AS YOUR NEEDS CHANGE
WE CHANGE
These past few months have been extraordinarily challenging. Like every other business and organization, Cuyahoga County Public Library (CCPL) had to change almost everything about the way we deliver service because of the pandemic. When we had to close our branches in March, it was a difficult – and painful – decision. County residents of all ages rely on CCPL for books and so much more. We are a vital resource for students and their parents, a provider of critical high-speed internet access for thousands of people and a lifeline for job seekers and entrepreneurs.

I am so proud of how quickly our organization came together to adapt our service model and reopen CCPL safely to the public. I am proud, but not surprised. Rising to the occasion is what we do best. Whenever the waters get rough, our ability to adapt to the needs of our communities not only keeps us afloat, it takes us to new heights.

I hope you are aware that all of our 27 branches are now open to the public seven days a week, and drive-through window and curbside service options are available. While in-person programming remains on hold until we are able to safely bring groups of people together again, we have continued to expand our virtual programs, from author visits to career services, computer training and GED® classes. In September we also added a very timely service – tech support for K‐12 students doing remote learning. You will find helpful information about these and other programs and services within these pages.

You will also find information about Issue 70, a 1-mill continuing levy that will be on the ballot in the 47 communities CCPL serves. I urge you to learn more about what Issue 70 means for your library and what it will cost homeowners. Simply put, Issue 70 is needed to maintain the collection, services and programs that have earned CCPL the status of the nation’s top-rated library system for 10 years in a row.

In a time of change, we strive to be a comforting place of consistency. You can continue to rely on us to be here – and to adjust our services to meet your changing needs. As your needs change, we change.

Tracy R. Strobel
Executive Director
This November, Cuyahoga County Public Library (CCPL) will be on the ballot for the first time in 12 years. Since that time, we have continued to build upon CCPL’s long track record of strong fiscal management while also completing the most significant capital improvement program in the Library’s nearly 100-year history, maintaining the lowest millage of any public library in the county, and being rated the nation’s best library system for 10 consecutive years.

We have achieved all of this despite a 14 percent decrease in revenue since 2008. And as our funding has steadily decreased, the cost of library materials, healthcare and other goods and services has continued to rise. We have responded by streamlining our operations, reducing our expenses by nearly $4 million annually and aggressively seeking new sources of revenue to balance our budget, such as passport services and philanthropic support. These efforts have helped narrow the funding gap; but they certainly do not close it. The fact is, we have reached a point where additional funding reductions will drastically affect our service.

Issue 70 will enable CCPL to continue to serve you as the nation’s top-rated library system. It is a 1-mill continuing levy that will cost homeowners less than $3 per month per $100,000 of home value and generate approximately $18 million in support for the Library annually. This additional funding is needed to operate and maintain our 27 branches, to preserve evening and weekend hours, make necessary safety and security enhancements, and sustain our robust collection and critical programs.

We are asking for a continuous 1 mill because it is the best way to ensure efficient, effective use of your tax dollars long term.

In these difficult, unprecedented times county residents need CCPL to remain strong. No organization could have been fully prepared for the challenges of 2020, but my fellow trustees and I are extremely proud of how well the Library staff has adapted to safely re-open our branches and respond to our community’s changing needs. Issue 70 will ensure we can continue to deliver remarkable results and value to the community.

Sincerely,

Bill Leonard
Board President
County residents love their library – and it shows. Year after year, Cuyahoga County Public Library ranks among the busiest library systems in America in terms of circulation, visits, program attendance and computer usage.

**BORROW**
14,539,336 ITEMS BORROWED
- PHYSICAL ITEMS – 11,833,750
- DIGITAL ITEMS – 2,705,586
816,844 REGISTERED CARDHOLDERS

**ENGAGE**
14,155 PROGRAMS SPONSORED
328,826 PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

**CONNECT**
855,695 HOURS OF PUBLIC COMPUTER USE
2,202,203 HOURS OF PUBLIC WI-FI USE

**VISIT**
4,985,812 BRANCH VISITORS

More people visited Cuyahoga County Public Library branches in 2019 than the total number of people who attended Cleveland Browns, Cavs and Indians games combined.
VOTER DEADLINES & INFORMATION

Voters should check their voting information before each election. Voters may confirm their ward, precinct and voting location with the Board of Elections online at boe.cuyahogacounty.us or by calling 216.443.VOTE (8683).

