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102nd YEAR

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2024

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

FREE

Cuyahoga County Land Bank holds celebration to mark 15 Years of Impact

Hundreds of guests attended the Cuyahoga County Land Bank's 15 Years of Impact celebration on Thursday, Nov. 7, at Majestic Hall, the former First United Methodist Church at 3000 Euclid Ave. By reducing blight one parcel at a time, the Land Bank has catalyzed over \$3 billion worth of impact.

Not only has 2024 marked a year to reflect on the impact of the organization in its first 15 years of its existence, it has also been a year of momentous impact.

First and foremost this included the unexpected loss of its incredible leader, Land Bank President Gus Frangos. His passing has affected all who knew him, while giving each of them a push to work harder to preserve and move his legacy forward.

Further, the Land Bank hit its 10,000th demolition, received an important grant from the city of Cleveland to complete work in various wards, earned its first Top Work Place title and has been awarded more than \$60 million from Ohio's Department of Development for a combination of residential demolition and commercial brownfield work.

Highlights include:

- \$3.6 billion total economic impact
- \$950 million increased home values from renovations
- \$11 return on every \$1 spent

In related news, Cuyahoga County Executive Chris Ronayne and County Council President Pernel Jones appointed Zion Baptist Church Pastor Brian Cash, Highland Hills Mayor Michael Booker, Maple Heights Mayor Annette Blackwell and former Cleveland City Councilman Tony Brancatelli to serve as board members of the County Land Bank.

Brancatelli had served previously as a founding Board Member and the County Land Bank Board Chairman for a decade before this recent appointment.

"I am honored to be appointed to serve on the Board of Directors to the Cuyahoga County Land Bank and look forward to serving the residents of our region to bring a lasting impact in our neighborhoods," Brancatelli said.

C.H. Red Wolves continues winning ways

A missed two-point conversion in the final minute of play made all the difference as the No. 9 Cuyahoga Heights Red Wolves defeated No. 5 Warren John F. Kennedy, 21-19, in a Division VII, Region 25 semifinal at Orwell Grand Valley High School on Friday.

Now it's on to the football regional championship game this Friday, Nov. 22, as Cuyahoga Heights takes on No. 2 Jeromesville Hillsdale (12-1) at Orrville's Red Rider Stadium, Heartland Field.

Later this week the Ohio High School Athletic Association will announce the bracket pairings for the state semifinals, which will take place on Friday, Nov. 29. The state championship games will be hosted at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium in Canton December 5-7.



Pictured at the Land Bank celebration, from left, is former Cleveland City Councilman Tony Brancatelli, County Executive Chris Ronayne and new Cuyahoga County Land Bank President Ricardo Leon.

County awards Bedford \$150K grant to fix roof at Ellenwood Recreation Center

By Judith Goldsworth

Mayor Stan Koci announced prior to Monday's meeting of Bedford City Council that he had received a phone call from Cuyahoga County Executive Chris Ronayne telling him that the city had been awarded a \$150,000 grant to repair the roof at Ellenwood Recreation Center.

"So that was a good call for us to get," Koci said, "and I really appreciate the executive making a personal call to tell us the news. He's a great guy down there, doing a good job, and the personal touch really helps."

City Manager Mike Mallis gave an update at the council meeting on the Bedford Commons project, which has also benefited from grant funding.

"We had what we hope is a final meeting this morning to review plans for the expansion project that are 99% completed," Mallis said. "We are having some internal staff members look at final touches to that document and we'll most likely be advertising in January, with a pre-bid meeting with interested contractors."

He said if all goes well he will make the recommendation to city council in January to award the project and construction can begin.

Mallis also stated that the former Dr. Pidala building at 890 Broadway Ave., is scheduled to be demolished beginning Wednesday, Nov. 20, and will probably take a week to complete along with the regrading work.

Mayor Koci swore in new Patrol Officer Bryanna Kaczmar-Pauloski to the Bedford Police Department, and he and other officials congratulated her and welcomed her to the force.

