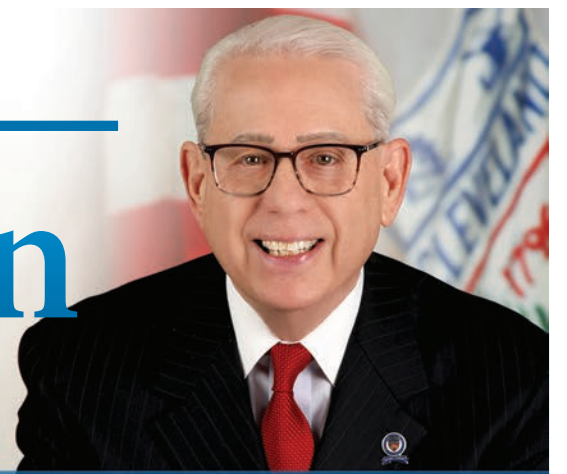


Keeping you informed about our neighborhood!

The Ward 8 Citizen

Michael D. Polensek • Councilman, Ward 8 | Winter 2023



A MESSAGE from your Councilman Michael D. Polensek

To say the least, 2022 was an interesting year. I don't have to tell anyone, what we experienced with the COVID lockdown and economic issues. We are still seeing the impact of that on local businesses and the city's inability to hire and retain critical personnel. I keep asking myself as to why it so difficult to find staff and employees. Regardless, many businesses in our community are struggling severely. So, as we enter 2023, please, wherever you can, support the local businesses in the Collinwood and Glenville neighborhoods. **Let's hope that 2023 will be a much better year for all.** We have a whole host of projects and initiatives set to begin or finally being completed.

We all experienced the major problem with **snow removal** last winter season and during an early snowfall this season. Mayor Bibb and his team have assured us that they have made major changes to the routes for this season and have purchased/leased additional equipment. Time will tell if their action will result in a quicker or better response during heavy snowfalls.

On a more critical issue is **the depletion in the ranks of the Cleveland Police Department.** As I write this article, we are down 334 officers from the 1,640 which Council called for in the Annual Budget. That is the equivalence of losing two entire police districts. So, I don't have to tell anyone how



151st Cleveland Police Academy Class graduation on December 14, 2022. Seventeen new officers will be assigned to the Cleveland Police neighborhood districts across the City of Cleveland.

this is impacting all the Special Units from Homicide down to traffic enforcement. **City Council has been waiting for a massive recruitment plan coming from the Administration** not only for Cleveland Police but EMS, as well; as they are also experiencing recruitment issues for Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's). Anyone interested in becoming a CPD Officer should call the City at 216-623-5233. Anyone interested in working for EMS can call the City at 216-664-2047.

I cannot begin to tell you how important these positions are and what is overlooked so often is that these jobs are career opportunities. A police officer can retire with 25 years of service with a full pension and health care. **People question why it is so difficult to recruit.** My answer is very direct; there is a segment of our media and society

"Let us all recommit to supporting our 'Men and Women in Blue' and all our First Responders, including Fire and EMS, while at the same time demanding accountability and professional conduct."

who wish to vilify and cast dispersions upon the members of the law enforcement community and blame the overwhelming majority for what a few bad officers have done locally and nationally. There is no other profession that I am aware of, where the whole body is condemned for what a few have done. Let us all recommit to supporting our "Men and Women in Blue" and all our First Responders, including Fire and EMS, while at the same time demanding accountability and professional conduct. As Chairman of the Public Safety Committee for Cleveland City Council, I will continue to emphasize the need for filling these critical positions and supporting our law enforcement officers and other First Responders. Their job is to protect

Continued on page 3

NEW!

The Longfellow Senior Living Community

650 E 140th Street at Darley Avenue



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1 & 2 Bedroom
Apartments

Accepting
Applications

Phone: 440-431-3850
Email: Longfellow@vestacorp.com
longfellowseniorhousing.com



Greater Cleveland Food Bank Opens Distribution Hub at Coit Road




The largest hunger relief agency in Northeast Ohio, the Greater Cleveland Food Bank (GCFB), cut the ribbon on its new Partner Distribution Hub at Coit Road on November 2. The building will serve as a central location for the distribution of food to the Food Bank's network of partner agencies. *Continued on page 2*

Extra SNAP benefits will end for all SNAP households beginning in March 2023.



Each month during the pandemic, SNAP benefits have been loaded onto your card two separate times. Beginning in March, you will no longer receive your second benefit amount.

 JFS call volume will be high.

To check your benefit amount or balance, setup an account to track your funds at [ConnectEBT.com](https://connectebt.com) or call 1-866-386-3071.

