

THE WARD 16 CONSTITUENT

COUNCILMAN BRIAN KAZY | FALL 2022 | WWW.CLEVELANDCITYCOUNCIL.ORG



Engage with Councilman BRIAN KAZY:

“Call if I can help.”

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WARD 16 is S.A.S.S.Y.
S - STRONG
A - AFFORDABLE
S - SAFE
S - STABLE
Y - YOUTH ORIENTED

An Open Letter from Councilman Kazy

Dear Residents,

Author Barbara DeAngelis once said, “We don’t develop courage by being happy every day. We develop it by surviving difficult times and challenging adversity.”

That is exactly what we encountered here in Ward 16 at the end of 2021 and the beginning of 2022. Unfortunately, we had two very tragic events at Jefferson Park and we had to make a decision regarding the future of the park. We could have either given up on the park, shut it down or collaboratively work together as a community to revitalize it showing others that this is the best place to work, play and raise a family.

At one point, I made the decision to give the park a time-out and it turns out that was the best thing I could have done. It gave everybody time to heal and to sit down, talk with one another and get some ideas for the park that could be tangible.

This past year, with the assistance of Impact Youth Sports, I was able to put together **the City of Cleveland’s first ever organized outdoor summer basketball league.** Over 125 people, ages 10 – 25 participated.



Outdoor Summer Basketball League

The best part about the league was that before anybody even stepped onto the court the participants had to go through educational classes with elders of the faith based community to learn basic life skills including sportsmanship, conflict resolution and the importance of politeness and community engagement.

“To be able to bring this many people, be this organized, to watch the participants embrace the community and to see the neighbors around the park come out and watch the games was truly an amazing thing

Continued on page 2



Habitat for Humanity Invests \$1M in Ward 16

Everyone has a right to affordable housing. Not an option, but a right.

John Habat, President & CEO of Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity, welcomed a crowd of more than 50 with those words at the groundbreaking for **the first new Habitat for Humanity construction project in over a decade on Cleveland’s west side**, in Councilman Brian Kazy’s Ward 16.

Five new single-family homes will soon be built on the site of the former Longmead Elementary School, a lot that has been vacant since at least 1980. Habitat for Humanity is investing more than \$1 million into the neighborhood with the new home construction. **Cleveland City Council approved \$180,000 in funding to support the project**, with an additional \$270,000 in funding being provided by the Cuyahoga Land Bank.

“This investment is a reminder that we believe in this neighborhood. Habitat for Humanity has rehabbed four homes here since 2018 and now they are making this \$1 million investment,” Councilman Kazy shared. “This neighborhood is all about family.

“This construction project encourages more families to move



here. This lot has been vacant since 1979 or 1980 and this is the start of stabilization for decades to come for the neighborhood.”

On hand to celebrate the groundbreaking were Councilman Kazy, Council President Blaine A. Griffin, State Senator Nickie J. Antonio, Cleveland Chief Integrated Development Officer Jeff Epstein, Bellaire Puritas Assistant Director Melissa Miller, Cuyahoga Land Bank’s Kamala Lewis, and Father Doug Koesel of Blessed Trinity Catholic Church.

Habitat for Humanity CEO Habat estimates a building cost of \$275k for each unit. Habitat will then sell the homes at their appraised values - which will likely be less than \$275k to families looking to purchase their own home. As a nonprofit, Habitat for Humanity regularly sells homes for less than the cost to build. This helps them in their quest to provide affordable housing.

Habat views this as just the start of Habitat’s investment and hopes to build 400 new homes in the city in the city, with support from Council, the Cuyahoga Land Bank, and the State of Ohio.

“The residents make this neighborhood what it is and make it so attractive for others to move here,” said Melissa Miller of Bellaire Puritas Community Development Corporation. “I’m excited for what this project means for this neighborhood and the opportunities to work with Habitat for Humanity moving forward.”

Miller and the staff at Bellaire Puritas have actively worked to encourage homeownership in the neighborhood for decades.

Visit clevelandhabitat.org for more information on the work Habitat for Humanity is doing in Cleveland and Northeast Ohio.



KEY FEATURES

- New construction
- Energy-efficient heating and AC
- New Energy Star appliances (refrigerator and stove)
- Affordable 0% mortgage

Message Continued

to see," said Rich Austin, Executive Director of Impact Youth Sports.

I must admit, this all came about because of the collaboration with the community and those concerned for the neighborhood. We held countless meetings regarding the future of the park and it was decided to revitalize the park and not give into the temptation of taking the easy way out.

Jefferson Park is a community park that is one of the best assets not only in Ward 16 but, the entire west side of Cleveland.

In his book, *The Light in the Heart*, Roy T. Bennet said, "Never lose hope. Storms make people stronger and never last forever."

