Councilman David Wingenfeld of Valley View passes away; council extends sympathy to family

The Village of Valley View Council met in its regular monthly session Jan. 5, the first meeting since the untimely death of Councilman David Wingenfeld on Dec. 17.

Mayor Jerry Piasecki said, “Dave was a devoted father, respected neighbor, esteemed councilman, dedicated village historian, hardworking farmer and conservationist, and most importantly a friend to so many.”

The mayor introduced Dan, Noah and Megan Wingenfeld, who read a letter about their dad and the projects he supported and wanted to see continued.

Council President Jeff Wyatt then presented a proclamation to the Wingenfeld family. Council appointed Ken Pytlak to fill the council vacancy left by Wingenfeld’s passing.

The following ordinances and resolutions were among those passed by council at the meeting:

- Authorizing the repayment of an advance of funds from the Special Assessment Bond Retirement Fund to the General Fund;
- Authorizing the repayment of an advance of funds from the Capital Projects Flood Mitigation Assistance 2017 Fund to the General Fund;
- Transferring funds from the General Fund to the Fire Pension Fund;
- Funding the full deductible of the Medical Mutual Supermed Plus HSA healthcare plan for all qualified full-time employees;
- Purchasing a Pierce Enforcer pumper for the Fire Department through state contract in an amount not to exceed $742,175;
- Accepting a storm water management and access easement for Ferguson Enterprises LLC at 5496 Cloverleaf Pkwy.

The following expenses were authorized by council:

- $8,169.51 to renew the maintenance program for three generators for three years through Generator Systems;
- $12,000 for a change order for the home at 6713 Canal Rd. due to a structural problem;
- $500 donation to the Cuyahoga Heights High School After Prom.

In other council business, Councilman Jeff Wyatt was elected council representative to the Planning Board for 2021. Councilman Matthew March was elected president pro-tem of council for 2021, and the mayor’s reappointment of Alan Sprague, Joe White, Mike Bertovich and Tony Fini to the Planning Board for one-year terms was accepted.

Also approved was the re-appointment of Rocco Casadonie, Doug Dyer and Jeff Gabel to the Recreation Board for two-year terms, and the appointment of Jeff Wyatt, Simon Caplan and Maria Eder to the EDG Committee for two-year terms.

Female Uber driver carjacked, assaulted on Oakview Blvd. in G.H.

A female Uber driver was carjacked and beat up last Friday night by four men on Oakview Blvd. in Garfield Heights.

Officers responded to a home in the 13700 block of Oakview Blvd. at 9:38 p.m., on a report of an assault and stolen car. They found the victim sitting on the front steps of the home appearing to be in a state of shock at what had happened.

She was taken by ambulance to Marymount Hospital where police were able to speak with her. She told them she was called to a home in the 5500 block of Cumberland Dr. to pick up four males via Uber. The men were described as being four young black males and wore medical masks. They directed her to Oakview Blvd., and while traveling eastbound on Oakview in her 2020 Kia Forte, the men began to attack her. They started punching her in the face and head while trying to choke her.

One of the men hopped in the front seat and started to hit her and tried to stop the car. At some point the rear doors opened and three of the men jumped out. The woman then floored the accelerator down the street and the male in the front seat with her was successful in stopping the car in the 13700 block of Oakview Blvd.

The men who had jumped out of the car caught up to the Kia, opened the driver’s door and threw the driver to the ground. The men all got in the Kia and drove away eastbound towards E. 139 St.

On Monday, Jan. 18, GHPD was notified that the stolen Kia was recovered by Cleveland police at E. 152 St. and Waterloo Rd. The car was not occupied and the keys were in the ignition. It was noted that the Kia had rear left end damage that appeared new. The GHPD Detective Bureau is following up.

Todd Bloam elected council president in Cuy. Hts.

The Village of Cuyahoga Heights Council met in regular session last Wednesday, Jan. 13, and nominated and approved Todd Bloam to serve as council president for 2021.

Also passed was the following legislation:

- Appointed Dean DePiero as magistrate for the village Mayor’s Court;
- Authorized a change order and change of scope for the Nieky Boulevard Storm Sewer Extension and Slope Stabilization Improvements Project, Phase II;
- Authorized the repayment of an advance of funds from the Special Assessment Bond Retirement Fund to the Demolition Program Cooperative Agreement with Cuyahoga County;
- Authorized a change order, change of scope and First Amendment to the development agreements regarding the Benjamin Moore Site Demolition and Redevelopment Project, Buildings 1, 2 and 3.

