



# Ward 12 News

Anthony Brancatelli, Councilman | WINTER 2021 SPECIAL EDITION | [www.clevelandcitycouncil.org](http://www.clevelandcitycouncil.org)

## A message from Councilman Brancatelli

Dear Ward 12 neighbor:



To borrow a Shakespearian line recited more than 400 years ago, this is truly a "Winter of Discontent."

But now that 2020 is over, 2021 appears more promising.

But there is a way to go. Residents have struggled, losing jobs and worrying about the rent or mortgage and putting enough food on the table. Neighborhood restaurants have struggled or closed.

We will continue to use the federal, state and local resources to help residents during these times. More federal help is coming.

The "discontent" is melting as daylight

***I want to thank everyone for following protocols in the battle to eradicate this deadly virus.***

is getting longer and signs of spring are in the air. While we wait for vaccinations, being able to get outside and walk in some of our new or improved parks or visit our historic cemeteries will be a welcome relief.

Meanwhile, city council continues to hold virtual meetings electronically in compliance with Ohio's Open Meetings Law.

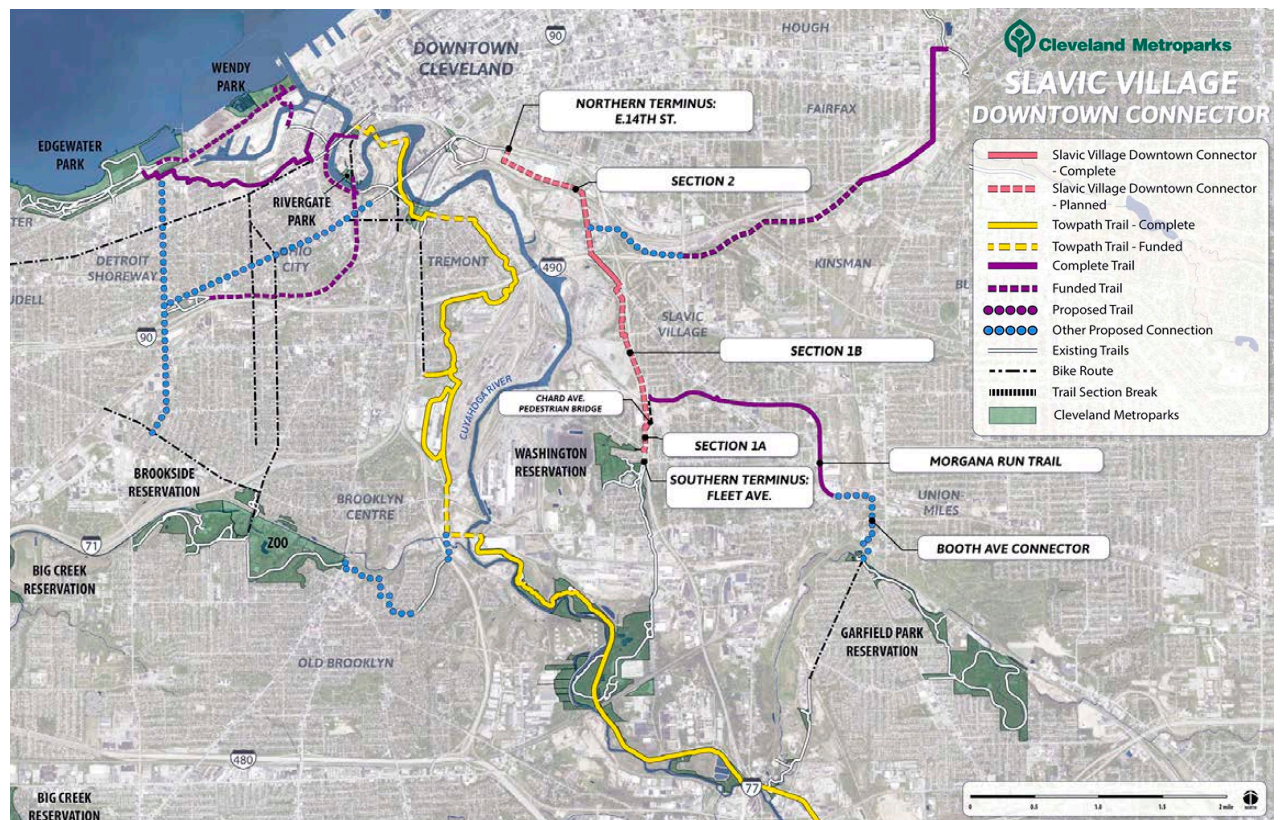
Finally, I want to thank everyone for following protocols in the battle to eradicate this deadly virus. I see many of you wearing face masks and practicing safe distances. Unfortunately, we have lost too many of us to this pandemic, but without your vigilance, we would have lost many more.

