

The Neighborhood News

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102nd YEAR NO. 14

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2025

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

FREE

South East Cleveland Kiwanis donates to Tots programs at Sokol Greater Cleveland **GPD Group says Bedford City Schools projects going full speed ahead during presentation at Bedford Council meeting**

Kiwanis Club of South East Cleveland President Tony Brancatelli recently presented a check from Kiwanis to Sokol Greater Cleveland in support of its Tots programming. Shown in the photo are, from left: Sokol Board of Instructors directors Jane and Howie Wise; Brancatelli; and Sokol Board President Paul Burik.

Sokol Greater Cleveland is a membership driven organization, so to enroll children in Sokol gymnastic classes, located at Bohemian National Hall, 4939 Broadway Ave., Cleveland, at least one parent or guardian is required to become an Associate Member of Sokol Greater Cleveland.

Gymnastic classes are for little tots starting at age 3 years old, young boys and girls, as well as teenagers and adults. There is something for every skill level and fitness level, all the way to 65+ years.

Fitness is a great area of interest and focus in the Sokol traditions. They are proud to be able to offer a wide variety of skill building and challenging programs for members and their families.

To join the Sokol organization or to register for classes, contact directors Howie and Jane Wise: gymnastics@sokolgreatercleveland.org



By Ellen Psenicka

Bedford Council met for its last meeting of 2025 on Monday, Dec. 15, and heard a presentation by Russell Gayheart of the GPD Group who provided an update on all the construction going on in the Bedford City School District.

A committee of residents, staffers, parents and community and business leaders studied the district's needs for seven months, according to the district's website, and ultimately recommended:

1. A new high school with expanded career tech offerings on the current high school site.
2. A new 6-8 school on the Chanel site.
3. A new PK-2 school on the Heskett site, and reprogramming the existing Heskett building to serve grades 3-5.
4. A new 3-5 school on the Columbus site is recommended in the future.
5. Demolish existing Carylwood Intermediate.
6. Demolish existing Central Primary.
7. Demolish Glendale Primary.

Gayheart noted that all construction is on schedule and on budget. He said the PK-2 building is 35% completed, and along with the grades 6-8 school on the Chanel site, will be open to students in August 2027. He said demolition and construction of the high school will begin in February 2026, with a completion date in 2029.

Legislation passed

The following legislation was passed by Bedford Council at its last meeting:

- Adopted a cybersecurity program in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code for the city of Bedford.
- Amended purchasing policy guidelines to conform with the Ohio Revised Code and to clarify procedures.
- Amended an ordinance adopting the city's credit card policy to continue to ensure compliance with state mandated policy. The finance director has recommended that council adopt said policy for those who use credit cards to comply with the policy for proper public purpose expenditures and recordkeeping as mandated by the Ohio Revised Code.
- Amended an ordinance passed Dec. 16, 2024, providing compensation for the clerk of courts. Council raised the compensation for the Bedford Clerk of Courts, effective with the pay period beginning Jan. 1, 2026, from \$130,923.80 to \$137,469.65, with 60% to be paid by the City of Bedford and 40% to be paid by the County of Cuyahoga in equal bi-weekly payments.
- Made additional appropriations for current expenditures of the city in fiscal year 2025.

(Continued on Page 2)

NNews closed on New Year's Day

The Neighborhood News will be closed New Year's Day, Thursday, Jan. 1, for the holiday and will reopen Friday, Jan. 2, at 9 a.m. Normal deadlines for the Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2026 issue will apply. The NN staff and management extends wishes for a wonderful year ahead to one and all.

GHUMC Community Meal on Jan. 4th

The Garfield Heights United Methodist Church, 4977 Turney Rd., will host its monthly Community Meal on Sunday, Jan. 4, from 12 to 2 p.m.; please note the new time. The meal is free and all are welcome.



GPD Group says Bedford Schools projects going full speed ahead during presentation at Bedford Council

(Continued from Page 1)

- Authorized the city manager to enter into purchase agreements with Profant, Inc., dba Business Network Team, for the purchase of door controls at Ellenwood Center in an amount not to exceed \$29,880.50. The door controls are necessary to allow east entrance, west entrance, second floor door on east end, office door, back gym door, and outside bathroom doors to be access-controlled, including the use of key fobs, cards, and/or timed/scheduled.
- Authorized a contract with Right Stuff Software Corp.

for support services for the police department including software for scheduling and related matters.