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98th YEAR NO. 18 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2021 PHONE: (216) 441-2141 • EMAIL: NNEWS1923@AOL.COM FREE
Cuyahoga SWCD hosts 2021 poster contest

Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) hosted a 2020 district poster contest for Cuyahoga County students themed “Where Would We Bee Without Pollinators.” First place students in each grade band level advanced to the state contest sponsored by the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Gianna Condelli, a student in Matt Lubin’s class at Mayfield Middle School, finished first in the 7th – 9th grade category at the state competition. Her poster is on its way to the national competition sponsored by the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) and the NACD Auxiliary. Ayden Gonzalez from Charles A Mooney School in Cleveland finished second at the state level in the 2nd-3rd grade category.

Cuyahoga SWCD is hosting a 2021 Poster Contest themed “Healthy Forests = Healthy Communities.” Students may begin posters on or after Tu B'Shevat, Thursday, Jan. 28, the day that marks the beginning of a “new year” for trees. Register classes online by Thursday, April 1, the beginning of Ohio Native Plant Month. Submission deadline is 6 p.m. on Arbor Day, Friday, April 30. Detailed instruction available at www.cuyahogaswcd.org – click on Events – January 28th.

Linking art and creative thinking with science, the poster contest provides K-12th grade students the chance to develop and share their thoughts and ideas about natural resource issues. Posters are submitted digitally and the topic can be explored virtually so the contest is a great remote learning experience. Students are encouraged to use the poster to creatively express their ideas on how conservation improves the environment.

County schools can request other tree-related programs from Cuyahoga SWCD. The Native Urban Tree Starters (NUTS) program, which directly and actively involves students in the process of restoring the tree canopy in Cuyahoga County, has lessons and activities for grades K-12. District educators can bring the free Project Plant It program to 3rd grade classes in late April to celebrate Earth Day, Arbor Day or Stewardship Week. Project Plant It provides free education materials for teachers and free tree seedlings and pollinator packets for students (while supplies last).

Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District’s mission is to implement programs and practices that protect and restore healthy soil and water resources. For more information regarding this contest, contact Jacki Zevenbergen, Stormwater Education Program Manager at 216/524-6580, ext. 1006 or jzevenbergen@cuyahogaswcd.org or visit website www.cuyahogaswcd.org.

Letters to the Editor

Marlene Ziel remembered

Today (Jan. 13), sadly, I attended the funeral at St. Columbkille in memory of Marlene Ziel. Attended with my husband, Keith Kish. Dave Ziel, Marlene’s oldest son, and Keith are friends.

After the funeral I stood in the parking lot, so far and distanced, listening to many of Dave’s childhood friends that Marlene had an impact on. She had an impact on so many! Fun stories of Marlene’s laugh and larger than life interest in others!

At a normal wake, in a normal year, the lines would have gone around the building to show support for Marlene’s family and as a tribute to the amazing woman she was during her lifetime.

I feel a bit cheated for the family and friends... COVID, a thief in the night.

It is an honor that the athletic scholarship at Garfield Heights has been renamed (see Editor’s Note below). A small tribute to Marlene’s amazing life well lived!

Robin Kish

Twinsburg, Ohio

(Editor’s Note: The Garfield Heights Athletic Booster Club has made the decision to change the name of their $1,000 college scholarship to the “Marlene Ziel Forever a Bulldog Scholarship.”)

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YEAR IN REVIEW

What happened in 2020
(If anyone wants to remember it)

Here are some of the highlights of the year 2020, as seen through the eyes of The Neighborhood News.

JANUARY

- The first day of the new year was a good one for North Broadway resident Betts Skrha, who celebrated her 90th birthday that day. It was pre-COVID, so friends and family gathered at Bonefish Grill in Independence to celebrate her big day.

- The Federal Bureau of Investigation partnered with local, state and federal law enforcement under a new initiative to tackle crime in seven of the country’s most violent cities, including Cleveland.

