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## A Message from Councilman Kerry McCormack

### Dear Neighbor,

A little over a year ago, the realities of COVID-19 and the devastating impact it would have on our community and nation were just beginning to be known. As the past twelve months progressed, we saw tremendous loss both to our friends, families and neighbors, as well as to our local economy. While we will forever remember those we lost, care for those who have been hurt and think about the people and small businesses who lost so much, we are starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

**Over the past several months, we have seen incredible selflessness from our public servants and volunteers in the effort to get our community and nation vaccinated.** Millions in Ohio have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and many more are on their way to getting the shot. Let me be clear, the vaccine has proven itself through testing and through our neighbors receiving it to be safe, effective and critically important to keeping you and our community protected and healthy. **I strongly urge everyone in our community to get vaccinated as soon as possible.** This is our ticket to ensuring our friends and loved ones are safe and that our community can fully open back up. As your Councilman, I have grieved with community members who have lost family members, talked to residents

who have developed potentially long term health impacts from COVID-19 and visited small business owners on their last day open as they no longer can keep their doors open. I don't want that to happen to anyone else. Please get vaccinated.

**To learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine and how to sign up, you can call either 1-833-4-ASK-ODH or 216-664-2222. Alternatively, you can also visit <https://gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov>.**

There is no doubt in my mind that better days are ahead of us. More and more residents are being vaccinated, small businesses are starting to open their doors back up, the flowers are budding in our parks and playgrounds as they reopen, community members are enjoying our trails and other exciting amenities in Cleveland. **Let's all take this opportunity to continue supporting each other, maintaining our safe public health practices like wearing a mask and making sure we double down on our commitment to our great city.**

Thank you and I look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood.

Best,

**Kerry McCormack**

Cleveland City Councilman, Ward 3 | 216-664-2691

## Near West Land Trust created to build permanently affordable homes on the Near West Side

The Near West Land Trust, a collaboration of Tremont West Development Corp. and Ohio City Inc., will create and preserve permanently affordable homeownership opportunities for low- and moderate-income families in near west side neighborhoods.



Councilman McCormack at the March 19th press conference.

opportunities for low- and moderate-income families in near west side neighborhoods.

The project is made possible by a partnership with the City of Cleveland and Councilman Kerry McCormack, who are providing land through the city's land bank. Gap financing is coming through the City's Housing Trust Fund, as well as Enterprise Community Partners, whose early funding allowed the Land Trust's establishment.

The community land trust model involves the nonprofit owning land and then leasing it at a minimal cost to those who live in housing built on that land. If homeowners in the land trust choose to resell their homes, they have to sell to moderate or low-income individuals, or sell their home back to the land trust. Properties remain affordable by limiting the



March 19th groundbreaking ceremony for site of the first new affordable home.

eventual sale price, with owners capturing 35% of increases in home equity at sale, while the remaining equity stays to keep the home affordable to the next buyer.

"Four years ago we made the decision to strategically reserve City land bank lots in the Near West Side neighborhoods to ensure that the housing growth occurring remained balanced and equitable," said Councilman Kerry McCormack. "I am thrilled to see that, through hard work, dedication and partnership, we are breaking ground on the first home that will bring permanent affordability to our community."

"Ensuring that we have quality housing options for people of all income levels is crucial to remaining a welcoming and successful community."

The organization hopes to build five homes this year, and scale up to be able to build more in the coming years.



# POLICY CORNER

In order to enhance the quality of life of our neighborhoods and take on systemic issues in our community, Councilman McCormack has been working on a number of legislative priorities to improve our neighborhoods. In this newsletter we are featuring two of those legislative initiatives.

## Cleveland Tree Commission

The creation of the Cleveland Tree Commission to provide oversight and expertise to protect and grow our tree canopy in Cleveland.

Both research and our every day experiences tell us that trees contribute to the quality of life of our neighborhoods and are a valuable and beautiful asset throughout the City. Trees stabilize the soil, help control water pollution, preserve and foster air quality by removing carbon dioxide and airborne pollutants, abate visual and noise pollution, and provide a natural habitat for wildlife. Not only do trees provide welcome shade to people, they also provide a psychological boost to community members, and add color and interest to the urban landscape.

