



June 23, 2014

Dear Friend,

I hope that you and your family have been enjoying the start of summer over the past couple weeks. With so much going on here in Cuyahoga County, I wanted to take a moment to share some of the things I've been working on recently.

Welcome to the
June 2014 Cuyahoga
County E-Newsletter

Towpath Trail

Next month, on July 7th, I will join Senator Sherrod Brown, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, and other Northeast Ohio advocates to formally open [the first publicly-funded section of the Towpath Trail in Cleveland](#). As you may know, the Towpath Trail was first developed by the National Parks Service to follow the path of the historic Ohio and Erie Canal through Cuyahoga Valley National Park, and I am especially proud that Cuyahoga County was able to play a major role in this most recent project to preserve the Scranton Road Towpath Trail in the Flats area of Cleveland. [Click here](#) to visit my Facebook page and share your thoughts with me about this important project.

Win Tax

Cleveland is the only city in the country with three major sports teams that hasn't won a championship in the last 50 years, and second place, Oakland, isn't even close because they won a World Series 25 years ago. And each year, Cuyahoga County taxpayers provide millions of dollars to benefit our three major sports facilities and the teams that play there.

That's why I recently announced that I will be submitting legislation to County Council to establish a "Win Tax" bonus that links 20% of public funding for our sports facilities to how a team performs on-the-field. No fans wear their hearts on their sleeves like Browns, Cavs, and Indians fans, and it's important that we create financial incentives that to ensure the teams that perform well each season are rewarded.

We're going to continue discussing this issue in the weeks ahead, and I hope you'll share your thoughts with me. [Visit my Facebook page](#) or Tweet @EdFitzGeraldCE to let me know what you think.

Saving for College

Last month, Cuyahoga County officially opened [the nation's largest universal college savings account program](#). From now on, every student who enters kindergarten in Cuyahoga County - regardless of whether they go to public, charter, parochial, independent, or home school - will be given a [\\$100 college savings account](#) to help get them started saving for college.

Today, young people who expect to graduate college and have a savings account are about seven times more likely to go to college than their peers. This is the first time that a county government in our country has started [a college savings program for every single child](#), and I'm confident it won't be the last. Expanding access to higher education is the key to making sure that every young person has the opportunity to succeed once they enter the workforce, and I'm proud that Cuyahoga County is leading this effort.

Jobs

I also joined Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson and City Councilman Joe Cimperman last month to open the brand new Mitchell's Ice Cream production kitchen in Ohio City. Cuyahoga County's Department

of Economic Development provided critical funding to help Mike and Pete Mitchell get this new facility off the ground, and as a result we've helped to create good-paying retail, manufacturing, and management jobs in this location that will benefit our economy. [Click here](#) to see some photos from this event.

ReadyNotify

We recently started a new mass communications initiative, ReadyNotify, that makes it easier for Cuyahoga County residents to get information about emergency situations in their neighborhood, and you may have seen one of our [public service announcements](#) that have been airing on local television stations in recent weeks. This is an important initiative that is helping keep our communities safe, and I encourage you to visit the [ReadyNotify website](#) and sign up today.

My office is here to serve you. If you'd like more information about the resources and services we can provide, please call (216) 443-7178 right now.

My best always,

Ed FitzGerald

Cuyahoga County Executive

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