



March 2020 Newsletter

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Staying Healthy

Apart from wearing a mask in crowded places, washing your hands and using hand sanitizer, what can you do to stay healthy—and calm—during the flu season, especially in the midst of concerns regarding the coronavirus? **Remember:** you are much more likely to contract the flu than you are the coronavirus.

Some tips from the Board of Health:

- It's not too late to get the flu vaccine, which is especially important for the young, the elderly and those with compromised immune systems.
- If you do feel unwell, see your doctor as soon as possible.
- Sneeze or cough into the bend of your elbow to keep germs from spreading.
- Don't share cups or utensils with anyone and don't make food for anyone if you are sick.
- Get plenty of rest.

To prepare and be aware of any potential outbreaks, ReadyNotify is the County's mass notification system powered by CodeRED. It's used by the County and participating municipalities to issue emergency notifications to the public, especially when rapid and accurate information is essential for your immediate safety. You can register at readynotify.us.

DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

Department of Development

The [Department of Development](#) strives to improve the County's global competitiveness through economic growth to ensure that our region is economically competitive, our businesses are growing and profitable and our community is vibrant, dynamic and diverse. The Department develops and administers innovative programs in economic development, community development and workforce innovation with the fundamental purpose of furthering job creation and economic growth.

Development works to:

- support the county's 59 municipalities in marketing their available land and buildings
- finance large and small businesses
- facilitate the implementation of various housing and community development programs
- spearhead business retention and expansion
- develop training programs that provide workers with skills to improve business productivity or reduce waste or costs
- implement large-scale development projects that make our county an exciting and livable place.

County Council recently approved a \$1.5 million loan to a newly-formed investment fund designed to assist businesses and development projects in the county's low-income neighborhoods. Arctaris, a fund manager that provides capital to businesses with an emphasis on inner cities and targeted rural communities, will oversee the program and use the fund for loans or investments in Opportunity Zones. Opportunity Zones are areas where the federal government offers tax breaks to encourage long-term investments. Under this unique funding plan, the \$1.5 million County investment is expected to leverage a total of \$15 million or more of public and private capital and philanthropic investments.

FROM OUR BLOG AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Census 101-Census Saturday

To spread the word about the importance of the census and get local communities involved in increasing Cuyahoga County's census count, March 28th will serve as Census Saturday. On this day residents can find out more information on the census, fill out their forms and enjoy community events surrounded by getting out the count. Stay updated on specific businesses and organizations hosting events through our [Census Saturday webpage](#).

Primary Election

The Presidential Primary Election is March 17, aka St. Patrick's Day! You can vote early in-person, vote by mail or in-person on Election Day. The Board of Elections is encouraging residents to vote early to avoid traffic on St. Patrick's Day. On their [website](#) you can:

- view a sample ballot
- view the early in-person voting hours
- request and track a vote-by-mail ballot
- verify your Election Day polling location

Keeping Your Reusable Bags Clean

The plastic bag ban in Cuyahoga County will start being enforced on July 1. As you use reusable bags when shopping, remember these tips from the Board of Health to keep your bags clean:

- Wash your reusable bags routinely—turn them inside out and either hand-wash them in hot, soapy water or put them in a washing machine on the gentle cycle. Dry them in a machine or on the line.
- Wipe down bags that can't be washed with disinfecting or anti-bacterial wipes, especially if fresh foods may have dripped from their original containers.
- Use separate bags for raw meats, seafood and produce. Minimize the chance of cross-contamination by placing raw foods that may drip in separate bags from ready-to-eat foods, like fruits and vegetables.
- You can safely transport food products and chemicals, including cleaners and other non-food liquids, in separate labeled bags.
- Store bags in your car instead of your trunk to help keep them dry. Keep them visible, so you don't forget to bring them into the store with you.
- Discard old bags that can no longer be properly washed or disinfected.
- When in doubt, wash your reusable bags!

The County's [BYOBag website](#) has an extensive FAQ section about the bag ban and additional resources for local organizations and businesses.

EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

County Council Meetings

March 10 and March 24, 5 p.m., Council Chambers—2079 East Ninth Street, Cleveland

[Watch the live stream.](#)

Construction and Maintenance Notices

Towpath Trail, Stage 4 in the City of Cleveland: Work will begin in the area around University Street and W.10th Street that will require some closures. Detours will be posted.

West 130th Street from Bagley Road to Snow Road in the cities of Parma, Parma Heights, Middleburg Heights and Brook Park: Contractor is scheduled to begin the section between Huffman Road and Snow Road in mid-March. Two-way traffic will be maintained.

Lewis Road Culvert Rehabilitation in Olmsted Township: Lewis Road is open to traffic. The contractor will return in the Spring to finish some weather sensitive items of work.

Sprague Road in the Cities of Middleburg Heights, Strongsville, North Royalton and Parma: Traffic is being maintained in the eastbound direction only with a detour posted for westbound traffic. Work on the new water line and storm sewers will continue and pavement removal is expected to begin in March.

Mastick Road Bridge in Fairview Park: Mastick Road will be closed to traffic between Eaton Road and Valley Parkway from March 2, 2020 to late fall of 2020.