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98th YEAR NO. 05

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2020

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FREE

Maple Heights Council passes revised bill declaring racism a public health crisis

By Judith Goldsworth

Legislation to formally declare racism a public health crisis in the city of Maple Heights was passed by council at its meeting last week after many months of discussion.

The resolution was a second version of the legislation, which failed to pass in its original form at a Wednesday, Sept. 2 meeting. It was reintroduced at the Sept. 16 meeting and placed on first reading.

Both versions were introduced by council members Dana Anderson and Richard Trojanski, and after amendments were made at the request of council members, including provisions to establish an "ad hoc" committee to address and promote racial equity in the city, the body unanimously passed the revised piece at its teleconference meeting last week.

"Maple Heights believes that the time is now to declare racism a public health crisis and would like to commit to improving the overall quality of life for our minority residents, business owners and visitors," the resolution states.

The resolution also notes the high level of infant mortality in the city, stating, "The heartbreaking news is that Maple Heights and many other inner ring east side suburbs have epidemic rates of infant mortality," reiterating statements of the need to address the issue made by Mayor Annette Blackwell at previous meetings.

Maple Heights is comprised of 73% Black or African American, 2% Hispanic or Latino, and 2.3% two or more races, according to 2019 population estimates from census.gov, per the resolution.

Passage of the resolution indicates council's support of the formation of a working group to address these issues.

Councilman Stafford Shenett, chairman of council's Community Life and Education Committee which has taken an active role in addressing the impact of racism on Maple Heights residents, gave his thanks to Law Director Frank Consolo for his assistance in revising the legislation.

"We are happy the law director worked with us and the introducers of the legislation on key language. The working group added even more meat to the bones of the legislation, and with intelligence and intellect, worked together to make this happen," he said.

(Continued on Page 8)

Garfield Hts. meeting to feature George Simon

Join Garfield Heights Council President Matt Burke, Councilmen Jason Blake and Tom Vaughn and other city leaders for the October Community Awareness meeting held via Zoom on Wednesday, Oct. 21, at 6:30 p.m.

Guest speaker will be local entrepreneur George Simon, who has ties to local projects at Highland Park and Valley Ranch Estates in Garfield Heights as well as businesses in other local communities.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9851726964?pwd=ZGQ3b1hLK05CV2FRT2dUdUcrUnZlQT09>

Meeting ID: 985 172 6964

Passcode: Garfield

Or Phone-in by Calling

1-312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 985 172 6964

Passcode: 72302173

Halloween's coming!!

Trick or Treat times for the various communities in The Neighborhood News readership area will be published in next week's Oct. 21st issue, along with Halloween activities right in your neighborhood.

So if you've got a Halloween event coming up and you'd like to list it with us, email to: nnews1923@aol.com by Monday, Oct. 19. Content may be edited for space and clarity. Only e-mailed listings, please.

CELEBRATING THE PAST



Can you guess who this important founder of Garfield Heights is and where this huge tree is behind him?

The subject of this 1939 photo is Ernst Boehning, Jr. The historic sycamore tree in the picture is located at the bridge leading from Canal Rd. to Brookside Rd. opposite Tinkers Creek Rd. in Valley View.

The photo was taken by Lawrence Boehning, a resident of Garfield Heights and a member of its founding family.

A picture of former Garfield Heights first lady Eileen Longo was taken in 2009 in front of this same tree.

(Courtesy of The Garfield Heights Historical Society)

Two promoted in Garfield Hts. Police Dept.

Sgt. William Gall of the Garfield Heights Police Department has been promoted to lieutenant with swearing-in ceremonies held at the Civic Center on Oct. 5.

He was hired as a patrolman in the GHPD on Mar. 1, 1995, promoted to sergeant on Jan. 26, 2018, and now holds the rank of lieutenant.



Lt. William Gall and family with Mayor Vic Collova at his swearing-in ceremonies.

Vinson Walker was hired as a patrolman on Jan. 31, 2005, and was promoted to sergeant on Oct. 5, when his swearing-in by Mayor Vic Collova was also held.



Sgt. Vinson Walker and family with Mayor Collova

City of Garfield Heights to hold Halloween & Harvest Costume Parade

Join in the fun on Sunday, Oct. 25, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Garfield Heights Civic Center Complex, 5407 Turney Rd., for a Halloween & Harvest Costume Parade.


