

# The Cleveland Connector

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## Transportation Strategic Planning

The City of Cleveland held a Strategic Planning Session on February 24th, prior to the regularly scheduled Council meeting. City Manager Joe Fivas presented to the Mayor and City Council an update on transportation strategic planning and a project update. The number one priority in the 2017 Citizen Community Survey was Traffic Flow & Congestion. City Manager Fivas stated, our goal is to develop a plan to improve traffic flow throughout the city. This is the year of addressing numerous traffic related projects. There are 45 traffic congestion projects that are in progress, completed, or will take place in the next two fiscal years. There are others that have solutions that are in various stages of development and will take place over the next two to five years in FY 22-25. City Manager Fivas, also discussed long range transportation planning projects and quality of life projects as well as an update to the Mayor & Council on the “Build Our Future” initiative. Fivas also updated them on the BUILD Grant program which provides a unique opportunity for the City of Cleveland to improve transportation infrastructure. Mayor Brooks stated in his State of the City address earlier this year, improvements in transportation, increasing the quality of life for city residents, infrastructure improvements, downtown revitalization and communication are key to Cleveland’s growth.

### CPD OFFICER OF THE MONTH:

Congratulations to Officer Jesse Jones who was named February Officer of the Month.

Congratulations to Officer Jennifer McFarland who was named March Officer of the Month.



## Transportation Director/MPO Coordinator

### EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:



Greg Thomas (pictured left) is the city's Transportation Director/MPO Coordinator. Greg joined the City of Cleveland as Planning Director in 2000. He now serves as Transportation Director and MPO Coordinator for the Cleveland Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (the MPO is the planning body responsible for Federal transportation funds in the Cleveland urbanized area). Before coming to Cleveland, Greg served the cities of Cape Coral, FL and Punta Gorda, FL in various planning and economic development capacities. Prior to that, he was a planner and administered the HUD-funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program in Augusta, GA.

Greg is originally from Kingsport, TN. During his college years, he developed an interest in public service. As he was about to graduate from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville with a degree in transportation and logistics, he was invited to a meeting with the Director of the Graduate School of Planning. When the Director explained the public service roles of planners, he decided on his future career as a planner. He went on to earn the MSP degree in planning and has been a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) since 1991. Almost 35 years later now, it is a decision that he has not regretted.

Over the years Greg has been involved with various community-oriented organizations like Habitat for Humanity, City Fields, and Family Promise. He has worked with others to secure millions in grants for various improvements in the community, especially for transportation. He has enjoyed mentoring younger planners and helping others to get started with many positive projects that better the community.

Greg is married to Nancy M. Thomas, RN, MSN who is the Director of the Nursing Program at Cleveland State Community College. They are the proud parents of three grown children, Abbey, Andrew, and Anna.

## Capture Cleveland Photo Contest

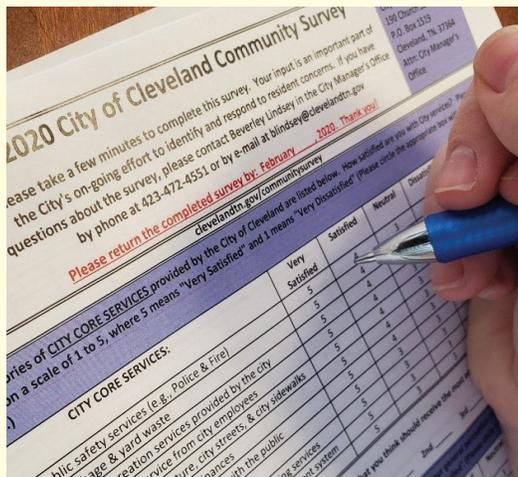


### PHOTO CONTEST WINNER SPOTLIGHT:

Lainy Baxter (pictured left) submitted her photo to the City of Cleveland in the Capture Cleveland Photo Contest: Landmarks/Historic Building category. Her photo was voted 1st place in this category. Lainy received a \$100 check from the City of Cleveland (from donated funds) and a framed picture of her winning photo.

Thank you to all who submitted photos in our Capture Cleveland Photo Contest.

## 2020 Citizen Community Survey



### COMING SOON ...

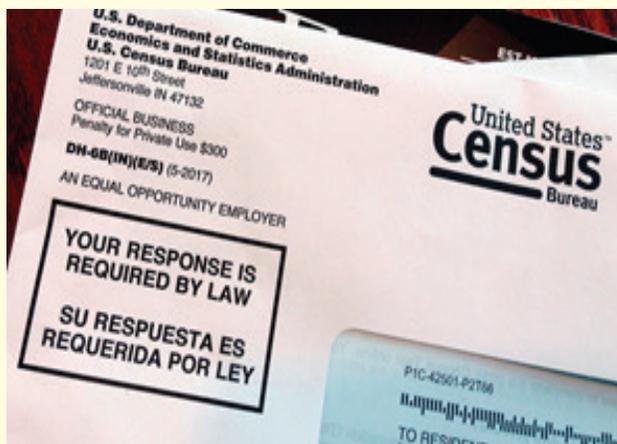
The City of Cleveland will soon be asking residents to participate in a community-wide citizen engagement survey. This is the second in-house Citizen Community Survey that the City of Cleveland has conducted. It is an updated version of the survey that was conducted in 2017. Cleveland is a great community, as the last survey results showed us.

The 2020 survey includes questions on city core services; project priorities; quality of life, neighborhood issues; retail development and re-development; solid waste services; Parks, Recreation and Greenway, just to name a few.

The survey will be used as a baseline of how the city is serving residents and how the city as a whole can be improved. The survey will be available on the city's website and the city's Facebook once it is released. Paper copies will be made available at a later date. Your opinion matters to us. Let your voice be heard. Results of the survey will be compiled to use for strategic planning purposes, to improve services, and to give a general direction of where the city needs to be in the future.

## 2020 CENSUS - Everyone Counts

RESPOND ONLINE, BY PHONE OR BY MAIL



The Census is for everyone. Funding for states, counties and cities is just one of the things that the US Census decides. Federal funding is largely based on population totals and the demographics of that population.

This means that when everyone responds to the census, everyone, your information helps ensure that Tennessee gets its fair share of federal funding for infrastructure improvements. Accurate counting is critical for our community. The Census also helps urban planners decide where to build roads, schools, public safety stations, senior living facilities and more...

Every home should receive information in the mail on the 2020 Census. Responding is easy. You can respond on-line, by phone, or by mail. College students should be counted where they live while at school.

For more information go to: [www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov)

# Mayor & City Council

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Government



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City of Cleveland

## City Departments

- Animal Control: (423) 559-3333
- Cleveland Regional Jetport: (423) 650-3775
- Codes Enforcement: (423) 473-3201
- Development & Engineering Services: (423) 479-1913
- Fire (non-emergency): (423) 476-6713
- General City Offices: (423) 472-4551
- Parks and Recreation: (423) 479-4129
- Police (non-emergency): (423) 476-1121
- Public Works: (423) 472-2851

## Job Opportunities

- Police Officer
- Call-Taker/Telecommunicator Bradley County ECD
- Firefighter
- Public Service Worker

## Board Meetings

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic  
All non-essential Board/Committee meetings  
are cancelled until further notice.  
For the latest news, visit our website and/or our  
Facebook page for more information

For City of Cleveland  
business information  
Call (423) 472-4551.

For Bradley County Courthouse  
business information  
Call (423) 728-7226 or (423) 728-7141.

For more news about your community visit [www.clevelandtn.gov](http://www.clevelandtn.gov) or like us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or NextDoor