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102nd YEAR NO. 46

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2026

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

FREE



From the Mayor's Desk

By Garfield Heights Mayor Matt Burke

Thoughts on our city

Sunday I received a heartfelt thank-you message from the Taste of Turney committee for being an engaged mayor who always shows up. I want to pass that thank-you right back to them and to all of you for the tireless work and time you put in.

I truly believe that in the years to come, we'll look back and see how we made history together. Garfield Heights is showing the world what real community looks like. Over the past 5–6 years, as our demographics have evolved, we haven't just adapted—we've thrived. We've built a city where everyone, regardless of background or identity, has a place at the table.

It pains me to hear negative comments from former leaders who refuse to see how far we've come. But I refuse to let cynicism eclipse our success. Look at what we've accomplished together: we've been featured on national television (Viewpoint with Dennis Quaid), highlighted for our outstanding police department (Live on Patrol), and officially recognized by the National Association of Realtors as the 10th best housing market for first time homebuyers in the nation.

When critics get loud, your kindness is what gets me through. I will pray for those who choose division over progress, but my focus will always remain steadfast on serving you with positivity and purpose.

Garfield Heights, I am honored to be your mayor. Let's keep making history together!

We'll see you around town!

Sign up for Garfield Heights Community Garage Sale!

Mark your calendars for an exciting weekend of deals and treasures, and make some money, too, at the Garfield Heights Community Garage Sale coming up Thursday and Friday, Sept. 10 and 11, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 12 and 13, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at homes across the city.

The \$10 registration fee covers your permit, advertising, and your address on the master map available to all shoppers. Register now through Friday, Sept. 4, at the Garfield Heights Civic Center during regular business hours, or signup by calling Ward 5 Councilwoman Rachelle Tonsing, 216-307-5211, or Ward 7 Councilwoman Jenn Newrones at 216-478-9977.

LiveBarn Inc. to begin streaming youth sports at Dan Kostel Recreation Center ice rink

By Ellen Psenicka

Big news for fans of hockey and ice skating for kids at the Dan Kostel Recreation Center in Garfield Heights.

At its meeting Monday night, Garfield Heights Council passed an ordinance to enter into an agreement with LiveBarn Inc., for sports broadcasting services and equipment at the Dan Kostel Recreation Center ice rink.

LiveBarn will install fully automated sports broadcasting systems for the delivery of live and/or on-demand video and audio streaming at the Rec Center ice rink at no charge to the city.

According to the legislation, LiveBarn Inc. is a streaming service that "provides live and on-demand video broadcasting for amateur and youth sports and has the experience and expertise necessary to provide the equipment and services to the city."

Revenue generated from the Automated Online Broadcast Service will be the property of LiveBarn. However, LiveBarn will supply the city with a unique code ("Promo Code") to enable them to market and solicit new subscriptions to the LiveBarn platform, for which LiveBarn will pay the city 30% of the revenue generated from these memberships during the term of the agreement.

Legislation passed

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

- To enter into an agreement with Addo Data Services LTD for upgrades to its telephone system services. The city will pay Addo an upfront cost of \$56,250 and a yearly cost of \$3,000.

- To apply and participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement and/or Local Transportation Improvement programs for funding of the Melgrove Sewer Separation Project.

The current condition of the sanitary sewer and storm sewer lines located at Melgrove Ave. are undersized and have deteriorated to a point that it may cause flooding of the residents' basements, according to the legislation.

- To enter into an agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation for the construction of the I-480 Sanitary Sewer Crossing Project.

- To levy special assessments to the county auditor, to be collected on the next tax collection, for unpaid grass and weed cutting and garbage and refuse collection due the city.

- To amend an agreement with the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court to continue participating in the Cuyahoga County Community Diversion Program for eligible juveniles between the ages of 10 and 17 for years 2027 and 2028.

This program provides an alternative to formal processing through Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court for eligible juvenile offenders. The budget to participate in the program will be provided by Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court and will impose no additional costs to the city.

