

The Neighborhood News

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102nd YEAR NO. 43

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2026

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

FREE

'Sto Lat' to Polish Center's Gene Bak! Garfield Heights BRATZ Girls Flag Football program honored by city council at last week's meeting

By Ellen Psenicka

Garfield Heights Council played to a packed crowd last Tuesday evening, July 14, as young ladies representing the Garfield Heights Bulldog Bratz girls flag football program, along with their coaches and supporters, were on hand to accept a council resolution recognizing the program for its outstanding achievements, leadership and commitment to youth athletics.

The Garfield Heights Bulldog BRATZ Girls Flag Football Program was founded in 2024 by Gregory Fletcher and Latasha Miller, beginning as a single team of 10 girls comprised primarily of their daughters and nieces. Through dedicated leadership, strong family support and a commitment to empowering young women through athletics, the program has grown in just three years to more than 60 participants and five competitive teams, and became the first all-girls flag football program to compete in the Cleveland Muny Football League, helping pave the way for future generations of girls to participate in the sport.

The program has achieved remarkable competitive success, including winning the Cleveland Muny Spring Flag Football Championships in the 10U and 12U divisions in 2025, capturing the Prime-Time Sports League 13U Championship in Fall 2025 against teams comprised of boys, and, on May 31, 2026, winning championships in every division in which the program competed during the Cleveland Muny Flag Football Championship Tournament.

The Bulldog BRATZ 2026 Championship Teams include:

- 8U Baby Bluez – Undefeated Champions;
- 10U Pretty-N-Pink – Two-Time Champions;
- 12U Dynamic Purple – Undefeated Two-Time Champions;
- 14U THE Blue Print – Undefeated Two-Time Champions.

In the resolution passed last week by council, "Garfield Heights City Council recognizes and congratulates the Garfield Heights Bulldog BRATZ, their players, coaches and families, the founders and all volunteers associated with the program on their remarkable accomplishments and positive impact on the youth of our community."

Other legislation passed

The following legislation was also passed by council at last Tuesday's meeting:

(Continued on Page 2)

PB CLE Pilot Voting Expo announced

It's almost time to vote for the PB CLE Pilot projects created by and for Slavic Village! A PB CLE Pilot Voting Expo will be held on Saturday, Aug. 1, from noon to 3 p.m., at the Polish American Cultural Center, 6501 Lansing Ave., Cleveland.

There Slavic Village residents, high school-aged and up, will be able to connect with their neighbors, learn more about what's on the ballot, and cast a vote for their favorite projects! RSVP to attend the Expo at: RSVP@pbcle.com

Residents can also vote both online and in-person through Saturday, Aug. 22, including at community centers, events and neighborhood meetings.

Voting will be done through a process called ranked choice voting where you will rank three projects that you would like to be funded. At the end of the voting period, the projects with the most votes will be awarded up to \$100,000.

"Your choices decide which projects get funded and shape how money is spent in your community," said PB CLE committee member Tony Brancatelli. "This is an exciting opportunity for residents to vote on how to spend up to \$100,000 in grant funds for projects in the Broadway/Slavic Village community."

(Continued on Page 3)



The Polish Picnic at the Polish American Cultural Center was a huge success this past Saturday. Hundreds of guests came out in beautiful weather to enjoy the fabulous music, entertainment, many vendors, great homemade Polish food, games, the basement speakeasy and, of course, tours of the beautiful museum.

The highlight of the day was a rounding edition of "Sto Lat" to Gene Bak, who celebrated his 93rd birthday Saturday. He is shown above pictured in the center with PACC board members and volunteers. Bak is one of the co-founders of the Polish American Cultural Center. Thanks to the many volunteers, board members and guests who made the day such a huge success.

Cleveland City Council renews Flock cameras for six-month period

Cleveland City Council held its second meeting of its summer recess last Wednesday, July 15, and passed legislation to contract with Flock Safety Automated License Plate Readers for six months, at a cost of \$125,000, while the city prepares a request for proposals to find a different vendor for its automated license plate readers.

The Bibb administration had asked council to renew the city's \$250,000 contract for Flock for one year. Councilmembers were divided on the issue, as were those who made public comments. The ordinance was amended to increase the penalties should anyone other than the Cleveland Police Department access or use data collected by its ALPR vendor.

