

Keeping you informed about our neighborhood!

The Ward 8 Citizen

Michael D. Polensek • Councilman, Ward 8 | Winter 2020-21 | www.ClevelandCityCouncil.org



A MESSAGE from your Councilman Mike Polensek

This is my last newsletter of 2020 and it is hard for me to even express where we have been throughout this year as we head into the Holidays. We are in the throes of a pandemic and this year seems to be ending the same as we saw in late February; a year which has affected all of us in far too many ways. Regardless, it is hard to digest what we have been through as a city, a state and a country. I, like most, would like to forget 2020. Unfortunately, we cannot.

When the first death in the country, due to Covid-19, was reported in February who would have believed that nine months later we would be on the brink of a worsening pandemic and becoming more deadly each day. Who would have thought that over 13.8 million Americans would have been affected and we would be approaching 300,000 deaths. I certainly would never have imagined having members of my own family dealing with this menace. **So, it goes without saying, please social distance, wear a mask, wash your hands frequently and pay attention to future announcements**

"I don't like wearing a mask, but I do so because I believe it is my patriotic duty to do so to protect my fellow citizens, family and friends."

coming from State, County and the City Health agencies and officials.

I want to restate, I don't like wearing a mask, but I do so because I believe it is my patriotic duty to do so to protect my fellow citizens, family and friends. I find it troubling, and just plain stupid, that social distancing and wearing of a mask to help curb the pandemic has become so toxic in our country. In 2020, let's pay attention to the health experts and those who are knowledgeable rather than those who would divide us by using the pandemic as a political battering ram. I want to remind everyone, we don't live in "Blue States" or "Red States" but in the United States, and it is time that we

all come together to understand that it is for our own best interest. We cannot let any one person, group or organization divide us by ethnicity, race, gender, or, political or religious affiliation.

Speaking of divisive politics, what can I say about this last Presidential Election. We have never seen anything like it. I thought after election day, despite the results, that the division would cease. I was wrong in believing that. **Let's hope as we go into the new year that Americans will come together, put our differences aside and work for the best interests of the country. That's my hope**

Continued on page 3

Joseph Purpura is Ward 8's *Senior of the Year*

Joseph Anthony Purpura is proud to call Collinwood his home for 88 years.

His parents, Joe and Nancy, instilled in him and his brother John the importance of family and now most of them live next door, down the street, or around the corner.

Joe attended Holy Redeemer School and Collinwood High School. After graduation he enlisted in the United States Air Force and worked as a radio operator during the Korean War. After his discharge from the Air Force, he returned home and married his love Marietta. They had 3 children Deana, Patti, and Nicolas.

He worked for a short time at Graphite Bronze and then enrolled at Case Western Reserve University to study Interior Design. He brought his artistic talents to many of Cleveland's most prestigious homes with his work at Winograd Company and King Interiors.



Joe is a very active parishioner of Holy Redeemer Church, beautifully decorating for Easter and Christmas Celebrations. He has been a choir member for over 50 years.

In 1995 he joined Fr. James Grandillo and Father Martin Polito to transform the former I.C.A. Hall (St. Clair Avenue) into Redeemer on the Avenue. His dedication and talent created a beautiful venue.

When not working at the hall, Mr. Purpura enjoys spending time with family, attending plays at Playhouse Square, playing cards, traveling and participating in the Holy Redeemer Senior Group and the Collinwood Homeowner Association meetings. Councilman Polensek says, "Joe's faith in God, love of family, and pride in his neighborhood shows in all that he does."

Joe's advice on how to "make your mark" in your community: "love thy neighbor and treat them like you would treat yourself."



GCDC Call for Banner Design

by Greater Collinwood Development Corporation

Do you have an EXCITING idea for banner design that captures the heart and spirit of Collinwood? Greater Collinwood Development Corporation is currently seeking graphic design submissions from Greater Cleveland artists whose work will be unveiled at the Five Pointe Intersection Streetscape Project Summer 2021.

Your design could be featured on forty 30"x70" placemaking pole banners at the intersection of St. Clair Ave., East 152nd St. and Ivanhoe Rd. One selected artist will receive a \$450 award for their work and a celebration to commemorate the placemaking effort.

Submissions are open until January 8, 2021 at 4:00 pm.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Krystal Sierra, GCDC Economic Development Specialist
Email: ksierra@greatercollinwood.org

WINTER SNOW PLAN FOR CITY STREETS

Plowing is provided to primary and main secondary streets throughout the city. Service is directed first at main streets until they are passable, then service is redirected to residential streets as soon as possible.