- To amend an ordinance titled "Feeding of Stray Dogs and Cats." The amended ordinance will be titled "Feeding of Stray Dogs, Cats and **Wildlife**, and, in addition to prohibiting the feeding of stray dogs and cats, the amended ordinance will now include deer, geese, ducks, raccoons, fowl or any other wild animals or wildlife by setting such food out on any public property or within a 150-yard radius of any private residence or public roadway.

(Continued on Page 2)

Maple Heights Council sending five charter changes to electorate

By Ellen Psenicka

Maple Heights City Council met last Wednesday, Aug. 5, and unanimously passed five ordinances, all introduced by the city's Charter Review Commission, which would make changes to sections of the city charter for several procedural matters currently in effect.

These five ballot questions will be submitted to the electorate of Maple Heights at the Nov. 3, 2026 General Election. If approved by voters, the changes will then become amendments to the city charter.

- "Shall Article III, Section 1, of the Maple Heights Charter be amended to clarify that for a person to be eligible for election to, and to continue in, a District Council seat, a person must have resided continuously in the city, and in the Council District in which the person seeks a council seat, for a period of at least two years preceding their election?"

- "Shall Article III, Section 3, of the Maple Heights Charter be amended to delete the provision that an elective officer who is absent from the duties of office for three months, or disqualified from office, may continue in office until a successor is chosen?"

- "Shall Article VII, Section 12, of the Maple Heights Charter be amended to permit ordinances or resolutions concerning salaries, public improvements requiring assessments, or grants of public utility franchises, be posted on the city's website and social media accounts and in four public places in the city?"

- "Shall Article XIII, Section 7, of the Maple Heights Charter be amended to correct a grammatical error by changing the word 'petitions' to 'petitioners'?"

(Continued on Page 2)

Maple Hts. Council sending charter changes

(Continued from Page 1)

•“Shall Article XX, Section 2, of the Maple Heights Charter be amended to provide that the mayor and council president shall each appoint one member and one alternate to the Charter Review Commission; and to provide that an alternate may temporarily replace an absent member at a meeting; and to provide for the election of a chairperson pro tem?”

Other legislation passed

•Recognizing June 2027 as "LGBTQ Pride Month" in the city.

•Entering into an agreement with Lanham Engineering, LLC to provide engineering services as the owner's representative for the citywide signals and efficiency project (NOACA Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program Award) in the city of Maple Heights.

•Transferring funds in the amount of \$100,000 from the General Fund to the Police Pension Fund to provide estimated police department employee pension obligations for 2026.

•Transferring funds in the amount of \$60,000 from the

General Fund to the Fire Pension Fund for estimated fire department employee pension obligations for 2026.

•Transferring \$692.64 from the General Fund to the FEMA Fire Grant Fund.

•Authorizing the mayor to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Fraternal Order of Police, George Murray Lodge Maple Heights Division, for the Captain Bargaining Unit for the period July 19, 2026, through December 31, 2026.

Effective July 19, 2026, the police department filled the vacant position of captain. The Fraternal Order of Police, George Murray Lodge Maple Heights Division, which is the bargaining unit for the position of captain, along with the police chief and law director, have negotiated terms that sets forth wages, hours and other terms and conditions of employment for the new captain.

•Authorizing the engineer to begin the preparation of plans and specifications to advertise for bids for the Raymond Street Resurfacing Project.

Cuyahoga County Council has awarded the city of Maple Heights \$197,707.00 for the Raymond Street Resurfacing Project through 2026, which will help fund roadway improvements on Raymond St., from Anthony St. to Lee Rd.; all funds awarded are required to be expended before June 30, 2027.

Tabled

The following piece of legislation was placed into city council's Housing Committee for further discussion.

A resolution authorizing the mayor to enter into a Professional Planning Services Agreement with the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission for the development and initial adoption of a unified zoning code in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.

