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101st YEAR

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2025

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FREE

U.S. Marshals arrest Cleveland homicide suspect and Barberton shooting suspect last week in Garfield Heights

On Tuesday, Feb. 18, members of the U.S. Marshals led Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force (NOVTF) arrested Oturi Germany, 46, and Oturiana Germany, 28, in a vehicle in Garfield Heights. Oturi Germany was wanted by the Cleveland Division of Police for aggravated murder and Oturiana Germany was wanted by the Barberton Police Department for felonious assault, according to a news release on the U.S. Marshals' website. It has been reported that the pair are father and daughter.

On Jan. 10, 2025, officers from the Cleveland Division Police, 3rd District, located a deceased male inside a storage room in the basement of an apartment building in the 2100 block of E. 78 St., Cleveland. The male victim had suffered a gunshot wound to his back. Oturi Germany was later identified as a suspect in this fatal incident and a warrant for aggravated murder was issued for his arrest.

On Feb. 17, 2025, a male was shot three times at the Washington Square Apartments in Barberton, Ohio. The male victim suffered three non-life-threatening gunshot wounds. The Barberton Police Department identified Oturiana Germany as a suspect in the shooting and a warrant was issued for her arrest.

Members of the NOVTF arrested both Oturi and Oturiana Germany inside a vehicle near the 5100 block of E. 117 St., Garfield Heights, on Feb. 18. Two firearms were located during the arrest and seized by officers on scene.

U.S. Marshal Pete Elliott stated the day of the arrests, "Thankfully, no one was hurt during the arrest and our task force was able to take two violent fugitives and firearms off the street today. Our task force is comprised of outstanding officers who are highly trained, which results in safe arrests like the ones today in Garfield Heights."

Anyone with information concerning a wanted fugitive can contact the Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force at 1-866-4WANTED (1-866-492-6833), or you can submit a web tip. Reward money is available, and tipsters may remain anonymous. Follow the U.S. Marshals on Twitter @USMSCleveland.

Date Change: I-77 N exit ramp to Fleet Ave. to close overnight week of March 4

Utility work necessitating the closure of the Fleet Ave. exit ramp from I-77 north has been delayed a week. The following restrictions and closures will be in place nightly Tuesday, March 4, through Friday, March 6, between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m.

I-77 north at Harvard Ave., will have various lane restrictions. The I-77 north exit ramp to Fleet Ave. will be closed. Detour will be Pershing Ave. to I-77 south to Fleet Ave.

Care Response Pilot Program launches to respond to mental health, addiction crises

The Care Response Pilot Program of the Cleveland Department of Health has launched in Cleveland zip codes 44102 and 44105. Care response is a health-first program that has specialized, unarmed teams, including a licensed mental health professional and a peer support specialist, responding to mental health and addiction crises in the community. Residents in these zip codes may dial 988 to access these crisis services.

An upcoming community meeting to share your insights, meet the care responder teams and hear an update on the early results of the program is scheduled for the 44105 zip code on Monday, March 24, from 5:30 to 7 p.m., at Thea Bowman Center, 11901 Oakfield Ave., Cleveland 44105. RSVP to: <https://forms.gle/Ksqrz1XMqoQLHZnn8>

A meeting for the 44102 zip code is set for Monday, March 10, from 5:30 to 7 p.m., at OneHope NEO, 3202 Fulton Rd., Cleveland 44109. RSVP to: <https://forms.gle/Ksqrz1XMqoQLHZnn8>

Meetings are open to residents in 44102 and 44105, or mental health providers who practice in these zip codes.

Closing of Sherwood Foods announced by mayor at Maple Hts. Council meeting

By Judith Goldsworth

Sherwood Foods, one of Maple Heights' largest employers, has given notice that it is closing down operations in April, Mayor Annette Blackwell announced at council's meeting last week.

Blackwell said the news came as "a huge shock," and also stated that she and other officials were already working on future solutions for the Granite Rd. property, located in portions of Districts 1 and 2 of the city.

In a Federal Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act (WARN) notice to the city, Sherwood Foods CEO Karl Berger notified Blackwell that Sherwood "requires employers to give official notice to certain government units or officials, of a pending layoff that triggers the relevant provisions of the WARN Act."

"The company intends to shut down all operations at 16625 Granite Rd., and permanently lay off 273 WARN-eligible employees who work at that location," Berger's notice continued. "All employees are expected to remain on payroll and benefits through April 21, 2025. The shutdown process will begin on Feb. 18, 2025, and is expected to be completed on or about April 21, 2025."

Berger stated, "This information is based on the best information currently available to the company, and may change due to subsequent events beyond our control or current knowledge."

