

The Ward 17 Dispatch

Councilman Charles J. Slife | Spring 2021



Engage with Councilman CHARLES SLIFE

PHONE
216-664-4239

EMAIL
cslife@clevelandcitycouncil.org

WEB
www.clevelandcitycouncil.org/ward-17



A Message from Councilman Charles Slife

Dear Neighbor,

It's hard to believe that it's been over a year since the beginning of the Coronavirus Pandemic. The world has changed and sadly, too many lives have been lost. Yet amid all of the uncertainty and tragedy we've seen, it's also been encouraging to see how our neighborhood has come together and supported each other. **Coronavirus vaccinations are well underway**, and many Ward 17 residents have already received theirs. Like I will, I hope you'll opt to receive the vaccine when you become eligible.

Gov. Mike DeWine recently announced new age categories, including down to 16 years old beginning soon. Local providers include Drug Mart, Fairview Hospital, Giant Eagle, Marc's, as well as the mass vaccination site at CSU's Wolstein Center (see page 4 for details). You can see a complete list of vaccination providers statewide by visiting vaccine.coronavirus.ohio.gov – sign up.

The Cleveland Department of Public Health (CDPH) is also providing vaccinations to Cleveland residents. CDPH is holding

*“Even in unusual times
Ward 17 remains a
great neighborhood.”*

vaccination events across Cleveland, including at Gunning Recreation Center. These events are accessible and well run – many residents have reached out to me to compliment the event organizers. To be put on a waiting list for a vaccine from CDPH, call 216-664-2222.

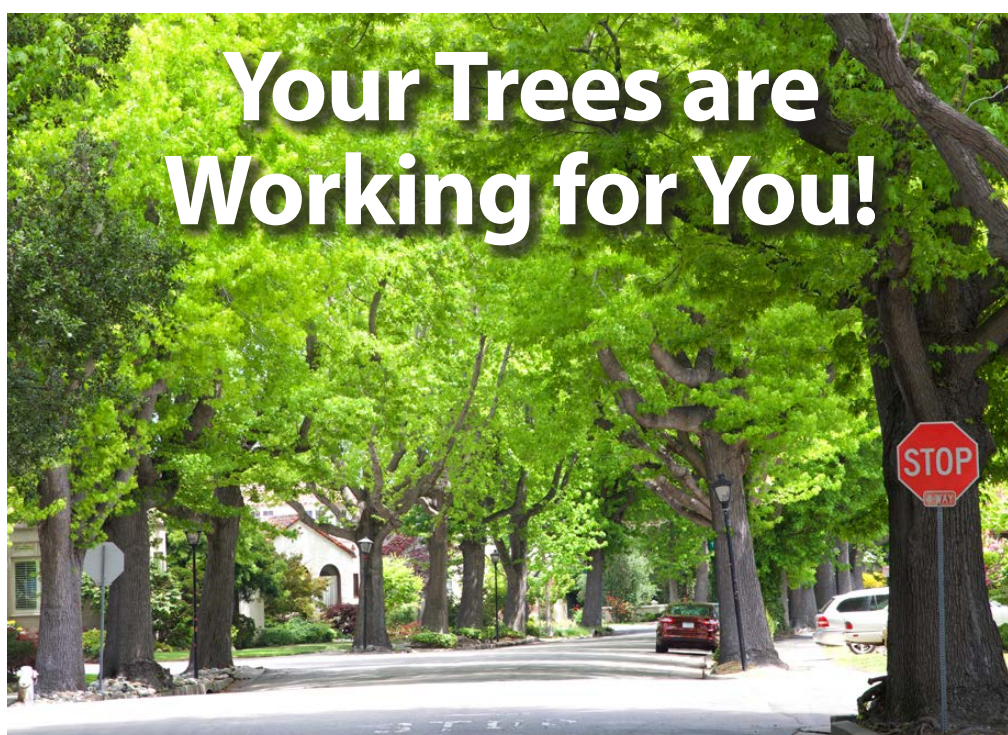
With every passing day, the light at the end of the tunnel grows and post-pandemic life becomes increasingly within reach. **City Council is advocating tirelessly for the restoration of many things we missed in 2020**, including the reopening of playgrounds and pools, permitting recreation sports, and (when the time is right) holding the community

Continued on page 3

In Ward 17, large trees can be found in parks, yards, and tree lawns. These trees are adding beauty and working hard for their neighbors. The environmental services trees provide are important to water quality, air quality, energy costs, soil erosion, and healthy urban ecosystems from Rocky River Reservation's forests to Lake Erie. The human health services that trees provide are correlated to better respiratory and cardiac health, and tree-lined streets are safer for pedestrians and cyclists to walk and bike on.

Trees are the only piece of urban infrastructure that gain economic value as they age. While our roads and our buildings depreciate as they age due to the expense of maintenance and replacement, trees grow in value as they age because the services they provide are amplified as the tree gets larger. With routine maintenance that begins early, the expense of maintaining mature trees becomes an investment in quality of life.

