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102nd YEAR NO. 33

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2026

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

FREE

Garfield Hts. residents to see added \$5 charge for license plate fees next year

By Ellen Psenicka

Garfield Heights Council met Monday night and passed an ordinance levying an annual Municipal Motor Vehicle License Tax of \$5.00 per motor vehicle registered in the city of Garfield Heights. Mayor Matt Burke said this tax will provide additional revenue for roadway repairs in the city.

The tax will be collected by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles or any Deputy Registrar at the time of registration or renewal of registration of the motor vehicle.

The tax imposed by this ordinance will be in effect for the registration year beginning Jan. 1, 2027, and will continue in effect annually unless amended or repealed.

Other legislation passed

The following ordinances were also passed by Garfield Heights Council at its Monday meeting:

- Taking all action necessary to participate in Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District programs to secure funding for the E. 135 St. Neighborhood Sewer Study.

The sewers in the E. 135 St. neighborhood have had hydraulic capacity issues to a point that it has been determined to cause environmental and public health concerns, the legislation states, and the city has determined that a study is necessary to evaluate said sewer system, including investigation of inflow and infiltration and assessment of the overall structural and operational condition of the system. The city wishes to apply for and secure grant funding through NEORS to support the completion of this study.

- Amending a chapter of the city's codified ordinances titled "Animals and Fowl" to incorporate provisions consistent with Avery's Law.

The State of Ohio has enacted animal public safety provisions in Ohio House Bill No. 247, commonly referred to as "Avery's Law," to enhance public safety, strengthen enforcement tools in animal cruelty and dangerous dog cases, and provide clearer procedures for seizure and impoundment. Avery's Law emphasizes both responsible ownership and enhanced protections for victims of dog attacks.

(Continued on Page 2)

Indy voters defeat school district income tax, bond issue to build new school; superintendent says district likely to return to ballot in November

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

The measure, which tallied 37.62% of voters for it and 62.38% against it, would have allowed Independence Local Schools to assess a 1% school district income tax on earned income from work by residents who live in the Independence Local School District. The tax, which would have remained in place for 30 years, would not have applied to Social Security benefits, pensions, retirement income, interest, investment income and other select incomes.

The defeated ballot issue also would have allowed the district to 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 have collected 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 were being repaid.

Superintendent comments

Independence Schools Superintendent Kelli Cogan, in an email addressed to the Independence Community the day after the primary, said that although the funding issue was defeated, "the needs of the district remain unchanged. Our facilities continue to age, and our responsibility to provide safe, modern and effective learning environments for our students remains central to our work."

The superintendent stated that the district, at this time, anticipates returning to the ballot in November. "Between now and then," she said, "we will continue to engage openly and transparently with our community as we refine our approach and explore next steps together."

Darkened streets cause headaches for residents, city leaders in Maple Heights

By Ellen Psenicka

A Tokay Ave. resident spoke up during the Comments from Public section of last Wednesday's meeting of Maple Heights City Council about the number of street lights out on his street and the danger it caused for residents who go out or come home after dark.

Mayor Annette Blackwell addressed his comments, saying that this issue was a "pet peeve" of hers and that she has been monitoring the darkening streets in the city for some time, taking down the number on the poles that have lights out and reporting them to First Energy.

"We probably have 200 lights out in the city, six of them on my street alone," the mayor said to the Tokay Ave. man who had brought up the issue. "I've got single moms walking to a bus stop in complete darkness, and on the west side some of our children are walking to school in the dark," the mayor stated.

Blackwell said she, as well as council persons, city staff and residents have all called in to First Energy, and one councilman has been waiting over three months for lights to once again brighten his street.

She said she has talked to First Energy and they explain they are backed up with work because of the storms and power outages in recent weeks.

"We are at the mercy of First Energy," she said. She told the resident that "we'll see if we can push it further because everybody is upset about these lights. We are waiting two to three months on First Energy when it used to be a three-week turnaround."

