# The Neighborhood News

*Your Community Newspaper Since 1923*

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103rd YEAR NO. 08 | WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2026 | PHONE: (216) 441-2141 • EMAIL: NNEWS1923@AOL.COM | FREE





## Local Observances

### BEDFORD

The Bedford Veterans Day Services will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 11, at 11 a.m., at Veterans Park in downtown Bedford, followed by another short service at the Bedford Cemetery on Broadway. The Bedford Veterans Memorial Day Parade Committee, in conjunction with the Bedford French Bartlett VFW Post 1082, sponsors the Veterans Day Services. Veterans are invited to share their service experiences. All are invited. For further information contact Mike Guyer at 440-773-2835.

### CLEVELAND

The Cleveland Veterans Day Parade will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 11, at 12:30 p.m. The parade begins at Cleveland City Hall, 601 Lakeside Ave., and will end inside Tower City's Skylight Concourse, 230 W. Huron Rd., Cleveland.

### GARFIELD HEIGHTS

The Veterans Day Ceremony in Garfield Heights will take place on Wednesday, Nov. 11, at the Civic Center's Veterans Plaza, 5407 Turney Rd., behind the Garfield Heights Historical Museum, beginning at 11 a.m. All are welcome to attend. Master of Ceremonies will be William Glover of American Legion Post #304.

Ceremonies include: •Flag Raising, Robert Foster, Sons of American Legion Post #304. •Star Spangled Banner, Savanna Cornwell, Garfield Heights High School. •Pledge of Allegiance and Welcome, Mayor Matt Burke. •Veterans Day Tribute, Staff Sgt. Gabriel A. Victorio, U.S. Marine Corps. •Prayer, Fr. John Mullee, St. Monica Catholic Church. •Taps - Echo Taps, Myah Bonner and Cayden Daniels, Garfield Heights High School. •God Bless America, Brooke Bennefield, Garfield Heights High School.

### MAPLE HEIGHTS

The annual Veterans Day Observance in Maple Heights will be held at the Veterans Memorial Honor Roll outside City Hall, 5353 Lee Rd., at 11 a.m., on Wednesday, Nov. 11. Meet at 10:45 a.m. Maple Heights Police Chief Todd Hansen and Maple Heights American Legion Post Commander Al Glontz will lead the event.

# County error results in $28.5 million overpayment to nine school districts

Last week media outlets reported that because of a clerical error by Cuyahoga County, nine school districts under its jurisdiction collected a total of $28.5 million more in taxes than they were entitled to, among them Garfield Heights, Independence and Maple Heights school districts in The Neighborhood News circulation area.

The following were the nine school districts involved and the amount of over-collected taxes noted:

**Parma City Schools – $12,710,639**

**Garfield Heights – $4,094,838**

**North Royalton – $4,084,876**

**Maple Heights – $2,960,256**

**Euclid – $1,814,820**

**Brooklyn – $947,427**

**Fairview Park – $611,346**

**Independence – $510,766**

**Warrensville Heights – $804,641**

In an "Independence Local Schools District News" email addressed to families and community members last week, Independence School Superintendent Kelli Cogan gave a detailed summary of why the error occurred and what the county is doing to rectify it in the nine communities affected.

Her email reads in part:

"Recent news reports have identified an issue involving property tax rates calculated and administered by Cuyahoga County following the 2024 property reappraisal. The issue affects nine school districts who have voter-approved emergency or fixed-sum levies, including Independence Local Schools. This resulted in property tax collections exceeding the amounts authorized under certain voter-approved emergency levies.

### How Did This Happen?

"Under Ohio law, property values are reviewed every three years through either a reappraisal or an update to reflect changes in the real estate market. Cuyahoga County completed its most recent countywide reappraisal in 2024, resulting in increased property valuations throughout much of the county.

**(Continued on Page 2)**

# Iconic Ultra Lounge in G.H. can stay open for now

A Garfield Heights Police Department Facebook post on Oct. 29, which The Neighborhood News reprinted in last week's issue, announced the Iconic Ultra Lounge, 4912 Turney Rd., and Aries Lounge, 4619 Warner Rd., had been closed in its city because their liquor permits had been revoked, and that their appeals are pending in the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas.

GHPD last week posted an update which said Judge Kelly Ann Gallagher of the Court of Common Pleas has since issued a "stay" in this matter with respect to the Iconic Ultra Lounge only.

According to lawdefiner.com, a "stay" preserves the status quo and prevents changes or enforcement while a related issue is resolved. Which means the Iconic Ultra Lounge may stay open until further notice.

# Homicide in Maple Hts.

One man is dead and one in serious condition as a result of shootings last Saturday at an apartment building in Maple Heights, according to a news release from the Maple Heights Police Department.

On Saturday, Nov. 7, 2026 at approximately 11:50 a.m., the MHPD responded to an apartment building at 5445 Lee Rd., for a report of gun shots inside. Upon arrival of officers they located two males that were shot in the hallway of the apartment building. One male was transported to Marymount Hospital where he died from his injuries. The second male was transported to MetroHealth Medical Center and is in serious condition. The identification of both victims is not being released at this time until proper notification of the family is complete, the MHPD news release noted.

