The Neighborhood News

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103rd YEAR NO. 09 WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2026 PHONE: (216) 441-2141 • EMAIL: NNEWS1923@AOL.COM FREE

Red Chimney building comes down



Despite the strenuous efforts by Slavic Village leaders to save it, the old Red Chimney building at E. 65 St. and Fleet Ave., succumbed to a demolition crew on Saturday. The longtime neighborhood anchor was closed by an upstairs fire in late summer 2025. Due to the exorbitant cost of remodeling or building new, the restaurant relocated to Parma this past spring.

Bedford receives First Suburbs award, proclamation from Ohio House as announced by mayor at Monday's council meeting

By Ellen Psenicka

Mayor Stan Koci announced at Monday's meeting of Bedford Council that the city had been awarded the Ken Montlack Visionary Project Award for 2026 by the Northeast Ohio First Suburbs Consortium, which represents 20 inner-ring suburbs that wrap around the central city of Cleveland.

Koci said the award was given for the city's expansion of the backside of Bedford Commons behind the Train Depot, which the consortium called the "Best Community Life Project."

The mayor said the city had also received a proclamation for getting the award from the Ohio House of Representatives, signed by Bedford's representative, Darnell Brewer, and House Speaker Matt Huffman. The House proclamation praised the city of Bedford for its "praiseworthy record of civic improvements," and "applauds the city for its fine work."

Legislation passed

The following legislation was passed by council at Monday's meeting:

•Allowing employee participants to make insurance plan premium contributions on a pre-tax basis for the year 2027 through Health Equity/Wage Works.

The city has established a Premium Only Plan (POP) so that participants will not have to include as taxable income the amount of compensation they use to pay their premium contributions to eligible insurance plans for the calendar year 2027.

•Entering into a contract with Buckeye Pumps for repairs to two Flygt pumps at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, at a total cost of $25,366.00.

•Entering into a contract with Baynum Amusement Solution for the restoration of the waterslide at the Municipal Pool, at a cost of $25,570.00. City Manager Mike Mall said the waterslide has not been restored since it was installed in 2007.

Passed for second reading:

•An ordinance making appropriations for current expenses and expenditures of the city during the year 2027.

Passed for third readings:

•A resolution establishing a formal institutional partnership between the city of Bedford and The Bedford Historical Society.

•An ordinance amending a chapter of the Codified Ordinances of the city entitled "Short-Term Rentals/Bed and Breakfast Inns/Airbnbs." Citizens speaking at Monday's council meeting were divided on whether to allow these kinds of rentals in the city at all or continue to accept them but with stricter guidelines.

Bedford Historical Society presents 'Wonderful Life' events this week

Two events are coming up this week in Bedford to ring in the season and celebrate the movie that featured the fictional city of Bedford Falls in the Jimmy Stewart movie "It's a Wonderful Life." Both events are sponsored by the Bedford Historical Society and held at its museum in Bedford Commons, 30 S. Park St., Bedford.

It’s a Wonderful Life in Bedford, Ohio

Nov. 18, 6-8 p.m. Zuzu’s Homecoming! Join the Bedford Historical Society this holiday season as they celebrate the magic of Christmas in Bedford (Falls)! They are excited to welcome Karolyn Grimes, who played Zuzu Bailey in the beloved holiday classic "It’s a Wonderful Life." During her visit, Karolyn will tour Bedford and experience the places and landmarks that have drawn comparisons between Bedford and Frank Capra’s Bedford Falls. Meet Karolyn at the Museum and hear her inspirational message of hope in the "It’s a Wonderful Life" exhibit. Tickets are $5 per person or $10 per family and every paid attendee will receive a free ticket to the Cleveland Christmas Connection.