Thank you, and please don't hesitate to call me with any complaints or concerns. My office number is 216-664-4233 or email me at [abrancatelli@clevelandcitycouncil.org](mailto:abrancatelli@clevelandcitycouncil.org).

Stay safe,

**Anthony Brancatelli**  
Councilman, Ward 12

## Downtown Connector Slavic Village Trail Moves Forward



After 10 years of discussion the long awaited Downtown Connector Trail to connect Slavic Village to Downtown is moving forward, with money for planning that's already started. Next step is creating the trail.

**The bike (or walking) route, extending north along I-77 from the northern edge of the Cleveland Metroparks Washington Reservation at Fleet Avenue, would give residents a safe, off-road connection to downtown and Lake Erie. It would be a benefit to the entire southeast side of Cleveland.**

A year ago, council approved hiring consultants to design Phase I for the trail that will link the Metroparks Washington Reservation by Fleet Avenue in Slavic Village to downtown at East 9th Street in Cleveland. The Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, NOACA, said that \$1.4 million appropriated in 2013 for the Fleet-to-Pershing section would be available to spend starting in 2021.

Part of the trail will utilize an abandoned

***"While this project has taken quite a bit of time, it will be transformational when complete."***

*Councilman Tony Brancatelli*

railway corridor that has views of the city's industrial valley. Ultimately, the connector trail will link up with the existing Morgana Run Trail already in Slavic Village. The route also offers spectacular views of the downtown skyline and the ArcelorMittal steel mill, where a bright, orange gas flare is frequently visible from a towering exhaust stack.

"While this project has taken quite a bit of time, it will be transformational when complete," said Councilman Tony Brancatelli.

The proposed Slavic Village Downtown Connector would become part of a larger network reaching into Cleveland's East Side, while providing access to the Towpath Trail and intersecting trails on the city's West Side.

The 101-mile Towpath Trail, Northeast Ohio's major, north-south recreational spine, switches from the east side of the Cuyahoga River to the west side at the southern border of Cleveland at Harvard Avenue, leaving a gap on the East Side. The Slavic Village connector would fill that gap.

## CLEVELAND WASTE COLLECTION & RECYCLING SURVEY



Over the past few months, the City of Cleveland has been working on evaluating the current waste collection and recycling operations.

Please take 5-10 minutes to complete this brief survey (<https://tinyurl.com/ab5srz22>) to help inform Cleveland's future waste collection and recycling programs. Feel free to share the link with family, friends, and co-workers who live in the City of Cleveland.



# ODJFS launches new child support mobile app



**Ohio** Department of Job and Family Services

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) is making it easier and more convenient to manage your child support case and make payments right from your phone by launching a child support mobile application and adding Venmo as an e-wallet payment option.

## What can you expect from the mobile application?

The Ohio Child Support mobile application gives users secure and easy access to their child support case information anytime, anywhere.

Look for the Ohio Child Support Mobile Application in the App Store and Google Play. Users can:

- Register to access child support case/order and account information
- Make a payment by credit card or view instructions for making payments from your checking or savings account, either electronically or through the mail
- Review your payment history for the last 24 months
- View case details for your Ohio child support cases
- View and update your personal information, including contact, employment, health insurance and child information
- Contact your child support worker by safely and securely sending messages
- And much more, all from the convenience of your phone!

