



Ward 12 News

Anthony Brancatelli, Councilman | WINTER 2021 | www.clevelandcitycouncil.org



Engage with Councilman
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A Message from Councilman Brancatelli

Dear Ward 12 neighbor:

I am writing this note to you with a sense of sadness, a sense of excitement and a sense of pride as I am about to step down as your council representative in City Hall.

For 16 years, I had the privilege of representing Ward 12 which includes the neighborhoods of Slavic Village and parts of Tremont, Brooklyn Center and Old Brooklyn.

A grandson of Polish and Italian immigrants, I was born and raised in Slavic Village and, with my wife and son, still live there today.

Community organization and action is my life-long work and I intend to continue the fight against urban blight. I have been in the throes of battle against bad landlords and unscrupulous speculators even before I took my first oath of office.

I will continue my vigil against them and I will never forget you, the residents of Ward 12, who stood with me to save our community, especially during the foreclosure crisis 14 years ago when we saw entire neighborhoods ravaged.

Today, new homes are rising in the ward and dilapidated, dangerous structures are being razed.

We're seeing improvements of infrastructure and public green space, including the cleanup of a toxic dump that is

I will continue looking for innovative solutions for complex problems. And I will continue connecting with the residents of Ward 12."

now meadow land with hiking trails.

Together, we accomplished a lot in restoring our community, though much more needs to be done. And now that I'm leaving office, I am not leaving the challenges we still face.

I will continue looking for innovative solutions for complex problems. And I will continue connecting with the residents of Ward 12. I've been a community organizer my entire adult life. That is my vocation. And that is what I'll continue to do.

Anthony Brancatelli
Councilman, Ward 12

Opportunity Corridor Connects Ward 12



The Opportunity Corridor recently opened and now provides wonderful access for Slavic Village residents to our world class medical institutions such as the Cleveland Clinic as well as University Hospital.

This boulevard links our community directly to the University Circle museums and Severance Hall. I am pleased to have supported this significant infrastructure project that directly benefits the Ward 12 community and is paying immediate dividends with the recently announced Reserve Premier development which will eliminate an unsightly scrap yard and build a multi-million dollar modern distribution facility creating new jobs in our community.

It is a 182,000-square-foot facility on 11-acres planned by Reserve Premier LLC on East 55th Street.

University Settlement and New Housing Construction Underway

Construction on 5115 The Rising is underway. The new \$20 million development is a collaboration between University Settlement and The NRP Group to create a new home for University Settlement, while simultaneously generating a new opportunity for mixed-income affordable housing in the North Broadway neighborhood of Slavic Village.

5115 The Rising will include a new 20,000-square foot home for the historic University Settlement. The largest investment in that neighborhood in over 20 years, it's located at 5115 Broadway Avenue on the site of the former St. Alexis Hospital (later called St. Michael Hospital).

"University Settlement's work is often unsung but desperately needed in the neighborhood," said Councilman Tony Brancatelli. "I am providing \$50,000 in funding for this project.

"But even after I leave office, I pledge to help University Settlement get the needed funds still required to complete this project."

The project will include 78 affordable apartments, and 10 townhomes. All together it will comprise 18 one-bedroom, 48 two-bedroom, and 22 three-bedroom units.

The first floor of the four-story building will house University Settlement's facility, as well as 3,000 square



feet of retail space. In this area, University Settlement is naming a room in honor of longtime employee and former executive director Gale Ward.

The apartments will be on the upper three floors, while the townhomes will flank the larger building. Rents are estimated to be between \$360 per month for a one-bedroom unit to \$1,100 per month for a three-bedroom, two-bathroom unit, with most in the

\$600 to \$700 range.

In addition to the residential units and new facilities for University Settlement, there are three additional initiatives for the neighborhood. A second segment of Broadway Rising calls for a lead remediation program called the Slavic Village Healthy Homes Initiative.

The Slavic Village Healthy Homes initiative is committed to defeating the lead and asthma triggers in all 250 homes in the immediate vicinity, which literally creates the first lead-safe neighborhood in Cleveland. A third facet of University Settlement's plan is to implement a Sanctuary Model of care—a trauma-informed approach to helping residents overcome hardships and obstacles. The entire University Settlement staff will undergo the training to receive certifications.

