K-9 officer joins GHPD

By Judith Goldsworth

In an effort to address an issue which City Manager Mike Mallis said has been going on for some time, Bedford Council last week approved legislation to impose a $1,000 fine per violation on railroad companies when their trains stop on tracks and stall traffic in the city, especially inhibiting safety vehicles from responding to emergency situations.

The legislation, which amends an existing ordinance, states: “No railroad company shall obstruct... a public street, road or highway by permitting a railroad car, locomotive or other obstruction to remain upon or across it for longer than five minutes, to the hindrance or inconvenience of travelers or a person passing along or upon such street, road or highway.”

The legislation also states, as did before, that at the end of each five-minute period of obstruction, “each railroad company shall cause such railroad car... or other obstruction to be removed for sufficient time, not less than three minutes, to allow the passage of persons and vehicles waiting to cross.”

While circumstances "wholly beyond the control of the railroad company" are excluded from penalty, the provisions within the ordinance do apply to other obstructions, including those caused by stopped trains and trains engaged in switching, loading or unloading operations.

The amendment to the legislation states that whoever violates the ordinance is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, and will be fined $1,000. If there is a response by the police department or the fire department resulting from a violation of this ordinance, the railroad company may be charged a civil fee of $1,000 per violation by the safety director, which will be imposed for hindering fire, ambulance and police vehicles’ ability to respond to emergency calls in a timely manner.

If the fines are not paid within 30 days of the mailing of notice, the amounts will be placed as liens upon the property owner’s taxes, in this case, the railroad companies, according to the legislation.

During his report at last week’s meeting, Mallis stated, “For the last few months we have had some significant issues with the railroads, specifically Norfolk Southern Railroad, stopping on the tracks. We have been working tirelessly trying to get this resolved.”

Construction news

Council passed a resolution that was added to last week’s agenda requesting Cuyahoga County to proceed with resurfacing of Union Street, including construction and construction supervision of sanitary and storm sewer repairs, traffic sign upgrades, multi-use path and associated work within the city. Council had passed legislation a few months ago to go ahead with the Union Street work, Mallis said, and in the time since, more funding had become available to be used towards sewer repairs.

Mallis said a small portion of the project came out of the city’s budget to extend the way over from Broadway to Northfield. “There needs to be some substantial sewer repairs done, so we are going to be investing about $320,000,” he said.

“The good news is that last week we applied for funding through Issue 2, which is funding for large capital projects,” Mallis said a small portion of the project came out of the city’s budget to extend the way over from Broadway to Northfield. “There needs to be some substantial sewer repairs done, so we are going to be investing about $320,000,” he said.

“The good news is that last week we applied for funding through Issue 2, which is funding for large capital projects.”

Bedford to fine railroads for stopping trains on tracks

New K-9 officer Echo and his police handler, Tim Baon, were present at Monday night’s meeting of Garfield Heights City Council for swearing-in ceremonies by Mayor Matt Burke. Burke, Echo and Baon are shown from left in the photo above, taken by Wendy Walters.

The following legislation was passed at Monday night’s council meeting:

• An emergency resolution adopting the tax budget of the city of Garfield Heights for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2022, showing detailed estimates of all balances that will be available at the beginning of the fiscal year 2022, and all revenues, costs, percentages, penalties, allowances, prerequisites and all other types of classes of revenue, and estimates of all expenditures for submission to the Cuyahoga County Budget Commission;

• An emergency ordinance authorizing the city engineer to prepare the necessary plans and specifications to competitively bid for the Multi-Street Reconstruction & Waterline Replacement Project – Phase 6, and authorizing the payment of costs for this project, which will be funded through the city of Garfield Heights, the Cleveland Water Department and an Ohio Public Works Commission Loan Program;

• An ordinance authorizing the sale and disposal of municipally owned property which has been determined to be no longer needed for municipal purposes, including various police equipment, bodycams and lockers.
Red Cross urgently seeking blood donors

While donors across the country have rolled up their sleeves to give this summer, the need for blood and platelets remains crucial for patients relying on lifesaving transfusions. The American Red Cross continues to experience a severe blood shortage and donors of all blood types—especially type O and those giving platelets—are urged to make an appointment to give now.