The Ohio Child Support Customer Service Portal is Ohio's web-based and mobile application which provides our customers easy on-demand access to their case information, currently on file with the child support agency.

**You must register to use the Ohio Child Support Customer Service Portal to use the new Mobile App.** Visit <https://jfs.ohio.gov/Ocs/index.stm> and click on, "Office of Child Support Customer Service Web Portal". Call 1-800-686-1556 if you need help.

# Visit Historic Harvard Grove Cemetery in Slavic Village

Harvard Grove Cemetery was established in 1881. But its history goes back to the 1700s, with soldiers in the revolutionary war and pioneer families buried in the first of what were several moves of the cemetery and those laid to rest. In 1873 the City of Cleveland, growing in importance and confidence, annexed a portion of Newburgh Township containing what was known as the Axtell Street Cemetery.

The annexation became Cleveland's old 18th ward, the "iron ward," so named because of the concentration of steel mills there. The cemetery property was later sold to the Union Rolling Mill and a railroad which necessitated the removal of interments to a more suitable resting place nearby. In the winter of 1881-1882, the remains from more than three thousand burials were moved to this new location.

On July 1, 1881, the Board of Cemetery Trustees of the City of Cleveland called City Council's attention to move the 18th Ward Cemetery to a more appropriate locality. Its present location was in the midst of the iron factories of the rapidly growing ward. No grounds were more unsuitable for a burial ground. The smoke rising from the iron furnaces was detrimental to the growth of plants, shrubs, and trees and tarnished the tombstones and monuments.

While the Board of Cemetery Trustees looked for more suitable land, citizens started a petition to stop from moving their loved ones. A citizens' petition was presented to Council objecting to the proposed sale of the old 18th Ward Cemetery and the relocation of the bodies of their relatives

Finally, on December 19, 1881, the Board of Cemetery Trustees presented a resolution to City Council that the new cemetery recently acquired in the 18th ward and situated at Harvard and Fremont Streets be hereafter



Tim Evanson, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons

known as "Harvard Grove Cemetery."

At the City Council meeting of February 13, 1882, the Board of Cemetery Trustees asked Council to authorize funds for the purchase of an additional 30 acres of land adjoining the new Harvard Grove Cemetery, as little land remained in the city's Woodland, Erie Street, or Monroe Street Cemeteries. It was not until the February 27, 1882 City Council meeting that an ordinance was passed naming the new 18th ward cemetery "Harvard Grove Cemetery."

**Near the main gate of Harvard Grove Cemetery at 6100 Lansing Avenue**, shaded by a towering poplar tree, five headstones stand, each marked with a cross and the name of a New England soldier who fought in the Revolutionary War.

One of the famous burial at Harvard Grove is that of Alonzo Carter, son of Lorenzo Carter, Cleveland's first permanent settler whose log cabin stood at the Cuyahoga River. Alonzo was born in Vermont in 1790. He moved to the Cuyahoga Town at the age of 17 and lived on land in the Flats where he farmed and, for a time, operated the Red House Tavern. It was from Alonzo Carter that Newburgh eventually purchased the cemetery land on Axtell Street (Cemetery Street, now East 78th Street). Alonzo died in 1872 and was buried at the Newburgh cemetery, then moved in the reinterment to Harvard Grove in 1882.

# NORTHEAST OHIO RENT HELP

**Are you having trouble paying your rent due to the economic impact of COVID-19? We may be able to help.**

*Income restrictions apply.*

**TO LEARN MORE AND APPLY:** [NEORENTHelp.ORG](https://neorenthelp.org)  
**833-377-RENT (7368)**

**FUNDED BY:**

CITY OF CLEVELAND Mayor Frank G. Jackson  
COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA OHIO



## Covid-19 Vaccines Showing Promising Results

Vaccines against the Covid-19 pandemic continue to show promising results in keeping people from getting infected with the deadly virus.