Legislation passed

The following legislation was approved by Maple Heights Council at its Wednesday, May 6, meeting:

- Amending an ordinance concerning eligibility and payment of overtime for non-bargaining unit employees. It is recommended that beginning April 1, 2026, Sections 260.06(a) and (b) of the city's codified ordinances be amended to eliminate the provision that requires non-bargaining unit employees to be paid overtime for working in excess of eight hours in a day, and limiting overtime pay only to non-bargaining unit employees who work in excess of forty hours in a week.

(Continued on Page 6)

Renovation Closing Reception at Fleet Branch Library scheduled for May 19th

All are invited to gather with other community members on Tuesday, May 19, from 12-5 p.m., for a Renovation Closing Reception at the Cleveland Public Library's Fleet Branch, 7224 Broadway Ave., in Slavic Village, which will be closing temporarily for a major renovation project.

The celebration will feature free hot dogs, popcorn and ice cream, facepainting and Bounce House for the kids, Cleveland Food Bank and library giveaways and local resource information.

Garfield Heights residents to see added \$5 charge

(Continued from Page 1)

•Amending a chapter of the city's codified ordinances titled "Nuisance, Dangerous and Vicious Animals" to incorporate provisions consistent with Avery's Law.

•Directing the finance director to earmark \$50,000 for the city's Home Repair Grant Program for a second consecutive year to provide matching funds for the Community Development Supplemental Grant.

Mayor's Report

During his Mayor's Report presentation to council, Burke complimented It's A Must Cafe on Garfield Blvd., for graduating from the restaurant Upscale Program, sponsored by community business stakeholders and the Ohio Department of Minority Businesses. "Their food is incredible," the mayor said.

He also noted that the city pool is in desperate need of lifeguards for the season. Applicants must be certified, which he said the city can help out with, and be at least 15.

Sergeant-at-Arms appointed

In reaction to what many viewed as a lack of decorum at the previous council meeting on April 27, Council President Avery Johnson made a motion to appoint Ward 3 Councilman Mark Smith as sergeant-at-arms to maintain order at future meetings. The motion passed, with Councilwomen Stacey Collier and Tenisha Mack voting against the motion and Councilman Clifford Kelley abstaining.

"The last meeting is not the way this council usually functions," said Johnson. "We're here to legislate and we intend to do just that."

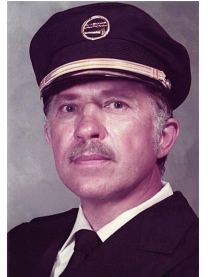
Stakeholders meet May 19

The second quarterly meeting of the Slavic Village Stakeholders will take place Tuesday, May 19, at 6 p.m. (meet-and-greet 5:30 p.m.), at the Seven Roses building, 6301 Fleet Ave.

On the agenda: Slavic Village masterplan, safety updates, PBCLE updates, leadership changes at SVD, future events, formation of steering committees. This is an open meeting; all Slavic Villagers are invited to attend.

Death Notices

RAYMOND GAIDUK



Following a long, hard-fought battle against multiplying health issues, Raymond Gaiduk, 97, died on May 8, with his two beloved daughters at his side. Following a life of winning battles as a firefighter, he was off to rejoin his beloved late wife, Maria, in heaven.

Ray was born on August 9, 1928, to John and Anna Gaiduk, who were immigrants from Latvia and Poland.

He grew up with his hardworking family in Cleveland's North Broadway neighborhood during the tough years of the Great Depression. He served as an altar boy at St. Wenceslas Church, was an usher at the Olympia Theater and graduated from the Cleveland Trade School.

Ray enlisted in the U.S. Navy at the age of 17 in 1946, and served as a naval air technician. Following his honorable discharge in 1948, he became an upholsterer with Holzheimer Furniture.

He also became a professional dancer with Arthur Murray. That was a highlight of his life, because it's where he met fellow dancer Maria Bonacci, who had immigrated from Italy at the age of 10. They were married in 1950 and in 1953 bought their home in Maple Heights, where they raised their two daughters and cherished 54 years of wedded bliss until Maria Gaiduk died in 2004.