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 5, 2020
Deadline for any eligible voter to register to vote in the November 3, 2020, General Election. It only takes a few minutes to register to vote online at VoteOhio.gov. You can also pick up a voter registration form at any Cuyahoga County Public Library branch.

October 6, 2020
Early in-person and Vote-by-Mail/Absentee voting begins.

October 31, 2020
Deadline to mail your Vote-by-Mail/Absentee ballot application. If you plan to vote by mail, you need to mail your Vote-by-Mail/Absentee ballot application to the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections by 12:00 noon on this date.

November 2, 2020
All Vote-by-Mail/Absentee ballots mailed anywhere in the U.S. must be postmarked on or before this date and received at the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections on or before November 13, 2020, to be counted.

November 3, 2020
Election Day. Voting is open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
For 10 consecutive years, Cuyahoga County Public Library has been rated the nation’s top library system by the Library Journal Index of Public Library Service (LJ Index).

Published annually, the LJ Index compares U.S. libraries with their peers based on six per capita output measures. A total of 6,333 libraries were scored for the 2019 ratings. Here’s where we rank among the nation’s best libraries:

- **#1** in per capita circulation of physical materials (e.g., books, audiobooks, DVDs, CDs)
- **#1** in number of visitors per capita
- **#2** in eCirculation (e.g., circulation of eBooks, streaming video, streaming and downloadable audio)
- **#2** in public computer use per capita
- **#7** in program attendance per capita
- **#7** in number of Wi-Fi sessions per capita

**YOU MAY BE ASKING YOURSELF, WHAT DO THESE RANKINGS MEAN?**

Our consistently high per capita usage is a strong indicator that we are providing the kinds of relevant materials, programs, resources and services that keep county residents coming back again and again.

In 2019, visits to Cuyahoga County Public Library branches exceeded the total attendance for all Cleveland Browns, Cleveland Indians and Cleveland Cavaliers home games combined.

4.9 MILLION VISITS
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

GENERAL REVENUE FUND (OPERATING)

- Carryover: $1,851,997
- Public Library Fund: $21,635,812
- Local Property Taxes: $43,402,673

Patron Fines and Fees
- Fines and Fees Income: $297,425
- Passport Fees Income: $769,755
- Passport Photo Fees Income: $250,076
- Meeting Room Rental Fees Income: $20,269
- Interest on Investments: $221,839
- Services Provided by Other Entities: $4,128
- Gifts and Donations: $46,529
- Miscellaneous: $460,123
- Advances and Transfers from Other Funds: $55,491

Total $69,016,117

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES (OPERATING)

- Salaries: $28,081,804
- Employee Fringe Benefits: $10,048,402
- Supplies: $1,121,967
- Purchased and Contracted Services: $9,736,958
- Library Materials: $8,821,552
- Capital Outlay: $1,095,270
- Miscellaneous/Other: $90,696
- Advances and Transfers to Other Funds: $5,234,396

Total $64,231,045

EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING

Cuyahoga County Public Library has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 11 consecutive years (2009 – 2019) from the Government Finance Officer’s Association (GFOA). The Certificate of Achievement is the GFOA’s highest form of recognition in the area of government accounting and financial reporting.
SECURING THE FUTURE OF YOUR LIBRARY

In November, Cuyahoga County Public Library will be on the ballot for the first time in 12 years. Issue 70 will enable CCPL to continue to serve you as the nation’s top-rated public library system.

Cuyahoga County Public Library’s current 2.5-mill levy is the lowest millage of any public library system in the county. Issue 70 represents 1 additional mill and will generate approximately $18 million annually.

The Library receives 14% less in local property tax revenue than a decade ago, so we have reduced expenses year after year – all while keeping our top-notch services. When the pandemic hit, we had to cut costs to address another $5 million shortfall.

