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District 7

**Sunny M. Simon**  
District 11

# Cuyahoga County Council Sunny M. Simon District 11



*Sunny M. Simon*

Dear Friends:

It has been four years since I was elected as the first County Councilwoman for District 11. It has been an honor to serve the District and to be an instrumental part of reforming County government.

I am proud of the work we have accomplished in making our government more transparent and accessible while restoring the public's trust. County Council has worked hard to build a strong and responsive government. We have passed strict ethics laws, established the Office of the Inspector General, and dedicated funds for economic development, education and infrastructure needs. Health and Human services, along with the safety forces, have been strengthened, as well.

I have sponsored and passed legislation to provide domestic partnership benefits to County employees, reduced the use of pesticides on County property and provided veteran housing in partnership with the Cuyahoga Land Bank. I fought to have a share of the casino revenues available to suburban cities, and most recently, I sponsored legislation to establish voter protection for all Cuyahoga County residents.

As I continue my work with County Council, I look forward to developing a County-wide housing plan, an office of energy and sustainability, and further explore ways to share services. I sincerely thank you for your support, and I look forward to working with you in the future to improve and strengthen our communities.

## Economic Development

### Investments in the Western Reserve Fund

The Cuyahoga County Western Reserve Fund (CCWRF) is a revolving loan fund of up to one hundred million dollars which provides gap financing for job creation and retention projects in accordance with the Five-Year Economic Development Plan. This fund is structured to leverage current assets within Cuyahoga County without increasing taxes. The CCWRF is managed by the County's Department of Development while Cuyahoga County's Community Investment Corporate (CCCIC) is responsible for reviewing, troubleshooting and making fund recommendations.

**The CCWRF has identified three priority areas for investment that include:**

- Innovation Development
- Commercial Property Revitalization
- Business Growth, Commercialization, and Attraction.

The investment approach of the CCWRF involves leveraging existing assets, re-invigorating challenged areas, public and private non-profit coalition, and inclusivity of human capital, performance measures, and flexible prioritization.



### Cuyahoga County provided Economic Development Assistance and Job Creation for the following Entities in District 11:

Highpoint Realty	Beachwood
SWP Acquisition	Beachwood
Edgewater Finance (Revolutionary Car Credit)	Lyndhurst
Phillips Expansion	Highland Heights
Remedi SeniorCare of Ohio-NE, LLC	Euclid
City of Richmond Heights (Former Chardon Road Gas Station)	Richmond Heights
Gent Machine Expansion	South Euclid
Hemodialysis Services, Inc.	Beachwood
Keene Building Products	Euclid
Lincoln Electric	Euclid
Paragon Robotics, LLC	Euclid
City of Euclid (Former St. Roberts)	Euclid
City of Euclid (Cleveland Trencher)	Euclid
Lincoln Electric	Euclid
Notre Dame College (Administration Building)	South Euclid

**These projects have resulted in 157 jobs created, and 2,238 jobs retained.**

## Building a Sustainable Future

Cuyahoga County can be a leader in developing practices that contribute to a sustainable environment and enhance workforce opportunities. County Council is working to:

- Lead efforts to create a comprehensive approach to applying sustainability principles in Cuyahoga County.
- Create a clean energy economy and an advanced green energy fund to assist with clean energy projects.
- Complete a climate change planning process to reduce the County's carbon footprint. The County can work in collaboration with the City of Cleveland on a broader and more extensive approach.
- Conduct an energy audit on all County buildings in order to implement efficiency upgrades and to assist local government entities in becoming more efficient.
- Develop a community strategy and goal to discourage the use of plastic bags, to lessen the harm to the environment and human health.
- Educate on why adopting a plant-based diet can slow the advancement of global climate change and the general depletion of the earth's resources.
- Redirect the market to one of local food production.

## Cuyahoga County Prescriptions Drop Box Program

In a continual effort to combat the heroin epidemic, permanent medication drop boxes are stationed in 33 local communities to provide residents with a way to properly dispose of their unwanted or expired medication. This program was initiated following the successful drug collection program that was sponsored in 2011 by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's Drug Take Back Day when Cleveland residents turned in 9 tons of unused and expired prescription drugs. Cuyahoga County launched its program in 2013 with hopes of gaining similar results.

The drop boxes are located at police stations allowing residents the ability to drop off prescriptions 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department will assist in collecting and weighing the drugs in order to keep records of the drugs collected. A deputy sheriff will also be present to ensure the drugs are destroyed.

