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CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS, INDEPENDENCE, VALLEY VIEW, MAPLE HEIGHTS AND BEDFORD

102nd YEAR

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2024

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

FREE



SE Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast is this Sunday, Nov. 3, at Red Chimney

The legendary Red Chimney restaurant at the corner of Fleet Ave., and E. 65 St., in Cleveland's Slavic Village, has long been known for its terrific food at reasonable prices. Well now it will also be known as the place to enjoy a hearty pancake breakfast while supporting the many local nonprofit groups for which the Kiwanis Club of South East Cleveland provides annual funding.

The Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast will be held this Sunday, Nov. 3, at Red Chimney, 6501 Fleet Ave., from 8 a.m. until 12 noon. Enjoy two huge pancakes, a breakfast meat of your choice and a beverage for just \$8, eat-in or carry-out. Just ask for the Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast Special. Call Red Chimney at 216-441-0053 for your carry-out orders. The regular menu at Red Chimney will also be available.

Cyclist dies in Bedford crash on Rockside Road

Last Friday morning, Oct. 25, about 9:12 a.m., the Bedford Police Department and Bedford Fire Department were dispatched to 18200 Rockside Rd., for a two-car accident with a cyclist still under one of the vehicles, according to a BPD press release.

Bedford Fire pronounced the cyclist, Linda K. Conger, 59, deceased and treated the two other drivers. No further information is available at this time. The investigation has been turned over to the SEALE Accident Investigation Unit.

FALL BACK SUNDAY!

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS THIS SUNDAY AT 2 A.M. SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR!!

Nov. 5, 2024 Presidential Election

Issues, levies, candidates on local ballots

Voters in Ohio who have waited to cast their ballots on Election Day, rather than doing early in-person voting or mailing in absentee ballots, will have their chance this Tuesday, Nov. 5, the official date for the 2024 Presidential Election.

But there is much more to vote on in The Neighborhood News readership area than just who will lead this country for the next four years. Below are some of the important issues, levies and candidates on ballots which our local voters will decide.

State-wide

ISSUE 1

Proposed Constitutional Amendment

Proposed by Initiative Petition

To create an appointed redistricting commission not elected by or subject to removal by the voters of the state.

A majority yes vote is necessary for the amendment to pass. If approved, the amendment will be effective 30 days after the election.

County-wide

PROPOSED REPLACEMENT OF EXCISE TAX ON CIGARETTES FOR CUYAHOGA ARTS & CULTURE

For the purpose of making grants to support operating or capital expenses of arts or cultural organizations in Cuyahoga County, to defray the costs of acquiring, constructing, equipping, furnishing, improving, enlarging, renovating, remodeling, or maintaining an artistic or cultural facility, and to meet operating expenses of Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, shall an excise tax be levied throughout Cuyahoga County for the benefit of Cuyahoga Arts & Culture on the sale of cigarettes at wholesale at the rate of 35 mills per cigarette, which amounts to 3.5 cents per cigarette, for 10 years?

(An existing tax of 15 mills per cigarette, which amounts to 1.5 cents per cigarette, having two years remaining, will be terminated and replaced upon the passage of this tax.)

City of Cleveland

PROPOSED BOND ISSUE & TAX LEVY

Shall the Cleveland Municipal School District be authorized to issue bonds for the purpose of constructing, renovating, remodeling, enlarging, furnishing, equipping and otherwise improving School District buildings and facilities and acquiring, clearing, equipping and otherwise improving School District building and facility sites in the principal amount of \$295,000,000, to be repaid annually over a maximum period of 35 years, and levy a property tax outside the ten-mill limitation, estimated by the County Fiscal Officer to average over the bond repayment period 2.65 mills for each \$1 taxable value, which amounts to \$93 for each \$100,000 of the County Fiscal Officer's appraised value, to pay the annual debt charges on the bonds, and to pay debt charges on any notes issued in anticipation of those bonds?