Congratulations to Council President-Elect Blaine A. Griffin



(Pictured left to right): Blaine A. Griffin, Kevin J. Kelley, and Tony Brancatelli

I want to wish all the best to the incoming Council President Blaine Griffin. The job of the council president is more involved than many realize. Besides representing their own ward, they have the whole of the city to look out for, ensuring legislation introduced and passed is in the best interests for the city of Cleveland and its residents. All re-elected Council Members as well as newly elected members wisely voted to use the Council “Unit Rule” in electing Council President Griffin.

– Councilman Tony Brancatelli

New 40 Acre Industrial Site Planned for Ward 12

In Cleveland’s Slavic Village, a new 40-acre site has been assembled from 25 parcels just east of I-77. It is slated to turn into up to 500,000 square feet of structures for warehousing, distribution and logistics. And will be called Commerce Park 77.

Much of that land has been used by Morabito Enterprises Inc. for nearly 50 years for bulk storage of aggregates such as stone and gravel. Morabito intends to continue to use the site for another year or two.

Councilman Brancatelli sponsored legislation, that has since passed, that allowed a partnership between Morabito and Slavic Village Development (SVD) in the area east of I-77 and E. 49th, west of East 55th, north of Kirkham Ave., and south of the Morgana Run Trail.

The latest acquisition was the 1.273-acre site of the former Mound School (5405 Mound Ave.) for \$38,000 from CMSD.

Morabito’s goal is to ensure that their property remains in an optimal position for another business to invest and establish itself so that jobs are



retained. The developer plans to incorporate the Mound School site, through parcel consolidation, into the Morabito land to create a more attractive land mass of scale to spur a productive future use.

At the same time SVD wants to make sure that additional properties are acquired so that proposed warehouse structures do not crowd against the Morgana Run Trail and offer a buffer between trail users and the businesses.

The expanded property and future businesses are located within a 15-minute walk from Broadway Avenue and a five-minute walk from Fleet Avenue where several bus routes pass, making this convenient for workers who rely on public transit. “This is a great opportunity to create over 200 new jobs” stated Councilman Brancatelli.

Art House and Broadway School of Music and the Arts Receive Support from Councilman Brancatelli

Councilman Tony Brancatelli is providing \$25,000 in funding to both the Art House in Brooklyn Centre and to the Broadway School of Music and the Arts in Slavic Village. The funding is to ensure both organizations can continue to provide affordable classes, as well as offer financial aid to those who need the extra help, and all the other services and programs they offer in the neighborhoods.

Students from roughly 50 different schools in Cleveland and its inner ring suburbs now take lessons at the Broadway school. The school also offers after-school arts to the

neighboring University Settlement, as well as conducting storytelling sessions with African-American senior adults, and finally working with Slavic Village Development for various activities including hands-on art in a park, sponsoring a neighborhood residency of The Cleveland Orchestra, and finally an active partner in the annual Rooms to Let event.

Art House Inc., which creates opportunities for artists and residents and children in the area will be able to offer more free and reduced rate classes and other opportunities for families. Art House also offers a number of

after school programs, as well as art programs at different Cleveland Recreation Centers and free family open studio nights at their Brooklyn Centre location.

“Both organizations on both sides of my ward are gems and the neighborhoods they are in would be greatly diminished without them,” Councilman Brancatelli said.

To find out more about both organizations and classes and programs they offer got to the Art House at www.arthouseinc.org and for more information and for the Broadway School go to www.broadwayschool.org

From Blight to Backyards in Old Brooklyn

The Cuyahoga Land Bank recently took ownership of a 6-acre parcel of land abutting the backyards of the owners and residents along South Ridge Drive in Cleveland’s Old Brooklyn neighborhood, ending a decade’s long concern over the future of that parcel.

Residents had long feared the possibility of a future re-use as a land fill. Residents’ concerns were alleviated when they learned that Cuyahoga Land Bank’s was willing to acquire the parcels, and to give the land back to the owners (at a nominal price) to expand their back yards as had been committed to them many years ago.