- Amended an ordinance adopting the City of Bedford Employee Handbook. Changes include an updated travel and expense reimbursement policy.
- Authorized the city manager to execute a contract with United Survey, Inc. for the sewer lining repair work on Center Rd. and McKinley St. United will replace approximately 540 feet of sanitary pipe on Center Rd., and approximately 370 feet of sanitary pipe on McKinley St., at a cost of \$37,800.00.
- Authorized the city manager to enter into a contract with Barnes Roofing, Inc. for the replacement of the roof at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, given that the roof has not been replaced in many years and is failing at the facility. Cost of the project will be \$17,500.00.
- Authorized the city manager to enter into a contract with WF Hann & Sons for the replacement of the HVAC system on the Laboratory Building at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, given that the HVAC system has not been replaced in many years and is failing at the facility. Cost of the project will be \$30,450.00.

Next meeting

The next meeting of Bedford Council will be held Friday, Jan. 2, at 7 p.m. This organizational meeting will be held for the purpose of swearing in the newly elected and re-elected members of Bedford City Council.

PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing will be held on **Monday, January 12, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.**, before the **Maple Heights Planning and Zoning Commission** in the Maple Heights City Hall Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 5353 Lee Road, Maple Heights, Ohio, to consider the following application:

2025-PZ-18 An application from Gregory Soltis RDL Architects requesting Approval of a Conditional Use Permit under Sect. 1278.04(O) of the MH Codified Ordinances to build a three story Multi-Family Dwelling with 27 units on properties located in a Neighborhood Commercial (NC) Zoning District at 14843 Granger Rd-PPN 784-30-021; 14875 Granger Rd.-PPN784-30-022; and 14901 Granger Rd.-PPN784-30-023, Maple Heights, Ohio, 44137, and requesting approval of the following variances:

1. A variance from the requirements of MH Cod. Ord. Sec. 1278.08 which restricts the impervious surface coverage of the lot to no more than 70 percent impervious area, 80 percent coverage is proposed; and
2. A variance from the requirements of MH Cod. Ord. Sec. 1290.05(A)(1) which requires aisle width to be 20 feet, 12 feet is proposed; and
3. A variance from the requirements of MH Cod. Ord. Sec. 1290.05(A)(10)(e)(1) which requires 10 feet parking set-back from residential districts, 3 feet is proposed; and
4. A variance from the requirements of MH Cod. Ord. Sec. 1290.06(B) which requires 2 off-street parking spaces per unit for a total of 54 spaces, 19 are proposed; and
5. A variance from the requirements of MH Cod. Ord. Sec. 1290.06(B) which requires one enclosed off-street parking space per unit for a total of 27 enclosed spaces, zero are proposed.

2025-PZ-19 An application from Shanti Days LLC requesting Approval of a Conditional Use Permit under Sect. 1278.04(H) of the MH Codified Ordinances to operate an Adult Day Center in a Neighborhood Commercial (NC) Zoning District at 5467 Warrensville Center Road, Maple Heights, Ohio, 44137.

2025-PZ-20 An application from Tammy Watters requesting Approval of a Conditional Use Permit under Section 1278(W) of the MH Codified Ordinances to open a Party Supply Store with no change to the interior in a Neighborhood Commercial (NC) Zoning District at 5234 Northfield Road, Maple Heights, Ohio 44137.

All Applicant(s) and/or their representatives are required to attend this meeting. Members of the public are invited to attend, but will only be allowed to speak during the Public Hearing portion of the meeting.

The application(s) and all supporting materials are available for review during normal business hours in the Maple Heights Building Department, 5353 Lee Road, Maple Heights, Ohio.

Sonia Beaman
Clerk of Council/PZC Secretary
City of Maple Heights

The Neighborhood News
December 31, 2025

Death Notices



FR. ROBERT A. BURGE

Father Robert A. Burge, age 79. Priest of the Diocese of Cleveland. Son of Albert and Marcella Burge; dear brother of Barbara Baca (John, deceased), and Mary Jane Wheeler (Donald); uncle of John Baca, Gary Baca, Nancy Baca, and Rebecca Globokar (Johnny); and several great-nieces and nephews.

