

The Neighborhood News

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103rd YEAR NO. 02

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

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

FREE

St. Stan's Polish Festival this weekend, Oct. 2, 3, 4

The Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus will hold its annual Polish Festival this Friday through Sunday, October 2, 3, and 4, in the Parish Social Center, 6601 Baxter Ave., in Cleveland's Slavic Village. Admission to the festival is \$5 per adult.

It will feature delicious Polish food cooked in the Old World-style, including favorites like pierogi, kielbasa, czarina, cabbage and noodles, potato pancakes, stuffed cabbage and lots more. There will also be a bakery booth featuring many items baked by parishioners.

And the festival will offer much more for those attending with games of chance, sideboards and boutiques. A bar will be stocked with Polish and domestic beer, wine, spirits and the World Famous special lemon drink, "Cytrynowka."

The Polish Festival will open Friday, Oct. 2, from 5-9 p.m.. Polish dinners will be served downstairs in the Social Center. Fred Ziwich and the International Sound Machine will play upstairs from 6 to 10 p.m.

A tour of the historic Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus is scheduled for 7 p.m. A first class relic of St. Pope John Paul II along with a miter that he wore will be on display in the church as well as other relics of saints and icons of the Catholic faith. St. Stan's also has a new Divine Mercy Shrine in the west transept of the church, hand-carved and created by local wood workers.

On Saturday, Oct. 3, dinners will be served from 4 to 9 p.m. There will be a Mass in the Shrine Church at 5 p.m. with a Church Tour following.

(Continued on Page 8)

Celebrating Dolly Day



Shown here are members and a guest of the Kiwanis Club of South East Cleveland at its meeting last week outside of Jones Road Church, home base for the club. They are holding some of the over 500 books the club purchased and sorted and will distribute to Little Free Libraries in the Slavic Village neighborhoods.

Club President Tony Brancatelli said the timing was perfect for the project, with Dolly Day being observed throughout Ohio last Friday. Dolly Parton was a great advocate for children's literacy and established her Imagination Library which gives free books to pre-schoolers. Little Free Libraries make free books available in communities across the nation just for the taking.



Akron Children's President and CEO Chris Gessner, at right, presents the Business Impact Award to Sonny Johnson of Garfield Heights at ceremonies last week.

Garfield Heights coach Sonny Johnson honored

Akron Children's Hospital held its "More childhood, please™" awards last Wednesday, Sept. 23, and honored Garfield Heights resident and Garfield Heights High School head basketball coach Sonny Johnson, who received the Business Impact Award for his work through NEO Youth Elite.

Johnson leads basketball camps, skill development sessions and competitive showcases that provide structure, mentorship and positive engagement for kids of all ages. These events are not just about athletics; they are designed to teach discipline, teamwork, accountability and confidence. By creating safe, supervised environments, he ensures that young people have a constructive outlet that keeps them active, focused and connected to positive influences.

Akron Children's "More childhood, please" awards celebrate and honor those dedicated to improving and advancing childhood across the 33 counties it serves in Ohio. Each honoree received a hand-blown award made by Akron Glass Works. The marble, a classic children's toy, inspired the award design.

Neighbors on Duty to meet October 7

The next meeting of Neighbors On Duty is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 7, at 6:30 p.m., at the Garfield Heights Civic Center, 5407 Turney Rd.

Guest speakers will include: Cuyahoga County Sheriff Pretel & Co., Cuyahoga County Judge Vodrey, Garfield Heights Schools Superintendent Samuel Vawters, another dynamic video presentation by GHPD Chief Mark Kaye and Deputy Chief Dale Merchant, and host Bob Stemnock of Lightcomm Designs.

RSVP (helps with food count) at <https://www.neighborsonduty.org/> or call Council President Avery Johnson at 216-365-3009 or Councilman Clifford Kelley at 216-253-0142.

Fall Fest this Saturday in Garfield Heights!

The city of Garfield Heights will hold its annual Fall Fest from noon to 3 p.m., this Saturday, Oct. 3, at the Garfield Heights Civic Center, 5407 Turney Rd.