All those eligible for vaccinations should sign up for them right away. Everyone age 65 and older or those with qualifying medical conditions are eligible.

Contact the Cleveland Department of Public Health – 216-664-2300 – to find out how to get on a vaccine list. The vaccine is free.

Vaccines are being sent to hospitals, local health departments and some pharmacies.

**For other questions about the COVID-19 vaccine, call the Ohio Department of Health's call center at 1-833-427-5634 or visit [www.coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://www.coronavirus.ohio.gov)**



# COVID-19

# Vaccines: Trust the Facts

- ▶ **1. COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective.** COVID-19 vaccines currently available in the U.S. were rigorously tested and are more than 94% effective.
- ▶ **2. You can't get COVID-19 from a COVID-19 vaccine.** The vaccines do not contain a live virus, meaning they can't give you COVID-19 or cause a positive COVID-19 viral test.
- ▶ **3. COVID-19 vaccine trials were among the largest in history.** A typical vaccine study has about 5,000 participants – the Moderna COVID-19 trial had more than 30,000 participants, and the Pfizer-BioNTech study had more than 43,000.
- ▶ **4. COVID-19 vaccines have not been linked to infertility or miscarriage.** There is no evidence that COVID-19 vaccines cause infertility or increase the risk of miscarriage.
- ▶ **5. No serious safety concerns were observed in clinical trials.** The most common side effects, much like other vaccines, are fatigue, headache, soreness or redness at the injection site, and muscle or joint pain.
- ▶ **6. COVID-19 vaccines will not change your DNA or alter your genetic makeup.** It isn't possible for mRNA to alter or modify a person's genetic makeup.
- ▶ **7. Vaccine injections do NOT contain microchips or tracking devices.** Vaccines do not contain microchips, nanochips, RFID trackers, or devices that would track or control your body in any way.
- ▶ **8. Vaccines do not cause autism.** Studies conducted across the globe continue to show that there is no connection between autism and vaccines.

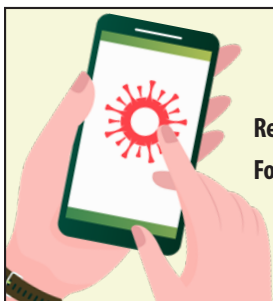


MIKE DEWINE  
GOVERNOR OF OHIO

Ohio

Department of Health

[coronavirus.ohio.gov/vaccine](http://coronavirus.ohio.gov/vaccine)



## Calls Regarding COVID-19 Complaints

Regarding non-compliance, please call the Cleveland Department of Public Health hotline 216-857-7165.

For additional resources and the most up-to-date COVID-19 information, visit:

Cleveland Department of Public Health (CDPH) [www.clevelandhealth.news](http://www.clevelandhealth.news)

Ohio Department of Health (ODH) <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

## Speeding Ticket? Go Online and No Points

Citizens can go on line and enter a plea of guilty for minor misdemeanor traffic violations – like speeding – and **the offense is reduced to a minor misdemeanor unsafe motor vehicle which is a NO POINTS offense.** The fine is then \$55 and court costs.

You can also pay a waste ticket, a parking ticket and more online.

The Cleveland Municipal Court is giving people time to pay for the costs and fees that are not immediately due on the Court's website: <http://clevelandmunicipalcourt.org/>



## Cost-savings Programs from the Sewer District



Northeast Ohio Regional  
Sewer District

Protecting Your Health and Environment

**Homestead** - Rate reduction of 40 percent available to customers aged 65 or older, or customers under 65 who are totally disabled. Total household income must not exceed \$34,500 (effective January 1, 2020). Enrollment is valid for a three-year period.

**Affordability** - Rate reduction of 40 percent available for customers whose annual income is at or below 200 percent of the poverty level. Customers can be enrolled in either the Homestead program or the Affordability program, but not both. The reduced rate is the same for both programs.

