



Message from the County Executive



2013 Fall-Winter Edition

Welcome to the **Cuyahoga County E-Newsletter**

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Connect with Cuyahoga County

New Veterans ID Card Program

Cuyahoga County is now issuing ID cards to veterans that live in Cuyahoga County. These ID cards will allow veterans to carry the information found on their redacted DD214- Military Discharge Form. The ID card may be used to prove US Veteran Status and gain access to veteran services. ID cards issued in Cuyahoga County will expire four years from issue date. Veterans will be charged a \$1.00 fee for the card.

For more information on the Veterans ID Card Program contact the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Office at 216-443-7010.

Convention Center Hotel

Hilton Worldwide has been selected to operate the new convention center hotel that is expected to open in 2016. The new 600+ room hotel will be situated at the location of the old



Welcome to the 2013 Fall-Winter edition of the Cuyahoga County E-Newsletter. We kicked off and ended the second half of the year with events honoring our U.S. Military Veterans. First, we held an appreciation event in which over 300 discharged veterans obtained the new Cuyahoga County Veterans ID Card free of charge. The Veterans ID Card is a handy and portable way for veterans to carry the information found on their redacted DD214 form and may be used to prove veteran status and gain access to veteran services. For more information on the Veterans ID Card, please see the column to the left of this E-Newsletter.

But veteran appreciation is more than just hosting one event; it is making certain that when someone comes back from military service, they can truly rejoin the mainstream of society. We cannot say only 'Welcome back,' but also 'You're hired' and 'How can we help you with your medical, career, and housing needs?' This is why in November, we celebrated Veterans Day by announcing two new programs, the United Way 2-1-1 Veterans Helpline and the Cuyahoga County Land Bank Homefront Program.

The United Way 2-1-1 Veterans Helpline is a free and confidential helpline available 24/7 to veterans, active duty military, reservists, national guards and their families. When they dial 2-1-1, they are connected to information and referral specialists specifically trained to assist them in locating and accessing social, health and government resources throughout Cuyahoga County. For more information on the helpline please visit: 211oh.org. The Homefront Program is a pilot program of the Cuyahoga Land Bank that offers assistance to eligible veterans interested in purchasing either a renovated, move-in ready home or a home that will be renovated with the assistance of the Cuyahoga Land Bank. For more information on the program or to sign up please visit: cuyahogalandbank.org/homefront.

The Suburban Infrastructure Fund Program also launched this past quarter. With the dramatic cuts to local government funding, many of the county's communities are looking for assistance with their critical infrastructure needs. The Suburban Infrastructure Fund literally invests in your communities by purchasing municipal debt, thereby lowering their interest payments and expanding their capacity to fund projects. Participating communities will then be able to save money in order to make investments, like road repair, improving our neighborhoods and giving the County as a whole and better financial returns than our standard investments provide.

Finally, the offices and department formerly located in the old County Administration Building have completed their move to interim locations. The site of the old County Administration Building will soon be home to a new 600-room Convention Center Hotel, to be operated by Hilton Worldwide. Administration offices and departments will remain in their interim locations until July 2014, when they relocate to the new Cuyahoga County Administration Headquarters at 900 Prospect Avenue in downtown Cleveland. To learn more about our interim move and the new headquarters, please visit: onecuyahoga.com/en-US/New-County-Admin-HQ.aspx.

It has been a pleasure to update you on our happenings this year and we look forward to accomplishing a lot more in 2014. I hope you and your family had a very happy holiday season, and let us continue to take to make Cuyahoga County a safe, vibrant, and thriving community in this New Year.

Sincerely,

Edward FitzGerald

Cuyahoga County Executive

Topics

Global Center for Health Innovation Ribbon Cutting

On October 8, 2013, the Global Center for Health Innovation hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony to highlight the completion of construction for Phase I, while showcasing current and future spaces in the facility to local and regional healthcare leaders. The Global Center for Health Innovation is the only facility in the world that displays the future of health and health care.

The ribbon cutting ceremony featured Cuyahoga County Executive Ed FitzGerald, City of Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson, Dr. Toby Cosgrove of Cleveland Clinic, Sister Judith Ann Karam of Sisters of Charity Health System, Dr. Akram Boutros of MetroHealth, Thomas F. Zenty III of University Hospitals, Tom Gentile of GE Healthcare, Tim Chapman of STERIS, and H. Stephen Lieber of Healthcare Information Management Systems Society – HIMSS, and was emceed by WKYC-TV 3 senior healthcare correspondent Monica Robins.

