# The Neighborhood News

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See Easter Services on Pages 6 & 7

## New middle school in Bedford expected to break ground next month

**By Judith Goldsworth**

The new middle school for students in grades 6-8 in the Bedford City School District is tentatively expected to break ground on Saturday, May 10, for a projected Fall 2027 opening, an architect for the project said during a presentation at the Bedford Council meeting on Monday, April 7.

Russell Gayheart, an architect and project manager with GPD Group, appeared at the meeting with Tad Ellsworth, executive director of Facilities Improvements for the district, as council had a motion on its agenda to accept the Planning Commission's decision to approve Gayheart's building plans for a new school on the site of the demolished St. Peter Chanel High School, 480 Northfield Rd. The motion was unanimously approved by council.

In November 2023, voters in the school district, which includes the municipalities of Bedford, Bedford Heights, Walton Hills and Oakwood, approved a 9.9-mill bond issue, to raise more than $161 million to build new school facilities and upgrade existing ones. The new middle school is part of the district's building plans.

Gayheart said that he and Ellsworth and other district officials had been working with residents at various community meetings, and with stakeholders, students, staff and other individuals, on planned projects for the district and what they wanted to see for the new school.

A "modern, contemporary design" was the peak response at these meetings, he said. He noted that the middle school building itself will be situated just west of the former Chanel site, adding, "It will keep and maintain the existing field on the west side of that site, for future use. There will be 6th, 7th and 8th grade wings. We want to maintain vehicular and bus traffic to completely separate entrances off Northfield Rd."

**(Continued on Page 2)**

## Mayor Burke gives optimistic report on future of Garfield Heights in his State of the City Address

**By Ellen Psenicka**

Garfield Heights Mayor Matt Burke gave a State of the City Address during a luncheon presentation last Friday at the Civic Center with business leaders and many city officials and employees in attendance. This event was in addition to a State of the City Address Burke presented at a Town Hall meeting on April 3, also at the Civic Center. Things are getting on track in the city, Burke said, in the three key areas of public safety, economic development and community engagement.

He noted that the city's police force has expanded from 48 officers on the street to the present 54, and a $1.3 million state grant to the police and fire departments has improved enforcement technology like surveillance cameras which are monitored 24/7 by safety department workers, as well as expanded drone programs, three K-9 units, and three new hires in the fire department, along with new squads and a new fire engine. He said serious crime in the city has made a steady decline.

Site preparation will begin this year, the mayor said, for the new Cuyahoga County Central Services Campus on Transportation Blvd., which will house the Cuyahoga County Jail as well as several community service agencies. County officials will be on hand at the next Town Hall meeting on April 24, at 6:30 p.m., at the Civic Center, with a Cuyahoga County Campus update.

And plans are in the works to move the Garfield Heights Municipal Court to a brand new facility to be built in Newburgh Heights, which will be served by current Judges Deborah Nicastro and Sergio DiGeronimo. Burke noted that the majority of cases coming before the court are from Newburgh Heights.

As far as economic development in the city goes, the mayor explained the amendment to the City Charter, Issue 14, that will go to the voters in this year's May 6th Primary Election, and why it is needed to facilitate new businesses coming into the community and updates to the ones already here.

Garfield Heights Issue 14 proposes an amendment to Section 58 of the City Charter, allowing the Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, and City Council to collectively approve land use changes, providing more opportunities for public input than the current election-based process. This change aims to streamline land use amendments, making the process more flexible and competitive with neighboring cities.



**Shown here following Garfield Heights Mayor Matt Burke's State of the City Address last Friday afternoon are, from left: representative from Village at Marymount, Mayor Burke, and Council President Avery Johnson.** *Photo by Elena Psenicka*

And Burke noted that community engagement has taken center stage during his administration.

He cited $285,000 for park improvements in the city, including new basketball courts, creation of a Youth Basketball League, Town Hall meetings every month, Kayak with the Mayor at Garfield Park where the Metroparks has made tremendous improvements, along with the $10 million Garfield Boulevard project which he said should be completed by this fall, and the city's continued roadway repairs and improvements.

Check the city's website frequently and this newspaper for updates as the future of the city of Garfield Heights unfolds.

## Tour of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church on Lansing

Join the Slavic Village Historical Society for a Polish Constitution Day tour of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 6700 Lansing Ave., on Saturday, May 3. Founded on May 3, 1894, the church remains a foundation of the neighborhood's Polish heritage. The video tour begins at 5 p.m., in the church following the 4 p.m. Mass. All are welcome to attend Mass and stay for the presentation which will feature historic photographs, narration and music.

## Path to Easter & Egg Hunt at St. John Lutheran Church

All families are invited to the Path to Easter and Easter Egg Hunt at St. John Lutheran Church, Turney and Granger rds., Garfield Heights on Saturday, April 19, starting promptly at 10 a.m.

This year's event is being jointly hosted by The Rock Church and St. John Lutheran Church.

The Path to Easter will offer a short time of reflection, then a time for families to plant seeds to take home to remind them of "new life," followed by a celebration with the Easter Egg Hunt and more!

There is no charge for the event. Children should bring baskets or something to put their eggs in once collected. Questions? Call 216-587-4222.

