

Keeping you informed about our neighborhood!

# The Ward 8 Citizen

Michael D. Polensek • Councilman, Ward 8 | Spring 2021 | [www.ClevelandCityCouncil.org](http://www.ClevelandCityCouncil.org)



## A MESSAGE from your Councilman Mike Polensek

**Spring is here, finally. I hope all of you are doing well.** The year 2020, as we have all said, was a year that we wish we could forget. Unfortunately, we cannot. Many families are still grieving for family members who were lost due to COVID-19. Let's keep all of our family and friends who have lost loved ones in our thoughts and prayers.

Regarding the virus – **if you haven't received your vaccine please do so. Call the City Department of Public Health (CDPH) COVID-19 info-line and register at 216-664-2222.** All 16 years of age and older are now eligible to receive their Covid shot. I understand all too well that there are those of you out there who believe that you do not need the shot, do not trust the vaccine or, believe that the issue has become a political one. I can assure you, having five members of my own family infected by the virus, this is not a hoax; my one daughter is still having after-effects. Please, if you have concerns, talk to your physician.

Finally, we are starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel with businesses reopening and a growing percentage of Cleveland and County residents being vaccinated. Do we still need to use caution? Yes. If we follow common sense practices, we can get our businesses back open, our friends and neighbors back to work, and our local economy growing, once again. I remain very optimistic as we go further into this year. On that note, I would like to update the

**"If we follow common sense practices, we can get our businesses back open, our friends and neighbors back to work, and our local economy growing, once again."**

community on major initiatives we have been working on.

**The Northeast Regional Sewer District (NEORS) has begun work to shore up the two outfalls at the lake in Beulah Park.**

We are appreciative of this work being done but would like to see the work expanded to protect more of the shoreline from the severe erosion we are experiencing. This ties directly to what Cuyahoga County has proposed with their Lakefront Access Plan. Two segments of that plan are in Ward 8. I will continue to lobby the county on the importance of lakefront protection and public access. Our three lakefront MetroParks' are back open including the Euclid Beach pier. We are still waiting to hear about the **Friday Night Euclid Beach LIVE Concert series.** Watch for announcements.

I don't have to tell anyone I am a big supporter of **the Greater Cleveland FoodBank.** I worked with them years ago to build the original headquarters in our ward

on South Waterloo Road. That is why I am so related to announce the construction of their new food warehouse to be constructed on Coit Road at East 134 Street. See article below. The new facility will serve not only the entire City of Cleveland but a total of the six (6) adjacent counties. We have been talking and meeting throughout 2020. Due to COVID protocols, there was an invite-only groundbreaking for the new facility on April 14th. The existing facility will remain on S. Waterloo Road and be further enhanced with additional programs and services. We look forward to the officially ribbon cutting next year.

The long-awaited **East 185th Street streetscape beautification project** has passed City Council and the additional funding sources have been secured. This is a joint undertaking with the City of Euclid, Cuyahoga County and the Ohio Department of Transportation

*Continued on page 2*

## Food Bank breaks ground for new facility in Ward 8



by Mary Louise Jesek Daley

The Greater Cleveland Food Bank broke ground on April 14 for the new 198,000 square foot warehouse and distribution center located on the boarder of the Collinwood and Glenville neighborhoods.

This new facility, on 18-acres will be built along on Coit Road at East 134 Street, adjacent to the Cleveland Job Corps, on land once home to the world-famous General Motors Fisher

Body Plant which closed in the 1980s. The new facility will be just two miles southwest of its current headquarters on South Waterloo Road. Once the new distribution center opens next year, the main headquarters building will be renovated to better serve its clientele as a "one-stop shop" for needed social service programs.