The event includes pumpkin decorating, a hayride, face painting, photo station, game truck, music and much more! Admission is free; food will be available for purchase, cash only. There is no ATM on the premises so guests are encouraged to plan ahead.

There also will be a basket raffle to support the community garden program, and a calendar raffle to support the Senior Center. The Senior Center Shop, which sells greeting cards and a variety of gift items including fall decorations, will be open.

Cash is needed to buy raffle tickets and purchase gift store items. The event includes indoor and outdoor activities. For more information contact Pat Salemi at 216-475-1100, ext. 2425, or email psalemi@garfieldhts.org.

Early In-Person Voting, Vote-By-Mail open Oct. 6 for Nov. 3rd election

The Cuyahoga County Board of Elections is informing voters that Early In-Person Voting and Vote-By-Mail opens for the November 3, 2026 General Election on Oct. 6, 2026.

Anthony Perlatti, director of the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections, is encouraging voters to utilize Vote-By-Mail or Early In-Person Voting at the Board of Elections to reduce Election Day congestion.

Voter turnout is projected to reach at least 60%, surpassing participation from four years ago. All voters will receive a minimum six-page ballot, with some receiving up to eight pages due to the number of issues on the ballot.

Following the U.S. Supreme Court's Sept. 14 ruling, Perlatti clarified that no changes will be made to Vote-By-Mail procedures for the November 3 General Election.

Vote-By-Mail

If you have received a Vote-by-Mail Ballot Application from the Ohio Secretary of State mailing you are encouraged to utilize the form to request your ballot.

Vote-By-Mail Ballot Applications are also available online at www.boe.cuyahogacounty.gov or by calling 216-443-VOTE (8683), and at all public libraries.

(Continued on Page 8)

Garfield Heights Council update

By Ellen Psenicka

The following legislation was passed by Garfield Heights Council at its Monday, Sept. 28, meeting:

•Amending sections of the Codified Ordinance "Certificate of Occupancy" and "Frequency and Schedule of Inspection." The amended ordinance provides that every application for a Certificate of Occupancy for a rental unit or its renewal shall be accompanied by an inspection fee of \$50.00, in addition to the normal application fee of \$200.00. Changes also include that a Certificate of Occupancy shall be renewed annually, for a fee of \$200.00, no later than January 31.

•Entering into an agreement with Addo Data Services LTD, for updated telephone system services and hardware for the Garfield Heights Municipal Court, at a cost not to exceed \$8,100.00.

•Amending a section of the Codified Ordinance titled "Capital Asset Policy and Procedure Manual," and adopting an updated Capital Asset Policy and Procedure Manual, and authorizing the finance director to update the manual as needed. The finance director has reviewed the current policy and recommends updates so that it reflects current accounting standards, including those of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, requirements of the Auditor of State, and the city's present operational needs.

•Applying for and accepting the 2027 Body-Worn Camera Grant by the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services. The Garfield Heights Police Department has used body-worn cameras since 2016, has found them to be an invaluable tool, and desires to once again apply for funding through the BWC Grant Program, in the amount of\$48,948.32, which will be used to purchase secure cloud storage for body-worn camera footage, as well as the requisite online licensing fees and auto-categorization software.

•Applying for and accepting the Bureau of Workman's Compensation Safety Intervention Grant for the purpose of purchasing two aerial work platforms and two safety harnesses. Under the terms of the grant the city would be responsible for 25% of the total cost of the equipment while grant funding would cover the remaining 75%. The equipment is estimated to cost no more than \$27,282.94, with the city estimated to be responsible for no more than \$6,820.74.

•Extending the current moratorium on the issuance and processing of all licenses,

permits and certificates that would enable the cultivation, processing, distribution or sale of adult use cannibas in the city for a period not to exceed three months.

•Updating an ordinance for the city's Plan of Classification and Compensation of Nonunion Pay Positions.

•Requesting an advance in tax settlement.

•Accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission, authorizing the necessary tax levies, and certifying them to the county auditor.