The Cleveland Tree Commission will advise and provide critical insight to Cleveland City Council, the Mayor, The Department of Urban Forestry, Division of Park Maintenance and Properties, and the

City Planning Commission in ensuring the many benefits trees provide to citizens of the City by:

1. Maintaining the health and safety of trees in our parks, rights-of-way and other public spaces;
2. Increasing public education and support for urban forestry;
3. Providing for the planting of new and replacement trees to preserve and expand the tree canopy;
4. Protecting trees during construction and development; and
5. Generating funds from the foundation community, corporate community, the citizens of the City, and the private sector to support urban forestry.

## Complete and Green Streets

Creating safer and more environmentally friendly roads in our community through a "Complete and Green Streets Initiative".

For too many years, we have thought about our streets and sidewalks only from the perspective of getting a vehicle from one place to another. Unfortunately this has left us with roads that are not as safe and welcoming as they could be to pedestrians, cyclists, differently abled neighbors and beyond. Whether you are riding a bike to work, taking a walk with your family, or navigating crosswalks, you deserve high quality and safe roads. Through working with experts, advocates and every day residents, we've developed a new policy to create safe roads for everyone in our community.

Goals of the Complete and Green Streets ordinance:

1. Through public engagement, create better designs for our roads

and other public right-of-ways to include equitable mobility options for vulnerable road users and green elements like trees and infrastructure to reduce stormwater runoff.

2. Better align city departments to coordinate when designing roads and when seeking funding from all levels of government (local, state and federal).
3. Establish an oversight committee of experts and community members to oversee road design and provide feedback.
4. Provide regular reports back to the community and allow for public input.

The Complete and Green Streets, as well as Tree Commission ordinances will be going through the committee process this year.

OHIO CITY INC.

*Community Events for you and your neighbors!*

Ohio City Incorporated wants to create more neighborhood based events and opportunities that bring residents together. Let us know what you want in Ohio City.

FILL OUT THE COMMUNITY SURVEY AT [ALLOURIDEAS.ORG/OCCOMMUNITY](https://alourideas.org/occommunity) (QR CODE) OR BY TEXTING EVENTS TO 216-242-4416 TO JOIN OUR EVENTS NOTIFICATION TEXT LIST

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**OHIO CITY**

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Have questions, please contact Keri Palma, Senior Director of Youth and Family Engagement at [kpalma@ohiocity.org](mailto:kpalma@ohiocity.org) or by calling 216-658-3058 or 216-800-5476

# NEWS FROM Downtown Cleveland Alliance<sup>SM</sup>

## 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ruth Ratner Miller Awards

On Friday, April 16th, Downtown Cleveland Alliance (DCA) will host the Ruth Ratner Miller Award Luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The 22nd annual event, will be a virtual event recognizing those who have significantly contributed to the forward momentum and improvement of Downtown Cleveland.

### Development Award Winners:

- The Lumen
- The May
- Euclid Grand
- 2125 Superior Living
- Hillard Building
- Knez Town Homes
- The Avenue Phase II
- Flats East
- Indigo Hotel
- Towpath Trail phase 4
- Downtown Playground
- VoicesofCLE
- The Avien
- Lightening upgrades to streetlights

## Joe Marinucci Retires from Downtown Cleveland Alliance

Joe Marinucci, president and CEO of Downtown Cleveland Alliance, a non-profit economic development organization, has announced his retirement, effective the end of April.

"The brilliance of our downtown Cleveland skyline is testimony to the hard work and dedication Joe has given to this city," said Councilman Kerry McCormack. "Over the last 15 years he has brought together the tools and resources needed to anchor the business district while helping to create new and growing residential living downtown."

Under Marinucci's leadership, downtown now has 20,000 residents and is the largest job hub in Ohio. He is credited with helping to secure \$7.3 billion of investment for the downtown district.

He also helped bring the 2016 Republican National Convention to Cleveland, as well as



the Tall Ships Festival in 2019.

Marinucci formed the Downtown Recovery Response Fund focused on small business relief, and he helped secure Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credits, ensuring the revitalization of many historic structures along Euclid Avenue.

"Joe's vision and compassion will be truly missed," said Councilman McCormack.



# Mutt Hutt Reopens After Pandemic Closing

Since 2005 the Mutt Hutt, located at 2603 Scranton Road in the Tremont area, has been caring for dogs health and needs, including overnight bordering and grooming.

Becca Riker, the company owner and 25-year resident of Tremont, says, “Our focus is on the dogs and the experiences they have with each other. Our staff members are well-trained dog handlers.”

In March 2020 the pandemic forced Riker to make the tough decision to temporarily close its doors. But she and her partner Jon Mohan hung out a banner that read “Don’t Give Up The Ship.”