Kaczmar-Pauloski comes to Bedford from her previous post at the Canton Police Department. She thanked Koci and the city for the opportunity.

Police Chief Mike Stask stated, "I just want to thank council and the city administration for all of the support and all of the resources so we can make evenings like this happen. We welcome Bryanna to the team!"

(Continued on Page 2)



Holiday Tree Lightings

BEDFORD

The annual Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place in the Bedford Public Square area of the Historic Downtown District on Wednesday, Nov. 27, at 6 p.m. sharp. Shortly after 4:30 p.m. on that same day, fun holiday activities, including ice sculpting and other family-friendly events, will take place. All are invited.

GARFIELD HEIGHTS

The Garfield Heights Holiday Lighting Ceremony will take place on Sunday, Dec. 1, from 5 to 6:30 p.m., at the Civic Center, 5407 Turney Rd. There will also be kids' crafts, face painting, a visit from Santa, refreshments and cookies and a performance by the St. Monica Church Choir. All are invited to kick off the season at this festive event.

MAPLE HEIGHTS

The city of Maple Heights invites everyone to this year's Annual Holiday Lighting Ceremony on Sunday, Dec. 1, 5:30-7 p.m., at Maple Heights City Hall, 5353 Lee Rd.

There is a full slate of events for you and your family to enjoy. Santa Claus arrives at 5:45 p.m., in time for the Holiday Lighting at 6 p.m. Choral holiday music by Voices of Praise from Christian Unity Baptist Church begins at 6:15 p.m., and there will be hot chocolate and cookies for all! We hope to see you there!

How low can you go?

In its church bulletin this past weekend, St. Stanislaus Church in Slavic Village notified parishioners that the previous weekend's Mass collections had been stolen. The notice urged those who had donated by check to contact their financial institutions.

On a happier note, "The loss has been covered by a generous benefactor," the bulletin item noted.

County awards Bedford \$150K grant to fix roof at Ellenwood Recreation Center

(Continued from Page 1)

Ordinances passed

• Authorizing Mallis to enter into a modification to the Master Service Agreement with Simplex-IT for additional information technology services. Finance Director Jennifer Howland said that the additional services would include security services and monitoring of all city equipment, servers and monitors, laptops and other items.

• Amending previous legislation authorizing the approval of an engineering fee in the original amount of \$63,500, and an additional sum not to exceed \$14,971.75, to GPD Group for its services regarding additional design and construction administration costs associated with the Turney Road Resurfacing Project.

Mallis said the city has estimated it will close out the project at \$40,000 under budget.

• Amending previous legislation authorizing Mallis to enter into a contract with Eclipse Companies, LLC, for sanitary sewer repairs to Southwick Dr. and First Ave., at a cost of \$103,276.92. The repairs exceeded what was initially quoted but the city was able to eliminate/decrease items in the original quote that will be performed in-house to help reduce additional repair costs, according to the ordinance.

• Amending previous legislation from 1991, pertaining to a section of the Codified Ordinances entitled "Emergency Squad Service Rates." Howland said the ordinance was not raising service rates, explaining, "When this was enacted we were only allowed to use University Hospital Health Systems Medical Center to provide for the collection of ambulance proceeds for the city of Bedford. We're cleaning that up to allow the city manager to enter into an agreement with an entity, subject to council approval, as needed to collect those proceeds. That's the only change in the ordinance."

• Placed on second reading were two ordinances: One to pass the city's 2025 budget, with a figure estimated at \$45.1 million; the other amending previous legislation regarding the section of the codified ordinances entitled "fees, deposits and charges" of the city's recreation centers. The last time the rates were adjusted was five years ago, Mallis said.

Announcements

The city's Holiday Lighting Ceremony will take place in Public Square of Bedford's Historic District at 6 p.m. sharp on Wednesday, Nov. 27. Ice sculptures, a visit with Santa and photo opportunities will be part of the festivities.