 Update your information.

To update your information go to benefits.ohio.gov to report changes to your address, income, etc.

 Help is available.

Need food? Call the Greater Cleveland Food Bank's Help Center at 216-738-2067 to find food resources near you.

www.greaterclevelandfoodbank.org



This project has been funded at least in part with federal funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

Food Bank Continued

“I am excited and proud to welcome the community to our new and transformative Partner Distribution Hub,” said Kristin Warzocha, President and CEO of the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. “This move to our 197,000-square-foot facility is a major step forward toward creating food security in our community. I want to thank our Board, partners, donors, elected officials, staff and volunteers who together made this vision a reality.”

Last year, the Food Bank served nearly 350,000 individuals in Cuyahoga, Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, Ashland and Richland Counties. GCFB provides nutritious food and critical grocery products annually to over 1,000 local food pantries, hot meal programs, shelters, mobile pantries, and other programs that serve seniors and children and other

non-profit organizations. In FY2022, the Food Bank provided over 48 million pounds of food throughout Northeast Ohio.

The new facility includes an inviting volunteer and donor drop-off area, 5-high racking in the warehouse, an expansive cooler and freezer space, and a kitchen four times the size of the Food Bank’s previous kitchen on South Waterloo Road which will be able to provide up to 20,000 prepared meals daily over time. The building also boasts a larger volunteer repack area and agency pick-up space. These features and more will contribute to an increased capacity to store and distribute healthy fresh foods and nonperishable items and prepare nutritious meals. The Coit Road facility does not serve individuals directly.

“For 40 years, GCFB has grown and evolved to ensure everyone in our community has access to nutritious food and the resources to fight hunger,” said Darnell Brown, former board chair and life trustee, Greater Cleveland Food Bank. “The Partner Distribution Hub at



Councilman Polensek and Kristin Warzocha, President and CEO of the Greater Cleveland Food Bank at the November 2 ribbon cutting.



Coit Road will dramatically increase our ability to get both nutritious meals and healthy food into the community.”

The Partner Distribution Hub also strengthens the Food Bank’s commitment to sustainability with the installation of solar panels, onsite composting and a partnership with

Collinwood Energy.

The original facility on South Waterloo Road will be renovated into a one-stop shop focused on client and community needs to provide hunger relief and address the root causes of food insecurity. Renovations began in late December, with a plan to reopen the building as a community resource center by fall 2023.

The Food Bank will welcome eight to ten key non-profit partners to be on-site at the Community Resource Center to provide critical services to households and end hunger for a lifetime. Some of these non-profit partners include CHN Housing Partners, Towards Employment, MetroHealth, Shoes and Clothes for Kids, Family Connections, Legal Aid, and United Way – 211.

Interested in volunteering or donating?
Visit www.GreaterClevelandFoodBank.org to learn more. **Need help with food?**
Call 216-738-2067.

>>>

Attention Cleveland Residents

If your home is over 50 years old, you qualify for:

- FREE site visits to discuss home maintenance and home improvement work
- FREE impartial home rehab advice
- FREE names of contractors for home rehab and home maintenance projects that have served our clients well

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30 YEARS

For more information, visit www.heritagehomeprogram.org or call (216) 426-3116

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Department of
Public Works
DIVISION OF WASTE

Upcoming Holiday and Bulk Week Collections



B Bulk Week **H** One Day Delayed Collection **H** Holiday with Regular Pickup

FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
B	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	H	21	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28

Feb. 20th - President's Day
No delay in collection

MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
B	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28

APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
B	2	3	4	5	6	H
	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24

Apr. 7th - Good Friday
No delay in collection

MAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
B	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	H	30

May 29th - Memorial Day
1 day delay all week

For more information on set out services for large volumes
and general waste pick up questions, call 216-664-371.

www.clevelandohio.gov

DIVISION OF WASTE COLLECTION Set Out Guidelines

- ▶ Please contain all waste in the carts provided by the city:
 - Use black/gray city issued cart for household trash and bagged yard waste.
 - NO trash should be placed outside of the black/gray cart.
- ▶ Place carts out no earlier than noon the day before your regular pick up day. Remove carts by noon the following day.

WEEKLY WASTE

- ▶ You may set out a **limit of (3) bulk items**.
 - Such as tables and chairs, mattresses and box springs, couches, furniture.
 - All mattresses, box springs, leather and cloth furniture must be wrapped in plastic.
 - The city does not accept construction material.
 - Boxes and bags are not bulk items.
- ▶ You may set out up to **four (4) tires (passenger tires only)**. Tires must be off the rim. Please call 216-664-3711 to schedule a (4) tire pick up.