Here in Ward 16, we never lose hope and always weather the storms. Aside from the basketball league, we also have lunches served daily to the youth in the summer, hold park programming, and host our rock concert series, safety fairs and my upcoming annual Haunted Hollow.

Best,



Brian C. Kazy
Councilman, Ward 16



Cleveland Department of Public Health

Cleveland Division of Air Quality Enforcement

Air Quality Issues

Cleveland Division of Air Quality Enforcement staff ensures compliance of industrial and commercial air pollution sources within Cuyahoga County that are regulated by Ohio EPA. Find out more: <https://clevelandhealth.org/programs/air/enforcement/>

Citizen complaints can be submitted by phone 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 216-664-7442 or through the online submission form.

WATER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

A program is available to help customers with their water and sewer bills. **The Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program**, which is available will help low-income families experiencing hardship with water and sewer bills, particularly those who have been disconnected or are facing disconnection.

Customers with a household income at or below 175% of the federal poverty guidelines are eligible to receive a one-time benefit of up to \$750 for water bills and \$750 for sewer bills.

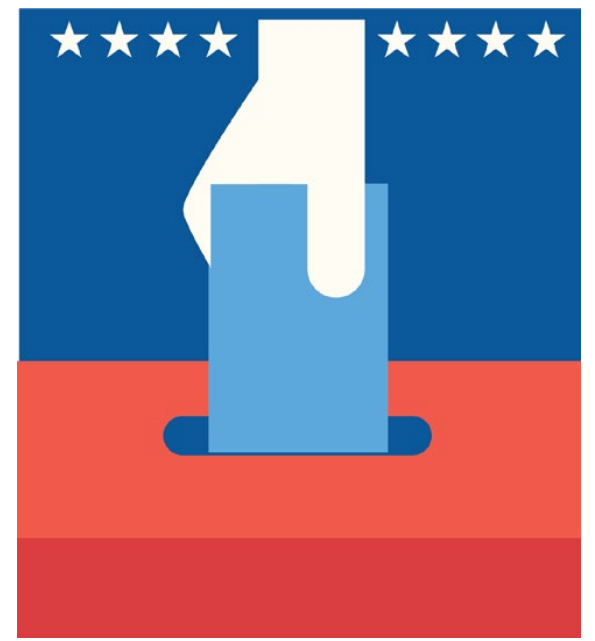
Residents can apply via CHN Housing Partners by calling 216-350-8008 to make an appointment or schedule an appointment online at chn.itfrontdesk.com

Cleveland Water also offers several discount programs, including the Homestead Program for seniors and the disabled. This program requires applicants to fill out an application. The application is available here: www.clevelandwater.com/customer-service/water-rates/discount-programs. For additional information or to get an application mailed to you call 216-664-3130.

The Water Affordability Program, which offers a discount on all water charges, is available to those under 200% of the poverty rate. The Water Affordability Program is administered by CHN Housing Partners. For questions or to apply for the program, please contact the CHN Housing Partners at 216-774-2349.

November Voting Information

VOTE CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS



Absentee Voting for the November 8, 2022 General Election will soon be underway.

Vote-by-Mail and Early In-Person Voting began October 12, 2022. Individuals are encouraged to obtain, complete, and mail or hand-deliver their Vote-by-Mail Ballot Applications to the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections as soon as possible.

Vote-by-Mail Ballot Applications are available online at www.443vote.us, by calling 216-443-VOTE (8683) or at all public libraries.

Early In-Person Voting is located at the Board of Elections, 2925 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115. **The Early In-Person Voting schedule is as follows:**

- **WEEKDAYS*** October 12th – October 28th
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- **SATURDAY** October 29th
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- **WEEKDAYS*** October 31st – November 4th
8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

- **SATURDAY** November 5th
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- **SUNDAY** November 6th
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- **MONDAY** November 7th
8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Weekdays are denoted as Monday through Friday.*

Bellaire-Puritas Offers 50/50 Home Repair Program

Need exterior home repairs? This is the time to take advantage of Bellaire-Puritas Development Corp. Home Repair Program. Thanks to Third Federal Savings and Loan, BPDC is able to offer up to a \$500 rebate on exterior repair work to eligible homeowners. Our goal is to encourage homeowners to keep their home in good repair so every street in the neighborhood is showing off the quality of its homes. For more information, please call Toni Jones at 216-671-2710 EXT: 20

Lawrence McGinty, 2022 Senior of the Year

Lawrence McGinty was born to the late Loretta and Edward McGinty and raised in Cleveland alongside five siblings. He has lived on the same street for his entire life. He attended Annunciation grade school and graduated from John Marshall high school. His work career has involved kitchen restaurant work and driving. Lawrence worked for National Car Rental for 18 years as a bus driver.