After five months, the doors reopened in August and the Mutt Hutt has been slowly and safely rebuilding with the support of its clients who, along with the staff, practice safe standards against the Covid-19 virus.

The Mutt Hutt offers dog owners affordable and safe daytime socialization for dogs in



an enriching environment managed by experienced dog handlers. To learn more visit [www.TheMutt.com](http://www.TheMutt.com)

Also, check out the company’s Instagram feed @themutthutt ([www.instagram.com/themutthutt](https://www.instagram.com/themutthutt)).

# Jefferson Library in Tremont Slated for Major Renovation

Cleveland Public Library’s Jefferson Branch in the heart of the Tremont neighborhood will soon undergo a major renovation.

The \$2 million project will transform the Jefferson branch, located at 850 Jefferson Ave., into a vibrant community library, reflecting the historical nature of the building and the neighborhood.

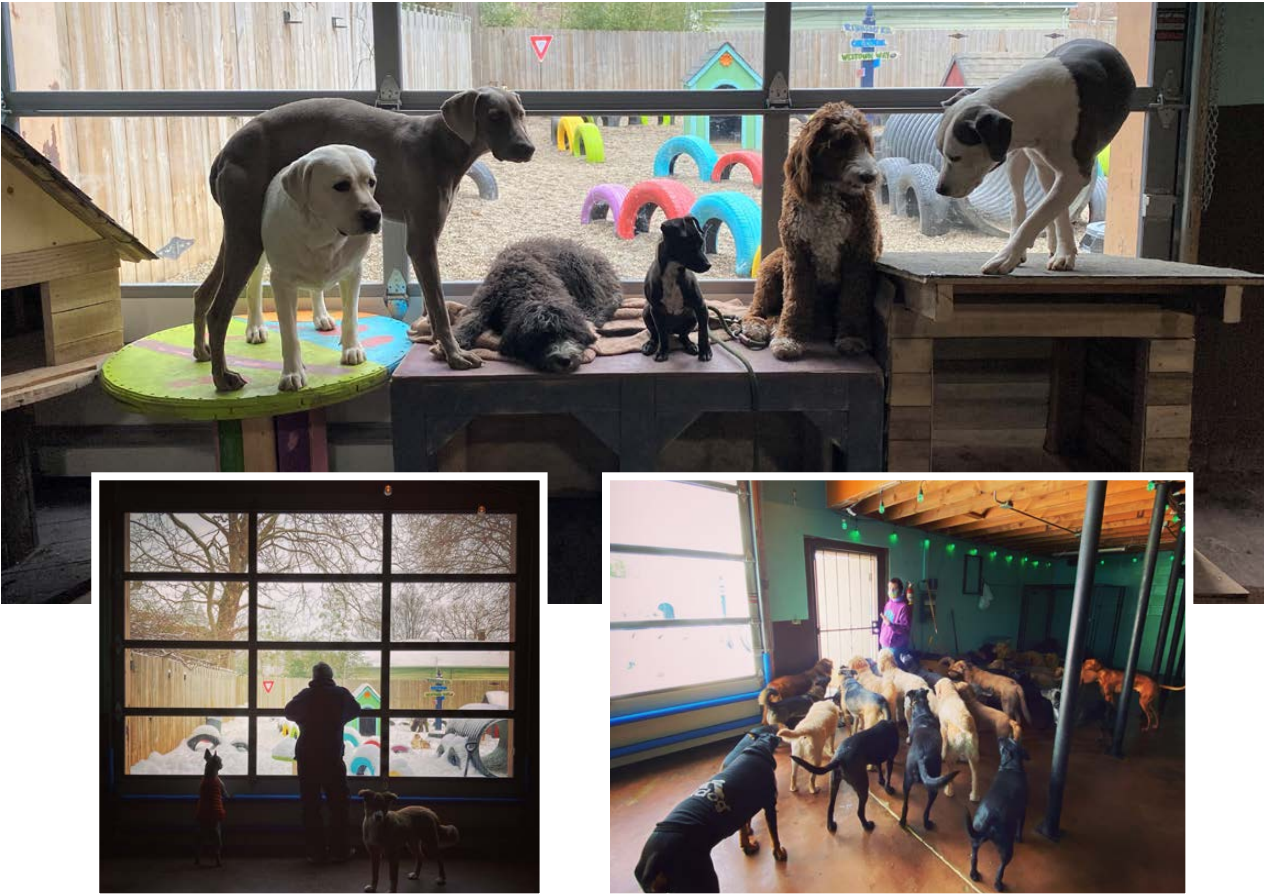
Construction is scheduled to begin this spring.

