

The Neighborhood News

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102nd YEAR NO. 31

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2026

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

FREE



This Tuesday, May 5th, is 2026 Primary Election Day in Ohio

Mayor Burke calls meeting to address safety issues at now-closed Debelak Park

By Ellen Psenicka

Voters in Ohio will go to the polls this Tuesday, May 5, for the state's 2026 Primary Election, where candidates will be selected to go on to the General Election on Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026 throughout the Buckeye State.

Locally, primary races in Cuyahoga County will include those for governor and lieutenant governor, attorney general, auditor of state, secretary of state, treasurer of state, U.S. senator, various state representatives, judges, Cuyahoga County executive, county council members and various state and county Central Committee members.

In The Neighborhood News readership area, of particular interest is the race for auditor of state, with Maple Heights Mayor Annette Blackwell running on the Democratic ticket for the post, against Republican Frank LaRose and Libertarian candidate Aidan Michael Jeffery.

On her Official Campaign Website when Mayor Blackwell first threw her hat into the ring, she stated, "I'm proud to announce my candidacy for auditor to make Ohio a safe and affordable place to live for working families across the state. For too long our state government has been plagued with corruption that's worked out well for special interests while leaving the rest of our state struggling with rising costs and communities like mine deprived of critical resources.

"As auditor I plan to tackle this corruption and safeguard our tax dollars by holding bad actors accountable, but I also want to partner with communities across the state so they can provide a safe and affordable place to live for working families in every corner of Ohio."

Independence levy on ballot

Voters in Independence will see a school funding issue on the May 5, 2026 Primary Election ballot that asks the community to approve a combined issue of two funding measures to support the construction of a new Pre-K-8 building.

If approved, the measure would allow Independence Local Schools to do two things:

1. Assess a 1% school district income tax on earned income.

(Continued on Page 4)

County program returns to help residents settle, protect estates; session scheduled in Maple Heights

The Cuyahoga County Fiscal Office is bringing back the popular Great Estates Program outreach events to help residents avoid unnecessary costs and delays when settling an estate. The program provides guidance and documents for real estate, bank accounts, motor vehicles and other personal property – helping to ensure that assets are passed directly to the intended beneficiary. Information on the importance of trusts in estate planning will also be discussed.

Locally, a Great Estate outreach event will be held on Wednesday, May 13, at Maple Heights High School, 1 Mustang Way, Maple Heights, from 6 to 8 p.m.

"We know that planning and settling an estate can feel overwhelming, which is why we are committed to continuing to be a resource for residents," said Michael Chambers, Cuyahoga County's fiscal officer. "The Great Estates Program plays an important role in connecting families with the tools and information they need to navigate and manage the estate planning process with confidence."

The Maple Heights High School session has scheduled the county's fiscal team to join Probate Court representatives for a presentation and provide residents with a Great Estates Program Kit. The kit contains documents needed for real estate and motor vehicle title transfer. Representatives will also answer questions about how to fill out and file the appropriate estate paperwork and be available to process real estate affidavits on-site.

Garfield Heights Mayor Matt Burke, at Monday night's city council meeting, announced a council Work Session he has called, open to the public, this Monday, May 4, at 6 p.m., at the Garfield Heights Civic Center, 5407 Turney Rd., to address an incident last month at Debelak Park, 12200 Granger Rd., forcing the city to close it temporarily.

Burke said that on March 10, 2026, several youth began chasing each other in cars around the parking lot at the park, with some hanging out the windows and trunks of the vehicles. Another vehicle occupied by persons "known to police as dangerous individuals from the Cleveland area who had previously been involved in shootings around the Cleveland area, were also involved in that situation" at Debelak Park, the mayor continued.

He said Garfield Heights police responded within a minute of being called to the park and they followed the suspect vehicle out of Garfield Heights.

Burke said gun violence is rampant in our country and he wants to have a conversation with the community, council, safety officials and nonprofit groups to become involved and find a solution to getting Debelak Park open again.

The community park features a skate park, playground, tennis courts and a gazebo. It has recently undergone upgrades to include new basketball and pickleball courts.

The mayor said the safety of those living and working in Garfield Heights is his top priority. He said he hopes the May 4th meeting will be well attended by concerned residents who will work with law enforcement, city leaders and civic groups to make safety a reality once again at Debelak Park.

