Those chosen include a range of individuals from all walks of life and many parts of the neighborhood, picked from a list of nominees collected over the last few weeks. All but one are Slavic Village residents. The committee was scheduled to hold its first meeting earlier this week.

Participatory budgeting is an innovative method of policy making that's driven by the needs and interests of average residents. It's been tried in other parts of the nation and world but never before in Cleveland. Slavic Village won the pilot project in mid-July, in a competition among 15 Cleveland neighborhoods.

Committee members will be responsible for writing rules, conducting outreach, and managing the nomination of projects that will ultimately be selected through a popular vote. Funding totalling \$100,000 will come from a number of grants.

The 16 members include: Victor Benson, Benjamin Bevier, Anthony Brancatelli, Rionna Bryson, Tatianna Burks, Tamika Compton, Debbie Daniels, Michael Deighan, Janet DeSouza, Dorcus Johnson, Kathy McDonald, Velshanae Shaw, Glenn Sobola, TiAunna Tate. Two positions were reserved for youth, to be selected later. There will be many opportunities in early 2026 for all Slavic Village residents to join this first-ever budgeting process.

A holiday-themed advertisement for Latek & Rybicki Family Funeral Homes. It features a large, stylized star in the top right corner. The text reads: "Peace ON EARTH... and in YOUR HEARTS is our wish for you this Holiday Season". Below this, it says "From the family and staff of". The company name "LATEK & RYBICKI FAMILY FUNERAL HOMES" is prominently displayed. Two locations are listed: "Garfield Heights 4640 Turney Road Garfield Heights, Ohio 44125 216.641.6321" and "Broadview Heights 7906 Broadview Road Broadview Heights, Ohio 44147 440.546.5353". The website "latekfuneralhomes.com" is at the bottom.

A holiday-themed advertisement for Mayor Koci and the City Council. It features a large, stylized star in the top left corner. The text reads: "Wishing you love, joy and peace this CHRISTMAS". Below this, it says "On behalf of Mayor Koci, City Council, and Administration". The City of Garfield Heights seal is visible in the bottom left corner.

An advertisement for Slavic Village Automotive. It features a vintage car with a driver. The text reads: "Shift Into Holiday Gear! Everyone here is all revved up to wish you a high-powered holiday celebration, where everything runs smoothly!". The company name "SLAVIC VILLAGE AUTOMOTIVE" is prominently displayed. The address "7772 BROADWAY AVE." and phone number "Phone: 216-341-1143" are listed. A NAPA logo is also present.

An advertisement for Matrix III Income Tax Service LLC. It features two portraits of the owners, Steve Cook and Paul Cook. The text reads: "MATRIX III INCOME TAX SERVICE LLC 5258 TRANSPORTATION BLVD. GARFIELD HEIGHTS". Below this, it says "All the Best to You this Festive Season!". A list of services is provided: "PICK UP - DROP OFF", "EXPERT YEAR ROUND SERVICE", and "OBBBA - TAX BREAKS". The phone number "216-332-SAVE (7283)" is prominently displayed. An IRS e-file logo is also present.



SHRINE CHURCH OF ST. STANISLAUS, 3649 E. 65 St., Cleveland 44105

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass, Dec. 24, 5 p.m.; Bilingual choral sing-a-long at 11:30 p.m., followed by the traditional Pasterka or Shepherd's Mass, 12 midnight. Both Masses will feature the full St. Stanislaus musical accompaniment.

Christmas Day Masses, Dec. 25, 8:30 a.m. (English); 10 a.m. (Polish); 11:30 a.m. (English).

New Year's Day, Jan. 1, Feast of Mary, Mother of God. Masses at 8:30 a.m. (English); 10 a.m. (Polish); 11:30 a.m. (English).

SS. PETER and PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH, 4750 Turney Rd., Garfield Heights, 44125

ST. THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH, 5276 E. 105 St., Garfield Heights 44125

Wednesday, Dec. 24:

4 p.m. Christmas Vigil Family Mass at Ss. Peter and Paul Parish. **5:30 p.m.** Christmas Vigil Family Mass at St. Therese Parish. **9 p.m.** Christmas Eve Mass at St. Peter and Paul Parish; musical prelude 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 25:

8:30 a.m. Christmas Day Mass at Ss. Peter and Paul Parish. **10:30 a.m.** Christmas Day Mass at St. Therese Parish

Wednesday, Dec. 31:

4 p.m. Solemnity of Mary Vigil Mass at Ss. Peter and Paul Parish

Thursday, Jan. 1:

10:30 a.m. Solemnity of Mary Mass at St. Therese Parish

VALLEY VIEW VILLAGE CHURCH, 11401 Tinkers Creek Rd., Valley View 44125

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Wednesday, Dec. 24: 5 p.m. All are welcome.