Circumstances surrounding this incident are still being investigated by the Maple Heights Detective Bureau and the Bureau of Criminal Investigation. Anyone with information related to this case is urged to contact the Maple Heights Detective Bureau: 216-587-9624 or Detectives@mhpd-ohio.com.

Information can also be supplied to Crime Stoppers at its Hotline, 216-252-7463; submit a tip online at WebTips; or text message anonymously to: Text TIP657 plus your message to CRIMES (274637).




***Sign Up To Win Your Thanksgiving Turkey!!***

**SEE PAGES 8 & 9**

***37 TO BE GIVEN AWAY***

# County error results in $28.5 million overpayment

(Continued from Page 1)

"However, increased property values do not necessarily result in increased property tax revenue for school districts. Ohio law establishes different requirements for calculating property tax rates depending on the type of levy. For emergency or fixed-sum levies, tax rates generally decrease as property values increase to maintain the specific annual revenue amount authorized by voters.

"Cuyahoga County administers the property tax process, including applying tax rates and distributing revenue to school districts and other local governments. Following the 2024 reappraisal, the rates applied to emergency levies were not adjusted sufficiently to account for increased property valuations, resulting in collections exceeding the authorized amounts.

"School districts do not calculate or establish these tax rates. Instead, they rely on the county's calculations and revenue information when preparing budgets, financial forecasts and long-term financial plans."

## How Will This Be Corrected?

"Based on information currently available, Cuyahoga County is coordinating adjustments to future property tax rates to account for the excess collections. For Independence Local Schools, the $510,766 will be offset through reduced property tax collections over a two-year period per the county's request.

"While the Cuyahoga County's correction addresses the overcollection from taxpayers, it also requires affected school districts to account for reductions in future revenue."

Superintendent Cogan went on to say that school districts depend on accurate county-administered information to make responsible financial decisions.

"Although Independence Local Schools did not establish or administer the rates that resulted in the excess collections, we recognize our responsibility to address the necessary adjustments through sound financial planning," Cogan said.

She suggested that those with specific questions regarding their tax bills should reach out to the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Office.

# Garfield Hts. Council news

Garfield Heights Council met Monday, Nov. 9, and passed the following legislation:

•Revising the city's Codified Ordinances pursuant to Section 17 of the city charter to conform with current state law as required by the Ohio Constitution; and entering into a contract with the Walter H. Drane Company to prepare and publish such revision on an ongoing quarterly basis in order to keep the most current ordinances available to any wishing to familiarize themselves with the laws of the city.

•Authorizing a modified agreement with OHM Advisors for the Thornhurst Ave. and South Parkway Dr. reconstruction, construction and engineering services. OHM Advisors has requested an increase in the authorized compensation under the agreement by an additional $36,939.50.

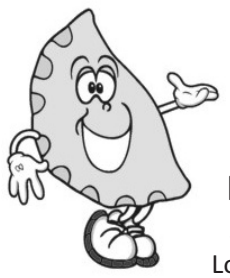
•Entering into a modified agreement with OHM Advisors for the E. 126 St. sanitary sewer extension construction and engineering services. Based on the original contractor work schedule, OHM Advisors originally anticipated 26 weeks of construction, but the actual project duration is estimated to extend an additional eight weeks. OHM has requested an increase in the authorized compensation under the agreement by an additional $46,400.

•Authorizing the sale and disposal of a 2005 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited from the Recreation Department that is no longer needed for city use.

•Applying for and utilizing the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services Violent Crime Reduction Grant Program for 2027. The city intends to apply for the grant for the purchase of software and equipment, as well as staffing needs, for the Garfield Heights Police Department.

The next meeting of Garfield Heights Council is scheduled for Monday, Nov. 23, at 7 p.m.


THANK YOU VETERANS
We salute the many who have fought for our freedom.



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## LEGAL NOTICE

The City of Maple Heights is inviting bid proposals for Residential Waste Collection and Recycling Services within the City of Maple Heights, Ohio. Bid Documents can be obtained from the office of the Law Director located at Maple Heights City Hall, 5353 Lee Road, Maple Heights, OH 44137, or on the City of Maple Heights website at www.mapleheightsohio.gov.

A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held on Thursday, November 19, 2026, at 12:00 p.m., in Council Chambers at Maple Heights City Hall, 5353 Lee Road, Maple Heights, OH 44137.

Bids will be received by the Law Director, located at Maple Heights City Hall, 5353 Lee Road, Maple Heights, OH 44137, until December 10, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. and will be opened publicly and read aloud at that time in Council Chambers. Bidders must submit one (1) original, two (2) duplicate copies, and one (1) electronic copy of their Bid in one sealed envelope clearly marked "RESIDENTIAL SOLID WASTE COLLECTION, DISPOSAL AND RECYCLING SERVICES BID." Bids will be valid for 180 days after the Bid opening date.

Each bid must contain all Bid Forms and be accompanied by separate Bid Bond payable to the City of Maple Heights in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the first year Bid price (collection only) as security that, if the Bid is accepted, a Contract will be entered into with the City of Maple Heights in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Form of Contract contained in the Bid Documents.

