



Nosotros Somos Ward 15 - Al servicio de los vecindarios de Cudell, Detroit Shoreway, Edgewater y parte de Ohio City y Stockyards

A Message from Councilmember Jenny Spencer

Dear Ward 15 Residents,

In January 2023, House Bill 458 was voted into law and signed by Ohio Governor Mike DeWine. This new law puts Ohio among a handful of states with the strictest voter ID rules in the country. Other new restrictions on voting access include cutting the early voting period, giving voters less time to return their mail-in ballots, and limiting ballot drop boxes to one per county. The bottom line is that voter suppression in Ohio has increased.

I know that many Ward 15 residents choose not to vote, aren't able to make time to vote, or encounter barriers to voting. Some of you have told me that you don't believe your vote matters. I am writing this letter to let you know that your vote matters now more than ever.

This newsletter includes information about what the community needs to know about Ohio's new voting laws. Please join me in helping others to understand the laws, check their voter registration status, and get the word out about the importance of voting.

Sincerely,

Jona Spencer

P.S. What do you think about the "We Are Ward 15" newsletters? Do they provide you with useful information about your community? Take a moment to respond to a survey about the Summer 2023 Edition:



Queridos residentes,

En enero de 2023, se hizo ley en Ohio el House Bill 458. Ahora Ohio tiene unas de las reglas de identificación de votantes más estrictas del país. Otras restricciones nuevas en el acceso a la votación incluyen reducir el período de votación anticipada, dar a los votantes menos tiempo para devolver sus boletas por correo y limitar los buzones de entrega de boletas a uno por condado. La conclusión es que la supresión de votantes en Ohio ha aumentado.

Sé que muchos residentes del Distrito 15 eligen no votar, no pueden encontrar tiempo para votar o encuentran barreras para votar. Algunos de ustedes me han dicho que no creen que su voto importe. Les escribo este mensaje para hacerles saber que su voto importa ahora más que nunca.

Este boletín incluye información sobre lo que la comunidad necesita saber sobre las nuevas leyes electorales de Ohio. Para obtener una copia de esta información en español, comuníquese con mi oficina al 216-664-4235. La Junta Electoral del Condado de Cuyahoga también es una buena fuente de información. Visite su sitio de web en el boe.cuyahogacounty.gov/es o llame al (216) 443-8683.

Sinceramente,

Jenny Spencer

New Voting Laws In Ohio: Where to get the Help & Information You Need



Check Your Voter Registration Status

The State of Ohio engages in the practice of voter roll "purging," which means that thousands of citizens are periodically removed from state voter rolls due to inactivity. The most recent voter roll purge in Ohio occurred in February 2023. If you have not voted in a while or just to be safe, it's worth taking a few seconds to search the state's list of removed names, even if you consider yourself to be a regular voter. Go to: registrationreadiness.ohiosos.gov



How to Register to Vote

If you have moved since you last voted or if your registration has been canceled, you may <u>register again at any time</u>. You can register online at https://olvr.ohiosos.gov/ or by contacting the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections at www.443vote.us or calling them at 216-443-VOTE (8683). You can also visit any public library branch including the Lorain Branch of the Cleveland Public Library at 8216 Lorain Avenue, which will reopen to the public on Saturday, June 17th.

The final day to register for the August 8, 2023 Special Election is July 10, 2023.



New State Photo ID Requirement to Vote

The state of Ohio has always required voters to show identification at the polls, but allowed an exception for voters who couldn't produce one, allowing them to present a bank statement, paystub or other document to prove their identity. The new law gets rid of that exception and only allows someone to vote if they provide a state-issued photo ID. **Residents will no longer be able to use documents like a bank statement, a paycheck, or a government document to cast their ballots.**



How to get a state-issued photo ID if you do not have one

Visit the Ohio Secretary of State's website for more information about identification requirements.

www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/id-requirements/

Starting April 7, 2023, Ohioans who are 17 years and older can receive a state ID card at no cost from the BMV. Follow this link to learn more about obtaining an Ohio ID at no cost: https://publicsafety.ohio.gov/static/free-ID-palm-card.pdf



Voter ID Assistance

Sometimes, the issue is access to underlying documents you need to apply for a state-issued photo ID (like birth certificates or Social Security cards). VoteRiders - a non-partisan, non-profit organization - provides personalized assistance for voters, such as covering the cost of required documents and arranging & paying for transportation to local ID-issuing

Learn about how VoteRiders can help you by visiting www.voteriders.org/states/ohio/ or by calling or texting their Helpline at 866-ID-2-VOTE.