The Global Center spaces showcase the latest research, product development, branding, sales and service results for companies and serve as a spark for medical innovation, education and training programs, and virtual offerings. The Global Center features four themed floors: Health and Home on the first floor, highlighted by the State-of-the-Art Patient Home; People, Patients and Caregivers on the second floor; Clinical Spaces on the third floor; and Health Care information technology on the fourth floor.

Cuyahoga County Administration Building and will connect underground to both the Convention Center and the Global Center for Health Innovation.

Mace HQ Opening

Cuyahoga's newest corporate headquarters officially opened its doors on Thursday, October 17. Mace Security International announced its corporate relocation to Cleveland after agreeing to an incentive package that included a \$650,000 loan from Cuyahoga County's Western Reserve Fund. Mace, a company well-known for its iconic pepper spray, moved its headquarters from Horsham, Pennsylvania to Cleveland, Ohio.

For more information on Mace visit: <http://corp.mace.com/>

Missing Persons Unit Goes Live

The County's Missing Persons Unit website, missingpersonscuyahoga.org, officially went live. The website will provide up-to-date and much-needed assistance for citizens and law enforcement. The website will coordinate information and assist collaboration with media as well as post missing person's case information, picture, and lead investigator contact information. It is a "one stop location" for relevant missing person information and allows the viewer to search information on individuals currently reported as missing, sign up for a monthly newsletter, and contact to different local, state, and federal resources.

For more information visit missingpersonscuyahoga.org

2013 Senior Movie Day

Senior Movie Day was held for nearly 1,000 County residents 60 years or older, to enjoy free classic movies at the Playhouse Square Center. This annual event is held by County Executive Ed FitzGerald, the Department of Senior and Adult Services, and the Playhouse Square Association.

For more events from DSAS visit: dsas.cuyahogacounty.us/en-US/home.aspx

Detective Receives Distinguished Service Award

The Renee Jones Empowerment

The Global Center will be a catalyst for economic and community impact. With the recent ribbon cutting, county residents are able to witness area leaders making a confident commitment to the strongest points of our local economy. Our region is home to 600 biomedical companies – including 10 of the top 18 medical device manufacturers in the nation. The 27 colleges and universities within our region offer more than 20 medical education programs. There are 66 major medical facilities within Cuyahoga County, not including numerous doctors' offices, and clinics. With the Global Center for Health Innovation as the centerpiece of our world class health-care economy, Northeast Ohio is on its way to becoming the nation's Medical Capital.

Phase II of the Global Center is scheduled for completion in February of 2014, when at that time a grand opening will be held for the general public.

The new Cleveland Convention Center which is adjacent to the Global Center opened its doors to the public in June of 2013 and since has hosted a wide variety of events. The new Cleveland Convention Center includes 225,000 square feet of Class A exhibit space which can be separated into three exhibition halls, 35 state-of-the-art meeting rooms, and a 32,000-square-foot, column-free ballroom with spectacular views of Cleveland's lakefront.



St. Clair entrance to the new Global Center for Health Innovation, opened on October 08, 2013 | [Watch the video »](#)

S.A.V.E. Program Offers Free Self-Defense Seminars

This fall, Cuyahoga County Executive Ed FitzGerald, in partnership with the Cleveland NAACP, announced Strategies Against Violent Encounters (S.A.V.E.), a new Sheriff's Department coordinated program to provide citizens with tools to assist in protecting against violent encounters.

Cuyahoga County Sheriff Deputies S.A.V.E. program is teaching skills and using expertise in martial arts and self-defense to prepare women and children to protect themselves before, during, and after a violent encounter, to reduce incidents of crime in our neighborhoods. The goal is how to avoid the situation to begin with, how to be aware of the situation and surroundings, how to not feel or appear helpless, how to utilize every tool at their disposal, to trust in their intuition and how to use these newly acquired mental and physical self-defense techniques to protect yourself and to be proactive in assisting other citizens of our community.

S.A.V.E. is focused on awareness and actions to avoid or address violent encounters, before, during and after they occur. These skills can be taught to friends and families in order to facilitate and equip community understanding and preparedness on how and why these violent events occur, in an effort to stop them from happening before they start.

Cuyahoga County Witness/Victim Service Center, an integral partner of the S.A.V.E. Program, serves nearly 6,000 victims of violent crime each year, ranging from domestic violence to homicide. A majority of those individuals experience violence right in their own homes, at the hands of partners and family members.