(Continued on Page 6)
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Auction #1: Located across from Orange High School. Cuyahoga County Parcel #872880.
Auction #2: Cuyahoga County Parcel #7613-09-039.
STARTS: JANUARY 29, 2021 – 11:00 AM
ENDS: FEBRUARY 2, 2021 – 11:00 AM
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Bedford Heights, OH
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Live and Online Bidding Available
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TERMS ON REAL ESTATE: 20% down auction day, balance due at closing. A 20% buyer’s premium will be added to the highest bid to establish the purchase price. Any desired inspections must be made prior to bidding. All information contained herein was derived from sources believed to be correct. Information is believed to be accurate but not guaranteed.
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Cuyahoga Heights, was sworn in before the Feb. 12 village
new location at 6304 Fleet Ave.
from its original site at E. 71 St. and Broadway Ave., to its
Hastings in 2017. On Feb. 11, the shop was relocated
Haney, sold the company to longtime employee Kelly
Floral transitioned ownership as longtime owner, Drew
Jones, Sr., of the Eighth District Court of Appeals.
• Newburgh Heights Council, at its January meeting,
hired former Independence Mayor Anthony Togliatti to
serve the village as economic development director.

FEBRUARY
• With a 60-year history in the neighborhood, Vic's
Floral transitioned ownership as longtime owner, Drew
Haney, sold the company to longtime employee Kelly
Hastings in 2017. On Feb. 11, the shop was relocated
from its original site at E. 71 St. and Broadway Ave., to its
new location at 6304 Fleet Ave.
• Kelli Jachym, the first full-time female police officer in
Cuyahoga Heights, was sworn in before the Feb. 12 village
council meeting.
• Donato “Danny” F. Deliberato, 81, owner and opera-
tor of Golubski Deliberato Funeral Home since 1970,
passed away on Feb. 13.
• At its annual State of the City address on Feb. 13,
Bedford City Manager Michael Mallis announced that
council had given its okay this month to explore a
complete redevelopment of the parking lot space behind
Bedford Commons and the train station, complete with a
shelter, greenspace, skating rink/spray pad, children’s
interactive area and more.
• Garfield Heights mourned the loss of Parks & Recre-
ation Director Bob Dobies, who died unexpectedly on
Feb. 19.
• The city of Garfield Heights presented a Black History
Celebration on Feb. 19, at the Garfield Heights Center for
the Performing Arts, with guest speaker Judge Larry A.
Jones, Sr., of the Eighth District Court of Appeals.
• The mayors of Bedford, Garfield Heights and Bedford
collaborated on a regional “first,” to present the 2020
Multi-city Black History Month program at the Perform-
ing Arts Center on Feb. 21, directed by Janice Tubbs and
hosted by FOX 8’s Wayne Dawson.
• On Feb. 23, the lady butchers from Saucisson on Fleet
Ave. in Slavic Village, Penny Barend and Melissa Khoury,
were featured on the Food Network show “Beat Bobby
Flay.” The show pits two chefs against each other to see
who then takes on Bobby Flay. Barend, representing the
team, beat the former Iron Chef of the Food Network on
his own show!

MARCH
• St. Patrick’s Day was celebrated throughout The Neigh-
borhood News area on March 17, with Kegs & Eggs at the
49 Street Tavern in Cuyahoga Heights, a car wash grand
opening at Gas USA at Harvard and E. 71 St., and corned
beef, corned beef and more corned beef at American
Legion Post 309, Chris’ Family Restaurant, Gabor’s Deli,
K&K Meats, Red Chimney and Fleet Deli.
• By the NN issue of March 18, the COVID-19 pandemic
had reared its ugly head, canceling the annual Ice Show in
Garfield Heights and the Slavic Village Neighborhood
Summit. City municipal buildings were closed through-
out the area, public meetings began to be scheduled
virtually and all publicly celebrated Masses/liturgies were
suspended by the bishops of Ohio. The state has man-
dated Stay at Home orders for all Ohio residents whose
jobs are deemed “non-essential.”
• Although impacted by Gov. Mike DeWine’s ordered
closing of businesses such as restaurants, banks, city halls,
libraries, etc., in light of the pandemic, The Neighbor-
hood News is considered "essential" and continues to
publish during these trying times and urged readers to
access the newspaper online if at all possible for everyone’s
safety until the crisis is over.
• As sure as spring follows winter, the Ohio & Erie Canal
in Valley View will overflow its banks onto Canal Rd. And
that’s exactly what it did from a downpour on March 29.
Sections of the nearby Towpath Trail in the Cuyahoga
National Park also flooded that day and were forced to
close.