In 1956, Ray was appointed to the East Cleveland Fire Department, where he was honored for battling numerous blazes and saving lives both on and off the job. He was promoted to captain in 1976 and then to deputy chief in 1981. He was certified as an emergency medical technician and was trained in arson investigation, fire safety inspection and transportation of the seriously injured.

Following his retirement from firefighting, Ray focused on his woodworking skills, creating everything from precision replicas of sailing vessels and military ships to birdhouses, plant stands and totem polls.

He was a longtime member of St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church in Maple Heights and the Bedford Lions Club and, in his later years, the Maple Heights Senior Center.

Ray Gaiduk is survived by his daughters, Linda Lange (David) and Gloria Gaiduk; grandsons, Erik (Erin) and Anthony Lange (Leah); great-grandchildren, Eli, Emmy and Remy Lange.

Relatives and friends will be welcome for visitation from 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday, May 17, at Ferfolia Funeral Home, 356 W. Aurora Road (Route 82), Sagamore Hills. Prayer at the funeral home will be held at 11:15 a.m. Monday, May 18, with Funeral Mass to follow at noon at St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church, 14600 Turney Rd., Maple Heights.

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- 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 can not 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.
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SVD Executive Director Shauna Sanders has resigned

By C.A. Gliha



Shauna Sanders

Shauna Sanders, who was appointed Slavic Village Development's (SVD's) executive director in January 2024, has resigned. Sanders said that her recently hired operations manager, Kelly Barrett, will now serve as interim director until a permanent replacement is selected.

The surprise announcement came in a social media post recently and followed the departure over the last two years of several other key staffers, including the group's business development officer, finance officer, director of community building, as well as several board members.

In her formal resignation statement, Sanders said, "It has been an honor to serve this organization and the community we care so deeply about. Together we have made meaningful progress in advancing equitable development, supporting local businesses and creating pathways for resident advancement."

SVD issued its own communique, lauding Sander's work on commercial corridor funding, the Warsaw Park renovation and the neighborhood's new master plan as highlights of her tenure. Sanders said she is resigning in order to take a position with another organization. The Community Development Corporation said her resignation would take effect on May 15, and promised a "thoughtful and inclusive" transition process "to ensure continuity of operations and ongoing support for the organization's programs and partners."

In a nearly hour-long phone interview one Sunday afternoon, Sanders was eager to dispel any narrative that she was "running away" from Slavic Village or that her organization was in "disarray." She recited a catalog of accomplishments over her brief tenure, and promised more to come, citing the largest infusion of investment dollars into the neighborhood "since before COVID."

Trouble brewing?

Could the latest SVD news reflect tensions seizing the community development industry throughout the city? Recent media reports identified growing government scrutiny as to how neighborhoods are organized. Sanders mentioned city hall's possible hiring of MS Consultants to perform an in-depth audit of all of Cleveland's CDCs, a process that SVD "hopes to be a part of."

After the news of Sanders' resignation, followed hard on by the startling, if temporary, suspension of its website, residents posting on social media began speculating: Is SVD closing? Will it merge with another community development corporation? Will the city's entire system of organizing neighborhoods implode? One insider with deep knowledge of Cleveland politics said some in city hall would love nothing more than the demise of Cleveland's once formidable cadre of neighborhood associations. They said that it'd be one less semi-independent power center for the mayor and especially the council to have to deal with.

Cleveland's neighborhoods have seen much of this before. In his 2003 book, "Democratizing Cleveland," writer and activist Randy McDonald reported on the disruption caused when big cities-averse Republicans assumed power in Washington in the 1980s. They turned the federal government's funding fau-

cet down to a trickle and neighborhoods had to learn to cope. Something similar may be happening today.