Maintaining trees begins at time of planting, by ensuring that the Right Tree is being planted in the Right Place. This means



***Trees are the only piece of urban infrastructure
that gain economic value as they age.***

taking the size of the site, light, soil, and water conditions into consideration when researching what species to plant. Keep the tree mulched, and water it weekly for the first 3 summers. As the tree establishes, make a plan for young tree training, which is the process of pruning a young tree to encourage it to grow in concert with its environment. Pruning can happen 4 years after planting, and can be done every couple of years. Let

trees take a year off at least between pruning so that they recover from the stress! Pruning at years 4, 7, 10, and 15 will help homeowners promote good structural growth and avoid costly pruning expenses when the tree is mature.

For mature trees, regular pruning will help address potential hazards like dead or broken limbs before they do major damage to houses or cars. Working with an ISA-certified arborist to keep the crown of a tree clean will extend the life and value of a yard tree.

As Clevelanders work to reforest the Forest City and restore canopy by planting new trees, we need to make sure we are also caring for our mature trees. They are doing the bulk of the work for us, add the most canopy and value to our urban forest, and cannot be replaced in our lifetime.

To find an arborist near you, check out www.treesaregood.com. To learn more about what you can do to plant and maintain trees in your neighborhood, please email the Ward 17 office or trees@wrlandconservancy.org.

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



Set Out Guidelines for Waste Collection

Here are some tips to make sure your waste collection is compliant with city set out guidelines:

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.
 - 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.

UPCOMING BULK PICK UP WEEKS

- Week of April 4
- Week of May 2
- Week of June 6

For more information regarding waste collection, please call the Division of Waste Collection at 216-664-3711 or visit www.clevelandohio.gov

The Heritage Home ProgramSM is here to help homeowners

For its first twenty years of existence, the Cleveland Restoration Society (CRS) was mostly concerned with protecting downtown landmarks. The development of a housing assistance program grew out of the desire to have an impact outside of downtown. At the beginning of the planning process, the thought was that we should establish a revolving fund to directly purchase, restore and sell historic properties. However, it was ultimately decided that establishing a program of rehab project assistance and low interest loans would enable CRS to have an impact on many more properties. And indeed it has!

The Heritage Home ProgramSM began assisting homeowners in a few small



neighborhoods in Cleveland in 1993 and has since expanded to cover the entire city, much of Cuyahoga County, and communities in three of the surrounding counties. Our remarkable statistics – **20,394 rehab projects for \$447 million** - is without comparison among our peer preservation organizations. Preservation is truly a local endeavor, and this was a unique Cleveland approach of using historic preservation as a neighborhood economic development tool.

While our mission originally was to preserve “historic” homes (and we certainly continue this work), we also embrace “non-historic” homes because they represent the gift of embodied energy as well as heritage. Homes that are in one of our 37 participating communities and over 50 years old can use our program for assistance with their home repair projects. The Heritage Home ProgramSM can assist homeowners with projects by offering impartial advice, help them find contractors, and provide a low interest-rate loan for their home repairs or improvements. We can provide site visits and virtual site visits to homeowners to give advice or help with choosing paint colors for their home. Homeowners connect with us by phone, email, video chat, or in person for our services throughout the year.



City of Cleveland Exterior Paint Program Returns

The City of Cleveland invites residents to take advantage of its 2021 Exterior Paint Program. **Applications must be received by April 30, 2021.**

The Exterior Paint Program provides paint and materials to homeowners who wish to paint the exterior of their homes. Labor is not included. The goal for 2021 is 500 homes with a total allocation of \$500,000 for the program.

Homeowners, as well as tenants, who meet income guidelines, are welcome to apply for

the program. **Funds cover the cost of up to \$1,500 for owner occupants or up to \$750 for tenants in paint and materials**, though restrictions do apply. Inspections of the property must also be conducted. Painting must be completed by Oct. 31, 2021.

The Department of Community Development’s Division of Neighborhood Services administers services on a first-come, first-served basis. Interested Cleveland residents can obtain applications by calling 216-664-2045.

EXTERIOR PAINT PROGRAM INCOME GUIDELINES			
FAMILY SIZE	INCOME LEVEL	FAMILY SIZE	INCOME LEVEL
1	\$51,600	5	\$79,600
2	\$59,000	6	\$85,500
3	\$66,350	7	\$91,400
4	\$73,700	8	\$97,300

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/>



Message Continued

events and summer festivals that bring our neighborhood together.

Even in unusual times Ward 17 remains a great neighborhood. New residents continue to purchase homes and values continue to increase. Many long-time residents took advantage of stay-at-home orders to do home renovations, which further strengthen our housing stock. An uncertain economy hasn’t stopped new restaurants and shops from opening. At the same time, the support of residents committed to eating and shopping locally has allowed our established businesses to weather the storm. Positive trends are set to continue in 2021, with exciting new developments and projects on the horizon.

No spring newsletter is complete without a mention of our most hated phenomenon: potholes. During budget hearings, I expressed my frustration with the speed of last year’s pothole repairs to Mayor Jackson. This season I’m asking for your help so I can more easily track pothole locations and the progress of repairs.