Sherwood's operations in Maple Heights are part of a national company headquartered in Detroit, with annual revenues of more than \$4 billion. It has numerous other operations throughout the country, employing approximately 1,500 employees nationwide, and is the largest independent wholesale food distributor in the United States, according to its website.

According to oregonlive.com, a Harvest Sherwood spokesperson cited "rising costs and a diminished market for its products" as a reason for closing down operations and laying off its employees.

"This is a huge shock as they're one of our largest employers," Blackwell said, "but also they've been fantastic partners. They donate all of the beverages for all our events, including Music in the Park, and several other events. They've been a great, great corporate partner."

Blackwell stated, "We've already begun to figure out who can occupy that property, and we will be meeting with the Planning and Development director, Team NEO, and I've already reached out to the county executive and Chris Alvarado, director of Collaboration."

Library manager honored

As part of its observation of Black History Month, council's Community Life and Education Committee honored Maple Heights Library Branch Manager Deva Walker for her efforts.

(Continued on Page 2)

Celebrity Roast of former Fox 8 news anchor Tim Taylor to benefit Bedford Historical Society

Tickets are going fast for a "Celebrity Roast" of one of Bedford's own, former FOX8-TV news anchor Tim Taylor, which will be held at the Sherwood Forest Party Center, 12900 Tinkers Creek Rd., Valley View, on Saturday, March 29.

Entitled "A Star Is Burned," the event will feature a dinner and appearances by local celebrities. Tickets are \$100 per person; proceeds to benefit the Bedford Historical Society. For more information, visit eventsatsherwoodforest.com.

Closing of Sherwood Foods announced by mayor at Maple Hts. Council meeting

(Continued from Page 1)

"We celebrate Ms. Walker for her outstanding leadership, dedication and service to the Maple Heights community," Councilwoman Edwina Agee said. "As manager of the Maple Heights Library, she has shown an unwavering commitment to education and community engagement, enriching the lives of our residents through knowledge, opportunity and connection. Your effort inspires and empowers everyone around you, and we really appreciate you," Agee continued.

Walker thanked the committee members and the city for the honor.

The Maple Heights Library is located at 5225 Library Ln., off Libby Rd. Interested individuals can call 216-475-5000, or visit cuyahogalibrary.org/branches/maple-heights for more information on its programs and services.

NOPEC grant accepted

The only piece of legislation passed at last week's meeting was an ordinance authorizing the city to accept the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council 2025 Energized Community Grant.

The legislation states that the city, as a member of NOPEC, is eligible for one or more NOPEC Energized Community grants for this year, as provided for in the NEC Grant Program guidelines. The legislation authorizes Blackwell to execute the grant agreement to accept the NEC Grant funds.

Blackwell explained that the NOPEC grant funding was used towards the Music in the Park Summer Concert Series held in Stafford Park.

Placed on second reading was a resolution authorizing Blackwell to enter into a Professional Services Contract with Strategic Health Care Company, to provide lobbyist services from Feb. 15, 2025, to Dec. 31, 2025, at a cost of \$5,000 per month.

If council approves the legislation at a future meeting, Strategic Health Care will lobby for funding from the State of Ohio in 2025 for the city to use on community projects, such as youth engagement/playgrounds, infant mortality health care, senior care housing and affordable housing and home repairs. Council will discuss the legislation further before possible passage at a future meeting.

Announcements

Councilwoman Toni Jones announced that representatives of the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Office will be at the Maple Heights Senior Center, 15901 Libby Rd., from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 6, to assist residents who might be having issues with paying their real estate taxes. "They can either put you on a payment plan, or see if there are other programs you might be qualified for," Jones said.

Councilman Timothy Tatum asked officials and residents to keep Council President Ron Jackson in their

prayers, as he has been absent from council meetings due to illness. "I look forward to seeing him back here with us," Tatum said.

Polish Paczki Party

A Fat Thursday Polish Paczki Party will be held on Thursday, Feb. 27, beginning at 4 p.m., with Polish Happy Hour at the Polish American Cultural Center, 6501 Lansing Ave., Cleveland. Admission is free.

Featured will be homemade Polish food, imported Polish beer, museum and garden tours, music by Tom Katrenich Orchestra and Opus 216 and paczki, paczki and more paczki! Call 216-233-7234 for more details.

IHM Church, museum tours

Are you interested in Cleveland's Polish history? If so, join Glenn Sobola, a parishioner of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church and the director of the Slavic Village Historical Society, for an exclusive tour of both IHM Church and the SVHS Museum.

Sobola will conduct two free guided tours on "Fat Thursday," Feb. 27, at 5:30 p.m., and 7 p.m. Both locations are situated at 6700 Lansing Ave., Cleveland.