Garfield Heights Branch Library news

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

Excel Advanced Methods and Tools Learn about advanced functions in Excel, including lookup, logical and conditional summary functions, data validation and conditional formatting. Thursday, Oct. 1, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Understanding Legal Options for Divorce Learn about the legal options for divorce and their impact from Malone Mediation and Law. Wednesday, Oct. 14, 6-7 p.m. Registration required.

3D Design Basics Join us for an overview of the 3D printer and an introduction to web-based 3D design software Tinkercad. Saturday, Oct. 17, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Registration required.

Tuesday Evening Book Discussion Join us for an engaging in-person book discussion. The book this month is "Kin" by Tayari Jones. Tuesday, Oct. 20, 6-7 p.m.

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. Upcoming sessions: Saturday, Oct. 24, 11 a.m.-12 p.m., and Wednesday, Oct. 28, 6-8 p.m. Registration required.

Excel: Financial Functions Basics Learn how to use some of the practical financial functions in Excel to calculate loan or interest payments, or the future value of an investment. Monday, Oct. 26, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Registration required.

Black Authors Book Discussions Join us for this monthly book discussion featuring Black authors. This month's title is "Kin" by Tayari Jones. Monday, Oct. 26, 7-8 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, Oct. 28, 6-8 p.m.

TEENS

Workforce Readiness: Career Hustle Lab Teens can join Yvonne Wideman from Central State University to practice interviewing for jobs, learn how to understand job postings, and explore their skills and strengths. There will be sessions on Tuesdays, Oct. 13, and Oct. 27, 6-7 p.m.

Crafting for A Cause Teens and children in Grades K-12 can join us for this fun, hands-on community service program to make hand-made gifts for patients and healthcare workers at local hospitals. High school students who need volunteer hours for graduation are welcome — library staff can sign off on eligible volunteer service hours for participation. Thursdays, Oct. 1, Oct. 15, and Oct. 29, 3-4:30 p.m.

Teens Innovate Teens can come explore STEAM activities, new technologies and make cool things in the library's Innovation Center. Tuesday, Oct. 6, 6-7 p.m.

Teen Tuesday Meet up with friends and enjoy trying a new activity each month! Tuesday, Oct. 20, 3-4:30 p.m.

CHILDREN and FAMILIES

Lil' Farmers Fall Fest Children ages 2-5, with their caregivers, can join us for our FamilySpace program and explore the joys of autumn through hands-on play and harvest-themed fun. Wednesday, Oct. 7, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.



2026 Semi-Annual
COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

Saturday, October 10 - 9 AM – 2 PM

Independence Fieldhouse
6354 Selig Drive

Free Admission!

The Parks & Recreation
Department and Independence
Kiwanis Club are proud to
sponsor the Community Garage
Sale. Proceeds benefit the
Dorothy Ornas Scholarship Fund

CITY OF BEDFORD, OHIO	
List of Meetings for October 2026	
Monday, October 5, 2026	Council Work Session - TBD Regular Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 6, 2026	Planning Commission (if needed) Work Session - 5:30 p.m. Regular Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, October 14, 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, October 19, 2026	Council Work Session - TBD Regular Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 20, 2026	Planning Commission (if needed) Work Session - 5:30 p.m. Regular Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 27, 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: 9-30-26	

Community police reports

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

Garfield Heights

Theft-Firearm

Between Sept. 23, at 8 p.m., and Sept. 24, at 1:25 a.m., a woman living in the 8200 block of Garfield Blvd., told police persons unknown broke out the front driver's door window of her 2019 Honda Insight and stole the firearm inside belonging to her boyfriend. The firearm was a Ruger 9 Max 9mm semi-automatic pistol. The gun will be entered into the LEADS database as stolen.