To locate a drug drop box in your area, please call 211, or you can visit the following websites:

[www.rxdrugdropbox.org](http://www.rxdrugdropbox.org)  
[www.sheriff.cuyahogacounty.us/rx](http://www.sheriff.cuyahogacounty.us/rx)

### The following are Drop Box locations for District 11:

- South Euclid Police Department  
1349 Green Road  
South Euclid, Ohio 44121
- Lyndhurst Police Department  
5301 Mayfield Road  
Lyndhurst, Ohio 44124
- Mayfield Police Department  
6154 Mayfield Road  
Mayfield Heights, Ohio 44124
- Euclid Police Department  
545 East 222nd Street  
Euclid, Ohio 44123



## Residential Recycling Report for District 11

Community	2013 Landfilled Solid Waste	2013 Tons Recyclables	2013 Tons Organics	2013 Total Recycling Rate	2012 Total Recycling Rate
Beachwood	3,296.17	898.49	4,598.67	62.52%	62.65%
Euclid	16,509.39	2,076.13	2,489.33	21.66%	24.58%
Highland Heights	3,666.00	710.63	2,130.67	43.66%	38.20%
Lyndhurst	5,432.00	1,529.18	4,354.67	52.00%	46.85%
Richmond Heights	3,543.50	156.75	774.94	20.82%	37.62%
South Euclid	7,645.90	1,910.92	7,894.85	56.19%	45.78%

There has been a tremendous increase in the recycling rates since the implementation of recycling carts throughout the County. Lyndhurst was one of the first communities to use the automatic cart for recycling waste.

## New County Administrative Headquarters Building



*The New Cuyahoga County Administrative Headquarters at 2079 East Ninth Street and Prospect Avenue.*



When County Council took office in 2011, the County owned or leased more than 7 million square feet of space amongst 70 different property locations. The County Council recognized that the volume of space and numerous properties was excessive and costly. In response, the County Council commissioned a study of the County's real estate portfolio that would consolidate County operations and save on taxpayer dollars.

Over the course of several months, nine proposals were received. After extensive negotiations, numerous property tours and public meetings, the Geis Companies' proposal was selected to construct a new County Headquarters. The proposal for \$27 million dollars includes the purchase of the Ameritrust Complex located on the Northeast Corner of Prospect Avenue and East 9th Street. The Geis Company agreed to demolish the vacant Ameritrust Complex and reconstruct a new energy-efficient building.

The new County Headquarters is approximately 220,000 square feet and includes an attached parking garage for easy public access. The County will lease the new Headquarters building for 26 years with the option to buy at the end of the lease term.

The County Council is very excited about the new Headquarters and were actively involved in the design process since the project's inception. The new location serves as a catalyst to downtown's business district and will be centrally located near public transit, affordable parking options, and the East 9th Street innerbelt ramps making it easily accessible.

Demolition began April 9, 2013, and the building was completed in July 2014.



*The New Cuyahoga County Council Chambers inside the Cuyahoga County Administrative Headquarters*

## College Savings Account

Statistics have shown that a post-secondary education is imperative to sustaining employment, earning a competitive wage and maintaining economic stability. However, the rising cost of college tuition has made the pursuit for higher education less attainable. Today, many families struggle with saving for college costs due in part to the economic challenges of maintaining their daily cost of living.

The Cuyahoga County College Savings Account program aims to support the pursuit of higher education by providing Cuyahoga County residents with the necessary tools and incentives to promote savings and wealth-building. Cuyahoga County plans to invest funds in an educational savings account for every child in Cuyahoga County who starts kindergarten in the 2014-2015 school year. Each savings account will start with \$100 where parents will receive financial literacy on how to gradually grow their child's account and work toward paying for college. To find out more about the College Savings Account program, please visit [www.collegesavings.cuyahogacounty.us](http://www.collegesavings.cuyahogacounty.us).



## Do you think you have what it takes to start a business?

Do you think you have what it takes to start a business? Are you a business owner in need of growing your investment? Whether you're a self-starter or have owned a business for some time, the Economic and Community Development Institute (ECDI) can walk you through the process that would be best suited for your business needs.

ECDI is a non-profit economic development organization that addresses the needs of small business owners in the creation and expansion of microenterprises. The program offers a variety of services that include loan financing ranging from \$500 to \$350,000 for start-up; newly-established; or growing businesses; one-on-one technical assistance; financial literacy; and microenterprise training. In addition, ECDI offers loans to low and moderate income entrepreneurs who may not qualify for traditional bank financing.