To thank donors who help refill the blood and platelet supply this month, all who come to give July 7-31 will receive a $10 Amazon.com Gift Card via email and will also receive automatic entry for a chance to win gas for a year, a $5,000 value. More information and details are available at rcblood.org/fuel.

Schedule an appointment to give blood or platelets by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App (visit RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

Local donor opportunities

Independence
7/26/2021: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Independence Community Center, 6363 Selig Dr.

US Bank to close one of its Garfield Heights locations

In a letter to customers dated July 9, US Bank at 5007 Turney Rd., Garfield Heights, said bank officials have made the decision to permanently close this branch office, which had been temporarily closed.

“Understanding that customers’ banking preferences and behaviors are changing, we continue to adapt how and where we operate,” the letter stated. “As a result, we have made the decision to close this location permanently.”

The US Bank branch at 5695 Turney Rd., Garfield Heights, will continue to remain open.

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Bedford to fine railroads  
(Continued from Page 1)  
projects, and we were approved,” Mallis said. “So we are  
going to get some funding for the city’s portion of Union  
Street.”  
Council passed an ordinance at last week’s meeting  
authorizing Mallis to enter into a contract with Vandra  
Brothers Construction Inc., in reference to the 2021 Road  
Improvement Program, to include the alternate bid for  
Nordham Drive repairs and resurfacing, in the amount of  
$216,027.50, but not to exceed $248,000, including  
construction inspection, engineering fees, remobilization  
and traffic maintenance.  
Council approved an ordinance amending existing  
legislation authorizing Mallis to enter into a contract with  
Allied Door Systems LLC, for a second set of touch-free  
automotive doors at the west and east ends of the Ellenwood  
Recreation Center, at a cost of $20,785.  
Council also passed the following ordinances: to accept  
the proposal of J.D. Striping and Service Inc. for longline  
striping of streets in Bedford at a cost of $24,965.50; to  
amend existing legislation to designate Huntington Bank,  
US Bank, PNC Bank, and First National Bank to be  
designated as public depositories for active and interim  
funds of the city for the period from Aug. 23, 2021-Aug.  
22, 2026; and to amend the previous appropriations  
ordinance to make additional appropriations for current  
expenditures in 2021.  
New officer sworn in  
Mayor Stan Koci swore in Savannah Selden as the  
Bedford Police Department’s newest officer at last week’s  
meeting.  
Council approved appointing Ceteria Williams to the  
Planning Commission, Bryon Hood to the Board of  
Zoning and Appeals, reappointing Lynette Speights to  
the Board of Zoning and Appeals and reappointing John  
Trzeciak to the Board of Zoning and Appeals.  
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Also approved was a motion to approve the Planning  
Commission’s decision to accept a conditional use  
approval to Asia Love of Bedford Heights, to use existing  
tenant space at 635 Broadway Ave., Bedford, to provide  
makeup and skincare services to clients.  
Police cameras installed  
Mallis also referenced in his report council’s previous  
support of the purchase of body cameras and dash cams  
for all officers and all vehicles in the city’s police depart- 
ment. Legislation to purchase the cameras was approved  
by council earlier this year.  
“The body cameras were installed about a week and a  
half ago, and last week we installed all of the dash cams,”  
Mallis said. “I think it’s good for the public, and it’s good  
for the department, and thank you, council, for approv- 
ing this as part of the budget process,” Mallis stated.  
Announcements  
Hours at the municipal pool have been extended, as well  
as the Learn to Swim Program, Mallis said, encouraging  
interested residents to visit the city’s website for more  
details.  
The Bedford Rotary Club will be hosting a “Welcome  
Back” Rib Burn-Off in downtown Bedford the weekend of  
Friday, July 23, through Sunday, July 25, Finance Direc- 
tor Frank Gambosi stated.  
The same weekend as the Burn-Off, the Bedford Down- 
town Alliance will host a “Christmas in July” celebration,  
on Saturday, July 24, Councilman Jeff Asbury reported.  
Samuel Fye  
Samuel Fye, age 84, passed away on  
Saturday, July 10, 2021, at his resi- 
dence surrounded by his loving fam- 
ily. He was born on June 2, 1937.  
He is survived by his loving wife,  
Nordean (nee Kelly); children, Debbie  
Kramer, Sam Fye, Jr., and Linda Hukill  
and Bryan Bartlebaugh.  
Samuel was a loving grandfather, great-grandfather and  
loving brother to many. He was preceded in death by his  
son, Terry Fye and daughter, Cindy Fye.  
Family and friends are welcome on Wednesday, July 14,  
2021, from 5 p.m. until the  
time of closing prayers at 7:30 p.m. at Bican Bros. Funeral  
Home, 5215 Fleet Ave., Cleve- 
land, Ohio 44105.
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Robbery