**According to Councilman Mike Polensek, "This is great re-use of the property. I have been working with the FoodBank**

**on the design and implementation of this new building for some time and cannot wait for it to be open to serve our needy families of Greater Cleveland. I cannot say enough good about the Greater Cleveland FoodBank's Staff and Volunteers. That is how special they are. Thank you on behalf of the Ward 8 community!"**

Officials at the Food Bank have talked

*Continued on page 3*

# PROJECT CLEAN JOBS AVAILABLE

The 2021 seasonal employment program is upon us! Again, the Department of Public Works will utilize a temporary employment agency to provide personnel for the season.

**All positions require the candidate to work outdoors.** Participants will be assigned to work in **Parks, Vacant Properties or Cemeteries. They will work at a rate of \$11.00/hr. The seasonal program will begin in April and last approximately 21 weeks.**

To be considered for employment, the candidate must meet the following criteria:

1. Must pass a drug screening test.
2. Criminal background checks will be conducted.
3. Should have demonstrable experience in working with power equipment (i.e. string trimmers, lawn mowers, riding mowers and basic landscaping tools.)
4. Should not have allergies that relate to outdoor conditions (i.e. grass, pollen, dust, insects, herbicides, etc.)
5. Must be able to repetitively lift, push, pull and carry heavy objects.
6. Should have good communication skills.

**Residents interested in this job opportunity please contact Snider Blake at 216-781-7011. When you call, please state that you are a council referral.**



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- ▶ Licensed facility
- ▶ Professional qualified staff

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### Message Continued

(ODOT), who will administer the project. **The total cost is \$11.5 million** and will run the length of the corridor from the Lake to just beyond S. Waterloo Road. One of the concerns during the course of discussions has been the impact on the businesses and the adjacent streets this past year due to the sewer project and the pandemic. Even though most of the engineering work is near completion, it was our collective decision to start the project in the Spring of 2022 to give the businesses and the community a relief from construction. This is a project I have personally worked on for over five (5) years and I appreciate all those who have contributed to make this a reality. There will be new sidewalks, new curbs, tree wells, planter boxes, new street furniture and other amenities to highlight this corridor as a pedestrian-friendly shopping district.

The historic **LaSalle Theatre project** is back up and running. Work has begun in earnest on the new parking lot and I have committed additional ward funds to install a commercial kitchen in the building. The theatre itself has symbolized East 185th Street and its rebirth is critical. All involved are working hard to see that this project is completed by this Fall. See enclosed article.

Construction on the anticipated **historic Henry W. Longfellow Senior Housing Complex at East 140th Street and Darley Avenue should begin shortly. The projected cost is \$18 million.** Preliminary work has already begun on the building, which, overall, in my opinion, will kick start other development activities in the East 140 Street corridor. We are also in discussions regarding a transportation and development survey along this corridor – like the TLCI survey that led to the re-imagining of East 185th Street.

In addition, I am working with Councilman Anthony T. Hairston of Ward 10 and Councilman Kevin Conwell of Ward 9 on the **long-awaited St Clair Ave. redevelopment plan.** This is a difficult project due to the length of St Clair Avenue. Our first joint partnership will be at the Five Points Intersection at East 152 Street. We are also looking at what we can do at the East 125 Street and Shaw Avenue intersection, as well. St Clair Ave. is the longest commercial street in the City of Cleveland, running from the Euclid line and ending downtown and encompasses five city wards. Watch for future plans and updates.

Discussions continue with CMSD on the **re-imagining of Collinwood High School to create a community career center.** In its heyday, Collinwood High was just that. The pandemic slowed this process down dramatically; however, we are reengaging the Committee and moving

forward. We are hoping to have further updates soon.

I don't have to tell anyone of the ongoing problem we are having City-wide with abandoned, **condemned and derelict structures**, which is estimated to be about 4,000. We are fortunate in Ward 8, for, we don't have the sheer volume that other neighborhoods have. Nonetheless, if one affects your family, it is of great concern. I am committed to working with our partners to rid our community of these eyesores and safety hazards. We are all hoping that with the latest commitment of Federal dollars ("the American Rescue Plan") into the city that we can use a portion of these funds for the removal of blight. Let us hope that is the case.