ECDI is funded through Cuyahoga County's Western Reserve Fund and partners with various community organizations. Since its inception, ECDI has assisted a variety of businesses ranging from restaurants, health and fitness, sports apparel and construction companies. So, if you are thinking of starting a business, or you are a current business owner, contact ECDI to find out how they can assist you.



**ECDI**  
2800 Euclid Avenue, #620  
Cleveland, Ohio 44115  
phone: (216) 912-5655

email: [amusarra@ecdi.org](mailto:amusarra@ecdi.org)  
<http://cleveland.ecdi.org>  
[www.twitter.com/ECDICLE](http://www.twitter.com/ECDICLE)  
[www.youtube.com/ECDIOhio](http://www.youtube.com/ECDIOhio)



# Cuyahoga Land Bank launches the Advantage Plus Loan Program in Euclid



The Cuyahoga Land Bank has partnered with the City of Euclid to launch the Advantage Plus Loan Program. The program was launched in April 2013, as a result of the City's ongoing commitment to improve neighborhood stability and the availability

of homes that qualify for the Owner Occupant Buyer Advantage Program (OOBAP) and the Advantage Plus Loan Program. The City of Euclid and Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Cleveland (NHSGC) have both signed on as partners for this new loan program.

The Advantage Plus Loan Program is geared specifically toward prospective owners that are interested in rehabilitating a property for their own occupancy. While many properties in the the Cuyahoga Land Bank's inventory need extensive work, properties selected for the OOBAP generally require only a moderate investment and need minimum repairs. In fact, these properties are typically in better condition than other properties within the Land Bank's inventory and buyers usually obtain equity from the onset.

This program offers qualified buyers a low-interest, short-term loan on homes in the City of Euclid. Participants are eligible to receive up to \$10,000 in renovation costs that the buyer and the Cuyahoga Land Bank agree must be completed to meet the Land Bank's Housing Quality Standards. The owner-occupant will then have 2.5 years to repay the loan to the Cuyahoga Land Bank at an interest rate of 2%. In addition, the City of Euclid has passed a first-of-its-kind ordinance that exempts program participants from paying fees for needed permits and inspections.

The Land Bank places properties in the Advantage Plus Loan Program for a select period of time, during which interested, qualified buyers can place offers. The strongest offers will be selected. To view loan requirements and properties currently available for the Advantage Plus Loan Program, interested buyers can visit <http://www.cuyahogalandbank.org/advantageplus>.



**Advantage Plus Loan Program**  
23330 Roger Drive (644-21-009)  
Euclid



**Advantage Plus Loan Program**  
19211 Pasnow Ave (641-11-151)  
Euclid

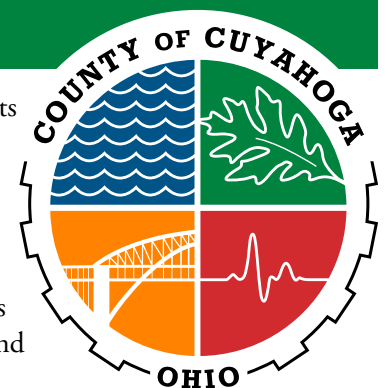


**Advantage Plus Loan Program**  
731 E 236th Street (643-18-034)  
Euclid

## New County Logo

Cuyahoga County has a new logo! Designed by local art student Nolan Beck, the new logo represents the strengths and assets of our community:

- **Water** – Represents one of our most valuable natural resources. Lake Erie and the Cuyahoga River are important for their role in our day-to-day lives, supporting commerce and travel, while providing food and enjoyment for residents and tourists.
- **Leaf**– Represents another important natural resource that defines our region; trees, parks and forests. The city has the nickname “Forest City” as a result of the beautiful parks and forests throughout the area.
- **Life Line** – Represents Northeast Ohio's strength in healthcare. For decades, we have been the leader in the healthcare industry thanks to the major health care institutions and technologies in the region. With the opening of the Global Center for Health Innovation, our region is becoming known as the nation's Medical Capital.
- **Bridge** – Represents the skill and engineering used to create various bridges within the region that allow passage over the countless landscapes throughout the area.
- **Cog** – The cog on the seal was designed to represent a gear, illustrating the rich history and vital roles the region has played and is currently playing in manufacturing.



The logo will be prominently displayed on the County's new administration building, and will gradually be phased into all aspects of County operations.