Other legislation passed

Settlement Agreement for the I-X Center: The Bibb administration introduced this ordinance as an emergency measure to end a decades-long agreement with Brook Park involving land and tax revenue.

10022 Madison Avenue Property: Council approved, by a vote of 14 to 1, an ordinance declaring the city's intent to begin the process of purchasing, through eminent domain, the former CVS property located at the corner of Madison Avenue and W. 100th Street for the purpose of building a new Firehouse Number 23. This property was the topic of controversy last year when a gas station was proposed for the site.

Data Center Moratorium: Council approved, by a vote of 14 to 1, an ordinance declaring a three-month moratorium on data centers in the city of Cleveland, while a Data Center working group develops recommendations on how the city should approach the issue.

City Hall Accessibility: Council approved by a vote of 14 to 1 the Bibb administration's request to fund improvements to City Hall that would create an accessible entrance on the west side of the building.

The next meeting of the Cleveland City Council, its last meeting during summer recess, will be held on Wednesday, August 19, 2026.

Garfield Heights BRATZ Girls Flag Football program honored by council

(Continued from Page 1)

•Applying for and accepting the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Assistance to Firefighters Grant to upgrade cardiac care equipment. If the grant is awarded, the city hopes to purchase four new cardiac monitors, four new stair chairs, four new Lucas devices (mechanical CPR systems), with the city's share being approximately \$487,436.00.

•Transferring the duties and authority relating to trees, hedges and related matters from the Parks and Recreation director to the service director or the service director's designee.

•Applying for and accepting the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Assistance to Firefighters Grant to upgrade respiratory care equipment, with a share by the city of about \$48,070.00

•Entering into a contract with Zupka & Associates to provide the city with annual financial statements for the year 2026, for financial reporting, auditing and fiscal management, at a cost not to exceed \$50,000.

•Directing the mayor to apply for and accept Community Development Supplemental Grant Funds for a Home Repair Grant Program and enter into an agreement with the Cuyahoga County Department of Development. The city is eligible to receive up to \$50,000.

•Purchasing two 2027 F550 chassis cab trucks through Montrose Ford, at a cost not to exceed \$120,120.00

•Purchasing two snowplows and two dump truck bodies, including installation, from Zoresco for the Garfield Heights Service Department, at a cost of \$44,680.00.

•Extending the moratorium on the issuance and processing of all licenses, permits and certificates that would enable the cultivation, processing, distribution or sale of adult use cannabis in the city for a period not to exceed three months.

•Entering into active deposit contracts with any financial institutions recognized by the city charter and ordinances and the Ohio Revised Code. This would allow the city to seek the highest available interest rates and obtain the most favorable banking services.

•Entering into interim deposit contracts with any financial institutions recognized by the city charter and ordinances and the Ohio Revised Code.

•Adopting the tax budget of the city for fiscal year beginning Jan. 1, 2027, and authorizing its submission to

the Cuyahoga County Budget Commission.

Mayor's report

In his report to council, Mayor Matt Burke noted that an opening is now available on the city's Zoning Board and anyone who has knowledge and experience with city zoning codes is encouraged to apply.

He also said the city's Assistant Law Director, Kevin Weiler, has retired and extended his thanks for his many years of tireless service to the community.

The mayor also announced a potential use for the now-closed Debelak Park area - he said it may become the new home for Safety Town.

LIBRARIES PLAN SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Independence Branch Library

The Independence Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library is located at 6361 Selig Dr., Independence. For more information or to register for any program, please call 216-447-0160.

ADULT

A Taste of Moroccan Cuisine - Making Preserved Lemons / Registration required. Enjoy a taste of North African cooking, learn about life in Morocco, and prepare a jar of preserved lemons to take home for your own kitchen. Saturday, Aug. 1, 2 p.m.

Princess Diana: The People's Princess - Part 1 / Registration required. Princess Diana was an international icon whose activism, style and charm made her a popular figure. Learn about how she became the People's Princess. Saturday, Aug. 15, 2 p.m.

Wednesday Night Book Discussion / No registration required. Join us for a casual and lively book discussion of "The Kamogawa Food Detectives" by Hisashi Kashiwai. The books will be available approximately one month before the discussion date. Wednesday, Aug. 19, 7:15 p.m.

ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH TRASH & TREASURE SALE

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UPCOMING Events

- CHURCH EVENT
- GRAND OPENING
- FUNDRAISER

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RECYCLE RIGHT!



HOW TO RECYCLE CORRECTLY
Keep them loose. Do not bag them.

ONLY THESE 5 ITEMS GO INTO YOUR RECYCLE BIN

- 1 ALUMINUM CUPS & METAL CANS** Empty & Rinse
- 2 CARTONS** Empty & Rinse, Flatten, discard cap in trash
- 3 GLASS Bottles/Jars** Empty & Rinse
- 4 PAPER & BOXES** Flatten cardboard items & cereal boxes to save space
- 5 PLASTIC Bottles/Jugs** Empty & Rinse, Replace the cap

PROPER DISPOSAL OF THESE ITEMS IS REQUIRED: Latex Paint, Medications, Household Hazardous Waste, Fluorescent Bulbs

DONATE THESE ITEMS ELSEWHERE: Clothing, Computers/Electronics, Household goods, Shredded paper, Plastic bags, Scrap metal, Tires, Construction debris, Propane tanks

NOT EVERYTHING CAN BE RECYCLED
THESE ITEMS GO IN THE TRASH:
Styrofoam & take-out containers,
hoses & ropes, plastic toys & hangers.



Cuyahoga County
SOLID WASTE DISTRICT
CuyahogaRecycles.org

Projects on 2026 PB CLE Pilot Ballot announced

(Continued from Page 1)

Pet Food Security

Neighborhood Pets will expand its existing pet food pantry, increasing the quantity of food for current participants. This program will allow more families to keep their pets, reduce financial strain, and connect residents to support resources.

Budget: \$30,000

Vacant Property and Condition Survey

The Survey will assess buildings and property conditions for the entire neighborhood, grading them A to F. It will identify vacant land and notify the public. This project aims to help identify affordable housing & vacant land opportunities while eliminating blight and hazardous conditions.

Budget: \$10,000

Morganic Gardens Remediation

Soil remediation for one of Cleveland’s oldest gardens to revitalize approximately 50 community garden plots. The soil needs treatment with a new blend of materials to lower lead levels.

Budget: \$15,000

Sustainable Sewing Project

The program teaches pregnant women and women with children under age 5 who are experiencing homelessness how to sew high quality reusable bags, purses, etc. that can be sold online. The Haven Home provides childcare and other resources.

Budget: \$10,000

SUBMIT YOUR COMMUNITY EVENTS AND ADVERTISING TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS VIA EMAIL: NNEWS1923@AOL.COM

THESE NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCHES WELCOME YOU

Garfield Heights
United Methodist Church
4977 Turney Road
Garfield Heights, Ohio
Worship Sundays at 10:30am
In Church and on Facebook Live

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.

Forest City Park Trail Expansion

The already-designed Phase 2 of Forest City Park will be built out by acquiring a vacant parcel. The design builds the proposed trail connecting to Independence Road which will help connect to the “Downtown Connector.”

Budget: \$11,000

These Kids Can Swing!

First Tee will create a full scholarship fund for SV youth (age 7-18) will ensure no child is excluded due to cost from participating in golf and culinary programs. Programs build life skills, confidence, physical health and emotional well-being.

Budget: \$10,000

ANTMEN

A mentoring program, ANTMEN promotes a safe, affirming space where young men ages 6 - 18 can explore identity, purpose, and emotional well-being while building life skills rooted in strength, integrity, and accountability.

Budget: \$43,470.48

Clean Up, So We Can See

Ensures that tech is used as a tool for mutual aid and protection (not just surveillance/exclusion). Provide critical support and infrastructure to the dedicated groups throughout Slavic Village that are already actively leading local cleanup and beautification projects.

Budget: \$13,500

Save PLAV Lincoln Post #13 + E-Sign

Lincoln Post, a Slavic Village mainstay and community event host, needs facility repairs to continue as a gathering space. The proposal includes an electronic information sign displaying current community events and happenings.