Traffic Offense-Fleeing

On Sept. 17, at about 4 p.m., GHPD units were notified that a 2023 Kia stolen out of Westlake in an aggravated robbery had been observed entering Garfield Heights southbound on E. 131 St. While officers were en route to the area, the suspect vehicle was observed crossing the intersection of Broadway Ave. and McCracken Rd. into Maple Heights. A GHPD officer located it at the intersection of Broadway and Libby Rd., as it made an eastbound turn onto Libby Rd., and began accelerating at a high rate of speed. The officer pursued through various streets of Maple Heights and into Cleveland. The vehicle eventually wrecked after failing to complete a southbound turn onto E. 116 St., from Harvard Ave., and crashed through a fence at Eagle Auto Parts, 4060 E. 116 St. As the Kia came to rest the male driver fled on foot west through the salvage yard. After losing sight of him, police set up a perimeter and, with the help of a witness, located the suspect on E. 108 St., and took him into custody. He was charged with fleeing and eluding. Westlake PD notified of the recovery.

On Sept. 24, at about 7:40 p.m., a patrolman initiated a pursuit of a 2017 Mitsubishi Outlander operated by a male who had active warrants with multiple neighboring jurisdictions for parole violation/domestic violence. Surveillance cameras at E. 131 St. and Rexwood Ave., had captured the Mitsubishi traveling on E. 131 St., and another officer helped in locating the vehicle parked at the Open Pantry, 4545 E. 131 St. They observed a black male exit the Mitsubishi and enter the store. He matched the description of the suspect wanted on warrants. When the suspect eventually returned to the Mitsubishi and drove off, one officer immediately got ahead of it in his cruiser and the other officer got behind in his cruiser. When they attempted to initiate the traffic stop, the suspect vehicle fled while officers pursued. The suspect accelerated north on E. 131 St., reaching about 85 mph in moderate traffic. At Miles Ave., the suspect failed to stop or reasonably reduce his speed for the red traffic signal and entered the raised intersection at about 60 mph or more. The car became airborne and upon landing narrowly missed hitting another motorist. Approaching Bartlett Ave., an Ohio State Highway Patrol trooper joined the pursuit. Near Bartlett the suspect drove along the curb side of the roadway to pass approximately five to six vehicles stopped northbound on E. 131 St., narrowly avoiding them as he passed. While narrowly missing several other motorists and a residence, the suspect vehicle went west on Abell Ave., decreasing his speed to about 35 mph with no motorists or pedestrians in close proximity. Approaching E. 126 St., police initiated a PIT maneuver on the vehicle and intentionally made contact with the Mitsubishi and redirected it south onto E. 126 St., pressing it against the western parking lot fence of a church located at 3232 E. 128 St., effectively immobilizing it. The suspect immedi-

ately exited and fled on foot, chased by police from GHPD, CPD and OSP. The OSP officer caught up to him and deployed his Taser, after which he was placed into custody and taken to GHPD jail. He was arrested on his outstanding warrants and fresh fleeing and eluding and obstruction charges, as well as ticketed for driving under suspension. Report forwarded to the Detective Bureau.

CATCH THESE JOKES
COMEDY PRESENTS
COMICS CUTS AND KIDS
FREE HAIR CUTS
FOR KIDS 12 YEARS AND UNDER
TAKE PICS WITH SOME OF THE HOTTEST COMICS IN THE CITY
DATE **OCT 4TH** TIME **11AM TO 5PM**
ELEVATIONS BARBER SHOP
4330 TURNEY RD.
GARFIELD HTS, OHIO 44125
FOOD FUN FREE GIVEAWAYS WHILE SUPPLIES LAST
FOR MORE INFO CALL **216 702 0964** | FOR DONATION **\$shawshowtime**



Village of Newburgh Heights
Housing & Building Department
3801 Harvard Avenue
Newburgh Heights, Ohio 44105
216-641-4654
newburgh-oh.gov

NOTICE OF BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS MEETING

The Village of Newburgh Heights Board of Zoning Appeals will meet on Thursday, October 15, 2026 at 6:00 pm in the Village Hall Council Chambers located at 3801 Harvard Avenue in Newburgh Heights.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Minutes (5/21/2026)
- III. Review of request for a variance for an existing accessory structure at 3868 E. 40 St. (PPN 511-03-034) that exceeds permitted size.
- IV. Review of proposed revisions for various zoning ordinances.
- V. Public comment
- VI. Action
- VII. Adjournment

Posted at Village Hall, Village Facebook, in The Neighborhood News, and mailed, September 30, 2026

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Pernel Jones, Jr.
Community Relations
Director



Pernel Jones, Sr.