Legislation passed

The following legislation was passed by council at its Monday meeting:

- Amending a section of the codified ordinances to establish hours of operation for vehicle repair and servicing establishments.

- Providing for the issuance and sale of notes, not to exceed \$450,000, in anticipation of the issuance of bonds for the purpose of acquiring an ambulance and appurtenant equipment for the fire department.

- Providing for the issuance and sale of notes, not to exceed \$1,150,000, in anticipation of the issuance of bonds to pay costs of improving streets and roads in the city by resurfacing, grading, draining, curbing, paving and improving, reconstructing and constructing catch basins and other improvements designated in the plans approved by council.

(Continued on Page 4)

County Compassion Symposium tomorrow in Independence in support of Child Abuse Prevention Month

The Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services, in partnership with CarePortal and Safe Families for Children, will host the Compassion Symposium, a public event designed to educate, connect and activate local partners committed to supporting children and families, on Thursday, April 30, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at Rockside Church, 4100 Rockside Rd., Independence. The event is free and open to the public. Registration and a light breakfast will take place from 9 to 9:30 a.m.

Serving as the culminating event for 2026 Child Abuse Prevention Month, the symposium reinforces this year's theme — Child Abuse is Preventable. The conference will feature speakers and personal testimonies as well as networking opportunities that bring together organizations and partner agencies committed to advocating for children. The symposium emphasizes a call to action to engage, serve and strengthen families in our communities.

Additional support can be found at: <https://hhs.cuyahogacounty.gov/resources/family-support-resources>

Popup Plant Sale set for this Sunday on Fleet Avenue

A nonprofit business called Fleet Garden Center will test Slavic Village's retail waters this Sunday, May 3, from noon till 3 p.m., with a popup plant sale timed to coincide with the spring planting season and Mother's Day.

The sale will offer fresh flower and vegetable seedlings at competitive prices that were grown especially for the neighborhood at a number of Cleveland greenhouse locations.

Fleet Garden Center is the brainchild of lifelong Slavic Village resident Debbie Daniels, leader of the Village Gardeners, a group of local volunteers who care for the public gardens along Fleet Ave., and other locations in the neighborhood.

Daniels, a certified master gardener and member of numerous northeast Ohio garden organizations, identified a need for a local plant store after tiring of traveling great distances to acquire supplies for her own garden. She wanted a location that was central to the neighborhood and was easy to find. Slavic Village Development's business development department assisted her in her site search, offering her a number of parcels under their

control for her to chose from. SVD also gave Daniels help with writing her business plan and directing her to funding sources.

"Everybody in their office encouraged me 100%," she said. Daniels will also be working with Ward 2 Councilwoman Deborah Gray to navigate Cleveland's economic development services.

Fleet Garden Center is located at 5015 Fleet Ave., just east of St. John Nepomucene Church, chosen for its proximity to I-77. An empty lot now, it will eventually contain a large greenhouse, learning house, arbors and a large yard for the business's inventory of plants, shrubs and trees. Daniels envisions the center to become not just a store but also an education center for horticultural activities.

Daniels says the Garden Center will start small and expand gradually, as the sales permit. But she is sure that Slavic Villagers in particular but also residents across town are nature lovers at heart, despite living in a big city, and will be delighted to have a local center that supports their passion for a growing Cleveland.



Shown above is Debbie Daniels, second from right, along with members of her Village Gardeners group. She will open a nonprofit store, Fleet Garden Center, with a popup plant sale this Sunday.

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Music Therapy & More

Connecting for Kids will sponsor 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

The program will be held on Saturday, May 30, at 10 a.m., at the Maple Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, 5225 Library Ln., Maple Heights. Registration required. Register online: www.connectingforkids.org/register, via email: info@connectingforkids.org or Call/Text: 440-570-5908.

Day of Prayer observance

Garfield Heights and Maple Heights will honor along with our nation the 75th Annual National Day of Prayer observance on Thursday, May 7, at Ss. Peter and Paul Parish, 4750 Turney Rd., Garfield Heights, Ohio 44125, from 6-8 p.m. Wheelchair accessible entrance is on the Garfield Blvd. side entry.