Ordained in 1971. Served at St. Ambrose, Brunswick; St. Mel, Cleveland; Sacred Heart, Lorain; St. Adalbert, Berea; Our Lady Help of Christians; Litchfield; St. Anthony of Padua, Parma; and St. Peter the Apostle, Brook Park. Retired 2003. He spent his retirement at Light of Hearts Villa and Jennings Center.

He will be dearly missed by his family and countless dear friends. He never met a stranger. His warmth and kindness touched the lives of so many, inspiring hope and bringing people back to their faith. His presence made a difference in the world, and his memory will forever live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

Family and friends are welcome on Tuesday, Jan. 6, from 4 to 7 p.m., at St. John Funeral Home, 923 Broadway Ave., Bedford 44146, and on Wednesday, Jan. 7, from 9 to 10 a.m., at Jennings, 10204 Granger Rd., Garfield Heights, 44125, where Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10 a.m. Burial to follow at Calvary Cemetery, Cleveland.

Contributions can be made in Father Burge's name to: Jennings, 10204 Granger Rd., Garfield Heights OH 44125 - <https://www.jenningsohio.org/>.

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Connecting for Kids offers free January 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, Jan. 24, 10 a.m., at the Maple Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library, 5224 Library Ln., Maple Heights.

Winter Blues: Caregiver Support Group (virtual)

Are you the caregiver of a child with ADHD, anxiety, autism or other concerns who is looking to connect with others? Share & Support is a peer support group where caregivers can meet families on a similar journey. Join CFK staff for virtual, monthly themed sessions where we'll share our "roses" (joys), "thorns" (struggles) and "buds" (hopes) to foster connection and support. Monday, Jan. 26, 7 p.m.

About Connecting for Kids

Connecting for Kids is a group in Northeast Ohio that helps parents. We support families who are worried about their child—whether it's autism, ADHD, anxiety, school or just a hard time in life. We offer free programs, help finding resources and a caring community where parents feel welcome.

City of Bedford Heights



PHILLIP STEVENS
Mayor/Safety Director



Happy New Year!

5661 Perkins Road
Bedford Heights, Ohio 44146
mayorstevens@bedfordheights.gov
Phone: 440-786-3211
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The Neighborhood News

Since 1923 - Published every Wednesday

Delivered in Southeast Cleveland, Garfield Heights, Newburgh Heights,
Cuyahoga Heights, Independence, Valley View, Maple Heights and Bedford

Legal Aid may be able to help with estate planning and administration

By Tonya Sams

We all hope to live long, healthy lives, but it is also important to plan ahead to protect our assets. This means ensuring that loved ones will reap the benefits of our hard work and efforts in this life. This can be made possible through estate planning.

The first thing that people should be aware of is that there is a difference between estate planning and administration.

"Estate planning means putting plans in place so that when someone dies, things go the way they want them to go. Their belongings will go to the people that they want to have them, and they're able to put somebody in charge of who's going to handle the estate," said Helen Rapp, staff attorney in the Economic Justice Group at The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland.

Estate administration happens as the result of somebody dying with probate assets. This is when the family of the deceased wants those assets distributed, so they open a case in probate court.

"If you do really good estate planning, probate court and estate administration can often be avoided," said Rapp. "Probate court is a time-consuming process. There are fees associated with it, and because it's filed in court, everything becomes public record."

When starting an estate plan, the person should establish a last will and testament. The last will and testament declares who the executor will be. The executor is the person who will oversee the estate after the person dies. The executor has a number of duties including paying for the funeral, paying debts and distributing the assets of the estate in the way that the deceased person requested in their will.

The estate plan also names the beneficiaries, or those who will eventually receive the person's assets.

"Any asset you have that has a beneficiary on it is not a probate asset - it will not be required to go through probate

court," Rapp said. "An example of this is life insurance and retirement accounts. These accounts are transferred to the beneficiary upon death. You can name a beneficiary on just about everything. If it involves your home, you can do a Transfer on Death Designation Affidavit (TODDA), which allows you to name a beneficiary on real estate."