The project will feature green space, including an outdoor reading area, and a structural addition to make access to the building easier.

# Tremont and Ohio City expand community engagement efforts

Tremont West Development Corporation and Ohio City Incorporated recently started using an online engagement platform called CoUrbanize to expand community engagement efforts in the neighborhoods and to ensure transparent and inclusive process around planning and development projects. The CDCs will use CoUrbanize to keep the community informed and to provide more opportunities for residents to participate and share feedback. During COVID-19, community members will have opportunities to provide feedback online, by attending virtual meetings, as well as by phone and text message. To learn more, visit [courbanize.com/collections/nearwestpartners](https://courbanize.com/collections/nearwestpartners).

Questions? Contact Scott Rosenstein, Tremont West Development Corporation, 216-575-0920, ext. 106 or Whitnye Long Jones, Ohio City Incorporated, 216- 682-6968.



# CLEVELAND SET TO HOST NFL DRAFT 2021

Greater Cleveland Sports Commission, Destination Cleveland, Cleveland Browns and the City of Cleveland are excited to Rock the Clock as host of the 86th NFL Draft on April 29-May 1.

The 2021 NFL Draft will take place across iconic downtown Cleveland locations, including FirstEnergy Stadium, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and the Great Lakes Science Center. The NFL Draft Experience – the NFL’s interactive football theme park – will be free and open to the public around FirstEnergy Stadium during all three days of the Draft. To manage capacity, reservations will be required to attend the free Draft Experience through the NFL OnePass app, which will be available for download the week of March 29. Visit [www.thisiscleveland.com/nfl-draft](http://www.thisiscleveland.com/nfl-draft) for update draft news.





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# Construction to begin on Clark Field in Tremont this summer



WARD 3 COUNCIL MEMBER

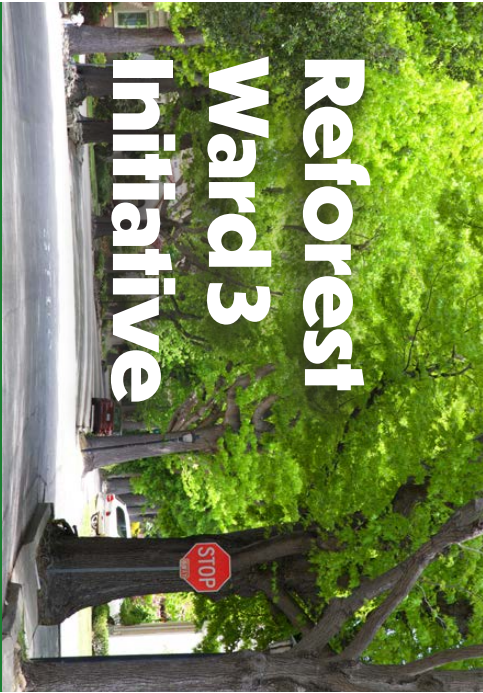
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In an effort to grow our tree canopy in Ward 3, Councilman McCormack has partnered with The City of Cleveland's Department of Urban Forestry to identify residents who are interested in having a new tree planted in their tree lawn or residents who know of a public spaces that could use additional trees. To date, through the partnership the City of Cleveland has planted over 150 new trees in tree lawns and public spaces in Ward 3. Thank you to everyone who has participated in this program! If you are interested in a tree on your tree lawn, feel free to contact our office at 216-664-2691.



**Construction will begin this summer on the long anticipated brand new \$2.5 million Clark Field park in the Tremont neighborhood.**

The new park will directly connect to the Towpath Trail and will be full of amenities for all ages and interests. A special thank you goes out to Beverly Wurm, Tremont West Development Corporation, Friends of Clark Field, the City of Cleveland and to everyone else who made this incredible new public space a reality!

**CITY OF CLEVELAND  
MAYOR'S OFFICE OF CAPITAL PROJECTS  
CLARK FIELD  
SITE DEVELOPMENT**

## RECYCLING UPDATE

**The City of Cleveland is in the process of evaluating and updating its curbside recycling program.** An announcement on the program's status is expected by mid-2021. Please take 5-10 minutes to complete this brief survey (<https://tinyurl.com/abstz22>) to help inform Cleveland's future waste collection and recycling programs. If you have specific questions or feedback, feel free to contact the Mayor's Office of Sustainability at: [sustainability@city.cleveland.oh.us](mailto:sustainability@city.cleveland.oh.us)