City of Garfield Heights

PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT:

Shall Section 59 of the Charter of the City of Garfield Heights, which currently prohibits the use of photo-monitoring devices for the enforcement of qualified traffic law violations in the city, be amended to add Subsection 59-4 to provide that Section 59 shall not apply to the use of traffic law photo-monitoring devices on Interstate 480 within the corporate boundaries of the City of Garfield Heights, and add Subsection 59-5 to provide that not less than one-half of net collections from traffic photo-monitoring violations shall be used towards the cost of the city's: 1) police, fire and other safety services; 2) street and other infrastructure improvements; and/or 3) parks, recreation and senior programming?

PROPOSED TAX LEVY

Shall a levy renewing an existing levy be imposed by the Garfield Heights City School District for the purpose of providing for emergency requirements of the school district in the sum of \$5,350,000 and a levy of taxes to be made outside of the ten-mill limitation estimated by the County Fiscal Officer to average 13.88 mills for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$486 for each \$100,000 of the County Fiscal Officer's appraised value, for a period of ten years, commencing in 2025, first due in calendar year 2026?

(Continued on Page 3)

Rep. Brewer receives Ohio advocacy award from Assn. of Area Agencies on Aging

District 18 State Rep. Darnell Brewer (D-Cleveland) last Thursday received the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging Advocacy Award and was appointed to the Ohio Department of Health's newly formed Community Health Worker (CHW) Center for Excellence Board.



"I am incredibly humbled to have been honored with the Ohio Association of Area Agencies Elected Official Advocacy Award," said Rep. Brewer. "As a former social services worker, community health worker, and now freshman legislator, it is a great honor to know our work makes Ohio a great place to age."

"There is still more work to be done, and our offices will continue championing legislation and policies to help our seniors and disabled aging place. We must champion raising the minimum amount of SNAP benefits for our seniors, work to find tax relief for our seniors who continue to live in and own their homes in Ohio, and fight to continue to make our community a better and safer place to live. As I advance to my next term, I will continue the fight and work across the aisle to get things done for our seniors and disabled population," Brewer concluded.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
GENERAL ENGINEERING SERVICES

The Village of Newburgh Heights is seeking a qualified engineering firm to provide comprehensive general engineering, planning, and architectural services.

Statements of Qualifications (SOQs) must be received by 1:00 PM on December 31, 2024. Submissions should be sent electronically to:

Mayor Trevor Elkins
telkins@newburgh-oh.gov
3801 Harvard Avenue
Newburgh Heights, Ohio
(216) 641-4650

Statements of qualifications should include information regarding the firm's history; education and experience of key technical personnel; ODOT pre-qualification letter, the firm's experience in performing the services outlines in the project description; availability of staff; the firm's equipment and facilities; references; and any previous work performed for the Village of Newburgh Heights. The SOQ shall not exceed 30 pages.

The Village will evaluate SOQs based on the following criteria:

1. Firm's experience in providing similar services.
2. Firm's experience in providing services in the Village of Newburgh Heights.
3. Qualifications and experience of key personnel.
4. Firm's resources and capabilities.
5. References and past performance.

As required by Ohio Revised Code §153.65-73, responding firms will be evaluated and ranked in order of their qualifications. Following this evaluation, the Village of Newburgh Heights will enter contract negotiations with the most highly qualified firm for the General Engineering Services contract. Statement of qualifications will be kept on file for one year and may be utilized for other professional services contracts under \$50,000.

The Village reserves the right to release future request for qualifications for projects covered by this solicitation. The selected firm for General Engineering Services will be eligible to submit on all Request for Qualifications (RFQs) during the contract term.

Project Description

The selected firm will be responsible for providing general architectural, engineering, and planning professional services for three service areas. The scope of services for each service area includes but not limited to:

1. Municipal Engineering Services
 - a. Technical support to the Service Director, Council, and Administration on engineering-related issues involving Village.
 - b. Coordinate with County, Regional, State and Federal agencies on engineering-related issues involving the Village, including annual or quarterly report requirements.
 - c. Attend Council, Committee, Planning, Zoning, BZA, and other Special meetings, at the request of the Village.
 - d. Assist and maintain the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for Village-owned infrastructure.
 - e. Identify and advise on funding applications to support the goals of the CIP.
2. Review: Periodic plan review and construction inspection on private sector development projects within Village.
3. Projects: Planning, Design, and Inspection of Public Infrastructure Projects.
 - a. Prepare funding applications that require detailed architectural plans, engineering plans, reports, and/or certified cost estimates.
 - b. Maintain pavement condition ratings of all streets in the Village.
 - c. Assist the Village with EPA MS4 best management practices (BMPs) to stay in compliance with the annual permit.
 - d. Pre-Design Services (Survey, Environmental, Traffic, Geotechnical, Planning, etc.).
 - e. Reports & Studies (Flood Studies, Traffic Studies, Environmental Studies, etc.).
 - f. Architectural, Engineering, and Planning Design Services (Plans & Specifications) for Public Buildings, Parks & Recreation, Streets, Public Utilities, and other publicly owned infrastructure or publicly funded project of any type.
 - g. Public Bidding & Award Services.
 - h. Construction Administration, Management, Inspection & Testing (CA/CM/CI).
 - i. Criteria Engineer/Architect Services (per ORC 153.692).
 - j. GIS Services.
 - k. Economic development consultation.
 - l. Zoning code review and update.
 - m. Zoning code enforcement.
 - n. Master planning for the municipality, neighborhoods, specific corridors, and/or parks and recreation.
 - o. Inflow and infiltration investigation, including dye testing, smoke testing, or flow monitoring.
 - p. Right of way plan development and exhibit preparation.
 - q. Surveying.

The selected firm shall enter into a Master Services Agreement (MSA) with the Village for the following three service areas and negotiate acceptable fee terms per the options shown below for the entire length of the contract term of the MSA:

1. Municipal Engineering Services
Acceptable Contract Terms for Fees: Hourly rates with maximum annual fee or monthly fixed fee per month.
2. Review: Periodic Plan Review and Inspection of Private Sector Developments
Acceptable Contract Terms for Fees: Hourly Rates
3. Projects: Planning, Design, and Inspection of Public Infrastructure Projects
Acceptable Contract Terms for Fees: Hourly rates, maximum fee based on percent of construction cost, cost plus fixed fee, or standard hourly rate multiplier.

The following additional conditions shall apply to the MSA:

- The Village shall set the length of contract in term of one year.
- The Village may include a clause to allow for a renewable contract for a set period of years.
- The Village may, at any time during the contract term of the MSA, select another consultant via the Quality Base Selection (QBS) process to perform a specific project without voiding the terms of the MSA.
- The Village shall utilize a third-party review consultant, selected from the approved QBS list of consultants, if necessary, for specific “Service Area 3 Projects”.

Project Schedule:

Notice to Proceed: April 1, 2025

End of Contract: March 31, 2026

Published: The Neighborhood News 10-30-24

Bedford Council OKs sewer rate hike

By Judith Goldsworth

Property owners in the city of Bedford will see their sewer rates go up by 10% next year, after city council passed an ordinance approving the increase at its meeting Monday, Oct. 21.

City Manager Mike Mallis has stated at previous meetings that the increase, which will take effect Jan. 1, 2025, is needed to cover additional expenses and capital improvements for the city's Wastewater Treatment Plant and sewer system. The minimum sewer charge may be increased by about \$34 per year, or \$3 more per month, he said.

The monthly minimum charge is now \$28.62, which began on Jan. 1, 2023. Effective in the new year the monthly minimum charge will be \$31.48, per the legislation.

The only other piece of legislation on Monday's agenda passed by council was an ordinance allowing employee participants to make insurance plan premium contributions on a pretax basis for the calendar year 2025, through Health Equity/Wage Works.

The city has established a Premium Only Plan (POP), within Internal Revenue Service Code, "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," the legislation states.

Finance Director Jennifer Howland explained that the POP legislation is approved each year.

Hikma increasing investment in city

Hikma Pharmaceuticals, which has owned the former Ben Venue plant on Northfield Rd. for the past 10 years, is increasing its investment in the city. The U.K.-based company completed a multimillion dollar acquisition of Xellia Pharmaceutical's operations at the same facility earlier this year, Mayor Stan Koci and Mallis reported.