As soon as snow plow drivers report road conditions, supervisors direct trucks accordingly. The goal is to plow all streets within 24 to 72 hours after a major snow event depending on the actual amount of snow fall and weather conditions.

Residents should find OFF STREET PARKING in advance of snow plows coming down the street; for cars and vehicles which have not moved, pose a serious hazard to traffic and make it difficult to clear the roadway. For abandoned or snowed-in cars on your street call 216-623-5505 and provide as much information as possible to the Fifth District Police. For more information or to report hazardous road and snow conditions please call Snowbird at 216-664-2510.



SUPPORT your Local BUSINESSES

Unfortunately, many community festivals and events were cancelled this year due to Covid-19. Ward 8 shops and restaurants, however are still open for business.

Be sure to patronize local businesses and stay safe!

UPCOMING Community Meetings



FOR THE WELL-BEING OF THE PUBLIC, community meetings are cancelled until further notice.

Residents our strongly encouraged to:

- ▶ Stay at home when possible. But when you go out, make sure to support local businesses and restaurants and respect social distancing.
- ▶ Clean your hands often with soap and water or hand sanitizer.
- ▶ Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.
- ▶ Cover your mouth and nose with a mask when around others! On July 3, 2020, Mayor Jackson signed an amended order mandating the use of masks in public in the City of Cleveland to slow the spread of the highly contagious coronavirus. This includes mandatory use in bars, restaurants, shared office settings, rideshares and other shared spaces.

Questions? Contact the office of Councilman Polensek at 664-4236.

Watch Council Meetings Online



In spite of these trying times, the work of Cleveland City Council continues.

Council has been meeting electronically with virtual public hearings and legislative sessions.

Go to www.clevelandcitycouncil.org/calendar to find listings of upcoming committee meetings.

You Tube WATCH (LIVE & RECORDED)
www.youtube.com/user/ClevelandCityCouncil

TV 20 WATCH (LIVE)
www.tv20cleveland.com/watch-now/

Councilman Polensek serves on the following council committees: Safety (Vice Chair), Utilities and Rules

Dedicated Senior Medical Center comes to Collinwood

Dedicated Senior Medical Center had its grand opening celebration in August. **The Center is a family-owned primary and specialty care practice committed to delivering superior healthcare to Medicare-eligible seniors. They are located at the old Rite-Aid Building: 15105 St Clair Avenue at Five Pointes.**

At Dedicated Senior Medical Center, Primary Care Physicians (PCPs) are the captains of your healthcare team. They will see you once a month and oversee all aspects of your healthcare needs, whether you are sick or well. Your PCP will monitor your health and medications, order your on-site tests and screenings, and coordinate your care with all your specialists. They will keep all your doctors informed and on the same page, so you do not have to. By coordinating all aspects of your healthcare, they can keep you in the best possible health. Some of the on-site services they offer are:

- Primary Care
- Onsite Diagnostic Testing
- Medications Provided On-site
- Door-to-Doctor Transportation Available



- LifeCard
- Acupuncture

PHONE 216-800-8020

HOURS 7:30 am - 5:00 pm, Mon-Fri

www.dedicated.care/find-a-location/cleveland-ohio/collinwood



A Message from **TERRENCE UPCHURCH**

State Representative, Ohio House District 10

COVID-19 Assistance Information

UTILITY & RENTAL ASSISTANCE - This program will help eligible residents in need of assistance paying sewer, water, wastewater, electric, and gas utilities. Applicants must meet the eligibility criteria of:

- Being at or below 120 percent of Median Household Income (MHI).
- Have been impacted by COVID-19, such as the loss of income, childcare needs, or illness.

The program will run November 11, 2020 through December 30, 2020. For questions or help applying, call 833-377-7368 or visit <https://www.tfaforms.com/4816062> to apply!

ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE - Additional funds are available through the Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland (CEOGC) to Cuyahoga County residents who are at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. Residents struggling to pay bills, including sewer, stormwater, and water are encouraged to apply. Applications must be approved by December 31, 2020. To apply or learn more, please visit ceogc.org/covid-19-emergency-assistance/ or call 216-370-3480.

More Information can be found at: <https://www.neorsd.org/customers-service-page/need-help-paying-utility-bills-covid-19-relief-available-for-limited-time/>

Terrence Upchurch • State Representative - 10th House District

Office: 614-466-7954 • **Email:** Terrence.Upchurch@ohiohouse.gov

Greater Collinwood Hosts Annual Meeting

by Greater Collinwood Development Corporation

Greater Collinwood Development Corporation hosted its first annual meeting live on Facebook, November 19, 2020 and via Zoom. The development corporation introduced its board and staff to the Collinwood community and presented its history, mission, plans and accomplishments for 2020-2021 fiscal year.

