



November 2019 Newsletter

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Opioid Settlement and Mitigation Plan Phase I

In 2017, Cuyahoga County filed suit against manufacturers, distributors and four individuals who were instrumental in promoting opioids for sale and distribution nationally and in Cuyahoga County. Many of you know someone who has been affected by this terrible, life-changing epidemic. In October, the County secured \$23 million in settlements, and funds secured in this settlement will go directly to evidence-based, impactful, sustainable programs with a focus on prevention, treatment and recovery. Opioid Crisis Mitigation Plan: Phase I was announced at a [press conference](#) on October 10. Just a week later, the County secured settlements of over \$179 million after deals were struck with five additional distributors/drug makers. This second set of funds were proposed by County Council to be placed in an Opioid Mitigation Fund used solely for purposes related to the opioid epidemic. You can find more details on the [County Executive's page](#).

Lakefront Public Access Plan

One of our greatest, most underutilized assets in Cuyahoga County is our Great Lake Erie. County Executive Armond Budish wants to make a huge leap forward for our region, which is why he has envisioned the Cuyahoga County Lakefront Public Access Plan, announced in a [press conference](#) earlier this month. This Plan will provide better access to important Lake Erie assets and positively impact the lives of residents in the form of connected paths, trails and boardwalks along the lake with public access points interspersed from Bay Village to Euclid. It's important to note that if you live on the lakeshore you will not have your property taken away nor will your viewshed be changed or impacted. More information on this transformative plan can be found under the [Executive's Initiatives page](#).

DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

Division of Children and Family Services

The Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) has been protecting abused and neglected children in Cuyahoga County for more than 50 years. Its mission is to assure that children at risk of abuse and neglect are protected and nurtured within a family and with the support of community. DCFS strives for

safety, permanency, and well-being for every child by investigating allegations of child abuse and neglect, helping stabilize or reunite struggling families, and finding new families for children whose families cannot be put back together.

DCFS cannot do this work alone; they need the help of everyone in our community to protect children—from family, friends and neighbors to professionals such as teachers, counselors, medical professionals and clergy. If you suspect a child may be at risk or the victim of abuse or neglect, please call the 24-hour hotline 216-696-KIDS or call 911 and notify police in an emergency. There are also other ways you can help. This month is National Adoption Month, and there are currently nearly 2,900 children and teens in County custody, the most in nearly a decade. Please consider becoming a foster or adoptive parent. For more information, visit everychildneedsfamily.com or call 216-881-5775. You can also [mentor](#), [volunteer](#) or [donate](#) to help children and families.

FROM OUR BLOG AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Voting Info

The next General Election will be Tuesday, November 5. Each election is important when it comes to choosing who you want to represent you. The [Board of Elections website](#) can tell you where you can vote and what's on the ballot, so you feel ready to go once election day arrives. **Please note: Polling locations have changed for 80,000 county voters since last November. It's important to check your location before voting. If you vote at the wrong place, it doesn't count!**

The Cuyahoga County Board of Elections is also now hiring poll workers for the general election. There is high demand for Republican and Independent (nonpartisan) individuals to serve on bipartisan teams at voting locations throughout Cuyahoga County. Poll workers can earn up to \$200. To apply, call the Poll Worker Hotline at 216-443-3277. You can also apply online at the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections website, www.443vote.us.

Hope for the Holidays

During the holiday season the Division of Children and Family Services helps make holiday wishes come true for hundreds of kids in foster care or whose family needs a little extra support to stay strong and stable. **Hope for the Holidays** is CFS' annual gift program for children and teens in foster care. In early December, children and foster parents are invited to our building for a holiday party, where they choose a brand-new toy, game and book for themselves or a sibling. Children can also take a picture with Santa, enjoy homemade cookies and milk, and create a holiday craft. If you would like to make a donation or check out times and dates of the holiday parties, visit the [Hope for the Holidays webpage](#).

EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

The next **Cuyahoga County Council Meetings** will be held **November 12** and **November 26** at **5 p.m.** in the Council Chambers on the 4th Floor of the Administrative Headquarters at 2079 East Ninth Street, Cleveland. To watch a live stream of County Council Meetings, visit <http://bit.ly/2XCy3UT>.

The Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) continues its **In Your Neighborhood** event throughout the remainder of 2019 to help residents get to know DCFS staff, learn what they do and how community members 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 event is Tuesday, **November 12 from 5-7 p.m.** at the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Library, 2345 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights.

Join the **Social United Neighbors Cuyahoga County Solar Co-Op** by attending a **Community Information Session**. At these sessions you can learn about how solar works, how it can be financed, and how it can be installed in your home. Sessions are **November 12** from 6-8 p.m. (North Olmsted Library, 27403 Lorain Ave., 44070), and **November 14** from 6-8 p.m. (Chagrin Falls Library, 100 East Orange St., 44022). A **remote broadcast** will also be held **November 14** from the County Administrative Headquarters from noon until 1 p.m. Click here for more information, or email ohteam@solarunitedneighbors.org. [Watch this video](#) to hear about the impact of the solar co-op.

Construction and Maintenance Notices

Towpath Trail, Stage 4 in the City of Cleveland: Work has begun near Literary Street. Traffic on Literary Street will be maintained by the use of flaggers.

Royalton Road in the City of North Royalton: Work has begun in section 2, from Abbey to York. The contractor will be working on the north half of Royalton Road while maintaining traffic on the south half. Two-way traffic will be maintained at all times.

Rehabilitation of Bridges 156, 157, 158 and 226 on Highland Road in the City of Euclid: Work on the bridges will continue. Bridges 156 and 157 are nearly complete. The contractor will continue work on the east halves of Bridges 158 and 226. Highland Road will remain closed until the Spring.

Bradley Road Culvert in the City of North Olmsted: Project is substantially complete and open to traffic.

Cedar Road from SOM Center Road to Chagrin Road in Gates Mills and Hunting Valley: Cedar Road is currently closed to thru traffic and a detour is posted. Final asphalt surfacing is anticipated by November 1, 2019. The detour will stay in place as the contractor finishes miscellaneous items of work. The project is scheduled to be completed in November.

Adele Lane and Westwood Lane Culvert replacements in Olmsted Township: Work will continue on both culverts. Both Adele Lane and Westwood Lane will remain closed at the culverts. Both culverts are scheduled to be completed in November.

Lewis Road Culvert Rehabilitation in Olmsted Township: Construction is scheduled to begin on November 4, 2019. One-way traffic will be maintained in the north bound direction. A detour will be in place for the south bound traffic. The one-way traffic pattern is anticipated to be in place for five weeks.

Sprague Road in the Cities of Middleburg Heights, Strongsville, North Royalton and Parma: Traffic is being maintained in the eastbound direction only. A detour is posted for westbound traffic. Work on the new water line and storm sewer on the west half of the project has begun. Columbia gas is scheduled to complete their gas line relocation at the east end of the project by the end of November.