# New middle school in Bedford to break ground

(Continued from Page 1)

Ellsworth said that the plan, district-wide, is to eliminate some of the existing buildings, but things can change. With recent inflation of material and building costs, the district has had to adjust its plan, he said. "Unfortunately, the cost of building has accelerated so much that we are down to the state minimum, and the buildings will be much smaller than anticipated, just because the costs went up."

### Former UH property legislation passed

After the city was awarded the former University Hospitals Bedford facility and surrounding campus and $2.1 million as part of a settlement in Cuyahoga Common Pleas Court in January, officials have been seeking proposals and ideas on what to do with the 11-plus acre hospital site, and council passed an ordinance at Monday's meeting to pay a $44,000 engineering fee to GPD Group to perform services at the property.

GPD's services at the Blaine Ave. site will consist of a topographic field survey costing $28,660, of which University Hospitals will reimburse the city $14,330. The administration has recommended that the existing nine parcels be consolidated and new plat maps drawn with new legal descriptions to cost $15,340.

City Manager Mike Mallis said the city is working with a title company to transfer the property per the settlement agreement but the survey had to be conducted first.

### Other ordinances passed

• Amending previous legislation authorizing approval of engineering fees in the amount of $6,400 to GPD Group for services regarding design and engineering for the upcoming Bedford Commons Expansion Project, Modification 1.

• Also regarding the Commons expansion project, council authorized the approval of engineering fees in an amount not to exceed $96,070 to GPD Group for inspection services and administrative support for the project.

• Amending previous legislation authorizing a contract with GPD Group, at a cost of $8,800, for services regarding additional work for the Greencroft Culvert Replacement Project.

• Also regarding the Greencroft project, council amended previous legislation authorizing a contract with Mr. Excavator, Inc., at a cost of $141,137.62, for additional work for the replacement of sanitary sewer, sewer, concrete replacement, and 115 feet of asphalt.

• Authorizing engineering services through GPD Group at a cost of $35,488 for the development of the Wastewater Improvement Program at the city's Wastewater Treatment Plant.

• Authorizing a contract with Ohio Risk Plan Management Inc. for Property and Liability Insurance Coverage for the city, at a cost of $233,356 for 2025, effective April 1.

• Council moved to accept the Planning Commission's decision to deny a request of Tiffany Johnson of Essence Residential Care Facilities to open a Group Home at 446 Turney Rd., "on the grounds of parking concerns, noncompliance with the Ohio Building Fire Codes, and the impact on surrounding property owners."

However, Johnson spoke at the meeting to give new details on her plans for the facility, which she said would be a 24-hour residence to care for up to five women with developmental disabilities. Koci said Johnson could possibly resubmit her request to the Planning Commission and include the new information for their reconsideration. "We can leave the door open so you can come back in and reapply," Koci said.

### Announcements

Bedford Garden Club President Dot Schwende announced the donation of $700 from the club to be used towards new planters in front of the Giant Eagle store. The Garden Club also donated $100 towards Bedford's Arbor Day observance.

Mallis announced that the city's fire, police and service departments will be participating in a train derailment training exercise put on every year by the Office of Emergency Management through Cuyahoga County. "They were looking at a location to perform this exercise for training purposes, and they selected to do it in Bedford," he said.

Ward 1 Councilwoman Sandy Spinks announced that the recent "Celebrity Roast" of former FOX-8 TV newsman and "Bedford's own" Tim Taylor raised $18,000 for the Bedford Historical Society, with more proceeds expected.

# Vote by Mail, Early Voting open for May 6th Primary

The Cuyahoga County Board of Elections reminds voters that on April 8, Early In-Person Voting and Vote-by-Mail opened for the May 6, 2025 Primary Election.

This is a countywide election. All voters will have State Issue 2 on their ballots. If passed, Issue 2 would authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds to fund public infrastructure capital improvements. There will also be local school issues on the ballot and nonpartisan primary elections for council seats in Oakwood Village and Berea.

Vote-by-Mail Ballot Applications are available online at www.boe.cuyahogacounty.gov or by calling 216-443-VOTE (8683), or at all public libraries. Vote-by-Mail Ballot Applications must be received on or before 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 29, 2025.

Early In-Person Voting is located at the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections, 2925 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44115. The Early In-Person Voting schedule is:

Mondays through Fridays, April 8 – April 25: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday, April 28, 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 29, 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Mondays through Fridays, April 30 – May 2, 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 3, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday, May 4, 1 to 5 p.m.


VOTE ON MAY 6, 2025

ISSUE 14



REMOVE EXISTING BARRIERS TO FUTURE DEVELOPMENT!

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YOUR GATEWAY TO OPPORTUNITY





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- ELIMINATES BARRIERS TO NEW CONSTRUCTION

VOTE

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*"I acquired several residential parcels adjacent to my Sunoco gas station located at 6009 Turney Road with the intention of developing a larger building that would house the gas station along with additional retail spaces. However, the process of converting the zoning on these parcels to Commercial proved to be more complex than anticipated. I was informed that the land use change required approval through a referendum vote by the Garfield Heights community. This delay extended the project timeline significantly, as the next election cycle was scheduled 10 months later. Although I eventually received the necessary approval, the project financing fell through as a result of the extended waiting period."*

*M. Salem*
*Owner*
*Sunoco Gas Station & Food Mart*

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# Letters to the Editor

## In support of Issue 16 in Maple Heights

To the Residents of Maple Heights,

On Tuesday, May 6, 2025, there is a Primary Election in the city of Maple Heights. You will have the opportunity to cast your ballot for or against Issue 16, a renewal levy for current expenses and general operations of the Maple Heights Senior Center.