"This Christian expression of prayer welcomes all residents, families and friends to join us in worship, repentance and prayer as we honor our Savior and Lord, Jesus the Christ," said Rev. Vontayne Smith. "May we come humble and united with one heart and voice to seek the Lord on behalf of our cities, state and nation."



2026 HOME REPAIR PROGRAM

EXTERIOR MAINTENANCE GRANT

Application Submission Period: May 11 thru June 24, 2026

Grant Limit: \$2,500



Program Guidelines (include but not limited to the following)

- Applications can be picked up and submitted in the City's Economic Development Dept. Monday – Wednesday from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM ONLY.
- Property taxes must be current at time of application.
- Property MUST be the owner's primary residence for at least one year at time of application.
- Grant funds can not be used to address open/current Point-of-Sale violations.
- Applicant MUST have a current homeowner's insurance policy for the property.
- Grant funds cannot be used for repair projects where work has already started.
- Applicant must obtain two (2) comparable project estimates for repair projects.
- **A homeowner's contribution of 5% of the total project cost is required, plus all remaining project costs after the grant funding has been paid.**
- Eligible Projects include, but are not limited to: Gutters, Windows, Siding, Painting, Doors, Roofs, Stairs and Driveways.
- Recipients of any other City-based grant program funds are ineligible to apply for 3-years.

Website:
www.garfieldhts.org

Economic Development
216-475-5484



Household gross income must be at or below the federally established income limits:

1: \$55,650	5: \$85,900
2: \$63,600	6: \$92,250
3: \$71,550	7: \$98,600
4: \$79,500	8: \$104,950

G.H. Mayor gives 'State of City' address



Garfield Heights Mayor Matt Burke addresses the large crowd attending his Town Hall 'State of the City' address on Tuesday, April 21, at the Civic Center.
Photo by Wendy Walters

Seats were full inside the dining room at the Garfield Heights Civic Center last Tuesday, April 21, as Mayor Matt Burke gave his 5th State of the City Address.

Major takeaways from his speech, aided by a power point presentation, included:

- Garfield Heights is the 10th largest city in Cuyahoga County and the 10th best market in the United States for first time homebuyers.

- Demographics: 54-57% of residents are black; 29-34% are white. 54-56% of residents are female. Average age is 36; 17% over age 65.

Poverty rate is 20-22%. 36% have some college.

- Our safety dispatch services are in-house and are not going anywhere. Dispatch monitors all city cameras 24/7.
- A 40.89% reduction in violent crime in Garfield Heights in the five years Burke has been mayor.
- Over the next year six new firefighters will be added to the force.
- City's zoning code was rewritten making it easier to obtain commercial mixed use development.
- There are over 200 empty lots in the city of Garfield Heights.
- Manufacturing companies to locate on Warner Rd. and Highland Park.
- Lots of community engagement, including Town Hall meetings once a month, Bike With the Mayor events, Fall Fest, Spring & Easter events, Taste of Turney and more.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN GARFIELD HEIGHTS - MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The city of Garfield Heights is offering and/or partnering for the following activities geared for Youth and Adults:

CHEER SKILLS CAMP: ages 7-14, Tuesday, April 14, from 6 – 7:30 p.m., at the Garfield Heights Civic Center, 5407 Turney Rd. Wear a white shirt and bring a water bottle. For details contact fhughes@garfieldhts.org or khughey58@gmail.com.

HIP-HOP DANCING CLASSES: Every Tuesday from 7 – 8 p.m., held at the Garfield Heights Civic Center, 5407 Turney Rd. Cost is \$5 at the door – cash only. For details contact fhughes@garfieldhts.org

LINE DANCE CLASSES: Every Wednesday from 7 – 9 p.m., held at the Garfield Heights Civic Center, 5407 Turney Rd. Cost is \$5 at the door – cash only.

FLAG FOOTBALL SUMMER LEAGUE: For boys and girls ages 6-14. Cost is \$80 and includes jersey. Whether you're a seasoned player or just starting out, we have divisions for all skill levels. Season starts in June with practice; games begin in July. For details contact 216-313-3965 or email fhughes@garfieldhts.org - [@garfieldheightsyouthsports](https://www.instagram.com/garfieldheightsyouthsports)

BRICKMADE WRESTLING ACADEMY: held at 12425 Trinity High School, 12425 Granger Rd., Garfield Heights, for girls and boys grades K-8, Monday – Thursday from 6 – 7:45 p.m. For more information contact Coach Xavier at 216-434-2016 or follow on IG: [@Brickmade_Wrestling](https://www.instagram.com/Brickmade_Wrestling).