National Park Service to temporarily close Towpath Trail section until May

Cuyahoga Valley National Park will close the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail between Red Lock Trailhead and Brandywine Creek from Monday, March 3, to Friday, May 2, 2025. The trail will be fully closed during this time.

It will not reopen during evenings and weekends. The closure will also impact the Valley Trail, which uses the Towpath Trail alignment in this area. No detour is available.

The closure is necessary for public safety while the park installs a new culvert for Brandywine Creek. The new culvert will be adjacent to the historic culvert built in the 1800s as part of the Ohio & Erie Canal.

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PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing will be held on **Monday, March 10, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.**, before the **Maple Heights Planning and Zoning Commission** in the Maple Heights City Hall Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 5353 Lee Road, Maple Heights, Ohio, to consider the following application:

2025-PZ-06 An application from Tracy Clark requesting a Determination of Similar Uses regarding a Specialty Cocktail Lounge and Event Space as a Conditionally Permitted Use under either Sects. 1282.04(C), 1282.04(E), 1282.04(F) or 1282.04(R) of the MH Codified Ordinances for property located in the Central Business District (CBD) Zoning District at 15755 Broadway Avenue, Maple Heights, Ohio, 44137.

2025-PZ-07 An application from Gary McMillan requesting Approval of a Variance from the requirements of Sect. 1472.02 of the MH Codified Ordinances prohibiting more than one-quarter of the total exterior of other than masonry face brick on any building fronting a main thoroughfare to install full metal panels from roof to ground on property located in an Office/Industrial (O-I) Zoning District at 17000 Rockside Road, Maple Heights, Ohio, 44137.

All Applicant(s) and/or their representatives are required to attend this meeting. Members of the public are invited to attend, but will only be allowed to speak during the Public Hearing portion of the meeting.

The application(s) and all supporting materials are available for review during normal business hours in the Maple Heights Building Department, 5353 Lee Road, Maple Heights, Ohio.

Leonette Cicirella Johnson
Clerk of Council/PZC Secretary
City of Maple Heights

The Neighborhood News
February 26, 2025

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Community police reports

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

Garfield Heights

Recovered Stolen Auto

On Feb. 11, at 4:39 p.m., Garfield Heights police assisted Maple Heights officers with the recovery of a stolen vehicle. Garfield Hts. officers received notifications that there was a stolen vehicle traveling through Garfield stolen out of Cleveland. The vehicle was then observed by GHPD officers to be in Maple Heights at the intersection of Broadway and Libby. Maple Heights dispatch was advised of the stolen vehicle in their city. GHPD continued to follow the vehicle from a distance and observed the vehicle park at the 711 convenient store located at the intersection of Libby and Lee. Officers observed two males exit the vehicle and go into the store. A few moments passed and the males exited the store, got in the vehicle then went back into the store. This time a female passenger in the suspect vehicle also went inside the store. At this time a Maple Heights officer arrived on scene. GHPD advised the Maple Heights officer where the stolen vehicle was parked and the description of the occupants that were still inside the store. Garfield Heights police assisted the Maple Heights officer in detaining the three occupants with no incident. More GHPD and MHPD officers arrived just seconds after. The occupants were all detained and escorted in the rear of police cruisers. The female was shown to have a warrant through the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office, but was released due to a medical issue. One of the male suspects had a warrant through GHPD and was transported to the jail. The other male suspect had a warrant from Cleveland Heights PD and was turned over to CHPD.

Theft-Shoplifting

On Feb. 14, at 10:14 a.m., police were dispatched to Garfield Tobacco and Lottery, 5524 Turney Rd., for a theft in progress. The suspect was described as a black

male wearing a mask and red hoodie. Dispatch deployed the city camera and tracked the subject, who was later found to be a juvenile, as he ran from the store, across Turney Rd., and into GHPD's parking lot. Officers exited the station and observed the juvenile walking eastbound through the GHPD lot. The male was stopped and detained. He had a large jar of marijuana located in his front hoodie pocket. It was determined that the male was giving officers false information regarding his name, and he was placed under arrest for providing false information to officers. He then stated his real name and was placed in GHPD jail until a parent/guardian could pick him up. Police spoke with the store clerk as to what had occurred. The owner advised that the male, who is a troublesome customer, always comes into the store and causes problems. He said that day the male had jumped over the counter and stole a large container of marijuana. Report forwarded to the Youth Bureau for review/possible charges.