County Planning has convened the Cuyahoga County Unified Zoning Code Consortium, a collaborative body of participating municipalities, of which Maple Heights is a founding member, designed to modernize zoning regulations and unlock development opportunities while preserving local administrative authority.

LiveBarn Inc. to begin streaming youth sports

(Continued from Page 1)

This section does not apply to songbirds fed from suitable containers for food elevated at least 48 inches above the ground level.

Those violating this section will be guilty of a minor misdemeanor for the first offense and a fourth-degree misdemeanor for a second or subsequent offense.

•To amend an ordinance titled "Menacing" to provide additional protections for health care professionals and health care workers and adds them to the list already in the ordinance titled "Menacing" which provides that violators may be prosecuted for a felony.

•To adopt a temporary six-month moratorium on the establishment, expansion or approval of new salvage yards, junk yards, automobile recycling facilities and similar land uses in the city.

Council has determined that it is necessary to review the new Planning and Zoning Code and evaluate the appropriate locations and regulations for salvage yards, junk yards, automobile recycling facilities, and similar land uses.

•To update the city's regulations governing mobile food service operations and associated fees. Mobile food services will now not be permitted to operate in U-3 apartment houses, office building districts or any nonresidential zoned districts.

•To authorize the mayor to accept a Healthy Choices Program Grant Award. The Garfield Heights Senior Center was awarded \$1,068.45 in funding to support and expand access to healthy foods.

Garfield Heights Branch Library

Here are some of the **FREE** programs available at the Garfield Heights Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, 5409 Turney Rd. Call 216-475-8178 to register or for more information.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Innovation Center & Memory Lab Orientation Learn about the equipment and policies of the Innovation Centers throughout Cuyahoga County Public Library. Attending this orientation allows users to utilize the library's Innovation Centers. For adults 18 years and older. Saturday, Aug. 29, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Successful Aging: Your Curiosity Matters! Come learn ways to enhance your curiosity that can enhance the quality of your days while providing support for the other essential pillars of your brain health routine with Kathryn Kilpatrick, geriatric life enhancement consultant, memory fitness specialist, and speech language pathologist. Saturday, Aug. 15, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Registration required.

Tuesday Evening Book Discussion Join us for an engaging in-person book discussion. The book this month is "Judge Stone" by Viola Davis and James Patterson. Tuesday, Aug. 18.

Black Authors Book Discussions Join us for this monthly book discussion featuring Black authors. August's title is "Keeper of Lost Children" by Sadeqa Johnson. Monday, Aug. 24, 6-7 p.m.

Blood Drive The American Red Cross will be at the library for a blood drive. For more information or to make an appointment, visit www.redcrossblood.org or call 800-RED-CROSS (800-733-2767). Wednesday, Aug. 26, 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Innovation Center Hands-on Help Need help with a project in the Innovation Center? Bring your ideas and materials and staff will be available to help you get started. This program is open to users who have already completed an Innovation Center Orientation. Wednesday, Aug. 26, 6-8 p.m.

TEENS

Teen Tuesday Meet up with friends and enjoy trying a new activity each month! Tuesday, Aug. 18, 3-4 p.m.

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RECYCLE RIGHT!

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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.

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Rev. Dr. Tim Morrison

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

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

Garfield Heights

Criminal Damage

On Aug. 3, shortly before 7 p.m., a woman came to the GHPD lobby to report her vehicle had been damaged. She told an officer that the previous day, at 2:15 a.m., she was in her car attempting to leave the crowded parking lot of Aries bar, 4619 Warner Rd., when a female she knows began beating on her driver's window and pulling on her door handle trying to get her out of the car to fight. The victim said the woman had shattered her driver's window and damaged her driver's door with small dents and scratches from beating on it with an unknown object.

The victim said she was afraid to get out of the car because the other woman, along with a large group of friends, had her car surrounded. Due to the situation she said she backed into another unknown vehicle parking in the lot while trying to get away from the woman beating on her car, also causing minor damage to the back right corner of her car. The victim was referred to the city prosecutor.

