



COUNCILMEMBER
Jenny Spencer

CUDELL
DETROIT SHOREWAY
EDGEWATER
PARTS OF OHIO CITY
& STOCKYARDS

WE ARE WARD 15

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,

We chose a difficult topic for the cover of our newsletter this fall: the rise in opioid addiction and opioid-related overdose deaths. My office reviews a daily report from the City's Department of Public Safety known as the "brevity report," which details all police reports filed in Ward 15. We began to notice more and more opioid related incidents on the reports, and we are shocked and saddened by each reported overdose death. What is happening in Ward 15 mirrors national trends. Our hope is that the information shared in this newsletter will help residents connect their family, friends and neighbors with resources that could help them overcome addiction and save lives. We all have a part to play in creating a beloved community where neighbors look out for other neighbors.

Sincerely,

Jenny Spencer

Un mensaje de la Concejala Jenny Spencer

Queridos residentes,

Elegimos un tema difícil para este boletín: el aumento de la adicción a los opioides y las muertes por sobredosis. Mi oficina revisa un informe diario del Departamento de Seguridad Pública de la ciudad conocido como "informe breve," que detalla los informes policiales presentados en el Distrito 15. Comenzamos a notar más y más incidentes relacionados con opioides en los informes, y estamos conmovidos y entristecidos por cada muerte por sobredosis reportada. Lo que está sucediendo en el Distrito 15 refleja las tendencias nacionales. Nuestra esperanza es que la información compartida en este boletín ayude a los residentes a conectar a sus familiares, amigos y vecinos con recursos que podrían ayudarlos a superar la adicción y salvar vidas.

Sinceramente,

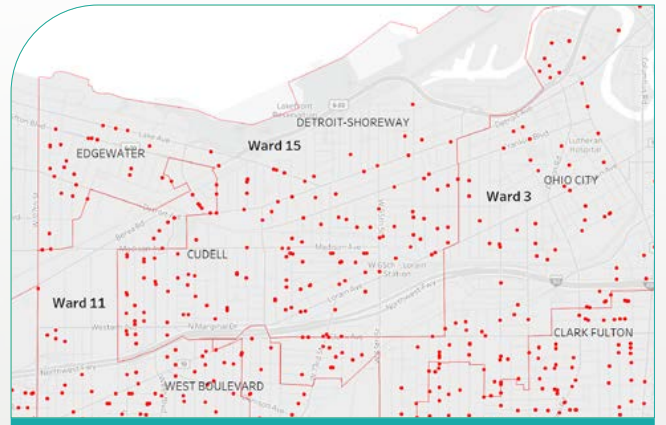
Jenny Spencer

Overdose Deaths on the Rise in Ward 15

In a July 2023 report, Alex Dorman, a Ward 15 resident and Research Fellow with The Center for Community Solutions, described a rising epidemic in Cuyahoga County. "We are on track to suffer a record number of overdose deaths in 2023. A projected 770 neighbors, friends, and family members will lose their lives to an overdose in Cuyahoga County this year. This is up from the previous record of over 720 overdose deaths in 2017," wrote Dorman.

Per Dorman's report, one clear reason for the dramatic increase in overdose deaths is the proliferation of fentanyl (a synthetic opioid roughly fifty to one hundred times more potent than heroin) in all kinds of street drugs, including heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, marijuana, and fake pills pressed to look like commonly abused prescriptions, such as Adderall.

It may surprise many residents to learn that Ward 15 has a high rate of overdoses and overdose deaths, relative to other parts of the city. According to Cleveland's Division of Emergency Medical Service (EMS), the 44109 and 44102 ZIP codes have the highest rates of Naloxone administration. Naloxone - commonly known as Narcan - is used to reverse an opioid overdose by restoring breathing. Data provided by Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner and analyzed by the Case Western Reserve University Begun Center for Violence



Each red dot represents the primary address of the victim of fatal overdose from 2014-2022. Addiction affects all ages, races, genders and income levels. Source: Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner / data analyzed by the Case Western Reserve University Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education

Prevention Research and Education reported that 183 residents have died in Ward 15 from a drug overdose between 2014 and 2022.