In addition to making sure your wishes are followed, an estate plan should include Power of Attorney (POA) documents that let you appoint agents to act on your behalf while you are living. These agents can make decisions for you anytime you cannot make them for yourself. This includes a financial POA and a healthcare POA. An estate plan should also include a living will which documents your thoughts about end-of-life matters.

For Legal Aid's estate planning brochure, go to: lasclev.org/EstatePlanning.

Need help with estate planning? Legal Aid may be able to help! To apply for free legal services, call 888-817-3777 or apply online: lasclev.org/apply.

2026

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New Year's GREETINGS

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much happiness and success in this
exciting new year.*

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Sagamore Hills

Community police reports

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

Garfield Heights

Trouble W/Customer

On Dec. 13, officers were dispatched to the Shell gas station at 5095 Turney Rd., for a male causing a disturbance. When officers arrived to the store they observed one man holding an open beer bottle and another man at the register who appeared to be paying for something. The store clerk informed police that both males were together and he wanted both men put out for trespassing and possible charges related to the damaged sunglasses display. Officers were informed that the man had already come with the beer bottle to the store. When officers approached the male at the register they told him to leave, to which he complied, but when the man with the beer bottle was told he was being arrested he began yelling in the store that he didn't do anything. When he was detained he was also pushing back against officers as they were patting him down. He continued to yell he didn't do anything and would not answer any questions. He appeared to be intoxicated due to his slurred speech and his open bottle of beer. The store clerk informed officers that the other unknown male that was with the individual damaged the sunglasses display, but they were unable to locate him after he walked around the back of the store. While officers tried to get the other individual into the police cruiser, he did not cooperate and wedged himself on the floorboard area of the police car. The man was transported to Garfield Heights Jail for booking and housing, where he became dead weight and officers had

to carry him into the detox cell. He is being charged with disorderly conduct, open container and resisting arrest.

Drug Activity

On Dec. 12, at around 7:18 a.m., officers were advised that the Ohio State Patrol was involved in a pursuit of a wanted vehicle with Pennsylvania plates. They were further advised that the vehicle was fleeing eastbound on I-480. Officers attempted to locate the vehicle, but were unsuccessful. At around 6:12 p.m., near the intersection of Turney Rd. and Oakview Blvd., officers observed a grey Chevy Trailblazer traveling northbound on Turney Rd. Earlier in the day, a "Be On the Look Out" was issued for that vehicle. Officers began pursuit and followed it into the parking lot of the Marathon gas station, 5571 Turney Rd. A traffic stop was initiated and when the suspect exited the vehicle he was looking toward officers while reaching in his pocket.

Officers approached him and ordered him to stop and he was detained and put in handcuffs. He was asked if he had any weapons on him or in the vehicle, to which he answered "No." During the suspect's patdown officers located two clear plastic bags containing a brown powdery substance in his pocket. The bags were sealed and packaged in a manner consistent with distribution. These items were suspected to be fentanyl, so officers advised dispatch that they would have charges placed on the suspect and requested a tow of the vehicle. During an inventory of the vehicle, officers located a small pocket scale with the same brown powder residue on it. On the center console of the vehicle, there were trace amounts of the brown substance. The vehicle was then towed, and Ohio State Patrol confirmed the vehicle was the one they pursued earlier that day. The suspect was transported to the Garfield Heights Police Department to be processed and booked. He was asked what the substance was, and he replied with, "You know what it is and so do I." The bags of brown powder and scale were taken into evidence and will be sent to the lab for testing. The suspect is being charged with tracking in drugs.

Animal Complaint

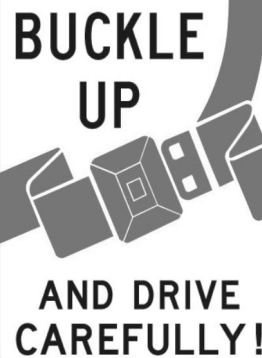
On Dec. 15, at approximately 6:22 a.m., officers were dispatched to a home in the 5100 block of E. 117 St., for a report of two dogs running loose and a gunshot fired. When officers arrived on scene they immediately spotted two large dogs. One appeared to be a tan mastiff and the other was a large brown/black St. Bernard mix. When officers made contact with the complainant, she stated that she called about the loose dogs and that someone across the street discharged her pistol in an attempt to scare the dogs away. When officers made contact with the resident she stated that she was in her backyard when the two dogs approached her, so she discharged one round from her pistol so they would leave her alone. She was issued a summons for discharging a firearm within city limits, and the Garfield Heights animal warden was contacted in an attempt to secure the loose dogs.