Budget: \$20,000

Fleet Garden Center

Will host gardening classes, serve as a community gathering place & offer a neighborhood tool & equipment sharing program

Budget: \$23,000

Have questions? Visit: <https://www.pbcle.com/s/PB-CLE-Pilot-Voting-FAQ.pdf>

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CITY OF BEDFORD, OHIO	
List of Meetings for August 2026	
Monday, August 3, 2026	Council Work Session - TBD Regular Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, August 4, 2026	Planning Commission (if needed) Work Session - 5:30 p.m. Regular Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, August 12, 2026	Southeast Area Law Enforcement (SEALE) Board of Trustees Meeting (if needed) Work Session - 10:00 a.m. Regular Meeting - 12:00 p.m.
Monday, August 17, 2026	Council Summer Session - No Meeting
Tuesday, August 18, 2026	Planning Commission (if needed) Work Session - 5:30 p.m. Regular Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, August 25, 2026	Board of Zoning Appeals (if needed) Work Session - 5:30 p.m. Regular Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
It should also be noted that the Board of Building Standards and Appeals, Civil Service Commission, Bedford Arts and Cultural Board, Bedford Historical Preservation Board, Assessment Equalization Board, Public Hearings, Planning Commission, Animal Appeals Board, Board of Zoning Appeals and Tree Board meet as needed . Notification of these meetings will be posted at the five most public places in the City per Ordinance No. 8461-09 .	
All Meetings will be held at Bedford City Hall, 165 Center Road, Bedford, Ohio 44146. For agendas and minutes please go to www.bedfordoh.gov or call the Clerk of Council at 440-735-6510 .	
Tracy M. Simons, CMC Clerk of Council	
NN: 7-22-26	

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Community police reports

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

Garfield Heights

Theft

On July 13, at 8:22 p.m., an officer was dispatched to Big Lots, 12588 Rockside Rd., to follow-up with a reported theft by juveniles who the on-duty manager had detained at the store. The officer spoke with the manager and an employee, who said he witnessed several juveniles walk into the store and request an empty bag. They were given an empty bag and a short time later the employee overheard the security alarm activate near the entrance to the store. The employee said he observed the juveniles attempting to leave the store with the bag filled with store merchandise, including various perfumes with the product total worth about \$20.00. The three juvenile suspects were placed in a police cruiser, and the officer attempted to call the guardian whose name was provided by the suspects and the address where they resided, but she could not be reached. The juveniles were taken to the address they had given and the officer made contact with their guardian there, who regained custody and was informed the report would be forwarded to the Juvenile Detective Bureau.

Menacing

On July 15, at 3:30 p.m., police arrived at Dave's Supermarket, 4948 Turney Rd., in connection with a threatened assault. The complainant told officers that as she was leaving Dave's after grocery shopping, an unknown male asked her for money. When she denied the request, the male grew hostile and threatened to punch her in the face. He was described as a black male, about 18 years of age with short black hair and wearing a white shirt.

One of the officers toured the area looking for the suspect and saw someone matching his description at Turney Rd. and Plymouth Ave. The officer approached the suspect and told him he was investigating the incident at Dave's. The male provided his Social Security number and was found to have an active warrant for a traffic offense with Independence police. The officer informed the suspect of the warrant and began to escort him to the zone car. He attempted to flee as he was being placed in handcuffs but was quickly restrained. The suspect told officers he had a gun in his pocket, which turned out to be an HK CC9, 9 mm. There was one round in the chamber and several rounds in the magazine. Dispatch advised the weapon came back as stolen. He was placed under arrest pending felony charges, taken to city jail and booked for the following with no bond: having weapons under disability, receiving stolen property and resisting arrest. Detective Bureau will follow-up.

Animal Cruelty

On July 15, shortly before 7 p.m., an officer was dispatched to Dave's Supermarket for a dog inside a vehicle in the parking lot. The officer located a small dog inside a vehicle with the temperature outside at 94 degrees. The car was unlocked. The officer was unable to check on the dog's health because it bit his fingers, but caused no injury. Female came out to her vehicle and was cited for animal cruelty and provided a summons.

Traffic Offense-Fleeing

On July 15, about 1:40 p.m., a Targeted Enforcement Unit detective advised he had located a grey VW Passat being driven without a visible license plate. Officers had prior knowledge that this vehicle had possibly fled from the Independence police during a high-speed chase three days before. The detective attempted a traffic stop of the VW on Willard Ave., but the vehicle failed to stop and continued east on Willard, then south on E. 122 St. Backup units arrived and an officer deployed stop sticks through his driver's side window as the VW passed the police car. The detective advised that the stop sticks had worked and both left-side tires of the suspect vehicle were rapidly deflating. A short time later the detective performed a PIT maneuver, successfully disabling the car. The driver fled on foot down an embankment toward I-480, and after being Tased was taken into custody.