Ward 1 Councilwoman Sandy Spinks said the Bedford Historical Society Museum will also be open during the lighting event, and Ward 5 Councilman Jeff Asbury said that on that same day the "Mitten Fence" on Broadway between Gionino's Pizza and Spirit of Apotheosis will start up again, with hats, scarves, mittens and other warm winter apparel available for the taking off the wrought iron fence for whoever needs it.

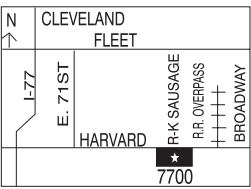
Donations may be dropped off at the Bedford Cyclery or at the Recreation Department.

N. News Freebies offered

The Neighborhood News is giving away four pair of tickets to the play "Late Bus," presented by the Garfield Heights High School Theatre Department at the Performing Arts Center, 4900 Turney Rd.

All tickets are for the Sunday, Nov. 24, matinee performance and will be given away in a free drawing.

Stop by The Neighborhood News office, 8613 Garfield Blvd., to enter, Monday through Friday during regular business hours. Deadline to enter the drawing is Thursday, Nov. 21, at noon.



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The Neighborhood News
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Delivered in Southeast Cleveland, Garfield Heights, Newburgh Heights, Cuyahoga Heights, Independence, Valley View, Maple Heights and Bedford



The Neighborhood News Holiday Schedule

NO ISSUE on December 25, 2024 and January 1, 2025

BE SURE TO SUBMIT EVENTS, MEETING NOTICES AND LEGAL NOTICES BY MONDAY, DEC. 16th at 5pm TO PRINT IN DEC. 18th ISSUE, THE LAST ISSUE OF THE YEAR!

The Neighborhood News

Advertising deadline is Mondays at 5:00 p.m.
Call us at 216-441-2141
or Email: nnews1923@aol.com
Website: www.theneighborhoodnews.com

Cleveland City Council passes bill urging PUCO to reject Enbridge Gas Ohio's request to raise prices

Cleveland City Council held its regular meeting Monday night and passed a resolution sponsored by Council President Blaine A. Griffin "strongly urging" the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) to reject Enbridge Gas Ohio's request to increase revenues by 25.5% and instead adopt the PUCO staff recommendation to decrease those revenues by 24.6% to 27.5%.

Council further urged PUCO to reject all Enbridge Gas Ohio's requests to revise its rate base because such revisions unfairly burden Cleveland residents, especially people of color and low-income residents. Enbridge, a Canadian company, purchased Dominion Energy in June. PUCO's mission is to assure all residents and businesses have access to safe, adequate and reliable utility services at fair prices.

Street improvements

Council also approved legislation that allows the city of East Cleveland to do improvements on Woodlawn, Penrose, Lakeview and Forest Hill aves. as part of the Circle East Transformational Project in East Cleveland and Cleveland. Phase 1 of the project scheduled for 2025 will include the installation of sidewalks, driveway aprons, lighting and landscape on Woodlawn Ave. Phase 1 will likely cost \$375,000 as Cleveland's local share to East Cleveland. Circle East District is a Cuyahoga Land Bank initiative to revitalize the residential and commercial areas at East Cleveland's eastern gateway to University Circle.

New equipment coming

Council passed an ordinance to spend more than \$19 million for the purchase, lease or lease to purchase various types of on-road vehicles, apparatus and off-road equipment, cabs, bodies, accessories, equipment and other aftermarket items necessary to equip the vehicles for their intended purpose. Most of the listed vehicles and equip-

ment are replacement units. The vehicles include everything from a truck-heavy-rear loader to a backhoe to a leaf machine.

Introduced

Council introduced legislation Monday night to enter into contracts with Ameresco to both design and install on-site solar panels and a battery energy storage-ready system at the Gunning Park Recreation Center.

The contract with Ameresco, Inc. includes operating and maintaining the system after installation.