We are also looking at all of our parks, playgrounds and recreation facilities and how they can be upgraded and improved, as well. Believe it or not, the **Collinwood Recreation Center** is already ten years old this November. It, too, is in need of some TLC for it is the second heaviest-used recreational facility in the city. In addition, Public Works and the Mayor's Office of Capital Projects, are finalizing the list of "F" rated **streets for resurfacing** in the city. Unfortunately, the funds being allocated are nowhere near the need to address the problem. It is estimated that each ward has at least \$12 million of needed resurfacing while approximately \$700,000 per ward was allocated by the City Administration.

**Crime and public safety continue to be the Number One issue in the city.** As I have stated publicly, we do not have enough police in basic patrol and community policing, like we once had, is virtually non-existent. I have no idea, at this point, as to who will be running for Mayor; however, this must be the number one priority of any new administration if we are to maintain neighborhood stability and make our streets safe for all.

On that note, as I have stated publicly, after talking to my family, neighbors and supporters, **I will be seeking re-election as Councilman of Cleveland's 8th Ward.** We have far too many projects and initiatives in the pipeline for me to leave at this time. With Council ward redistricting facing us, once again, I could not take the chance that Ward 8 could be cut up drastically. I look forward to seeing you all in person this summer and beyond.

As always, I may be reached through the office at 216-664-4236 or via email at [mpolensek@clevelandcitycouncil.org](mailto:mpolensek@clevelandcitycouncil.org).

Sincerely yours,

**Room to GROW**

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**SEED LIBRARY PROGRAM**

*Begins: March 22nd  
Ends: September 17th*

**Under the CPL Umbrella there is ALWAYS...**

**Collinwood Branch Manager:**  
Caroline Peak  
Email: [cpl-collwd@cpl.org](mailto:cpl-collwd@cpl.org)

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*\*Starting in May\**

**More info:**  
**Collinwood Branch - (216) 623 - 6934**

**CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY**

# What's been happening at the LaSalle?

By Lauren Calevich, LaSalle Theatre Venue Manager

**While it's been quiet on the event front at the LaSalle Theatre due to the winter weather and COVID precautions, behind the scenes things are busy, busy, busy. Here's a quick look into what we've been up to.**

Built in 1927, the LaSalle Theatre has a rich history and has served as an anchor in the greater Cleveland community. To commemorate the LaSalle's past and celebrate its future, a lobby gallery is being curated. This artistic showcase will be a collection of historical photos and memorabilia from its former days as a movie house and staple in the north Collinwood area. Ranging from a local artist's painting of the facility and original advertisements, to past photographs and film posters of movies shown, the display will allow guests to envision what the LaSalle Theatre building was like in its previous years. It will also include a custom designed art piece that will commemorate those who donated to the LaSalle's renovations in 2016. NSDC Board President Caroline Peak is reaching out to the brick and bulb donors from several years back to confirm their recognition in the piece. If you have any photographs or memorabilia from the LaSalle, please email [lasallecle@gmail.com](mailto:lasallecle@gmail.com) so that we can discuss inclusion in the display.

We are about to embark on the final two, and albeit, the biggest elements of LaSalle's Phase II improvements. **Thanks to the generous and unrelenting support of Councilman Mike Polensek, the plans for a commercial kitchen at the LaSalle are moving full steam ahead.** This kitchen will allow caterers to prepare food onsite and will increase our capacity for full scale events. The goal is also for this to serve as a community access kitchen for small food businesses during non-event hours. We have secured the necessary city permitting and are hammering out final design details with our architect and contractor and hope to kickoff construction in the spring.

**Last but certainly not least – the LaSalle parking lot is about to get a huge facelift!** Thanks to a Green Infrastructure Grant that was awarded from the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, our gravel lot will soon be transformed and allow visitors to park safely and close to the LaSalle building. Construction is slated to start the week of March 8th and is anticipated to be completed sometime in June.