While the ownership at one time had been combined with a land fill operation behind the homes on Sky Light Avenue, over the years the South Ridge parcel – known as the Bradley Landfill – became owned by an unrelated owner.

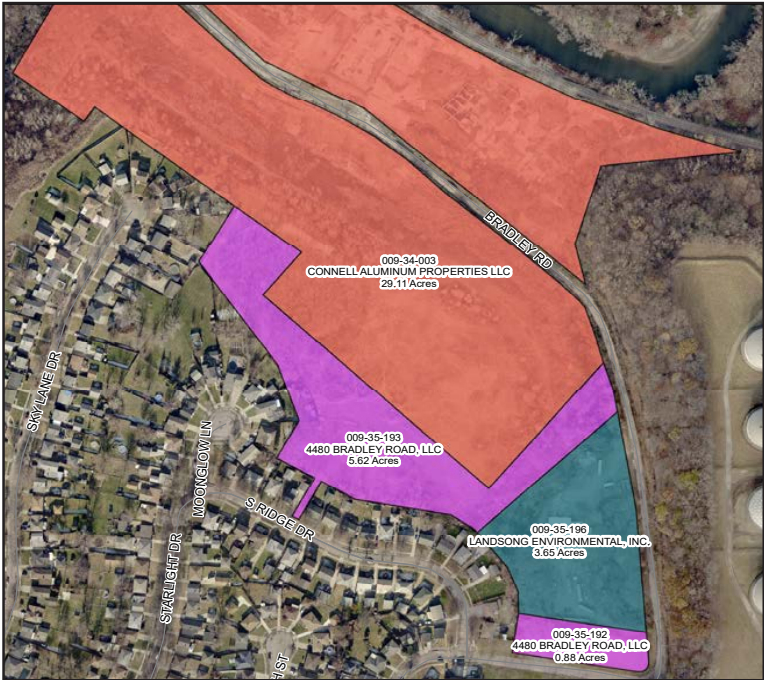
Councilman Brancatelli has long opposed any discussion of any future land fill operations at the site. Apprehensions nevertheless persisted over the years. Councilman Brancatelli arranged for the residents of South Ridge to meet with Land Bank officials on the street to discuss the possible disposition of the site. Residents met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Kolariks who graciously set out chairs and beverages for residents to listen to and consider the opportunity.

“This was a chance for this property to finally be dedicated to the residents of South Ridge and put

to rest any notion of unwanted uses at the site,” said Councilman Brancatelli.

Gus Frangos, President of the Cuyahoga Land Bank explained that this was not an acquisition the County Land Bank would typically undertake due to its inability to make use of the property. However, he indicated that if the residents were to approve the concept and wished to take ownership and expand their back yards, the Cuyahoga Land Bank would be willing to grade and clear the land and assist with formal lot splits resulting in fee ownership for each abutting South Ridge owner. All of the residents’ present owning land abutting the South Ridge parcel enthusiastic ly were in favor of the proposal.

When asked what the cost would be to acquire the parcels, Cuyahoga Land Bank representatives indicated that the cost would be \$100 per lot, similar to the Cuyahoga Land Bank’s side yard program, but that residents would be asked to participate in the cost of formal surveys and lot splitting surveys of the land not to exceed \$1,500 per landowner. Frangos indicated that it would likely cost over \$100,000 to grade and level the land, but the prospect of a permanent and final



disposition of this land made it worth the cost.

The Cuyahoga Land Bank plans to begin work clearing the land in the spring or early summer of 2022. Councilman Brancatelli and Frangos indicated that the Cuyahoga Land Bank and the residents would need to meet again to execute the needed lot split agreements with the residents. “Once we get estimates to clear the land and get ready to deploy excavators, we will likely meet again at the site with residents several times in order to answer questions and keep residents informed,” said Frangos.

Planning For New Downtown Connector Trails Funded

Cleveland Metroparks was awarded a \$950,000 grant to pay most of the \$1.5 million planning and design bills for four regional transportation projects, three of which are in Cleveland's Slavic Village neighborhood, that encompass 5.7 miles of trail and bike connections.