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5841 Turney Rd., Garfield Heights 216-475-4040

Everyone is encouraged to wear a costume and be in the parade (parents too!). Treats will be available for children 12 and under while supplies last; all minors must be accompanied by an adult.

This is a COVID-19 safe event; 6-foot social distancing and masks required for everyone.

It is being held because the city could not host its two popular events, the Annual Halloween Skate at the Rec and the Annual Harvest Fest at the Civic Center due to the pandemic and keeping in mind the safety of everyone.

Parking will be available at the Cuyahoga County Library, with the parade beginning at the Dan Kostel Recreation Center. Volunteers will help direct the parade, so everyone can go in the same direction and make sure everyone makes stops at all the designated red tent locations to pick up treats, including pumpkins, candy and apples.

Help make this a safe and fun event for the community.

The Halloween & Harvest Costume Parade is sponsored by: The City of Garfield Heights, Vic Collova, Mayor; Dan Kostel Recreation Center; Cuyahoga County Public Library; Garfield Heights Historical Society.

This event does not replace Trick or Treat night in Garfield Heights, which will be held on Halloween, Oct. 31, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Paid Advertisement

Landlord Tenant Forum

A Virtual Landlord Tenant Forum entitled "Maintaining Stability During Pandemic Uncertainty" will be presented on Facebook Live and Zoom on Tuesday, Oct. 20, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Speakers will include Judge Deborah Nicastro of the Garfield Heights Municipal Court, Alfrie Hudson, wraparound services specialist with Murtis Taylor Human Services System, and Kate Camden, director of financial mobility programs with CHN Housing Partners.

Panelists will discuss your rights and responsibilities under the CDC Eviction Moratorium and available assistance for landlords and tenants.

Submit your questions live in the Zoom or Facebook Chat - or email questions in advance to: garfieldheightsaca@gmail.com.

Join the forum on Facebook Live:
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Join on Zoom: ID: 832 1798 2119 PASSCODE: 742258

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FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION, (Garfield Hts. Only)

Saturday, Oct. 17th, 10am-Noon



The Rock Community Church, located at 9403 Garfield Blvd., Garfield Heights, will be having a food pantry distribution for **Garfield Hts. residents only on Saturday, Oct. 17 from 10am-Noon.**

Those walking also need to queue in car line.

All food distributions will be drive-through only till further notice.

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Jeff Bodziony, Pastor

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Letters to the Editor

Importance of voting

Dear Editor:

Trust. There's been a lot of discussion about who and what to trust this election cycle. Should you trust the post office to deliver your ballot? Should you trust that ample precautions will be taken so that you can vote safely in person?

And perhaps, most important of all, should you trust that your voice will make a difference? We are three civically engaged Northeast Ohio residents and we are here to implore you to have faith in all of the above — most importantly that last one — because you are not just voting for Biden or Trump. You are voting for our future.

There are more than just presidential candidates on the ballot this year. Whether you care about education, criminal justice reform or our libraries — there are important issues waiting for your decision.

When seeds of doubt are sown about our voting system, the true danger does not lay in our voting system, which is still strong and has extensive checks and balances. The true danger is in voters distrusting the process and disengaging. Trust that the system is strong enough for your voice to matter.

Vote like your life depends on it, because this year in particular, it does. Visit vote.org to make sure you have a voting plan in place and then visit voterdrivecle.com for a ride to the polls.

Sincerely,

Bishara Addison, Shaker Heights

Rebecca Maurer, Slavic Village

Grace Heffernan, Cleveland

Laws of the Land in Garfield Heights

Do you live in Garfield Heights and have a question about its ordinances - what may or may not be legal in any given circumstance? This column will answer your questions with the help of members of Garfield Heights City Council.

Question – What is the law concerning littering from a motor vehicle in the city?

Answer – **331.42 LITTERING FROM MOTOR VEHICLE.**

(a) No operator or occupant of a motor vehicle shall, regardless of intent, throw, drop, discard or deposit litter from any motor vehicle in operation upon any street, road or highway, except into a litter receptacle in a manner that prevents its being carried away or deposited by the elements.