The Bid Bond will be returned when the Successful Bidder has executed the Contract, or when any Bid is rejected, or when all Bids are rejected. The City of Maple Heights reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Bids and waive any non-conformities or irregularities contained therein.

Advertised: The Neighborhood News 11/11/26; 11/18/26

## LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the City of Bedford will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, December 15, 2026** at **6:00 P.M.** in the Council Chambers of Bedford City Hall, 165 Center Road, Bedford, Ohio to discuss a proposed amendment to the text of Chapter 1944 entitled "H-D Historical Downtown District" including but not limited to the types of permitted and prohibited uses. A copy of the proposed amendment is on file with the Clerk of Council for examination.

Tracy M. Simons, CMC
Clerk of Council
Boards & Commissions Secretary
Published: The Neighborhood News, November 11, 2026


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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.

# Results in for local issues in Nov. 3, 2026 general election

## *Garfield Hts. school tax levy renewal fails; Independence levy passes*

Record voter turnout in Cuyahoga County and the nation provided the Democrats with unprecedented wins as Ohio saw Democrat Amy Acton take the governor's seat and Democrat Sherrod Brown returned to the U.S. Senate.

In local issues decided in The Neighborhood News readership area, voters in Garfield Heights rejected Issue 6, a tax levy renewal for the Garfield Heights City School District, with 46.12% voting for the levy and 53.88% against, according to unofficial results from the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections.

In Independence, voters solidly supported a tax levy renewal for the Independence Local School District with 60.63% for the levy and 39.37% against.

### Bedford Heights

Defeated was Issue 16, a charter amendment to provide that the Director of Law be appointed by the mayor rather than the council. Issue 17, a charter amendment to permit the Director of Finance's bond requirement be satisfied by one or more insurance or risk-management policies or programs was passed.

### Garfield Heights

In a close contest, Issue 40, a charter amendment to change the terms of all seven council members from two-year terms to four-year terms was passed 50.97% to 49.03%.

### Independence

Four charter amendments were on the ballot. Three passing were: (1.) Providing that the mayor attend all council meetings but remove the requirement that the mayor preside over all the meetings of council. (2.) Three citizen members of the Planning Commission be changed from mayoral appointments to a majority of members elected to council. (3.) Zoning ordinances, regulations or amendments passed by council cannot be passed on emergency.

Defeated was a charter amendment to provide that the position of Finance Director transition from being an elected position to that of a person appointed by the mayor and meeting several other provisions.

### Maple Heights

Five charter amendments were on the ballot and all passed. They were: (1.) Not allowing an elective officer who is absent from his/her duties for three months or disqualified from office to continue in office until a successor is named. (2.) Each member of council must have resided continuously in the city and district they wish to represent for at least two years preceding the election. (3.) Permitting ordinances or resolutions on the subjects of salaries and installation of public improvements regarding assessments against abutting properties or public utility franchises be posted on the city's website, social media accounts and in four public places in the city. (4.) Correcting a grammatical error in a word in the city charter. (5.) Changes in the manner of appointment for the members of the Charter Review Commission and allowing for substitutions for absent members.




Many have sacrificed,
Duty, Honor, Country.

★ ★ ★ ★

Happy Veterans Day

★ ★ ★ ★

COUNCILMAN AVERY JOHNSON

Garfield Heights Ward 4


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THE NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

# Garfield Heights Police selling tickets for drawing to benefit Shop With a Cop

George Murray Lodge #67 Fraternal Order of Police is selling raffle tickets to benefit the annual Nick DiMarco Shop With a Cop program. Prizes include an Apple Ipad, flat screen television and $100 in cash. Winners will have their choice of prizes by order drawn.

Tickets are $1.00 each or 6/$5.00; drawing will be the third Thursday in December. Buy tickets at the GHPD Records window, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. To make other arrangements for purchase, email to: johnmarks@garfieldhts.org.

# Stuff the Indy Ambulance at Drug Mart

Help the Independence Fire Department fill their ambulance with dry and canned foods to benefit local families this Saturday, Nov. 14, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at Discount Drug Mart, 6160 Brecksville Rd. Donations may also be dropped off at the Independence Fire Department, 6305 Selig Dr., through November 14. Monetary donations are also appreciated. All donations will be given to a local food bank.


2026 CZECH HOLIDAY FAIR
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH
10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Bohemian National Hall
4939 Broadway Ave
Cleveland OH 44127
Imported Czech Items
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Veterans Day • November 11
Thank you, Veterans
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Mayor Gregory P. Kurtz
Finance Director Vern Blaze
Independence City Council
THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE 1814 OHIO

# Maple Hts. Council votes to put out bids for new 5-year waste disposal, recycling service contract

Maple Heights Council met last Wednesday, Nov. 4, and passed a resolution that may bring a new trash disposal and recycling service to the city next year.

The resolution, passed unanimously, authorizes the service director to prepare bid specifications for residential solid waste collection, disposal and recycling services in the city, and provide for advertising for bids for this service.