## The New Cleveland Convention Center Hotel is Scheduled to Open in 2016

The New Cleveland Convention Center Hotel is Scheduled to Open in 2016

Construction is currently underway for the New Cleveland Convention Center Hotel that will be managed by Hilton Hotels and Resorts. Cuyahoga County has awarded Hilton Worldwide the rights to manage this hotel and resorts property that will be adjoining the new Cleveland Convention Center in the heart of downtown Cleveland. Cuyahoga County is the official owner of the hotel and will be financing the project with a combination of tax-exempt bonds and other tax revenue sources.

The 28-story hotel will accommodate 600 guest rooms, approximately 55,000 square feet of meeting space, a full service restaurant, several ball rooms, recreational facilities and a rooftop bar. The hotel will be connected to both the New Cleveland Convention Center and Global Center for Health Innovation. The Global Center will provide health care innovation, technology, education and commerce through state of the art spaces, programs and virtual offerings. The hotel will play an integral role in the revitalization of the region that is designed to enhance the waterfront as the urban core center of convention and entertainment activity.

Additionally, the hotel will be centrally located amongst the growing number of assets in downtown Cleveland like the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and First Energy Stadium. The new hotel stands to strengthen Cleveland's tourism and convention business while creating a number of new jobs for hard-working families in the region.



## Cuyahoga County Jail Consolidation

Cuyahoga County started the process of establishing a regional jail system that would save several cities thousands of dollars and provide additional bed space for the Cuyahoga County Jail system. These consolidation efforts will be cost-neutral for the County since they will not incur any cost in housing inmates at local jails when the Cuyahoga County Jail is filled to capacity.

The first step in creating a regional jail system was in March of this year, when Cuyahoga County Council voted unanimously to take over the Euclid City Jail. Under the agreement, the City of Euclid will pay the County \$400,000 a year to house individuals arrested in the City of Euclid or sentenced by the Euclid Municipal Court. Consolidation of the Euclid City Jail will also provide much needed bed space to accommodate the overflow of non-violent offenders in the Cuyahoga County Jail system. This agreement runs through 2019, however, it can be extended if both the City of Euclid and Cuyahoga County Officials agree to continue with the consolidation efforts. In addition, the City of Euclid will pay the County \$600,000 over the next five years for any capital improvements incurred by the Euclid City Jail.

The second phase in establishing a regional jail system involves finalizing an agreement to consolidate the City of Cleveland Jail system. If legislation is passed, the County will receive a per diem of \$84.68 per inmate a day from the City of Cleveland to assume full responsibility of its inmates' care while the City provides additional bed space at no cost to the County. This agreement is expected to save the City of Cleveland \$6 million dollars annually.

These consolidation efforts are just part of a much larger plan to create a regional jail system that will benefit both the County and local municipalities. Stay tuned for upcoming announcements as similar efforts continue to emerge.



## 2014 Council Members



*Cuyahoga County Council in Council Chambers - Dave Greenspan, Dale Miller, Dan Brady, Chuck Germana, Mike Gallagher, C. Ellen Connally, Jack Schron, Yvonne Conwell, Pernel Jones, Jr., Anthony T. Hairston, Sunny Simon*

## 2014 Public Works Projects

### MAYFIELD ROAD RESURFACING ( DISTRICT 10 )

Repair and resurfacing of Mayfield Road from the Cleveland Heights West Corporation Line to the Cleveland Heights East Corporation Line in the City of Cleveland Heights. Estimated Construction Cost: \$3,888,225.00

### HIGHLAND ROAD RESURFACING ( DISTRICT 11 )

Repair and resurfacing of Highland Road from Euclid Avenue to Richmond Road in the Cities of Euclid and Richmond Heights. Estimated Construction Cost: \$3,403,923.00

### WARRENSVILLE CENTER – SHAKER BOULEVARD - VAN AKEN - NORTHFIELD INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT ( DISTRICT 9 )

The reconfiguration of the Warrensville Center Road – Shaker Boulevard – Van Aken Boulevard – Northfield Road Intersection in the City of Shaker Heights and the Village of Highland Hills. Estimated Construction Cost: \$8,095,807.00

### BELLAIRE ROAD BRIDGE 01.71 ( DISTRICT 3 )

Rehabilitation of existing bridge over Countrymans Creek in the City of Cleveland. Estimated Construction Cost: \$2,300,000.00

### EAST 49<sup>TH</sup> STREET BRIDGE 00.54 ( DISTRICT 7 )

Rehabilitation of existing bridge over abandoned W&LE Railroad in the City of Cleveland. Estimated Construction Cost: \$1,200,000.00

