



March 2019 Newsletter

Hello from Armond Budish, County Executive

Hello and welcome to Cuyahoga County's monthly newsletter.

When we surveyed our residents, we heard that you were interested in hearing from us about County services, construction and maintenance, general County news and information on County departments. We are happy to provide this newsletter with just that kind of news and information – we hope it is both “news you can use” and another way that we can help you access our services and understand what value we bring to you in your local community.

I hope you find the following information helpful. Please don't hesitate to offer your thoughts and suggestions regarding other information you might want us to cover.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Public Health Warning from the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner:

As we all too painfully know, opioid overdoses remain at crisis levels. Our county loses hundreds of fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers every year. We've seen a significant increase of carfentanil powder and tablets over the last month. Carfentanil gets mixed with other drugs that people might think are “safe.” But it is extremely potent and unsafe for human use. It is nearly impossible to detect by sight because it's often mixed with other drugs or disguised as prescription tablets.

“The re-appearance of carfentanil in the local illicit drug supply is alarming. This is a very lethal drug and anyone using illicit or diverted drugs needs to be aware of the possibility of being exposed to it,” said Dr. Gilson. “Having another person in the vicinity to call 911 and/or administer naloxone can be life-saving.”

DETAILS: <http://bit.ly/2BpVrbX>

The Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County provides a 24-hour crisis hotline at 216-623-6888.

If you or someone you know is actively using opioids, contact Project DAWN for information on how to access Naloxone, a medication that can reverse overdose, at 216-778-5677.

Construction and Maintenance Notices

Road maintenance is being performed on **Royalton Road** from 130th St. to York Road in North Royalton. Two-way traffic is being maintained but expect delays.

The **Highland Road Bridge** is receiving rehabilitation, and a new traffic pattern was implemented to help maintain traffic with one lane in each direction. Portable message boards, concrete barriers and barrels are being used to direct drivers. Expect delays.

DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

The Office of Innovation and Performance

The goal of the Office of Innovation and Performance is to serve as a leader of positive change and bring new solutions to Cuyahoga County. Three areas of focus for I&P are strategic decision making, creating a culture of innovation and improving processes for the residents of Cuyahoga County.

I&P works not only internally **with** the County government to bring about and support change but also works with many organizations to spark positive change in the community. A partner to Cleveland State University and Case Western Reserve University's Internet of Things Collaborative, I&P collects and supports the analysis of data to improve community outcomes. By using data and technology to confront issues like infant mortality and combat problems such as the opioid crisis, I&P is ultimately working to create positive momentum in Cuyahoga County. In October 2018, in order to help bridge the digital divide in Cuyahoga County, I&P worked in partnership with Huntington National Bank, the Cleveland Foundation and Cuyahoga County libraries so that County residents can use their library cards to check out [high-speed internet hot spots](#).

FROM OUR BLOG AND SOCIAL MEDIA

In Episode 3 of "**Conversations with the County,**" County Executive Armond Budish chats with Cuyahoga County Job and Family Services and the Cleveland Food Bank about food insecurity in the County. Food insecurity continues to be a serious problem for our children and our elders.

Watch for info on how you can get help or ways you CAN help. To apply for benefits, visit benefits.ohio.gov.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OeGrJXgUwXs>

Cuyahoga County and the Cuyahoga Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Coalition are hosting free tax preparation services from now through April as part of the federal Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program. IRS certified volunteer tax-preparers complete and file the returns **for free**. Last year the Cuyahoga EITC Coalition completed **13,741 federal tax returns totaling \$18 million in refunds**, putting that money back into residents' pockets.

You can schedule an appointment at a location and date that best works for you by calling **2-1-1**. To find a tax site near you, visit <https://www.refundohio.org/>.

EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

The next **Cuyahoga County Council Meetings** will be held **March 12th** and **March 26th** at **5 p.m.** in the Council Chambers on the 4th Floor of the Administrative Headquarters at 2079 East Ninth Street, Cleveland.

The Department of Consumer Affairs is hosting **scam education events** to spread awareness about senior scams and how to report scamming incidents. Events will be held on **March 5th from 1-2 p.m.** at the Brooklyn Heights Senior Center, 225 Tuxedo Avenue, Brooklyn Heights and **March 14th from 7:45-9 p.m.** at St. John Bosco-Holy Name Society, 6480 Pearl Road, Parma Heights.

The Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) continues its **In Your Neighborhood** event throughout 2019 to help residents get to know DCFS staff, learn what they do and how you can work together to help families. Each event will have focused discussion topics and staff will be available to address specific cases and personal questions. The next In Your Neighborhood is **March 14th from 5-7 p.m.** at the Westside Community House, 9300 Lorain Avenue, Cleveland.