APRIL
• All Roman Catholic churches in Ohio were closed to
the public for Masses at least through Easter Sunday. Holy
Communion, confessions, weddings and funerals are
happening but with minimal attendance and only in
cases of dire need. All schools are closed.
• The Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Manage-
ment announced the opening of a donation collection
point in Newburgh Heights in response to the COVID-19
pandemic. Items needed include N95 masks, surgical
masks, isolation gowns, eye protection, face shields,
nitrile gloves, disinfecting wipes and hand sanitizer.
• Garfield Heights Mayor Vic Collova confirms that
plans for a business park at City View are in place and the
deal is very close to being finalized.
• Xellia Pharmaceuticals received approval from the
Food and Drug Administration to begin manufacturing
drug products at its plant in Bedford, the former Ben
Venue Laboratories facility on Northfield Rd.
• Giant Eagle at City View ended its in-store customer
business on April 17 and converted into a curbside
pickup-delivery only store.

(Continued on Page 7)
YEAR IN REVIEW

(Continued from Page 6)

The Easter Bunny hopped over to the turnaround outside the Independence Civic Center on April 11, where he handed out goodie bags in a drive-through event for residents who had registered their children for the event. There was no bunny breakfast and Kiwanis egg hunt this year in Independence due to the pandemic.

The Presidential Primary election in Ohio was extended to Tuesday, April 28, for absentee voting by mail only.

MAY

On May 6, James F. Zastawnik of Indiana Ave., in Slavic Village, was arrested for the 1987 murder of Barbara Blatnik of Garfield Heights, based on new evidence provided through advancements in DNA technology. The 17-year-old’s nude body was found on Dec. 20, 1987, alongside a narrow access road that leads into Blossom Music Center. Zastawnik still awaits trial.

The Diocese of Cleveland announced that the celebration of weekday Masses will resume on May 25, to prepare for the public celebration of Pentecost Sunday the weekend of May 30-31.

Although the 2020 Slavic Village Neighborhood Summit was cancelled due to the pandemic, SVD announced the following awards this year to those who have made Slavic Village a better place to live and work: Cheryl and Don Grau, Donna Smith, Jerry Bieda, Councilman Tony Brancatelli, Walter Hyde, Matt Cawley, Odetta Fields, Meeka Compton, Pastor Albert Lewis and Marnetta Bridget-Lewis.

JUNE

Lennard Duncan, 41, was sentenced to up to 25 ½ years in prison for causing the death of a woman, 52, and injuring three others in a Thanksgiving Eve car crash last year at E. 55 St. and Broadway Ave.

At its June 9 meeting, Independence Council voted to expand outside restaurant seating and hired an added law firm in the “traffic ticket quotas” lawsuit.

Maple Heights Council approved legislation to enter into an agreement with Akron-based GOJO Industries for a Job Creation and Retention Program Grant. The manufacturer will be investing about $25 million to produce sanitizing products in a facility in Maple Heights and create 100 jobs.

Garfield Heights Police Chief Robert Byrne submitted his notice of retirement from the city’s police department on June 18, following media reports of a violent arrest incident on Turney Rd. Although supporting the officers involved in the incident, Byrne said that many want changes in police departments across America as well as Garfield Heights, and he does not believe he is the best person to instill that change.

Giant Eagle at City View resumed regular operations and opened for public shopping after serving for pick-up only since April.

JULY

All Cuyahoga County Public Library branches will reopen for public access on July 6, in addition to the current curbside and drive-through service.

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine announced that the Ohio Department of Health issued an order that effective July 8, face coverings in public are mandated for all counties that are designated Red Level 3 Public Health Emergency Alert, which includes Cuyahoga County.

On July 29, the Cuyahoga County land bank began demolition of the former St. Peter Chanel Catholic High School building in Bedford to make way for future use by the current owner, the Bedford City School District.