Theft

On Feb. 17, an officer spoke with a woman by telephone regarding a theft of packages report. She said that on Feb. 13, between noon and 5 p.m., she had three packages delivered to her home in the 4600 block of E. 93 St., which were stolen. The stolen packages contained an Apple iPhone valued at \$1000, a cellphone case valued at \$15 and a purse valued at \$300.

Aggravated Robbery

On Feb. 19, at 9:16 p.m., Garfield units were dispatched to the area of the 12200 block of Valley Lane Dr., for a third party reporting that a female had been robbed at gunpoint and was screaming for help. An officer was

flagged down by the caller and the victim on the street in front of the apartment building. The victim said she was robbed at gunpoint while completing a DoorDash order. She said when she parked outside the apartment building to deliver the order an unknown black male in his early 20's, dark-skinned, wearing a black jacket with an orange hoodie underneath, jeans and a dark-colored beanie with possible dreads exposed, approached her and asked her if she needed a boyfriend. The victim stated she politely declined and then he asked if she needed help, saying he lived there. She ignored him and continued on her way towards the building, then delivered the DoorDash to the customer. She then began walking toward her vehicle and saw that the male who had previously spoken to her was sitting in the passenger seat of her car. He got out of her car and began walking towards her with a gun in his hand and yelled, "Give me your phone!" A scuffle ensued as the suspect tried to get the iPhone from her hand and she was knocked to the ground. He shouted, "I have a gun," at which point she threw her phone away from them hoping he would leave her alone. The suspect retrieved her phone and began running east toward the carwash at 12611 Rockside Rd. Police toured the area with negative results. Detective Bureau requested to follow up.

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

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

By order of the Council of the City of Maple Heights, sealed bids will be received by the Purchasing Agent, at Maple Heights City Hall, 5353 Lee Road, Maple Heights, Ohio 44137, until 12:00 Noon, local time, on the **13th day of March, 2025** for the **LIBBY ROAD WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT & RESURFACING PROJECT** in the City of Maple Heights, Ohio, NO FAXED COPIES ACCEPTED.

The bid documents, specifications and drawings may be examined without charge online at www.cvelimited.plancycle.com. To become a Registered Bidder, documents, specifications and drawings must be purchased at either www.cvelimited.plancycle.com, SE Blueprint at 2035 Hamilton Avenue Cleveland, OH 44114 or SE Blueprint at 520 South Main Street, Suite 2411 Akron, OH 44311 at the cost of \$100.00 + tax and delivery which includes bid registration, one hard copy set of the bid package and one complete set of pdf files. Additional sets of bid documents can also be ordered online at www.cvelimited.plancycle.com or by emailing seblue@seblueprint.com, calling 216-241-2250 or visiting an SE Blueprint location.

Each bidder is required to furnish with its proposal a Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond in accordance with Section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. Bid security, furnished in Bond form, shall be issued by a Surety Company or Corporation licensed in the State of Ohio to provide said surety. Each bid must be made upon the Proposal Form provided in the set of specifications and must be accompanied by a bank check or cashier's check drawn on a solvent bank in Cuyahoga County in an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the amount bid, or a bid bond in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the amount bid, as a guarantee that if said bid is accepted, a contract will be entered into and a Surety Bond satisfactory to said City in an amount equal to 100% of the total bid will be furnished. Checks shall be made payable to the City of Maple Heights, Ohio.

Each Proposal must contain the full name of the party or parties submitting the proposal and all persons interested therein. Each bidder must submit evidence of its experiences on projects of similar size and complexity. The owner intends and requires that this project be completed no later than December 1st, 2025.

Bids will be opened and read at the time and place stated above. Those who submitted Proposals or their representatives are invited to attend.

All contractors and subcontractors involved with the project will to the extent practicable use Ohio products, materials, services, and labor in the implementation of their project. Additionally, contractor compliance with the equal employment opportunity requirements of Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 123 is required.

Bidders must comply with the prevailing wage rates on Public Improvements in Cuyahoga County and the City of Maple Heights, Ohio as determined by the Ohio Department of Commerce, Bureau of Wage and Hour Administration, 614.644.2239.

The right is reserved to accept any bidder, to reject any or all bids, and to waive informalities should it be deemed to be in the best interest of the City of Maple Heights to do so.

Bids are to be submitted in accordance with the plans and specifications on file in the office of the Purchasing Agent. Sealed bids must be marked, **"LIBBY ROAD WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT & RESURFACING PROJECT"**.

