A Message from Councilman Zone

The neighborhood where I grew up, where I still live today, and where I have the high honor of serving as your city council representative, has seen major changes over the years.

Settled by German and Irish immigrants in the early 1800s, the Detroit-Shoreway neighborhood and its environs grew into a working-class enclave as immigrants and their sons and daughters found work in the mills and foundries of an industrialized Cleveland.

Cleveland’s strategic location as a port city and a waypoint to western cities, ignited a manufacturing boom fueled by the fires of iron and steel. Our early industrial city was a leader in production as we manufactured everything from sewing machines to automobiles.

When my grandparents immigrated from Italy in the early 20th century, Cleveland had become the sixth-largest city in the United States and was seeing the construction of a downtown skyscraper that would briefly become the second-tallest building in the world – the Terminal Tower.

In 1950, the city had reached its peak population of more than 915,000. But by 1969, the year that the polluted Cuyahoga River caught fire, the city was on its way to de-industrialization.

Over the next 40 years, we would lose 70 percent of our auto industry jobs, 82 percent of our foundry jobs, and 96 percent of our coal industry jobs. Our population would shrink by 42 percent.

Continent on Page 3

Efforts Are Needed to Protect and Grow Trees in Cleveland

By Sandra Albro, Cleveland Tree Coalition

Last year, the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission undertook a new study of its urban forest, measuring the area of county land that is shaded by trees, known as tree canopy cover.

The study found that tree canopy cover is on the decline – the entire county lost about 6 percent of its tree cover during the six-year study period 2011–2017. The City of Cleveland lost about 5 percent of its tree canopy during that time.

Today, the neighborhoods of Cudell and Detroit Shoreway have less tree canopy cover than the entire city, which is 19 percent. Losing tree canopy means losing health and environmental benefits.

While the Edgewater neighborhood – at 25 percent cover – has more trees than the city average, it saw some of the biggest tree losses in the city, losing 14 percent of its trees over the six-year study period. Detroit Shoreway similarly lost 14 percent of its trees, while Cudell lost about 6 percent.

To counteract losses of urban forest, particularly in areas that already have fewer trees, Cuyahoga County Executive Armond Budish has created a program to spend $5 million to preserve and plant trees over the next 5 years.

Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization and Cudell Improvement, Inc. were joint recipients of one of the first round of grants, receiving $50,000 to create a tree plan for the Cudell and Detroit Shoreway neighborhoods where there are the fewest trees.

This grant builds upon tree stewardship that has been ongoing in Ward 15 for many years. Early last year, Councilman Matt Zone sponsored legislation to protect trees from loss due to development and utility work.

That protection is important, however, there are other threats to our tree cover, such as old age, disease, and tree cutting for aesthetic reasons. Residents can help reverse trends of tree loss and help Cleveland achieve 30 percent tree canopy by 2040 – a goal recommended by the Cleveland Tree Coalition – by planting, protecting, and caring for trees near our homes and businesses.

In turn, these trees will clean our air, filter our water, save us money in heating and cooling, and make our business districts more comfortable and attractive for customers. We hope you’ll join in efforts to grow healthy trees to support healthy neighborhoods for all.

For details, contact the Mayor’s Office of Sustainability at 216-664-2455 or email Sustainable Cleveland Center at SCC@city.cleveland.oh.us

Losing tree canopy means losing health and environmental benefits.
Councilman Matt Zone hosted a ribbon-cutting in October, marking the name change of Lawn-Madison Park at West 75th St. and Madison Avenue to Miriam Ortiz-Rush Park. The late Ortiz-Rush grew up in the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood, represented by Councilman Zone, and actively served the community all her adult life. She was a long-time trustee of the Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization and was involved in many civic and non-profit groups.

Celebrate Arbor Day at Zone Rec

Tree Planting & Free Tree Distribution

Saturday, April 25 • 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Partners and community volunteers will plant trees at Zone Rec (6301 Lorain Ave.) and support tree planting and beautification efforts in the neighborhood. We are also partnering with the Arbor Day Foundation to offer FREE TREES to residents in Cleveland through the Cleveland Community Canopy program.

Ward 15 residents can receive a tree to plant in their yard at no cost! Trees will be distributed at Zone Rec on Saturday, April 25th.

For more information or to reserve your tree, call the Ward 15 Council office at 216-664-4235.

APPLY ONLINE!
2020census.gov/jobs

2020 Census jobs provide:
✓ Great pay
✓ Flexible hours
✓ Weekly pay
✓ Paid training
Cleveland International Film Festival Announces Second Year of CIFF West

Save the dates! The Cleveland International Film Festival (CIFF) is once again expanding its programming with additional screening locations in the Gordon Square Arts District for CIFF West!

CIFF West begins the first weekend of CIFF44 on the evening of Friday, March 27, followed by two full days of programming Saturday, March 28 and Sunday, March 29. Screenings will take place at Near West Theatre and the Capitol Theatre, both in the heart of Gordon Square. Attendees will enjoy acclaimed films and the great shops and restaurants in the neighborhood.

