Dear Neighbor,

From the global economic crisis of 2008 to the viral pandemic still with us today, the City of Cleveland continues to hold steady as a major American metropolis with a promising future.

Despite these trying times, Cleveland continues to balance its annual budgets and continues to work to deliver quality services to its citizens, while small and large private developers continue to submit ambitious plans for downtown and neighborhoods throughout the city.

Addressing neighborhood challenges is at the core of what we do in municipal government. Every citizen of Cleveland has the right to live in a safe environment with reliable city services and sound infrastructure. I’ve worked hard to make Old Brooklyn a neighborhood all would want to move into and raise their families. Fortunately, in response to the Covid-19 public health crisis, the federal government is providing needed relief to state and local governments. Cleveland is receiving nearly $512 million over two years. The city is also receiving additional federal funds, including $16 million to help struggling renters and homeowners, and is applying for other funding available through the American Rescue Plan Act.

The relief will pour millions of dollars into public safety and community development, while helping to lay a foundation for a strong and equitable economic recovery.

Indeed, Cleveland is on its way back. And I leave you with a quote from President Joe Biden: “There’s no greater economic engine in the world than the hard work and ingenuity of the American people.”

Let us harness that hard work and ingenuity as we recover from trying times.

Regards,

Kevin J. Kelley
Ward 13 Councilman

Vaccine Clinics In or Near Old Brooklyn

Contact Hope at Old Brooklyn Development (216-250-2035), Monday-Friday if you need assistance scheduling a vaccination appointment. She can schedule a vaccination over the phone for vaccination clinics around Cleveland/Old Brooklyn.

American Rescue Funds Help Clevelanders

City Council recently approved spending $25 million to assist two vital projects – an expansion of the Greater Cleveland Food Bank and the developing of a broadband internet service city-wide.

The city is giving the food bank $5 million to assist with capital improvements at its new center on Coit Road and its existing facility on South Waterloo Road. The broadband internet project is receiving $20 million.

The funds are coming from the federal government’s American Rescue Plan Act, which has awarded Cleveland $531 million to help the city recover from the negative impacts and budget shortfalls caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Council’s $20 million for city-wide broadband is not enough to connect the entire city so additional funds from various other sources are needed.

Among all U.S. cities with 100,000 or more households, Cleveland has the highest percentage of households without broadband internet, according to 2019 data released by the U.S. Census’ American Community Survey.

Nearly 80,000 Cleveland households reported not having a wired broadband connection (cable, fiber optic or DSL). Additionally, almost 53,000 households — 31 percent of the city’s total — lacked broadband subscriptions at any speed, including mobile data plans.

“The Covid-19 emergency has highlighted the importance of universally available, high speed, reliable and affordable broadband coverage,” said Council President Kevin Kelley a long-time champion of broadband who has successfully connected the service in Ward 13. “People rely on the internet to participate in a variety of activities, including remote education classes, healthcare and employment, down to ordering food or getting tickets for entertainment activities.”

Council President Kelley is also leading the effort to help the food bank expand its facility, noting that it might need more than the city’s $5 million.

The food bank served more than 100,000 new people last year. In total, more than 400,000 people – nearly half of whom were Cleveland residents – received handouts from the food bank. “Growing poverty in our city is something we cannot ignore,” said Council President Kelley. “Those of us with means are obligated to take care of our less fortunate brothers and sisters. And that means taking care of the food bank as well.”

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Community Resources

- We’re hiring! Become a Community Health Empowerment Navigator: We are looking for Old Brooklyn residents to apply. Navigators are AmeriCorps members who assist Old Brooklyn residents with food assistance and other needs. If you enjoy working with people and being a part of a team, check out the attached flyer for more information. Interested residents can apply by emailing a resume and cover letter to Valerie Beutel, AmeriCorps Director (vbeutel@bw.edu).