**It's almost wedding season and with so many cancellations in 2020, the industry is gearing up for a busy spring, summer, and fall.** At the end of February, the LaSalle Theatre had the great privilege of hosting a stylized wedding photoshoot with industry vendors from all over northeast Ohio. This shoot captured the unique flexibility of the LaSalle and showcased different styles that can be achieved in our space. Professional models in wedding fashions complete with hair and makeup, gorgeous florals and décor, custom-selected furniture to highlight our building's features, three



**SAVE THE DATE**

**Sunday, June 13th, 12:00-2:00pm**

**COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE**

SPONSORED BY GREATER COLLINWOOD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION & COUNCILMAN POLENSEK

different photographers and a videographer, and yes, even a real wedding cake! Spearheaded by wedding planner extraordinaire, Maria Kovacevich of Elegant Events by Maria, these photos and video will be featured by Today's Bride in the coming months. Once available, photos will also be shared on the LaSalle Theatre's social media platforms and website.

We're getting down to business with full occupancy in our commercial storefronts! Sweet Bean Chocolate Studio is now up and running in the corner unit closest to Kildeer Ave., and if you haven't checked it out yet, be sure to do so soon. Their hand-painted, filled bonbons are ALMOST too beautiful to eat! Just next door, **Humphrey Popcorn Company has set up a "pop-up shop"** where you can get their delicious treats, including their famous Baker's Whips. Humphrey's temporary shop will be at the LaSalle through Easter. Lastly, we are thrilled to announce that our southernmost storefront will soon be the new home of Pretty Things Salon! Christina Akita and Cate Patton have over 20 years of combined experience in the salon industry and have built an extensive customer base at their northern East 185th shop. Be on the lookout for more information on Pretty Things' move to the LaSalle and their grand opening!

By the late summer or early fall, the LaSalle Theatre hopes to host a big open house so that friends of the LaSalle can view all of these wonderful improvements and additions in person. Updates, information, and invitations will be shared on the LaSalle Theatre's Facebook and Instagram pages, website, and through community platforms such as the Collinwood Observer and the Councilman's and Greater Collinwood Development Corporation's newsletters.



@LaSalleTheatreCLE

[www.lasallecle.com](http://www.lasallecle.com)



@LaSalleTheatre



## Food Bank Continued

about expansion plans for several years and it became more pressing last year after a record number of people, in the six counties the Foodbank serves, who needed help after the pandemic hit. The agency is close to outgrowing its current 128,000 square-foot building, which staff moved into in 2005.

The new warehouse building will have **more space for storage and refrigeration as well as freezer space and a state-of-the-art kitchen for food preparation.** There will also be additional space for volunteers to repack food for distribution. The new facility will also have multiple docks and specified areas for people and vendors to drop off food. There will be some offices in the new building for

administrative activities.

**The plan is to have the new warehouse open by the Summer of 2022.** They then will renovate the South Waterloo Road headquarters for additional client services, complete with a food pantry set up like a grocery store where families can pick out healthy food items.

The FoodBank looked at over 10 sites in the City of Cleveland to construct this new warehouse. After extensive research they determined that the best place to build new was in their home community of Collinwood and Glenville.

We wish them all the best and thank them for their commitment to the health and welfare of our citizens who need that extra help.