PUBLISHED: The Neighborhood News
February 26, 2025
March 5, 2025

Tinita Tillman
Finance Director
City of Maple Heights, Ohio

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Bedford Hts. City Council honors retiring directors

By Tristan Douglas

During its regular meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 18, Bedford Heights Council celebrated the dedication of three retiring directors. Mayor Phillip Stevens presented a proclamation to former Finance Director Ted Gordon, recognizing his 12 years of service to the city. Gordon retired on Jan. 31, 2025, previously announced during the council's Feb. 4 meeting. It was also announced that Assistant Finance Director John Baranek would succeed Gordon in the Finance Director role.

Mayor Stevens and Councilwoman Kathie Kelso-Perez expressed their deep appreciation for Gordon's contributions. In recognition of his service, Gordon was also presented with a commemorative plaque.

However, Gordon's retirement was not the only milestone acknowledged at the meeting. Council also passed

two resolutions congratulating former Water Reclamation Director David Pocaro and former Public Service Director Nicholas Bauccho for their retirements from the city. Council expressed gratitude to each of these men for their years of service to the city.

Additionally, council passed a resolution offering condolences to the family and friends of Lois Johnson following her passing.

Proposed legislation discussions

After the recognition ceremony and the passage of the Consent Agenda, council turned to two pieces of proposed legislation. The first to be introduced imposes a six-month moratorium on the granting of occupancy and building permits for vape and smoke shops in the city. The resolution passed 7-0 with no discussion.

Later in the meeting, a representative of a property owner on Aurora Rd. raised concerns about the moratorium. The representative explained that the legislation has led to uncertainty among prospective tenants. They urged council to consider the economic impact of this decision on property owners, particularly given the success of similar businesses in neighboring cities.

Council also passed a draft ordinance to reflect a personnel change at the Bedford Heights Community Center. The ordinance includes the hiring of two full-time aquatics lifeguards and established a pay range for the positions. The ordinance passed 7-0.

Committee updates

Several committee chairs provided updates on key city initiatives. Councilman Alton Tinker, chairman of the Economic & Community Development Committee, shared his goal for the city to apply for a Cuyahoga County-administered grant to fund the creation of a citywide Master Plan. Tinker noted that other communities in Cuyahoga County, such as Garfield Heights, Maple Heights and Solon, have recently worked with the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission on similar projects, and he believes this is an important initiative for Bedford Heights, with or without grant funding.

Councilwoman Danielle Henderson, chairwoman of the Infrastructure & Capital Improvements Committee, announced that Bedford Heights has applied for Cuyahoga County funding for the resurfacing of Rockside Rd. west

of Aurora Rd. The grant is a 50/50 funding opportunity, with a maximum award of \$250,000.

Councilwoman Enid Thomas, chairwoman of the Legislative/Education Committee, announced that the city has opened its 2025 Bedford Heights Scholarship application. The scholarship is available to graduating high school seniors who are Bedford Heights residents and plan to attend an accredited college, university or trade school in the fall of 2025. Information about the scholarship and an application can be found on the city's website.

City applying for grant funding

Council also discussed the city's applications for two additional community development grants. The first, submitted to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' NatureWorks program, seeks funding for the rehabilitation of community parks and recreational areas, including the basketball courts in Reed Park.

Additionally, the city applied for funding through the Ohio Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School program. This program supports infrastructure and educational projects designed to assist K-12 students who walk or bike to school.

Ward 4 Community Meeting in Garfield Hts.

Garfield Heights Ward 4 Councilman Avery Johnson will host a Ward 4 Community Meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 26, at 6:30 p.m., in the Garfield Heights Civic Center, 5407 Turney Rd., Room #118.

Attendees will have the opportunity to meet Council President Avery Johnson and Mayor Matt Burke, with a special presentation by the Garfield Heights Fire Department, including a fire suppression demonstration and free smoke detector sign-ups.

Collective Citizens Organized Against Lead (C.C.O.A.L.) will provide information on lead prevention. Free food and prizes. For more details, contact: ajohnson@garfieldhts.org or call 216-365-3009.

Genealogical Society meets

The Cuyahoga Valley Genealogical Society will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, March 3, at 7 p.m., at the Independence Civic Center, 6363 Selig Dr., in the Willow Room. Members and interested public are invited to attend.

A program on "The Andrews Raid and the Quest for an Ancestor's Honor" will be presented by Ron Shadrach. In 2012, Shadrach began a 12-year quest to see that his ancestor, Pvt. Philip Shadrach, was awarded the Medal of Honor. Join us as he tells the story of how he worked to have his intrepid ancestor recognized.