The city of Maple Heights' current contract with Waste Management for residential solid waste collection, disposal and recycling services expires on March 31, 2027. The service director has recommended that bid specifications be reviewed and updated and invitations for bids to be advertised for a new 5-year contract with option years.

## Other legislation passed

The following legislation was also okayed at last Wednesday's Maple Heights Council meeting:

•Authorizing the mayor and police chief to expend up to $200,000 for bonuses, new vehicles and/or vehicle upgrades as part of a program to retain police officers.

•Amending a section of the city's Codified Ordinances concerning obstruction or closing of streets in residential districts. The amended section will now read:

**"412.08 BARRICADES PERMITTED IN STREETS.**

(a) The obstruction or closing of any street in residential districts, using barricades, safety cones, or any other materials, specifically to close the street for a block party, street party or personal party, shall only be permitted after applying for a permit at the Council Office, where the application will be forwarded to the council representative and then submitted by motion for approval by the majority of council. The Fire Department and Police Department will review the application for public safety concerns and report their findings to council prior to council's vote on approval of the application. The person who obtains the permit must live on the street being closed and shall be responsible for the conduct of the participants at the party and the clean-up of the street after the party."

•Requesting that for the fiscal year 2027 the Cuyahoga County fiscal officer advance taxes and assessments from the proceeds of tax levies as allowed by the Ohio Revised Code.

•Entering into an agreement with Mentor Mfg., through Sourcewell's cooperative purchasing program, to purchase two 2026 Kubota diesel rubber tire utility vehicles in the amount of $25,716.22 each, to which the service department will attach plows and salt spreaders for maintenance of city sidewalks during the snow and ice season.

•Authorizing the mayor to enter into an agreement with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to utilize $200,000 in grant funds to construct a park and recreation or conservation facility described as "Maple Heights Playground Improvements."

•Authorizing a change order for Dugger Acquisitions, LLC, increasing the contract by $16,990.00 for the Maple Heights Lee Road Gateway Enhancement Sign Project. The city engineer has indicated that there are Community Development Block Grant funds remaining that will pay for the cost of the electrical and lighting work required to illuminate the Lee Road "Maple Heights" script sign which will increase the contract.

## Lemonade out of lemons

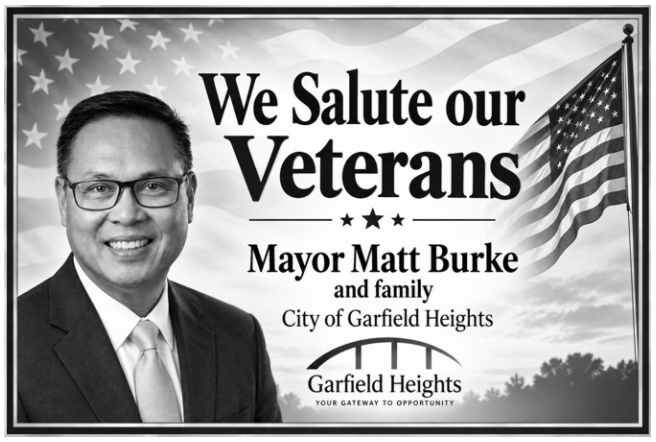
In a tight state auditor's race in the Nov. 3, 2026 general election last week, Mayor Annette Blackwell (D) lost to Frank LaRose (R), but District 2 Councilperson Toni Jones found a reason to make lemonade from lemons during her report to council last week.

"I just want to congratulate you, Mayor Blackwell, for sweeping Cuyahoga County (in last week's state auditor's race), and I am so glad you are still here and our mayor," Jones said.

## Czech Holiday Fair

Sokol Greater Cleveland will hold its annual Czech Holiday Fair this Saturday, Nov. 14, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Bohemian National Hall, 4939 Broadway Ave.

Imported Czech items will be for sale, along with Czech beer, traditional dinners, finger foods, baked goods, raffles, vendors and more.


**Remembering our Veterans**

For over 200 years the members of our armed forces have protected our freedom and made it possible for America to grow in wisdom and strength. We're proud to join with the community in saying "Thanks" to our vets and their families.

THANK YOU Veterans

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*In honor of our armed forces that are currently serving or who have served our country, we take this moment to thank you for your service to our country.*



Mayor Annette M. Blackwell
City of Maple Heights

THE VILLAGE OF VALLEY VIEW
*honors*
VETERANS DAY



Thank you for your service, sacrifice, and bravery.

**God, Family and Country**



**MIKE DUDLEY, SR.**
GARFIELD HEIGHTS FORMER CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO-TEM

*Never forget...thank our veterans!*



*Cuyahoga Heights Mayor Jack Bacci and the Bacci Family*

**VETERANS...** for your bravery, dedication and service to our country, **We Thank You.**

From the
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**Mayor Trevor Elkins**

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# Cleveland honors legacy of George Voinovich and his governing; new exhibit now open to the public

The city of Cleveland, in partnership with the Consulate General of the Republic of Slovenia, the Slovenian Museum & Archives, Global Cleveland, and America 250, is proud to announce the opening of "Together We Can Do It!," an expanded exhibition honoring George Voinovich (1936–2016).

