



ONE CUYAHOGA

An Official Government E-Newsletter of Cuyahoga County, Ohio



Summer 2013

Welcome to the Cuyahoga County E-Newsletter.

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2013 NACo Achievement Award



Cuyahoga County was recently awarded the 2013 NACo Achievement Award by The National Association of Counties

(NACo) for its Business Attraction and Anti-Poaching Protocol program. Signed by all 59 communities in the county, the protocol will not only help improve economic development efforts in each community, but also allow the county to advance as a stronger and more united region.

More on the NACo Achievement Award

Cuyahoga County Rx Drug Drop Box Program

The RX Drug Drop Box Program is an opportunity for residents to deposit unused, unwanted, or expired prescription drugs at drop boxes located at participating local law enforcement agencies across the County. To find a drop off location, visit one of the following sites or call 2-1-1.

www.sheriff.cuyahogacounty.us/rx

www.rxdrugdropbox.org

Message from the County Executive



I am happy to introduce to you the first [Cuyahoga County Executive's Office](#) E-Newsletter. This E-Newsletter, like the ones that will follow, will highlight some of the county's recent accomplishments and events. During my time as County Executive, I've strived to make transparency and open communication a trademark of Cuyahoga County government. By harnessing the power of technology, we have an opportunity to achieve this and share the progress that we are making, as it happens, with our residents.

Over the course of the last few weeks, we have hit a number of exciting milestones. Along with [City of Cleveland](#) Mayor Frank Jackson, we recently announced a major [Downtown and Lakefront Development Plan](#), which will connect Public Square, the Downtown Malls, the new Cleveland Convention Center, a new pedestrian bridge, and the Lakefront. In the place of the existing County Administration Building will be a 600-plus room hotel, the largest in Cleveland, connected to the brand new Cleveland Convention Center. All done with no new taxes to you, the residents.

In May, we also awarded \$1.34 million to 10 communities across the county through our 2013 [Municipal Grant Program](#). Funded by Community Development Block Grant dollars, this year's awarded projects include street construction, accessibility improvements for the disabled, community center enhancements, and playground improvements.

We recently announced several [Emergency Management Initiatives](#), including plans for a new Cuyahoga County Emergency Operations Center, StormReady certification from the National Weather Service, and steps forward toward a countywide Reverse 9-1-1 system. Public safety is a priority in Cuyahoga County and establishing the premier Office of Emergency Management within Ohio has been a top goal of the new government.

Finally, we also proposed additional funding for our successful [Employment Connection](#) On-The-Job Training Program. According to [Policy Matters](#), in 2011 more than 84% of people that completed the program found jobs. Investments in crucial job placement and job training initiatives like this program continue to be a priority for the county.

We will send our E-Newsletters on a regular basis and look forward to sharing our updates, but more importantly, hearing your feedback. It is truly an exciting time to live, work and do business in Cuyahoga County and we have much to celebrate. It is with great pride that I share with you the steps we continue to take to make Cuyahoga County a safe, vibrant, and thriving community.

Sincerely,

Edward FitzGerald

Cuyahoga County Executive

Articles

Downtown Development Announcements

On May 13, 2013, County Executive FitzGerald announced the Cuyahoga County Casino Revenue Development Fund will be used to assist with funding for downtown projects. The Casino Revenue Development Fund is different from the county's other economic development initiatives. This fund strives to assist in creating an environment that attracts businesses and visitors to downtown Cleveland.

"To date, we have collected from the casino \$4.9 million and are expecting another \$8 million by the end of this year. It is essential that we invest this money back into downtown Cleveland to keep the momentum going for future projects. The casino revenue allows us to invest back into our own operation, where it will not only affect the City of Cleveland, but all of Cuyahoga County," says County Executive FitzGerald.



Opened this Spring, the Flats East Bank project includes a 23-story, 500,000 sq. ft.

More on the Rx Drop Box Program

Extended Operating Hours for the Auto Title Division

Effective Monday, June 17, 2013, the Auto Title Division (ATD) has new operating hours to accommodate the busy schedules of county residents.

More on the ATD extended hours

Cuyahoga County to Purchase Green Energy from Renewable Sources

Cuyahoga County is finalizing a new 2-year, \$8 million energy contract with FirstEnergy Solutions that will allow the county to participate in a voluntary program to purchase 50% of its energy from renewable sources. By utilizing green energy sources, Cuyahoga County can contribute to a healthier, sustainable environment while supporting a variety of renewable energy technologies, like wind farms or hydroelectric dams.

More on the green energy purchase

Cuyahoga County Awarded \$100,000 Local Government Innovation Fund Grant

Cuyahoga County was recently awarded a \$100,000 grant from the State of Ohio's Local Government Innovation Fund to finance the development of an Enterprise Geographic Information System (GIS). The Enterprise GIS will help the county and its partners meet the public demand for municipal data (such as pavement conditions, speed limits, sewer lines, and housing patterns) while increasing transparency and efficiency.

More on the Innovation Fund Grant

[Cleveland Playhouse Square](#) will receive \$4 million to assist with funding the PlayhouseSquare District Improvement project. The \$16 million total investment improvement will offer accessibility, safety, aesthetic, and walkability of the nation's second largest theater district and one of downtown's biggest cultural attractions. "We are very excited that County Executive FitzGerald shares the vision with PlayhouseSquare on our district identity plan. We believe it will be a transformational project that will enhance the economic development of the community," says Art Falco, Executive Director of PlayhouseSquare.