- Rental Assistance! This assistance is available for residents who are facing financial hardships due to the economic impact of COVID-19 and need help paying rent. The City of Cleveland allocated 11.3 million dollars to this Rental Assistance Program. Cuyahoga County has also allocated $6.8 million. CHN Housing Partners and EDEN, Inc will administer the Program, funded by the City of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County. To apply, residents can visit http://www.neorenthelp.org. For questions, residents can call 833-377-RENT (7368).

- Pandemic EBT Program: The Pandemic – Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) Program is additional money for families to buy food due to COVID-19 related school closures. You can use P-EBT as well as grab-and-go meal sites to meet your children’s food needs. Using P-EBT does NOT impact you or your child’s immigration status. The public charge rule does NOT apply to P-EBT funds. Visit http://ohiopebt.org/ for more information!

- Do you want a FREE TREE in your yard? Check out www.oldbrooklyn.com/tree for more information or contact OBCDC! To qualify for the program, you must live in Old Brooklyn.

Classes & Trainings

- Citizens Police Academy Class: The 9 week session include topics like quality of life, speakers from various units, mental health awareness, human trafficking, and what to do when stopped by the police. See the attached flyer for more information.

- Cleveland STEP Program: Any student entering the 6th – 9th grade at any school in the Cleveland Water or NEO Regional Sewer District service areas are eligible. This is a free, fun, safe and age-appropriate program vetted by STEM professionals. From 9-11am one Saturday of each month, September – April. Application and more information attached!

- FREE Professional Development and Digital Literacy classes: No matter your age, Step Forward helps people discover and begin the careers of their dreams – careers that offer greater stability and security for their families. They offer personal assessments to determine interests, assess skills, set goals and establish a plan to achieve them. Learn more about this program here: https://www.stepforwardtoday.org/professional-development.

New Grant Opportunities to Fund Your Community Project

- ioby.org - ioby Cleveland has supported over 200 resident leaders as they plan, crowdfund, and build positive change in neighborhoods across the city. Visit this link to learn more about how you can fundraise for your project: https://ioby.org/campaign/cleveland

- More Neighbor Up Grants! Check this website for an up-to-date list of grant opportunities: https://neighborupcle.org/grants/

Volunteer & Donation Opportunities

- Old Brooklyn Recycles: OBR is a grassroots initiative in the neighborhood to increase recycling and education about waste that is currently going to the landfill. They are looking for volunteers to flyer and pick up aluminum cans from people’s homes. Email OldBrooklynRecycles@gmail.com for more information.

- You can also check out their recycling station at Metropolitan Coffee or Pearl Road United Methodist Church, join the Old Brooklyn Recycles Facebook group or follow them on Instagram.

- Community Partners in need of PPE! If you are able to donate antibacterial soap (individual bottles) or masks, please email HopeF@oldbrooklyn.com for more information on how to donate.

Old Brooklyn Community Updates

HALLOWEEN SAFETY

Cleveland will observe trick-or-treat on Sunday, October 31 between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Listed below are recommendations for a safe and fun Halloween:

1. Drivers should ALWAYS observe speed limits and drive distraction free – this is especially true on Halloween when there are many pedestrians out after dark!

2. Adults should accompany young children – older children should travel in groups

3. Carry and use a flashlight

4. Only visit homes with their front light turned on

5. Only give and accept wrapped or packaged candy

6. Watch for vehicular traffic, especially when crossing the street.

On Friday, October 29th, Estabrook (4125 Fulton Rd) and 21 other Cleveland recreation centers will host Big City Boo, a safe alternative to trick-or-treating. Games, contests, and Halloween treats will be available for kids 12 and under.

Have a safe and happy Halloween!
New Brighton Park in Old Brooklyn
Open to the Public

The new Brighton Park in Old Brooklyn, once a 25-acre dumping ground, has been cleaned up and is now open to public nature trails.

The former Henniger Landfill – used for years as a construction and demolition debris dump until it closed in the 1980s – was acquired by the Western Reserve Land Conservancy in 2015. Since then, public and private citizens worked to remediate the brownfield site. The $1.3 million project was funded by various financial sources.

