

# The Ward 17 Dispatch

Councilman Charles J. Slife | Summer 2023



Engage with Councilman  
**CHARLES J. SLIFE**



## A Message from Councilman Charles Slife

**Happy Summer, Ward 17!** There are so many great ways to enjoy the warm weather in West Park, whether you're visiting a city park, sitting on a front porch, or grabbing lunch on a local patio!

These newsletters are an opportunity to keep you up to speed on some of the great things happening in our beautiful corner of Cleveland. Be sure to follow **West Park Kamm's Neighborhood Development** on social media, or check out their website, for more information on new businesses, exciting projects, and fun events.

City Council does not hold its regular meetings during the summer months, which gives me extra time to focus on resident engagement and champion key neighborhood projects. Notably, years of advocacy on behalf of **Gunning pool** is paying off (more details in this newsletter.) But wait, there's more to come! City Council recently passed legislation earmarking

**\$750,000 towards a new playground at Impett Park** and we have our eyes set on raising even more to create the amazing playground our kids deserve!

Lastly, while you're out and about this summer, watch out for construction vehicles working on street resurfacing. **Ward 17's street resurfacing program will repair 11 streets this season at a price of nearly \$1.7 million**, 250% of what was originally budgeted. And for all of you who love visiting the valley, Old Lorain Road is included in this group! Many more streets in Ward 17 need to be resurfaced and this is a big leap forward as we play catch up.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and I look forward to seeing you in the neighborhood!!

**Charles J. Slife**  
Councilman, Ward 17

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WEB [clevelandcitycouncil.org/ward-17](http://clevelandcitycouncil.org/ward-17)

## Gunning Recreation Center Updates

### New Pool Coming to Gunning

This fall, construction begins on a completely NEW indoor pool at Gunning Rec:

- New pool basin, pool deck, and drainage
- All new pool mechanical equipment
- New chlorine service and storage
- New piping serving the pool

Thank you to everyone who joined me in advocating for reinvestment in this great West Park asset!



### Cavs and City of Cleveland Unveil Newly Refurbished Gymnasium at Gunning

The Cleveland Cavaliers and The City of Cleveland officially unveiled their latest refurbished gymnasium on May 10th, hosting a grand opening celebration at Gunning Recreation Center. The refurbished multi-purpose gym features two full-size basketball courts, a full-size volleyball court, and pickleball courts.



SERVING THE WEST PARK, KAMM'S CORNERS & PURITAS NEIGHBORHOODS

## OUR SCHOOLS

# Douglas MacArthur Academy



Douglas MacArthur Academy is one of CMSD's five public K-8 schools in Ward 17. Unique among the neighborhood's K-8's, it is an all-girls' school that uses research-based educational strategies geared towards the ways girls learn best, helping young women become competent, confident, and compassionate leaders.

Douglas MacArthur Academy offers a full day pre-Kindergarten program as well as an extended school day and year to maximize academic instruction, on a campus setting next to Davinwood Park on Valleyside Road. Its staff is compassionate and qualified, with 98% of educators holding master's degrees. Students also receive a personal iPad through the Verizon Innovative Learning Schools Program.

Visit Douglas MacArthur at 4401 Valleyside Road or call 216-838-8400 if you are interested in considering it for your daughter or a young woman in your life. CMSD is currently enrolling students for all of its schools, which can be done online at [clevelandmetroschools.org](http://clevelandmetroschools.org).

# Our First Responders

**Rank/Name:**  
Captain Pam Beavers

**Year you joined Cleveland EMS:**  
I joined Cleveland EMS in 1996.

**Why did you become a paramedic?:** I decided to become a paramedic after a very close family friend told me that the City of Cleveland had a new (paid) training program and were accepting applications for EMT/Paramedic training. I told her "no", because I was in college for another health care occupation and wasn't sure I could be a paramedic. She challenged me, saying I was smarter than she was in school and she knew I could do it. I'm grateful I accepted her challenge!