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In Church and on Facebook Live
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.

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.

TEENS

Library Taskmaster: Chaos & Creativity Challenge. Registration required. Fun challenges based on the popular British game show. Use your reading, thinking & engineering skills by completing strange and silly challenges for points! Saturday, Jan. 10, 2 p.m.

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. Tuesday, Jan. 20, 6:30 p.m.

Snowflake Suncatchers. Registration required. Students in grades 5-8, join us to create beautiful reflective snowflakes with Perler beads. Wednesday, Jan. 28, 7 p.m.

CHILDREN

Baby & Toddler Storytime. No registration required. Birth – 35 months with caregiver. Join us for rhymes, songs, fingerplays and books. Mondays beginning Jan. 5, 11 a.m., and Wednesdays beginning Jan. 7, 10 a.m.

Preschool Storytime. No registration required. Ages 3 – 5. Join us for rhymes, songs, fingerplays and stories. Thursdays beginning Jan. 8, 10 a.m.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Garfield Heights Board of Education will hold its Organization Meeting on Monday January 5, 2026 at 6:00 pm. In addition, the District will also hold a public hearing on the proposed 2026-27 Tax Budget during this time. Draft copies of the 2026-27 Tax Budget along with the 2025 General Purpose Financial Statements are available upon request, pursuant to the requirements of the law.

Phillip J. Oko, Treasurer/CFO
Garfield Heights City Schools

N.N. 12-17-25

CITY OF BEDFORD, OHIO

List of Meetings for January 2026

Friday, January 2, 2026	Organizational Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, January 6, 2026	Planning Commission (if needed) Work Session - 5:30 p.m. Regular Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, January 7, 2026	Southeast Area Law Enforcement (SEALE) Board of Trustees Meeting (if needed) Work Session - 10:00 a.m. Regular Meeting - 12:00 p.m.
Tuesday, January 20, 2026	Council Work Session - TBD Regular Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, January 21, 2026	Planning Commission (if needed) Work Session - 5:30 p.m. Regular Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, January 27, 2026	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 the Clerk of Council at **440-735-6510**.

Tracy M. Simons, CMC
Clerk of Council

NN: 12-17-25

Focus on 4's and 5's. Registration required. Preschool children 4 and 5 years of age and their caregivers may join us for stories, songs and a focus on skills to prepare for kindergarten. Wednesdays, Jan. 14 – Feb. 18, 11:30 a.m.

Kindergarten Countdown – Nutrition. Registration required. Join us as we help your child build kindergarten readiness skills in a program aligned to Ohio's Early Childhood Standards. This session, we will focus on nutrition. Wednesday, Jan. 14, 11:30 a.m.; Thursday, Jan. 15, 10 a.m.

Animal Forms & Functions - Grades 2-4 - Cleveland Metroparks. Registration required. Presented by a naturalist from the Cleveland Metroparks. Discover how an animal's physical traits and behavior allow it to function in its environment. Saturday, Jan. 31, 2 p.m.

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LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

By order of the Council of the City of Maple Heights, sealed bids will be received by the Purchasing Agent, at Maple Heights City Hall, 5353 Lee Road, Maple Heights, Ohio 44137, until 12:00 Noon, local time, on the 8th day of January, 2026 for the **TABOR AVENUE WATERMAIN REPLACEMENT** in the City of Maple Heights, Ohio, NO FAXED COPIES ACCEPTED.

The bid documents, specifications and drawings may be examined without charge online at www.cvelimited.plancycle.com. To become a Registered Bidder, documents, specifications and drawings must be purchased at either www.cvelimited.plancycle.com, SE Blueprint at 2035 Hamilton Avenue Cleveland, OH 44114 or SE Blueprint at 520 South Main Street, Suite 2411 Akron, OH 44311 at the cost of \$100.00 + tax and delivery which includes bid registration, one hard copy set of the bid package and one complete set of pdf files. Additional sets of bid documents can also be ordered online at www.cvelimited.plancycle.com or by emailing seblue@seblueprint.com, calling 216-241-2250 or visiting an SE Blueprint location.

Each bidder is required to furnish with its proposal, a Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond in accordance with Section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. Bid security furnished in Bond form, shall be issued by a Surety Company or Corporation licensed in the State of Ohio to provide said surety. Each bid must be made upon the Proposal Form provided in the set of specifications and must be accompanied by a bank check or cashier's check drawn on a solvent bank in Cuyahoga County in an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the amount bid, or a bid bond in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the amount bid, as a guarantee that if said bid is accepted, a contract will be entered into and a Surety Bond satisfactory to said City in an amount equal to 100% of the total bid will be furnished. Checks shall be made payable to the City of Maple Heights, Ohio.