Assault

•On July 17, about 3 p.m., police were dispatched to a home in the 10800 block of Mountview Ave., for a report that a female was holding a gun and arguing with a repossession company employee. When officers arrived they found the woman with a black Glock 43x on her left hip in the driveway arguing with a male. Police removed the weapon from her. She told them she never pointed the gun or made any threats with it. The repo man said he did not wish to pursue anything, only to finish repossession of the vehicle. The woman was allowed to remove her property from the vehicle, and as she was taking the last of her things, she slammed the car door, striking the repo man in the shoulder. She then swung a bag filled with her property at the repo man, striking him in the face. She was arrested for assault and taken to city jail, where she was booked without issue.

•On July 18, at 8:43 p.m., police were dispatched to the Open Pantry at 4541 E. 131 St., after an employee reported that two juveniles had come into the store and said someone had maced them. While units were en-route, dispatch added that the employee reported that the suspect in the macing incident had entered the store and pulled a firearm. When police arrived they were flagged down by several customers who said the suspect, a dark-skinned black male weighing about 120 pounds and wearing a black hoodie and black pants, was last seen running towards Alvin Ave. Units toured the area looking for the suspect with negative results.

The two juvenile victims were interviewed as they scrubbed their faces at the Open Pantry to rinse off the pepper spray. They began explaining to police that a cousin, which was the suspect, had arranged to meet them at the empty lot at the intersection of E. 131 St. and Alvin Ave. to exchange boxing gloves that belonged to one of them. They said they saw three other unknown juveniles accompanying the cousin/suspect and that moments later a physical altercation occurred and the suspect sprayed the victims with mace. Victims said they fled on foot to Open Pantry for help. They said the suspect followed them through the store and into the back storage area and began punching one of the victims. Employees assisted in getting the suspect out of the store. EMS treated the victims on scene. Juvenile Detective Bureau to follow-up.

Post 309 Ham Dinner

American Legion Post 309, 15521 Broadway Ave., Maple Heights, will hold a Christmas in July Ham Dinner on Wednesday, July 22, serving from 3 to 7 p.m. Donation is \$13.00 to eat-in carryout; all welcome. Menu includes ham, au gratin potatoes, applesauce, salad, roll and dessert. Advance order appreciated by calling 216-662-7768.



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

July 25: Family Hike through the Forest. Bring your family on a hike this morning that ventures through the woodlands of Bedford. Along our hike we will stop at a small creek to discover who lives there. We will look for amphibians, birds and insects while we explore. This adventure will be fun for the entire family. 10 – 11:30 a.m. Egbert Picnic Area. Ages: 5–11 years w/adult. Terrain: paved and natural surface, hills, 1.5 miles.

Aug. 2: Hike to Linda Falls. We're heading to the bottom of a 30-foot drop to see these twin falls from another view. We will have some nets to hunt for dragonflies along the way! We will be hiking in the creek, so closed-toed shoes are needed. If we are experiencing poor weather for a creek hike, we will take the Sagamore Creek Loop Trail to the top of the falls. 9 a.m.–12 p.m. Alexander Road Trailhead at Sagamore Creek. Terrain: uneven and slippery surfaces, ankle to knee-deep water, over and around large rocks and trees, up to 3 miles.

Aug. 8: Family Morning Creek Hike. Bring the family out for a hike this morning that ventures to a nearby creek. We will hike through the woods to a creek where we will explore and discover what lives there. Water shoes and change of clothes suggested. 10:30 a.m. – noon. Egbert Picnic Area. Ages 2–6 years w/adult. Terrain: paved and natural surface, hills, 1 mile.

Aug. 21: Preschoolers - Hike with Me. Bring your preschooler on a hike this morning that ventures to a nearby creek. We will explore the creek and discover who lives there. Water shoes and a change of clothes are suggested. 10 – 11:30 a.m. Egbert Picnic Area. Age 2–6 years w/adult. Terrain: natural surface, 1 mile.