From your tablet, phone, or computer, this link will take you to an online form: <https://bit.ly/3exzj1l>. It will also be available on my Facebook page: @CouncilmanCharlesSlife.

When you use the form to report potholes and repairs, my office can streamline how information is sent to city crews. We can also create maps that will help us all monitor progress.

Thank you and I look forward to seeing you as I’m walking, jogging, biking, or cruising through our beautiful corner of Cleveland.

Charles J. Slife

Charles Slife
Councilman - Ward 17



Our First Responders

Rank/Name: Patrol Officer ADRIANNA CARABALLO, badge #63

Year you joined CPD: 2019

Why did you become a police officer?:

I had a strong urge to help change the skewed image the Police were getting via media and social media. Instead of sitting back and defending "The Blue", I stepped up to be a positive impression to a negative situation. The quote "Don't talk about it..be about it!" really stuck with me through this new journey I have taken on.

Favorite part of the job:

Interacting with the citizens of Cleveland has been my favorite part of the job. I find myself to be a people person and hearing stories of those that I come across daily

really gets me to put their situation, good or bad, in a more understanding perspective. I try to leave every work day with the feeling that I helped at least one person's life in a positive manner or else I do not count it as a successful work day. Knowing I have made an impact on someone's life or situation makes me feel more accomplished towards my goal of a better change.

Favorite places in Ward 17/ West Park:

In all honesty while patrolling up and down the streets I get a sense of neighborhood comradery from those we pass working on their yards, walking their dogs, or just taking a stroll. You get that feeling that everyone is looking out for each other and appreciates those who are around to help keep the community safe in any aspect.

Fun fact about you:

I love planning parties and mini vacations on a budget! Taking on the challenge to throw a party or plan a good trip way under the norm brings me joy because saving money is always a plus in life too!

A safety tip:

✓ Always have a plan!

✓ It is easy to be complacent in your everyday routines but you should always be aware of your surroundings and be vigilant in noticing when something feels off.

✓ See something..say something!

Rank/Name: Patrol Officer THOMAS ROSS, badge #2429

Year you joined CPD: 1999



Why did you become a police officer?:

I worked in the juvenile court system and developed such great admiration for CPD and the officers that I would meet, so I took the test. It was also an opportunity to get involved before someone landed in jail.

Favorite part of the job:

Working this Zone; and serving in our Honor Guard, especially the deep meaning that it has to West Park and the support that we receive.

Favorite places in Ward 17/ West Park:

We love everything about WP, but the Metro Parks and West Park Station

would top the list (my kids are picky eaters).

Fun fact about you:

My wife says I still act like I'm 13, and I often find myself speaking with our residents about our shared joy of yardwork, especially as spring approaches.

A safety tip:

In a crisis, you will not rise to the occasion, you will default to the level of your training and preparation. Plan for emergencies like power outages, and unfortunately, crime. Always be aware of your environment, trust your instincts, and have a plan for everything; then practice it. It won't do you any good stuffed inside a desk drawer.

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CLEVELAND



Ohio's
Mass Vaccination
CLINIC



Sign Up Now!

Ohio's Mass Vaccination Clinic at the
Wolstein Center starts March 17th, 2021.

Open to anyone eligible
under the Ohio Department
of Health's COVID-19
Vaccination Program.

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK!
HOURS 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Sign up now to get a no-cost COVID-19
vaccine at gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov
or call 1-833-4-ASK ODH or 1-833-427-5634.



Wolstein Center
2000 Prospect Ave E.
Cleveland, Ohio 44115



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GOVERNOR OF OHIO



Ohio Department of Health



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WARD 17 COUNCILMAN
Charles Slife
City Hall Office:
601 Lakeside Avenue, Room 220
Cleveland, OH 441 14

Visit www.ClevelandCityCouncil.org/ward-17
Executive Assistant: Erin Conroy
Phone: 216-664-4239 Fax: 216-664-3837
Email: cslife@clevelandcitycouncil.org



Due Date For Filing Federal Income Tax Is Extended to May 17 *Ohio Taxes Still Due April 15!*



The Internal Revenue Service has
extended the federal income tax filing
due date this year from April 15 to
May 17. The decision was made to give
Americans time to adjust to tax-law changes
implemented during the pandemic.
Taxpayers can also postpone federal
income tax payments to May 17 without
facing penalties.

The federal tax filing **extension**
applies only to federal income tax returns,
not to state returns. The due date for filing
Ohio taxes is still April 15.

Meanwhile, Cuyahoga County and the Cuyahoga
Earned Income Tax Credit Coalition is offering free tax

preparation services to low- and moderate-income
families.
The free tax service is available virtually or at 11
different drop-off/pick-up locations across Cuyahoga
County.
Working families may be eligible to receive up
to \$6,600 through the Earned Income Tax Credit.
The program offers free tax help to families and
individuals who generally make \$56,000 or less,
persons with disabilities and limited English-speaking
taxpayers who need assistance. Translation and
interpretation services, as well as free financial
counseling, are also available.
Appointments can be scheduled by visiting
refundohio.org or calling 2-1-1.