Animal Warden

On Aug. 3, at 10:15 a.m., an officer arrived at a home in the 13000 block of Oakpark Ave., upon the request of the animal warden, for assistance with issuing citations there. The officer and animal warden talked to the owner of a pitbull-type dog, tan in color. The animal warden explained to her she would be receiving citations for: animal at large, failure to register the animal, and rabies vaccination of dogs and cats required. The dog's owner grew uncooperative and began to recant her statement that the dog was hers. She also initially refused to provide the warden with her driver's license and refused to sign and take her copies of the citations while on scene. She later came to the police station and got her citation copies but still refused to sign them. Case referred to the Prosecutor's Office for follow-up.

Theft of a Motor Vehicle

On Aug. 4, at about 3:07 p.m., officers responded to Uptown Auto, 6068 Turney Rd., for a report of stolen vehicles. One of the victims told police he parked his silver 2020 Ford Edge in the business parking lot on Aug. 1, to show it to a potential buyer who did not show up. So the victim left the car in the parking lot and last saw it that evening. He said the Edge keys were securely locked inside the business. The owner of Uptown Auto also was on scene and told police his white 2015 Hyundai Sonata was in the lot and was last seen on Saturday. Both vehicles were entered into LEADS as stolen.

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Shots Fired

On Aug. 4, shortly before 11 p.m., police responded to the 12900 block of Melgrove Ave., for gunfire in the area. Earlier that evening police had been called to a disturbance in the area where a group of four females were trying to start a fight with another female, but they could not be located when officers had arrived. The mother of the female in question told police she would be leaving her residence with her children for the evening. Given the prior call from the same address earlier, an officer checked the residence for any evidence. On the front of the house several holes were located that appeared to be bullet holes. Assisting officers canvassing the area were able to locate five fired 9mm shell casings in two areas. Four casings were located in front of a home in the 12700 block of Melgrove and one casing in front of another home in the area. City cameras picked up a silver Audi 4-door turning onto Melgrove from E. 131 St., with its headlights off just prior to the shots fired call. The mother who had called police earlier about four females wanting to fight her daughter told police three of the holes in her residence were new and caused by the gunfire in the street. She was advised that the Garfield Heights Detective Bureau would investigate the incident.

Property Damage-Non-Criminal

A woman called GHPD on Aug. 7, to report that earlier that day, between 6:40 and 6:45 a.m., she was driving on McCracken Rd. near Marymount Hospital and struck a large chuck hole in the road damaging both the right side front and rear tires on her 2025 Kia. She said the estimated cost of replacing the damaged tires is \$230 each. She was given a report number and advised to contact the Law Department.

Theft

On Aug. 7, an officer responded to E. 131 St. and Thornhurst Ave., in connection with theft of construction equipment. The officer talked to an employee of Fabrizi Construction which is repairing pavement on Thornhurst Ave. The employee said that when he and his crew arrived that morning to the job site at about 7:30 a.m., they noticed their Top Con Hiper VR was missing from their pole. The officer was told by the employee that this type of equipment acts as a robot/GPS which is responsible for operating heavy machinery used to repave the roadway. He said it had an estimated value of \$14,000.

He also gave the officer two addresses on Thornhurst with Ring door bell camera systems and face the general direction of where this piece of equipment was stolen. The report was given to the Detective Bureau for further followup.

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The Girls Club now offers CPR and First Aid Training for girls and boys as well as adults and "Learn How to Read" classes and training to build literacy skills, also open to all.

Call the Club at 216-478-7028 or visit www.girlsclubofohio.org today!

St. John's Back Pack Bash

St. John Lutheran Church, 11333 Granger Rd., Garfield Heights, will hold a Back Pack Bash on Sunday, Aug. 16, from 2-4 p.m. Students can come and collect their needed school supplies, enjoy Kona Ice, popcorn and some fun on a couple of inflatables. Registration forms will also be available for the Thursday evening Basketball and Youth Center activities. The Thursday evening events will begin on Sept. 8. The Thursday evening activities are for 4-8th graders, 5:30-7 p.m.; and high school students 7:30-9 p.m.