"As a paramedic, I continue to witness a steady stream of lives lost to opiate use. Naloxone is an important tool to save lives in the short term, until people can be connected with

CONTINUED INSIDE



Tim Sommerfelt



Council Welcomes Public Comment



Cleveland City Council offers a public comment period at the beginning of every regular Council meeting. Up to ten (10) individuals may speak for up to three (3) minutes each week. **Individuals wishing to address Council can sign up online at: www.clevelandcitycouncil.org/resources/public-comment**

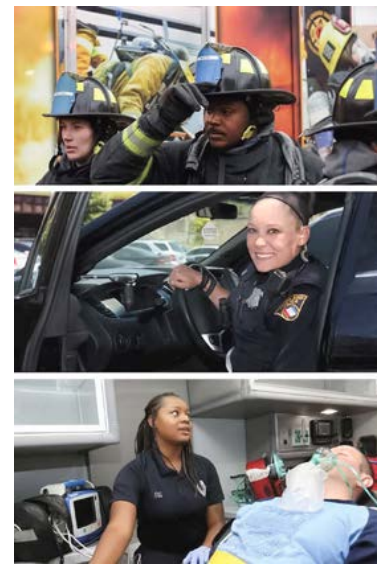
To request public comment at a committee hearing, contact the relevant committee chair. A listing of Council committees and their chairpersons can be found at www.clevelandcitycouncil.org/council/committees.

City of Cleveland Police & Public Safety Recruitment

On August 23rd, Mayor Justin M. Bibb announced an agreement that will provide a 50% pay increase and up to a \$5,000 sign-on bonus for new police cadets.

Under the new agreement, trainees going through the Cleveland Police Academy will now make approximately \$24/hour – up 50% from the previous pay rate of \$16/hour. The new rate elevates the City above several of its peers, surpassing the City of Cincinnati (\$19.75/hour) and the Ohio State Highway Patrol (\$22/hour), among others.

The agreement also includes marked improvements for officers entering the force with a four-year college degree, prior military experience, or previous OPOTA certification. Officers with a Bachelor's or higher academic degree, and those who have served 180 consecutive days or more on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces and were honorably discharged, will attain an elevated rank upon



being sworn in – equating to approximately a \$3,700 year one wage enhancement under this new agreement. Trainees who paid for and received previous OPOTA certification will also receive payment to reimburse course costs.

These investments follow an 11% raise in officers' salaries approved by Cleveland City Council last year – the largest in the City's modern history – and are part of Mayor Bibb's RISE Initiative announced in July.

announced in July.

Active recruitment is also underway for other Public Safety divisions at the City of Cleveland, including EMS, Fire and Animal Care & Control. Recently, the Cleveland EMS union was the first to sign an agreement for 12 weeks of paid parental leave, matching non-union employee benefits.

Visit the Public Safety Recruitment page at: www.facebook.com/ClevelandPublicSafetyRecruitment

Car Thefts Are Up

Recommendations to Protect Your Vehicle from Theft and Vandalism

The Ward 15 Council office is aware that many residents have suffered from vehicle theft and loss. Some of these thefts have resulted in residents unable to get to their places of employment or unable to access essential services, and they can be devastating financially.

On August 13, Ward 15 resident and cleveland.com reporter John Tucker published an article entitled "Car thefts in Cleveland have doubled this year — and it's not just Kias and Hyundais." Cleveland car thefts are double from the first half of last year, according to an analysis by cleveland.com and The Plain Dealer of data provided by the office of the Cuyahoga County prosecutor.

The following are some commonsense approaches to keeping your vehicle safe (source: Cleveland Division of Police):

- Most thefts occur because a driver simply leaves the keys inside.
- If a secure garage is available, utilize it!
- Do not leave ANYTHING of value in plain sight, especially things like purses/bags/computers/phones. Put everything in

the trunk. Even things like loose change and phone chargers should be put in a compartment. You would be surprised at how many reports of break ins result in just change stolen.