Nov. 20, 7-8 p.m. Bedford Historical Society Speaker Series: The Making of “It’s a Wonderful Life.” Did you know that this holiday classic was an expensive box office flop when it premiered in 1946? Carl Quatraro takes you behind the scenes of the making of this traditional holiday movie from idea to movie production to Christmas cult classic. Quatraro has been speaking as a lecturer and teacher to groups of all sizes since 1975.

Free Thanksgiving turkeys, holiday meals

•Saturday, Nov. 21: The Rise & Build Foundation will hold a Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Stella Walsh Rec Center, 7245 Broadway Ave., with 200+ turkeys being given away to Cleveland residents, while supplies last. Call Nia at 216-307-6935 for eligibility or questions.

•Wednesday, Nov. 25: A Community Give Back Meal will be held at Options Lounge and Grill, 3376 E. 55 St., from 3 to 5 p.m. Options welcomes folks in the space for a free holiday meal and community connection and conversation.

•Wednesday, Nov. 25: Free Holiday Meal To-Go at Third Federal Savings parking lot, 7100 Aetna Rd., Cleveland 44105, from 3 to 5 p.m. Vehicle and pedestrian access via Aetna for to-go meal pickup.

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 info contact Gail, 216-662-9213.

Community police reports

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

Garfield Heights

Making False Alarms

On Nov. 9, at 8:50 p.m., officers arrived at a home in the 13000 block of Willard Ave., with dispatch advising that an unidentified male caller reported having three hostages and claimed he had already killed one. He refused to give his name and demanded $30,000 in cash.

Dispatch further advised that the caller threatened to bring a hostage outside with a gun pointed to their head. Upon being told the officers were on scene, the caller disconnected. Police surrounded the house as dispatch made contact with the resident. She said everyone in the house was safe and that they would all exit with their hands in the air. A woman and her three sons exited the residence and police found no evidence of injuries, hostages or any immediate threats.

Police talked to the family and one of the juveniles said that on Nov. 3, he had contacted police to report that someone on TikTok had threatened to make a swatting call to his residence. He said the person had threatened to carry out this threat, which he believed was connected to the incident that had just occurred. The report was forwarded to the Detective Bureau for further investigation.

Disturbance-Juveniles

On Nov. 9, at 4:15 p.m., an officer responded to the area of E. 135 St. and Mapleleaf Ave., in connection with a complaint that about 20 juvenile males were fighting in the street. The officer made contact with the juveniles near Alice Ct. and Thraves Ave. Members of the group informed the officer that there was an old feud between their "friend" group and the juveniles the officer later spoke to on Mapleleaf. The "friend" group said one of their members was "jumped" by the other group of males on Mapleleaf and they had come to confront the group for what they had done. A physical altercation between the groups ensued. The officer then spoke to the Mapleleaf group, who said the "friend" group had come to an address on Mapleleaf to antagonize them. The homeowner said the males began to damage her property by kicking on her door. Her sons, along with a couple of their friends, went outside to confront the males about their behavior, which led to the physical altercation. Police were able to get the groups separated and all were advised that police action would be taken. Report forwarded to the Juvenile Bureau for follow up.

Traffic Offense-Fleeing

On Nov. 10, at about 10:12 p.m., an officer attempted to stop a 2012 Dodge Charger in the area of Ohio Ave. and Osborne Rd. for not coming to a complete stop at a stop sign there. After the officer had activated his lights and siren the suspect vehicle accelerated and proceeded north on E. 146 St. toward Miles Ave., disregarding multiple traffic-control devices along the way. Upon turning east on Miles Ave., the suspect vehicle reached speeds exceeding 100 mph, and repeatedly entered opposing lanes of traffic, narrowly avoiding oncoming motorists. Near E. 175 St. and Miles Ave., the officer initiated a PIT maneuver, which is where a pursuing police vehicle intentionally strikes the rear side of a fleeing vehicle to make it spin and come to a controlled stop. This maneuver redirected the Charger toward the southern side of Miles Ave., where it struck a utility pole and became immobilized. The driver immediately got out of the car and fled on foot, but as the officer following him began to catch up to him, the driver stopped running and surrendered. A search of the suspect yielded a loaded 40 caliber Smith & Wesson handgun magazine containing 14 rounds in his pants pocket. The suspect denied having a gun, but a weapon was found on the front passenger floorboard of the Charger, containing a 22-round magazine with one round chambered. The suspect repeatedly denied ownership of the gun. He was taken to city jail. There were no passengers in the Charger. The suspect was found to have prior convictions on weapons violations. He was arrested for fleeing and eluding, obstructing official business, and improperly handling firearms in a motor vehicle.