For kindergarten-3rd grade children, Kid's Oasis is new this year and will begin on Sept. 7, at 5:30 p.m. Call the church, 216-587-4222, or email: sjlutheran@att.net if you have questions.

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The City of Bedford, Ohio is accepting applications from qualified candidates to establish a Lateral Transfer Certified List for the position of Fire Medic. Starting base pay is from \$74,730 up to \$89,257 commensurate with experience.

Applications can be obtained from our website, at <https://bedfordoh.gov/civil-service-commission/>. Application must be completed and submitted with all required documentation by August 21, 2026.

The City of Bedford is an Equal Opportunity Employer By Order of the City of Bedford Civil Service Commission

NN: 7-29-26 & 8-12-26

Sewer District invests millions to help communities address flooding, failing septic systems, water quality; Garfield Hts. set to receive nearly \$4.5 million

In an effort to continue to build on the nearly 55 years of water quality improvements and successes in the region, last week the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District’s Board of Trustees, under the Member Community Infrastructure Program (MCIP), awarded 19 grants for funding in 2027, to 12 communities, including Brooklyn, Garfield Heights, Newburgh Heights, Parma and Shaker Heights, totaling \$25,000,000.

“Failing septic systems, sewer flooding, sanitary sewer overflows and common trench sewers contribute to poor

water quality throughout our region,” said Matt Scharver, director of Watershed Programs. “This program provides a vital funding mechanism to local communities to assist with needed repairs and new sewer infrastructure while improving the region’s water resources, and complementing the significant regional investments made by the Sewer District over the past five decades.”

MCIP provides funding to member communities and eligible political subdivisions for sewer infrastructure rehabilitation, replacement and improvement projects that address water quality and quantity issues. These issues adversely impact human health and the environment, and are mitigated through cost-effective sewer infrastructure projects.

Since the program’s inception in 2016, the Sewer District’s MCIP program has invested \$148.3 million towards 178 local, publicly-owned sewer infrastructure projects, leveraging an additional \$123 million in investments from member communities.

Representatives said the Sewer District is proud to offer this standout program, turning local priorities into regional progress, and serving as a keystone funding source for clean water initiatives. Grant recipients and the projects to be funded locally for 2027 include:

Garfield Heights

- E. 135th Neighborhood Study (design): \$312,000.00
- Maplerow and E. 126th Sewer Separation (construction): \$1,917,963.75
- I-480 Sanitary Sewer Crossing (construction): \$2,043,975.00
- Melgrove Avenue Reconstruction (design): \$180,732.00

Newburgh Heights

- Washington Park Sewer Separation (design): \$184,357.50
- McGregor Sewer Separation (construction): \$1,972,650.00



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

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. 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.

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

By order of the Council of the City of Maple Heights, sealed bids will be received by the Purchasing Agent, at Maple Heights City Hall, 5353 Lee Road, Maple Heights, Ohio 44137, until 12:00 Noon, local time, on the 20th day of August, 2026 for the “**MAPLE HEIGHTS LEE ROAD GATEWAY ENHANCEMENT SIGN PROJECT**” in the City of Maple Heights, Ohio, NO FAXED COPIES ACCEPTED.

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

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

Each Proposal must contain the full name of the party or parties submitting the proposal and all persons interested therein. Each bidder must submit evidence of its experiences on projects of similar size and complexity.

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

The Maple Heights Lee Road Gateway Enhancement Sign Project is partially funded by the Cuyahoga County Department of Development Block Grant Program. A bidder/contractor will be deemed committed to the Department of Labor’s goals and timetables for the Cleveland, Ohio area as specified in the Notice of Requirements for Affirmative Action to ensure Equal Employment Opportunity Executive Order 11246 by submitting a properly signed bid. Each bidder must ensure that all employees and applicants for the employment are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability or veteran status.