- Secure your vehicle, and double and triple check that it is secure.
- Obtain and use a steering wheel locking device, such as The Club.
- Park in a well-lit area of a parking lot or street. If a streetlight is out, notify the city to have it fixed at 621-5483 (621-LITE).
- If you can block a vehicle in a yard, do so.
- Consider installing cameras and putting signage up on your property that draws attention to the camera's presence.
- Get to know your neighbors and be on the lookout for each other!

If you witness a vehicle theft in progress, call 9-1-1. Call 621-1234 to file a police report, or file a report online at www.clevelandohio.gov/city-hall/departments/public-safety/divisions/police/report-crime.

OVERDOSE DEATHS CONTINUED

recovery options later. If you witness an overdose, please call 911 and ask for EMS, then administer Naloxone if available," says Tim Sommerfelt, Ward 15 resident, paramedic, and founder of the Gordon Square CPR program.

What residents can do

If you or someone you know is using drugs, you can help to prevent an overdose by:

- Testing drugs for fentanyl with test strips
- Don't use drugs while you are alone
- Carrying Naloxone

MetroHealth's Office of Opioid Safety (www.metrohealth.org/office-of-opioid-safety) includes a listing of Project DAWN locations where people can get free Naloxone, including McCafferty Health Center (4242 Lorain Ave.) and the office of Cleveland EMS (1701 Lakeside Ave.). There are also multiple vending machines throughout Cuyahoga County with free Naloxone kits, including one at The Centers at 5209 Detroit Ave. In addition, a growing number of bars and clubs offer free fentanyl test strips.

Thrive for Change, a local non-profit dedicated to education and the distribution of life-saving supplies, offers both free Naloxone and fentanyl strips: thrive4change.org.



Project White Butterfly, which provided many referrals during PRC's Night Out, directs anyone who is ready to stop using opioids to call Project SOAR (available 24 hours) at (440) 502-0020. SOAR is a collaborative effort that includes partnerships between the Woodrow Project and the Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County, Cleveland Clinic, and multiple municipalities.

For families or friends of someone addicted to opioids, the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County provides local facts, information and resources for taking the first steps in helping someone address substance abuse. Go to bit.ly/ADAMHSOpioidHelp for details.

Recursos de Prevención de la Sobredosis de Opioides

Hay varios lugares donde se puede obtener Naloxone:

- Lugares de "Project DAWN" (www.metrohealth.org/office-of-opioid-safety) incluyen:
- McCafferty Health Center (4242 Lorain Ave.)
- Oficina de Cleveland EMS (1701 Lakeside Ave.)
- Hispanic UMADAOP (3305 W. 25th St.)

Para superar la adicción: www.ccdoacle.org/services.html www.ccmocle.org/service-areas/hispanic-services

Councilmember Spencer Announces \$1M Habitat for Humanity Investment



Councilmember Jenny Spencer is proud to announce that \$1M in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars will be invested in Ward 15 through Habitat for Humanity. As a result, ten (10) new single family homes will be built that will be affordable to families earning between 30-80% of Area Median Income. The exact sites for the homes have not yet been selected.

Councilmember Spencer was the leading Council member for the Habitat legislation, a total \$5M ARPA investment across five city wards. In addition, the City of Cleveland has allocated \$1.5M in funding to Habitat for critical home repairs.

"I was elated to get the Habitat legislation

across the finish line," said Spencer. "In addition to the ten houses that will be built in Ward 15, what I'm most excited about is Habitat's model that includes home repairs in the surrounding area. Whether minor home repairs ("spruce ups") or critical home repairs - dozens of additional Ward 15 families will benefit from these dollars."

In addition, says Spencer, "I plan to work with Habitat to ensure that many of these homes are single story, so occupants can age comfortably in their homes." More information about the Habitat process will be shared in upcoming editions of this newsletter and on Councilmember Spencer's social media.

Council Office Tackles Dumping Thanks to Help from CCS

Dumping in alleyways, street corridors and vacant lots is one of the most frequent complaints received by the Council office. Ward 15 Executive Assistant Joseph Naser works with Court Community Service (CCS) to address dumping sites as quickly as possible.

Founded in 1985, CCS is a not-for-profit agency that places individuals referred by courts, who have been sentenced to perform community service hours. Some of the over 4,000 individuals referred to CCS each year fulfill their community service requirements on one of the CCS supervised community service work crews, while others are assigned to assist at local charitable organizations.

