



Ward 12 News

Councilwoman Rebecca Maurer ■ WINTER 2023-24 ■ www.clevelandcitycouncil.org

A message from Councilwoman Maurer



Councilwoman Maurer at the re-opening of the South High Gym

It's been two years since I was elected, which means I'm now half way through my four-year term. It's amazing to me how time flies in this job. As they say about so many things in life, the days are long, but the weeks are short. **I'm honored every day to serve the residents of Ward 12. Here are just some of the things we have done this past year:**

- ▶ Provided direct services to over 1,500 residents and business owners – from help getting new garbage bins to street light repairs and more.
- ▶ Invested more than \$1.5 million in road repaving across the ward.
- ▶ Secured a \$7 million ARPA investment for Middle and Edge neighborhoods – including Ward 12. This means money coming into main corridors like Fleet, Broadview, and Pearl.
- ▶ Opened the South High Gym for use by the Stella Walsh recreation center for the first time in over 10 years.
- ▶ Worked with Building and Housing to make it easier for the City to close the permits of landlords who don't take care of their buildings.
- ▶ Held "office hours" in each neighborhood where residents could visit us at the library.
- ▶ Held community meetings about fixing the roads and grass cutting in Cleveland.
- ▶ Organized a Student Loan Week at City Hall to look at how student loans affect Cleveland residents.
- ▶ Renewed our Senior Circulator bus program, which takes Ward 12 seniors at 4 apartment buildings to the store each week.
- ▶ Gave out 3,000 pieces of candy to kids at Halloween events across the ward.
- ▶ Hosted lead training programs and a free soil testing event with the EPA.
- ▶ Handed out free books and stickers at back-to-school events across the ward.
- ▶ Renewed the City's mental health crisis intervention team.
- ▶ Approved money for the City to build a "care response" model to help more people in the future who are struggling with mental crisis.
- ▶ Attended dozens of block clubs and engaged with residents at events across the ward.
- ▶ Worked with the Mayor's Office of Capital projects to plan for a trial of "porous flexible pavement" in 2024 to make sidewalks safer.
- ▶ Held a first-of-its-kind budget town hall with the Mayor's administration.

Get involved with a Ward 12 Block Club

Slavic Village:

- Forest City Block Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm at the church at 3585 Kimmel Road.
- E 63rd Street Block Club meets on the second Thursday of the month at 6:30pm in the basement of St. Stan's, 6615 Forman Ave.
- Fullerton Block Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm at Golubski Funeral Home, 6500 Fullerton.



Old Brooklyn:

- South Hills Neighborhood Association - Holds events throughout the year. Contact shnacle@gmail.com to get on the mailing list

Brooklyn Centre:

- We're actively looking to start a block club! Contact Adam Gifford at agifford@metrowestcle.org if you want to help or be notified of future meetings.

Tremont:

- Holmden-Buhrer-Rowley / Mentor-Castle-Clark block club meets on the first Wednesday of the month. Contact Dharma Valentin at dharmavalentin@tremontwest.org for details.

Is a legal issue impacting your basic needs?

Live in Northeast Ohio?

Contact Legal Aid!

Intake open 24/7 online:
www.lasclev.org/contact

Or, call during most business hours intake:
888-817-3777



Looking for more Ward 12 news straight from City Hall?

Sign up for the email newsletter from Councilwoman Rebecca Maurer

Signing up is easy

Scan this code using your phone's camera. You can also enter bit.ly/Ward12Newsletter into any web browser.

The Ward 12 newsletter provides regular updates about community issues, city services, and neighborhood events.

These paper newsletters will continue as well. We will use the emails for more frequent updates.



Learn about the Residents First Bill

Do you feel upset when you see old, unsafe buildings in Cleveland? We definitely do.

The City is looking to change its building and housing rules. We want to close the gaps that slow the City down and make it harder to enforce the rules. The City has put together a bill called Residents First to do this. It is called Residents First because these rules will put you – the residents – above out-of-state landlords and LLCs.

There are a lot of pieces to this bill.

You can learn more by going to <https://bit.ly/CLEResidentsFirst> or scanning this QR code.



Here are **5 important changes** that you need to know.

- 1** The bill says that every landlord must have a person living in Northeast Ohio who takes care of the property. This person is called the "Local Agent In Charge." This person can be held responsible for problems with the property.
- 2** The bill would change the Rental Registry rules in Cleveland. This would allow Building & Housing to take away a landlord's permission to rent if a property has serious problems, like no heat or electricity.
- 3** The bill would create a "civil ticket" system. These are like parking tickets but for code violations. Civil tickets can help the City get a landlord's attention without a lengthy court case.
- 4** The bill would let the City clean up problems like tall grass and trash without going to court. Right now the city does not have this right!
- 5** The bill would require the owners of empty, vacant buildings to put money in escrow. Escrow is a special account with the City. If the owner does not fix the violations, they risk losing the money in this account.



Do you think the Residents First bill will make your neighborhood better?

Let us know what changes you hope to see when it passes. Councilwoman Maurer already supports this bill, but it still needs approval from City Council. You can reach out to the Ward 12 office or sign up to share your thoughts during public comment at <https://www.clevelandcitycouncil.org/resources/public-comment>.