Disorderly Conduct

On Dec. 17, at about 11:40 p.m., police arrived at Kurt's Getaway, 8909 Garfield Blvd., for a fight inside the bar. When officers arrived two females were being removed from the bar after having an altercation with staff. Staff did not wish to press charges for the assault but wanted the females removed and banned from returning. One of the females smelled strongly of alcohol and was told by police she would have to get a ride home as she was in no condition to drive. While waiting on confirmation of active warrants on the other female involved in the altercation, the female who was intoxicated yelled obscene language about the bar owner and staff and was advised several times to stop. She tried to walk away from officers outside the bar and staff. She was separated from the entrance to the bar and advised to stop. She attempted to return to the front of the bar and an officer grabbed her wrist to keep her from leaving. She again started to scream obscene language and tried to pull away from the officer's grasp. She was placed under arrest for disorderly conduct and taken to city jail. She was booked and given a bond of \$1500 and told she was banned from Kurt's Getaway and if she returned she would be charged with criminal trespassing. Paperwork forwarded to city prosecutor for review.

Call Crime Stoppers with anonymous tips

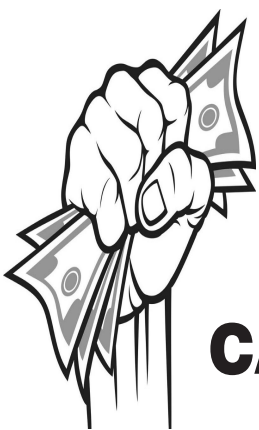
The 24/7 hotline number, 216-252-7463, allows the caller to remain anonymous. The phone does not have a caller ID function and calls are not recorded.



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Mayor Bibb honors VAPAC at Polish American Center

Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb recently presented a proclamation at the Polish American Cultural Center on Lansing Ave., in recognition of the 20th anniversary of the Vacant and Abandoned Property Action Council (VAPAC).

"VAPAC has been a driving force in helping address vacant and abandoned property issues and help set policy in lending and rental practices in Cleveland," said VAPAC member Tony Brancatelli. "I have been a member of VAPAC since its inception 20 years ago and am proud of its accomplishments."

Brancatelli said VAPAC helped navigate through the foreclosure crisis and created positive changes in the local real estate market, stabilizing home ownership and helping preserve affordable housing.

Mayor Bibb's proclamation reads in part: "VAPAC has served as a platform to break down silos between city,

county, nonprofit, university and legal entities. It has helped guide or advocate changes in how vacant properties are treated: more equitable outcomes, accounting for racial justice, making sure that interventions (demolitions, recommercialization, rehabs), don't disproportionately harm certain neighborhoods."



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 Res.

January 5: CanalWay Kids. Young children, accompanied by an adult, are invited to join us for this 6-week preschool nature class, held each Monday (1/5, 1/12, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9, 2/16). Each week we'll spend time indoors learning about seasonal nature topics and then head outdoors to explore. 10 - 11:30 a.m. or 1 - 2:30 p.m. CanalWay Center. Ages: 3 - 5 years w/adult. Fee: \$30 per child for 6-week session. Register online.

January 10: 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. 1-3 p.m. CanalWay Center. Terrain: paved, hills, icy conditions possible, 3 miles.

Garfield Park Reservation

January 3: Chair Yoga at Garfield Park. Chair yoga adapts traditional yoga poses to be done while seated or standing with a chair for support, making it accessible for everyone. Join instructor Sandra Bishop in this free class as she guides you through breathing and stretching exercises. 10-11 a.m. Garfield Park Program Center. Registration is recommended; walk-ins are welcome.