Animal Cruelty

On Nov. 11, at 10:06 a.m., officers were dispatched to a home in the 12500 block of Park Knoll Ave., due to the animal warden being off duty, for a report of a dog abandoned in a shed. They found the dog, a young, tan, brindle female pit bull, in a shed in the rear yard of the home. The dog was visibly afraid and shaking. She had no collar or identifying marks to locate an owner, and the house appeared to be abandoned. Inside the shed it was completely bare, with no water, food or anything for the dog to lay on. All parties interviewed said the residence had been vacant for about a month and they didn't know whose dog it was. The neighbors advised they had heard barking and scratching from inside the shed overnight, but did not know how long the dog had been inside. The former tenant in the house and the new property owner both said they had no knowledge of the dog left in the shed. The dog was taken to the city kennel where the dog warden would follow up and possibly locate a chip. Garfield Heights

(Continued on Page 3)

Legal Advertisement

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Garfield Heights ("*Owner*"), at the office of the Fiscal Officer, City of Garfield Heights, 5407 Turney Road, Garfield Heights, OH 44125 on the 11th day of January, 2027 until 10:00 am current local time for the:

"I-480 Sanitary Sewer Crossing"

and will be publicly opened and read immediately thereafter. Each bid must contain the full names of the party or parties making the same, with an affidavit as to interested parties, and in the case of a corporation not chartered in Ohio, with a proper certificate that such corporation is authorized to do business in Ohio, and shall be accompanied by a Bid Guaranty Bond for the full amount (100%) of the Bid, in favor of the "*Owner*" or a certified check, cashier's check, or letter of credit pursuant to Chapter 1305 of the Ohio Revised Code, in the amount of 10% of the Bid, payable to the "*Owner*".

It is agreed that the bid guaranty shall be for the benefit of the "*Owner*" pursuant to Section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code if the undersigned fails to execute the Contract in conformity with the Form of Contract incorporated in the contract documents and furnish Bond and insurance certificates within ten (10) days after the notification of the award of the Contract to the undersigned.

1. Copies of the Contract Documents are on file at SE Blueprint, Plan Room and may be obtained at cost (1) online at www.ohm-bidderplanroom.plancycle.com, (2) in person at the SE Blueprint Akron Office, 520 South Main Street, Akron, OH 44311 or at the SE Blueprint Cleveland Office 2035 Hamilton Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44114, or (3) via phone SE Blueprint Cleveland (216) 241-2250.

Please note that in order to be considered as a **"responsive bidder"** for this project, you must purchase a set of plans and bid documents, and follow all instructions provided. Bids from contractors who are not on the **Plan Holders List** will be disqualified.

The "*Owner*" reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any informalities in the bids received, and to accept any bid which it deems most favorable.

A pre-bid meeting will be held on December 9th, 2026, at 10:00 am at the City Hall.

The "*Owner*" is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate against the handicapped.

Barbara Biro, Fiscal Officer
City of Garfield Heights

Publish Dates: Neighborhood News
Week of November 15th, 2026
Week of November 22nd, 2026

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"Maplerow & E.126th Sewer Separation"

and will be publicly opened and read immediately thereafter. Each bid must contain the full names of the party or parties making the same, with an affidavit as to interested parties, and in the case of a corporation not chartered in Ohio, with a proper certificate that such corporation is authorized to do business in Ohio, and shall be accompanied by a Bid Guaranty Bond for the full amount (100%) of the Bid, in favor of the "*Owner*" or a certified check, cashier's check, or letter of credit pursuant to Chapter 1305 of the Ohio Revised Code, in the amount of 10% of the Bid, payable to the "*Owner*".