Garfield Hts. Library News

Here are some of the **FREE** programs available at the Garfield Heights Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, 5409 Turney Rd. Call 216-475-8178 to register or for more information.

Adults

Innovation Center Hands-On Help Bring in a project you're working on and get help from a staff member. A

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I educate and inform you of your options,
YOU make the choice of what option is best for you!

"We do not offer every plan available in your area. Any information we provide is limited to those plans we do offer in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-MEDICARE to get information on all of your options."

LEGAL NOTICE

CITY OF BEDFORD, OHIO

BEDFORD CITY COUNCIL WILL HOLD **BUDGET WORK SESSIONS** ON THE FOLLOWING MONDAYS:

OCTOBER 14, OCTOBER 28,
NOVEMBER 25 & DECEMBER 9, 2024
IN COUNCIL CAUCUS OF
BEDFORD CITY HALL AT 5:00 P.M.

Tracy M. Simons
Clerk of Council

Published in The Neighborhood News
10-9-24, 10-23-24, 11-20-24, 12-4-24

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, December 3rd 2024, commencing at 12-1pm and 5-6pm, at the Village of Valley View, 6848 Hathaway Road, Valley View, Ohio 44125, the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council ("NOPEC"), on behalf of the Village of Valley View, a NOPEC member, will hold public hearings with respect to the Plan of Operation and Governance for the aggregation of competitive retail natural gas (the "Aggregation Program"), as authorized by such member pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 4929.26 and 4929.27. The Aggregation Program will apply to all eligible customers of retail natural gas within the Village of Valley View, without the prior consent of each customer for NOPEC's natural gas opt-out natural gas program and with prior consent of each customer for NOPEC's natural gas opt-in program. NOPEC seeks to provide competitively priced natural gas for consumers by selecting a supplier through a negotiation process and leveraging the combined resources and buying power of member communities in NOPEC. The Plan of Operation and Governance addresses the following topics regarding the Aggregation Program: (1) goals, operations and funding; (2) consumer participation; (3) customer care; (4) organizational structure and management of NOPEC; and (5) the steps toward establishing the Aggregation Program.

Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council

Published: The Neighborhood News
November 20, 2024 & November 27, 2024

previous Innovation Center orientation is required. Monday, Nov. 25, 6-8 p.m.

Red Cross Blood Drive Donate blood with the Red Cross. For more information or to make an appointment, visit www.redcrossblood.org or call the American Red Cross at 800-RED-CROSS (800-733-2767). Friday, Nov. 29, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Teens

Cooking for Teens Teens can gain skills in the kitchen through preparing a simple and tasty dish. Registration required. Saturday, Nov. 30, 2-3:30 p.m.

Children & Families

Family Storytime Children of all ages, with their caregivers, can come enjoy stories, songs and fingerplays. Tuesdays, 6-6:30 p.m.

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CITY OF BEDFORD, OHIO

List of Meetings for December 2024

Monday, December 2, 2024	Council Work Session - TBD Regular Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 3, 2024	Planning Commission (if needed) Work Session - 5:30 p.m. Regular Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, December 11, 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, December 16, 2024	Council Work Session - TBD Regular Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 17, 2024	Planning Commission (if needed) Work Session - 5:30 p.m. Regular Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 31, 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: 11-20-24

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EXPIRES 11-30-24

Community police reports

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

Garfield Heights

Theft-Motor Vehicle

On Nov. 11, at 2:35 p.m., an officer was dispatched to the GHPD lobby to take a stolen vehicle report. The victim stated his silver/gray Mitsubishi Outlander Sport was stolen from the driveway of his residence in the 12000 block of Havana Rd., sometime between Nov. 8, at around 10 p.m., and Nov. 11, at 1:30 p.m. The Outlander has no noticeable characteristics that would make it stand out other than dark window tint on the back window and rear passenger windows. The victim stated the vehicle could have been locked and that he currently has the keys to it. He also said there was no evidence of broken glass or other debris observed where the car had been parked. The victim could not provide pertinent video evidence related to the incident. Vehicle entered into LEADS.

