



# Public News for Public Works

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## VETERANS MEMORIAL BRIDGE AND SUBWAY TOUR

The Department of Public Works is pleased to announce the Veteran Memorial Bridge and subway tour on Saturday, July 2, 2011. As one of the most historic bridges in Ohio, the Veterans Memorial Bridge first opened to traffic on Thanksgiving Day in 1917. At the time of its completion, it was Cleveland's first high-level bridge over the Cuyahoga River and also the largest steel and concrete reinforced bridge in the world. The most striking feature of the bridge is the huge 591 ft. long and 196 ft. tall steel arch span in its center, consisting of two levels: the upper deck, which was designed to carry vehicles, bikes and pedestrian traffic, and the lower subway level which included six station areas, four restrooms, an electrical control center and pedestrian tunnels that provided access from one side of the subway to the other beneath the tracks. On the upper level of the bridge you can walk across the 3,112 length of the bridge, you can rest at the apex of the span, or drive across, and be one of the 17,000 vehicles the bridge carries everyday. With the ending of the streetcar operations in 1954, the subway level stood empty with the ramps leading to the lower level being covered in 1955. Please join us and take a glimpse at one of Cleveland's most remarkable and unnoticed sites. Doors open for the free, self-guided walking tour at 9:00 a.m. and close at 3:00 p.m. In addition to taking a journey into Cleveland's history, visitors will be able to admire an array of displays, exhibits, pictures and the 1947 Presidential Conference Commission (PCC) streetcar. The tour's main entrance is located at the northeast corner of the W. 25th Street and Detroit Avenue intersection. Free parking is available at the Department of Public Works Bridge Garage, 2433 Superior Viaduct. Volunteers will be assisting with the maintenance of traffic and parking on the day of the tour. Cameras are encouraged for this event. For more information please contact the Department of Public Works, Public Information Department at (216) 348-3824.



# Department Spotlight...Archives



## THE COUNTY ARCHIVES THE PLACE WHERE HISTORY IS PRESERVED

Questions about the Cuyahoga County Archives include the frequently asked queries of what is it, where is it, and how do you pronounce it? This article will answer those inquiries and tell you everything you have always wanted to know about the Archives but were afraid to ask.

The Cuyahoga County Archives, a department of the Board of County Commissioners, was organized in the summer of 1975 as a department of the Board of County Commissioners. Today it is part of the new Department of Public Works under the Planning Division, but continues to serve as a repository for the historical records of Cuyahoga County, and for current records requiring temporary maintenance. A research library is available for the convenience of persons using the records in the County Archives and trained personnel are always available to provide advice on any specific research problem. The offices, storage facilities, and the research library are all located in the Robert Russell Rhodes House, a Victorian, Italianate mansion built in 1874, located at 2905 Franklin Blvd. N.W. in historic Ohio City. The Rhodes House stands next to the Nelson Sanford House, constructed in 1862, and is connected to the Sanford House by an enclosed walkway that links the two structures.

The Archives includes in its holdings records of birth, death, marriage, and citizenship as well as property maps, tax duplicates, wills and estates, Lists of Electors, Abstracts of Votes, and Coroners' case files, that date as early as 1813 and as late as the mid 1970's. Individuals who visit the Archives explore these records to create their family history, trace the history of their home, and document the history of their communities. Students and academics also utilize the Archives resources for class assignments or to conduct scholarly research. The Archives staff also responds to requests for information received from all over the United States, and throughout the world, by phone, mail, fax, and e-mail. For a complete list of these historical records of interest to the general public, and the dates they represent, visit the Archives page on the County's web site, <http://centralservices.cuyahogacounty.us/en>-The County Archivist, and Archives staff, also serve as the County's Public Records Manager (see Ordinance 02011-0012, Chapter 5, Section 5.3.) with the responsibilities to assist county offices and agencies in the preparation of schedules of records retention and disposition; manage public records of Cuyahoga County to ensure that the documents are organized, and easily available to the public for inspection; and guarantee that county records are maintained and disposed of according to the appropriate retention schedule.

Whether research request or records management inquiry, all of these tasks fall within the purview of the Archives staff of five. County Archivist Judith G. Cetina, Ph.D., CA heads the County Archives and is ably assisted by Senior Records Management Officers Rhonda Smith and Maureen Pergola, Records Management Officer, Matthew Black, and Administrative Assistant, Lenay Stevers. Protective Services Officer Nick Corea looks to the safety and security of the buildings in the Archives complex, as well as the staff; and Leo Joyce, Custodian, keeps the Rhodes House and its amenities clean and the research areas dust free and ready for use by the general public. The work of the staff could not be conducted as efficiently and effectively without the assistance of over twenty-five volunteers who dedicate their time and talent to conducting research and completing any number of projects, including the creation of finding aids that afford staff and the public alike more ready access to the records preserved by the Archives. Dr. Cetina and her staff give an annual holiday luncheon and awards ceremony to express their gratitude for the dedication and commitment of the volunteers to the work of the County Archives.