GARFIELD HEIGHTS KIDS T-BALL: T-ball is for ages 5-7 on July 1, 2026. Birth certificates are needed at the time of registration. Only a parent or legal guardian can register a child; all residents must bring in 2 current proofs of residency (current utility bills, bank statement or pay stub with name & address). Residents fee: \$60.00 + \$20.00 current rec ID card. Non-Residents fee: \$80.00 + \$50.00 current rec ID card. Registration will begin on Monday, April 20, at the Dan Kostel Recreation Center, 5411 Turney Rd., Garfield Heights, during open office hours and will end on May 27. Signups after May 27 are subject to an administrative late fee. For more information call 216-475-7272 or email fhughes@garfieldhts.org.

Bedford Heights Council news

Bedford Heights City Council met on Tuesday, April 21, and passed the following legislation:

- Resolution authorizing the mayor to enter into a contract with Insite Advisory Group for grant writing and consultation services for a one-year period in an amount not to exceed \$36,000.
- Resolution authorizing the city of Bedford Heights to participate in the Ohio Department of Transportation's cooperative purchasing program for the purchase of sodium chloride (rock salt) for the 2026-27 winter season.
- Ordinance repealing Ordinance 2023-073, which directed the amendment of the Comprehensive Pay Ordinance to establish that the mayor, who is also the city's safety director, be paid with separate checks for compensation for each of these positions.

By repealing Ordinance 2023-073, council authorizes that the mayor be paid with a check that combines compensation for both positions.



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Mayor Burke calls meeting on safety at Debelak Park

(Continued from Page 1)

- Providing for the issuance and sale of notes, not to exceed \$4,000,000, in anticipation of the issuance of bonds to pay costs of improving Granger Rd. and others streets and roads in the city by constructing, reconstructing, resurfacing, paving, grading, draining and curbing and improving, constructing and reconstructing related catch basins, waterlines, sanitary sewers and storm sewers and other improvements designated in plans approved or to be approved by council.

- Directing the mayor to apply for and accept special Community Development Block Grant funds to improve ADA accessibility at the Garfield Heights Senior/Civic Center. Cuyahoga County is offering the funding to cities for roads and senior centers up to \$167,000.

- Directing the mayor to apply for special Community Development Block Grant funds to improve Crofton Rd. Funding is administered through the Cuyahoga County Department of Development, and the city is eligible to apply for up to \$200,000.

- Participating in Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District programs to secure funding for the Melgrove Ave. and E. 126 St. Sewer Separation Project. The combined sewers on Melgrove Ave. and E. 126 St. are undersized

and have deteriorated to a point that it has been determined to cause environmental and public health concerns and must be separated, repaired and replaced as needed.

- Applying for and accepting the 2026 Department of Justice Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant which makes funding available each year to local law enforcement. In 2026, the city of Garfield Heights Police Department is eligible to receive up to \$15,328.00 in funding which may be utilized for additional personnel and/or the purchase of equipment, supplies, contractual support, training, technical assistance and information systems for criminal justice or civil proceedings.

- Clarifying that employees of the Garfield Heights City School District, including specifically non-teaching personnel, are not covered under, subject to, or governed by the rules of the Garfield Heights Civil Service Commission. Employees of the Garfield Heights City School District Board of Education, including specifically non-teaching personnel, are employees of the Board of Education – not employees of the city. The Board of Education is an independent political subdivision with exclusive authority to hire, assign, evaluate, discipline and terminate its own employees.

- Amending and supplementing Ordinance 85-2024, the city of Garfield Heights' plan of classification and compensation of non-union pay positions to facilitate the mayor's desire to: 1) Retitle and restructure the positions of the Building Department to better serve the needs of the community; 2) Retitle the positions of two employees in the Parks & Recreation Department to better reflect their current job duties; 3) Consolidate the IT department to reflect one employee as opposed to two; 4) Remove the unused position of Payroll Clerk from the Human Resources Department; 5) Create the position of "Evidence Technician" in the police department; and 6) Change the pay range of paralegal from a "5" to a "6."