The work included erosion control, water quality improvement and the planting of native trees, wild flowers and grasses.

Remediation of the landfill was completed in 2017 and a trail system was developed to allow easy public access.

The park creates a large public green space in Old Brooklyn with access for hiking, biking, walking, birding and other outdoor activities.

“This project brings a new park to one of the city’s largest and most densely populated neighborhoods,” said Cleveland City Council President Kevin Kelley who represents the Old Brooklyn neighborhood.

The new park serves as a connector that links to the Ohio & Erie Towpath Trail, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo and Brookside Reservation. It offers scenic views of Big Creek and the industrial Flats.

Set Out Guidelines for Waste Collection

RULE OF THREE: Remember that the limit for bulk pick-up is three items. Residents may leave out for collection items such as appliances, tables, chairs, mattress box springs, couches and furniture. All mattresses, box springs and cloth furniture must be wrapped in plastic. In addition to the three items, residents may leave out up to four tires. The City does not accept construction material. Boxes and loose bags are not bulk items. Carpet must be cut and rolled into 3-foot long pieces and must not exceed 40 pounds.

WASTE SET OUT RULES: The Division of Waste also reminds residents of the following waste regulations:

- Only waste in officially issued City carts will be accepted, and loose trash or bags outside City roll carts will not be accepted.
- Construction materials, hazardous waste, bricks, dirt, concrete, cinder blocks, auto parts, loose metal items, medical waste or fluorescent tubes WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED in or outside of roll carts.
- Residents can put up to 20 bags of yard waste out every week.
- No wet paint should be placed in roll carts. All paint cans should be dry before they are placed in roll carts.
- Do not place hot charcoal ashes in roll carts. For further information regarding waste collection, please call the Division of Waste Collection at 216-664-3711 or visit www.clevelandohio.gov.

Division of Waste Collection services for your convenience:

5600 Carnegie or 3727 Ridge Rd, 9 am - 3 pm. DO NOT leave computers, tires, trees, hazardous waste, or other debris at the drop off boxes. These items must be taken to the service garages on the designated round up dates.
Appealing Property Taxes

If property owners disagree with the new value, they can file a complaint with evidence to support the claim. The types of evidence residents can submit include photographs of the property, appraisals and documents related to recent sales. The complaints can be filed online or in person between Jan 1st and March 31st of 2022. If complaints are submitted outside this timeframe, they may be returned to the residents.

To get the forms to file an appeal, go here: Complaint Forms and Appeal Forms (cuyahogacounty.us) or visit bor.cuyahogacounty.us/en-US/Complaint-Form.aspx

About Towards Employment

Towards Employment (TE) is a Cleveland-based nonprofit organization whose mission is to empower individuals to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency through employment. Towards Employment helps people prepare for jobs, get jobs, keep jobs, and advance into a career.

TE can help you if...
- Your criminal justice involvement stops you from getting a good job or career.
- Your current job is not challenging you.
- You are interested in a career in Construction, Culinary/Hospitality, Healthcare, IT, Manufacturing, or Welding.
- You want to earn industry credentials or your GED (see back for credentials).
- You want to advance in your career.
- You are 18 to 24 years old and need help getting started in the job market.
- You want to be able to better support your family - with a steady schedule and better wages.

You Will Gain:
- Personal career map with advancement goals
- Interviewing skills
- Computer and tech skills
- Ability to discuss your record with employers
- Connection to employers who will hire those with records
- Renewed confidence, coaching and a supportive TE network to help you succeed
- Opportunity to build skills and income with work experience and technical training
- AND earn industry certifications and credentials in...
- CNC Machine Operation
- Welding (AWS)
- Culinary Arts
- IT A+
- Construction, along with apprenticeships
- Your GED

DON’T WAIT TO START YOUR FUTURE!
THIS COST FREE TRAINING PROGRAM HAS LIMITED SPACE!
REGISTER TODAY CALL 216.696.5750

Start Your Career Today!

Looking for a good job and a career?