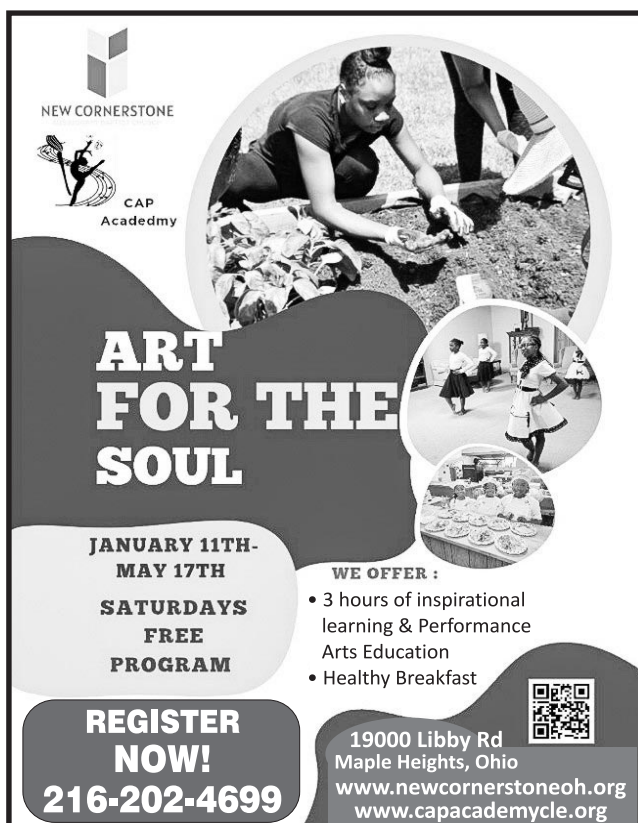
County selling rain barrels for pickup at G.H. Civic Ctr.

The Cuyahoga County Soil & Water Conservation District is sponsoring the sale of rain barrels, along with an instructional video for those who register and pay online by Friday, March 7.

The rain barrels and diverter kit can then be picked up on Wednesday, March 19, from 5:30 to 7 p.m., at Veterans Plaza at the Garfield Heights Civic Center Complex, 5407 Turney Rd., Garfield Heights, behind the Garfield Heights Historical Society Museum.

Rain barrels are \$60, with the second barrel and linking kit for a two-barrel system costing \$40. The diverter kit has everything you will need, even for the winter. All you have to supply is a drill.

Register online at: www.cuyahogawcd.org (click on Events and find March 19) or email tbecker@cuyahogawcd.org



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Retired Auxiliary Police Commander Mike Biegacki honored at Garfield Heights Council meeting

By Ellen Psenicka

Commander Mike Biegacki of the Garfield Heights Auxiliary Police, who retired recently after over 30 years of service in the city's safety forces, was honored with a proclamation presented to him at Monday night's council meeting by Mayor Matt Burke.

Biegacki began his career with the Garfield Heights Auxiliary Police (GHAP) in 1994, rising through the ranks from patrolman to commander. In addition, he has worked part-time as a bailiff for the Garfield Heights Municipal Court since Oct. 16, 2017.

The proclamation presented by the mayor noted that Monday, Feb. 24, 2025, was to be known as Mike Biegacki Day throughout the city of Garfield Heights.

Legislation passed

The following ordinances and resolutions were approved at Monday night's council meeting:

- Amending and supplementing the city's plan of classification and compensation of non-union pay positions. In addition, an administrative assistant will be added to the Executive Office and two Housing Enforcement Coordinators will be added to address the approximately 2,500 annual rental inspections and 700 annual point of sale inspections. The positions will be funded by the increased fees council previously approved.

- Authorizing the presiding judge of the Garfield Heights Municipal Court to enter into an agreement with Timeclock Plus for the purchasing and licensing of a remote data terminal Timeclock System at the Garfield Heights Municipal Court at a cost not to exceed \$12,000 for the 48-month agreement.

- Increasing the compensation for the clerk of council from an annual salary of \$12,000 to \$18,000. The clerk of council position has had no increase in salary since Feb. 24, 2014.

- Directing the finance director to earmark \$150,000 in ARPA funds for the city's Home Repair Grant Program, in addition to Community Development Supplemental Grant funds. City Council authorized creation of the Home Repair Grant Program on Aug. 12, 2024.

- Extending a contract with Kimble Recycling and Disposal for citywide refuse and recycling collection and disposal for another three years. Residential rates for the added three years will be amended as follows: 6/1/2025-5/31/2026 - \$17.62 per home per month; 6/1/2026-5/31/2027 - \$18.29 per home per month; 6/1/2027-5/31/2028 - \$18.98 per home per month.

- Declaring support for the preservation of the Federal Tax Exemption of municipal bonds and encouraging the State of Ohio Congressional Delegation to preserve their



Shown are Mayor Matt Burke and retired Auxiliary Police Commander Mike Biegacki holding a proclamation presented by the mayor for Biegacki's over 30 years of service to the city. Photo by Wendy Walters

- Applying for and accepting the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council's Energized Community Grant(s) for the year 2025. This year the city is eligible to receive \$54,634 in such grant funding.