Michael Jones



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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

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and the Greater
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STEVEN P. COOK, EA
Enrolled Agent



MATRIX III

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Garfield Heights, OH 44125
(Across Granger Rd. near Convenient Store)

STILL NEED TO FILE? WE CAN HELP!

October 15th is the filing deadline
for those who requested an extension.

- ★ EXPERT YEAR ROUND SERVICE
- ★ INDIVIDUAL, BUSINESS & CORPORATIONS
- ★ FEDERAL, STATE & LOCAL
- ★ TAX PROBLEMS, BACK TAXES & TAX NOTICES

CALL TODAY! 216-332-7283 **216-332-SAVE**



"Our Phone Number Says It All"

~ The Assassin Next Door ~

By Tom Kaschalk

Drive along East 65th Street between Gertrude and Fullerton today, and the west side of the street is little more than open grass and a scattering of trees. Long before that this stretch was farmland, and after that it became one of the earliest settled corners of what would grow into Slavic Village, packed tight with saloons, meeting halls and immigrant homes. Today that side is vacant again, though not the same kind of empty it once was.

This particular corner is where a young immigrant attended anarchist meetings, gathering in a hall above the saloon his own father ran downstairs. A few blocks away, on what's now Fleet Avenue, stood the house where his family lived. Peel back the layers of this small corner of Slavic Village, and you find the family of the man who killed a president.



The corner view of 6419 Gertrude Ave., looking south on the west side of East 65th Street, 1983. At the far end of the block stood the former White Eagle building, the saloon and meeting hall run by Paul Czolgosz decades earlier, though by this point it had long since taken on a different life and name. Courtesy of the Cleveland Public Library / Cleveland Board of Zoning Appeals.



Present-day photo of the 6419 Gertrude Ave. property. Photo by Tom Kaschalk

I learned that the assassin had lived in what's now Slavic Village on a walking tour led by Glenn Sobola of the Slavic Village Historical Society, past a stretch of East 65th Street I'd driven and walked by hundreds of times myself without ever suspecting the history buried there.

On September 6, 1901, Leon Czolgosz walked up to President William McKinley at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo and shot him twice at point-blank range. McKinley died eight days later. Czolgosz was tried, convicted and executed in the electric chair at Auburn Prison in New York less than two months after the shooting, on October 29, 1901. Within hours of the shooting reporters had traced Czolgosz's family to a modest house on Fleet Street, a road that would later be renamed Fleet Avenue, just off Tod Street, itself later renamed East 65th. Cleveland spent the next several weeks in the national spotlight for all the wrong reasons.

The house stood at 306 Fleet Street. After the city's 1906 street renumbering, that address became 6308 Fleet Avenue, the same property that would later hold a movie theater and, more surprising still, a beloved neighborhood bakery that also suffered a tragic loss of its own.

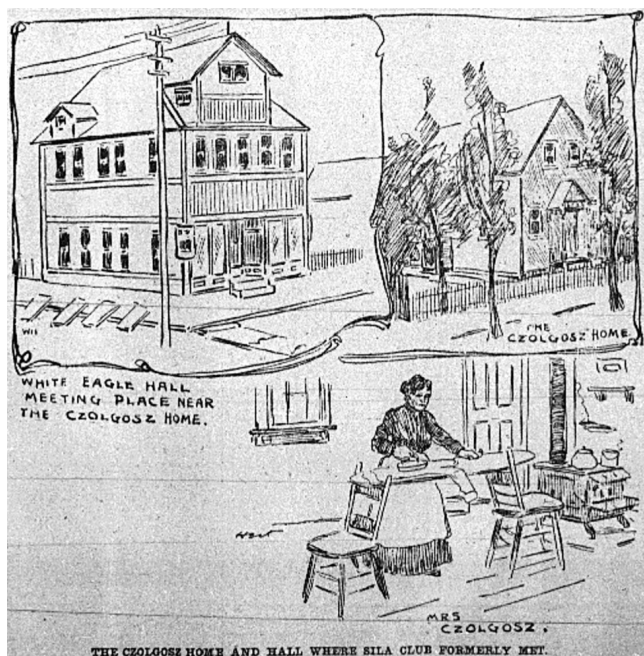


Leon Czolgosz's mug shot taken from his Bertillon ID card, Auburn Prison, Sept. 29, 1901, a month before his execution. Source: Wikimedia Commons.