Organized community associations, like most non-profit, are reliant on government largesse at some level, to supplement dollars they get from private benefactors and foundations. They can earn their own income through real estate transactions, but not enough to make payroll, pay for building overhead, and sustain the programs that their most vulnerable constituents rely on, but cannot pay for. SVD in its heyday had an employee roster of well over 20, manning thriving departments for housing, safety and community organizing. It's now down to nine - mostly due to government budget cuts.

Sources say that Cleveland City Council's reallocation of Community Development Block Grant money is critical. They say if they don't get new grants soon it will be devastating.

But Sanders said SVD's budget, while perpetually tenuous, is actually in better shape than in 2025, when community groups nationwide watched with trepidation the policy decisions coming out of the second Trump administration. (The Department of Housing and Urban Development has since come through.) "That was last year's drama," she said. "Right now, we're in a good place."

A tough job

Many in nonprofit management say that executive directorship is a notably difficult occupation that pays relatively little. SVD has offered an \$85k-95k start, depending on experience. But Sanders seemed confident that interviews being conducted by the board right now would land a new director by July.

In the meantime, life goes on in the scrappy, southeast Cleveland neighborhood. Crime is down, its many schools attract students from all over the city and block clubs began their ritual spring street cleanups last weekend.

Despite its reputation for vacancy and abandonment, Slavic Village remains home to 19,000 mostly working class people, and is one of the most racially integrated neighborhoods in Northeast Ohio.

Since last spring, Director Sanders and her staff have guided the creation of two long-term plans for the neighborhood, the first since the early 2000s.

An exhaustive Regional Transit Authority study has identified residential and commercial upgrades to Broadway Ave. to make the neighborhood less car-dependant. And a flashy, \$110,000, many-hundred-page proposal, facilitated by the national design firm SmithGroup, is nearing final approval by local stakeholders and the city. It's loaded with rigorously researched charts, maps and spreadsheets that paint a detailed picture of the neighborhood today, with a roadmap for where it should head tomorrow.

Back to the future?

Slavic Village Development was incorporated in the late 1990s as a concoction of several smaller groups like Broadway Area Housing Coalition and Committee to Bring Back Broadway. As Randy McDonald points out in his book, those groups' street-level confrontations with business malefactors gave way to strategic, back-room partnerships with governments, nonprofits and builders, in a concerted drive to modernize one of Cleveland's oldest places. Some successes were achieved. But that development structure, with a formidable CDC at its core, now appears diminished. And not just in Slavic Village.

And what if SVD goes away? Who will represent the neighborhood as a geographic as well as a cultural unit spanning generations, even centuries, and keep it from being partitioned into marginal districts of perpetually changing wards? Who will negotiate with profit-driven developers, transient politicians, lethargic bureaucracies on something of an equal footing, and on a sustained basis? If a neighborhood organization goes down, especially one as fabled as Slavic Village Development, the process of putting something like it back together would almost certainly have to begin immediately.

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Community police reports

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

Garfield Heights

Disorderly Conduct

On April 20, at 2:13 p.m., two females students engaged in a fight in the middle school on the third floor, with punches being thrown and hair-pulling. This caused chaos in the hallways with large groups watching and recording the fight. School teachers had a hard time getting the students back in class. School security officers and a GHPD resource officer were notified and broke up the fight, escorting the two combatants to the main office. Both appeared to have sustained minor injuries to their faces and hair. Both admitted they wanted to fight with each other for a while and they just got it over with, despite having a mediation five minutes before they started fighting. Both students were suspended for 10 days and their parents were notified of the incident and came to the school to pick them up. These students were constantly getting in trouble at school or getting suspended. They have been warned about their behavior on several conversations with the resource officer and other school staff. Before engaging in this fight, school staff and the officer told the girls what could happen if they fought each other on school grounds, but they fought each other anyway. It was determined that both students would be recommended for charges of disorderly conduct and inducing panic. The report was forwarded to the Juvenile Detective for charges.