- Ratifying the mayor's appointment of Kendra Chatburn to the city's Board of Zoning Appeals to complete the unexpired term of former member Joyce Tubbs.

- Ratifying the mayor's appointment of Jenna Lunger to the Garfield Heights Recreation Board for a six-year term.

- Ratifying the appointments of Garfield Heights Councilwoman Stacey Collier and Garfield Heights School Board member Ashley Thomas to the Garfield Heights Recreation Board for two-year terms.

- Updating the public records policy for the city as required by the Ohio Revised Code. Those seeking public records may be charged only the actual cost of making copies, not labor. The charge for paper copies is \$0.05 per page. The charge for electronic files downloaded to a compact disc is \$2.50 per disc.

Date changed for Town Hall meeting in Bedford

The city of Bedford Town Hall meeting date has been changed to Tuesday, March 18, at the Ellenwood Recreation Center starting at 6:30 p.m., according to Clerk of Council Tracy Simons.

LIBRARY SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Bedford (Bedford Heights/Oakwood Village) Branch Library

Here are some of the **FREE** programs coming up at the Bedford Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, located at 70 Columbus Rd., Bedford, Ohio 44146. For more information, or to register for any program, please call 440-439-4997.

Baby Club. Ages birth-35 months with parent/caregiver. Mondays, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 10:30 a.m. Join us for a five-week club for caregivers and children ages birth to 35 months. Connect with your kids and other families and get answers about your growing child. Siblings welcome! **MUST REGISTER**

Music & Movement Storytime. Tuesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25, 10 a.m. Join us for a fun, interactive storytime featuring music and movement.

Family Storytime. All ages with caregiver. Tuesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25, 6 p.m. Join us for stories, songs and fingerplays.

Engineering Hour - Grades 1-5. Thursdays, March 6, 20, 3:30 p.m. Bring your creativity and dexterity for an hour of building!

Art Quest - Grades 2-5. Fridays, March 7, 14, 21, 28, 4 p.m. Join library staff as we learn about famous artists and try our best at replicating their style!

Introduction to Hand Sewing - Adults. Saturday, March 8, 11 a.m. Local costume designer Jaclyn Renee Vogel will teach you the basic hand-sewing techniques you need to know to mend your clothing at home. Students will be provided with a needle, thread and fabric. Instructions will be 1 hour with an additional 30 minutes for anyone who wants to keep practicing stitches. **MUST REGISTER**

Magic Tree House Mondays - Grades 2-4. Monday, March 10, 7 p.m. Join us as we explore Mary Pope Osborne's classic series. "Dinosaurs Before Dark" on 3/10, "The Knight at Dawn" on 4/14, and "Mummies in the Morning" on 5/12. Whether you finished the book or not, join us for Magic Tree House discussion and fun. **MUST REGISTER**

Kindergarten Countdown - Children entering kindergarten next fall and their caregiver. Wednesday, March 12, 10:30 a.m. Join us as we help your child build kindergarten readiness skills in a program aligned to Ohio's Early Childhood Standards. **MUST REGISTER**

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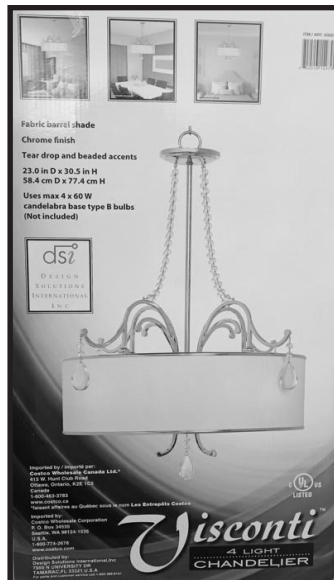
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Advertising deadline is 5:00 p.m. Mondays. Advertising Display rate is \$12.00 per column inch (minimum \$48).

Business Directory deadline is 5:00 p.m. Fridays. Ads must print for 4 weeks. Advertising rate is \$10 per column inch (minimum \$20).

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

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All advertising may be paid by using your VISA, MASTERCARD or DISCOVER credit cards; Cash or Check. Payment in advance is required in certain instances. Please place your ad early to allow payment to reach us before deadline. All credit card payments will have an additional charge of 3.75% added due to the high cost of credit card processing. We appreciate your understanding and thank you for your business.

CANCELLATIONS:

Deadline for cancellations is 5 p.m. on Mondays. Save your cancellation number in case an adjustment on your bill is necessary. Ads placed for only one week cannot be canceled.