(b) No operator of a motor vehicle in operation upon any street, road or highway shall allow litter to be thrown, dropped, discarded or deposited from the motor vehicle, except into a litter receptacle in a manner that prevents

its being carried away or deposited by the elements.

(c) As used in this section, "litter" means garbage, trash, waste, rubbish, ashes, cans, bottles, wire, paper, cartons, boxes, automobile parts, furniture, glass or anything else of an unsightly or unsanitary nature.

(ORC 4511.82)

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Neighborhood News readers can get their favorite newspaper on the web at: theneighborhoodnews.com.

The entire newspaper is available on the N.N. website every Wednesday morning and can be read in Adobe Acrobat. Just click on the front page to download the remaining pages. Archives and other features will be added as the website evolves.

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GARFIELD HEIGHTS COMMUNITY AWARENESS MEETING FEATURING GEORGE SIMON

Please join Council President Matt Burke, Councilman Jason Blake, and Councilman Tom Vaughn and other City Leaders for the October Community Awareness Meeting. Our speaker will be local entrepreneur George Simon. Mr. Simon has ties to local projects at Highland Park and Valley Ranch Estates in Garfield Heights as well as businesses in other local communities.

**Our meeting will be held via Zoom on
October 21, 2020 at 6:30pm.**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9851726964?pwd=ZGQ3b1hLK05CV2FRT2dUdUcrUnZlQT09>

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Death Notices

PERNEL JONES, SR.



Pernel Jones, Sr. was born Dec. 22, 1941, in Baltimore, Maryland. He was the 7th of 10 children born to the union of Marshall Sr. and Viola Jones. He accepted Christ at an early age and was baptized at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Baltimore. He was educated in the Baltimore City Public Schools, graduating from Dunbar High School. Pernel Jones was a graduate of the Peabody Preparatory School of Music, where he was an excellent pianist. He received a music scholarship to attend Howard University and continued his education at Temple University's Echols College of Mortuary Science.

Pernel met and married Anita Louise Byrd, and to this union two sons were born, Pernel Jones, Jr. and Michael David Jones. Pernel Jones, Sr. would then be called to

serve his country. He was drafted into the United States Army, where he served for two years and was honorably discharged in 1968.

Pernel Jones, Sr. began his career as a funeral director working alongside his oldest brother, Marshall Jones, Jr., at the Marshall W. Jones Funeral Home in Baltimore. He decided to open his own funeral home and found the perfect place where he could grow his business and family and moved to Cleveland, Ohio.

In 1973, he opened the Pernel Jones Funeral Home and made an effort to make himself a part of the Cleveland community. He served on over 25 various boards and charitable organizations such as the City of Cleveland Civil Service Commission, Hough Salvation Army Advisory Board, Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors, the Cleveland Big Brothers & Big Sisters and the Cuyahoga County Republican Party. He was also a member of the Masonic Rising Heights Lodge and a trustee and founding member of the New Second Metropolitan Baptist Church under the leadership of the late Rev. Thomas Almond.

Pernel Jones, Sr. worked diligently to build a business that would flourish and grow. Throughout the 1980's he

worked as a bailiff for the Cuyahoga County Probate Court until his growing business demanded he retire. But he did not allow his business to interfere with being a father to his two sons. It was his nurturing that brought his two sons into the business and Pernel proudly changed the name to The Pernel Jones & Sons Funeral Home. He has been a blessing to many and has left a lasting legacy for his family.

Pernel Jones, Sr. went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2020. He was preceded in death by his parents, Viola and Marshall Jones, siblings Ella, Freddy, Paul and Maceo Jones.

He leaves to mourn: two sons, Cuyahoga County Councilman Pernel (Tammy) Jones, Jr. and Michael David Jones; two brothers, Marshall Jones, Jr. and Warren Jones; three sisters, Vivian Jones, Joyce Jones and Brenda Jones; and a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, other relatives and friends.