- Updating the salaries of the police and fire departments for 2026, in accordance with Section 41 of the city charter. Section 41 provides that the rate of compensation for members of the police and fire division of the Department of Public Safety shall be no less than the average that is paid to the members of the police and fire divisions in suburban cities with a population of 10,000 or more whose boundary lines are contiguous to the city of Cleveland.

- Accepting the Mid-American Hockey Association's 2026 Roger Sharrer "Grow Hockey" program grant funding. The Garfield Heights Youth Hockey program seeks to obtain funding to purchase new equipment for use at the Dan Kostel Recreation Center ice rink and aims to expand participation and increase diversity in both hockey and figure skating, and is making a grant request of \$2,115.62.

- Ratifying the appointment by the mayor of Jose Pallens to serve as the building commissioner for the city of Garfield Heights at the pleasure of the mayor.

Primary Election Day

(Continued from Page 1)

This tax would apply only to income earned from work by residents who live in the Independence Local School District. It would begin Jan. 1, 2027, and remain in place for 30 years. The revenue would be used as debt repayment to construct a Pre-K-8 building. The tax does not apply to Social Security, pensions, retirement income, interest, investment income and other select incomes.

2. Issue bonds to construct a new Pre-K-8 building and improve school facilities.

The district would borrow \$7.63 million through bonds to construct and equip a new school building for grades Pre-K through 8 and to renovate or improve other district facilities and sites.

To repay those bonds, the district would collect a 0.75 mill property tax, which equals about \$26 per year for every \$100,000 of a home's market value. This property tax would continue for up to 30 years while the bonds are being repaid.

What the project includes

The funding plan supports the district's proposal to build a new PreK through 8 school building on the district campus across from Independence High School. The new building would replace the district's current elementary and middle school buildings, which were built in 1956 and 1961.

District leaders say the combined earned income tax and bond issue approach spreads the cost across both residents' earned income and property values while helping fund a modern school facility for future students.

Local liquor options - Sunday sales

The only other local issues on the May Primary Election ballot are the following liquor options at two businesses on Warner Rd., in Cleveland.

- Shall the sale of wine and mixed beverages be permitted for sale on Sunday by GD Warner Inc. dba Cleveland Convenience Store, an applicant for a D-6 liquor permit who operates a retail food and beverage store at 4563 Warner Rd.?

- Shall the sale of wine and mixed beverages be permitted for sale on Sunday by JR Business LLC dba Sunshine Market, an applicant for a D-6 liquor permit who operates a retail food and beverage store at 4595 Warner Rd.?

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11 Meatball Sub \$7	12 Hoagie and Chips \$8	13 House Breaded Fried Chicken Sammie	14 Polish Boy \$6	15 Hot Dog Cart Starting at \$3 No Discounts	
18 Meatball Sub \$7	19 Meatloaf and Taters \$8	20 House Breaded Fried Chicken Sammie	21 Polish Boy \$6	22 Hot Dog Cart Starting at \$3 No Discounts	
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Input sought for Warsaw Park renovations in S.V.



Shown here are members of the Kiwanis Club listening to Cleveland Landscape Architect Michael Reder discuss the proposed renovations for Warsaw Park.

The Kiwanis Club of South East Cleveland and some residents from the community met last week to listen to a presentation from City of Cleveland Landscape Architect Michael Reder on the renovation of Warsaw Park at a lunch meeting in the 3-acre Slavic Village park.

The city has set aside \$950,000 for capital repairs to include an improved walking trail, pickleball courts, new and additional children's playground equipment as well as many more additional features to help make Warsaw Park a state-of-the-art park for young families and seniors. To provide additional input, please go to: <https://tinyurl.com/warsawpark2026>.

Neighbors on Duty meets Lasagna Dinner at Post 309

Join your neighbors looking out for neighbors! The next Neighbors On Duty meeting will be on Tuesday, May 5, at the Garfield Heights Civic Center, 5407 Turney Rd., at 6:30 p.m., and open to all Garfield Heights residents.