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APPLICATIONS OPEN: Ward 15 Racial Equity Fellowships

Understanding racial equity and the legacy of racial oppression is a critically important skill set for citizens in our democracy. For the third year, Councilmember Spencer invites residents to apply for scholarships to twoday, virtual Racial Equity & Inclusion (REI) Workshops. ThirdSpace Action Lab is the Cleveland-based host of these sessions, which are facilitated by the Greensboro, NC-based Racial Equity Institute.

Delaney Jones was one of eight Ward 15 residents to receive a scholarship in 2022. "Understanding how our society has historically been structured around racial lines and how this permeates our societal structures in the present day is critical knowledge that I believe anyone who wishes to be an informed, active community member should be exposed to...it was completely eye opening to learn this information," states Delaney.

For more about ThirdSpace Action Lab, visit: 3rdspaceactionlab.co/2023rei. For more about the Racial Equity Institute, visit racialequityinstitute.com

To apply for a scholarship:

A total of ten Ward 15 scholarships (two per two-day session) are available on the following session dates: July 19-20, August 23-24, September 20-21, October 18-19, and November 15-16, 2023. Residents must be able to commit to the full two days.

Please email Heather Lazar at council15@clevelandcitycouncil.org for an application today. The deadline to apply is Friday, July 14. and applications will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis. A full group debrief hosted by Councilmember Spencer will take place in late fall, 2023, once all five sessions have concluded.





Councilmember Spencer Chairs Rail Safety Hearing



On March 21, 2023, Councilmember Spencer chaired a special Rail Safety Hearing on behalf of Cleveland City Council. During the hearing, Council expressed its support for the bipartisan Railway Safety Act of 2023 - a bill introduced by U.S Senator Sherrod Brown and U.S. Senator J.D. Vance that would increase federal regulation of the freight rail industry - as well as proposed changes to state law. In addition, Council members heard from representatives of Mayor Justin M. Bibb regarding emergency preparedness in the event of a train derailment.

Council and the Mayor's Administration have pledged to work closely together on not only questions of hazardous materials transportation, but also rail infrastructure.

On May 2nd, U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown issued a letter to Norfolk Southern CEO Alan Shaw about the condition of bridges, including the Lake Avenue bridge. See: https://tinyurl.com/2b4bnm7w

On June 8th, Council and the Cleveland Department of Law hosted a press conference to share the City's findings regarding the condition of rail bridges. Of 99 bridges, 23 were found to have structural flaws. See: https://tinyurl.com/43hmrfuf

Although much work remains to be done, Councilmember Spencer would like to thank and recognize the Lake Avenue bridge advocates, led by resident Nikki Hudson, for their tireless efforts to draw attention to bridge conditions.

"Ward 15 is bisected by two active freight rail lines, and a derailment would affect tens of thousands of residents. It was imperative that Council hold a Rail Safety hearing not only about emergency preparedness, but about advocating for new laws that will make Clevelanders safer." -Jenny Spencer

Voting laws continued

I have my State - Issued Photo ID & I'm All Ready to Vote . How Can I Help Others?



Voter turnout in Ward 15 generally lags other communities in our region. For example, our voter turnout in the 2022 General Election was 35.2%, compared with 47.4% countywide. And many of our residents are not registered to vote or have never voted - a process made that much more challenging due to House Bill 458.

If you'd like to speak with your Ward 15 neighbors about the importance of voting and help others register to vote, you may wish to volunteer for a local nonpartisan voter registration organization, such as:

In-person voting:

- Northeast Ohio Voter Advocates (NOVA): nova-ohio.org/volunteer/
- League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland: lwvgreatercleveland.org/
- Young Latino Network (for Spanish Speakers): ylncle.org
- Cleveland VOTES is another organization in the democracybuilding space, focusing on equitable civic engagement. To learn more about Cleveland VOTES and what they do, visit *clevotes.com*.