Public Viewing

Monday, Oct. 19, 3 - 7 p.m., Pernel Jones & Sons Funeral Home, 7120 Cedar Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44103

Evening Wake

Tuesday, Oct. 20, 5 - 7 p.m., Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, 7501 Woodland Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44104

Funeral

Wednesday, Oct. 21, 10/10:30 a.m., Mt. Sinai Baptist Church

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Sat., Oct. 17, 9am-6pm
Sun., Oct. 18, 10am-12:30pm

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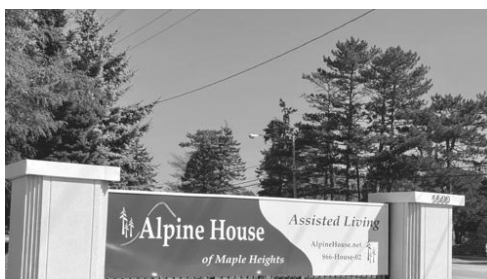
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Community police reports

CLEVELAND

Shootings

• On Oct. 6, at 9:37 a.m., a 30-year-old male suffered a gunshot wound to the left leg at E. 65 St. and Morgan Ave. Transported to MetroHealth Medical Center for treatment.

• On Oct. 11, at 12:33 a.m., a 25-year-old female suffered a gunshot wound to the lower back in a shooting in the area of E. 55th and Broadway Ave. EMS transported the woman to MetroHealth Medical Center.

Fatal OD

• On Oct. 6, at 7:28 p.m., a 41-year-old male in the 6300 block of Francis Ave., was the victim of a fatal overdose.

• On Oct. 6, at 8:59 p.m., a 50-year-old male in the 3600 block of E. 55 St., was the victim of a fatal overdose.

GARFIELD HEIGHTS

Traffic Offense – OVI

On Oct. 5, about 12:30 a.m., police responded to the 14100 block of Cranwood Park Blvd. for a report that a vehicle had struck a parked car. Officers found the driver of the car standing in the street with obvious signs of intoxication. The man said he was not injured in the accident. A check through LEADS showed him to have a felony warrant with Cleveland Police and was taken to city jail and charged with OVI and given a court date. He was also placed on ALS suspension, with his driver's license confiscated and automatically suspended for refusing to participate in field sobriety tests or give a breath sample.

Shots Fired

On Oct. 7, at 8:27 p.m., GHPD units went to the area of Saybrook and E. 136 St. after receiving numerous calls reporting shots fired. Several shell casings were found in the street on Saybrook in the 13400 block. Police spoke to a Saybrook resident who said he and his friend were in his driveway when a dark-colored Jeep Cherokee drove past a few times, and then stopped a few houses east of his. An unknown male stood up out of the sun roof and began shooting at them. The car then fled east on Saybrook. Officers located twenty-two 9mm shell casings in the street and two slugs on the sidewalk near where a vehicle had been struck by the bullets. Officers located a vehicle in the back yard of a vacant house in the 13500 block of Saybrook which had fresh bullet holes in the driver's side bumper and side window. Officers were unable to make contact with anyone inside the house and had the vehicle towed. Detective Bureau will follow up.

Suspicious Person

On Oct. 7, at about 10:20 p.m., police were dispatched to the 9700 block of McCracken Rd. for a report of a "male in a dark hoodie prowling around vehicles" in the complainant's driveway. She told police the suspect had left the area, walking southbound through yards. A short time later police found a male matching the suspect's description emerging from between two homes in the 9700 block of South Highland. Three officers converged on the man and asked him if he had any weapons. The suspect did not answer, but police observed a loaded and chambered firearm in his waist band and removed it for officer's safety. He was taken into custody without incident and charged with carrying concealed weapons and held at the city jail on no bond. Case forwarded to the Detective Bureau.

Capias/Warrant on File

On Oct. 8, at about 2:25 a.m., an officer responded to the area of Turney Rd. and Garfield Blvd. to assist two other officers with a suspicious vehicle. The occupant/owner of the vehicle was identified as a juvenile male with

an active murder warrant through the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office. Subsequently officers attempted to extract the suspect from the car, but he fled on foot northbound through the parking lot of Opportunity House.

Two officers gave chase and the other followed in a marked police car. As the suspect consistently concealed the front of his body and was actively fleeing from a homicide warrant, police deployed a Taser on him but it yielded no compliance/result. The officer in the patrol car got out and advanced on the suspect as he lost his footing. He finally followed verbal commands and was handcuffed without further incident.

