



# Statehouse Update & Severe Weather Assistance

*from*

State Representative

**Bride Rose Sweeney**

*August 9, 2024*

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Dear Neighbor,

I hope this letter reaches you safely and that you and your loved ones are well in the aftermath of the severe weather that struck Northeast Ohio this past Tuesday. I know the resulting storm damage and power outages have been difficult for many in our community and my thoughts are with you as we begin the process of recovery and rebuilding.

First and foremost, I want to assure you that you are not alone during this challenging time. As your State Representative, **I am committed to ensuring that every resident has access to the resources and support they need.** If you or someone you know is having trouble getting help from a state agency or is otherwise in need of assistance—please do not hesitate to reach out to my office. We are here to help advocate on your behalf and connect you with the right resources. I have also included some helpful resources below including important safety reminders from Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management, the locations of community cooling & charging centers, and food assistance help.

Too many Northeast Ohio residents, particularly seniors and vulnerable populations, are still without power. Residents & utility customers deserve better, more responsive service from both the state and First Energy when power is lost and they should be taking immediate emergency action to better assist our local response teams, restore essential services, and get our local businesses & neighborhood back online. As your state representative, **I am actively working to expedite critical state resources to Cuyahoga County and restore power to businesses and neighborhoods as quickly as possible.** In my ongoing communications with state & local leaders, as well as regional energy providers, I will continue to advocate for a faster response and ensure our community receives the support it needs while power is being restored. I will also continue to push for better state preparedness & more resilient energy infrastructure to better address these issues in the future.

**Finally, I want to thank our first responders, utility workers, and service departments who have been working tirelessly to ensure our safety and restore normalcy.** Their dedication and hard work are a testament to the strength of our community. While the current situation is far from ideal, I am confident that our community will find a way to come together and face this adversity with determination and unity.

As always, please feel free to reach out to my office if there is anything I can do to be of service to you. Whether you need assistance or have suggestions on how we can improve our emergency response efforts, I encourage you to reach out to my office by emailing [rep16@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:rep16@ohiohouse.gov) or calling (614) 466-3350. Together, we can ensure that our community is prepared for whatever challenges lie ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bride Rose Sweeney".

Bride Rose Sweeney  
State Representative  
Ohio House District 16

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# Safety Recommendations

*From the Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management*

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The Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management urges residents to check on friends and neighbors and follow these safety recommendations:

- **Call 9-1-1 in emergencies.** Emergencies are events that include serious medical issues, any type of fire, life threatening situations, and crimes in progress.
- **Do NOT dial 9-1-1 for non-emergencies, or to check the status of a power outage.** Use your city's non-emergency number to report non-urgent incidents or dial 2-1-1 for other resources.
- **NEVER touch downed wires or electrical power lines** and keep children and pets away from them. If you encounter a downed power line, stay away, and call 9-1-1. If a power line falls on your vehicle, remain inside until first responders arrive.
- **Avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.** Use generators, camp stoves or charcoal grills outdoors, at least 20 feet away from any building openings like windows, doors, or garages. Never use a gas stovetop, oven, grill, or dryer to heat your home.
- **Stay fire safe.** Use flashlights, lanterns and other battery-powered lights.
- **Only use a generator outside of your home.** Do not run a generator inside a home or garage or connect it to your home's electrical system.
- **Don't leave a vehicle running inside a garage,** even if the garage door is left open. If you use your vehicle as a source of power or to stay cool, make sure to run it in a well-ventilated place outside.
- **When in doubt, throw it out.** Throw away any refrigerated food that has been exposed to temperatures 40 degrees Fahrenheit or higher for more than 4 hours. Throw away refrigerated food that has an unusual odor, color, or texture
- **Using oxygen and without power?** Call the number on your concentrator or tank to request an emergency resupply of oxygen tanks.

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## Stay Informed with ReadyNotify

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The Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management is also urging residents to stay prepared and informed of emergencies by signing up for ReadyNotify, Cuyahoga County's emergency notification system. The ReadyNotify system provides notifications for emergency events, weather alerts, and other information.

Additional information and tips about staying safe in emergencies can be found at [\*\*Ready.gov\*\*](https://www.ready.gov).

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# Community Cooling & Charging Centers

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## Cuyahoga County Public Libraries

Currently, 6 Cuyahoga County Public Library branches remain closed due to power outages including Bay Village, Brook Park, Brooklyn, North Olmsted, Parma Heights and Richmond Heights.

The remaining branches will remain open to welcome members of the community who need air conditioning, electricity and reliable wi-fi:

- Berea
- Fairview Park
- Middleburg Heights
- Olmsted Falls
- Parma-Powers
- Parma-Snow
- Strongsville
- Bedford
- Brecksville
- Garfield Heights
- Independence
- Maple Heights
- North Royalton
- Warrensville Heights
- Beachwood
- Chagrin Falls
- Gates Mills
- Mayfield
- Orange
- Solon
- South Euclid-Lyndhurst

## Westlake Public Library

The Westlake Public Library is extending its hours to allow patrons to continue to use their library as a comfortable and safe space with internet, power and A/C. Get updated hours of operation at [westlakelibrary.org](http://westlakelibrary.org)

## Cleveland Public Libraries

Cleveland Public Libraries are welcoming patrons during regular operating hours to use the Wi-Fi and charge their devices. While the majority of CPL locations are open, some are closed due to power outages including, the Addison, Brooklyn, Collinwood, Eastman, Fleet, Fulton, Lorain, Rice, Rockport, and Union branches.