Koci said that he and Mallis and other city officials visited Hikma recently and said their plans are "all very encouraging. It shows us that they really want to be here to stay by sealing the deal on the sale."

He said the company is investing over \$60 million into its new acquisition.

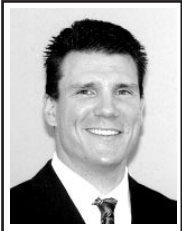
According to information from a Hikma press release, Xellia took over manufacturing anti-infective treatments and other critical care therapies before leaving the Northfield Rd. location earlier this year. Hikma intends to undertake a series of investments to enhance productivity and efficiency through the addition of automation, equipment and updated processes and expects the facility to be operational within two to three years.

Halloween events

Mallis said the official celebration of Halloween in Bedford for Trick-or-Treaters will be from 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 31. During those same hours, Ward 1 Councilwoman Sandy Spinks said the Bedford Historical Society will be telling fun ghost stories and giving out candy at the Bedford Gazebo in the Public Square area. In case of rain, the event will be held in the Community Room of the Old Church on the Commons.

Announcements

Ward 2 Councilman Steve Salvi announced that he and Mallis spoke with owners of Zak's Supercenter at Northfield and Rockside rds., on plans of the UniverSoul Circus to hold a circus event in the supermarket parking lot next month. The city has also been in contact with UniverSoul representatives, he said, and provided all conditions are met to address safety, security and other concerns, the circus will take place from Thursday, Nov. 28 through Sunday, Dec. 8.



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News at 216-441-2141

Issues, levies, candidates on local election ballots

(Continued from Page 1)

Village of Valley View

PROPOSED TAX LEVY

A renewal of a tax for the benefit of the Village of Valley View for the purpose of providing funds for parks and recreational purposes of the Village that the County Fiscal Officer estimates will collect \$419,000 annually, at a rate not exceeding 2.3 mills for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$59 for each \$100,000 of the County Fiscal Officer's appraised value, for five years, commencing in 2024, first due in calendar year 2025.

State Representatives

HOUSE DISTRICT 18 (Two-year term)

Juanita O. Brent, Democrat
Justyn Anderson, Republican
Christela Neal, Nonpartisan

HOUSE DISTRICT 19 (Two-year term)

Phil Robinson, Democrat
Kenny Godnave, Republican

HOUSE DISTRICT 22 (Two-year term)

Darnell T. Brewer, Democrat
Milan Wesley, Republican

Representative to U.S. Congress

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 11

(Vote for not more than 1)

Shontel Brown, Democrat
Alan Rapoport, Republican
Tracy Deforde, Nonpartisan
Sean Freeman, Nonpartisan
Christopher Zelonish, Nonpartisan

Man indicted in Sept. 28-29 street takeovers in 7 spots

Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Michael C. O'Malley announced last week that a Cuyahoga County grand jury has returned an indictment charging Jordan McDonald, 25, for participating in seven different street takeover locations on Sept. 28 and Sept. 29 in Cleveland.

Of the seven locations McDonald is accused of participating in street takeovers, one was in The Neighborhood News readership area. It is alleged that on Sept. 29, about 3 a.m., McDonald attended and participated in an illegal street takeover at the Broadway Shopping Plaza on Broadway Ave., in Slavic Village. Several vehicles engaged in performing donuts. Several shots were then fired striking three males. Cleveland Police responded to the scene.

The other locations McDonald is accused of street takeovers, all in Cleveland, are: E. 55 St. and Woodland Ave.; near Lee Rd. and Miles Ave.; near E. 105 St. and Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.; near E. 93 St. and Opportunity Corridor; near W. 25 St. and Lorain Ave.; on I-90 near W. 14 St.

Prosecutors said further investigation conducted by CDP revealed Jordan McDonald's gray 2023 Dodge Charger was observed performing burnouts and donuts in all seven incidents. Afterward it is alleged McDonald threw away his gray Dodge Charger's license plate, made physical alterations to his vehicle and took down his social media accounts. On October 15, 2024, McDonald was arrested.