The Cleveland Fire Department rescued a man near drowning who was trapped underneath Mill Creek Falls on July 29, using a rope for help with the steep incline.

AUGUST

Legendary Cleveland meteorologist Dick Goddard passed away on Aug. 4. He emceed the Kids’ Dog Show in Garfield Heights for many years and was a special guest at the opening of the Cuyahoga County Animal Shelter in Valley View.

As students in the NN area begin the school year, most are working from home with online learning. Some schools are offering a hybrid program with a mix of online and in-person learning.

Garfield Heights Mayor Vic Collova announced on Aug. 26, that he will not seek another term as mayor in the 2021 election.

Free Health Care Clinic

Medworks will host a free Virtual Health Care Clinic this Saturday, Jan. 23, from 8 a.m. to noon, by appointment only for individuals 18 and older.

Services offered virtually will include general health, mental health, lung health, women’s health, stomach and digestion, joint pain and inflammation, free prescriptions and delivery, insurance assistance and community resources.

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Jones Road Church
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(216) 893-8572
Sunday Service: 11:00 a.m.
Pastor: Jeff Bodeans

St. Monica Church
13623 Rocky River Rd, Garfield Heights
Pastor: Rev. Thomas Horn
Parish Mass is now being Live Streamed at
9:00 a.m. on Sunday morning
**CLEVELAND**

**Motor Vehicle Crash**

On Jan. 13, at 9:35 p.m., a car crash occurred at E. 64 St. and Harvard Ave. with the vehicle hitting a pole. A 35-year-old male was transported to MetroHealth Medical Center with serious injuries.

**Bomb Squad Called**

On Jan. 13, (time not noted), the Bomb Squad responded to the 4500 block of Turney Rd. Item rendered safe.

**GARFIELD HEIGHTS**

**Theft of Motor Vehicle**

On Jan. 13, at approximately 6:45 p.m., an officer was dispatched to System Seals, Inc. at 9505 Midwest Ave. The complainant told the officer she had arrived back at the above location after lunch at approximately 1:30 p.m. She said her car keys must have "fallen out of her pockets" and remained in the vehicle. Her 2021 black Kia Seltos is seen in security footage leaving the area with what appears to be two men inside at 6:03 p.m. The auto was entered as stolen into L.E.A.D.S.

**Theft from Auto**

On Jan. 14, at about 8:10 p.m., police spoke with a woman living in the 9800 block of Plymouth Ave. regarding a theft from automobile complaint. She said between midnight and 6 a.m., her husband’s vehicle was broken into by an unknown person. She said that the vehicle was accidentally left unlocked and she is the one who drives the vehicle daily. She reported that two First Progress credit cards and $20 were taken from the vehicle.

**Noise**

On Jan. 14, shortly before midnight, officers responded to the 10900 block of McCracken Rd. for a report of loud music in the area. They observed a vehicle parked on a front lawn with the car radio blaring and a male inside screaming. He was escorted to the patrol vehicle parked on the street. After he was secured, an officer heard a commotion with police dealing with other people from the house. A male was screaming repeatedly that he was going to “beat every officers ass.” The man was advised that he was under arrest. After a short struggle an officer pulled out his Taser and activated it. The man then complied and yelled not to Tase him. The Taser was not deployed and officers were then able to get him into custody and secure him in a patrol vehicle. Upon arrival at the jail both parties were loud and uncooperative. The first male was arrested for obstructing official business, menacing and issued a summons for loud music. The second male was arrested for menacing and resisting arrest.

**Call Crime Stoppers with anonymous tips**

Crime Stoppers encourages members of the community to assist local law enforcement agencies in the fight against crime.

Crime Stoppers provides an anonymous telephone number, Text Tips and Web Tips to encourage citizens to volunteer vital information helpful to law enforcement agencies. By offering anonymity and cash rewards for information leading to indictment or arrests, the program encourages otherwise reluctant callers to provide information.

The 24/7 hotline number, 216-252-7463, allows the caller to remain anonymous. The phone does not have a caller ID function and calls are not recorded.

Those with information can also text TIP657 plus your message to 274637, or can submit information online at www.25ct ime.com.

**Lourdes University grad**

Congratulations to Garfield Heights resident Garrett Carter, who was awarded a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies at Lourdes University in Sylvania, OH.