**Favorite part of the job:** My favorite part of my job is knowing I make a difference every day that I work. I have always been a Cleveland resident, which strengthens my resolve to assist the patients EMS serves and share life-saving information with visitors, colleagues, and employees.

**What do you enjoy doing when off-shift:** I enjoy crafts, sewing, decorating, traveling, reading and most of all, quality time with my family.



Captain Pam Beavers

**Can you give us a health tip?:** Understand that the only thing that truly belongs to you is your health. Either you take care of it or it will take care of you. Please invest in a healthy lifestyle!



## Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost warns of SCAMS TARGETING OHIOANS



### Computer Repair Scams

An "employee" of a computer company contacts you claiming your computer has a virus and offers to "fix the problem." The person asks for access to your computer, which allows the scammer to install malicious software designed to scan your computer for personal information or to lock your computer so that you cannot use it until you pay a "ransom" to unlock it.

### Fake Check Scams

Someone sends you a check or money order and asks you to deposit it in your account and wire-transfer back the money, minus a nice bonus for you — a "thank you" for helping. Regardless of the pitch, the result is the same: The check or money order you received is counterfeit; it will be returned to your bank unpaid, and the full amount will be deducted from your account.

### Phishing and Spoofing

Scammers use clever emails, websites, phone calls and text messages to "phish" for information by posing as a legitimate business. Never give personal information to someone who contacts you unexpectedly, even if they say they are from a trusted business, such as your bank. Scammers can use "spoofing" to disguise the phone number that appears on your caller ID to make their plays seem more legitimate.

### Romance Scams

A con artist meets a victim online or over the phone and claims to be temporarily located overseas — perhaps due to a military assignment or mission trip. After developing a relationship, the scammer eventually asks the victim to send money to pay for airfare, medical expenses or military fees. In reality, there was never "true love," and any money sent will be lost.

### Home Improvement Scams

Door-to-door contactors offer to repair your roof, pave your driveway or trim your trees for a great price. After you pay, the contractor disappears after doing a poor job or no work at all. Never pay in full upfront. If you are solicited at your home, you have three days to cancel the contract, and the work should not begin within that period.

### Grandparent Scam

A con artist poses as your grandchild, claims to be in trouble and asks you to send money via wire transfer or prepaid card. If you're suspicious, ask a question only a family member would know how to answer; also, call your son or daughter to confirm the claim.

### Sweepstakes Scams

Someone falsely claims that you have won the lottery or a contest that you never entered. All you need to do to collect the winnings is prepay a fee or a tax. However, your winnings will never arrive because the lottery or contest is fake. Legitimate sweepstakes are free and require no upfront payment.

### Phony Charities

Scammers invent fake charities. To verify the legitimacy of a charitable group before making a donation, call the Ohio Attorney General's Help Center at **800-282-0515**.



## Tips for AVOIDING SCAMS

### ALWAYS:

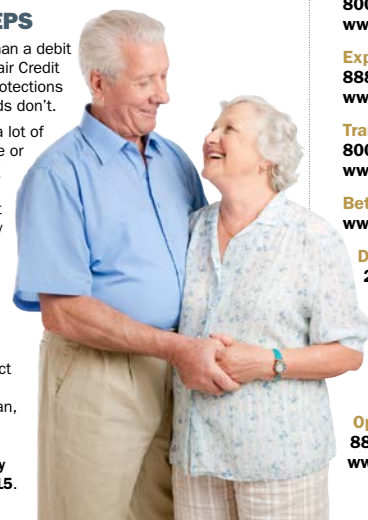
- » Be skeptical when someone requests immediate payment via wire transfer, prepaid money card or gift card.
- » Research businesses and charities through the Ohio Attorney General's Office and the Better Business Bureau.
- » Beware of strangers who seek new, quick, personal connections with you or a loved one.
- » Get all verbal promises in writing and review contracts.
- » Keep your personal information private and shred outdated documents containing such information.