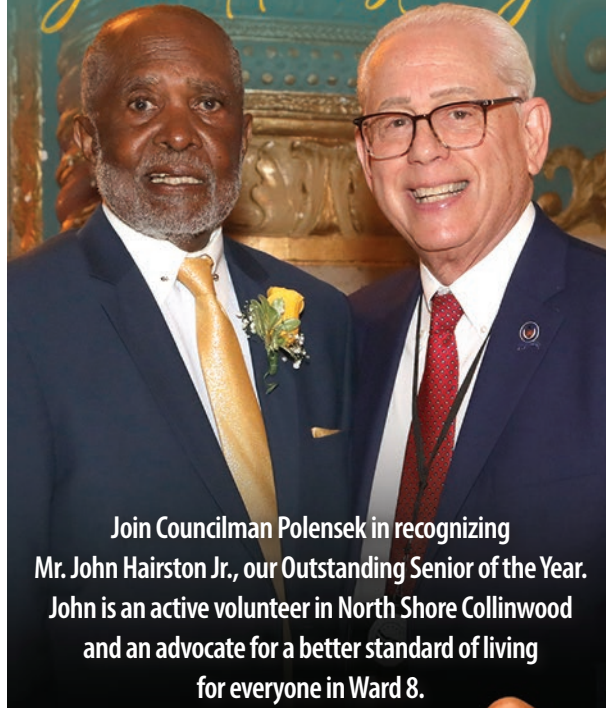
BULK DISPOSAL

YARD WASTE

- ▶ Branches must be cut and bundled. (Each bundle cannot exceed 3 ft. in length and 2 ft. in diameter.)
- All leaves and grass clippings must be contained, up to 20 bags per week.

2022 Senior of the Year

John Hairston Jr.



Join Councilman Polensek in recognizing
Mr. John Hairston Jr., our Outstanding Senior of the Year.
John is an active volunteer in North Shore Collinwood
and an advocate for a better standard of living
for everyone in Ward 8.



At the 32nd Annual Senior Day Event held on September 15, 2022 at Cleveland Public Hall, John Hairston Jr. was recognized as our ward's outstanding senior by Councilman Polensek, plus Sonya Pryor-Jones, City of Cleveland Chief of Youth & Family Success, and City Council President Blaine A. Griffin.

Message Continued

and serve. Let's not forget that.

On that note, I officially sponsored legislation, on behalf of the community, to add an honorarium to the street name of **UTOPIA**, a small street next to the 5th District Police Headquarters off East 152 Street, for Officer Shane Bartek, who lost his life senselessly and who was held in very high esteem by his fellow officers at the 5th District. We should not forget him and any First Responder we have lost in our city, including Firefighter Johnny Tetrick, who was killed in the line of duty in November.

Congratulations are in order to Coach Ted Ginn, Sr., of Ginn Academy on East 162 Street, and his Glenville Tarblooders, for winning the Division IV State Football Championship, the first in CMSD History. For being a member of the Board at Ginn Academy from day one, I can assure you that Coach Ginn not only stresses athletic success on the field but drives home daily the importance of getting a good education, brotherhood, and being true community partners. I can't even begin to tell you how many young men at risk the Coach has "saved" by steering them along the right path for success in life. **God bless you, Ted.**

I encourage all to take a drive down East 140th Street to see the progress on the rehabilitation and new construction at historic Longfellow Elementary located between Diana and Darley. Come this Spring this project will be complete and open as a state-of-the-art Senior apartment complex.

East 140 Street itself will undergo a streetscape plan also in 2023. Preliminary designs have been approved and will include the restoration of treelawn /grass areas and a new road surface. East 200th Street will be resurfaced after we complete the East 185th Street streetscape project next year. Councilman Anthony Hairston and Councilman Kevin Conwell along with myself keep advocating with the Bibb Administration for a St Clair Avenue rehabilitation plan which is important to revitalize



On November 5, 2022 Councilman Polensek and Cleveland's 5th Police District honored fallen Officer Shane Bartek with a street honorarium on Utopia Ave., which is next to the 5th District Station where Bartek served.

this important corridor.

As I am sure you are well aware, the Collinwood community once had a major industrial history. Unfortunately, as manufacturing changed these factories closed and many buildings remained vacant for decades. The long abandoned **GE Light Plant on East 152 Street** is undergoing environmental abatement now and will be completely demolished by the end of 2023. Councilman Hairston of Ward 10 and myself are hoping that this is the beginning of freeing up these large sites for future development opportunities. One only has to look from Eddy Road east to East 200th Street to see how many of these abandoned plants remain and need to be redeveloped or razed. Watch for future updates.