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Notice of City of Bedford, Ohio for Lateral Transfer Police Officer

The City of Bedford, Ohio is accepting applications for qualified candidates to establish a Lateral Transfer Certified List for the position of Police Officer. Starting base pay is from $74,755 up to $89,253 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 December 2, 2026.

The Neighborhood News: 11-18-26 & 11-25-26

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

Community Police Reports

(Continued from Page 2)

Weapon Offense

On Nov. 13, at 9:27 a.m., police were sent to North Shore High School, 4750 Turney Rd., when a faculty member at the school called and said a young male was physically fighting with security and had a gun in his book bag. The male was taken into custody for violation of carrying concealed weapons and illegal conveyance of possession of deadly weapon in school safety zone. A search of the book bag located a tan Glock slide, tan frame, tan magazine loaded with 16 rounds. At the time the items were found, the firearm's slide and frame were separated, meaning the firearm was not fully assembled. When searched at the city jail, the suspect was found to be in possession of one additional 9mm round on his person. His mother came to the station and spoke with an officer regarding the incident. Report referred to the Juvenile Bureau.

Felonious Assault

On Nov. 15, at 6:39 p.m., police were called to Boulevard Convenient, 8808 Garfield Blvd., for a report of shots fired following a motor vehicle accident. When police arrived at Boulevard Convenient they made contact with a man who was operating a maroon Chevy Silverado. He informed officers he had a shotgun inside his truck but said he had no involvement in a shooting and became uncooperative after being advised of his Miranda rights. While police were en route it was broadcast that one of the vehicles involved had left the scene. Officers located a highly damaged grey Volkswagen Tiguan that was seen leaving that area and conducted a traffic stop at McCracken Rd. and E. 115 St. The black female driver, and owner of the vehicle, was found to have a gunshot wound to her left thigh and there were bullet holes in the driver's side door panel. Officers initially believed the accident and shooting had occurred near E. 88 St. and Park Heights Blvd. Police located a woman on E. 88 St. who said she had witnessed the accident. She said a dark-colored pickup truck going south on E. 88 St. and an SUV going west on Park Heights collided when the SUV failed to stop at the stop sign and struck the pickup truck. She stated that the pickup truck driver exited and began yelling at the SUV driver. The SUV then fled north on E. 88 St., and the pickup truck driver pursued it. After viewing video footage captured by Boulevard Convenient's security cameras, police determined the shooting actually occurred at the intersection of E. 88 St. and Garfield Blvd. Footage showed the Volkswagen Tiguan going north on E. 88 St. toward Garfield Blvd., followed by what appeared to be the Chevy Silverado belonging to the man they had met at Boulevard Convenient on arrival there. The Silverado pursued the Tiguan and eventually cut it off, blocking its path. At that time a white male wearing dark clothing, matching the description of the Silverado owner police had interviewed earlier, exited the pickup while wielding a shotgun and pointing it toward the driver's side of the Volkswagen. As the VW began reversing, the male advanced toward the vehicle. The VW then began driving forward toward the parking lot, at which time a muzzle flash was visible, indicating the discharge of the weapon. The VW fled the parking lot and the pickup truck pursued the vehicle. Squad was requested for the woman shot in the leg. Silverado owner detained and requested his lawyer.

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

Thursday Afternoon 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. Thursday, Dec. 17, 2:15 p.m.

Therapeutic Art for Bereavement. Registration required. In these groups you will learn how to utilize art materials in an expressive way to help with coping skills. No prior experience is required to participate. All needs will be accommodated. Monday, Dec. 28, 5 p.m.