Voinovich led Cleveland as a mayor and later served Ohio as a member of the United States Senate. He is remembered for helping the region recover from a period of severe financial distress, political instability and declining public confidence.

His mayoral legacy centered on restoring Cleveland's financial credibility, rebuilding its downtown, improving city services and bringing different political and business interests together.

George Voinovich's bipartisan legacy was built on the belief that public service should be about finding common ground and getting things done for the people, rather than winning political arguments.

This exhibition commemorates Voinovich's legacy on the 90th anniversary of his birth, 10th anniversary of his passing, and the 30th anniversary of the dedication of Voinovich Bicentennial Park, named in his honor.

"Together We Can Do It!" recognizes George Voinovich's long-standing public service and his significant contributions to transforming Cleveland's downtown waterfront and advancing the city's financial recovery.

Photographs, artifacts, archival records and personal stories trace how his Slovenian and Serbian roots and his Catholic faith shaped a leader who championed effective government, regional cooperation and Cleveland's place in the world.

The exhibition, first shown at the Slovenian Museum & Archives in February 2026, was curated by the Slovenian Museum & Archives in collaboration with the Ohio University Libraries Mahn Center for Archives & Special Collections and a team of student researchers at Ohio University's Honors Tutorial College. Other partners and sponsors include the Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service at Ohio University, Nickie J. Antonio, and Cleveland Kurentovanje.

"Together We Can Do It!" now comes home to City Hall, where Voinovich did some of his most defining work and is open to the public during regular City Hall hours through May 31, 2027.

"Together We Can Do It!" is the fifth exhibition presented at Cleveland City Hall, celebrating the power of partnership between the city and local organizations to share stories that are uniquely Cleveland.


**Exclusively Skin in Garfield Heights**



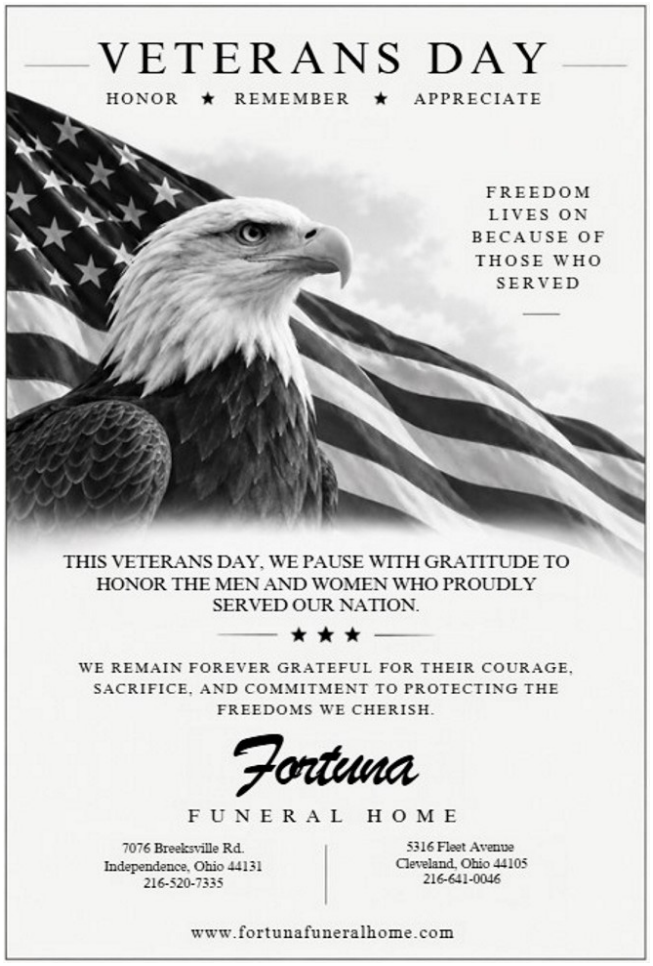
Dr. Tracy Ringo is pleased to announce that Exclusively Skin, specializing in the treatment of skin diseases, has opened in Garfield Heights at **9565 Midwest Ave., Suite C.**

Common issues treated include abscess/boils, acne, cellulitis, dark spots/blemishes, dry skin and scalp, eczema, hair loss, mole removals, psoriasis, skin cancer screenings, wart removal and more.

Dr. Ringo is a Cleveland native who graduated from Bedford High School and was inducted into the Bedford High School Hall of Fame in 2003.

She served for 30 years in the Ohio Army National Guard and is the first African American female to reach the rank of Colonel.