A few blocks away, at the corner of Third Avenue and Tod Street, today's East 65th and Gertrude, stood the White Eagle building. Leon's father, Paul Czolgosz, ran the saloon downstairs for seven years. Upstairs was the hall where the Sila Socialist club held its meetings, and it was there, according to the *Cleveland Leader*, that Leon took his "first lessons in enmity to the government." The building stood until 2011, when it was demolished.

The family's footprint didn't end there. One block south, on Hosmer Street near today's 6400 block, lived Paul's own brother, Michael Czolgosz, one of 13 children born to Paul's parents back in Prussia. Paul himself would go on to father 12 children across two marriages: 9 with his first wife, Mary Nowak, who died in 1883, and 3 more with his second wife, Katherine. By the 1900 census, five of those sons, Leon among them, were still living at home with Paul and Katie.

To understand how Leon ended up in the hall above his father's saloon, it helps to go back to the years just before he found anarchism. Much of what we know about that period comes from a 1921 study by Dr. L. Vernon Briggs, *The Manner of Man That Kills*, based on interviews Briggs conducted years later with people who had known Leon personally. One of them, Mr. Dryer, who had bought out Paul's earlier saloon on Third Avenue, remembered a quieter young man: someone who came in after his shift, washed up, and sat alone in the corner reading the newspaper while the other men played cards. It was around this time, Dryer recalled, that Leon's world began to come apart.



The Czolgosz Home and Hall Where Sila Club Formerly Met." This illustration from *The Cleveland Leader*, September 9, 1901, shows the Czolgosz family home at 306 Fleet Street (today's 6308 Fleet Avenue) alongside White Eagle Hall, the meeting place on Third Avenue (near today's East 65th Street and Gertrude Avenue, northwest corner) where the Sila Socialist club gathered above Paul Czolgosz's saloon. Courtesy of NewspaperArchive.com.

The Panic of 1893 set off a nationwide depression, and Cleveland felt it directly. The following spring, on May 3, 1894, a mob of Poles, several hundred strong and armed with clubs, marched through the city's South Side industrial district and toward the Cleveland Rolling Mill Company, whose entrance sat right off Wire Avenue. Police met them there, and what followed was a violent, running clash that the *Cleveland Leader* covered under the headline "Well Whipped." It was into this same industrial world that Leon would eventually enter as a Rolling Mill employee.

He joined the Knights of the Golden Eagle, a fraternal society formed to assist unemployed workers with little in the way of politics. He soon moved on to the Sila Club, a far more radical group that met in the hall above his father's saloon, and it was there, according to the *Cleveland Leader*, that Leon took his "first lessons in enmity to the government." Unemployed and increasingly withdrawn, he spent long stretches alone in the house reading whatever anarchist literature he could find. His anarchism wasn't a secret, even from the family's own parish. Around 1897, Rev. Benedict Rosinski of St. Stanislaus Church, just down Tod Street from the Czolgosz home, approached Leon for a parish donation. Leon told him plainly that he had no religion and didn't believe in churches. "I AM AN ANARCHIST," he said, "and you cannot expect me to give anything."

The day before Leon shot the president, Paul Czolgosz received notice from City Hall that he'd been given a job with one of the city's street gangs, his first work since selling off the family's farm. It should have been ordinary good news. Instead, it became a headline, one more detail about the assassin's father for the *Cleveland Leader* to report. The city's Polish community moved fast to distance itself, with the *Leader* reporting that "the Poles of Cleveland will repudiate and condemn" Leon, and a mass meeting was organized to address the community's alarm. The family itself felt the fallout directly: a cousin of Paul's, working at a wire mill in Newburgh, was fired that Monday for no reason other than sharing the family name.