CUYAHOGA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY IS THE NATION’S TOP-RATED PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM FOR 10 YEARS RUNNING.

Learn more at cuyahogalibrary.org/issue70

ISSUE 70 WILL COST RESIDENTS LESS THAN $3 PER MONTH* AND WILL ENABLE THE LIBRARY TO:

• Continue to operate CCPL’s 27 branches and maintain virtual services
• Preserve evening and weekend hours for students and residents who need access to computers and a reliable internet connection
• Make necessary safety and security updates
• Sustain a robust materials collection
• Maintain critical services, like after-school homework help and training for job seekers

*A 1-mill levy costs $2.91 per month per $100,000 in home value.
In 2020, much of the country’s conversation turned to race relations and injustice, and Northeast Ohio was no exception. Cuyahoga County Public Library and eight other library systems in Northeast Ohio launched One Community Reads: Race, the region’s largest book club. From August through December 2020, libraries around Northeast Ohio hosted conversations designed to broaden and deepen appreciation of reading and to learn about and reflect on race, history and a better future.

Cuyahoga County Public Library kicked off the series in August by hosting a livestream conversation with The New York Times best-selling authors Jason Reynolds (When I Was the Greatest, Boy in the Black Suit) and Dr. Ibram X. Kendi (How to Be an Antiracist).

On October 2, 2020, The City Club of Cleveland will host a virtual forum called “Who Is Permitted to Vote? Lessons from the Reconstruction” with Dr. Eric Foner, an educator, historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author who is often regarded as the “dean of Reconstruction historians.” Dr. Foner will address the contemporary struggle for freedom and equality.

Learn more and get involved at onecommunityreads.org.
BEYOND THE BOOK JACKET AUTHOR SERIES

From psychological thrillers to beach reads to children’s books, the authors of your favorite books are still (virtually) visiting Cuyahoga County Public Library. The series has hosted more than 40 authors since moving to a digital platform in April. Check out who’s visiting Cuyahoga County Public Library next below. And visit beyondbookjackets.com to secure your spot and view an updated schedule.

EMILY GRAY TEDROWE
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5 / 7 PM

CATHERINE GILDINER
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6 / 7 PM

SUSAN PETRONE, MICHAEL CREDICO & E.F. SCHRAEDER
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10 / 2 PM

NORM N. NITE
MONDAY, OCTOBER 12 / 7 PM

AIMEE MOLLOY
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14 / 7 PM

MAGGIE SMITH & DAVE LUCAS
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21 / 7 PM

DR. MICHAEL ROIZEN
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22 / 7 PM

DEANNA ADAMS, ABBY COLLETTE & LUCY NESS
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24 / 7 PM

JENNIFER ROSNER
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9 / 7 PM

JESS WALTER
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10 / 7 PM

ASHLEY BLOOMS
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11 / 7 PM

CONNIE SCHULTZ & SHERROD BROWN
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16 / 7 PM

PETER COZZENS
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3 / 7 PM

The William N. Skirball Writers Center Stage Series is going virtual. These events will be broadcast via Crowdcast. Guests who purchase tickets at cuyahogalibrary.org/wcs will receive links to join these events via email.

JOSH MALERMAN
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15 / 7 PM

SUSAN CHOI
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19 / 7 PM
WORKFORCE INITIATIVES

For nearly 45 years, Cuyahoga County Public Library has helped adults acquire skills employers desire, find jobs and transition to new careers. In 2020, we enhanced our online offerings to meet the needs of job seekers while our branches were closed.

VIRTUAL GED AND ESOL CLASSES
In partnership with Aspire Greater Cleveland, the Library offers free virtual classes to help adults advance their education and skills.

Free GED classes prepare adult students for success when taking the high-school equivalence exams. Free beginner, intermediate and advanced-level English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes help adults improve their English or language skills. Daytime, evening and weekend classes are available.