Assist Other Departments

On Nov. 12, at 9:08 a.m., GHPD responded to a report that Newburgh Heights PD was in pursuit of a black Kia Soul on I-480 east approaching Garfield Heights. NHPD advised that the pursuit started because of a domestic violence incident that occurred in their city and the vehicle operator was intoxicated and the fleeing vehicle attempted to run over the NHPD police chief. Two GHPD officers joined the pursuit which continued on I-480 east and then entered I-271 north and reached speeds of about 90 mph. The suspect vehicle approached Chagrin

Blvd. exit on I-271 north and began to slow down. It came to a stop and the driver refused to comply with police commands like "Keep your hands up," and "Don't move," etc. The suspect refused to get out of the car, but eventually officers were able to extract him from the driver's seat and take him to the ground. The suspect resisted attempts to get him in handcuffs and tried to grab a police Taser from the holster of one of the GHPD officers. While he grabbed for the Taser Bedford Heights PD deployed their K-9 and the suspect let go of the Taser when the K-9 was commanded to go for the suspect's leg. He then began to punch the K-9. GHPD officer then deployed a Taser at close range to the suspect and followed it up with a stun gun. He was eventually put into handcuffs. Newburgh Heights requested a squad to treat the suspect's injuries and Orange Village EMS arrived and took him to UH Hospital.

Disturbance

• On Nov. 11, at about 10:25 p.m., officers responded to the 13600 block of Cranwood Ave., for a report of multiple parties fighting in the street. The caller said a white Charger was trying to run people over and a male had gotten out of the car with "a long gun." When police arrived there was no active disturbance and no one was outside, so they waited to see if the Charger came back. They spotted the car going east on Cranwood Dr. near E. 136 St. It had dark window tint and rolled through a stop sign and officers initiated a traffic stop. The driver was the owner of the car, and the front seat passenger had multiple warrants with GHPD so he was detained and placed in a cruiser. Police observed multiple baggies throughout the vehicle with marijuana residue but no actual bags of marijuana. The backseat passenger, a juvenile, matched the description of the male who was in the car with "a long gun." Police did not see any firearm in plain view in the car and the car's owner would not consent to search his vehicle. A K-9 officer arrived on scene to conduct a free air sniff of the Charger with negative results. The male with warrants was taken to city jail and the owner of the car was advised on his window tint and sent on his way.

• On Nov. 12, at about 1:21 p.m., the school resource officer at Garfield Heights High School was notified by GHPD that a gold car was reportedly in the school parking lot with four girls inside waiting to jump a student. When the resource officer went out to investigate he saw the gold car with four females inside as they were

pulling into a parking space, but when they saw the officer they pulled away. A GHPD officer activated his emergency lights and the suspect vehicle finally stopped when the officer began to maneuver his car in their direction. One of the girls was involved in a physical fight with another student at about 11 a.m. that day and she was issued suspension paperwork from the school and was advised she was not allowed back to school property until Dec. 2, 2024. The resource officer explained to the girl's mother that the school wished to pursue criminal charges against the student for trespassing. The report was forwarded to the Detective Bureau for charges to be filed.

Traffic Offense-Fleeing

On Nov. 13, about 1:26 a.m., an officer observed a suspect who had violated a protection order on four separate occasions and had a current case in progress for menacing by stalking. He was seen exiting a vehicle and approaching an apartment building in the 4600 block of E. 131 St. The officer requested additional units be deployed. The officer heard glass break and a male yell before he rushed back to the vehicle, which had no rear plate. Police attempted to initiate a traffic stop but the suspect vehicle took off, going west on Broadway. When police rounded the corner of the intersection of Broadway and Henry Rd., there was a large dust cloud obscuring the roadway. When officers passed through the cloud they saw the suspect vehicle's headlights shining out from the brush on the south side of the road where the car had crashed. The suspect had hit a utility pole and the pole was completely dislodged and laying across the roadway, along with a live wire. Police closed the road in both directions until the scene was cleared by CEI. The driver was held at gunpoint until assisting units arrived. The suspect had to be extricated from the car through the windshield with assistance from GHFD. He was taken into custody and transported to MetroHealth Medical Center for possible injuries related to the crash and airbag deployment. He was treated and released and booked into the city jail. The suspect was charged with fleeing and eluding and violation of a protection order.