OVRC Before -**HB 458** Menor B Allowed **ID Type** HB 458 **HB 458** Ohio Photo ID (driver's license or state ID) * 0 U.S. or Ohio issued Military ID Card 0 0 U.S. Passport 0 Utility or Cell Phone Bill Bank Statement Paycheck Government Check Government Document from Social Security or Ohio Jobs and Family Services X * Expired licenses may not be used to vote. ◯ Yes X No

August 8
Special Election



Ohio will hold a special election on August 8th, so mark your calendars now. Check your voter registration status and make your plan to vote today. If you know you'll be away on August 8, vote early or vote absentee. Absentee ballots can be requested now. Visit 443vote.us for information.

KEY DATES FOR AUGUST 8 ELECTION

- JULY 10: VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE
- AUGUST 1: ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST DEADLINE
- AUGUST 8: ELECTION DAY

"I encourage residents to vote 'NO' on August 8th to preserve the right Ohio citizens have had to amend our state constitution for the past 175 years."

-Jenny Spencer

"We believe this proposed amendment shreds our Constitution, ending majority rule in Ohio and taking away our right to decide what happens here. It undermines the sacred principle of 'one person one vote'. We need to protect our freedom to determine our future in Ohio, not permanently change our constitution to give up our rights. The August special election will also be an expensive and unnecessary undertaking."

-Cleveland VOTES

Councilmember Spencer Named to Urban Forestry Commission

Councilmember Jenny Spencer has been named Cleveland City Council's representative to the City's Urban Forestry Commission.

The Commission formerly known as the "Tree Commission" was established in the early 1990s and went dormant in the early 2000s. New legislation was introduced in 2021 by Cleveland City Council to amend and revive the Commission in the City's Codified Ordinances.



Now known as the Urban Forestry Commission (UFC), its purpose is to advise the Mayor and City Council on tree canopy policies and regulations. "Ward 15 is deeply committed and engaged around the Cleveland Tree Plan," said Councilmember Spencer. "I'm proud to represent Council as a member of the Commission to advance City policy to protect and increase our tree canopy." Ward 15 resident Divya Sridhar has also been named to the UFC.

The UFC holds quarterly public meetings, with the next upcoming meeting to take place on Tuesday, July 11, 2023 from 4:00-5:30pm. The public can watch virtually via Sustainable Cleveland's Youtube LiveStream or the TV20 Channel. In addition, members of the public may submit public comment by attending the meetings in person.

Councilmember Spencer also continues to convene the Ward 15 Tree Canopy Steering Committee to advance neighborhood canopy goals. in collaboration with Northwest Neighborhoods CDC.



Clevelanders with FirstEnergy service will pay more on the energy supply portions of their bills in June and July due to a delay on the part of the administration in selecting an electric aggregator. Cleveland Public Power and FirstEnergy customers enrolled in PIPP will not be impacted by the delay. For more information, the Mayor's Administration is directing residents to its community choice aggregation FAQ page at:

sustainablecleveland.org/CommunityChoiceAggregation Residents can also call 3-1-1.

Important Resources for Residents

With Covid pandemic benefits coming to an end, please share this information with neighbors who may need it.

Ward 15 Food Bank Pantry List & Hot Meals as of May 2023 ZIP Code: 44102 **Hours of Operation Program Name** Type Address Phone Food is 4th Friday of every month: 12:00noon-4:00pm. Fresh produce Pantry CALVARY REFORMED CHURCH 1918 W 65th St. (216) 961-4271 provided 1st Saturday of every month: 11:00am. By Appointment Only: Wednesday 9:00am-5:00pm NUEVA LUZ URBAN RESOURCE 6600 Detroit Ave (216) 651-8236 Pantry CENTER Third Saturday 10:00am-12:00pm 2060 W 65th St (216) 916-9270 NEW BEGINNING MINISTRIES Pantry WSEM FOOD CENTER AT M 2:30pm-5:00pm, TH (216) 631-6508 Pantry 8300 Detroit Ave. COMMUNITY CORNER 9:30am-12:00pm, FR 9:30am-12:00pm Thursday of the third full week of the SAGRADA FAMILIA PARISH Pantry 7719 Detroit Ave. (216) 856-2304 month: 9:00am-11:00am WEST 58TH STREET CHURCH OF Pantry Third Saturday 9:00am-12:00pm 3150 W 58th St (216) 281-2958 Mobile Second Thursday 12:00pm-2:00pm THE CENTERS-GORDON SQUARE 5209 Detroit Ave (216) 230-7763 Pantry April through September Mobile Second and Fourth Monday SAINT LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 1349 W 78th St. (440) 665-1796 Pantry 5:00pm-7:00pm MICHAEL J. ZONE RECREATION 3-6pm on the third Monday of each Produce 6301 Lorain Ave. Pop-Up ST. COLMAN CHURCH Hot Meal 2nd to Last Saturday :3:00-5:00 2021 West 65th St (216) 651-0550 Every Friday except the third Friday, BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Hot Meal 6415 W Clinton Ave. 6:00pm









Are you facing a civil legal problem that impacts Health? Housing? Family? Money? Employment? Contact Legal Aid!