Aug. 23: Tinker's Creek Trek. Looking for a challenge with a view? Join a naturalist-led hike through Tinker's Creek, the largest tributary to the Cuyahoga River. Naturalists Jake Kudrna and Pam Taylor will guide you through the gorge up Tinker's Creek, navigating waterfalls, finding rare plants and exploring breathtaking scenery. Please note: This hike is strenuous, and we will hike in the creek the entire time. Restrooms are available at the beginning, middle and end of the hike, with a stop for lunch midway, so be sure to bring food with you to refuel your body. We will carpool to our starting location. Hiking poles encouraged, some available to borrow. Please note that this hike takes place in the creek and will be cancelled if water levels are too high. Sturdy footwear that can get wet is required. 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Egbert Picnic Area. Terrain: difficult, uneven and slippery surfaces, ankle to knee-deep water, over and around large boulders, strenuous hills, up to 5 miles. Registration required

Aug. 30: Prehistoric Plants. Ferns are often called "dinosaur plants" because they existed long before dinosaurs and are still found today. During the hike, we will observe these ancient plants and learn how they have survived for millions of years. We will search for five different fern species and learn the key features used to identify each one. 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Tinkers Creek Gorge Scenic Overlook. Terrain: natural surface, uneven terrain, hills, slopes, up to 1.5 miles.

(Continued on Page 8)



Registration opens for Embrace the Pace fundraiser in Independence

Includes 5K, One-Mile Run/Walk/Roll & Kids' Race

Embrace the Pace will take place on Saturday, Aug. 22, 9:00 a.m., at Liberty Playground, 6363 Selig Blvd., Independence. The top adult male/female runners in each age group (chip-timed) will receive a Fat Head's growler + a \$20 gift card.

To register for the 5K or any of the Embrace the Pace races, visit: www.connectingforkids.org/5K. Registration will close on Friday, Aug. 21, with no race day registration. Last year's inaugural event had more than 200 participants and raised \$8,000 for Connecting for Kids' free programming with nearly \$900 donated to the city of Independence for new adaptive playground equipment at Liberty Playground.

The \$35 registration fee for the 5K and one-mile run/walk/roll events includes a donation to the city of Independence that will be used to purchase additional adapted playground equipment. The remaining proceeds benefit the free Connecting for Kids programs offered at libraries across Cuyahoga and Lorain counties as well as virtually. All 5K and one-mile participants will receive a t-shirt and draw string bag.

In addition, Embrace the Pace offers a kids' race for participants of all ages and abilities. The kids' race heats will include categories for children who use wheelchairs, walkers, gait trainers, reciprocating gait orthosis or other mobility aids. The cost to participate in the kids' race is \$15 with a t-shirt or \$5 without.

Every registered Embrace the Pace participant will receive a finisher medal and free hot dogs. The event will also feature resource tables and a mobile sensory unit.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 9 a.m. Start Time: 5K
- 9:10 a.m. Start Time: One-Mile Run/Walk/Roll
- 10 a.m. Awards Ceremony
- 10:15 a.m. Kids' Race heats
- 10:30 a.m. Hot dogs donated by the Autism Society of Greater Cleveland

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.

Taste of St. Casimir Polish Food Festival!

The annual Taste of Saint Casimir Polish Food Festival, 8223 Sowinski Ave., Cleveland, will be held on Saturday, July 25, from 2 to 10 p.m., and Sunday, July 26, from 12:30 to 7 p.m. As always, it offers live music, church tours, raffles and some of the best homemade Polish food and drink around, said festival organizers. This year it will feature some new treats to try for the very first time.

The festival weekend includes a 5 p.m. Vigil Mass on Saturday, as well as the regularly scheduled 11:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday; both will be in English and Polish. The church will be open throughout the festival and tours will be available.

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July 24-25, Friday-Saturday, 9am-4pm. 13524 Shady Oak, Garfield Hts. Household, Women's plus size clothes, craft items. Something for everyone!