Should you have free time on a lunch break or other time off you might wish to visit the Archives; and it could be of interest to many that the Archives preserves the marriage license records for Nathan Birnbaum (George Burns) and Grace C. Allen, and Dino Crocetti also known as Dean Martin. You can find the birth record for Margaret Hamilton, the actress who portrayed the Wicked Witch of the West in the "Wizard of Oz," and the coroner's files from the notorious Torso Murders. These and other historical gems await you at the Archives. The staff will look forward to meeting you.

## GOOD NEWS



**Christopher Trudell**, a Middleburg Heights resident wrote in to let us know that on Sunday, April 17th he was experiencing sewer back-up in his Webster Road home. On pager duty that Sunday was Department of Public Works, Sewer Maintenance Supervisor Jim Swedyk, he received the initial call and dispatched Joe Kaptein with the Jetting Department and Charles Leamon with the Lateral Service Department. Mr. Trudell was pleased with the crews quick response time and efficiency that they demonstrated.

**Sherri Lippus**, an Olmsted Township Trustee wanted to say THANK YOU! To Bryan Hitch, Sewer Maintenance Administrator. Sherri emailed to let us know that Bryan did a phenomenal job addressing the residents and trustees and was very informative regarding the February 28th flooding that many people experienced throughout the county. Hardest hit were the residents living in the Elizabeth Lane and the Lakeside Village areas in Olmsted Township.

**Congratulations to Gayle Lewin**, Highway Design Engineer with the Department of Public Works. Gayle recently was accepted to The University of Akron for a Master of Science in Engineering Management. This is an evening program which is intended primarily for practicing engineers who are working full time. This program is approximately three years consisting of seven engineering courses at the master level and five courses from the master of business school. In place of writing a Thesis Report, Gayle will be compiling an Engineering Management Report in which she will be research the integration of engineering and management issues. We wish Gayle a successful school year.

## Safety: Lets Strike Out Skin Cancer



### **Safety**

As another season of baseball begins you can almost smell the hotdogs and feel the sunshine of a ballgame which brings reminder to stay safe in the sun. Safe play in the sun starts with regular skin checkups and the following items that will help bench skin cancer: Generously apply broad spectrum water resistant sun screen (SPF 30) to all skin types before going outside and every two hours thereafter, even on cloudy days and especially after sweating or swimming. Wear tightly woven protective clothing such as long sleeved shirts, long pants, a wide brimmed hat and sun glasses. Seek shade whenever possible. Use caution between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. when the suns rays are the strongest. Shade and hydration will also help prevent heatstroke. Avoid tanning beds they can cause premature wrinkling and skin cancer. Check your skin and see a dermatologist regularly. Take extra care around water and sand as they reflect the sun's rays increasing you chance of sunburn. Get out and take advantage of the beautiful sunshine just take precautions, your skin will thank you for it.



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## Employee Spotlight...



Ralph Lucarelli, has been working for the Department of Public Works for over 15 years, he worked for the Youth Development Center in Hudson, before it's closing in 2008, he was then promoted to electrical foreman 16 months ago. Part of his duties include maintaining the electrical systems in all county facilities, along with testing and maintaining the fire alarms. Ralph and his team recently renovated the dispatch system in Valley View, along with an electrical remodel of the 3rd floor Test Lab. Ralph stated that he genuinely enjoys doing his job everyday and takes great pride in doing a good job. Ralph resides in Strongsville with his wife and two children, when he's not following his son's baseball team at Ignatius High School, you will usually find Ralph volunteering at the Ed Keating Center three times a week running the bingo games. One of Ralph's and family favorite restaurants to visit is Villa Y Zapata located on Madison Ave., in Cleveland "they have the best chimichangas around" says Ralph.

## Public News for Public Works

**Once again the Wellness Council** is sponsoring the 2011 Walking Contest. This ten week program began on May 4th and will continue for ten weeks. Walking is a form of exercise that is accessible to just about everyone. It's safe and doesn't require practice. Walking can help you: Lower (LDL) cholesterol (bad cholesterol), raise (HDL) cholesterol (good cholesterol), lower your blood pressure, reduce your risk of diabetes by 50%, heart disease by up to 40% and many forms of cancer by 20%, manage your weight, improve your mood and stay strong and fit. Even if you did not join a walking team you can still reap the benefits by a routine 30 minute walk per day this will add 1.3 healthy years to your life. It doesn't get much simpler than that.



**Good Luck!!** To Jim Swedyk Sewer Maintenance Supervisor who will be retiring on June 10th. Jim looks forward to planning an extended vacation, not sure where as of yet but somewhere warm. Jim will also spend more time enjoying and pursuing his hobbies.