A copy of the Bid Specification package for the Maple Heights Lee Road Gateway Enhancement Sign Project will be available for review by all potential bidders at the offices of the Cuyahoga County Department of Development located at 2079 East Ninth Street., 7th floor office 7-303, Cleveland, Ohio 44115.

Small Business Enterprises (SBE’s) are encouraged to participate on this project. The goal for SBE participation is 35% of total contract award for this project.

A Pre-bid Conference for the Maple Heights Lee Road Gateway Enhancement Sign Project will be held at 10:00 A.M. local time on the 13th day of August, 2026 in the Council Chambers at the Maple Heights City Hall, 5353 Lee Road, Maple Heights, Ohio 44137 for all interested parties. Information will be disseminated concerning proper completion of bid package documents.

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

Bids are to be submitted in accordance with the plans and specifications on file in the office of the Purchasing Agent. Sealed bids must be marked, “**MAPLE HEIGHTS LEE ROAD GATEWAY ENHANCEMENT SIGN PROJECT**”

Dennis Kennedy
Finance Director
Maple Heights, Ohio

PUBLISHED: NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS
August 5, 2026
August 12, 2026

TWO KITTENS NEED A GOOD HOME



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Aug. 23: Cart Tour - Nature Along the Canal.

Aug. 27: Hike Because It's Good for You!

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Aug. 27: Hike Because It's Good for You! Research tells us that being in nature, being active, and being with other people are all good for us. Join a naturalist for a walk along the Ohio and Erie Canal, and we'll do all those things. 3 – 4:30 p.m. CWC. Age: adults. Terrain: paved, 2.5 miles.

'Taste of Turney' showcases community in Garfield Heights



Crowds turned out to visit Turney Rd. in Garfield Heights last Saturday, to get a "Taste of Turney" and some wonderful live entertainment all day on two stages along the city's main street.

Food trucks were everywhere offering all sorts of great food, children delighted in the Touch-a-Truck offered by the Garfield Heights Fire Department, face painting and lots of other kid-friendly activities. The Garfield Heights Marching Band played on the Main Stage at the GHHS parking lot to open the festivities, along with MC Kiana Wilson on the Second Stage at Garfield Blvd. and Turney.

The Taste of Turney Committee, city officials and the business community came together to make this annual event a big hit for everyone who attended. Mayor Matt Burke offered a shoutout to the event's committee who once again "knocked it out of the park" and did their city proud.

Photos by Elena Psenicka

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Polonia Foundation of Ohio honors three, awards 22 scholarships at 61st annual Pulaski Awards Banquet



Shown above is honoree Joseph Feckanin (center) receiving the Polonia Foundation of Ohio Heritage Award from Foundation President Monica Sochecki, at left, and Foundation Vice President Joseph Rutkowski. Photo by Elena Psenicka

The Polonia Foundation of Ohio held its 61st annual Pulaski Scholarship and Heritage Awards Banquet on Sunday, Aug. 9, at Woodside Event Center at St. Michael's in Broadview Heights.

Scholarships were awarded to 22 students by various Polonia trusts, funds, grants and endowments from organizations and private individuals.

Three men were honored at the banquet with Polish Heritage Awards for their service to the Polish-American communities in Northeast Ohio: Joseph Feckanin, Fr. Jerzy Kusy and Ted Zamskie.

Joe Feckanin, whose mother was born in Poland and whose American father was of Rusyn and Slovak ancestry, is a graduate of Cleveland's South High School and Cleveland State University. Most of his working career was at Standard Oil, where he developed managerial, writing and investigative skills.

His Polish ties to the southeast community run deep. During his life's journey he has been a member of the Polish Army Veterans Association General Sikorski Post 203,

Polish National Alliance, PRCUA, Alliance of Poles, Union of Poles and Polish-American Congress.