Shoplifting

On Nov. 12, shortly before 3 p.m., police were called to the Giant Eagle on Transportation Blvd. for a shoplifting report. Loss prevention had the shoplifter in custody and said he was observed walking past the cash registers with two cases of Red Bull and a pack of filet mignon steaks totaling \$71.83. The suspect admitted that he uses opiates and had used about eight hours prior. Police found three glass pipes with burn marks and residue, a spoon with a white powder substance believed to be heroin and a scale with a matching white powder substance. The shoplifter was taken into custody and charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and booked into city jail for theft.

(Continued on Page 5)

Share Your Holidays 19

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Garfield Heights United Methodist Church 4977 Turney Road Garfield Heights, Ohio

Worship Sundays at 11:30am In Church and on Facebook Live Pastor Andrew Scott

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.

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The Neighborhood News

FREE Monthly Community Meal

At The Lutheran Church of the Covenant 19000 Libby Road Maple Heights, Ohio 44137

5:00 - 6:00 PM

NOV. 21, 2024

ONE WEEK EARLY DUE TO THANKSGIVING

Come to the back of the church to enter the church hall. DINE-IN ONLY

(Take-out available for those physically unable to attend)

Questions? Call Mary, 216-924-6096

Every 4th Thursday of Each Month

GHHS theatre production continues

The Garfield Heights High School Theatre Department will continue its fall show, "Late Bus," by B.D. Samuels, on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 22 and 23, at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Nov. 24, at 1 p.m., at the school's Performing Arts Center, 4900 Turney Rd.

The plot of the play involves a late bus that picks up Garfield Heights High School students at 6:30 p.m., but always comes late. Over the course of a school week we meet the school's collection of mavericks and misfits with no other way to get home. "Late Bus" is a close look at what it means to be in high school in our messy world.

All tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the box office or in advance at garfieldtheatre.org. Credit cards will be accepted for this production and those paying in advance can choose their own seats ahead of time and skip the box office.

Senior citizens can save \$5 on their ticket price by bringing in the coupon below to the box office.

\$5 Senior Citizens
Present this coupon at the
Garfield Hts. Theater Box Office
and receive \$5 off any performance
of "LATE BUS" **\$5**



Terrell Loury, at left, runs through a scene from "Late Bus" with Cheyanne Burge. The play at the Performing Arts Center at Garfield Heights High School will run this Friday, Saturday and a matinee on Sunday for its final performance.

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South East Cleveland, Garfield Heights,
Newburgh Heights, Cuyahoga Heights,
Independence, Valley View,
Maple Heights and Bedford

Garfield Heights Police Reports

(Continued from Page 4)

Violation of Protection Order

On Thursday, Nov. 14, at 7:25 p.m., police responded to the 4900 block of Henry St. to help assist with a dump truck that had crashed into a pole which resulted in live wires hanging down. While on scene blocking traffic, dispatch notified officers that the two people inside the dump truck had an active Temporary Protection Order.

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Death Notices

JOSHUA JAMES SLEDZ

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Joshua James Sledz on Nov. 8, 2024. Born on April 3, 1989, in Cleveland, Joshua was a beloved son of Bryan and Mary Sledz. He will be deeply missed by his family, including his sisters Amanda Ploskonka (Nate) and Abigail VanVoorhis (Zachary), brothers Jacob Sledz (Amanda) and Joseph Sledz, nephews and nieces Izabella, Max, Walker, Gwen, Eleanor, Vivian, Luke and Wilder, grandparents Ronald and Regina Prinkey, and grandmother Judith Sledz (nee Liptak). Joshua also leaves behind a host of aunts, uncles, cousins and dear friends. He was preceded in death by his fraternal grandfather, James Sledz.