I come to you today to ask for your serious consideration of Issue 16 and hope you will vote YES! Hundreds of seniors, families and disabled individuals depend on the programs and services offered by the Maple Heights Senior Center.

Last year the Senior Center served over 27,000 nutritious meals to seniors at the Center and to those who were homebound and vulnerable. Access to medical appointments, grocery shopping, dialysis treatments, trips to the Senior Center and other destinations are very difficult for older and/or disabled residents. The Senior Center made 17,500 trips possible for these residents last year.

Food insecurity is a major problem for so many of our residents. The Maple Heights Senior Center, through its Food Pantry, assisted over 12,050 residents by distributing more than 374,000 pounds of food last year! And the Senior Center assists many more residents at the Mobile Market, with income tax service, housing and utility assistance, socialization and much, much more.

These programs and services will be provided with NO NEW TAXES! Renewing Issue 16 will cost the average home owner in Maple Heights about $2 per month. That's less than $25 a year.

A Yes vote on Issue 16 on May 6 would make sure our Maple Heights residents who need the services of the Maple Heights Senior Center can live in our city with the support and dignity they deserve. It would also insure that assistance was available to you when and if you needed it.

Sincerely,
Linda Vopat
Retired Director of Human Services

# Be informed on Issue 20

Dear Editor:

The Garfield Heights City Schools has placed Issue 20 on the May 6th ballot, an important renewal issue that will not increase taxes. The community's consideration of Issue 20 will renew funding which has been continuously approved by voters since 1986 and 1992 respectively, and helps keep the educational programming, access to resources and dedicated staff all intact for our students. GHCS levies are subject to the Rollback and Homestead Credit programs through the State of Ohio, meaning taxpayers only pay 87.5% of the total levy collection cost. Any new levy will be taxed at the full 100% collection rate, meaning an increased cost just to collect the same amount citizens currently pay. 12.5% of your current cost subsidized by the state will be lost permanently if this issue is not renewed. The GHCS has placed a Levy Information page on its website and we encourage you to become informed about Issue 20, the district's renewal issue that will not raise taxes.

The Garfield Heights City Schools Board of Education
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Treasurer, Phillip J. Oko, M.B.A.

# Sokol presents Night at Races at Bohemian Hall

Sokol Greater Cleveland will present a Night at the Races at Bohemian National Hall, 4939 Broadway Ave., Cleveland, on Saturday, April 26. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; dinner served at 6 p.m. with races to follow.

Tickets include a catered dinner, dessert, coffee, Czech beer, wine, pop and water. For more information contact Julie Meyer at 216-288-5692 or jmeyer1993@yahoo.com.

# Garfield seeks paraders

Garfield Heights Memorial Day tributes will include a parade and service on Monday, May 26.

The parade will begin at 10 a.m. at Mapleleaf Elementary School, 5764 Turney Rd., and will travel north to the Veterans Plaza at the Garfield Heights Civic Center, 5407 Turney Rd., where a service will be held at approximately 11 a.m.

To participate in the parade or make a donation, contact Ward 7 Councilwoman Jenn Newrones at jnewrones@garfieldhts.org or 216-478-9977.


Vote YES to RENEW

Issue 16 keeps vital services in YOUR Maple Heights community!

Hundreds of seniors, families and disabled individuals rely on essential services offered at Maple Heights Senior Center:

- FOOD PANTRY AND MOBILE MARKET
- TRANSPORTATION TO MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS
- HOUSING AND UTILITY ASSISTANCE
- SUPPORTIVE SERVICES



We serve over 27,000 senior on-site and home delivered meals each year

We provide 17,500 rides yearly to Maple Heights seniors and disabled residents

Our food pantry provided 374,000 pounds of food to 12,050 residents last year

*Make sure our Maple Heights residents who need our services can continue to live in our city with the support and dignity they deserve.*

This levy costs less than $2 per month for the average home owner!

NO NEW TAXES!

Help Maple Heights Senior Center support YOUR community!

*Look for ISSUE 16*

VOTE YES on 16:

May 6, 2025

Paid for by Maple Heights Senior Advisory Site Council


# Sokol Pork Schnitzel Dinner

Sokol Greater Cleveland will hold a Pork Schnitzel & Potato Salad Dinner on Sunday, April 27, at Bohemian National Hall, 4939 Broadway Ave., Cleveland, serving from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

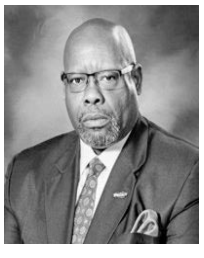
Cost is $20; reservations necessary by Monday night, April 21. Call Vlad Nemecek at 216-894-3591.


Stay Alive



don't text & drive





Happy Easter!

MICHAEL WILLIS
Councilman - Ward 3
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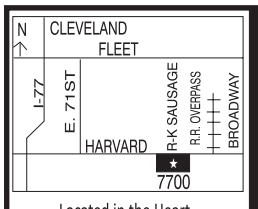
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# Garfield Hts. Council OKs $3.6 million in bond issues to repair city streets

**By Ellen Psenicka**

Garfield Heights Council, at its Monday night meeting, approved two ordinances totalling $3.6 million to borrow money to fix streets in the city hard hit after an exceptionally brutal winter.