Guest speakers will include GHPD Chief Mark Kaye and Deputy Chief Dale Merchant, GHFD representatives, Judge Sergio DiGeronimo, Superintendent Dr. Richard Reynolds and more.

RSVP online to: <http://WWW.NEIGHBORSONDUTY.ORG> or call Council President Avery Johnson, 216-365-3009; or Councilman Clifford Kelley, Jr., 216-253-0142.

American Legion Post 309, 15521 Broadway Ave., Maple Heights, will hold a Pre-Mother's Day Lasagna Dinner on Wednesday, April 29, from 3 to 7 p.m.; donation \$13; dine-in or carryout. The dinner is open to the public and advance dinner orders are appreciated by calling 216-662-7768.

Sokol Summer Exhibition

Sokol Greater Cleveland will hold its Summer Gymnastics Exhibition and Concert Band performance on Saturday, May 16, at DTJ Farm Taborville, 9850 North Blvd., Auburn Township, Ohio 44023. The concert band music will begin at 3:30 p.m., on the field, followed by the exhibition at 4 p.m. Bring a chair or blanket to watch the program.

Advance sale tickets are \$8; at the gate, \$10; children under 12 are free. Food and refreshments will be available for purchase, with picnic tables available in a park-like setting.

Sokol Sunday Dinner

The next Sokol Sunday Dinner will be served on May 17, featuring beef goulash and dumplings, coffee and dessert, at Bohemian National Hall, 4939 Broadway Ave., Cleveland, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Dinners are \$20, with reservations necessary by May 12, by calling Vlad, 216-894-3591.

Garfield looking for Memorial Day paraders

Plans for the annual Memorial Day parade and service in Garfield Heights are underway. The city will honor deceased veterans of all wars and conflicts on Monday, May 25.

The parade will step off at 10 a.m. from Mapleleaf Elementary School, 5764 Turney Rd. The city is looking for participants.

Anyone interested in being in the parade can contact Ward 7 Councilwoman Jennifer Newrones, parade chairperson, at 216-478-9977 or jnewrones@garfieldhts.org.

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Community Police reports

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

Garfield Heights

Juveniles

On April 22, at about 3:49 p.m., an officer responded to the Garfield Heights Civic Center for a group of juveniles fighting in the parking lot. The officer announced over the vehicle intercom for everyone to leave the area and stop fighting. Two female juveniles continued to fight and bystanding parties peeled the two off one another and the officer had them sit in the rear of the police cruiser with no further incident. One of their mothers said this is an ongoing issue originating from when they were students at Elmwood Elementary School. She took her daughter home and the other girl was dropped off at her home. The report will be forwarded to the Garfield Heights Juvenile Detective Bureau for further review.

Assault

On April 24, at about 10:15 a.m., an officer was working as a school resource officer when a parent came into Garfield Heights High School to report her child had been assaulted. The mother said her 15-year-old son was at McDonald's, 5240 Turney Rd., after school the prior day, when an 18-year-old male approached him trying to fight him. The younger boy told the older boy he didn't want to fight, but the older boy attacked him anyway, punching him in the face. Then the older boy takes the younger one to the ground and continues to repeatedly punch him in the face. A video viewed by the officer confirmed the attack. Report will be forwarded to the prosecutor for a ruling of charges against the 18-year-old for assault.

Traffic Offense

On April 25, at about 2:16 p.m., an officer observed a Ford Fusion going at a high rate of speed and failing to stop at the stop sign at Forestdale and Broadway Ave., continuing east on Broadway. The officer activated his lights and sirens and tried to catch up to the Fusion as it went around other cars. While the officer was at the intersection of Broadway and McCracken Rd., he saw the Fusion crash into another vehicle and came to rest at Hans Freightliner, 14520 Broadway Ave. A black male wearing all black with long dreads got out of the car and ran east on Broadway. Officers checked the area but could not locate him, but did find a driver's license that matched the description and was able to ID him from his BMV photo. At about 4:40 p.m., the owner of the vehicle spoke with the officer at the police station and told the officer her son had possession of her car. The son was issued a citation for reckless operation and no driver's license.