### NEVER:

- » Send money via wire transfer, gift card or prepaid credit card to a stranger.
- » Give personal information to someone who has contacted you unexpectedly.
- » Carry unnecessary personal information, such as your Social Security card, in your wallet or purse.
- » Pay to win a prize or sweepstakes.
- » Allow someone "remote access" to your computer.
- » Pay the full amount upfront before any work has been done.

### OTHER SMART STEPS

- » Use a credit card, rather than a debit card, cash or check. The Fair Credit Billing Act offers certain protections that other payment methods don't.
- » For transactions involving a lot of money completed by phone or via the internet, keep a log of who you spoke with and when, the person's contact information and any money paid.
- » Check your credit report(s) at least once a year at [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) or by calling **877-322-8228**. If you notice unfamiliar accounts, contact the three major credit reporting agencies (Experian, Equifax and TransUnion). Also, contact the **Ohio Attorney General's Identity Theft Unit at 800-282-0515**.



Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!

### Consumer Resources

**Annual Credit Report**  
877-322-8228  
[www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com)

**Equifax**  
800-525-6285  
[www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)

**Experian**  
888-397-3742  
[www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)

**TransUnion**  
800-680-7289  
[www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)

**Better Business Bureau**  
[www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org)

**Data & Marketing Association**  
212-768-7277  
[www.dmachoice.org](http://www.dmachoice.org)

**National Do Not Call Registry**  
888-382-1222  
[www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov)

**OptOutPrescreen.com**  
888-567-8688  
[www.optoutprescreen.com](http://www.optoutprescreen.com)

# Senior of the Year

## SISTER MAGGIE WALSH-CONRAD



Sister Maggie Walsh-Conrad was honored this year as Ward 17's senior of the year at Cleveland Senior Day. A consecrated laywoman in the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, Sister Maggie co-founded the Community of the Little Brothers and Sisters of the Eucharist in the Central neighborhood, along with Father Jim O'Donnell. For nearly 40 years, they provided an oasis of safety and love for the most marginalized members of our Cleveland community. Living a ministry of presence, they fostered relationships with neighbors and built productive partnerships with other community groups. Their advocacy had a tremendous impact on the entire community, especially children and young mothers to whom Sister Maggie offered wise counsel, compassion, and support. To a dozen of those children, she became a foster parent and subsequently adopted three of them.

Sister Maggie's life of service has thrived in West Park as well. The whole family loves living in the Kamm's area and the close connections they have created in the community. They enjoy shopping and dining in the neighborhood and cherish the memories of when the children attended St. Mark's and Newton D. Baker School. Now grown, Sister Maggie's children are all still in the Cleveland area and she enjoys their visits and loves spending time with her grandchildren.

Whether sipping coffee on her porch swing while greeting neighbors on her street or opening her door to family and friends, Sister Maggie lives with a perpetual spirit of welcome. Sister Maggie is a model West Park resident and a prime example of our neighborhood's legacy of service to our wider Cleveland community.

## West Park Historical Society Mural



As you're passing through Kamm's Corners, check out a new and exciting piece of public art. The West Park Historical Society has installed a historic photograph of Kamm's Corners. Travelers going eastbound on Lorain Avenue can see what the street looked like from the same vantage point in 1938!

The photograph is on the western side of P.J. McIntyre's – the Historical Society would like to thank Pat Campbell at P.J. McIntyre's for partnering with them in addition to Timothy Gerity, VP and General Manager at Lamar Advertising for providing installation work at no cost.

The West Park Historical Society is an active group that loves history and our West Park neighborhood. Visit [westparkhistory.org](http://westparkhistory.org) or swing by their museum at 17401 Lorain Avenue to see old photographs and maps from across Wards 16 and 17.

## Working Class Brewery



Since opening in June 2017, Working Class Brewery has become a haven for local lovers of craft beer and has helped introduce numerous visitors to our great West Park neighborhood. Working Class offers seven year-round brews – two IPAs, three German beers, a stout, and a fruit beer – plus nine rotating taps that feature seasonals. And because craft beer is not everyone's drink of choice, they recently expanded their liquor permit to feature various whiskeys and cocktails.