The first ordinance provides for the issuance and sale of notes not to exceed $2 million, in anticipation of the issuance of bonds to pay costs of improving Granger Rd. and other streets and roads in the city and other improvements as designated in the plans.

The second ordinance provides for the issuance and sale of notes not to exceed $1.6 million, in anticipation of the issuance of bonds to pay costs of improving streets and roads in the city and other improvements as designated in the plans.

The following ordinances were also passed by Garfield Heights Council at Monday's meeting:

• Entering into an agreement with TTx, Inc. to license Microsoft 365, migrate users to the new platform and provide additional email security and filtering at a one-time cost of $19,576, with an annual fee of $35,532.24 for necessary licenses and cloud-based email services.

• Authorizing the sale and disposal of computers and related equipment used in the Garfield Heights Municipal Court which is no longer needed.

• Providing for the issuance and sale of notes not to exceed $450,000, in anticipation of the issuance of bonds to acquire an ambulance with related equipment for the Fire Department.

• Entering into an agreement with OHM Advisors to create an ArcGIS Asset Inventory Map which will show the location of storm sewer outfalls, as required by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, at a cost of $49,400.

• Participating in the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District funding programs to pay for the ArcGIS Asset Inventory Map and to request $50,000 for that purpose.

• Renewing an agreement with CivicPlus for the design and continuing technical support of the Garfield Heights city website, and to implement an update and redesign of the current city website, at an annual cost of $8,777.96.

• Entering into an agreement with Penn Care Inc. for the purchase of two new ambulances, at a total cost of $591,861.

• Entering into an agreement with Community Consulting Services LLC for economic development and planning services for the city from April 1, 2025 to December 31, 2026, at no additional cost to the city as it will be paid in full with the city's ARPA funds.

• Renewing an agreement with Court Community Service. The cost of the project for a period of 12 months, without additional work days, is $62,520. In the event CCS provides workers on additional days, the city will pay $320 for each additional day worked. CCS will provide the city with a supervised community service work crew for cleanup and landscaping projects on public properties. The work crew may also perform property cleanups as ordered by the Garfield Heights Municipal Court. The crew may also be assigned to perform snow shoveling on public properties.

Also passed were two resolutions, the first providing for only one council meeting on the second Monday during the months of May, June, July and August 2025, and the other recognizing April as Autism Awareness Month in the city.

# 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.

## ADULT PROGRAMS

**Google Docs and Slides** Learn how to use Google Docs and Slides, including how to create and format documents and presentations. A Google account is required to participate in this class. Thursday, April 17, 10 a.m. to noon. Registration required.

**Innovation Center Orientation** Learn about the equipment and policies of the Innovation Centers throughout Cuyahoga County Public Library. Attending this orientation allows users to utilize the Innovation Centers throughout the library system. For adults 18 years and older. Upcoming sessions: Saturday, April 19, 11 a.m. to noon, and Monday, April 28, 6-7 p.m. Registration required.

## TEENS

**Light Up Your Art** Join us for an afterschool crafting session and create an illuminated canvas with mini-LEDs. Tuesday, April 22, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Registration required.

## CHILDREN and FAMILIES

**La Hora del Cuento: Spanish Language Storytime** Participate in this Spanish storytime with rhymes, songs, games, movement, puppets and stories in Spanish. The lead artist helps with translations in English. Monday, April 21, 6-6:30 p.m.


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*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.

# KID'S T-BALL REGISTRATION

## APRIL 21 – MAY 20

at Dan Kostel Rec Center

5411 Turney Rd., Garfield Hts.

**SPECIAL HOURS APRIL 21-25 during Spring Break**

**OPEN MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, 11 A.M. to 7 P.M.**

T-ball is for any child who will be 5-7 years old on or before July 1, 2025.

Birth certificates are required for all players at the time of registration; only a parent or legal guardian can register a child. All residents must bring in 2 current proofs of residency, consisting of 2 current utility bills, bank statement or pay stub showing name & address.

Residents pay $60 + current $20 rec ID card

Non-Residents pay $80 + current $50 rec ID card

Sign up Early! Registrations after May 20th are subject to a $15 administrative late fee. Check our web page for the list of open office hours during this registration period, as we want to accommodate everyone. The season will run from June through July and played on average twice a week. Early registrations will be accepted before April 21st during the open office hours.

Check web page: www.garfieldhts.org for details on flyer & open office hours offered or call 216-475-7272 during open office hours to reach a team member by pressing 0.

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

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# Cleveland Metroparks News

**All programs are free unless marked otherwise. For questions or to register for programs, please visit clevelandmetroparks.com or call CanalWay Center at 216-206-1000.**

**April 17: Coffeehouse Trivia Night.** Join us at CanalWay Center for a cozy trivia night. We will have coffee, tea, hot chocolate and some snacks for you to enjoy as we play. Come by yourself or with some friends to test your knowledge of Ohio's migrating animals. 6:30–8 p.m. For adults. Registration required. 25 people.

**April 18: Spring Break Drop-By - Build a Beaver and Dam.** Come to CanalWay Center after school to learn about one of our park's favorite residents, the North American beaver. We will be utilizing the Make-Do kits to build our own beavers and dams to understand the role they play in our park. There will be pictures, pelts and all things beaver to inspire your own mammal creation. 3–5 p.m. Ages 8 years & over w/adult.