### BAGLEY ROAD/PLEASANT VALLEY ROAD IMPROVEMENT ( DISTRICT 4 )

Repair, resurfacing and widening to 5-lanes of Bagley/Pleasant Valley Road from Pearl Road to York Road in the Cities of Middleburg Heights and Parma. Estimated Construction Cost: \$22,476,000.00

### BAGLEY ROAD BRIDGE 03.45 ( DISTRICT 5 )

Replacement of existing bridge over Plum Creek in the City of Olmsted Falls. Estimated Construction Cost: \$1,742,000.00

### CROSSVIEW ROAD RESURFACING ( DISTRICT 6 )

Repair and resurfacing of Crossview Road from Chestnut Road to Rockside Road in the City of Seven Hills. Estimated Construction Cost: \$1,100,000.00

### EAST RIDGEWOOD DRIVE RESURFACING ( DISTRICT 4 & 6 )

Repair and resurfacing of East Ridgewood Drive from Broadview Road to Crossview Road in the Cities of Seven Hills and Parma. Estimated Construction Cost: \$700,000.00

### CHAGRIN BOULEVARD RESURFACING ( DISTRICT 6 & 9 )

Repair and resurfacing of Chagrin Boulevard from Lander Road to South lane in the Cities of Pepper Pike and Moreland Hills. Estimated Construction Cost: \$2,429,900.00

### WEST GRACE RESURFACING ( DISTRICT 9 )

Repair and resurfacing of West Grace from 600' east of Turney Road to Broadway Avenue in the City of Bedford. Estimated Construction Cost: \$2,429,900.00

### MADISON AVENUE ( DISTRICT 2 )

Repair and resurfacing of Madison Avenue from Riverside Drive to W. 117<sup>th</sup> Street in the City of Lakewood. Estimated Construction Cost: \$2,291,950.00

### BROADROCK COURT & OLD ROCKSIDE ROAD SANITARY RELIEF SEWER CONNECTION (DRILL DROP) ( DISTRICT 4 )

Sanitary relief sewer and connection to NEORS 60" tunnel in the City of Parma. Estimated Construction Cost: \$482,000.00

### BRADFORD PUMP STATION ELIMINATION ( DISTRICT 6 )

Install 3,800 L.F. of sanitary sewer to eliminate existing Bradford Pump Station in the City of Brecksville. Estimated Construction Cost: \$1,000,000.00

### BARTON / BRONSON / COOK SANITARY SEWER ( DISTRICT 5 )

7,500 L.F. of sewer extension, 4,400 L.F. of waterline extension and pavement improvements in Olmsted Township. Estimated Construction Cost: \$4,000,000.00

### SOUTH BELVOIR ROAD RESURFACING (DISTRICT 11)

Resurfacing of South Belvoir Road in the cities of University Heights and South Euclid.

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

County Council	216-698-2010
County Executive	216-443-7178
Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services	216-241-3400
Auto Title	216-443-8900
Board of Developmental Disabilities	216-241-8230
Board of Elections	216-443-3200
Board of Health	216-201-2001
Clerk of Courts	216-443-7952
Common Pleas Court	216-443-8560
Economic Development	216-443-7260
Employment Connection	216-664-4673
Fiscal Office (Appraisal, Board of Revision, Property Valuation, Real Estate Services, Tax Assessment, Treasury and Collections, and Unclaimed Funds)	216-443-7300
Health and Human Services	
Child Abuse Hotline	216-696-KIDS
Child Support Services	216-443-5100
Food Assistance Program	216-987-7000
Homeless Services	216-420-6844
Medicaid/Child Care Assistance	216-987-7346
Office of Reentry	216-698-3437
Senior Citizens Care (Elder Abuse Hotline, Community Office on Aging, Home Support Programs, Options for Elders)	216-420-6750
Home Improvement Programs	216-443-2149
Housing Rehabilitation Loan	216-348-4066
Homestead Exemption	216-443-7050
Human Resources	216-443-7190
Inspector General	216-698-2101
Whistleblower Line	216-698-2101
Jury Duty	216-443-8628
Medical Examiner	216-721-5610
Prosecutor's Office	216-443-7800
Public Safety and Justice Services	216-443-7265
Witness/Victim Service Center	216-443-7345
Office of Emergency Management	216-443-5700
Office of Mediation	216-698-4996
Public Works (County Kennel, Sanitary and Sewer Maintenance)	216-348-3824
Recycling Information	216-443-3749
Sheriff's Office	216-443-6000
Veteran's Service Commission	216-696-2600

# Programs for Seniors

Cuyahoga County's Division of Senior and Adult Services provides a wide variety of in-home and community programs to assist older residents and adults with disabilities in order to ensure they are able to maintain an independent and dignified lifestyle.