"We truly value our relationship with the Ward 15 Council office," says CCS Executive Director Paul Klodor. "CCS is proud of the positive impact our work crews have in the community, and working collaboratively helps us to address issues quickly and effectively."



Dumping is a felony and if caught, could result in a fine up to \$25,000, as well as two to four years in jail. If you see dumping underway, call 911 immediately to report details regarding the vehicle and violators. If you see that dumping has occurred, please call Joe in the Council office at 216-664-4235 with the specific location.



Take our survey.

clevelandnorthcoast.com/survey

Cleveland's North Coast



2023 Senior of the Year: Elham Baddour

Each Spring, the Council office is asked by the Department of Aging to nominate one resident as our Ward's Senior of the Year. This year's deserving honoree is Ms. Elham Baddour. We are proud to share Elham's story and her lifelong examples of positivity that are making our community a wonderful place to call home.

Born in Lebanon, Elham first came to the US in 1974 to visit her sister in Michigan. In 1975, the Lebanese Civil War broke out and Elham was unable to return home. In 1978, with no end to the war in sight, she moved to Cleveland to live with her brother. She then started a family of her own and raised her three sons in the Cudell

neighborhood.

Elham first became involved in the community with her ex-husband, Faouzi, who was a Crime Watch member. They got to know former Councilman Jay Westbrook very well through their work and she is still close friends with him to this day.

A passionate gardener, Elham not only tends to the many magnificent flowers in her yard, but she also plants seeds of positivity in the minds and hearts of youth. She believes that the teens in her neighborhood need guidance and someone to listen, so in her quiet way, she offers words of encouragement and gestures of kindness

to help set them on a better life path.

Elham's mission is especially remarkable because in August 2021, she became a victim of a tragic gun violence incident involving several teenagers. She was gardening in her front yard when she was sadly caught in crossfire and sustained several gunshot wounds. She has endured a very long recovery, and she is still suffering from complications due to her injuries, yet Elham believes in practicing forgiveness. She continues to love her community and remains deeply grateful for her family and neighbors. Elham is both a true survivor and a beacon for all that is beautiful in her neighborhood.

Fire Safety Week October 8th -14th, 2023

- Follow the Cleveland Division of Fire @CLEfiredept during Fire Safety Week for important fire safety tips for your family.
- Does your home have working smoke detectors? If not, call the Operation Sound the Alarm - Save A Life hotline at 216-361-5535 to apply for FREE smoke detectors, including installation!





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

WARD 15 COUNCIL MEMBER
Jenny Spencer

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 Email: jspencer@clevelandcitycouncil.org
 Visit ClevelandCityCouncil.org/ward-15

PRESORT STD.
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 PERMIT NO. 2893

The Cleveland Division of Police is Now Hiring School Crossing Guards!

Requirements:

- MUST BE 16 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER
- MUST PASS A BACKGROUND CHECK AND DRUG SCREENING
- MUST BE AVAILABLE TO WORK 45 MINUTES IN THE MORNING AND 45 MINUTES IN THE AFTERNOON
- MUST BE ABLE TO STAND AND WALK FREELY FOR THE ENTIRE 45 MINUTES WHILE WORKING
- MUST BE ABLE TO LIFT AT LEAST 35 POUNDS

• \$20.50 a day
 • Medical and Life Insurance Benefits are available at a cost!

INTERESTED? QUALIFIED? Call 216-623-5577

Get paid to work Poolside!

LIFEGUARD TRAINING & PLACEMENT

Two Upcoming Classes
 From September 18th - December 22nd, 2023

Thurgood Marshall
 Tuesdays & Thursdays
 5:30pm - 7:30pm
 8611 Hough Ave

Cudell
 Mondays & Wednesdays
 5:15pm - 7:00pm
 1910 West Blvd

High school students ages 15-18 may qualify to be paid \$13.50/hr during training