**April 18: Muskrats, Beavers and Otters, Oh My!** Join a naturalist in a search for active muskrats or clues of their presence as we stroll along the Ohio and Erie Canal. We will also learn about other aquatic mammals that have been spotted in the region. 5:30–7 p.m. Meet at Aqueduct Trailhead. Terrain: paved, some small hills, 3 miles.

**April 19: Connecting Communities - Mill Creek to Garfield Connector Trail.** See how it all connects with Naturalist Alex as we explore the Mill Creek Trail connector from Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation to Garfield Heights. Along the way we'll admire scenic views of the Mill Creek Valley and check out the progress of the new trail connection to Garfield Park Reservation along Garfield Boulevard. 1–2:30 p.m. Meet at Aqueduct Gateway Trailhead. Terrain: paved, steep hill, 3 miles.

**April 19 Drop-By: Spring Wildflowers.** Drop by CanalWay Center to learn all about the emerging spring wildflowers! April is a perfect time to start seeing native flowers wake up from winter. Enjoy the spring colors while making a flower craft to take home. 10 a.m.–noon.

Easter reminds us to celebrate our blessings both big and small. We have been blessed to provide 112 years of continuous family service to the community.

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*Mayor Jack Bacci and Family*

*Village of Cuyahoga Heights*

HAPPY EASTER!

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# Holy Week Services

(All Holy Week services listed are for Thursday, April 17, Friday, April 18, Saturday, April 19, and Easter Sunday, April 20.)

### Concordia Lutheran Church, 6705 Brecksville Rd., Independence 44131

**MAUNDY THURSDAY:** 6 p.m.

**GOOD FRIDAY:** 6 p.m.

**EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP:** 9:30 a.m.

### Holy Name Catholic Church, 8328 Broadway Ave., Cleveland 44105

**HOLY THURSDAY:** Confessions 4-5 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper, 6 p.m.

**GOOD FRIDAY:** Meditation, noon to 3 p.m. Celebration of the Lord's Passion, 3 p.m. Confessions, 4-5 p.m. Stations of the Cross, 7 p.m.

**HOLY SATURDAY:** Blessing of the food baskets, 11:30 a.m. No Mass at 4 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass, 8 p.m.

**EASTER SUNDAY:** Masses 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m.

### Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 4341 E. 131 St., Garfield Heights 44125

**HOLY THURSDAY:** 7 p.m. - Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

**GOOD FRIDAY:** 7 p.m. - The Lord's Passion

**HOLY SATURDAY:** Dusk (approximately 8:30 p.m. - Easter Vigil

**EASTER SUNDAY:** 10:30 a.m. - Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord

### Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 6700 Lansing Ave., Cleveland 44105

**HOLY THURSDAY:** (No 8 a.m. Mass.) 7 p.m. - Mass of the Lord's Supper (bilingual). 8:15 p.m. - Adoration until Closing Service

**GOOD FRIDAY:** 2:15 p.m. - English Stations. 3 p.m. - English Passion Service. 5:30 p.m. - Polish Stations. 6 p.m. - Polish Passion Service

**HOLY SATURDAY:** 12 p.m. - English Food Blessing. 1 p.m. - Polish Food Blessing. 2 p.m. - Polish Food Blessing. 7:30 p.m. - Bilingual Mass

**EASTER SUNDAY:** 8 a.m. - English Mass. 10 a.m. - Polish Mass. 12 p.m. - English Mass

### Independence Presbyterian Church, 6624 Public Square, Independence 44131

**MAUNDY THURSDAY:** Services 6 p.m. in Historic Chapel

**GOOD FRIDAY:** Services 12 p.m.

**EASTER SUNDAY:** 9:30 a.m. Breakfast/10 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt/10:30 a.m. Worship

### Jones Road Church, 8000 Jones Rd., Cleveland 44105

**EASTER SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICE:** 11 a.m.

**FREE COMMUNITY BRUNCH:** 12 noon

### Lutheran Church of the Covenant, 19000 Libby Rd., Maple Heights 44137

**MAUNDY THURSDAY:** 7 p.m. Service at Lutheran Church of the Master in Bedford

**GOOD FRIDAY:** 7 p.m. Service at Lutheran Church of the Covenant

**EASTER SUNDAY:** 9 a.m. Service at Lutheran Church of the Covenant

### New Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church

**EASTER SUNDAY:** Worship services at 11:30 a.m. inside Lutheran Church of the Covenant, 19000 Libby Rd., Maple Heights

### Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 3395 E. 53 St., Cleveland 44127

**HOLY THURSDAY:** 7 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper (bilingual). Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9 p.m.

**GOOD FRIDAY:** 12 noon - Stations of the Cross - outside - Spanish. 3 p.m. - Good Friday Service (English). 7 p.m. - Good Friday Service (Spanish)

**HOLY SATURDAY:** 2 p.m. - Blessing of Food. 8 p.m. - Easter Vigil Mass (bilingual). (No 4 p.m. Mass on Holy Saturday)

**EASTER SUNDAY:** 10 a.m. Mass (English). 12:30 p.m. Mass (Spanish)

### Pearl Road United Methodist Church, 4200 Pearl Rd., Cleveland 44109

**HOLY THURSDAY:** 6:30 p.m. Service

**EASTER SUNDAY:** 9:30 a.m. Service

**(Continued on Next Page)**

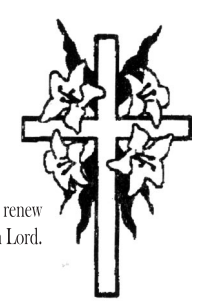
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Easter Blessings

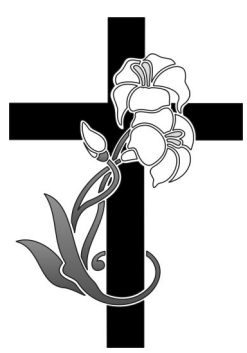



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### St. Casimir Catholic Church, 8223 Sowinski Ave., Cleveland 44103

**HOLY THURSDAY:** Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7 p.m., with the traditional Washing of the Feet, Eucharistic Procession and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following.