TEENS

Chill & Create: Mug Cakes & Games - Ages 11-18. Registration required. Get creative with art, games and tech projects in this fun, hands-on program. Wednesday, Dec. 9, 3 p.m.

Make a Beaded Windchime - Ages 11-18. Registration required. Get creative with washers, beads and string to make a delightful beaded windchime! Tuesday, Dec. 15, 7 p.m.

FISH FRY FRIDAY
St. Andrew Eastern Orthodox Church
DINE-IN/TAKE-OUT • SERVING 5:00-7:00 PM
CASH OR CHECK ONLY - NO CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED
November 20th St. Andrew's Dinners
CRISPY COD WITH PIROHI OR FRENCH FRIES
SHRIMP DINNERS • COMBO DINNERS
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Future Dates: December 4 & 18 January 22
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Garfield Heights United Methodist Church
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Garfield Heights, Ohio 44125
Phone: 216.641.4149
All Are Welcome! More Information:
Call Scott: 216.870.1589

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

Join us at the Dan Kostel Recreation Center Ice Rink in Garfield Heights as we kick off our Holiday Season!

The Dan Kostel Recreation Center, 5411 Turney Rd., Garfield Heights, is Home Ice for the Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy (CVCA), where you can catch any one of their home hockey games during this season.

This Friday evening, Nov. 20, at 6 p.m., will be CVCA's first Hockey League game vs. Mayfield with a Teddy Bear Toss – bring a teddy bear to throw on the ice – or any type of toy to fill the Toys for Tots boxes for the USMC. Those who bring a toy or teddy bear will get free admission to the game.

On Sunday, Nov. 22, will be our first ever Turkey Trot Skate from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Anyone who brings a toy for the Toys for Tots Boxes will also get free admission including skate rental. Children 12 & under must be accompanied by an adult. Hats and gloves are highly recommended and socks are mandatory if you wish to wear our rental skates.

Reduced admission (without a toy) is $7.00 for residents and $10.00 for non-residents.

The Toys for Tots boxes will be at 5411 Turney Rd., for approximately two weeks for toy drop offs until the USMC picks them up. Hope you can join us as we start to make some new traditions at the ice rink!

Call 216-475-7272 & press 0 for more information, or email to: mnichols@garfieldhts.org.



Your *ONLY* Newspaper For Community News!
The Neighborhood News

3 million books delivered in Cuyahoga County through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

The Literacy Cooperative is celebrating a significant milestone in its work to strengthen early literacy and family engagement across Cuyahoga County. As the local program partner for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, over 3 million books have been mailed to more than 100,000 children in Cuyahoga County at no cost to families.

Launched by Dolly Parton in 1995, the Imagination Library mails one age-appropriate book each month to enrolled children from birth until their fifth birthday. What began as a local effort in Parton's home county in Tennessee has grown into an international initiative, providing millions of children with access to books and opportunities to develop a love of reading.

Research on Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has consistently shown a positive impact on children's interest in books, family reading habits, and early literacy development. According to a report by the Colorado Evaluation Action Lab at the University of Denver, enrolled children scored higher on literacy assessments at the start of kindergarten compared to their non-participating peers with the same demographics.

Studies like the Colorado Lab's are especially important to note as Ohio continues working to improve early learning and kindergarten readiness. According to the state's 2025 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment, 44.8% of children demonstrated readiness for kindergarten, an increase from 36.6% in 2024.

The percentage of children on track in language and literacy also increased from 45.6% to 62.8%. While many factors contribute to these outcomes, books in the home and family reading remain an important part of preparing children for school.

"This milestone is a testament to what can happen when a community comes together around a shared commitment to children and families," said Robert Paponetti, president and CEO of The Literacy Cooperative. "We are grateful for the leadership and advocacy of Governor Mike DeWine and First Lady Fran DeWine, and for the dedication of our staff, volunteers, board members, community partners, donors and literacy champions. We have much more work ahead, and our goal remains to reach every eligible child."