VIRTUAL COMPUTER CLASSES
Cuyahoga County Public Library offers free computer classes and training for adults. Our Computer Essentials courses are perfect for those who are new to computers. We also offer courses for specific software, including Adobe Photoshop, Google Apps and Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint and Word. Day, evening and Saturday classes are available.

CUYAHOGA WORKS CAREER COUNSELING
Cuyahoga Works: Job & Career Services’ professional career counselors take pride in helping job seekers put their best foot forward to find employment, advance their careers or pursue new career paths. Our services and workshops are available free to adults. We offer career counseling, workshops, career assessments, company research and help with résumés and cover letters.

We launched a free series of webinars for job seeking during the pandemic, which is archived on our website. Hundreds of job seekers attended the webinars. We covered:

• Tips and Resources for Your Pandemic Job Search
• Creating a Successful Video Résumé
• Mastering Virtual Interviews

Call 216.475.2225 to schedule a free virtual appointment with one of our professional career counselors today. Or find more information at cuyahogaworks.org.
Can’t make it to the library? No problem. Your Cuyahoga County Public Library card unlocks a treasure trove of free digital materials, including books, movies, magazines and music.

**eBooks and audiobooks:** Access to digital books and audiobooks – borrow up to 50 at a time.

**Hoopla:** Download music, comics and graphic novels.

**Kanopy:** Watch commercial-free movies, documentaries and TV shows – even a collection specifically for kids (Sesame Street, Arthur, Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood and more!).

**Digital Newsstand:** Read news and magazines from all over the world in 50 languages. Includes The Wall Street Journal, Los Angeles Times, Newsweek, New York Post, Vanity Fair and hundreds more publications. Local newspapers, including The Plain Dealer, are available, too. Always free, no waitlists, no late fees.

**Flipster:** Download your favorite magazines to read online or offline, anytime, anywhere. Titles include US Weekly, The New Yorker, People, Esquire, Allure, Time, ESPN the Magazine, AARP: The Magazine and hundreds more. There are no subscription fees to pay, no waitlists and no late fees, ever!

**WHATEVER SCHOOL LOOKS LIKE FOR YOUR CHILDREN THIS YEAR, WE’VE GOT THE HELP THEY NEED!**

**TumbleBooks** – Enjoy animated, talking picture books for children in preschool to second grade. Learn your ABCs and 123s through games and puzzles. Includes eBook titles for iPad, National Geographic videos and eAudiobooks.

**BookFlix** – Children in pre-K through third grade can watch and listen to classic storybooks.

**Scholastic Teachables** – Printable educational materials targeted to students in pre-K through sixth grade support classroom instruction and learning from home. Subjects covered include math, language arts, reading, science and social studies.

**Tutor.com** – An online tutoring service that connects students to live tutors in online classrooms.
SUPPORT FOR
STUDENTS & PARENTS

Many school districts in the county have begun school remotely or with a hybrid schedule of in-person and remote learning. Here’s what we’re doing to help support effective remote learning experiences for our community’s students, parents and educators.

Learn more at cuyahogalibrary.org/backtoschool.

FREE AFTER-SCHOOL HOMEWORK MENTORS
Struggling with a homework assignment? Our trained mentors are available to answer K – 8 students’ academic questions by phone or in person by appointment at nine Cuyahoga County Public Library branches Monday through Thursday.

LIVE ONLINE TUTORING
Free with your library card
Our Tutor.com service connects students (and parents!) to live tutors in online classrooms. Live tutors are available from 10 AM to 12 AM every day except major holidays. In addition, Tutor.com offers a real-time writing center, test preparation, practice quizzes and 24/7 access to worksheets, videos and tutorials in over 40 subjects, including math, science, social studies, English, AP® support and foreign languages.

KIDS CAFÉ
Free after-school meals for students
We know it’s hard to focus on learning when your stomach is empty. That’s why we collaborate with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank to provide children with free grab-and-go meals during the school year in communities where the need is great at select branch locations. Grab-and-go meals are available while supplies last at nine Cuyahoga County Public Library branches.
America's Top-Rated Library
10 YEARS IN A ROW!
2010 – 2019