**GOOD FRIDAY:** Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 7 p.m., with Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion.

**HOLY SATURDAY:** Traditional Blessing of Easter foods on-the-hour at 11 a.m., 12 noon, and 1 p.m. Solemn Easter Vigil at 8 p.m., with the Blessing of Easter Fire, and sprinkling with the newly blessed Easter water.

**EASTER SUNDAY:** Rezerekcja Mass at dawn in Polish with Eucharistic Procession at 8:30 a.m. Solemn Mass of Easter with the Renewal of Baptismal Promises and blessing with Easter water at 11:30 a.m.

### St. John Nepomucene Catholic Church, 5000 Fleet Ave., Cleveland 44105

**HOLY THURSDAY:** 7 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper. Rosary prayed after Mass. Eucharistic Adoration until 9 p.m. after Mass

**GOOD FRIDAY:** 12 p.m. Living Stations of the Cross. 3 p.m. Solemn Celebration of the Passion of Our Lord

**HOLY SATURDAY:** 3 p.m. Blessing of Easter Baskets. (No confessions; no 4 p.m. Mass.) 8 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass

**EASTER SUNDAY:** 10 a.m. Mass

### St. John Lutheran Church, 11333 Granger Rd., Garfield Heights 44125

**MAUNDY THURSDAY:** Service at 5 p.m.

**GOOD FRIDAY:** Service at 5 p.m.

**EASTER SUNDAY:** Service at 9 a.m.

### St. Monica Church, 13623 Rockside Rd., Garfield Heights 44125

(Confessions are available after the 8:30 a.m. Masses on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week.)

**HOLY THURSDAY:** Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7 p.m., with Adoration to follow.

**GOOD FRIDAY:** Stations of the Cross, 12:30 p.m. The Passion of Our Lord, 3 p.m. Confessions following.

**HOLY SATURDAY:** Food Blessing, 1 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass, 9 p.m.

**EASTER SUNDAY:** Morning Masses at 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

### Saints Peter & Paul Catholic Church, 4750 Turney Rd., Garfield Heights 44125, and St. Therese Catholic Church, 5276 E. 105 St., Garfield Heights 44125

**HOLY THURSDAY:** Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7 p.m. at St. Therese, and 9 p.m. Night Prayer

**GOOD FRIDAY:** 3 p.m. Celebration of the Lord's Passion at St. Therese. 6 p.m. Stations of the Cross at Saints Peter & Paul

**HOLY SATURDAY:** 1 p.m. Blessing of Food at St. Therese. 2 p.m. Blessing of Food at Saints Peter & Paul. 9 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass at Saints Peter & Paul

**EASTER SUNDAY:** 8:30 a.m. Mass at Saints Peter & Paul. 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Therese

### Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus, 3649 E. 65 St., Cleveland 44105

**HOLY THURSDAY:** 7 p.m. - Mass of the Lord's Supper with the traditional Washing of the Feet followed by Solemn Eucharistic Procession and time for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until midnight.

**GOOD FRIDAY:** Stations of the Cross in English at 12 noon. Solemn celebration of the Lord's Passion in English with Veneration of the Cross and distribution of Holy Communion at 2 p.m. Stations of the Cross and devotions in Polish at 6 p.m.

**HOLY SATURDAY:** The traditional blessing of the Easter foods will take place on-the-hour at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 12 noon, and 1 p.m. The Solemn Easter Vigil with the blessing of the Easter fire and water at 8 p.m.

**EASTER SUNDAY:** Traditional Rezurekcja Mass at dawn in Polish with Eucharistic procession at 6:30 a.m. Solemn Masses of Easter with renewal of Baptismal Promises and blessing with Easter Water at 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m. (Polish) and 11:30 a.m., all featuring full musical accompaniment.

### Valley View Village Church, 11401 Tinkers Creek Rd.,.Valley View 44125

**GOOD FRIDAY:** Service at 7 p.m.

**EASTER SUNDAY:** Worship at 10:45 a.m.

## National Day of Prayer

On Thursday, May 1, at 6 p.m., Maple Heights will host the United National Day of Prayer Observance. Residents of both Maple Heights and Garfield Heights are invited to the main venue at Hope Alliance Bible Church, 5050 Stanley Ave., Maple Heights, with host pastor Dr. Erin D. Bell.

All are welcome to worship, repent and pray for both cities while uniting hearts in prayer as one. For more information contact NDP Coordinator Rev. Vontayne Smith, UIC Ministries, at Victory4700@yahoo.com




On behalf of City of Bedford
Mayor Stan Koci,
City Council and
the Administration



*Wishing Everyone a Happy Easter*



**Mayor Matt Burke**
**and family**
City of Garfield Heights
Garfield Heights
YOUR GATEWAY TO OPPORTUNITY



Happy Easter!