## Community Social Services Program

The Division of Senior and Adult Services provides seniors and adults at-risk with adult day services, adult development, services for the communicatively impaired, congregate meals, homemaking and transportation services. These services are provided through one hundred million dollars in annual funding to local agencies that serve low-income, elderly and disabled residents.

## Adult Protective Services (APS)

Adult Protective Services protects and assist adults 60 and over, who may be victims of abuse, neglect, self-neglect, and/or financial exploitation. To report suspected abuse, call (216) 420-6700.

## Options for Elders

The Options for Elder's program serves residents 60 and over who are low-income but do not qualify for PASSPORT or Medicaid Waiver programs. The program provides adult day services, home delivered meals, personal care, emergency response system, homemaker services, chore services, medical transportation, adaptive and assistive devices.

## Home Care Waiver

The Ohio Home Care Waiver program provides services to Medicaid eligible adults over 18 who have been referred by a physician or other medical professionals. Services include personal care, respite, skilled nursing, occupational, physical, speech therapy and home-making.



## Personal Pay Services

Personal Pay Services provide home care for seniors and at-risk adults 18 and over which includes adult geriatric counseling, homemaking, personal care, and respite. Fees are determined by a sliding scale based on an individual's income. Home care is also provided for individuals with Multiple Sclerosis through a contract with the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

## Skilled Nursing

Residents who are Medicare/Medicaid eligible and are under the care of a physician may receive skilled nursing, physical/occupational therapy, speech therapy, and medical social services.

## Ryan White Part A: HIV/AIDS Program

Personal care and homemaking services are available to adult residents 18 and older living with HIV/AIDS. The Division of Senior and Adult Services collaborates with other care organizations to ensure access to all available resources.

## Informational Outreach

The Informational Outreach Unit conducts Home Energy Assistance Programs (HEAP) outreach to seniors 60 and over and adults with disabilities. In addition, they provide assistance in applying for Benefits check-up and the Buderer Drug Repository program. The Informational Outreach unit also administers the web-based Benefits Check-up program.

[www.benefitscheckup.org/cuyahoga](http://www.benefitscheckup.org/cuyahoga).

You may also contact (216) 420-6840 for more information.





**CUYAHOGA COUNTY COUNCIL**  
2079 East Ninth Street  
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

## Cuyahoga County Property Demolition Program

Cuyahoga County's \$50 million dollar Demolition Program will demolish vacant and blighted properties countywide in an effort to strengthen existing community and economic development efforts, accelerate property values, and protect and restore neighborhood stability. Applications are currently being accepted and processed.

Vacant and abandoned properties continue to pose a threat to the safety of our citizens throughout Cuyahoga County. They not only foster crime, but they slow community development and accelerate residential flight. In fact, studies across the nation have shown that eradication of vacant and abandoned properties can lift property values in moderate to strong housing markets.

## Cuyahoga County Animal Shelter

The Cuyahoga County Animal Shelter is a temporary home for dogs that have been abandoned, found as strays, or rescued by County dog wardens from all municipalities and townships throughout the County. Dogs are held for 72 hours in order for the owner to claim them. If the dogs are unclaimed, they may be available for adoption. The Animal Shelter also offers annual dog licensing for all Cuyahoga County's pet owners. You can log on to the Animal Shelter website at [www.cuyahogadogs.com](http://www.cuyahogadogs.com) and Facebook page to view photos of dogs currently up for adoption. All dogs are required to be licensed. The licensing fee is \$20.00 dollars. In order to obtain your dog's license, please call (216) 525-pups, or you may access the shelter's website. Since the new County government was formed, the euthanasia rate has been reduced from 46% to 13.5%. Only dogs who are not adoptable (aggressive or terminally ill) are euthanized.



### Top Dog Essay Contest

The "Top Dog" Essay contest was introduced in Cuyahoga County to educate children in grade levels (1<sup>st</sup> -5<sup>th</sup>) about the importance of responsible dog ownership. The contest provides a creative outlet for them to share with others why their dog is number "One" in Cuyahoga County.

The annual contest begins in November, and the winners are announced in early December. The essay must be 75 words or less and explain why your dog should be chosen to be Cuyahoga County's "Top Dog". Winners of the contest will receive dog tags along with other prizes donated to the contest. If you are interested in learning more about this contest, please contact me at (216) 698-2035.