

THE CLEVELAND CONNECTOR



WINTER 2024
NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE:

.....
Gaut Street
Sidewalk
Page 2
.....

Tinsley Park
Renovation
Page 2b
.....

Inman Street
Corridor
Page 3
.....

Employee
Spotlight
Page 3b
.....

Stay
Connected
Page 4
.....

Feature
Story:
State of the
City Address

MAYOR BROOKS STATE OF THE CITY



Mayor Brooks

Mayor Kevin Brooks recently presented his State of the City Address. 2023 has been a record setting year for advancing priorities of the citizens of the city of Cleveland. In Cleveland/Bradley County, over 2,000 new jobs were announced.

Public Safety remains a top priority with a greater investment in our men and women who put their lives on the line to protect our community. The Police Department is CALEA accredited which places them in the top 3% of all police agencies nationwide.

Cleveland's Fire Department has a ISO rating of 2 which places them in the top 3% of all fire agencies nationwide. The city was awarded grant dollars and bonds for the Build Cleveland's Future Initiative. This \$138 million dollar project will be invested in the city's infrastructure over the next 3 years to improve transportation, parks, aesthetics, re-development and creating a greater more beautiful Cleveland.

Numerous traffic concerns will be addressed such as 25th Street projects, the Inman Corridor project, extending greenways to loop neighborhoods to downtown, improve gateways, add sidewalks for multi-modal connectivity, especially in the College Hill neighborhood. Four major parks opened in 2023, Avery Johnson Park, Renovation of Mosby Park, Renovation of Civitan Inclusive Park and a new disc golf course at Fletcher Park, Renovations to other parks are ongoing.

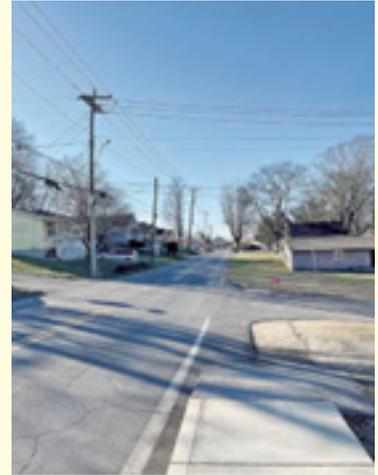
Cleveland received a \$300,000 Downtown Improvement grant for facade and streetscape improvements, also the city received the only RCE grant in the state, providing \$27.5 million for a new bridge connecting east and west routes around downtown. Planning is underway for this new connector. This project will be phased in over the next few years. The city is also excited about restoration of the historic Cherokee Hotel which will be our new city hall.

We look forward to 2024 and I look forward to sharing a bright future with you!



GAUT STREET SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT

The Gaut Street sidewalk replacement project is a one-million dollar Multi-modal Improvements project. It will be partially funded by the Federal Highway Administration's (FHA) Transportation Alternative (TA) Grant. The city will provide a 20% match. This project includes sidewalk and crossing improvements on Dooley, Gaut, Inman and Central Avenue.



Gaut Street Sidewalk Project

It will span from College Hill Recreation Center to Gaut Street, then from Central Avenue to Inman Street and back to Gaut Street, then to Mosby Park. The Cleveland Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has been working on this project since 2017. After a lengthy application and approval process, the bid process is finally underway.

"Weather permitting, the project should start this Spring," said City Manager Joe Fivas. "I am excited to get this project underway," said District 2 Councilman Bill Estes.

TINSLEY PARK RENOVATION

Tinsley Park Renovation is underway. The park is estimated to be closed for renovations through May 31, 2024. This project has created a large array of excitement in the pickleball community. The new 20-court pickleball complex will increase the number of courts from six to 26. Eight of the 26 courts will be covered.

The facility is expected to be an economic development initiative, attracting tournaments, allowing for more league play. It will also have an additional 50 parking spaces. The photo below is from the architectural rendering of the planned facility.

"This facility will be one of the nicest facilities within a 100 mile radius." said City Manager Fivas. "I am excited about breathing new life into Tinsley Park, and I am grateful we are able to make these wonderful improvements to this historic park." said Mayor Brooks.



INMAN STREET CORRIDOR

The Inman Street Corridor project is part of the 2004 Downtown Master Plan; 2010 BCC 2035 project; 2013 Comprehensive Plan; 2016 Community survey; and the 2019 Downtown Revitalization project. It is 20 years in the making. The intent of this project is to create a safer, more attractive, economically vibrant corridor in downtown Cleveland. Project plans, timelines, and updates will be communicated to the affected property and business owners within the corridor and to the general public.

For more details, email: InmanProject@clevelandtn.gov or visit the city website at www.clevelandtn.gov/Inman

Also, the city is seeking public input on possible new roadway alignments within downtown, especially addressing a new railroad crossing elimination bridge. We encourage you to participate in the East-West Connector Plan Survey.



The survey will be available until March 1st at: <https://metroquestsurvey.com/0ip6r>
The East-West Connector Plan public input meeting will be held on February 21st from 4-6 p.m. in the Weaver Room at the Old Woolen Mill, downtown.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



The employee spotlight in this edition is on our new Fire Chief Chris Bates who until recently, served as Fire Marshal. He has been with the city for 27 years. He has held the position of Firefighter/AEMT; Engineer Company Officer; Shift Training Officer; and Fire Investigator, before being promoted to Fire Marshal in 2021.

Chris has a Bachelor of Science degree from UT Chattanooga; and an Associates from Cleveland State Community College as well as other certifications from the TN Commission of Firefighting. He is a member of the International Association of Firefighters,

International Association of Arson Investigators, and the TN Advisory Committee on Arson. He and his wife Debra have two children and one Granddaughter. In his spare time Chris enjoys traveling to see his Granddaughter. He is also an avid high school and college sports fan. Chris is humble, soft spoken and takes pride in his work. "I enjoy serving the citizens of Cleveland and wish to make a positive impact on our daily lives" said Fire Chief Chris Bates.

"On behalf of the Mayor, City Council and myself, Congratulations!" said City Manager Joe Fivas.

Mayor & City Council

Kevin Brooks
Mayor

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City of Cleveland

City Departments:

- Animal Control: 423.559.3333
- Cleveland Regional Jetport: 423.650.3775
- Codes Enforcement: 423.284.4402
- Dev & Eng Services (Permits): 423.479.1913
- Fire (non-emergency): 423.476.6713
- Municipal Traffic Court/Business Tax: 423.472.4551
- Parks and Recreation: 423.479.4129
- Police (non-emergency): 423.476.1121
- Public Works: 423.472.2851

Job Opportunities:

- Firefighter
- Police Officer

Additional job openings are posted on the city's website at:
<https://www.clevelandtn.gov/jobs.aspx>

City of Cleveland

General Business Information, Call: 423.472.4551

City offices are open Monday - Friday

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

(excludes holidays)

City Council meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Monday, unless otherwise noted (Excludes holidays). There are two sessions.

Work session is held at 1 p.m.

Voting session is held at 3 p.m.

in the City Council Chambers located on the 2nd floor of the Municipal Building at 190 Church Street.

Agendas are posted on the city's website at:
<http://www.clevelandtn.gov/AgendaCenter>