Theft-Shoplifting

On April 25, at 7:30 p.m., police were dispatched to Family Dollar, 5522 Turney Rd., where the manager reported that a black female, wearing a tan hoodie, black pants and a black bonnet, took items from the store without paying and had walked out of the store going east on Hempstead. Officers found a female fitting the suspect's description at Darlington and Cumberland, and she was placed in the back of the police cruiser and taken back to Family Dollar, where officers reviewed camera footage. Cameras showed the suspect carrying a gray basket full of merchandise past all points of sale without paying and then exit the store with the basket. She admitted to police that she had taken the items and said she left them somewhere on Hempstead, but officers found the basket in a front yard in the 5500 block of Cumberland Ave. The items, valued at \$206.83, were returned to Family Dollar. The suspect was taken to the GHPD jail and held on \$3,500 or 10% Cash/Surety bond for theft. Court date set.

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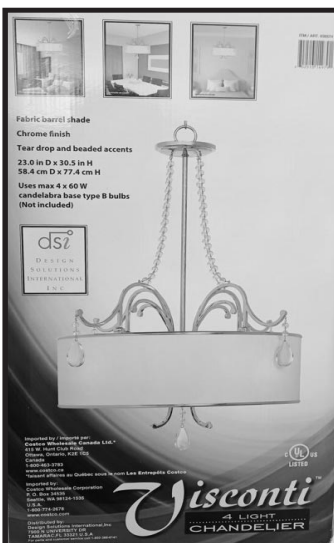
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Metroparks news

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. Also, call or visit the website to confirm that the program you wish to attend has not been changed or cancelled.

BEDFORD RESERVATION

May 2: Wildflower Hike - Spring Flowers Up High & Down Low. April brought showers, and now May is here with gorgeous spring flowers! Join Naturalist Alex for a hike on some of Bedford Reservation's rugged and steep trails to admire secretive spring flowers. We'll explore the uplands high above Tinkers Creek Gorge before descending nearly 100 feet down into the creek's floodplain in search of these sentinels of spring. Sturdy footwear and hiking poles recommended. 1 - 3 p.m. Meet at Egbert Picnic Area. Terrain: natural surface trails, steep hills, muddy conditions possible, 3 miles.

May 7: Explore Viaduct Park. Historical Interpreter Doug Kusak bridges topics such as railroads, a waterfall, a mill and how to fill in a valley as he leads you through significant changes in elevation. We'll consider the topography and hydrology of the area, starting from a bridge's lofty perch and then winding our way creekside. 3 - 4 p.m. Meet at Viaduct Park parking lot. Terrain: paved and natural surface, stairs, steep elevation changes, 0.5 mile.

May 8: Friday Hike to the Falls. Join a naturalist as we hike along the Sagamore Creek ridge line to see Linda Falls. It is spring wildflower season so we will stop to smell the flowers along the way. The route includes several creek crossings which may be flowing depending on recent rainfall. We recommend bringing hiking poles and wearing sturdy shoes for a safe and enjoyable adventure. 2:30 - 4 p.m. Meet at Alexander bike parking lot. Terrain: natural surface, creek crossings, 1.5 miles.

May 13: Wildflower Walk. Join a naturalist for an afternoon walk in a flood plain. This trail is painted with a variety of spring wildflowers. Bring your favorite wildflower field guide or app to help us create a list of the flowers we find along the way. This trail may be muddy. 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Meet at Hemlock Picnic Area. Terrain: natural surface, muddy, less than 1 mile.

May 29: Preschoolers: Hike with Me. Bring your preschooler out to Bedford Reservation to explore spring! We'll take a short hike today through the floodplain of Tinker's Creek, where we will look for bugs, toads, wildflowers and birds out enjoying springtime in Ohio. Dress for the weather; rain boots suggested. 10 - 11 a.m. Meet at Hemlock Picnic Area. Ages: 2 - 6 years w/ adult. Terrain: natural surface, muddy trail, 1 mile.

CANALWAY CENTER - OHIO & ERIE CANAL RESERVATION

May 1-31: Hunt of the Month - Gastropods. Time and our schedules can seem to whiz by in the month of May. But not this Hunt of the Month! Stop by CanalWay Center to slow down and find 20 hidden snails and slugs. We think you'll enjoy how marvelous they really are. Drop by between the times of 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

May 3: Drop By - Kids Can Grow Snacks. Stop

by CanalWay Center where kids can learn how to take care of a plant that will grow snacks - and plant one to take home. The experience takes about 15 minutes, and supplies are limited. 1 - 4 p.m. Ages 4 - 12 years.