On October 23, 2024, Jordan McDonald was indicted on the following charges: seven counts of aggravated riot; six counts of riot; three counts of failure to comply with an order or signal of a police officer; two counts of obstructing official business; three counts of disrupting public service; one count of possessing criminal tools and one count of tampering with evidence.

Genealogical Society meets

The Cuyahoga Valley Genealogical Society will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, Nov. 4, at 7 p.m., at the Independence Civic Center in the Willow Room, 6363 Selig Blvd., Independence. Members and interested public are invited to attend.

Cynthia (Cindy) Ross Kettler, a member of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution since 2008, will present "DAR: Yesterday and Today."

All are welcome! Coffee and refreshments will be served. For additional information contact Cuyahoga valleygensociety@gmail.com.

FISH FRY FRIDAY
St. Andrew Eastern Orthodox Church
WE'RE BACK!! DINE-IN/TAKE-OUT • SERVING 5:00-7:00 PM
November 1st St. Andrew's Dinners
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Dec. 6, Dec. 20 MAPLE HEIGHTS

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CITY OF BEDFORD, OHIO

List of Meetings for November 2024

Monday, November 4, 2024	Council Work Session - TBD Regular Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, November 5, 2024	Planning Commission (if needed) Work Session - 5:30 p.m. Regular Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, November 13, 2024	Southeast Area Law Enforcement (SEALE) Board of Trustees Meeting (if needed) Work Session - 10:00 a.m. Regular Meeting - 12:00 p.m.
Monday, November 18, 2024	Council Work Session - TBD Regular Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, November 19, 2024	Planning Commission (if needed) Work Session - 5:30 p.m. Regular Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, November 26, 2024	Board of Zoning Appeals (if needed) Work Session - 5:30 p.m. Regular Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

It should also be noted that the Board of Building Standards and Appeals, Civil Service Commission, Bedford Arts and Cultural Board, Bedford Historical Preservation Board, Assessment Equalization Board, Public Hearings, Planning Commission, Animal Appeals Board, Board of Zoning Appeals and Tree Board meet **as needed**. Notification of these meetings will be posted at the five most public places in the City per **Ordinance No. 8461-09**.

All Meetings will be held at Bedford City Hall, 165 Center Road, Bedford, Ohio 44146. For agendas and minutes please go to www.bedfordoh.gov, <https://bedfordoh.primegov.com/public/portal>, or call the Clerk of Council, at **440-735-6510**.

Tracy M. Simons, CMC
Clerk of Council

NN: 10-30-24

GARFIELD HEIGHTS BALLOT MEASURE NOTICE
 Shall Section 59 of the Charter of the City of Garfield Heights, which currently prohibits the use of photo-monitoring devices for the enforcement of qualified traffic law violations in the city, be amended to add Subsection 59-4 to provide that Section 59 shall not apply to the use of traffic law photo-monitoring devices on Interstate 480 within the corporate boundaries of the City of Garfield Heights; and add Subsection 59-5 to provide that not less than one-half of net collections from traffic photo-monitoring violations shall be used towards the cost of the City's: 1) police, fire and other safety services; 2) street and other infrastructure improvements; and/or 3) parks, recreation, and senior programming?
 Published: The Neighborhood News
 October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 2024

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Garfield Hts. enlists aid of county to reconstruct part of McCracken Road

By Ellen Psenicka

At its regular meeting Monday night, Garfield Heights Council agreed to partner with Cuyahoga County to reconstruct McCracken Rd. from E. 119 St. to E. 113 St., including the intersection with Henry St.

The city agreed to the use of an allocation from the County Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund to pay the county's portion of the project, which the ordinance states will be 50% of the unfunded portion of the actual cost of construction, constructing engineering and administration and construction inspection. The anticipated cost for the project is \$557,575.00. Approximately \$307,000.00 would be the city's share of funding.

Also passed was an ordinance imposing a moratorium on the issuance and processing of all licenses, permits and certificates for smoke and vape establishments in the city for a period not to exceed six months.

Council wants the moratorium to allow it to review all information on the potential health, safety and economic effects of the presence of smoke and vape shops in the city and to review zoning, building and business regulations regarding these establishments.