Each year, our city chooses a few parks to fully rebuild. We're lucky because right now, two of those parks are here in Ward 12!



News from Calgary Park and Forest City Park

Calgary Park

During the summer and fall, we had meetings with the community to learn what you want to see in your new park. We heard about everything from the mosquitos to the need for more activities. Thank you to everyone who came to our park walk-through, filled out surveys, and joined our meetings. The City plans to start re-building Calgary Park in 2024.



Forest City Park

Thanks to everyone's hard work, the City has already started to re-build Forest City Park! You may have seen the big bulldozers on Kimmel Road in Slavic Village tearing down the old park. The goal is to finish the new park by the early summer of 2024. We are excited for this park to be even better for the neighborhood. We hope to see you at the grand opening!



Making a plan for each of Ward 12's neighborhoods

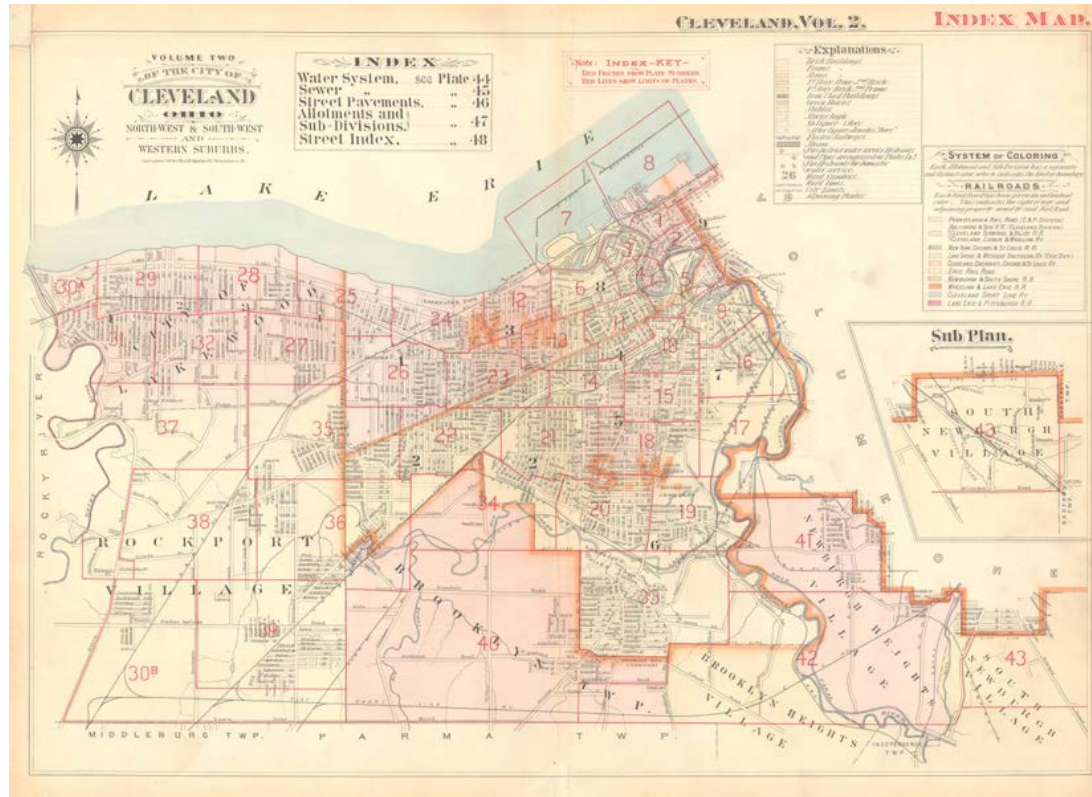
Have you ever heard of something called a "master plan"? Most people haven't! A master plan is a very important document that sets out goals for a neighborhood. The goals are long-term, with some planning 5, 10, or even 20 years in the future.

Master plans are really important for neighborhoods like Slavic Village, Old Brooklyn, Brooklyn Centre, and Tremont. They help us learn what is important to residents and to share ideas. Where should the neighborhood park be? Where do we want more business development and restaurants? How can we use our vacant lots for new housing? While a master plan doesn't mean we will complete every goal, it provides a road map for neighborhood planners and leaders. And with a good map, you know where you are heading.

"Getting on a path for a master plan in each of my neighborhoods has been one of my long-term goals since coming into office," says Councilwoman Maurer. "When I arrived in office, there were a lot of ideas for each of my neighborhoods, but no official plans. I knew that had to change."

Brooklyn Centre

Councilwoman Maurer is moving towards getting a master plan in place for each Ward 12 neighborhood. In Brooklyn Centre, the Ward 12 team is working with MetroWest



similar plan in the area of the Holmden-Burher-Rowley-Mentor-Castle-Clark block club. That project should start in 2024.

Old Brooklyn

In Old Brooklyn, the community development corporation is using the Middle Neighborhoods framework for a planning process in the area around Broadview Road. This means that the Old Brooklyn CDC will be investing in housing and businesses for nicer, more modern updates on both sides of Broadview. Stay tuned for more news about this in 2024.