The U.S. Department of Transportation grant was awarded through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability & Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program. The money will be used to develop full construction documents for two projects -- the Slavic Village Downtown Connector Phase 2 North and the Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension, and advance two more through the feasibility stage -- the Iron Court/Opportunity Corridor Connector, and Euclid Creek Greenway Phase 2 North.

Cleveland Metroparks says the four projects that will be funded through the grant were part of the Cuyahoga Greenways Plan, a countywide trail and bikeway master plan that was completed in late 2019. The grant resulted from its collaboration with Cuyahoga County and the City of Cleveland through the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners.

In the Slavic Village area, the grant will fund the full design of 2.2 miles of bicycle paths from E. 14th St. to the intersection of Broadway and Dille Ave. The Slavic Village Downtown Connector Phase 2 North project will connect Slavic Village and the completed Morgana Run Trail to the Towpath Trail through Cleveland Metroparks Washington and Ohio & Erie Canal reservations along with Downtown Cleveland. It will also connect to the all-purpose trail built as part of ODOT's Innerbelt Project along Orange Ave. that connects to E. 14th St. and on to the E. 9th St. Extension, Metroparks says.

The grant will also fund the full design of a .8 mile all-purpose trail to link the completed Morgana Run Trail to the Mill Creek Falls area of Garfield Park Reservation. It will also connect to the Warner Road bike lanes and Mill Creek Connector Trail, as well as the future Slavic Village Downtown Connector via the Morgana Run Trail.

In addition, the grant will provide money for



Perspective #4 - Broadway Trail North of Dille



Perspective #6 - Utilize Abandoned Railway Corridor



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www.mcknightassoc.com



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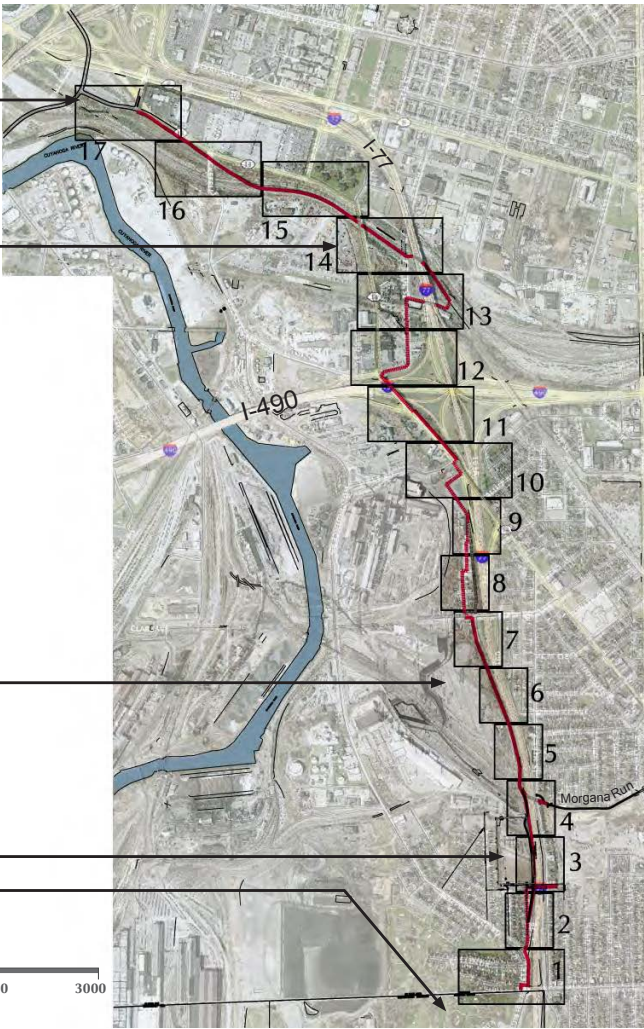
New Broadway / 9th Street
Downtown Connection

East 34th RTA Station

Job Ready Development Parcel

Steel Warehouse

Washington Reservation



Downtown Connector Trail
Washington Reservation Metropark to East 9th Street
Slavic Village Development / City of Cleveland
February, 2013

feasibility-level planning of a proposed 0.7 mile connection from the western terminus of Opportunity Corridor Trail at E. 55th to the Slavic Village Downtown Connector Trail near Iron Court/Broadway Area.