Before The Literacy Cooperative became the local program partner for Cuyahoga County, the Heights Family Foundation first launched Imagination Library in select Cuyahoga County communities. The foundation remains a significant funder and supporter of Imagination Library and The Literacy Cooperative.

As the local program partner, The Literacy Cooperative is responsible for promoting the Imagination Library, connecting families with enrollment, building community partnerships, and raising funds to cover the cost of books and mailing to more than 42,000 children currently enrolled. The organization also connects participating families with additional early literacy tools and family engagement resources

The Literacy Cooperative invites community members to help continue this work by enrolling eligible children in their household, sharing program information with families, volunteering, and contributing to the effort to put books into the hands of every child.

To learn more about Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Cuyahoga County, enroll a child, or support the program, visit www.literacycooperative.org.

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Enjoy the sights & sounds of Christmas at Independence 2026 Tree Lighting

Get ready for a fresh new twist on a holiday tradition! The city of Independence is bringing exciting changes to its 2026 Tree Lighting celebration on Saturday, Dec. 5, from 5 to 8 p.m., at Elmwood Park.

The day begins with families gathering at the Civic Center to enjoy a hearty breakfast with Jolly Old St. Nick. As always, there will be two seatings – the first at 8:30 a.m., and the second at 10:30 a.m. Call 216-524-7373 or register online.

New this year: Santa Drive-Thru with the mayor and First Lady Lyn Kurtz. Santa and Santa's helpers will be parked in front of the Kiwanis Pavilion between 5 – 6 p.m., where they will greet families and deliver gift stockings. In 2025, 347 children and their families took part in this new city tradition. Registration is necessary. Call 216-524-7373 or register online.

Guests are asked to donate one canned food item per family member to support local food banks during the holiday season. Also, a Salvation Army Red Kettle bell ringer will be collecting donations for those in need. There will be limited parking available in the Civic Center parking lot and additional parking with shuttle service in the Independence Middle School parking lot.

New this year: Inside the Civic Center starting at 5 p.m., families can enjoy a wide variety of activities, including Christmas inflatables, holiday refreshments, "Santa Claus the Movie," a model train display, silent disco, snowball toss, TapSnap photos, and fun crafts like decorating cookies and wooden ornaments. In the Civic Center courtyard there will be an ice carving demonstration.

Santa will be available for those who want to share their wish list, plus Rudolph, Frosty and Elsa, Ana and Olaf from "Frozen," will be mingling with guests.

As always, there will be hot cocoa, hot cider, donut holes and a popcorn station. Plus guests can enjoy something savory or sweet and support the Fire and Police departments by purchasing some Independence Firehouse Chili, Jack Frost Donuts for Dawgs, Jimmy Johns sandwiches, and pizza.

Independence Middle School is hosting a Build Your Own Teddy Bear station ($20+), Indy Sewing will be selling bows, and the Independence Historical Society will be selling custom City of Independence coloring books featuring historic landmarks that make great gifts for children and 44131 holiday transfers. Java Mama will be selling fresh-brewed coffee.

Official lighting of the spectacular 30-ft. holiday tree in front of the Civic Center will be at 6:15 p.m. A bonfire will be set up near the holiday tree, where families can roast marshmallows and make s'mores. Back inside the Civic Center guests can enjoy the sounds of the season and holiday carols and songs performed by the Hometown Concert Band from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

The synchronized light show at City Hall will play on weekends only – Fridays through Sundays -- from 4:30 p.m. until midnight. The dazzling displays around Elmwood Park and on Public Square will sparkle seven days a week through Saturday, Jan. 9, 2027.

Calling all residents! Show your Christmas spirit and brighten up the holidays by participating in the Holiday Home Decorating Contest. Entries will be judged on creativity, curb appeal and inclusion of a theme. Please call City Hall at 216-524-4131 by Wednesday, Dec. 2, to register your home. Email evening photos of your decorated home (up to 4) to cityhall@independenceohio.org

First Place Prize: $250; Second Place Prize: $150.