May 5: Walk the Towpath Trail - Sokolowski's Overlook to the Roundhouse. Historical Interpreter Doug Kusak is your guide on this 1-mile walk where we'll briefly discuss Great Lakes shipping, historic railroads, bridges, petroleum storage, and Camp Cleveland as we walk a section of the Towpath Trail that used to be University Avenue. 2 - 3 p.m. Meet at Sokolowski's Overlook (free parking in lot across Abbey Avenue). Terrain: paved surface, 1 mile.

May 9: CanalWay Center Native Plant Sale. Be a steward for wildlife by adding native plants to your landscape. These beautiful, hardy, low-maintenance plants will make your yard an oasis for native pollinators while creating attractive garden spaces around your home. While supplies last. 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

May 11: Bicycle the Towpath Trail - CanalWay Center to Harvard. Easy-going Historical Interpreter Doug Kusak leads an easy-going bike ride, peddling a little bit of area history as you go. We'll ride from CanalWay Center to Harvard Ave. and back. Helmet and bike required. 2 - 4 p.m. Terrain: paved, hills, 6 miles.

May 14: Cart Tour - Towpath Trail - CanalWay Center to Steelyard Commons. Historical Interpreter Doug Kusak drives the 7-passenger cart while sharing the importance of trails, science, history and interagency cooperation in the drive for reconnecting Cleveland. We'll talk about watersheds, canals, trails, steel plants and other groovy things. 1:30 - 4 p.m. Fee: \$10.50. Registration required: 7 maximum.

May 17: Children's Fishing Derby. Kids can reel in big fun at the annual Cleveland Metroparks Children's Fishing Derbies. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

May 19: Bicycle the Towpath Trail - Steel Heritage Center to Sokolowski's Overlook. Easy-going Historical Interpreter Doug Kusak leads an easy-going bike ride, peddling a little bit of area history as you go. We'll ride along the Towpath Trail from Steel Heritage Center to Sokolowski's Overlook and back. Helmet and bike required. 2 - 4 p.m. Meet at CanalWay Center. Terrain: paved, hills, 5 miles.

GARFIELD PARK RESERVATION

May 2: 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. 40 registered participants recommended; walk-ins are welcome.



CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS

COMMUNITY SHRED DAY

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026

9:00 AM - NOON

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Sodality Spring Luncheon

The Altar and Rosary Sodality of Ss. Peter & Paul Church in Garfield Heights, invites you to its annual Spring Luncheon on Saturday, May 16, at the Knights of Columbus Club Hall, 10806 Granger Rd., Garfield Heights. Doors open at noon; donation is \$25 per ticket. Advance sale only by May 8, at 3 p.m. Tickets are available by calling Liz at 216-235-5415. They will also be available at both rectory offices during normal business hours.

Blood donor opportunities

Independence

5/4/2026: 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., Independence Civic Center, 6363 Selig Dr.

5/11/2026: 12 - 6 p.m., Independence Civic Center, 6363 Selig Dr.

5/20/2026: 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Crown Centre II, 5001 Rockside Rd.

Valley View

5/5/2026: 12 - 6 p.m., Teamsters Local 507, 5425 Warner Rd., Unit 7

5/19/2026: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., Valley View Community Center, 6828 Hathaway Rd.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-733-2767.



Vol. 1 Issue 2 Spring 2026

FLEET GARDEN CENTER

Popup Plant Sale!

Sunday (May 3) Noon-3pm

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Just in time for Mother's Day and spring planting!

Just off I77 at the Fleet Ave. exit. (One block east of St. John Nepomucene Church) Sale open to all Northeast Ohio gardeners!

Fleet Garden Center is a nonprofit venture of the Village Gardeners, the local volunteers who care for public gardens on Fleet Avenue and throughout Slavic Village. We're launching early and will grow continuously, with the support of Clevelanders.

Join the Village Gardeners! Help make our neighborhood beautiful! Call 216.469.4806

Special thanks to Slavic Village Development and Ward 2 Councilwoman Deborah Gray, for their support.

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