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(Continued from Page 4)

CANALWAY CENTER - OHIO & ERIE CANAL RESERVATION

Aug. 1-31: Hunt of the Month - Wildflowers. In late summer the wildflowers burst like fireworks high above the ground with brilliant colors like yellow and purple. Stop by CanalWay Center to find 20 late summer wildflowers hidden around the center and you'll earn a prize! 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. CWC

Aug. 1: Cart Tour - Towpath Trail - CanalWay Center to Canal Basin Park. Historical Interpreter Doug Kusak drives the 7-passenger cart to the northern end of the Towpath Trail 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. It's a little lighter on history so we can cover more ground than our other cart tours. 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. CWC. Fee: \$10.50. Registration required: 7.

Aug. 9: Carly Martin - In Search of Mini-Beasts. Join Naturalist Carly Martin on a group scavenger hunt hike for insects, spiders and other invertebrates that live in our park. We'll hike together to search for fascinating creatures and learn about them along the way. 11 a.m. - noon. CWC. Ages 4-10 years w/adult. Terrain: paved and natural surface trail, 1 mile.

Aug. 10: Beginner Archery for Adults [offered two times]. Designed for those newbies intrigued by archery but do not know where to begin. We supply the bows,

arrows, targets and instruction. You supply enthusiasm. We will do our best to help you succeed so you can determine if archery is for you! From the CanalWay Center parking lot, follow the All-Purpose Trail down into the valley, across the canal and straight ahead to our temporary archery range set up in the field. Registration required. 1:30 - 2:30 p.m., and 3 - 4 p.m. Age: adults. Terrain: paved, one hill, 0.5 mile. Fee: \$5.50. Registration required: 6.

Aug. 15: 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. 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. CWC. Fee: \$10.50. Registration required: 7.

Aug. 22: Drop By - Lake Sturgeon. Stop by CanalWay Center between 10 a.m. and noon to learn about Lake Sturgeon, the dinosaur fish of Lake Erie. We will talk about its size, what it eats and where it likes to swim. 10 a.m. - noon.

Aug 22: What's Blooming in the Pollinator Garden? Tag along on a guided tour of the CanalWay Center pollinator garden and see what's in bloom. We will also take a short walk on a nearby trail to look for any showy summer wildflowers. 2-3 p.m. CWC. Terrain: paved and gravel trails, slight incline, 1 mile.

GARFIELD PARK RESERVATION

Aug. 1: 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 registrants recommended; walk-ins are welcome.

Aug. 5: Try-It - Adaptive Kayaking. Have you always wanted to try kayaking, but weren't sure how? Adaptive

kayaking is specifically designed for guests with disabilities to have the opportunity to enjoy the water and explore new areas of Cleveland Metroparks. Adaptive equipment, kayaks, paddles and personal flotation devices provided. 5:30-7 p.m. Garfield Park Program Center. Registration required. Fee: \$5.

Aug. 5: Adaptive Open Paddle. This program is specifically designed for guests with disabilities to have the opportunity to enjoy the water and practice paddling skills under the supervision of trained instructors and volunteers. Adaptive equipment, kayaks, paddles and personal flotation devices provided. You MUST have already completed a Try-It: Adaptive Kayaking program with Cleveland Metroparks BEFORE registering for the Adaptive Open Paddle. 7:30 - 9 p.m. Garfield Park Program Center. Registration required. Fee: \$10.

Aug. 12 & 19: Grayson Highland/Appalachian Trail Backpacking Pre-Trip. Enhance your backpacking skills while experiencing the wild ponies of Grayson Highlands and the beautiful Appalachian Trail in Virginia. We will travel together as you hone your backpacking skills during this 5-day backpacking trip with the potential option for Mount Rogers day hiking to the tallest point in Virginia at 5,729 feet elevation. Attending the pre-trip meetings on August 12 & 19 are required to participate in the backpacking trip. In the pre-trip meetings, guests will learn to plan their own trip logistics, including meals and determining a route. Due to the remote environment and mileage, backpacking experience and general fitness are required. 6 - 9 p.m. Garfield Park Program Center. Registration required. Fee: \$385.

Aug 13.: Try-It - Stand Up Paddleboarding. Get to know the beauty of nature from the water as you try your skills at stand up paddleboarding under the guidance of certified instructors. Walk on water SUP style as you test your balance on a stand up paddleboard. You'll start paddling on your knees, and as you become comfortable, we'll give you tips and tricks to help you stand. You'll be walking on water in no time! 5:30-6:30 p.m., 7-8 p.m. Garfield Park Program Center. Registration required. Fee: \$5.