An emergency ordinance was also passed at Monday's meeting to amend the wording in Chapter 136 in the city's Codified Ordinances concerning the Community Relations Committee.

The main thrust of the legislation is to change the wording which presently says, "There is hereby created a Community Relations Committee....." and replace it with the following: "*As needed, the Council may create a Community Relations Committee.....*"

The Community Relations Committee is standing, as a city official explained, but does not currently have any members appointed. The reason for the proposed change is to allow council the ability to call the committee and appoint members as needed.

The purpose of the Committee, as stated in the original legislation to establish it, was to foster, encourage and stimulate the improvement of community and intergroup relations among and between citizens of all races, colors, religions, sexes, gender identity, ages, ancestries, familial statuses, physical disabilities, mental disabilities, and national origins, and all economic and educational levels, so as to provide all individuals with an opportunity to grow, participate and share to the best of their ability in the economic, educational, civic, social and judicial system.

Because the Veterans Day holiday falls on Monday, Nov. 11, the next meeting of Garfield Heights Council will be Tuesday, Nov. 12.

Trick-or-Treat on Fleet a great success!



Under clear skies and brisk temperatures, thousands of little ghosts and goblins and their families converged on Slavic Village last Saturday for the 6th annual Trick-or-Treat on Fleet. Ed McDonald of the Community Yahoos pointed out that the event was not just fun and games but a demonstration of how putting people on a street can help promote local business. Up next: the Fleet Bunny Hop in April 2025.



**THE KIWANIS CLUB
OF SOUTH EAST CLEVELAND
PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

THIS SUNDAY, NOV. 3

AT RED CHIMNEY RESTAURANT
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Serving time: 8:00 am - 12 Noon

GET TWO HUGE PANCAKES, BREAKFAST MEAT OF
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EAT-IN OR CARRYOUT

Regular Red Chimney menu also available
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Bedford

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2024 Czech Holiday Fair

Saturday, November 9

10:00 - 3:00

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Community Police Reports

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

Garfield Hts.

Criminal Damage

On Oct. 18, at about 10:21 p.m., an officer responded to the police station for a criminal damage report. Dispatch advised that the caller stated an unknown person shot her window. The complainant said that she was speaking with her friend in the driveway of a home in the 12900 block of Darlington Ave. when she heard a “pop.” She stated that she then noticed the rear windshield of her 2006 Chevrolet Malibu was shattered. The caller stated she did not see anyone.

Traffic Offense-OVI

On Oct. 26, at 11:41 p.m., police arrived at Taco Bell, 5185 Turney Rd., for a report of someone asleep at the wheel in the parking lot. They found a black Ford stopped in the middle of the parking lot with the engine running and the car in park and a woman asleep in the driver's seat with a young child sleeping in the back seat, which turned out to be the driver's daughter. An

officer woke the driver up and reached into the open window and shut the car off. Police noticed her speech was slurred, she had trouble standing and she smelled of alcohol. She said she had two shots of an alcoholic beverage that night. After issuing her field sobriety testing she was found to be impaired and with her

daughter was taken to the GHPD station. The daughter was turned over to a family friend. The woman was arrested for OVI and child endangering.

Animal Complaint

On Oct. 27, at about 7:39 p.m., an officer was dispatched to Littleton Rd. for a report of a 15-year-old girl having been bit by a dog. The girl and her mother told police that as the girl was walking back from a store on Littleton

near E. 130 St., she saw a tan pitbull running toward her and was bit by the dog on her right arm. A man came over and grabbed the dog, got it off her and took it inside. He asked her if she was all right and she said she was okay. When she got home her arm started to hurt and her mother called 911. Garfield EMS arrived on scene to evaluate her. An officer went to the home of the dog's owner and told him he needed to be more careful

with his dog and that he needed to quarantine the dog until the Board of Health comes to check it out.