If you have not been to Working Class recently or ever, stop in and check out this one-of-a-kind

neighborhood watering hole. Weekly events include 7:00 pm trivia on Wednesday, an open mic night on Thursdays, and (coming soon) bingo nights on Tuesday. Working Class will also be having an Oktoberfest on August 26.

When not brewing beers, owner Rick Skains is a Pre-K through 8th music teacher at R.G. Jones School in West Park and is a member of the Cleveland Teachers Union. He also serves on the Ohio Craft Brewers Political Action Committee, which is focused on updating Ohio law to make it easier for Working Class and breweries like it to distribute and grow.

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# The Ward 17 Dispatch



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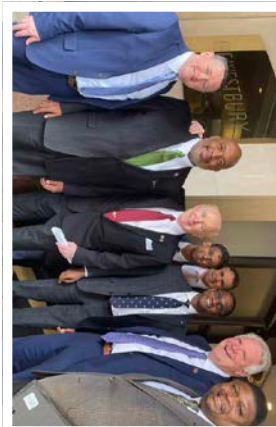
Email: [csife@clevelandcitycouncil.org](mailto:csife@clevelandcitycouncil.org)

## Cleveland Visits Achill Island

As the president of Cleveland City Council, I recently visited Ireland to commemorate the strengthening of Cleveland's economic and cultural ties to the island through the launch of direct air service between Cleveland and Dublin on Aer Lingus. Prior to leaving, Councilman Sife told me to be on the lookout for Ward 17 residents and their families, especially while visiting Achill Island.

For generations, immigrants have come to Cleveland seeking opportunity while keeping close ties with their communities of origin. Anyone who thinks this is a story from a bygone era needs only to visit Achill, where kinship with Cleveland – and West Park, in particular – is clearly a continuing point of pride.

While visiting Achill, our delegation saw a statue of Johnny Kilbane, who served as Clerk of Cleveland Municipal Court after retiring from his prize-winning boxing career. I also learned that Clevelanders with origins in Achill donated funds to rebuild a church after a fire in the 1960's. Locals spoke of visiting Cleveland and even stopping at pubs in Kamms Corners.



Cleveland's presence was felt not only in Achill. In Dublin, I saw an official Cleveland City Council resolution from Councilmembers McCormack and Sife recognizing The Merry Ploughboys, an Irish band that has come to Cleveland for 20 years to headline a benefit for the Malachi House in Ohio City.

Visiting Ireland, where so many Clevelanders trace their origins, reminded me how attracting migrants, whether from other countries or from the South like my own, continues to enrich this melting pot we call home and is key to Cleveland's success.

– **Blaine A. Griffn**,  
President of Cleveland City Council

**REMINDER:** Parking vehicles on front lawns is against the law. Violators are subject to ticketing from CPD.



**2023**  
CITY OF CLEVELAND  
Mayor Justin M. Bibb  
Department of Public Works  
Division of Waste Collection

**B** Bulk Week

**H** One Day Delayed Collection

**H** Holiday with Regular Pickup

**JANUARY**

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**B** = BULK WEEK (3 items only)

**City of Cleveland  
Department of Public Works  
Division of Waste Collection**  
5600 Carnegie Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44103  
216-664-3711  
[www.clevelandohio.gov](http://www.clevelandohio.gov)

**Division of Waste Collection services for your convenience:**

- YEAR ROUND COMPUTER/ CELL PHONE DROP OFF** (Only at Carr Center)
- YEAR ROUND SHREDDING** at 5600 Carnegie (Only at Carr Center)
- HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE** (Carr Center and Ridge Road) First Friday of each month. No Latex Paint.

**5600 Carnegie (Carr Center) or 3727 Ridge Road, Mon. - Fri., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**  
DO NOT leave computers, tires, trees, hazardous waste, or other debris in the drop off boxes.