Follow Up Investigation

Police were dispatched to the 13300 block of Saybrook Ave. on Oct. 9, at 10:40 a.m., for a criminal damage report. The property owner told officers that upon entering the upstairs bedroom of a house he is rehabbing, he discovered three holes in the walls of a bedroom and three holes in the walls of another bedroom.

A spent round was found on the floor of each of the bedrooms. A 9mm casing was found in the street in front of the house, the direction where the shooting took place. Police believe this incident may be connected to a previous shots fired report on Oct. 7. Evidence collected and tagged.

LEGAL NOTICE

Redi Storage, 4620 Northfield Rd., North Randall, OH 44128, 216-714-5869 is hosting the following auctions on www.storagetreasures.com. Items to be auctioned off by whole unit, Friday, October 30th, 2020. CASH only and cleaning deposit as listed below.

John T. Brown, PO BOX 46835, Bedford, OH 44146, 10x10, Ending at 12:00PM. Unit appears to contain: mattress set, refrigerator, air conditioners, computer, filing cabinet, cabinets, desk, table, shelves, clothing, tote bags, plastic bins, boxes, bags, misc. items. \$50 cleaning deposit.

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Maple Heights Council passes revised bill

(Continued from Page 1)

Other legislation

Council passed a resolution authorizing Finance Director Tinita Tillman to change internal audit classifications of certain Fiscal Year 2019 expenditures out of the General Fund to the FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) and SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire Emergency Response) grant funds from advances to transfers, thereby changing the amounts to be reimbursed to the General Fund.

It was noted in the legislation that council passed an ordinance in 2019 to amend the 2019 appropriations budget which provided for certain advances from the General Fund to the FEMA and SAFER Grant Funds.

It was further explained in the resolution that \$6,172.92 of the total \$83,701.54 General Fund advance to the FEMA Grant Fund was the city's local grant share contribution "which should have been accounted for as a transfer instead of an advance, thereby requiring the FEMA Grant Fund to only reimburse \$77,528.62 to the

General Fund."

Also, all of the \$165,000 General Fund advance to the SAFER Grant Fund was the city's local share grant contribution "which should have been accounted for as a transfer instead of an advance, thereby requiring no reimbursement from the FEMA Grant Fund to the General Fund."

The finance director recommended to council that the internal audit classifications for the advances to the FEMA Grant Fund and SAFER Grant Fund be changed accordingly. Passage of the resolution authorizes Tillman to make the necessary changes.

Also passed was an ordinance to amend the city's budget, for the fiscal year ending Dec. 31, 2020, and an ordinance updating financial policies and procedures pertaining to purchasing and payroll-special leaves, as updated by Tillman.

A resolution acknowledging October 2020 as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month was passed, noting that breast cancer is the most common form of

cancer in women worldwide, as one out of every eight women and one out of every 1,000 men develop breast cancer.

An ordinance to reduce the maximum number of dogs and cats permitted per household from five to two was placed in the Committee of the Whole for further discussion.

Economic development update

Economic Development Director Patrick Grogan-Myers gave an update on economic news in the city, including welcoming a new business in District 6, White House Auto Detailing at 5081 Warrensville Center Rd.

Grogan-Myers also said that on Jefferson Ave., a digging machine is excavating the foundation of one new home, and a foundation is in place for a second new home.

He also reported on the building department's "healthy amount of activity" in September, noting that total fees collected in September were just over \$57,000, with 169 permits

issued. Valuation work performed with the permits was just under \$1 million.

"To put this into context, in August 2020, 143 permits were issued with work valued at almost \$650,000, and in September 2019, pre-COVID, 124 permits were issued with work valued at approximately \$500,000," Grogan-Myers stated.

Announcements

Seniors interested in flu, pneumonia and shingles shots through Walgreens on Tuesday, Oct. 27, can call the Maple Heights Senior Center at 216-587-5481 to make an appointment, Human Services Director Linda Vopat stated.

Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and accompanying safety concerns, the city's annual "Trunk or Treat" Halloween

celebration will not be held this year, Shenett stated. However, the CLEC was working on a celebration that would accommodate COVID-19 guidelines for the holiday season.

Halloween will be observed on Saturday, Oct. 31, from 4-6 p.m. Hansen said, stating that the earlier hours were set on purpose "to try to make it not so scary this year... COVID is scary enough."

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