Traffic Offense

On April 22, at 3:34 p.m., two detectives assigned to the Targeted Enforcement Unit observed a white Chevy Impala traveling north on Turney Rd., coming up to Granger Rd. A registration check on the vehicle revealed a warrant was attached for failure to comply out of Warrensville Heights PD. Searching through LEADS and observing a BMV photo of the suspect, they confirmed that he was indeed operating the vehicle in question.

The detectives positioned their vehicle behind the suspect vehicle as it made a right turn into the parking lot of the BP station. They tried to initiate a traffic stop but the Impala did not stop and began fleeing. The Impala turned onto Granger Rd. and began traveling east at high rates of speed, passing cars on the left. Officers attempted to deploy stop sticks at Granger Rd., but were not successful. The vehicle then turned left onto E. 126 St., traveling north and struck a curb. The vehicle continued north at high speeds and went through the stop sign at E. 126 St. and McCracken Rd., as the driver lost control and the car went airborne. The vehicle continued onto Claremont Ave., blew through multiple stop signs and lost control near the intersection of Reindeer

Ave. As the driver again lost control, the car struck a stop sign, a No Parking sign and a black GMC parked on the street, coming to a stop in the front yard of a home in the 4900 block of Claremont Blvd. The driver then exited the vehicle and was quickly taken into custody without incident. The Impala was searched prior to being towed and officers found a gym bag in the trunk which contained five clear plastic baggies and one blue plastic bag containing an unknown crystal-like substance believed to be narcotics.

A total of 28.1 grams of suspected narcotics were collected as evidence from the vehicle, and each bag was packaged for sale. The GMC sustained minor rear-end damage. The suspect was taken to city jail without incident and booked for his warrant as well as fleeing and eluding, possession of drugs and drug trafficking.

Theft From Auto

On April 27, about 11:48 a.m., an officer spoke to a woman making a theft from auto report over the phone. She said that on April 10, about 8 p.m., she parked outside of Marc's, 12650 Rockside Rd., locked her car door and went into the store. She said she "heard a lot of craziness going on outside" and went back to her car about 8:30 p.m., and found her back passenger window had been broken out and items were missing from her car. The back seats were also damaged from the break-in.

Assault

• On April 30, at approximately 5:27 p.m., police responded to the Garfield Heights basketball courts, 12150 Granger Rd., after receiving a report that a juvenile was attempting to stab other juveniles. Dispatch advised that the suspected juveniles had left the basketball courts and were heading east toward the rear of homes on Tonsing Drive. Officers located two juveniles matching the description a short distance away. The investigation revealed that one juvenile had been riding his bicycle near the basketball courts when he was approached by another juvenile accompanied by a friend. An argument broke out, during which the suspect reportedly pulled a large kitchen knife from a backpack and demanded the bicycle. As the victim attempted to ride away, the suspect allegedly swung the knife toward his back, cutting the rear of his jacket. Officers searched the area and recovered a large kitchen knife in the grass near the playground. The knife was photographed and collected as evidence.

Parents or guardians of both juveniles were notified. One juvenile was released to a parent at the scene, while the other was transported home and released to a guardian. Each was provided with the incident report number. The case has been forwarded to the Juvenile Detective Bureau for further review.

• On May 1, at approximately 2:38 p.m., Garfield Heights police responded to the area of McCracken Rd. and E. 88 St. for a reported assault. The caller told dispatch that the man who assaulted her had entered a nearby residence and that another woman involved in the dispute was at the residence and armed with a handgun. Officers spoke with both parties. One woman reported she had gone to the area to pick up her child from the school bus when she was confronted and assaulted by two individuals. She stated she was punched and kicked and that one person bit her finger. She also claimed a firearm was displayed during the altercation. The other woman denied brandishing a weapon but reported she had been scratched during the incident. Officers observed minor injuries on both parties. A handgun, Ruger 9 mm, was located in the waistband of one individual, checked, and returned after the investigation. EMS responded, but both parties declined transport. Police noted that the dispute was connected to an incident the previous day involving a fight between two juveniles at the same location. After officers cleared the scene, the caller later reported receiving threatening messages from relatives of the other party.