Slavic Village

In Slavic Village, there's been some important steps towards a master plan in recent years. For example, Slavic Village Development has partnered with the RTA to build a master plan for a high-frequency bus line along Broadway Ave that would run every 15 minutes. We want to expand that planning to the whole neighborhood. This would allow us to set other important goals, beyond just transit and business corridors. Getting a master plan for the neighborhood will be one of the most important tasks for the new executive director at Slavic Village Development.

"We need plans in place to focus our development and improvement efforts. I'm excited to support these projects across each of the Ward 12 neighborhoods," said Councilwoman Maurer.

to start something called a "micro-plan." A micro plan is the idea of planning only a few streets at a time. Rather than tackle a whole neighborhood, you tackle an even smaller area. Councilwoman Maurer set aside funding to partner with the Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative. The goal was to work together to create a micro-plan for the area around Calgary Park in Brooklyn Centre. They'll be sharing the plan at the final community meeting on January 31, 2024 at 6:30pm at Queisqueya La Bella on Denison Avenue. There are also plans in place to work with MetroWest to grow the micro-plan to the rest of the neighborhood in future years.

Tremont

In Tremont, Councilwoman Maurer joined with Councilman McCormack and Tremont West Development Corporation to start a

IMPROVING BASIC CITY SERVICES

We must improve basic city services to make Cleveland a better city to live in. In 2022, Councilwoman Maurer released the Constituent Services Report showing critical gaps in basic city services like garage bin delivery and vacant lot mowing. The report – which was covered on the front page of the Plain Dealer – identified two key problems: lack of communication and lack of resources. This update shares a little on the past, present, and future of tackling the problems identified in the Constituent Services Report. **Ultimately it will be you, the residents, who will know if we succeeded.**

Poor Communication

Coming into this administration in 2022, there was not a strong culture of communicating with residents about when services would be delivered or following up with residents about why they did or did not happen.

Pushing for change in 2023

To improve communication, the city needed a centralized system. Council and Mayor's administration set aside \$4 million to completely revamp the 311 system. It is set to launch next year with more ways to submit requests and track results.

Evaluating in 2024

2024 will be a critical year to evaluate results. We will ask questions like: did 311 become reliable? Do residents trust the system? Did they meet the expectations that they set about what would be done and when?

Not Enough Resources

Aside from communication problems, there's the simple fact that in recent years, Cleveland has not had the resources -- or used its existing resources properly -- to deliver timely services to residents. We needed better resource management.

Pushing for change in 2023

Improving resources has taken department-by-department work, including strategic planning and investments. Some things have required budget changes, but many requests have come down to commitments from departments to run programming differently.

Evaluating in 2024

After more than a year of work, 2024 will be the key year to evaluate results. This will require department-specific follow ups like: how long does it take to board a house? How long does it take to get a new garbage bin? How often are vacant lots mowed?

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COUNCILWOMAN
Rebecca Maurer



City Hall: 601 Lakeside Avenue, Room 220 • Cleveland, OH 44114
Executive Assistant: Kathleen Moser
Phone: 216-664-4233 • **Email:** maurer@clevelandcitycouncil.org
Visit www.clevelandcitycouncil.org/ward-12

Ward 12 News

Winter weather is on the way! Here's what Ward 12 needs to know about Cleveland's snow plan.



- ▶ **Technology:** The City is implementing our new technology to optimize residential road plowing across the city.
- ▶ **Trucks:** The City now has 92 standard snow fleet vehicles, plus another 20 vehicles that can be outfitted for major snow events.
- ▶ **Salt:** Heading into the 2023-2024 snow season, the city has 21,000 tons of road salt and 20,000 gallons of salt brine.

Goal times to clear residential streets after snow

1 to 4 inches	4 to 6 inches	6 inches or more
24-36 hours	36-48 hours	48-72 hours

Was your street still not plowed?
Call 311 or the Ward 12 Council office at 216-664-4233.

In major snow events, the city first clears main streets and secondary mains. Residential streets are handled last. **It may take days to plow everything, even with the entire fleet operational and working 24/7.**

Be a good neighbor during snow events

- ▶ **Sidewalks.** Home and business owners are responsible for their own sidewalks. Please help keep your sidewalk clear.
- ▶ **Parking.** Follow marked signs to keep your car off of snow ban streets. On other streets, dig out your car as soon as you can so plows can clear curb to curb.
- ▶ **Seniors.** Check in on seniors and others in your neighborhood who may need help.



NEED FOOD?



 Greater Cleveland
Food Bank

216-738-2067
GreaterClevelandFoodBank.org

Serving Ashtabula, Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, and Richland Counties.
216-738-2067

Scan this QR code with your phone's camera for more info!



 Greater Cleveland
Food Bank
GreaterClevelandFoodBank.org

TEXT "FOOD" to 63566
for information regarding SNAP (food stamps) applications, food pantries, free produce and hot meals.

NEED HELP? DIAL 2-1-1



When you need help, United Way 211 is there to answer the call. **Dial three numbers: 2-1-1**, and a compassionate person will help you access community resources, **24 hours a day, 7 days a week.**

United Way 211 is free and confidential.