The remaining CPL branches will be open Monday – Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

- Carnegie-West Branch
- East 131st Street Branch
- Garden Valley Branch
- Glenville Branch
- Harvard-Lee Branch
- Hough Branch
- Jefferson Branch
- Langston Hughes Branch
- MLK, Jr. Branch
- Memorial-Nottingham Branch
- Mount Pleasant Branch
- South Branch
- South Brooklyn Branch
- Sterling Branch
- Walz Branch
- West Park Branch
- Woodland Branch

All Cleveland Public Library locations are closed on Friday, August 9th for staff development. Visit [cpl.org/storm-closures](http://cpl.org/storm-closures) for a list of closures and real-time updates as they work diligently to restore power at all locations.

\*Pro Tip: Even when closed, CPL WiFi extends about 30 feet outside the branch.

## City of Cleveland Recreation & Resource Centers

4 City of Cleveland Recreation and Resource Centers will be open with extended hours, until 11pm, offering residents a place to cool off and connect to Wi-Fi. A limited supply of shelf-stable meals, provided by Greater Cleveland Food Bank, will be available at these four locations beginning on Friday, August 9 at 1 p.m. The locations are:

- Collinwood 16300 Lake Shore Blvd – Wi-Fi, no air conditioning
- Zelma George 3155 MLK Jr Blvd – Wi-Fi, air conditioning
- Cudell 1910 West Blvd – Wi-Fi, partial air conditioning
- Michael Zone 6301 Lorain Ave – Wi-Fi, air conditioning

## Other Community Options

- J Glen Smith Health Center at 11100 St. Clair
- McCafferty Health Center at 4242 Lorain
- MidTown Tech Hive at 6815 Euclid Ave.
- Iglesia Nueva Vida at 2327 Holmden Ave.
- Hayes Elementary School Reception Center at 16401 Delaware Ave.
- Gatewood Home at 532 E. 185 St.
- Cleveland Liberation Center at 9801 Denison Ave.
- May Dugan Center at 4115 Bridge Ave.

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## Free Ice & Water

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7 Giant Eagle locations in Cuyahoga County have partnered with FirstEnergy to give out free water and ice to residents without power. Starting Thursday August 8 until Wednesday Aug 14 residents can pick up one bag of ice and two gallons of water, free of charge, at the Giant Eagle locations listed below.

- Westlake Market District, 30275 Detroit Road, Westlake
- Strongsville Market District, 15919 Pearl Road, Strongsville
- Parma-Broadview Road Giant Eagle, 7400 Broadview Road, Parma
- Day Drive Giant Eagle, 7939 Day Drive, Cleveland
- Biddulph Plaza Giant Eagle, 6300 Biddulph Road, Brooklyn
- Broadview Hts Giant Eagle, 4343 Royalton Road, Broadview Heights
- Southgate Giant Eagle, 5321 Warrensville Center Road, Maple Heights

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# Emergency Medical & Food Assistance

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## Medical Help

Residents with medications that need to be refrigerated should check the specific instructions on their medications, as medications such as insulin pens can last at room temperature for up to 28 days. For those with more sensitive medications, pharmacies and health care systems are preparing back-up supplies.

Residents who rely on continuous oxygen are encouraged to contact their oxygen supply companies who are working with the health care systems to secure back-up supplies.

## Food Assistance

The United Way Help Center has resource information for food, clothing, housing, healthcare, and more. Call 24 hours a day at 2-1-1.

If you are receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and have been without power for four hours or more, you can file for replacement SNAP benefits within 10 days of when the food was destroyed. Beneficiaries must complete a JFS 07222 SNAP benefit replacement form, which can be downloaded <https://bit.ly/45vcF3q> and sent to [CJFSDocs@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:CJFSDocs@jfs.ohio.gov).

Contact the Greater Cleveland Food Bank Help Center at (216) 738-2067 to learn how to find free food near you or apply for SNAP benefits.

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## Power Outage Maps

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Initially, more than 400,000 FirstEnergy customers in Northeast Ohio lost power due to broken power poles, downed power lines and trees.

Check the First Energy Outages Map online at [outages-oh.firstenergycorp.com](https://outages-oh.firstenergycorp.com)

Cleveland Public Power had 34,000 customers lose power, and by Thursday morning service was restored to about 23,300 customers, the remaining 11,000 customers are expected to have power restored shortly.

Check the Cleveland Public Power Outage Map online at [cpp.org/Power-Outages/Outage-Map](https://cpp.org/Power-Outages/Outage-Map)

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### Office Contact Information

(614) 466-3350  
Rep16@ohiohouse.gov  
77 South High Street, 10th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

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