May you enjoy Easter Sunday
with the love of
family and friends.



Mayor Annette M. Blackwell
City of Maple Heights



HAPPY
Easter

**Mayor Gregory P. Kurtz**
**Finance Director Vern Blaze**
**Independence City Council**
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**Happy Easter!**
From our family to yours!



Mayor Trevor Elkins and family
Village of
Newburgh Heights



# Bedford Heights council members exchange heated words over housing concerns

**By Tristan Douglas**

Tempers flared at the Bedford Heights Council meeting on Tuesday, April 1. In what one resident in attendance called "unacceptable," Councilwoman Enid Thomas and Councilwoman Kathie Kelso-Perez engaged in a heated exchange regarding housing concerns in the city.

During her Legislative/Education Committee report, Thomas voiced concerns over poorly maintained apartment complexes and problematic Airbnbs in the city. Thomas called on the Building & Housing Committee, which Kelso-Perez chairs, to address these claims. She also criticized the infrequency of Building & Housing Committee meetings, and demanded that Kelso-Perez schedule a committee meeting soon as well as meet with Thomas to explore solutions.

Kelso-Perez responded to Thomas' claims of ineffective and infrequent committee meetings with her own accusations, stating that "if [Thomas] read her emails…" her concerns would be addressed. She explained that the Building & Housing committee is monitoring legislation recently passed in Cleveland aimed at protecting renters from poor landlord practices. The committee was also informed that the state legislature would like to lead policy-making practices regarding Airbnbs, leaving the Building & Housing Committee limited opportunities to address these concerns. The situation quickly dissolved into a back-and-forth between the two councilwomen.

Council President Alton Tinker declared Thomas out of order for her disruptions while he was attempting to maintain order. The incident led him to request that the Law Department send a reminder to each councilperson about appropriate conduct during a council meeting.

## Legislation approved

Council approved two resolutions at Tuesday's meeting. The first authorized Mayor Phil Stevens to enter into a contract with Insite Advisory Group for grant writing and consultation services, and is valued at up to $106,425.

The council also approved a resolution authorizing the mayor to enter into a lease-purchase agreement with Motorola for new police radios. Chief of Police Michael Marotta explained that the department's current radios, which were received through a grant over 12 years ago, have become unreliable and are no longer fit for use.

The new radios are estimated to cost over $200,000, will provide officers with updated features, such as the ability to transmit messages and images. The lease-purchase agreement will involve a five-year monthly payment plan, and will be contained within the current police department budget.

## Committee reports

Community Life Committee Chairman Paul Bounds reminded residents of the city's upcoming Lunch with the Bunny event, taking place on April 19, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Bedford Heights Community Center. Bounds also reminded residents that applications for the city's senior/disabled grass cutting program have reopened, and can be found at the Community Center.

City Hall will be closed on April 18, in recognition of Good Friday.

# Slavic Village master planners chosen

Slavic Village Development last week chose SmithGroup from six competitors to lead the Broadway-Slavic Village Master Plan and the SVD Strategic Plan.

This comprehensive planning exercise, the first for the neighborhood since 2007, is set to start in May. It will expand the scope of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority's Broadway Transit Oriented Development Plan and SVD's recently certified EcoDistrict Roadmap.

SmithGroup is an award-winning, 150-year-old firm with 20 offices and 1500 employees in the Midwest. Its architects, planners and data analysts have been involved in several projects downtown and along the lake.

SmithGroup proposed a process that includes:

-intensive community engagement

-form-based code

-land use and scenario planning

-market analysis

-a real estate development plan that identifies and builds on catalytic sites in the Broadway-Slavic Village neighborhood.

"It's really an exciting time for creative pre-development that inspires a variety of stakeholders," says Krystal Sierra, Neighborhood Planning Director for Slavic Village Development. "You will have residents and businesses at the table with institutional leaders like Cleveland Metroparks, City of Cleveland, GCRTA and others. Housing development is already underway near Fleet and in the Hya-

**(Continued on Page 9)**

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# Community Police Reports

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

## Disorderly Conduct

On April 4, at around 2:30 p.m., GHPD officers were requested to respond to the area of Maple Leaf and Fairlawn for about 60 school children actively fighting. While enroute a police sergeant advised over the police radio that he was in the area and there were kids even in the street. Upon arrival police observed an officer on the west side of Maple Leaf with one of the juveniles involved in the fight. An officer was directed to detain another juvenile involved in the fight that was walking away. The juvenile initially refused to comply with the officer's command to stop and was attempting to run, so officers instructed the juvenile to sit on the ground. He then was secured in handcuffs and placed in the back of a cruiser. Both juveniles were placed under arrest for disorderly conduct. Both were released to their respective parents. Case referred to the Youth Bureau.

## Weapon Offense

On April 5, at 12:35 a.m., officers were dispatched to the Showcase Bar, 5015 Turney Rd., for a disturbance. Upon arrival, officers observed a large crowd blocking the main entrance where officers could hear the disturbance. Once officers made it past the crowd, they observed an intoxicated female arguing with a security officer, and a different female attempting to fight yet another female. The intoxicated woman was detained as was the woman attempting to fight. Both were placed in the back of GHPD cruisers.