## 2021 Deadline is May 16 for Patrol Officer Positions



**Join the our team and make a difference in Cleveland neighborhoods!**

[www.ClevelandOhio.gov/Jobs](http://www.ClevelandOhio.gov/Jobs)



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# The Ward 8 Citizen

COUNCILMAN

## MICHAEL D. POLENSSEK



**City Council Office:**  
601 Lakeside Avenue, Room 220  
Cleveland, OH 44114  
**Phone:** 216-664-4236  
**Fax:** 216-664-3837  
**Email:**  
mpolensek@clevelandcitycouncil.org

Visit [www.ClevelandCityCouncil.org](http://www.ClevelandCityCouncil.org)

## DIAL-A-NUMBER

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
CityHall(alldepartments) .....	664-2000
Mayor's Action Center .....	664-2900
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 (dogged) .....	664-2513
Street Light Outages (C/P) .....	621-5483
Traffic Signs Down & Missing .....	420-8282
Tree Trimming/Removal .....	664-3104
Waste Collection Issues .....	664-2397
Water Department (leaks, hydrants) .....	664-3060

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

## City of Cleveland Exterior Paint Program Returns

The City of Cleveland invites residents to take advantage of its 2021 Exterior Paint Program. **Applications must be received by April 30, 2021.**

The Exterior Paint Program provides paint and materials to homeowners who wish to paint the exterior of their homes. Labor is not included. The goal for 2021 is 500 homes with a total allocation of \$500,000 for the program. Homeowners, as well as tenants, who meet income guidelines, are welcome to apply for the program. **Funds cover the cost of up to \$1,500 for owner occupants or up to \$750 for tenants in paint and materials**, though restrictions do apply. Inspections of the property must also be conducted. Painting must be completed by Oct. 31, 2021.



The Department of Community Development's Division of Neighborhood Services administers services on a first-come, first-served basis. Interested Cleveland residents can obtain applications by calling 216-664-2045.

### EXTERIOR PAINT PROGRAM INCOME GUIDELINES

FAMILY SIZE	INCOME LEVEL	FAMILY SIZE	INCOME LEVEL
1	\$51,600	5	\$79,600
2	\$59,000	6	\$85,500
3	\$66,350	7	\$91,400
4	\$73,700	8	\$97,300

## Registration Now Open for Neighborhood Resource & Recreation Center (NRRC) Spring 2021 Programs

*More NRRC Programs will Return this Summer*

Registration is now open for CLE's NRRC Spring 2021 programs. In an effort to offer high-quality, interactive programming during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Division of Recreation has designed a **new model for the delivery of program offerings that include virtual programming and limited in-person 10-week programs and activities available in NRRCs.** The number of in-person programming will be limited to allow for social distancing and to ensure adherence to mass gathering guidelines prescribed by the CDC and the Ohio Department of Health. Please be certain to carefully review the New Health and Safety Measures for NRRC Guests section of the guide. Click here to view the Spring 2021 Program Guide. **Registration is available in person or online at [www.clevelandohio.gov/NRRCactivities](http://www.clevelandohio.gov/NRRCactivities).**



**Collinwood Recreation Center**  
16300 Lakeshore Blvd. • Call 216-420-8323 for Details  
**PROGRAMS INCLUDE:**  
*After School Cafe (Tutoring, Homework Assistance, Sports & Comm. Service Projects)*  
*STEM Workshops • Majorette Dance • America Scores Soccer & Service Aquatics • Basketball Skills & Drills • Special Senior Programming*

Additionally, the City of Cleveland plans to open several recreation programs for the summer, including city pools, parks, camps, basketball courts and team sports. The City will provide additional details on the

summer programs in the coming weeks. **Class sizes for all NRRC programs are limited and early registration is advised. All programs are free.**

## UPCOMING Bulk Pick Up Weeks & Holiday Collection Delays

**DIVISION OF WASTE**  
216-664-3711  
[www.cleveland-oh.gov](http://www.cleveland-oh.gov)

**MAY** One day delayed collection

**JUNE** Holiday with regular pickup

**MAY**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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<b>B</b>	2	3	4	5	6	7
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May 31<sup>st</sup> - Memorial Day  
1 day delay all week

**JUNE**

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**JULY**

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	28	29	30	31		

July 4<sup>th</sup> - Independence Day  
No delay in collection

**AUGUST**

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	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>B</b>	7	8	9	10	11	12
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