Shown in the photo above is Mayor Justin Bibb (center) presenting a resolution to Frank Ford, senior policy advisor for the Fair Housing Centers, and City of Cleveland Building and Housing Director Sally Martin-O'Toole, in recognition of the 20th anniversary of the Vacant and Abandoned Property Action Council.

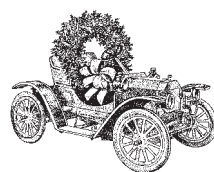


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Councilman Ward 4

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Pastor Anthony Ruth

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Garfield Heights 216-662-8685
Pastor: Rev. John J. Mullee
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Sunday Mass: 9:00 am and 10:45 am
All Mass times are Live streamed.

2026

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From The Elkins Family

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GUTTERS

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All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All person are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an Equal Opportunity basis.

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FOR SALE



Fabric barrel shade
Chrome finish
Tear drop and beaded accents
23.0 in D x 30.5 in H
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Uses max 4 x 60 W
candelabra base type B bulbs
(Not included)

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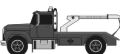
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AUCTION

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Ends: Monday, January 5, 2026, 6:00 PM
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or sslagle@kikocompany.com

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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.
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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.
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GHPD officer graduates from FBI National Academy

Congratulations to the Garfield Heights Police Department's Lt. Matthew Berdysz for graduating from the FBI National Academy, class #296, on Thursday, Dec. 11, 2025, as posted on the GHPD Facebook page.

The National Academy is a 10-week Police Leadership program, held in Quantico, VA, and is considered to be the most prestigious law enforcement training program in the country. Less than 1% of law enforcement officers will get to attend the National Academy during their careers.



Lt. Matthew Berdysz



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. Monday-Friday, 3-4 p.m.

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US OUT!

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Kids ages 18 and under can get a FREE lunch provided by the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, while supplies last.

Student Success Center - K-8th grade, Monday - Thursday (school days), 4-6:30 p.m. 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. **MUST REGISTER.**

Snowy Day Storywalk - Monday, January, All Day. Feeling stir-crazy with the weather? Stop by the Bedford Branch and walk through the life-sized version of the beloved and timeless story "A Snowy Day" by Ezra Jack Keats.

Whispers from the Past - Adults - Monday, Jan. 5, 6:30 p.m. Join us for "Whispers from the Past," an intriguing journey into the hidden language of Victorian grave symbolism. We'll explore the fascinating meanings behind the monuments and markers at Riverside Cemetery, uncovering the stories and lives of the individuals interred there through the symbols they left behind. Jamie and Maria have been researching and guiding tours for Riverside Cemetery together since 2021. Jamie is an employee of the cemetery and Maria is the volunteer docent; both sharing the love of history and cemeteries.

Family Storytime - All ages with caregiver. Tuesdays, Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Join us for stories, songs and fingerplays.

**Wishing Everyone a very
Happy & Blessed New Year**

Fortuna Funeral Home

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www.fortunafuneralhome.com

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CLEVELAND
216-641-0046

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216-520-7335

Preschool Club - Ages 3 & 4 (not attending formal preschool). Wednesday, Jan. 7, 10:30 a.m. All activities align with Ohio's Early Childhood content standards and aim to enrich all areas of child development and kindergarten readiness. The program's goal is to support families in being a joyful learning environment for little ones while providing social interaction for participants. Please note: Participants in this program may be recorded and/or surveyed to capture program's effectiveness. **MUST REGISTER.**

Time Travelers - Travel Through Time with the Magic Tree House. For Grades 2-5, Wednesday, Jan. 7, 7 p.m. Join us as we explore Mary Pope Osborne's classic "Magic Tree House" series.

Cyber-Smart - Protecting Yourself Online in an Age of Digital Threats. Thursday, Jan. 8, 7 p.m. In this one-hour workshop, you'll learn practical ways to protect your personal information, devices, and home network from common digital threats. We'll cover passwords, phishing, social media privacy, smart devices, and more — all in plain language, no tech background required.

Brian Krupp is an assistant professor in the Computer Science Department at Case Western Reserve University. Michael Prather is a local software engineer working in the cybersecurity industry. **MUST REGISTER.**

Best Wishes for a Happy, Healthy ...

2026

*Cuyahoga
Heights
Mayor
Jack M. Bacci
and Family*



Happy New Year!
2026
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