Due to conflicting statements, the case was referred to the Law Department for review and potential charges. Audio recordings, text messages, and statements were submitted with the report.

(Continued on Page 8)

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(Continued from Page 1)

It is further recommended that beginning April 1, 2026, new Section 260.06(d) be added to define that to calculate eligibility for overtime, compensatory time, vacation time and holiday time shall be considered as hours worked.

- Enacting new Chapter 214 titled "Mayor and Council Investigations" to the codified ordinances of the city. The new section sets forth the authority for, and procedures to be followed, for investigations by the Mayor and Council that are set forth in Charter Article V, Section 6, and Article VII, Section 16. Furthermore, the Mayor, the Council or any person or committee authorized by either of them, shall have power to inquire into the conduct of any department, office, officer or employee of the city and to make investigation as to city affairs, and for that purpose may subpoena witnesses to appear before them, administer oaths, and compel testimony, the production of books, papers and other evidence. Whoever violates new Section 214.02(c) is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree and shall be fined not more than \$250.00 or imprisoned not more than 30 days or both.

- Authorizing the mayor to enter into an agreement with Vaay Enterprise LLC for the sale of vacant property, owned by the city through its Land Reutilization program, located at 5488 Morgan St., for a total purchase price of \$2,000.00. Vaay plans to join contiguous land for a future development.

- Authorizing the mayor to accept Leasing 2, Inc.'s April 20, 2026 lease-purchase financing proposal for the financing of the city's purchase of a 2024 Life Line remount/refurbished ambulance for the total amount of \$257,884.00, and making a lease down payment of \$100,000.00 and financing \$157,884.00 over five years at an interest rate of 5.92%, for an annual payment of \$37,399.58, beginning May 7, 2027.

- Applying to the Cuyahoga County Department of Development for funding under the 2026 Special Municipal Grant Program and authorizing the signing of relevant contracts and other documents. The mayor and engineer have advised council that this funding, in an amount not exceeding \$200,000.00, would fund the resurfacing of

Raymond St. between Lee Rd. and Anthony St., in the city of Maple Heights.

- Directing the city engineer to: 1) Not award a contract to DRS Enterprises, Inc. as the lowest and best bidder for the Tabor Avenue Watermain Replacement Project; 2) Reject all bids received for the project; 3) Notify bidders of the rejection; and 4) Cease further work on the project based on the determination of the mayor and finance director that there is lack of funding available for the project.

- Partially repealing a resolution which would accept a grant from the Cleveland Water Department Suburban Water Main Renewal Project Fund for \$691,560.00, for the Tabor Avenue Watermain Replacement Project and directing the city engineer to notify the Cleveland Water Department of the non-acceptance of the grant.

Beethoven at St. Stanislaus this Saturday

One of classical music's most famous symphonies will be presented by one of Cleveland's renowned conductors this Saturday, May 16, at 7:30 p.m., as Jeanette Sorrell leads the CityMusic Cleveland chamber orchestra in a performance of Beethoven's "Fifth Symphony" at Slavic Village's Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus, 3649 E. 65 St., Cleveland. Also on the program: Mozart's "Overture to the Magic Flute" and Mendelssohn's "Concerto for Violin and Piano." The big orchestral evening is part of CityMusic's final region-wide tour of its 21st season.

Beethoven completed his masterpiece in Vienna in 1808, when he was in his thirties, at a time when he was just beginning to lose his hearing. It was a period of international turmoil triggered by the Napoleonic wars, and themes of patriotism, heroism and fate underlie the piece, which "appeals on so many varied musical taste levels," according to St. Stanislaus music director and CityMusic board president David Krakowski.

As CityMusic's guest conductor, Sorrell will augment her celebrated career as the founding director of Cleveland-based Apollo's Fire, the Baroque orchestra which has toured the world and won numerous awards including Grammys. Krakowski said CityMusic tapped Sorrell "because of her passion for great music. We wanted to collaborate with Apollos Fire and ChamberFest Cleveland to show how three Cleveland art organizations can work together to elevate the entire city."