It also will fund feasibility-level planning of a proposed two-mile bicycle connection between the lower Euclid Creek Reservation to its lakefront portion. The proposed connection would build on Cleveland

Metroparks first phase of the Euclid Creek Greenway, scheduled for construction in 2022, that will connect Euclid Creek Parkway to Euclid Avenue.

It will take about six months or longer for the Metroparks to get started on the design work funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The grants were "ultra-competitive," with only about \$30 million across the country for such projects.



Ben Franklin Gardens Gazebo funded in part by Councilman Brancatelli through Ward 12 allocations.

New Stage and Gazebo for Dan Kane Park

The Summer Iron Ward Music Festival was held Monday evenings in Dan Kane Park this year and it was a great time. Councilman Tony Brancatelli has allocated \$30,000 to build a new stage and gazebo for Dan Kane Park to host the Iron Ward Music Festival and other entertainment events at the park. Located at East 65th and Kenyon Ave. across from Morganic Gardens and Morgana Athletic Field, this location has become a hub for live entertainment and arts in Slavic Village. A new stage and gazebo will enhance the performances and provide for a better visitor experience.



Dan Kane Park Event Stage

Harshaw Chemical Site to Be Cleaned Up

The 55-acre former Harshaw Chemical Company Site, which is located at 1000 Harvard Ave., is slated to be cleaned up, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently announced.

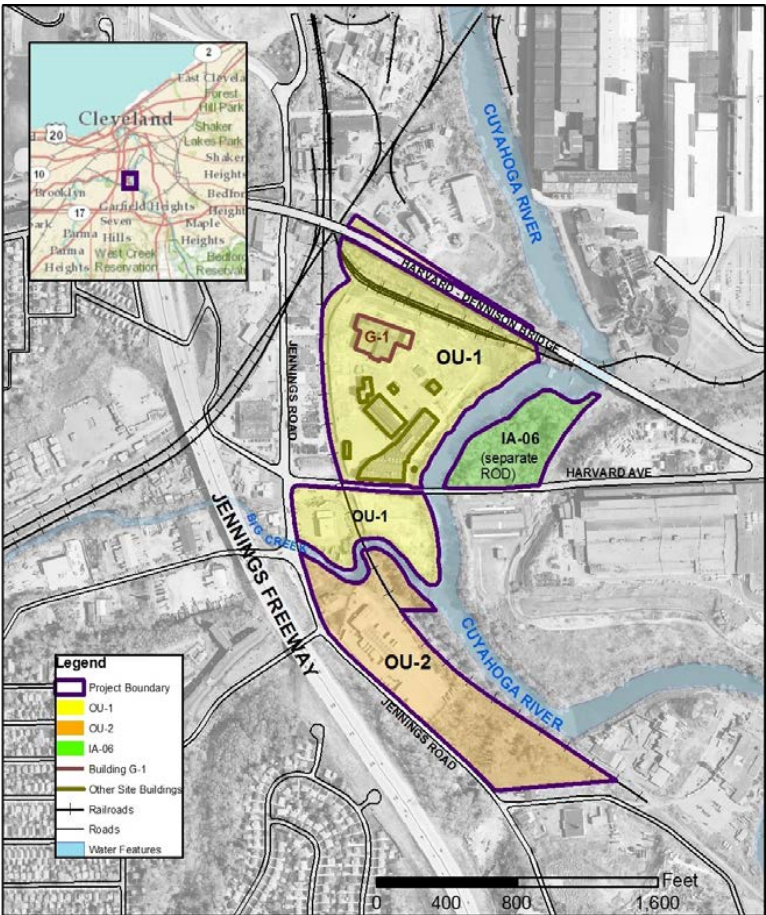
The former Harshaw Chemical Company was contracted by the Manhattan Engineer District and later the Atomic Energy Commission to support the Nation's early atomic weapons program. From 1944 to 1959, various forms of uranium were processed at the Harshaw Site and sent to Oak Ridge, Tennessee, for further processing.