In 2009, his attention turned to local Polish parishes, which many Catholics in the Cleveland Diocese felt were being unjustly closed. He wrote an appeal to Bishop Richard Lennon protesting the targeted closures, joined weekly prayer vigils and wrote numerous articles in *The Neighborhood News* on behalf of St. Casimir Church and other ethnic churches on the bishop's list. Ultimately the parishioners' voices were heard in Rome, and the Vatican issued decrees to reopen all the churches that had appealed. St. Casimir reopened July 15, 2012.

Joe is still very active at St. Casimir Church, where he sings in the choir, and promotes Polish culture, religion and events in the ethnic communities. He heads a group known as Cleveland Polonia that marches each year in Cleveland's St. Patrick's Day parade.

The next honoree, **Fr. Jerzy Kusy**, was born in 1960, in Poland, and received his priestly ordination on Dec. 13, 1986, in the Lublin Cathedral and was assigned to several parishes throughout the region. In June 1997, shortly after arriving in the United States, he was assigned to St. Casimir Parish in Cleveland until November 1999, when he was transferred to another Polish-American parish, St. Stanislaus in Slavic Village. He also served as a parochial vicar at St. Mary of the Falls Parish in Olmsted Falls and is currently the pastor at St. Cyprian Parish in Perry, Ohio.

Fr. Kusy is actively involved in the wider Polish-American community. He serves as chaplain for the Polonia Sports Club, and has acted as the spiritual guide for the St. John Paul II Polish-American Cultural Center in Slavic Village since its inception. He is a well-liked and respected figure within his own parish and throughout the wider community he so devotedly serves.

The final honoree, **Ted Zamskie**, was born in a small town in southeast Ohio in Jefferson County. After working for the Pennsylvania Railroad and a two-year stint in the U.S. Army, Zamskie made his way to Cleveland and was employed at Stanford Oil Company, then Midtown Records Center, and retired in 1995.

Zamskie joined PLAV Pulaski Post #30 in 1964, and in 1990 was honored as its Veteran of the Year. He has been with American Legion Post #572 in Parma for 30 years. In 1996, together with his late wife, Alice, they were installed in the Polonia Foundation of Ohio as Knight and Grand Lady of Pulaski. They have donated over 2000 hours of volunteer service to hospitalized veterans.

PB CLE campaign hits Fleet Ave.

The Participatory Budgeting Cleveland's (PB CLE's) drive to gather residents' votes for neighborhood improvement projects in Slavic Village began in earnest on Fleet Avenue last week with table solicitations outside Tia's Closet and campaign signage anchored to the PLAV Lincoln Post #13 building.

Voting continues through August 24th at ballot boxes in Slavic Village Development and Neighborhood Leadership Institute. Residents can also gather project information and vote online at pbcle.com.

LEGAL NOTICE

BEDFORD BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS WILL HOLD A MEETING ON **TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2026**, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF BEDFORD CITY HALL AT **6:00 P.M.** TO CONSIDER THE APPEAL OF THE FOLLOWING:

A. Chance Bohm is requesting an 8ft variance to install a porch into the front yard setback located at 770 High Street, Bedford, OH 44146.

Building Department's determination-

-1927.05 LOT AREA, FRONTAGE AND YARD REQUIREMENTS.- The front yard setback is 35ft minimum in an R-2 zoning district.

-1915.53 YARD, FRONT; LEAST DEPTH. (a) "Front yard" means an open space extending the full width of the lot between a building or setback line and the front lot line, unoccupied and unobstructed from the ground upward, except as hereinafter specified.

-1915.09 BUILDING Definition "Building" means any structure for the shelter or enclosure of persons, animals or chattels.

An 8ft variance is requested to project into the front setback.

ATTENTION: THE APPLICANT'S ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY, AND FAILURE TO ATTEND WILL RESULT IN DENIAL.

Tracy M. Simons
Clerk of Council

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