Browse legal resources or apply for help online: lasclev.org





Or, call 888.817.3777 during most business hours.



Legal Aid secures justice, equity, and access to opportunity for and with people who have low incomes through passionate legal representation and advocacy for systemic change.





¿Está enfrentando un problema legal civil que impacta en la Salud? ¿Alojamiento? ¿Familia?¿Dinero? ¿Empleo?

¡Ponte en contacto con Legal Aid!



Busque recursos legales o solicite ayuda en línea: lasclev.org



O llame al 888.817.3777 durante la mayoría de las horas de trabajo.

Legal Aid garantiza justicia, equidad y acceso a oportunidades para y con personas de bajos ingresos, mediante una representación legal apasionada y abogando por un cambio sistémico.



Utility Assistance

Need help with water and sewer bills? There are a variety of different programs tailored to help either renters or homeowners with their water and sewer bills, as well as other utilities. Understanding the many rules and eligibility requirements can be a daunting task; however, CHN Housing Partners can assist applicants with finding and applying for the right programs. Call CHN at (216) 7/4-2349 or go to chnhousingpartners.org/utilityassistance/ to schedule an appointment.

Medicaid Re-Enrollment

Early in the pandemic, the U.S. Congress passed a law that prevented states from dropping people from their Medicaid rolls. Those protections expired on March 31, 2023, and those with Medicaid must now re-enroll each year. As Ohio resumes its Medicaid eligibility operations, it is important to make sure that your enrollment is in good shape. Go to benefits.ohio.gov or call 800-324-8680 for questions and more information about your eligibility.

For any other need not identified in this section, contact 2-1-1, the United Way's Help Center. Simply dial 2-1-1 or chat for assistance at www.211oh.org. Se habla español.



Thank you to Northwest Neighborhoods CDC and all the volunteers who came out to our Save the Date for next year's clean up on Earth Day clean up, despite the rain!





Cleveland, OH 44114 @jennyspencercle

601 Lakeside Avenue, Room 220 City Hall Office:

WARD 15 COUNCIL MEMBER

JOSEPH NASER, Ward 15 Executive Assistant WARD 15 OFFICE STAFF:

Email: jspencer@clevelandcitycouncil.org Phone: 216-664-4235 Fax: 216-664-3837 **HEATHER LAZAR,** Ward 15 Neighborhood Advocate

/isit ClevelandCityCouncil.org/ward-15

CUDELL, DETROIT SHOREWAY, EDGEWATER, PARTS OF OHIO CITY & STOCKYARD

CLEVELAND, OH PRESORT STD.
U.S. POSTAGE

Navigating New Roundabouts on Franklin Blvd.

Phase 1 of the Franklin Blvd. Rehabilitation project (West 85th Street to West 50th Street) is complete, and Phase 2 construction (West 50th Street to West 25th Street) is now underway. The speed limit on Franklin has also been lowered to 25 mph. But what are those new circles at the intersections?



The circles are traffic calming elements called traversable mini-roundabouts. Here is how to navigate around them:

- Slow down as you approach the intersection.
- Look for and yield to any pedestrians before you enter the mini-roundabout.
- At the entrance, yield to any vehicles already in the intersection. If you arrive at the intersection at the same time as another road user, the person on the left has the
- Slowly proceed around the mini-roundabout to the right of the center island until you reach your desired destination.
- Look for and yield to any pedestrians at the crosswalk before you exit the mini-roundabout.

A unique feature of traversable mini-roundabouts is that the center islands are mountable by vehicles such as fire trucks, school buses, or trailers that are too large to make the complete circle. Drivers of large vehicles should slowly navigate over the center island to complete their desired turn when they have the right-of-way. All other road users should yield to the large vehicle until it clears the intersection.

Visit www.WestFranklinCLE.com for more information about the Franklin Blvd. rehabilitation.