DANIEL J. KLONOWSKI
LAW OFFICE 216-241-0666

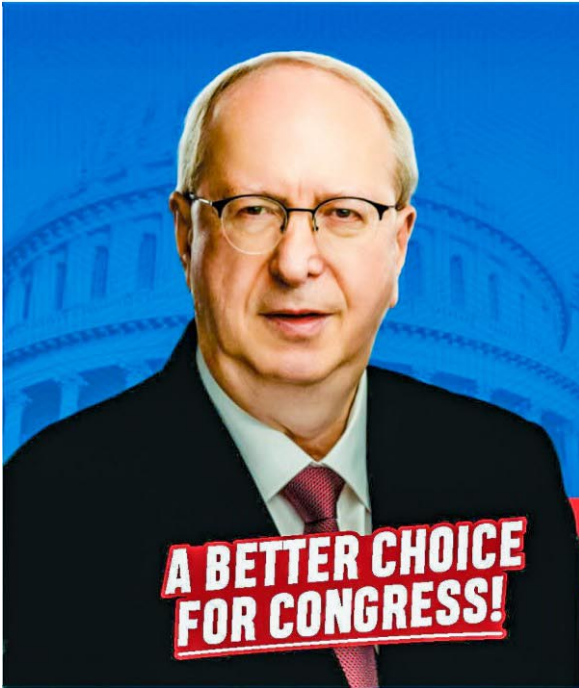
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Issue 19
I-480 Traffic Cameras

What is Issue 19?
The City of Garfield Heights has proposed a charter amendment to allow the operation of traffic cameras solely on I-480. Traffic Cameras will **ONLY** be permitted to enforce traffic violations on I-480 and will **NOT** be used at any other location in the city.

18,356 vehicles
were observed traveling 75+ mph in just six days on I-480*

*According to six-day traffic study performed by Garfield Heights Police Department

Per the amendment, at least **one half (50%)** of net collections from traffic camera violations **MUST** be used towards the City's...

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Maple Heights approves \$25K SBA loan to help heating and cooling company renovate old Post Office

By Judith Goldsworth

Maple Heights Council approved legislation at its Oct. 16th meeting for a \$25,000 Small Business Administration loan to BNK Heating & Cooling, LLC, that is relocating to Maple Heights from the West Side of Cleveland, to help the company renovate the old Post Office building at 16300 Broadway Ave.

The ordinance authorizes Mayor Annette Blackwell and Planning and Development Director Geoffrey Englebrecht to provide a forgivable loan through the Maple Heights-SBA Small Business Performance Grant Program, with \$6,250 from the city and \$18,750 from Cuyahoga County, allowing the company to make exterior enhancements to the building.

In September correspondence to city leaders, BNK representative Aleks Rybak stated, "After reviewing the financial aspects of 16300 Broadway Ave., we would like to formally request a budget allocation of \$25,000 for landscaping and outdoor electrical lighting. This investment will enhance the security of our space, particularly after hours, by incorporating state-of-the-art equipment."

Additional legislation regarding the relocating of BNK to the city was placed on first reading at last week's meeting. The resolution authorizes Blackwell to enter into an agreement with the company for the sale of two vacant city-owned parcels on Morgan St., off Broadway, right behind the former Post Office property, at a cost of \$32,800.

BNK wishes to purchase the vacant lots through the city's Land Bank "for the future expansion of their business," according to the resolution, which will be

discussed by council before possible passage at a future meeting.

Safety director, council salary raise ordinances postponed

At the recommendation of Law Director Frank Consolo, council moved to postpone two pieces of legislation that would raise the annual salaries of the safety director, a position held by the mayor, and the salaries of the council president and all seven members of city council, retroactive to Sept. 1, 2024.

Council President Ron Jackson said voting on the legislation will be postponed until additional information is received from the state.

Passed at the meeting

- Resolution authorizing a change order for Dial Electric Ltd., increasing the contract by \$23,908.50, for the Maple Heights Emergency Generator Installation Project.

- Resolution authorizing Blackwell to enter into a contract with C A Agresta Construction Company for the 2024 Concrete Roadway Repair Program, at a cost not to exceed \$134,150. The city will receive reimbursement from the Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works on material costs for the project.

- Ordinance to approve the plan of operation and governance for the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) Opt-In Gas Aggregation Program, for the purpose of jointly establishing and implementing an Opt-In Gas Aggregation Program with Maple Heights as

a NOPEC member. A NOPEC representative who spoke at a previous meeting explained that NOPEC wishes to simplify the opt-in process for gas customers in the city and improve customer service.