The shame never fully lifted. Just weeks after the shooting, Paul and his wife, by then in their eighties, appealed to the city's Charity Department for assistance. Investigators found the elderly couple living in two small rooms on Hosmer Avenue, too old to work, with their surviving children unable to support them on top of their own families. Paul stayed in the neighborhood for the rest of his long life, moving a few more times over the following decades but never far from where it all began. He died in January 1944, at over 100 years old, and was buried at Harvard Grove Cemetery, close enough to walk to the streets that had shaped, and haunted, his entire family.



Paul Czolgosz's gravestone at Harvard Grove Cemetery- Sec 17, Lot 18, Grave 4E. Photo by Kaschalk

Paul's story ends at Harvard Grove. The lot he once lived on still had a few more lives left to live. By 1909, that same lot held the Vandora Theater, a 450-seat neighborhood movie house that burned in a 1932 fire before eventually giving way, by the Depression's end, to a bakery. In 1953, that storefront became home to Charles Bakery, a beloved second location for a business built by an immigrant baker who'd fought his way back into the country after a deportation scare in 1931. For decades it was simply one of the neighborhood's bakeries, opening before dawn to have the morning bread and pastries ready for the day.

That rhythm ended in December 1989, when the bakery's owner, Charles Mitroff Jr., was murdered by two men he'd recently hired. One of them was later sentenced to death, and rather than fight the sentence, spent years pushing courts to let it be carried out, eventually becoming the first person executed in Ohio in 36 years, and forcing Ohio's courts to settle whether a condemned man could waive his own appeals.

(Continued on next page)

The Assassin Next Door

(Continued from previous page)

The bakery eventually closed, and the storefront became the Europa Deli into the 2000s.

It's easy to drive right past 6308 Fleet Avenue without a second thought. But this soil has witnessed a presidential assassin's home, a burned-out movie theater, and a murder that ended a 36-year pause in Ohio's use of capital punishment, all without ever leaving the same patch of ground.



Charles Bakery at 6308 Fleet Avenue, circa 1960, sharing the building with Fraiberg Jewelers. Courtesy of the Cuyahoga County Archives.

Stand today at the southwest corner of Gertrude and East 65th, and there's nothing to mark what once stood there. No plaque, no building, not even a hint in the grass. But for the better part of a century, this corner held a building that outlived its own reputation. Paul Czolgosz sold beer downstairs while, upstairs, his son found the politics that would end a president's life. What happened inside those walls in the decades after is harder to trace. The building stood until 2011, quietly changing hands, its later chapters lost to time. Drive this stretch of East 65th today, and it's easy to mistake the empty lot for nothing at all. But every lot has a story.

36th Annual

Saint Stanislaus

POLISH FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 2,3,4

Friday 5pm ♦ Saturday 4pm ♦ Sunday 11am

Join us for authentic Polish food, live music, culture and fun for the whole family!



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.

GARFIELD PARK RESERVATION

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

Oct. 8: Try-It - Fishing. Interested in trying fishing? Outdoor Recreation has the equipment and knowledge necessary to provide a fun fishing experience for people of all abilities! Adaptive equipment, fishing rods and bait will be provided. 12-1:30 p.m. Garfield Park Program Center. Registration required. Fee: \$12.

Oct. 8: - Adaptive Fishing with Rec2Connect. Get hooked on fishing! Adaptive Fishing is specifically designed for guests with disabilities to learn more about fishing. Cleveland Metroparks and Rec2Connect are joining forces to offer an Adaptive Fishing experience. Together we can make reasonable accommodations to provide recreational fishing opportunities for all anglers with disabilities. Adaptive equipment, fishing rods and bait will be provided. 5-7 p.m. Garfield Park Program Center. Registration required. Fee: \$25.

Oct. 15: Map & Compass - Pumpkin Scavenger Hunt & Hot Cocoa. Learn to navigate the outdoors with confidence! Guests will have the opportunity to learn map and compass skills together, and then use those skills to find pumpkins and fall-themed treats hidden along the nearby trails. This program is perfect for families and those looking for a basic overview of map & compass, with a fun seasonal twist! Reward yourself with a cup of hot cocoa afterwards! 3-4 p.m., 4-5 p.m., 5-6 p.m. Registration required.