"What we're really trying to promote is taking potential victims and making them victors," said Cuyahoga County Sheriff Frank Bova. "We have the tools and experience that the average citizen can use to avoid or respond to violent encounters and we will continue to share those tools and skills to prevent these crimes, encounters and after effects from occurring."

In addition to teaching self-defense methods, this program is essential for developing bonds with the police and the community before the incident occurs. These bonds will be essential in mitigating future incidents and making communities safer for everyone. This program is intended not as a response to a singular event but to systemic violence found in the community and across the world.

During the month of October, the Sheriff's Department conducted four free S.A.V.E. seminars at Collinwood Recreation Center, Zone Recreation Center, Warrensville Heights YMCA and Shiloh Middle School. Over 100 citizens participated in the courses and similar programs will be scheduled going forward.

Due to the success of the seminars, the Sheriff's Department and the Cleveland NAACP will be conducting more Self Defense seminars in the new year. For more information visit: sheriff.cuyahogacounty.us.

Center hosted Project Red Cord: Breaking the Chains of Human Trafficking Inaugural Gala. The first ever Distinguished Service Award was given to Task Force Officer Detective John Morgan, of the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department for his work and dedication with the FBI's Violent Crimes Task Force (VCTF) and Human Trafficking/Child Prostitution working group.



S.A.V.E self-defense class at the Michel J. Zone Recreation Center | [Watch the video »](#)

Kids Health Mobile Program Shows Success

Cuyahoga Job and Family Services (CJFS) showed off the Kids Health Mobile Program at the Sixth Annual StreetFest – a free family event designed to connect moms, dads, and caregivers to essential community resources while providing a variety of entertainment, food, and fun for kids.

Cuyahoga County's Kids Health Mobile, a transportation health unit to help connect eligible families with the Federal Children's Health Insurance Program. This unique approach to providing families to needed resources continues to show impact by expanding its' community outreach. In 2012, the Kids Health Mobile traveled all throughout the county attending many health fairs, neighborhood festivals, schools, churches, libraries, and community centers serving over 10,000 county residents allowing CJFS to enroll 96% of eligible children in the Healthy Start program.

At this year's CJFS StreetFest, Wi-Fi access to the transportation health unit came just in time to assist families with applying for benefits online while also sharing information and materials about Healthy Start, Food Assistance, Child Care Assistance, and other county benefits.

For more information, please call 216-987-7000 or visit our website at cjfs.cuyahogacounty.us. And look for the Kids Health Mobile in your neighborhood!



David Merriman, Deputy Chief of Staff Health and Human Services, and members of the StreetFest planning committee with Elmo at StreetFest (left), performer at StreetFest entertains child (center), young moms utilizing the Kids Health Mobile (right) | [Watch the video »](#)

New Department of Consumer Affairs Protects Citizens

Earlier this year, Cuyahoga County Executive Ed FitzGerald named Cynthia Sich to the Cuyahoga County Department of Consumer Affairs. Sich is the County's first director of Consumer Affairs which is made up of two divisions, Weights and Measures and Consumer Protection. Sich has 24 years of experience in consumer protection education and enforcement, plus 3 1/2 years in overseeing weights and measures.

"The consumer affairs experience that Cynthia brings to Cuyahoga County will ensure that our citizens and business owners stay informed and protected. As the new Director of Consumer Affairs, Cynthia will play a vital role in our overall mission to create a responsive government that is committed to ensuring the safety of the public. We are confident that with Cynthia's ability to create,

develop, and implement programs, we will be able to get that accomplished," said Cuyahoga County Executive Ed FitzGerald.

Created by ordinance in December 2012, the Cuyahoga County Department of Consumer Affairs is responsible for promoting consumer and financial literacy; investigating alleged violations relating to weights and measures; educating consumers and businesses; mediating disputes between consumers and businesses; and collaborating with businesses, non-profit organizations, and government agencies on programs relating to consumer affairs.

"I am very excited to bring my knowledge and skills to Cuyahoga County. With scams and identity theft continuously changing and evolving, it is my goal for the department to educate and protect residents of Cuyahoga County and its visitors by working with local leaders, community/consumer organizations, other county/city offices, businesses, and many others," says Cynthia Sich, Director of Cuyahoga County Consumer Affairs.