**Crisis assistance** - Available to customers affected by a major event in their life (such as sudden medical expenses, job loss, separation, or divorce) offering financial assistance of 50% of sewer balance (up to \$300) toward your account. Administered by CHN Housing Partners. Verification documents required.

**For additional information, customers can contact the Sewer District's Customer Service Department at 216-881-8247 or [askus@neorsd.org](mailto:askus@neorsd.org).**

## Watch Council Meetings Online



**In spite of these trying times, the work of Cleveland City Council continues.** Council has been meeting electronically with virtual public hearings and legislative sessions.

Go to [www.clevelandcitycouncil.org/calendar](http://www.clevelandcitycouncil.org/calendar) to find listings of upcoming committee meetings.



**WATCH (LIVE & RECORDED)**  
[www.youtube.com/user/ClevelandCityCouncil](http://www.youtube.com/user/ClevelandCityCouncil)



**WATCH (LIVE)**  
[www.tv20cleveland.com/watch-now/](http://www.tv20cleveland.com/watch-now/)

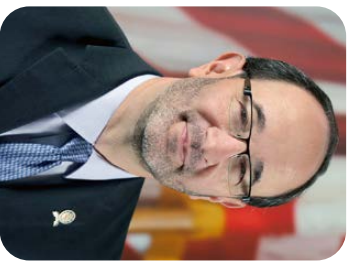
**Councilman Brancatelli serves on the following council committees:**

Development, Planning & Sustainability (Chair),  
Finance, Mayor's Appointments,  
Municipal Services & Properties



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# Ward 12 News



WARD 12 COUNCIL MEMBER

## Anthony Brancatelli



Phone: 216-664-4233

Fax: 216-664-3837

Email:

[abrancatelli@clevelandcitycouncil.org](mailto:abrancatelli@clevelandcitycouncil.org)

City Hall:

601 Lakeside Avenue, Room 220  
Cleveland, OH 44114

Visit [www.ClevelandCityCouncil.org/ward-12](http://www.ClevelandCityCouncil.org/ward-12)

## Neighbor Up COVID-19 Rapid Response Grants

Neighbor Up is continuing to provide grants ranging from \$500-\$5,000 to small nonprofit organizations, faith-based congregations, and grassroots and neighborhood civic groups throughout Cuyahoga, Lake and Geauga counties for a broad



range of essential human needs during COVID-19, such as healthy food, safe shelter, and to reduce social isolation. Since receiving its first round of funding on April 10, Neighborhood Connections has awarded nearly \$680,000 to more than 200 groups and organizations. Grants are due Thursdays at noon, and are reviewed every other Monday. If you are interested in learning more, visit: <http://neighborupcle.org/covid19grants/>

## Got an Idea for Your Community?

Joby Cleveland has supported over 200 resident leaders as they plan, crowdfund, and build positive change in neighborhoods across the city. With a median donation of \$35,



these leaders have raised over \$500,000 in small donations to make Joby Cleveland neighborhoods greener, safer, more livable, and more full of opportunity for all residents. Visit <https://joby.org/campaign/cleveland> to learn more about how you can fundraise for your project!

# GET YOUR TAXES PREPARED FOR FREE\*

BY THE CUYAHOGA EITC COALITION

**Maximize your tax return and keep every penny!**

\*For those who qualify and make less than \$57,000

**Eligible hardworking families can receive up to \$6,660 at tax time with the**

**Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).**

- Keep every penny of your tax return by filing for FREE
- Quality tax preparation by IRS-certified volunteers
- Tax sites conveniently located all over Cuyahoga County
- Translation services available in Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Arabic, and American Sign Language at select locations
- Virtual appointments available

**Schedule your appointment at  
[refundohio.com](http://refundohio.com) or dial 2-1-1**

The Cuyahoga EITC Coalition, led by Enterprise Community Partners, is part of the nationwide IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program.

  
**It's yours, file free & keep it**  
earned income tax credit  
Cuyahoga EITC Coalition