A proud Navy veteran, Joshua served his country for over 10 years as an AM1, exemplifying dedication and loyalty in all he did. His love for Cleveland sports, particularly the Browns, reflected his unwavering support for his hometown. Golf was a passion close to his heart, a pastime he enjoyed with enthusiasm. Above all, Joshua's greatest joy came from being with his family, especially his nieces and nephews, whom he adored and embraced as their loving "Uncle Josh."

A celebration of Joshua's life and a funeral service were held on Thursday, Nov. 14, at Willoughby Hills Friends Church. He was laid to rest at the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery on Friday, Nov. 15. Arrangements by Monreal Srnick Funerals & Cremations.

Joshua's kind spirit, devotion to his family and love for life will forever remain in our hearts. Let us celebrate the remarkable person he was and the positive impact he had on all who knew him. May his memory be a source of comfort and strength during this difficult time.

Donations in honor of Joshua can be made to the Wounded Warrior Project.

Garfield Hts. chief of staff says goodbye at council meeting as he leaves for new position in Olmsted Twp.

By Ellen Psenicka

Jeff Jerome, longtime member of the Garfield Heights Legal Department and most recently chief of staff to Mayor Matt Burke, has left the city to take a position as Olmsted Township administrator. He said goodbye to his colleagues and city residents at the Garfield Heights Council meeting held last Tuesday, Nov. 12.

Jerome had been with the city for almost 15 years and is now hard at work in the newest chapter of his professional life. All in attendance at the council meeting agreed he will be greatly missed.

The following legislation was passed by Garfield Heights Council at its meeting last Tuesday evening:

- Purchasing one 2025 Mack MD7 truck through M&K Truck Centers, at a cost of \$99,698.
- Entering into an agreement with OHM Advisors to complete all requirements to comply with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District's updated Title III and Title IV code regulations. OHM will review sewer collection system data and engineering reports to ensure compliance with the NEORS's Community Compliance Plan and eligibility for the NEORS MCIP funding. Compensation to OHM Advisors will be approximately \$10,000.
- Authorizing the sale and disposal of municipally owned property, office furniture and miscellaneous, which has been determined is no longer needed by the city.
- Renewing and amending an agreement with Cuyahoga County and the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court to participate in the county's Community Diversion Program, at an approximate cost of \$9,600. The program is offered for low level juvenile offenders, ages 10-17, in lieu of sending them to Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court.
- Reappointing Jennifer Sopkovich to continue to serve

as director of the Garfield Heights Community Diversion Program from Dec. 31, 2024, to Dec. 31, 2026.

• Resolution remembering Carolyn Barnes Owens Polk and celebrating her lifelong contributions to the city.

Carolyn was the founder of the Busy Bees Girls, a life skills and development group for young girls in the community, as well as the president of the Roosevelt Elementary School PTA.

In her professional life she became the first black housing inspector for the city and was a jailer at the Garfield Heights Police Department for more than 30 years.

Carolyn passed away on Oct. 31, 2024, at the age of 78.

The next regular meeting of Garfield Heights Council will be held on Monday, Nov. 25, at 7 p.m.

Garfield Heights Ward 7 Block Watch meets Nov. 21

The Garfield Heights Ward 7 Block Watch, sponsored by Councilwoman Jenn Newrones, will meet Thursday, Nov. 21, at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of St. Benedict School, 13633 Rockside Rd. Guests will be members of the Garfield Heights Fire Department who will discuss holiday fire safety. Nonperishable items or cash donations to help the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry with the approaching holidays would be appreciated. All are welcome. For more information contact Gail, 216-662-9213.

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