**Contact Exclusively Skin at 216-508-6500 or visit website: www.exclusively-skin.com.**






GOD BLESS
OUR VETERANS

**THE ST. JOHN FAMILY**

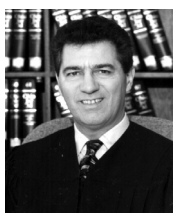
ST. JOHN FUNERAL HOME
BEDFORD and BAINBRIDGE

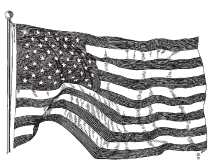
**★★★ WE SALUTE OUR VETERANS ★★★**

**Wednesday, November 11, 2026**



RALPH PERK, JR., KELLI PERK AND FAMILY





*Veterans Day*
*November 11, 2026*

*We Thank all those who served.*

LATEK & RYBICKI FAMILY FUNERAL HOMES

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216.641.6321

Broadview Heights
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Broadview Heights, Ohio 44147
440.546.5353

*We salute our Veterans who have served and who are serving in the military.*



HAPPY *Veterans Day*
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

On behalf of Mayor Koci, City Council, and Administration we thank you for your service

SEAL OF CITY OF BEDFORD STATE OF OHIO

**LOOKING FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS**

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**UPCOMING *Events***

Non-profit organizations may print their upcoming events in The Neighborhood News at a cost of $20 per week. Limit of 100 words or less. Email your information to: nnews1923@aol.com. Include contact name & phone number. Questions? Call 216.441.2141

**HAVE AN EVENT YOU WANT TO ADVERTISE?**

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**Advertising Deadline Is Every Monday At 5:00 p.m.**

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# Before the Red Chimney: The Many Lives of 6501 Fleet Ave.

**By Tom Kaschalk/My Cleveland History**

One of Slavic Village's most familiar corners is about to come down. Crews are getting the Red Chimney building at 6501 Fleet Ave., ready for demolition. An excavator sits on a mound of fill dirt against the old yellow brick wall, orange barrels line the lot, and caution tape is strung across the front entrance. The Red Chimney awning over the door hangs in tatters, and chunks of the stone front have fallen onto the sidewalk below.

The end started on Aug. 5, 2025, when a fire broke out in a second-floor apartment at the back of the building. The fire was ruled accidental and no one was hurt, but the water used to put it out poured down into the restaurant below. Damage was first estimated at about $300,000. Once contractors took a closer look at the water damage and the work needed to bring the building up to current code, the estimate climbed past $1 million.

The owners, brothers Pete and Lou Skantzos, looked hard at saving the building and tried to find a way to stay, but in the end it just couldn't be done. In August 2026 the Red Chimney reopened on Snow Road in Parma. Still, for many of us, losing the building on Fleet feels like losing another piece of the old neighborhood.

Most of us remember the Red Chimney for breakfast at the counter, pierogi, chicken paprikash and meatloaf, and for being open around the clock back when the steel mills ran three shifts. Some will remember that the lunch counter turned up in the 2025 "Superman" movie, just weeks before the fire.

But the building had a long life before anyone ordered a cup of coffee there. Before Cleveland renumbered its streets in 1906, the address was 327 Fleet Street. Follow 6501 Fleet through the old newspapers and you find almost every kind of business a working neighborhood needed.

## A movie house, 1908

In the summer of 1908 the storefront was a moving picture theater called the Imperial, run by N. Powlowski. Small storefront theaters were opening all over Cleveland, and the city was worried about fire. Film used in that era was highly flammable, and the projector sat in a "machine booth" that was supposed to be fireproofed.

In August 1908, Deputy Building Inspector Horner refused licenses to eight theaters. The Imperial was one of them. Inspectors found a wooden machine booth, and a screen had been set up in front of the rear exit. Two days later the Imperial was on a list of 42 theaters the police were ready to close unless their owners got licensed.



**Crews from Thunder Demolition prepare for a take down of the old Red Chimney on Fleet Ave., in Slavic Village, which could come as early as this Saturday.** *Photo by Tony Brancatelli*

## A saloon and groceries

By 1913 the building held a saloon. That November the Plain Dealer printed a long list of Cleveland saloonkeepers who had been refused liquor licenses, and one of them was Robert A. Sczigienski at 6501 Fleet. By January 1918 the corner was a branch of the General Grocery Company, one of about 18 stores the chain listed around the city.

In August 1920, the Matthew Smith Tea, Coffee & Grocery Co. took over the store and made it Branch No. 86 of its M-S Stores. The company's ad that week announced that "Red Paint" was replacing the yellow on the building, so the corner was red long before the Red Chimney. By 1928 the store was an A&P, listed among the chain's Cleveland markets in its weekly ads.

## Fleet Beverage, 1940s and 1950s

After Prohibition, the corner went back to selling drinks, this time to carry home. Fleet Beverage at 6501 Fleet appears in a 1947 list of stores belonging to the Cuyahoga County Beverage Stores Association. In May 1954 the business was put up for sale. The classified ad called it "old established," said it grossed $75,000 a year, and explained that illness compelled an immediate sale.

## Hardware, 1955 to 1973

In February 1955 an ad announced that Montowski Hardware was "opening soon at 6501 Fleet Ave." George F. Montowski ran the store for many years. The business had been founded in the neighborhood back in 1917 by his father, and in 1967 the Ohio Hardware Association honored it with a 50-year certificate. George retired because of his health and died in January 1972 at 64.

The next hardware store at the corner did not last. In May 1973 Motocky's Hardware was sold at a bankruptcy auction ordered by federal court. The list of what went up for bid reads like a walk down the aisles: paint, plumbing and electrical supplies, a Toro lawn mower, a key duplicator, nail bins, pigeon hole shelving, workbenches and display cases.