TO SIGN UP: CALL (216) 664-2570 OR SCAN

VOTE CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

IMPORTANT GENERAL ELECTION DATES

Oct. 10th	Voter Registration Deadline 9:00PM
Oct. 11th	Early Voting Begins (Vote-by-Mail & In-Person)
Oct. 31st	Vote-by-Mail Ballot Request Deadline 8:30PM
Nov. 6th	Vote-by-Mail Ballot U.S. Postmark Deadline
Nov. 7th	General Election 6:30AM to 7:30PM

2925 EUCLID AVENUE | CLEVELAND, OH | 44115
 216-443-VOTE (8683) | www.443vote.us

Thank you to Movie Night Planning Committees

The Ward 15 Council office collaborated with Northwest Neighborhoods CDC and two very special groups of residents to plan Community Movie Nights at Baltic Children's Park on Friday, August 18th and at Miriam Ortiz-Rush Park on Friday, September 8th. Thank you to all Planning Committee members!



BALTIC PLANNING COMMITTEE
 Pictured (L to R): Chelsie Froning, Ward 15 Executive Assistant Joseph Naser, Roger Sikes, Emily Bischoff, Summer Paris, Tom Owen, Charlotte Alexis, Alicia Brown. Not pictured: Liz Conway



MIRIAM ORTIZ-RUSH PLANNING COMMITTEE
 Pictured (L to R): Alicia Kirkman, Leticia Maldonado, Councilmember Jenny Spencer, Shallanna Davis, Ward 15 Executive Assistant Joseph Naser. Not pictured: Delisha Starks

Free Fall Activities IN WARD 15

Lorain Campus Library
Fall Events (Various)
 Cleveland Public Library
 8216 Lorain Ave. *Events, crafts and classes for all ages at our newly-reopened library. For details, visit cpl.org/locations/lorain/*

RISE! at Near West Theatre
 Free After-School Theatre Program Ages 7 to 15.
 Monday through Thursday from 4 pm - 6 pm; October 2 - December 7, 2023 & January 29 - May 5, 2024. *To register, visit nearwesttheatre.org/programs/rise-after-school*

West Clinton Historic Haunts
 Thursday, October 5th - Saturday, October 7th from 6 pm - 10 pm; West Clinton Ave. & Gordon Square Arts District, Kids under 15 years old are FREE. *For tickets, go to nearwesttheatre.org/events/2023/10/05/west-clinton-historic-haunts*

78th Street Studios Third Fridays Art Walk
 Friday, October 20th, 5 pm - 9 pm; 78th Street Studios, 1300 W. 78th St. 78thstreetstudios.com

78th Street Studios Third Fridays Art Walk
 Friday, November 17th, 5 pm - 9 pm; 78th Street Studios, 1300 W. 78th St. 78thstreetstudios.com

Big City Boo
 Thursday, October 31st, 5pm - 7pm. Cudell Recreation Center, 1910 West Blvd.; Zone Recreation Center, 6301 Lorain Ave.

Dia de Muertos Day of the Dead
 Saturday, November 4th, 11am - 10pm; Cleveland Public Theater Campus, 6415 Detroit Ave. cptonline.org

Snow Day in Detroit Shoreway
 Saturday, December 9th 2 pm - 6 pm; Gordon Square Arts District (W. 65th St. & Detroit Ave.) detroitshoreway.org/snowday

Queer the Halls
 Saturday, December 9th 12 pm - 6 pm; LGBT Center 6705 Detroit Ave. lgbtcleveland.org

Cleveland Bazaar at 78th Street Studios
 Saturday, December 9th and Sunday, December 10th, 10am-6pm; 1300 W. 78th St. clevelandbazaar.org

78th Street Studios Third Fridays Art Walk
 Friday, December 15th, 5 pm - 9 pm; 78th Street Studios, 1300 W. 78th St. 78thstreetstudios.com

Holidays at Cudell Fine Arts
 Special programs, events, workshops; December 18th - 29th; Cudell Fine Arts, 10013 Detroit Ave.

Cudell Recreation & Resource Center | Cudell Fine Arts | Michael J. Zone Recreation & Resource Center
Register online: clevelandohio.gov/city-hall/office-mayor/pioyya for winter activities and programs, or call Michael J. Zone (216-664-3373), Cudell Rec (216-664-4137) or Cudell Fine Arts (216-664-4183) for details.