During the week of August 5, 2013, inspectors from the Weights and Measures Division completed unannounced audits of drug, discount, office supplies and department stores that were advertising back-to-school products to verify that the prices advertised were accurate. In all, 138 stores throughout Cuyahoga County were audited, excluding the City of Cleveland, which has their own Office of Consumer Affairs. Out of the 138 stores inspected, 118 stores passed the audits.

In November, a Weights & Measures Sweep was scheduled to verify prices and weights of turkey, ham and other dinner items for the Thanksgiving holiday. The Thanksgiving Day "Pound for Pound" Sweep included inspections at 74 grocery, discount, or wholesale stores throughout Cuyahoga County. The results show overwhelming that Cuyahoga County consumers are paying for what they received. The audit inspection of 463 Turkeys and 414 Hams recorded all stores passing. In addition, the results of the price verification of 1,515 dinner table items show only 5 items had pricing errors including 3 undercharged by \$0.25/\$0.30/\$0.90 and 2 overcharged by \$0.49/\$0.98, which were corrected immediately by the stores.

"We designed the Department of Consumer Affairs to promote informed and honest buying and selling in our County and to help protect the marketplace from bad actors," said Councilman Dan Brady, the original sponsor of the consumer affairs legislation. "Based on Director Sich's performance, bringing the department into the 21st century by computerizing the Weights & Measures Division, I am optimistic that this department has a bright future of living up to our intent."

The Department of Consumer Affairs has a lot planned for the near future to keep consumers educated and aware of what is taking place in the retail community. In March 2014, a Weights & Measures Sweep will be conducted on timing devices for National Consumer Protection Week and National Weights and Measures Week.

For additional information on the Department of Consumer Affairs, to learn about rights as consumers, free resources to help consumers steer clear of frauds and scams, understand credit, and file complaints online, please visit: fiscalofficer.cuyahogacounty.us/en-US/ConsumerAffairs.aspx.

Emergency Management Launches "Ready Cuyahoga"

Cuyahoga County believes that: 1. Preparedness begins at the local level; 2. Preparedness requires the involvement and support of the whole community, including government, business, community organizations, and citizens; 3. Preparedness requires a comprehensive approach that includes risk-assessment, planning, resourcing, education, training, and public outreach.

At the beginning of County Executive FitzGerald's administration, he shared his mission to make Cuyahoga County the premier emergency management agency in the state. As part of meeting that goal, the Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management developed and launched an initiative called "Ready Cuyahoga" in September 2013.

Ready Cuyahoga has two parts:

1. Certification of municipalities as "Ready Certified"
2. A new website, ready.cuyahogacounty.us, for citizens, business, and first responders

Ready Cuyahoga is a voluntary certification program to help communities identify their gaps and highlight their emergency planning successes. Ultimately, communities can increase their preparedness actions by implementing specific organizational, operational, training, and planning activities.

The Ready Cuyahoga website will house all of our emergency preparedness materials. Specifically, the site can help you Build a Kit, Make a Plan, Be Informed, and Get Involved with emergency preparedness. Also found on the site is our certification program requirements for communities in Cuyahoga County to become Ready Certified.



Independence City School's students at 2013 Cuyahoga County National Preparedness Day Event | [Watch the video »](#)

Children and Family Services Holds 2013 Graduation Recognition Ceremony

The Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services ended the summer by celebrating the annual High School Graduation Recognition Ceremony. Themed "Moving Forward", 74 youth in foster care were recognized for their commitment to their educational goals as well as their resiliency when faced with life's hardships. In accomplishing this educational milestone, they have created a strong foundation to continue reaching for their dreams.

The Honorable Judge Pinkey S. Carr served as keynote speaker sharing her own experiences while growing up in Cleveland. She encouraged these young men and women to pursue their dreams and hold fast to what they have learned from wise people in their lives.

Youth who graduated were given new laptops, color printers, flash drives and college starter kits to ensure a great start into their future career plans. This group of graduates represents 70% of eligible 12 graders in Cuyahoga County care. Over half (40) of the 74 graduates have made a choice to continue their education in college.

Congratulations and best wishes to the Class of 2013!



County DCFS employee and High School Graduate at 2013 Recognition Ceremony

Photos



Players in action during the 2013 North American Gaelic Games Finals



Ribbon Cutting attendees tour the new Global Center for Health Innovation, opened on October 8, 2013.



County Executive Ed FitzGerald, Cuyahoga Land Bank President Gus Frangos, and County Council members launch the Homefront Program with five year Air Force veteran Mr. Michael MacMillan Jr. and his wife, Elizabeth, in front of their new University Heights home

Connect with Cuyahoga County



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