Each Proposal must contain the full name of the party or parties submitting the proposal and all persons interested therein. Each bidder must submit evidence of its experiences on projects of similar size and complexity. The owner intends and requires that this project be completed no later than October 1st, 2026.

Bids will be opened and read at the time and place stated above. Those who submitted Proposals or their representatives are invited to attend.

Bidders must comply with the prevailing wage rates on Public Improvements in Cuyahoga County and the City of Maple Heights, Ohio as determined by the Ohio Department of Commerce, Bureau of Wage and Hour Administration, 614.644.2239.

The right is reserved to accept any bidder, to reject any or all bids, and to waive informalities should it be deemed to be in the best interest of the City of Maple Heights to do so.

Bids are to be submitted in accordance with the plans and specifications on file in the office of the Purchasing Agent. Sealed bids must be marked, "TABOR AVENUE WATERMAIN REPLACEMENT".

PUBLISHED: The Neighborhood News December 17, 2025 December 31, 2025	Dennis Kennedy Finance Director Maple Heights, Ohio
--	---

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To All: Can you imagine what December brings! Family and friends together. It's gift time. The real gift, Joseph & Mary had a son who brought Peace and Love to all. They named him Jesus and his heavenly Father. Jesus made peace with God for all of us. Jesus has a special day for all, he named it Christmas. Jesus brings love and peace to all on earth. Merry Christmas to you Jesus on his birthday. Dan Stys

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TAX PREPARER NEEDED

UTA Cleveland Office

Previous experience preferred. Excellent computer and Microsoft Office skills are required, with attention to detail and data accuracy. Responsibilities include: Tax preparation, filing, communication with clients in person, via phone, email and by mail. Hours are flexible and pay rate negotiable.

Reply to: tax@uniquetaxaccounting.com

The City of Maple Heights is hiring!

Come join our team and serve our community.

Current vacancies include:

• Code Enforcement Officer - Building & Housing

• 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.

SALES PERSON NEEDED

WEEKLY PAY!

CALL FOR APPOINTMENT, 216-785-4683

APPLY WITHIN, 10012 MEECH AVE.

CLEVELAND, OH 44105

THE NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS ADVERTISING POLICY

PLACING A DISPLAY ADVERTISEMENT:

Call The Neighborhood News at (216) 441-2141 to place your ad. Our office is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Ad information can also be E-mailed to: nnews1923@aol.com.

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

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

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING:

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

PUBLISHER'S DISCRETION:

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

PAYMENT IN ADVANCE:

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

CANCELLATIONS:

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.

ERRORS/ADJUSTMENTS:

Advertisers should check the first insertion of their ad. The Neighborhood News cannot be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion. Upon noting an error, the advertiser should call the Advertising Department at (216) 441-2141. Adjustments are made to the degree the error reduced the value of the ad. Publisher shall not be liable for any costs or damages if for any reason it fails to publish an advertisement.

PHONE: 216-441-2141 • E-MAIL ADDRESS: NNEWS1923@AOL.COM

• FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK •

WEBSITE: THE NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS.COM

OverDrive presents annual Christmas donation to Garfield Heights Food Pantry

The Garfield Heights Food Pantry received another very generous donation of \$10,000 from OverDrive, which is headquartered in Garfield Heights, and offers the largest digital content catalog in the world to more than 92,000 libraries and schools in 115 countries.



Shown in the photo from left to right is Mande Strefas from OverDrive, who presented the check, and Laketia Gaston and Jennifer Sopkovich of the Garfield Heights Senior Center.

Merry Christmas

CZECH CATHOLIC UNION / CCU LIFE
Fraternal Life Insurance Since 1879
Life Insurance & Annuity/IRA's
5349 Dolloff Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44127
(216) 341-0444 ♦ www.czechccu.org

*Wishing
You and Yours
a very Merry
and Blessed
Christmas!*

*Cuyahoga Heights
Mayor
Jack M. Bacci
and Family*

Donate Blood

 **American Red Cross**

Help Save A Life.

Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year
to all our Best Friends!!



Zhara Marie **Brewtus Brew**

**SHANNON LANDSCAPING
AND SNOWPLOWING**

Mike, Gary, Kevin,
Kevin and Staff

216-441-6167
Kevinlandscaping@aol.com

MERRY Christmas

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Mayor Gregory P. Kurtz
Finance Director Vern Blaze
City Council





In this most holy Christmas season, we are blessed to continue our mission of serving aging adults with the joy and compassion of Jesus' example.

On behalf of everyone at Jennings, we wish you a festive Christmas season full of happiness, love and cherished memories.

Discover why Jennings is a great place to live and a great place to work!

Follow us in social media: JenningsOhio    

 **(216) 581-2900**
jenningsohio.org

Brecksville | Chardon | Maple Heights | Garfield Heights | Shaker Heights