## Andy's General Store, 1979

In August 1979 another auction cleared out Andy's General Store at the same address. That sale covered candy, auto parts, 8-track tapes, school supplies, toys, panty hose, zippers and buttons, dinette sets and jewelry. If you needed it, Andy's probably had it.

## The Red Chimney

Within about a year the Red Chimney had arrived. In September 1980 it was running a help wanted ad for short-order cooks and waitresses. It was started by Joe Kofol, who had run the Blue Chimney at Brookpark and State Roads.

In 1999, Pete and Lou Skantzos bought the restaurant, and they kept it going through the foreclosure crisis that hit Slavic Village hard in the 2000s. For a lot of people it was one of the last places on the street where you could sit down, get a hot Eastern European meal, and be served by a waitress who knew your order.

## One Corner, Many Lives

The Red Chimney lives on in Parma, but the building that held all of those stories will soon be an empty lot. For more than a century, this corner kept reinventing itself to serve the neighborhood. With the property going up for sale, maybe its next chapter is just getting started.



# Johnson honored as Ohio 11th Congressional District 'Veteran of Year'




**Congresswoman Shontel Brown and Garfield Heights Council President Avery Johnson are shown at the Veteran of the Year recognition ceremony at Cleveland City Hall last month.**

On Oct. 28, at Cleveland City Hall, Congresswoman Shontel Brown recognized Garfield Heights City Council President Avery Johnson as the Ohio 11th Congressional District Veteran of the Year, honoring his distinguished military career and decades of public service.

Johnson served in the United States Army from 1982 to 1992, including during the Persian Gulf War, and in the Ohio Army National Guard from 1993 to 2005. As a platoon sergeant, he served during the response to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and deployed in support of operations in Iraq from 2003 to 2004. His service earned him the Bronze Star Medal for combat operations in Iraq and the Ohio Distinguished Service Medal.

After his military career, Johnson continued serving Northeast Ohio through housing advocacy, neighborhood improvements, public health education and assistance to fellow veterans. He helped E. 102 St. residents advocate for infrastructure improvements to address longstanding flooding.

Appointed to Garfield Heights City Council in 2021 and subsequently elected by Ward 4 residents, Johnson was selected by his colleagues as Council President in 2023, becoming the first African American to hold the position in the city's history.

Today Johnson continues to advocate for stronger neighborhoods, improved city services, and veterans' support. The award recognizes a veteran whose commitment to serving others extends well beyond military service.

For Johnson, service remains a lifelong commitment to his country and his community.

## Garfield Hts. Career Fair

A Career Fair will be held on Friday, Nov. 20, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at the Garfield Heights Civic Center, 5407 Turney Rd., Garfield Heights.

Looking for a new job, career change or educational opportunity? Stop by the Career Fair and connect directly with employers, colleges and community partners ready to help you take the next step toward your future!

Representatives from Cleveland State University, Cuyahoga Community College, Remington College, Cleveland Builds, Cuyahoga County Talent Acquisition, Amazon and many more will be on hand to talk directly with those attending this free event. Two valid forms of ID are required.

## G.H. Ward 7 Block Watch

The Garfield Heights Ward 7 Block Watch, sponsored by Councilwoman Jenn Newrones, will meet Wednesday, Nov. 18, at 7 p.m., in the cafeteria of St. Benedict School, 13633 Rockside Rd. Nonperishable items or cash donations to help the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry with the approaching holidays would be appreciated. All are welcome. For more information contact Gail, 216-662-9213.

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

# Death Notices

### BERNADETTE NENADOVICH



Bernadette Nenadovich (nee Fryger), age 74. Beloved wife of Michael T. "Mick" Nenadovich. Loving mother to Laurie Michelle Seither (Jason). Cherished grandmother to Devon Cash. Daughter of the late Walter and Leona (nee Giziewicz) Fryger. Dear sister to Dana Fryger (dec) (Josie). Aunt to many. Bernadette was a proud graduate of South High School, June of 1970.

Visitation Thursday, Nov. 12, 2026 from 4-8 p.m., at FORTUNA FUNERAL HOME, 7076 Brecksville Rd., Independence, OH 44131. Funeral Home Prayers Friday, Nov. 13, 2026 at 9:10 a.m., followed by 10 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial at St. Monica Catholic Church. Inurnment Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2026 at 1:45 p.m., at Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery. Please be to cemetery by 1:30 p.m.

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Drawings will be held at each location at 12 noon, Thursday, November 19. **Participating merchants should call their winners names immediately to The Neighborhood News (216-441-2141) to check for duplicate winners.**

Only one winner per family. Employees of participating stores and their families and of this newspaper are not eligible to win.

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True account of one man's efforts to reinstate his whole life insurance policy after it was wrongfully cancelled due to forged signatures and theft from the policy. For more informatin: Email: johnhogan408@gmail.com. Website: johnwhogan.com

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# Community police reports

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

## Garfield Heights

### Theft of a Motor Vehicle

On Nov. 4, at 7:47 a.m., an officer took a report in the GHPD lobby from a resident of the 13800 block of Oakview Blvd., who stated his 2021 Chevy Camaro was missing from his backyard. He said the car was taken from his backyard sometime between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. The owner said he is the only one with keys and he is up to date with his payments. Vehicle entered into LEADS as stolen.