Don't Miss This Two-Minute **Mini-Roundabout Video!**





CMSD Summer Learning

Experience
Rising K - 8 Students
June 20 - July 21
8:30 am - 3:30pm High School Students June 26 - July 21 8:30am - 3:30pm For information and to register. https://tinyurl.com/5eh34f6r

Cudell Recreation & Resource Center Cudell Fine Arts Michael J. Zone Recreation

& Resource Center Register online at clevelandohio.gov/NRRCactivit ies or call Michael J. Zone (216-664-3373), Cudell Rec (216-664-4137) or Cudell Fine Arts (216-664-4183) for details.

Outdoor Pools

City pools Open Saturday, June 10 Schedule to be posted to: tinyurl.com/poolsschedule

Legal Aid Society Brief Advice and Referral Clinic Clínica de Consulta Breves y Referimientos

Saturday, June 17 Sabado 17 de Junio West Side Catholic Center 3135 Lorain Ave.

Cleveland Public Library Lorain Branch & Campus Grand Reopening Saturday, June 17

12pm - 3pm 8216 Lorain Ave.

Juneteenth Celebration St. Luke's Episcopal Church Saturday, June 17 1349 W. 78th St.

Juneteenth Movie Screening "The Right to Read"

Monday, June 19 11:30am-2pm Capitol Theatre, 1390 W. 65th St.

Craft Carnival

Hands-on activities & crafts Thursday, June 22 1pm-4pm Cudell Fine Arts, 10013 Detroit

Cleveland Metroparks Summer Concert Series

Front Porch Lights Thursday, June 22 5pm-8pm Historic U.S. Coast Guard Station

Edgewater NeighborFest

Sunday, June 25 12pm-6pm Clifton Blvd between W. 115th & W. 117th Streets Go to cudelledgewater.com/

Creation Care Kids Ecological activities for children ages K-8

Wednesdays in July: 5, 12, 19, 26 6pm-8:30pm Calvary Reformed Church 1918 West 65th St. Register online at www.calvaryreformedcle.com

Cleveland Metroparks

Summer Concert Series The Cover Ups Thursday, July 6 5pm-8pm Edgewater Beach

GardenWalk

Saturday, July 8 - Sunday, July 9 10am-5pm Edgewater's Clifton-Baltic neighborhood and Detroit Shoreway gardens are on display on Sunday, July 9th. For the full schedule visit: gardenwalkcleveland.org/

Near West Recreation Soccer Ages 4 - 14

Registration opens in July Volleyball Ages 9 - 16 Registration opens in September For details and to register visit: https://tinyurl.com/2sj8nevm

Thursday, July 20 1pm-4pm Cudell Fine Arts, 10013 Detroit Ave.

THIRD FRIDAY Art Walk

78th Street Studios Friday, July 21 5pm - 9pm 1305 W. 80th Street

Cleveland Metroparks **Summer Concert Series** Cleveland's Breakfast Club

Thursday, July 27th 5pm-8pm Historic U.S. Coast Guard

Cleveland Public Theatre Student Theatre **Enrichment (STEP)** Performance

Thursday, July 27th L[']Herman Park

Chalk-A-Walk

Thursday, August 3 1pm-4pm Cudell Fine Arts, 10013 Detroit

Clifton-Baltic/Edgewater Neighborhood-Wide Sale

Sales start at 8 a.m. cliftonbalticneighbors.com

West Blvd, Street Sale aturday, August 5

10am through afternoon West Blvd. (Madison Ave. to Lorain Ave.)

Cleveland Public Theatre Student Theatre Enrichment (STEP)

Performance Sunday, August 6 Cleveland Public Theatre

Back-to-School Giveaway

Saturday, August 12 Free school supplies (while they last) for students Location & details coming soon at nwneighborhoods.org

THIRD FRIDAY Art Walk

78th Street Studios Friday, August 18 5pm - 9pm 1305 W. 80th Street
Note: THIRD FRIDAY Art Walks are on 3rd Fridays of each month, year-round

Community Movie Night at Baltic Children's Park Movie title TBA

Friday, August 18 (rain date August 25th) W. 108th St. and Baltic Rd.

Cleveland Metroparks **Summer Concert Series** Disco Inferno

Thursday, August 31 5pm-8pm Edgewater Beach

Community Movie Night at Miriam Ortiz-Rush Park

Friday, September 8 (rain date September 15) 6pm-9pm W. 75th St. and Madison Ave.