(Editor's Note: Taken from Mayor Greg Kurtz's Weekly Update email of Nov. 13.)

CLE City Council boycotts Starbucks

Monday night, Cleveland City Council unanimously passed a resolution endorsing a boycott of Starbucks and banning council from purchasing its products until it ratifies a fair contract with its union. The resolution also calls on Cleveland residents and neighboring local councils to join the boycott, and for the Bibb administration to refrain from using city funds for Starbucks purchases.

While the resolution voicing solidarity with the baristas was initially introduced by council members Tanmay Shah, Austin Davis and Joe Jones, every council member present at the meeting asked to be included as a sponsor of the legislation.

Over 12,000 workers at more than 700 U.S. locations have unionized with Starbucks Workers United. For the last five years, these unionized baristas have fought for a fair contract, which would cost Starbucks less than one day of sales.

"Starbucks workers deserve more. Starbucks' baristas can't survive on low wages, insufficient hours and terrible benefits," said Councilmember Shah.

"Several Starbucks stores in Cleveland have unionized, including one in our ward. These baristas work hard, and baristas deserve a fair contract, not Starbucks' egregious union busting. It's disgusting. We support this boycott and stand in solidarity with these workers," he added.

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Advertising deadline is 5:00 p.m. Mondays. Advertising Display rate is $12.00 per column inch (minimum $48).
Business Directory deadline is 5:00 p.m. Fridays. Ads must print for 4 weeks. Advertising rate is $12 per column inch (minimum $24).

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Classified Advertising rate is $12.00 for 15 words or less and 10¢ a word over 15 words. Boxed classified rate is $12.00 per column inch (starting at $24).

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Shopping fun at Czech Holiday Fair

Visitors to the 2026 Czech Holiday Fair at Bohemian National Hall last Saturday enjoyed shopping for imported items from the Czech Republic and from local vendors, but all that shopping works up an appetite! Not to worry. Delicious traditional dinners, finger foods and baked goods, washed down with some good Czech beer, fortified those attending for another round! *Photos by Tony Brancatelli*





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.

OHIO & ERIE CANAL RESERVATION/CANALWAY CENTER

Dec. 1-31: Mystery Room. Bring your friends and family to follow clues, complete puzzles, and solve problems as you work to unravel this year's mystery. These non-scary challenges are suitable for adults and children aged 7 and older. Recommended group size is 2 to 6 individuals and must include at least one adult participant. The experience lasts approximately one hour. Call to reserve a time; limited walk-up registration may be available. 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. CWC. Ages 7 years – adult; adult participant required. Fee: $15 per group of 2–6 individuals.

Dec. 1-31: Hunt of the Month - Eagles. A walk along the Towpath in December is a great opportunity to spot bald eagles. This month we've hidden 20 eagle images inside CanalWay Center for you to find. If you can find all 20, we'll give you a sticker prize! 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. CWC.

Dec. 5: Eagle Photography Morning Walk. Join a hike with a naturalist and experienced nature photographer, Rick Santich, as you slow down and explore the valley in search of a magnificent subject: bald eagles! Along the way you'll learn about these remarkable birds and pick up practical tips to sharpen your eagle photography. Photographers of all skill levels are welcome. Bring your own camera, whether it's a traditional camera or a smartphone. 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. CWC. Ages 16 years – adult. Fee: $10. Terrain: paved surface, 2.5 miles, slow pace. Register online (20 people).

Dec. 12: Jill Hauger, Drop-by - White-Tailed Deer. Stop by CanalWay Center between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., to learn about Ohio's state mammal. We will have a trivia wheel of fun facts about deer to test your knowledge as well as some biofacts to explore. Guests will have the opportunity to create a deer craft to take home. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. CWC.