On July 9, an officer was dispatched to the Subway restaurant at 12598 Rockside Rd., for a report of an armed robbery in progress. According to employees and witnesses, a male entered the Subway at about 1:45 p.m. and walked over to the cash register and ordered employees to open it and give him the money inside. After receiving the cash the suspect fled on foot in an unknown direction. Detective Bureau responded to scene. Owner of Subway working on obtaining surveillance footage.

Theft from Auto

• On July 10, police spoke with a complainant who reported that between 10 p.m. on July 9, and 9:25 a.m. on July 10, someone broke the front driver’s window on her car parked in the 12300 block of Park Knoll Ave. and stole the firearm from her purse, a black Taurus G2 9mm. The gun was entered into LEADS as stolen.

• On July 10, police spoke with a complainant who stated that on that day, between midnight and 7 a.m., persons unknown entered his unlocked vehicle parked in the 5200 block of E. 126 St., and took his title, registration, insurance card and some CDs from the glove box.

Traffic Offense – Fleeing

On July 10, shortly before 1 a.m., an officer observed a grey Ford Fusion traveling north on Turney Rd. approaching Parkview Ave. without headlights on. He pulled the car over but as he approached it the vehicle fled. The police car pursued the fleeing car, which collided with a BMW on Broadway Ave. in Cleveland, near the Broadway/Miles/Warner intersection. Two males exited the Ford and took off west down Broadway. The BMW driver exited his vehicle while hystereically screaming, ran across the street and fell into the grass. He was not badly injured but was upset about his car being totaled and was taken to Hillcrest for care. One of the suspects was badly injured but was upset about his car being totaled and was taken to Hillcrest for care. One of the suspects was badly injured but was upset about his car being totaled and was taken to Hillcrest for care.

Call Crime Stoppers with 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.25crime.com.
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COMMUNITY FLEA MARKET
The City of Garfield Heights is having an outdoor Community Flea Market from 9 a.m.
to 2 p.m., Saturday, July 17 at the Civic Center, 5407 Turney Road. The Garfield Heights
Historical Society will be open for tours and volunteers will be selling ice cream
during the event. Cost for space is $10 (table provided) or $5 (bring your own table).
Registration forms are available at the Garfield Heights Civic Center and at
www.garfieldheights.org. Completed forms should be returned with payment to Pat Salani
at the Civic Center. Call 216-476-1000, ext. 2423 for information.

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'ROOMS TO LET' EVENT TAKES NEW DIRECTION THIS YEAR

The Broadway-E. 55th intersection in Slavic Village became an impromptu art exhibit last weekend as the business district became the backdrop for the stylings of over 40 artists participating and 15 musical acts performing, in conjunction with the annual Garden Walk throughout Cleveland. The exterior art will stay in place for up to two years and the interior art for about a month, stretching down Broadway from McBride to Blanche avenes. The annual event is sponsored by Slavic Village Development and has attracted thousands of visitors to the area over the past seven years. Photos by Elena Psenicka

Garfield Heights
United Methodist Church
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Garfield Heights
Sunday Worship at 10:30am
Rev. David Own, Pastor

Greater Holy Ghost
Missionary Baptist Church
12310 Miles Avenue, Cleveland, 44105
Services 11:30 am Sundays
Rev. Robinson Cornish, Pastor

Jones Road Church
8000 Jones Rd., Cleveland, 44105
(216) 883-8572
Sunday Service: 11:00 a.m.
Jeff Rudzisny, Pastor

The Lutheran Church of the Covenant
19000 Libby Rd., Maple Heights, Ohio
(216) 662-0370

St. Monica Church
13623 Rockside Road
Garfield Heights, 216-862-8685
Pastor: Rev. Thomas Haves
Parish Mass is now being
Live Streamed at
9:00 a.m. on Sunday morning
Home repair resources available for Maple Hts. residents, director reports at council meeting

By Judith Goldsworth

Maple Heights officials are always working to make residents aware of home repair resources available to them, and also are working to make new home repair resources available in the city, Economic Development Director Patrick Grogan-Myers stated in his report to city council at its meeting last week.