Oct. 15: Map & Compass - Pumpkin Scavenger Hunt & Hot Cocoa with Action Trackchair. Navigate the trails via map and compass as you look for pumpkins and fall-themed treats hidden along the way. This inclusive experience is open to individuals of all abilities. Thanks to a variety of grants, an all-terrain Action Trackchair and a GRIT Freedom Chair are available on a first come, first served basis. 3-4 p.m., 5-6 p.m., Garfield Park Program Center. Registration required.

Bedford Reservation

Oct. 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 12, 13, 17: Bedford Fall Cart Tour. Sit back and enjoy the journey as we travel from one scenic destination to the next. Along the way we'll step out of the cart and set off on foot to discover a beautiful waterfall. Reaching Bridal Veil Falls requires a trek down and back up a staircase, but the view is worth it. We'll also visit the National Natural Landmark, Tinker's Creek Gorge Overlook, where stunning vistas and vibrant fall colors await. 2:30–4 p.m. Meet at Egbert Shelter parking lot. Fee: \$10. Terrain: paved, natural surface, hills, stairs, 0.5 mile. Registration 6 people.

Oct. 15: Bedford Fall Cart Tour. Join us for a cart tour through scenic Bedford Reservation. Enjoy the ride as we travel from one great view to the next. We will get out to enjoy the sights at Bridal Veil Falls (optional), and Tinker's Creek Gorge Overlook. The trip will be led by a naturalist and will focus on the beauty of autumn. 3–4:30 p.m. Meet at Egbert Picnic Area. Fee: \$10. Terrain: paved, flat surface, 0.1 miles (optional stairs, natural surface 0.5 miles). Registration: 6 people.

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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 15th day of October, 2026 for the **“SOUTHGATE PARK BOULEVARD GATEWAY ENHANCEMENT TREE PLANTING 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 Southgate Park Boulevard Gateway Enhancement Tree Planting 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 Southgate Park Boulevard Gateway Enhancement Tree Planting 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 "Southgate Park Boulevard Gateway Enhancement Tree Planting Project" will be held at 10:00 A.M. local time on the 8th day of October, 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, **“SOUTHGATE PARK BOULEVARD GATEWAY ENHANCEMENT TREE PLANTING PROJECT”**

Dennis Kennedy
Finance Director
Maple Heights, Ohio

PUBLISHED: The Neighborhood News
September 30, 2026
October 7, 2026

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St. Stan's Polish Festival

(Continued from Page 1)

The grand organ, trumpets and timpani will be featured during Masses this weekend. Meanwhile at the festival, polka music will be provided by Pan Franek & The Polkatowners in the Social Center from 6 to 10 p.m.

On Sunday, Oct. 4, dinners will be served from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. A Church Tour will follow the 11:30 a.m. Mass. Polka music will be provided by Polka Family from 12 to 4:30 p.m. The Piast Dancers will perform upstairs Sunday at the festival. The Grand Prize Drawing for \$1,500 will take place at 5 p.m. On all three days of the festival there will be a Salute to Veterans.

For more information about the festival, call the Parish Office at 216-341-9091 or visit the Parish website at: www.ststanislaus.org.

Early In-Person Voting, Vote-By-Mail open Oct. 6

(Continued from Page 1)

Vote By-Mail Ballot Applications must be received by the Board of Elections on or before 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2026.

Early In-Person Voting

The Board of Elections is located at 1803 Superior Ave.,

Cleveland, Ohio 44114. Early In-Person Voting schedule:

Weekdays: Oct. 6-Oct. 23: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 24, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 26, 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday*, Oct. 27, 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Weekdays: Oct. 28-Oct. 30, 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 31, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 1, 1 to 5 p.m.

*Vote-by-Mail Ballot Application Deadline

The Voter Registration deadline for the Nov. 3, 2026 General Election is 9 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 5, 2026. Voters may register online or update their address at www.boe.cuyahogacounty.gov. Voter Registration forms are also available on the Board of Elections website and in all public libraries.

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