It is no secret I am a big supporter of the **Greater Cleveland Food Bank**. Their new food distribution warehouse was officially opened on November 2nd. That was actually only Phase One of their redevelopment efforts, though.

Phase Two began the week of December 12th with the re-imagining of their former headquarters on S. Waterloo Road. I am officially pleased to announce, after a great deal of negotiations and hard work, that the following agencies will now have a main/satellite office in that facility, now

to be called the **Greater Cleveland Food Bank Community Resource Center**. They include: The Legal Aid Society; The United Way 211 Call Center; Towards Employment; MAGNET; Family Connections; Cleveland Housing Partners; the main office for Shoes & Coats for Kids; a new food pantry; a redesigned food warehouse; and, they are in the final stages of negotiating with MetroHealth to open a new health clinic in the complex.

My sincere appreciation to the executive staff and Board of the Greater Cleveland Food Bank in believing in the Greater Collinwood and Glenville neighborhoods. What I learned from my involvement with the Food Bank and volunteering there is that families and individuals dealing with food insecurities are usually confronted with other social and economic realities. Just think, **we will have one of the best wrap-around service centers in the county located right here in Ward 8 by the end of 2023.**

I look forward to seeing you all at the numerous community neighborhood association meetings held monthly (for the most part). This is the best way to keep informed as to what is happening in the community and to effect change. This is your community – become a stakeholder. The list of community meetings is elsewhere in this newsletter.

I hope all of our Ward 8 citizens and their families had a joyous holiday season. As we enter the new year, I am very optimistic about the projects and programs we are moving forward on. Let us be thankful for all the blessings we have been given this past year, strive to be diligent in our work, charitable in our actions and kind in our words to make our Ward 8 the best it can be.

Stay safe and healthy. God bless all!

As always, you may reach me at the office at 216-664-4236 or via email at mpolensek@clevelandcitycouncil.org.

Sincerely yours,

Michael J. Polensek

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The Ward 8 Citizen

COUNCILMAN

MICHAEL D. POLENSEK



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mpolensek@clevelandcitycouncil.org

Visit www.ClevelandCityCouncil.org

DIAL-A-NUMBER

FOR COMPLAINTS OR PUBLIC SERVICE DEPARTMENTS CALL 3-1-1

Emergency (Police, Fire, EMS)	911
Police (non-emergency)	621-1234
5th District Police (881 E. 152nd St.)	623-5500
Fire (non-emergency)	621-1212
EMS (non-emergency)	623-4545
City Hall (all departments)	664-2000
Animal Control (dogs, etc)	664-3069
Building/Housing Complaints	664-2007
ClevelandPublicPower	664-3156
Collinwood Recreation Center	420-8323
Department of Aging	664-2833
Dominion East Ohio Gas	361-2345
Health Department Complaints	664-2300
Illuminating Company	1-800-589-3101
Potholes/Snow Removal	664-2510
Sewers/Catch Basins (dugged)	664-2513
Street Light Outages (COP)	621-5483
Traffic Signs Down & Missing	420-8282
Tree Trimming/Removal	664-3104
Waste Collection Issues	664-2397
Water Department (leaks, hydrants)	664-3060

UPCOMING Community Meetings



Collinwood Homeowners Meeting

1st Wednesday of the Month*, 6:00 PM
St Mary Church at 15519 Holmes Ave
(*Months: March, April, May, June, Sept., Oct., and Nov.)

East 185th Street Neighborhood Association

2nd Tuesday of the Month*, 6:00 pm
Lithuanian Village Hall, 877 East 185th St
(*Every month except January; June meeting at Wildwood Park Pavilion)

Ward Club

2nd Wednesday of the Month*, 6:00 pm
Collinwood Recreation Center, 16300 Lakeshore Blvd
(*Months: Feb., March, Apr., May, June, Sept., Oct., Nov. and Dec.)

East 156th Street Neighborhood Association

3rd Thursday of the Month*, 6:00 pm
Collinwood Recreation Center at 16300 Lakeshore Blvd
(*Every month except January; Call to be connected to Chairperson)

East 140th Street Neighborhood Association

4th Wednesday of the Month*, 6:00 pm
Collinwood Five Pointe Community Center, East 152 St
(*Months: March, Apr, May, June, Sept., Oct., and Nov.)

Any questions about these meetings please feel free to
contact Mary Louise Jesek Daley, in Councilman Polensek's office at
216-664-4236 or via email at mdaley@clevelandcitycouncil.org.

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EVERY THURSDAY

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

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