He said the city is still taking applications for the 2021 “Paint The City” program, which offers residents the opportunity to receive a voucher for painting supplies.

Grogan-Myers said that more information about the program is available at www.citymapleheights.com/paintprogram/ or by calling the Department of Housing at 216-507-9032. Applications are available on the website as well as the Building Department’s customer service counter and the Department of Housing at Maple Heights City Hall, 5553 Lee Rd.

Grogan-Myers also reported that the city partners with the Cleveland Housing Network Housing Capital to make home repair loans available to Maple Heights residents.

“The home repair funds have gone quickly, so there is a wait list of 13 applications - over $200,000 in home repairs - waiting for additional funding. We will continue our advocacy work to support the funding of these very important programs,” he said.

Housing market improving

“The city’s housing market continues to out-perform recent months and years,” Grogan-Myers stated, explaining that in June 2021 there were more than 40 buyers and sellers acting independently with a median sales price of more than $80,000.

He said June 2021 was another strong month for permits with the Building Department collecting almost $67,800 in permit fees, registration fees and plan review fees, over $9,000 more than was collected in June 2020, and over $27,000 more than what was collected in June 2019.

A total of 178 building permits were issued last month, he said, with work under those permits valued at over $3.8 million.

Hazelwood Ct. legislation approved

At last week’s meeting, council approved legislation authorizing Mayor Annette Blackwell, on behalf of the Maple Heights Land Reutilization Program, to enter into an amended agreement to sell real estate with PIRHL Acquisitions, LLC, to construct Hazelwood Court, an age-restricted senior housing facility off Broadway Ave. between Dalewood and Waterbury avenes.

Grogan-Myers stated that since the May announcement that the project had been awarded Low Income Housing Tax Credits, PIRHL has been hard at work to move the project forward. He said in the coming weeks public meetings will be announced to share details and drawings concerning the project to give residents an idea of what Hazelwood Court will look like.

Other legislation on agenda

Also passed by Maple Heights Council was a resolution authorizing a second change order for Metis Construction Service, increasing the contract by $119,401.50 for the new Vestibule and Elevator Addition Project at City Hall.

In correspondence to council on the need for changes to the construction, City Engineer Ed Hren stated, “The good news is that the city was recently notified that it has been awarded $150,000 under the 2021 Community Development Block Grant Program and $50,000 under the 2021 Community Development Supplemental Grant Program,” to fund the additional work, which will include improvements in accessibility per the Americans With Disabilities Act.

Also approved was a resolution authorizing Blackwell to modify the grant agreement with the Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA) to provide funding for the construction of an outdoor fitness network with security cameras in Stafford Park.

The ODSA had approved the release of $58,000 from its General Revenue Fund to be used for the “sprayground” at the city pool, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the city chose not to open the sprayground for the 2021 season. Subsequently, the ODSA approved modifying the grant agreement for the $58,000 in funding to be used for the fitness network, including security cameras for the park.

Council also approved a resolution for Blackwell to enter into a Master Cooperation Agreement with Cuyahoga County for pavement preventive maintenance services on Warrensville Center Rd., an ordinance to adopt the alternative tax budget information for the fiscal year beginning Jan. 1, 2022, and a resolution requesting that the county fiscal officer advance taxes and assessments from the proceeds of tax levies for fiscal year 2022.

Two resolutions to sell unimproved city-owned residential lots to separate property owners on Rockside Rd. and Hollywood Ave., were approved by unanimous consent. The property owners stated their interest in using the properties as side yards.

A motion on last week’s agenda by council to approve Law Director Frank Consolo’s appointment of Marlene J. Ridenour as assistant prosecutor/assistant law director for the city was unanimously passed. Ridenour will replace Christine Lourdric, who resigned effective at the end of this month.