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,

Councilmember 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 conmocionados y enfadados por cada muerte por sobredosis reportada. Lo que está ocurriendo 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,

Concejala 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 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

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.
Car Thieves Are Up

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 having to go 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 Hondas.”

The following are some commonsense approaches to keeping your vehicle safe:

- Most thefts occur because a driver simply leaves the keys in the car.
- 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 secure place.
- If you witness a vehicle theft in progress, call 9-1-1 immediately to report it.
- Project White Butterfly, which provided many referrals during Project Night Out, directs anyone who is ready to stop using opioids to call Project SOAR (available 24 hours a day) at (440) 502-0200. SOAR is a collaborative effort that includes partnerships between the WoodsClub Project and the Alcohol and 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 helping to stop the first steps in helping someone address substance abuse. Go to bit.ly/3ADAMHSOpineldp for details.

Recommending Protection For Your Vehicle From Theft and Vandalism

The evil twin. Even things like loose change and phone chargers should be put in a secure place. Put everything in the trunk. Even things like loose change and phone chargers should be put in a secure place.

- Secure your vehicle, and double and triple check 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.
- Install and use a vehicle security system.
- Get to know your neighbors and be on the lookout for each other.

 Recommendation for Protect Your Vehicle from Theft and Vandalism


Fire Safety Week

October 8th - 14th, 2023

- Follow the Cleveland Division of Fire’s (CLEfiredept) Facebook page for daily fire safety tips.
- Do your homes have working smoke detectors? Call the Ohio Governor’s Office of Homeland Security at 1-800-962-1221 to arrange for a home visit.
- Fire Safety Week is an excellent opportunity to assess the condition of the smoke detectors in your home.

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 $1.1M 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 passed,” said Spencer. “In addition to the ten houses that will be built in Ward 15, this money is most exciting about Habitat models that includes home repairs in the surrounding area. Whether minor home repairs ("spice 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.
WE ARE WARD 15

WARD 15 COUNCIL MEMBER
Jenny Spencer
City Hall Office:
601 Lakeside Avenue, Room 220
Cleveland, OH 44114

Free Fall Activities
IN WARD 15

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

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/ise-after-school

Big City Boo
Thursday, October 31st, 5 pm – 7 pm; Cudell Recreation Center, 1910 West Blvd.

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

78th Street Studios
Third Fridays Art Walk
Friday, November 17th, 5 pm – 7 pm; 78th Street Studios, 1300 W. 78th St.
78thstreetstudios.com

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, 6765 Detroit Ave.
jflanequeerthehalls.org

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

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

MIRIAM ORTIZ-RUSH PLANNING COMMITTEE

Pictured (L to R): Abby Duvall, Laura Kirkland, Coordinator Jenny Spencer, Shallanna Davis, Mayor Frank G. Guinta. Not pictured: Delisha Starks

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

Holidays at Cudell Fine Arts
Special programs, events, and workshops; December 18th – December 20th, Cudell Recreation Center, 6756 Detroit Ave.

Queer the Halls
Saturday, December 9th, 12 pm – 6 pm; LGBT Center, 6765 Detroit Ave.
cudellshoreway.org/snowday

Cudell Recreation & Resource Center
78th Street Studios
Saturday, December 9th and Sunday, December 10th, 10 am – 6 pm; 1300 W. 78th St.
clevelandbazaar.org

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