Tickets will go on sale to CIFF Members on Friday, March 6 and to the general public on Friday, March 13. Use discount code DSCDO for $1 off per ticket. For more information, please visit clevelandfilm.org.

The years of decline were heartbreaking, though we weren’t suffering alone as cities and towns across the nation were struggling with economic changes in various industries – steel making, coal mining, tobacco growing. Many of America’s “legacy cities” bear scars of disappearing factories, vacant buildings and crumbling infrastructure. In Cleveland, the infrastructure and housing that once supported nearly one million residents went from being sources of pride to symbols of blight as decay slowly dissolved them away.

Many fled our city. Though many stayed.

Cleveland is our home, and we are not giving up on the dreams our ancestors carried here long ago.

We may never be the industrial powerhouse we once were, but that doesn’t matter. We are seeing our citizens and our workforces adjusting to economic changes – high-tech; bio-medical; service industries and more.

We are resilient and we are learning to reinvent ourselves in ways that build on our industrial heritage; in ways that build on our working-class pride. We are creating a future that is strong, diverse and vibrant.

In the Detroit-Shoreway neighborhood, an abandoned shopping arcade from the 1920s on the verge of demolition was saved by the people and transformed into the centerpiece of the new Gordon Square Arts District. The project has attracted hundreds of new local businesses and has contributed millions of dollars to our local economy.

It’s wonderful to see rejuvenated life in our unique cultural assets. An old vaudeville theater that sat unused for three decades reopened in 2009, quickly becoming an economic driver for the area. Its marquee is now lighted and alive, lettered with the names of classic movies and Hollywood blockbusters. It also partners with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History to show science films to families.

The Gordon Square renaissance is not happening in a vacuum. It is spreading to other neighborhoods – Cudell and Ohio City. And the Madison and Lorain Avenues merchant districts are seeing promising growth and development as new families are settling in.

If my family had joined the population exodus decades ago, I would have not only left my home and history, I would have missed the exciting renaissance we’re experiencing today. I love our city, and I love seeing our neighborhoods reinvent themselves and thrive once again.

For America to prosper, we can’t write off our legacy cities. While we can’t return to our past, we can think creatively, bring folks together, and build a vibrant future. Pride in our past; faith in our future.

Warm regards,
Matt Zeff
In the Zone

WARD 15 COUNCILMAN
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Visit www.ClevelandCityCouncil.org/ward-15

**Servery the Cudell, Detroit Shoreway, Edgewater & Ohio City Neighborhoods**

**WARD 15 COUNCILMAN**

**In the Zone**

All events listed to attend 3pm event
1:30 pm - Entertainment
1:00 pm - Runners
12:00 pm - Toast
1:00 pm - Information for
Cleveland Public Hall
500 Lakeside Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44114

Wednesday, May 22, 2020

The 31st Annual
Senior Day
The Cleveland Department of Aging Presents

For more details call 216-664-2333
www.clevelandcenter.org

**18TH ANNUAL MINORITY MEN'S HEALTH FAIR @ Cleveland Clinic
Lutheran Hospital**

**DATE:**
Thur., April 23rd

**TIME:**
5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

**LOCATION:**
Cleveland Clinic
Lutheran Hospital
1730 W. 25th Street
Cleveland, OH 44113

FREE SCREENINGS and health information for all members of the public:

- Blood Pressure, Blood Sugar, Cholesterol
- Eye Screenings
- Hearing Screenings
- Hernia Screenings
- Digital Rectal Exam (DRE) – Prostate
- HIV Screenings
- Financial Health
- Alzheimer's Screenings
- Gambling & Chemical Dependency Assessments

AND MUCH MORE!

FREE tax preparation services are available for low- and moderate-income residents. Taxpayers can schedule a free appointment by calling 211. Your return will be screened for eligibility for the earned income tax credit and the child tax credit. For details and to find a tax site near you, visit refundohio.org.

**Tax sites in or near Ward 15:**
- Gordon Square Arcade
  6516 Detroit Ave
- CEOC-May Dugan
  4115 Bridge Ave
- The Lindsey Family Place Space at Edgewater Park

Work has begun in Edgewater Park on a new playground and family gathering space. Cleveland Metroparks crews are currently building and shaping a large earthen mound as a play area complete with trails, climbing towers and ADA access. The play space is scheduled to open this summer. The project is funded through donations by entrepreneur Brett Lindsey, U.S. Bank and other donors.

The Cleveland Department of Aging Presents

The 31st Annual Senior Day
Wednesday, May 27, 2020
Cleveland Public Hall, 500 Lakeside Avenue

10:00 am - Information Fair
11:00 am - Program
12:00 pm - Lunch
12:30 pm - Entertainment

ALL seniors invited to attend this FREE event!
For more details call 216-664-2333
www.clevelandcenter.org

Councilman Matt Zone and Mayor Frank G. Jackson with Ms. Dolores Watson, Ward 15's Outstanding Senior for 2019.