### Traffic Offense-Fleeing

On Nov. 4, about 11:25 p.m., an officer patrolling in the area of Christine Ave. and Osborne Rd., observed a white 2021 Volkswagen Atlas which failed to come to a complete stop before turning north onto E. 139 St., and continued to accelerate at a high rate of speed. The officer attempted a traffic stop on the VW but the driver accelerated further, disregarding attempts to stop him. A pursuit was initiated, with the suspect vehicle disregarding stop signs and eventually reaching Miles Ave., in Cleveland, at speeds of about 100 mph. The driver continued to drive recklessly, with multiple motorists having to swerve to avoid being hit by the suspect vehicle. As the suspect turned north onto Broadway Ave., from Miles, the suspect's reduced speed while negotiating the turn presented an opportunity for police to safety execute a PIT maneuver. The driver was immediately removed from the VW and detained in double-locked handcuffs. He shouted that a firearm inside the car was not his and that he hadn't know police were chasing him until he saw the lights and heard the patrol car's siren, but he said he decided it was "too late" to stop. A search of the VW produced a 9mm handgun inside an open dashboard compartment, loaded with 10 rounds in the magazine and one round in the chamber. The suspect was taken to GHPD jail. He was found to be unlawfully possessing firearms due to F5 drug possession and attempted burglary. His burglary warrant is active through Cleveland Police. No damage observed to patrol vehicle and no injuries to suspect or anyone involved. Traffic citations issued along with charges of improper handling of firearms and fleeing and eluding.

(Continued on Page 12)

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**HELP WANTED**


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# Community Police Reports

(Continued from Page 11)

## Traffic Offense-OVI

On Nov. 5, at 5:22 p.m., officers arrived at 5409 Turney Rd., for a report of a traffic accident with possible injuries. Officers were told that the female who caused the crash, which looked like four cars had been involved, had run from the scene. She then returned to the scene and said her car had been stolen. Police spoke to witnesses and parties involved and found that the female in question was driving a Hyundai Elantra north on Turney Rd., at the intersection of the Civic Center, when she drove left of center and through the red light, leading to the accident. She and two other females got out of the Elantra and ran. The female driver at first went to the other drivers and said she had insurance and would cover everything, but when police arrived she took off. She was detained by police, who noticed the smell of alcohol on her, and was treated by GHFD/EMS. The female suspect showed multiple warrants. She took off again before police could question her further. After a short foot pursuit, she was apprehended going east toward the Civic Center. She was placed under arrest but began to fight officers escorting her to a waiting patrol car. After being transported to city jail, the suspect continued to be irate and refused to follow officers' orders. Due to her behavior she was placed in a holding cell. Officers were unable to get her to provide a breath sample or complete sobriety testing. The suspect was charged with obstructing official business, OVI, hit-skip and cited for driving left of center and red light violation.

## Weapons Offense

On Nov. 7, at 5:05 p.m., GHPD dispatch broadcasted there were shots fired near the basketball courts at 12150 Granger Rd. The caller advised there were two black juvenile males involved and described their clothing. The caller stated that a group of males then ran towards Marymount Hospital after firing shots off in the area. Officers located five juveniles in the hospital parking lot, with two of them matching the caller's descriptions, and held them at gunpoint while other units, including Cleveland Clinic police, arrived to assist. One of the males said he had a firearm on him, which police found in a purse across his chest. All the juveniles were detained, identified and read their rights. One of them admitted the firearm was his and he had taken it from his mother. He said one of the other juveniles in the group had shot the round off in a wooded area behind the basketball courts. The youth he had referred to said he was "peer pressured" into shooting one round off into the ground in the woods. Officers located one unspent round in the wooded area where the juveniles admitted shooting. Those not involved were released on scene. The other two were taken to city jail where their parents were contacted. Report forwarded to the Juvenile Detective Bureau.




# SPECIAL PROGRAMS

## Independence Branch Library

Here are some of the **FREE** programs being offered at the Independence Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, located at 6361 Selig Dr., Independence. For more information or to register for any program, please call 216-447-0160.

### ADULTS

**Cleveland's 1928 Mafia Summit. Registration required.** Discover the intriguing story of Cleveland's 1928 Mafia Summit at the historic Hotel Statler. Wednesday, Dec. 2, 6 p.m.

**Frosted Holiday Mason Jars. Registration required.** Come to the Independence Library to create a frosted mason jar using Mod Podge, Epsom salt, and festive holiday decorations. A fun and easy craft perfect for adding a cozy winter touch to your home. Thursday, Dec. 10, 7 p.m.

**Wednesday Night Book Discussion. No registration required.** Join us for a casual and lively book discussion of "What We Can Know" by Ian McEwan. The books will be available approximately one month before the discussion date. Wednesday, Dec. 16, 7:15 p.m.

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