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Letters to the Editor

Worrying trend of computer compromises

To the Editor:

As the owner of a managed IT services firm based in Garfield Heights, I have spent the last several months watching a worrying trend turn into something I believe rises to the level of a public concern.

Since the start of 2026, computer compromises affecting professionals across Northeast Ohio — particularly in legal and medical offices — have increased sharply. These are not the random consumer infections we used to see. They are deliberate, targeted attacks aimed at the offices most likely to hold large quantities of personally identifiable information about everyday residents. When one of those computers falls, the damage extends far beyond the professional whose name is on the door.

What concerns me most is how many of the affected professionals are doing their work without any IT oversight at all. Free antivirus, an unpatched operating system, and a reused password are not a defense against the threats now operating in this region.

A short list of measures that materially reduce risk, and that any professional or homeowner can implement without a vendor: enable multi-factor authentication on every email and cloud account; replace consumer-grade or expired antivirus with a current, monitored, business-class product; install operating system, browser, and Office updates promptly; use unique passwords stored in a reputable password manager; verify that your backups exist and have been tested with an actual restore; and enable full-disk encryption on every laptop.

Finally, and most simply: be slow to click. Court notices, billing invoices and password-reset emails are the three impersonations driving the majority of cases we have responded to this year.

For those who want a professional review of their systems rather than a self-assessment, our firm offers a comprehensive computer security assessment, available in-shop or remotely. But the business angle is secondary to the message. The threat is real, it is local, and the people most exposed are often those who do not yet know they are.

If you see something, say something — to us, to your IT provider, or to a trusted professional. The cost of asking is nothing. The cost of waiting can be considerable.

Respectfully,

Weldon Hastings

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Village of Newburgh Heights

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public is invited to attend a hearing to voice their opinions or to submit written opinions to the address below regarding the proposed Alternative Tax Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2027. A brief overview of the proposed Resolution will be given at the hearing which will be held on June 2, 2026 at 5:45 pm in Village Hall, 3801 Harvard Avenue, Newburgh Heights, OH 44105. A copy of the proposed Resolution will also be available for review at Village Hall during regular village office hours. Please send written comments to Fiscal Officer Cathleen Nagorski at the address listed above. Any persons who wish to attend and require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please contact Village Hall at 216-641-4650 no later than 72 hours prior to the public hearing.

Cathleen Nagorski
Fiscal Officer

Village Hall 5/7/26
The Neighborhood News 5/13/26

Boys & Girls Clubs of NE Ohio offers Summer Food Service to members

Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio is participating in the Summer Food Service Program which provides meals to all eligible children free of charge. To be eligible to receive free meals, children must be a member of a club and membership is free.

Meals will be provided, on a first come, first serve basis, beginning June 8 - August 14, at the following sites in The Neighborhood News readership area:

- AB Hart, 3900 E. 75 St., Cleveland 44105; open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and serving breakfast 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., and lunch noon to 1 p.m.
- Broadway Boys & Girls Club, 6114 Broadway Ave., Cleveland 44127; open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and serving breakfast 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., and lunch noon to 1 p.m.
- Elmwood Elementary School, 5275 Turney Rd., Garfield Heights, 44125; open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and serving breakfast 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., and lunch noon to 1 p.m.



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ODOT to hold public meeting at Garfield Park

The Ohio Department of Transportation invites the public to attend an upcoming open house to share feedback on potential solutions to address the Broadway Avenue bridge improvements and realignment study in the area of SR 14 (Broadway)/Miles Ave./Warner Rd./Turney Rd./Ella Ave./E. 93 St., in the city of Cleveland.

The public meeting will be held on Thursday, May 14, from 5 to 7 p.m., at the Garfield Park Program Center (new building next to Garfield Park pond), 11420 Broadway Ave., Garfield Heights.