\$1.5 million will assist with the conversion of the East Ohio Gas Building, which will include 200 market rate apartments. This \$65 million total investment conversion of the East Ohio Gas Building will address the demand for downtown housing. "What better way to spend casino revenue than help create 200 + union jobs for two years and add 300 residents downtown," says Doug Price, CEO of K&D Group.

[Flats East Bank](#) will receive \$1.5 million to complete Phase II of the Flats Residential Tower. The Flats Residential Tower total project investment is \$130 million and once completed will include over 200 market rate apartments. "Cuyahoga County is supporting our long and highly-focused effort to make all of Greater Cleveland proud of the Flats East Bank," says Adam Fishman of Flats East Bank. "This unique project will result in a new waterfront neighborhood that will be eclectic, fun, and visually stimulating," says Fishman. | [More information on the Cuyahoga County Western Reserve Fund](#) »

County Celebrates National Foster Care Month



Former youth in custody Rashawn K. Anderson (pictured left) performs a dance and DCFS families (pictured center and right) are recognized for their outstanding service. | [See more photos](#) »

[Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services](#) (DCFS) kicked off National Foster Care Month and the annual Imprints on the Heart celebration on May 2, 2013 by honoring and recognizing eight outstanding families for exemplary service. Administrator Pat Rideout opened the ceremony with a "Back to Our Roots: Revisiting Family to Family" address and a heartfelt commemoration of past DCFS Director and foster care parent, Judith Goodhand. Former youth in custody and now college bound to the University of Southern California, Rashawn K. Anderson performed a dance ensemble all in effort to provide an opportunity to shine a light on the experiences of these amazing families and the more than 600 youth in DCFS custody today. Staff and stakeholders enjoyed refreshments while recognizing these well-deserving foster care champions.

With the help of these recognized and dedicated families, our children and teens will now either reunite safely with their parents, be cared for by relatives or be adopted by loving families. The month-long foster care campaign raised awareness about the urgent needs of these young people and encouraged citizens from every walk of life to [get involved](#). | [Learn more about becoming a foster parent](#) »

County Executive Launches Missing Persons Initiative

Communication from the community is an integral part in assisting law enforcement with the safe return of missing persons. More than ever, technology, shared resources and shared information joined with a watchful community can help protect and rescue the endangered, especially our young adults and kids. But we can do more. On May 16th, County Executive FitzGerald announced the Missing Persons Initiative to help find and rescue those taken from their homes or their communities.

According to the Cleveland Plain Dealer, within the US, more than 85,000 people are missing. The overwhelming majority of missing persons cases are resolved by the hard work and dedication of local law enforcement, families, community leaders, and community members. As can be seen most recently, the City of Cleveland worked tirelessly over the last 10 years to reunite Amanda Berry, Gina DeJesus, and Michelle Knight with their family and friends.

In Cleveland since 2006, over 19,000 people have gone missing. Since that time, approximately 110 missing persons cases still remain unsolved within the city. In Ohio, there are 1,000 unresolved missing persons cases, with 700 of those being children. While the majority of missing persons cases are resolved within 24 hours, the small remainder are significant. Our goal in Cuyahoga County is to focus our attention on all missing persons and make sure that those who are not found within 24 hours still remain a continued priority; unresolved missing persons cases touch everyone throughout the community.

The Missing Persons Initiative is made of several components: the Missing Persons website/Database, Missing Persons Liaison, and Missing Persons Deputies.

Currently, there is no website that captures all of the missing persons in Cuyahoga County. [The new website](#) will be maintained on a regular basis to ensure that persons who are missing for longer than 24 hours continue to be highlighted. The website itself will

include: missing children and missing adults, community resources (including tips on how to keep your family safe, what to do to help law enforcement, what to do if someone you know goes missing, and links to other helpful resources), and a button to report a missing person tip. Anyone accessing the website will also be able to print a poster with a missing person's information on it. Recently reported missing individuals will be highlighted on the list. Found individuals will remain listed on the site for approximately two weeks.

The Missing Persons Liaison will work with law enforcement, families, and community partners to make sure that the data is uploaded properly and kept current. In addition, they will help maintain a missing persons Facebook/social media presence similar to the very successful [Sheriff's Department Facebook](#) Fugitive updates. Since January 22, 2010, 1,645 Facebook featured fugitives have been taken into custody.

Finally, our Impact Unit will be expanded to include Deputies specifically assigned to Missing Persons. The Deputies will become specialized in the area of Missing Persons and will work with families, community partners, and local law enforcement.

This initiative speaks to the importance of coming together as a community to serve the people of Cuyahoga County. We look forward to working with the [Cuyahoga County Police Chief's Association](#), the [NEO Regional Fusion Center](#), [Cleveland Police Department](#), and the [Ohio Attorney General's Office](#) to implement this initiative.

Photos of the Summer



County Executive FitzGerald and Mayor Frank Jackson discuss the \$360 Million Development plan that will link Public Square with the Lakefront (Hotel rendering pictured in the background).



State and Local Leaders celebrate the opening of the Cleveland Convention Center on June 14, 2013.



The demolition of the P&H building on the site of the new Cuyahoga County headquarters is nearly complete as construction crews have torn down the majority of the building. Construction will begin shortly and the entire project will be completed by July 2014.

Connect with Cuyahoga County



[Contact Us](#)



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