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Advertisers should check the first insertion of their ad. The Neighborhood News cannot be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion. Upon noting an error, the advertiser should call the Advertising Department at (216) 441-2141. Adjustments are made to the degree the error reduced the value of the ad. Publisher shall not be liable for any costs or damages if for any reason it fails to publish an advertisement.

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Career Day at Holy Name



Shown here is one of the Holy Name students trying on the helmet of a Cleveland firefighter who talked to the youngsters about his profession.

On Friday, Feb. 21, professionals from various walks of life shared the story of their career choices with students of Holy Name Elementary School in Slavic Village.

Marcia Hatcher, principal, said the experience gave students exposure to different career possibilities and made them think about the academic paths needed to achieve them. "We are so grateful to all who participated," Hatcher said.

Holy Name Pastor Msgr. Richard Antall said the exposure to so many professions should stimulate the students to make better choices and take advantage of their studies at Holy Name.



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.

Bedford Reservation

March 1: Hike off the Winter Blues. The beginning of March can be a challenge for some as winter sticks around. Walk off those winter blues alongside a naturalist with a rigorous hike in and along the scenic and lush Tinker's Creek Gorge and search for early signs of spring! 10-11 a.m. Meet at Egbert Picnic Area. Terrain: Natural surface, hills, 3-4 miles, snow and ice possible.

March 7: Friday Hike to the Falls. Join a naturalist for a hike through the woodlands of Bedford Reservation to the edge of the Tinkers Creek Gorge. Along our hike we will point out some of the areas that were impacted by last summer's tornado. Depending on how much snow melt or rain we have had, we will get to see a hidden waterfall near the Lost Meadows picnic area. Wear sturdy shoes, the trail may be muddy or slippery. Hiking poles encouraged. 3-5 p.m. Meet at Egbert Picnic Shelter. Terrain: natural and paved surfaces, hills, 2-2.5 miles.

CanalWay Center – Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation

March 1-31: Hunt of the Month. Stop by CanalWay Center to find the hidden frogs and turtles as we prepare for spring. Find 20 paper frogs and turtles hidden inside

the center. Then go outside for a walk to our wetland to listen to frog calls and look for turtles basking in the sunshine. 9:30 a.m.- 5 p.m.

March 1: A Shot of Whiskey Island. Historical Interpreter Doug Kusak found answers to some of his nagging questions: Why is it called "Whiskey Island" if it's really a peninsula? How did Ohio get a salt mine while Cleveland got the shaft? If "Cuyahoga" means "crooked," why is the mouth of the river straight? What's going on at the former Coast Guard Station? Where are the Huletts? Who was Ed Hauser? This, and more, as we delve into the history and the mystery of our lakefront urban oasis. Join us for this indoor presentation at CanalWay Center. 2-4 p.m. Registration required: 20 people.

Garfield Park Reservation

March 4: Garfield Nature Kids. Monthly nature exploration at Garfield Park. Join us each month to discover the natural beauty of this reservation. We'll investigate a different nature topic through stories, outdoor exploration, and enjoy a delightful morning together. 10-11:15 a.m. Meet at Garfield Park Program Center. Ages 3-6 years w/adult. Terrain: paved and natural surface trails, 0.5 mile.

March 14: Waterfall & Springs Hike. Garfield Park preserves in time natural springs and a charming waterfall. Go a little off the beaten path with a naturalist to discover Garfield Heights' rugged and wild past. 3-5 p.m. Meet at Iron Springs Picnic Area. Terrain: natural surface, paved, hills, 3-4 miles.

March 21: Preschoolers: Hike with Me. Bring your preschooler out to Garfield Park Reservation to explore. We will have an adventure around the new pond area looking for signs of spring and tracks in the mud. This area was just completed in the fall and is a great place to enjoy a short walk with your family. We will meet just over the bridge at the Garfield Park Program Center. 10-11 a.m. Ages 2-6 years w/adult. Terrain: paved and natural trails, hills, about 1 mile.



UPCOMING Events

Non-profit organizations may print their upcoming events in The Neighborhood News at a cost of \$20 per week. Limit of 100 words or less. Email your information to: nnews1923@aol.com. Include contact name & phone number. Questions? Call 216.441.2141

HAVE AN EVENT YOU WANT TO ADVERTISE?

The Neighborhood News is distributed every Wednesday in South East Cleveland, Garfield Heights, Newburgh Heights, Cuyahoga Heights, Independence, Valley View, Maple Heights, Bedford and Bedford Heights

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Three Programs \$100

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Three Programs \$175

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LATIN Dance class MARCH

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