At the meeting ODOT will share the proposed improvements, potential impacts and next steps. Staff will be available to answer questions and hear concerns. ODOT wants to assure the public that their input is essential and will help shape the project as it moves forward.

Music Therapy & More

Connecting for Kids for will sponsor 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.

Newburgh Heights Police plans OVI sobriety checkpoint this weekend

The Newburgh Heights Police Department announced yesterday that officers will operate an OVI checkpoint to deter and intercept impaired drivers this weekend. The location will be announced the morning of the checkpoint.

NHPD says if you plan to consume alcohol, designate a driver or make other travel arrangements before you drink. Don't let another life be lost for the senseless and selfish act of getting behind the wheel impaired.

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In Church and on Facebook Live
Pastor Anthony Ruth

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.

Community police reports

(Continued from Page 5)

•On May 8, at 5:06 a.m., an officer responded to the city jail on a call of two inmates fighting. When the officer arrived both males had been separated by jail staff. Video footage showed that one of the jail occupants got out of his bed and walked towards a second jail occupant who was sleeping two beds away. The first male then begins punching the sleeping man in the back of the head numerous times. That woke the second man up and he defended himself, slamming the first man to the ground and gaining control over him, keeping him from punching him any further. He got his assailant in a head lock and walked him to the intercom to notify jail staff. The male turned his assailant over to staff and returned to his bed. He refused medical attention and did not wish to pursue charges. Report referred to the Detective Bureau to follow up with prosecutor for further review.

Child Endangering

On May 1, at approximately 9:28 p.m., a two-year-old boy was brought to the Garfield Heights Police Department after being found wandering alone inside a gas station on Turney Rd. The citizen who located the child told police she saw him enter the store without shoes or a coat and waited briefly for a guardian to appear before transporting him to the station. Dispatchers reviewed city camera footage, which showed the child running alone in the area of Langton Ave. around 9 p.m. Officers searched the neighborhood but were unable to locate a parent or guardian. The child was taken to Marymount Hospital for evaluation and showed no signs of injury or neglect. A short time later, the child's grandmother arrived at the

hospital after a friend told her he was missing. She told officers she had dropped him off earlier in the evening at his father's residence. The father was apparently at the hospital but did not identify himself to police, and officers later located and arrested him for child endangering.


The child was released to his grandmother. The case was referred to prosecutors, and the father was arrested and booked into city jail.

Traffic Offense – Fleeing

On May 5, at approximately 2:46 a.m., an officer attempted to stop a minibike traveling eastbound on Broadway Ave. without lights. The driver refused to stop, leading officers on a low-speed pursuit through nearby streets, Metroparks paths and residential areas. The pursuit ended on Plymouth Ave. near E. 110 St., after the minibike crashed. The rider was held at gunpoint by police and taken into custody without further incident. Officers reported finding a bag containing suspected cocaine in the rider's pocket. The individual admitted the substance was cocaine.

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CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION PUBLIC NOTICE FOR OPEN POSITIONS

Applications for the City of Maple Heights Planning and Zoning Commission will be available to qualified Maple Heights residents beginning **Wednesday, May 13, 2026** from the Clerk of Council Office, 5353 Lee Road, Maple Heights, Ohio, 44137, to fill the following positions:

one (1) open position for the term expiring **May 31, 2031**

The Planning and Zoning Commission consists of five (5) qualified electors of the City not holding any other official position in the Municipality, who have resided in the City not less than two (2) years prior to appointment, and who shall retain such residency during their appointed term.

Application forms can be picked up at the information window Monday-Friday 8:30am to 5pm. Completed forms are to be submitted only to the **Clerk of Council Office**, Maple Heights City Hall, 5353 Lee Road, Maple Heights, Ohio, 44137 or via e-mail to sbeaman@mapleheightsohio.gov. **The deadline for submission of said applications will be 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 27, 2026.** For further information, call the Clerk's office at (216) 587-9000.

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

The Neighborhood News
May 13, 2026
May 20, 2026