Mr. McGinty can often be found helping Councilman Kazy with ward cookouts at McGowan Park or with concerts at Jefferson Park. He gladly assists with Bellaire Puritas Community Development Center activities. He is also very active in his community garden on West 130th and Sprecher Avenue. The community garden has 38 garden beds filled with tomatoes, peppers and more. He can often be found cutting grass, trimming trees and painting benches. He is a block watch captain between the bridges and assists several older adults on the street with their lawn care needs.

He married his childhood sweetheart, Patti, who also lived on the same street.

Her family was on his Cleveland Press paper route. Today he lives 15 houses down from his childhood home. Larry and Patti are the proud parents of two daughters, Melissa and Nicole and proud grandparents of three,



Inset: Larry McGinty was recognized as our ward's outstanding senior by Councilman Kazy, Sonya Pryor-Jones, City of Cleveland Chief of Youth & Family Success, and Council President Blaine A. Griffin at the 32nd Annual Senior Day Event held on September 15th at Cleveland Public Hall.

Jaidyn, Xander and Amelia. He is a committed caregiver to his wife Patti.

Larry is a Mason, a member of the Cleveland Lodge 781, Grotto, Eastern Start River. In his free time, he enjoys golf, corn hole and swimming. He also enjoys helping with Relay for Life fundraisers.

TREATS! HAY RIDES!

WARD 16

CRAFTS! AND MORE!

HAUNTED HOLLOW

Join Councilman Kazy, Ward 16 residents and friends for this fun, safe Halloween family festival!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28

6 - 8 pm @ Jefferson Park | On West 132nd St. & Lorain Ave.

Pumpkin
Decorating
Contest

Haunted
Maze

AT DUSK:
Family
Movie!



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COUNCILMAN
**Brian
Kazy**

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Cleveland Public Library - Rockport Branch Groundbreaking

On August 27, Councilman Brian Kazy attended the groundbreaking for the brand new Rockport Branch of Cleveland Public Library (CPL), which has provided services to the Bellaire-Puritas community since 1964.

Plans include a new larger branch that will be built on the undeveloped greenspace at the corner of Puritas and 140th Street that will create prominent visibility for the library and contribute to a new gateway to the 140th street education corridor. The size and location of the site as well as the heavy use of this branch set it up to become a new Community Hub.

What's a Community Hub?

CPL Hub branches provide extended service more efficiently to patrons. Characteristics of a Community Hub building include:

- Resource Center, a broader scope of service that still has a community focus
- Collection is still focused on popular material but may have a heavier reference area
- Includes minimum 2-3 small group study rooms or similar defined collaborative space
- Dedicated computer area w/ fixed stations and 'laptop bar', business center function
- Dedicated children's area with

larger scale interactives area, possibly dedicated children's program area

- Defined Teen area with gaming
- Provide a flexible maker/program space that supports traveling programs, this may occur in the large meeting room
- Extended hours
- These branches should approach what patrons are accustomed to seeing at branches in surrounding county system that serve larger geographic areas



FREE After School Tutoring and Homework Help!

Monday – Thursday, 4 - 6 pm

FREE after school tutoring and homework help for students in grades K – 12. No registration or appointments are needed. Teens, ages 12-18

Simple STEM | Thursdays, 4:30 pm

Join us each Thursday for a simple STEM activity and build your STEM abilities! Youth, 18 and younger

Trinket Treat | Oct. 31, 4:30 - 5:30 pm

Visit the Teen Tech Center and take a tour and go away with a trinket made by members of the Best Buy Teen Tech Center. Children, ages 6-11

Teen Graphic Novel Book Club | Nov. 10, 3:15 - 4:15 pm

Do you love comics and graphic novels? Join us once a month as we discuss all things illustrated! Teens, ages 12-18

The Best Buy Teen Tech Center at Cleveland Public Library's Rockport Branch

A place where teens can explore their interests in programming, film-making, music production, and design. This space has professional recording, mixing, editing, and video equipment, green screen, vinyl cutters, sewing machines, button makers, and 3D printers. Plus Adobe Creative Cloud access for our members and mentors. Mentors will work alongside teens, sharing their skills and knowledge and creating a resource for members. Membership is free of charge! Jill Pappenhagen, Supervisor (jill.pappenhagen@cpl.org).

THE WARD 16 CONSTITUENT



WARD 16 COUNCILMAN
Brian Kazy



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Visit www.clevelandcitycouncil.org



**MAKE YOUR MARK
ON THE WORLD.
GET INVOLVED TODAY!**

1st & 3rd Wednesday

4:30PM -5:45PM | Bellaire-Puritas Office
14703 Puritas ave. Cleveland, Oh 44135

For information contact:

Kadie Szymczuk 440-305-0117

K.szymczuk@bpd.c.org or visit bpd.c.org

Or to Register Scan the Code below!