Because of this connection to the creation of the Atom Bomb, related radioactive contaminants of concern identified at the site were radium, uranium, and thorium. Numerous contaminated buildings were demolished in the 1990s. The site was identified under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) that was tasked with identifying, investigating, and cleaning up sites

contaminated by activities conducted as part of the nation's early atomic weapons and energy program. That program was transferred to the Army Corps of Engineers.

The selected remedy for the Harshaw site is complete excavation of the soil impacted and transportation of it to an off-site disposal area and restoration of the site. Two areas of the site will be cleaned up to different standards. One section will be cleaned up to residential standards, meaning a more extensive soil removal and remediation leaving the site in a condition that it could be safely used for various opportunities. Another section of the property is being cleanup using industrial remediation goals, based on location and that it will be used for industrial purposes in the future.

Next year, the Buffalo District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will prepare a contract for the cleanup which could begin in 2023.



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Fleet Bike Shop’s 50th Anniversary

Great time at the 50th anniversary of Fleet Bike shop with Margaret “Marty” and Al Zaleski (pictured right) and nearly a hundred friends that stopped by to honor the day in August. The celebration had a live band, a cookout and a lot of great memories. Thanks to Father Jaszny for the use of St. Johns parking lot and all the friends and family that help put this anniversary party together.



Ward 12 News



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5th Anniversary of Neighborhood Pets



In October, Councilman Tony Brancatelli joined Ward 12 residents and neighbors to celebrate the 5th anniversary of Neighborhood Pets, located at 3711 & 3717 E. 66th Street. The event included tours of the new Wellness Center, music, games, complimentary food and refreshments, prizes, and raffles. Attendees also viewed newly completed murals by local artists.



“I’m pleased to support Neighborhood Pets, which helps keep people and their pets together,” said Councilman Brancatelli. “It’s great to celebrate their commitment to their customers and Slavic Village and also their expansion. I am allocating \$25,000 to help underwrite their

expansion and operations.”
Non-profit Neighborhood Pets provides low cost wellness care, a free spay/neuter program, a pet food bank, veterinary care assistance, low cost pet supplies, counseling and other resources to the people they serve.



www.NeighborhoodPetsCLE.org
3711 E 65th St, Cleveland, OH 44105 **Phone:** 216-505-5853

Delinquent on Your Taxes Because of COVID? There’s Help



CHN Housing Partners has partnered with Slavic Village Development to help families who are behind in their real estate taxes. Slavic Village is mailing letters to all affected homeowners in the neighborhood. This program, funded by the U.S. Department of Treasury’s Homeownership Assistance Fund, is for Cleveland and Cuyahoga County homeowners who are facing financial hardships due to COVID–19 and need help paying delinquent property taxes. Financial assistance per household caps at \$10,000. Income restrictions apply. Funding is targeted at households at or below 100% Area Median Income (with the ability to go up to 150% AMI in select cases).

Income Limits	Household Size	Annual	100% Area Median Income	
			Monthly	Yearly
1		\$68,900	\$5,742	
2		\$78,800	\$6,567	
3		\$88,600	\$7,383	
4		\$98,400	\$8,200	
5		\$106,300	\$8,858	
6		\$114,200	\$9,517	
7		\$122,100	\$10,175	
8		\$129,900	\$10,825	

resources, which you will be screened for. You will be under no obligation to participate in any programs they recommend.

Fill out the online application in its entirety and gather a few documents (you can save it and come back to your application):

1. Photo identification for each household member over 18 years of age - any individual listed as a

property owner or on the tax bill must be included in this application (if this is an issue, please call their hotline at 216-774-2336).

2. Proof of citizenship (birth certificate, Social Security card, naturalization certificate or passport) for all household members.

3. Income documentation (proof of income for most recent 30 days. If there is no current income, you may provide a 2020 W2, or 1099.

The online application and information on the program can be found at: <https://www.ttaforms.com/4922955>. For help contact Slavic Village at 216-429-1182