- Ordinance amending the codified ordinances concerning renewal of rental registrations and establishing fees "to provide that owners of rental property register all of their properties on an annual basis, based on the type of property (residential or commercial), under a scaled approach based on the number of units a given landlord entity such as an LLC, owns and manages in the city, and establishing the fees for this revised rental registration program."

Effective Jan. 1, 2025, each owner of a residential property or the agent in charge of a rental unit in the city will be required to register all such units with the Building Department on an annual basis, no later than March 31, of each calendar year. They will also be required to pay a non-refundable rental registration fee of \$75 per single family property and \$75 per unit for all other residential types. Another amendment states that effective Jan. 1, 2025, each owner of a commercial property, or the agent in charge, must register all such rental units no later than March 31 of each calendar year for a flat rate of \$225 per building.

Announcements

Police Chief Todd Hansen said the police substation in the Turney-Dunham shopping center is operational again, and thanked Drug Mart, who funded the project.

Former Councilwoman Shari Thomas, who through her community outreach ministry has purchased a trailer known as a "Mobile Trauma Unit," said the unit will be available to respond to incidents, to be used as a safe space to support and assist victims and witnesses on-scene. For more information, visit riversinthedesertneo@gmail.com or call 216-772-0313.

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Stella Walsh Rec Center features newly equipped exercise/weight room which is open to the public

A grand reopening was held on Monday, Oct. 21, for the renovated exercise/weight room which is now part of the Stella Walsh Recreation Center, 7345 Broadway Ave., in Slavic Village. It is open to the public, along with the renovated gymnasium that was completed at the beginning of the year.

"I think we have a great story to tell of a shared, top-tier space that is open to the public during rec hours and to the Department of Public Safety," said Ward 12 Councilwoman Rebecca Maurer. "We have also ensured that there is a separate, ADA-accessible space with mobility equipment."



The equipment was purchased through a combination of Ward 12 and administration funds. Council President Blaine Griffin and Ward 5 Councilman Richard Starr also contributed dollars to the white-boxing of the old South High gym, Maurer noted.

Former Ward 12 Councilman Tony Brancatelli was also lavish in his praise for the renovated facility. "This weight and exercise room is a wonderful new amenity for the Broadway/Slavic Village neighborhood and will be shared with the Cleveland safety forces for their training as well

as the residents," he said.

Along with this upgraded weight room, Stella Walsh Recreation Center also features an indoor pool, racquetball courts, sauna, game room, E-sports, computer room, meeting room, arts & crafts space as well as the gymnasium. There are also outdoor tennis courts and a newly constructed children's outdoor playground and much more.

For more information call 216-664-4658 or online at <https://www.clevelandohio.gov/explore/parks-recreation>.

Letters to the Editor

Support G.H. levy renewal

Dear Editor,

As a pastor and community leader in Garfield Heights, I am writing to express my strong support for Issue 50, the renewal of the Garfield Heights School Levy. Voting "YES" on Issue 50 will continue to provide essential funding for our local schools without increasing property taxes. The funds generated by this levy are critical for maintaining the quality of education in Garfield Heights, supporting teachers, updating educational resources, and ensuring safe, well-maintained facilities for our students. The renewal of this levy is a simple, effective way to uphold the standards our community expects without adding any financial burden to homeowners.

By renewing this levy, Garfield Heights residents can help sustain programs that directly benefit students, including after-school programs and resources for students with special needs. These programs play a significant role in preparing our children for future success and giving them the tools they need to thrive academically,

socially and emotionally. The levy renewal is about ensuring that our district has the resources to continue offering a well-rounded education for every student, from early childhood through high school graduation.

Again, this is a renewal, not a new tax. Our schools need this steady source of local funding to provide stability and protect the quality of education in Garfield Heights. Voting "YES" on Issue 50 is an investment in our community's future by way of continued support of the district's school system. My hope and prayer is that the community will come together to renew this commitment to our children and their future.

Sincerely, Mario Hauser, Pastor, The Village Church



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