Officers then began walking toward the commotion and observed a security officer yelling at a highly intoxicated male, who was trying to make his way inside the bar while security officers told him to leave multiple times. The intoxicated male began to walk away through the parking lot and placed his right hand in his front jacket pocket indicating to police he could be carrying a concealed weapon. When officers attempted to stop the suspect he took off running east through the yard and dropped what appeared to be a black handgun. When an officer deployed his Taser the male dropped to the ground incapacitated. After the male was placed in handcuffs he was treated for minor scrapes on his face. The male was then transported to the GHPD jail for booking. The gun was found to have 12 live rounds in the magazine and one in the chamber. He was charged with having weapons under disability, using weapons while intoxicated and obstructing official business. The two women that had been detained were released on scene to sober parties. Also, in the midst of the disturbances outside the bar, security working the door at Showcase gave police a pistol magazine containing 25 live rounds of ammunition that a patron at the bar had turned in.

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# Cleveland Public Library: Fleet Branchs programs

Fleet Campus, 7224 Broadway Ave., Cleveland, is hosting some wonderful FREE programs this month for youth, adults and families. For more information or to register for any programs, please call 216-623-6962.

**Kids Café:** Cleveland Foodbank after school lunch program. Youth ages 1-18: Monday-Friday, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

**Banned Book Coffee Chats:** Adults. Wednesday, April 16, 12-1 p.m. This month's title will be "Lawn Boy" by Jonathan Evison. Limited copies of the book will be available to check out.

**Easter Egg Hunt:** School-age. Thursday, April 17, 4:30-5 p.m.

**Book to Movie Matinee:** Family. Saturday, April 19, 12-2 p.m. This month's book to film feature will be Dr. Seuss' "Horton Hears a Who!" Limited copies of the book will be available to check out.

**Plant Your Own Flower:** School-age. Tuesday, April 22, 3:30-5 p.m.

**Preschool Storytime**: Youth. April 24, 4-4:30 p.m.

**Let's Learn About Dinosaurs:** School-age. Monday, April 28, 3-4:30 p.m.




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# Slavic Village master planners chosen

**(Continued from Page 8)**

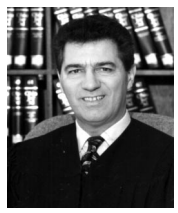
-cinth neighborhood, and we are seeking funding for commercial development that did not exist before. We're excited to bring all of the pieces together under one neighborhood plan that will be the catalyst for the coming decade of development."

SVD will work with SmithGroup and a team of residents called "Community Consultants" to ensure that local stakeholders are steering the plan and guiding the recommendations.

The contract fee awarded to SmithGroup is for $110,000. Additional funding will pay for stipends to community consultants and miscellaneous materials like printing.

Slavic Village master planning will be a public process. Residents and businesses interested in getting involved should contact Sierra at krystals@slavicvillage.org.

**WISHING EVERYONE A JOYOUS AND HEALTHY EASTER**

**Ralph Perk, Jr., Kelli Perk and Family**


## *Legal Advertisement*

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Garfield Heights ("*Owner*"), at the office of the Finance Director, Garfield Heights City Hall, 5407 Turney Road, Garfield Heights, OH 44125 on the 15th day of May, 2025 until 9:00 am current local time for the:

**"McCracken Road Repairs Phase 2"**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Barbara A. Biro, Finance Director
City of Garfield Heights

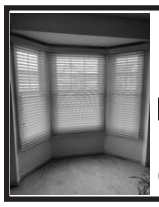
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**Week of April 13th, 2025**
**Week of April 20th, 2025**

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# BUSINESS and SERVICE DIRECTORY

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# Easter fun at Slavic Village Bunny Hop!




**Easter was in the air last weekend as the Slavic Village Bunny Hop returned Saturday afternoon to Fleet Ave. Hundreds of area youngsters were treated to free candy, games and neighborly good times.**

**Produced by the Community Yahoos, the event delivered an afternoon of springtime fun for all ahead of the Easter Sunday holiday.** *Photos by Elena Psenicka*

## Legion Post 309 Fish Fry

American Legion Post 309, 15521 Broadway Ave., Maple Heights, will hold a Friday Fish Fry on April 18, serving from 3 to 6 p.m. Dine-in or carryout; open to the public. Advance orders are appreciated by calling 216-662-7768.

## G.H. Ward 3 Info Session

Garfield Heights Councilman Mark Smith invites everyone to a Ward 3 Information Session on Monday, April 21, at 6:30 p.m., as the Garfield Boulevard project is discussed and many other subjects impacting the city's residents. The event will be held in the Boys Hope Girls Hope gym, 9438 Dorothy Ave., Garfield Heights.

## Ward 7 meeting canceled

The Garfield Heights Ward 7 Block Watch meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 24, has been canceled. The next meeting will be Thursday, May 29, in the St. Monica Pavilion. Hope to see you there! For more information contact Gail, 216-662-9213.



*In Loving Memory* 1921 ~ 1987

**Marcella B. Shannon**

It has been 38 long years without you. We miss you!

Love, your children: Shirley, James, Marcy (deceased), Patrick (deceased), Richard, Ronald, Timothy (deceased) and Kevin Shannon.

Grandchildren: Melissa, Frank (deceased) & Katy and Clark.

Great-grandchildren: Joe & Jack

Submit Community events to NN via Email: nnews1923@aol.com

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