GCDC invited residents, business owners, stakeholders and GCDC partners to attend via Zoom and live-streamed the meeting via Facebook to reach a wider audience. Accomplishments shared during the annual meeting included housing and real estate development, business and workforce development, civic engagement, community



engagement, Covid-19 response, placemaking efforts and neighborhood planning.

A recording of the Greater Collinwood 2020 Annual Meeting can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/greatercollinwood>. Greater Collinwood Development Corporation board and staff thanks the community and stakeholders for joining and participating in GCDC's first annual meeting and look forward to seeing you again next year.

Message Continued

and prayer.

As of this writing, the City's Civil Emergency has been extended by the Mayor to December 31st. This affects mass gatherings and access to public facilities and obviously affects businesses, as well. Each day has been a learning experience and only time will tell about what further restrictions will be placed upon us and our businesses as we go into next year. **Please, when you go out to shop or eat support our local businesses who have been severely hurt by the shutdown or lack of business.**

It goes without saying that if a vaccine and cure is not available, widespread and as soon as possible, who is to say what we could experience during the first quarter of the year and beyond. So, I, like you, will be paying great attention to any and all future public announcements.

Even though the virus has affected us in a big way, work goes on in the ward and projects continue to proceed. On that note, we are finally in the homestretch of the East 185 Street/Marcella Road Storm Sewer Project. I don't have to tell anyone who have tried to navigate East 185th Street for all of this year as to what a challenge this has been. I personally have looked upon it like having to undergo root canal; painful but necessary. This \$15 million project was wholly intended to address the ongoing basement flooding we have experienced for years along the entire East 185th Street corridor and adjacent streets. I wish to thank all of the residents and merchants for their patience, understanding and support during this project. I also wish to thank the Administration and my colleagues in Council for their support of this project. By the way, this has been the most expensive WPC neighborhood project to date. It goes without saying, I am committed to addressing the infrastructure concerns and problems throughout our ward. In addition, I am working with the Greater Collinwood Development Corporation along with Councilman Hairston (Ward 10) on a streetscape and beautification project for Five Pointes at St. Clair Avenue, East 152 Street and Ivanhoe Road.

Five Pointes is the heart of the greater Collinwood community and what symbolizes this area more than anything else is the historic Collinwood High School (CHS). As a result of all the hard work as a result of the passage of Issue 68, we now look forward to moving the re-imagining of CHS forward with the hope of creating a true career center on this campus. More information will be forthcoming.

The conversion of the landmarked Henry W. Longfellow School, on East 140 Street at Darley Avenue, into a state-of-the-art Senior Citizens Housing Complex is, once again, moving forward. This project was delayed by the pandemic. Final funding has been approved by the State and we now anticipate an official groundbreaking sometime in late Spring. This is a project that is very dear to me, for my family lived on Darley Avenue for years and I know firsthand how much the school meant to that entire neighborhood. It now will have a new life servicing perhaps some of those who once attended school there.

Another institution of which I am passionate about is the Greater Cleveland FoodBank. Last week they announced, after more than a year of planning and discussions, their plans for a \$40 million facility renovation and expansion which includes the repurposing of their current facility on S. Waterloo Road and the new construction of a new 126,000 square foot warehouse and distribution center on 18 acres on Coit Road in Ward 8 adjacent to the Cleveland Job Corps. This project will hopefully reenergize the entire Coit Road/Kirby Avenue Industrial area. Years ago, when I supplied ward funds toward

the construction of their present building, I could never had imagined the role this facility would play in the lives of so many families and support so many non-profit organizations. The demand placed upon them this year alone has been incredible. I have seen this first hand while volunteering at their food distribution programs. I am working with their Staff and Board to make this expansion a reality and they are planning a groundbreaking in 2021, if everything goes according to plan.

“Let's all recommit to keeping Ward 8 the safest community on Cleveland's east side.”

We are also looking at a host of other initiatives and projects in the Ward 8 community including in the East Glenville neighborhood and the St. Clair Avenue Corridor including the continued demolition of condemned and hazardous structures in partnership with GCDC. We are working with them on a whole host of initiatives and projects. See the GCDC website for additional information.

I don't have to tell anyone how important public safety has been during this pandemic. Nationally, there has been an increase in crime and violent behavior and Cleveland has not been immune. **I want to make it perfectly clear to all, as I have stated before, that to defund the police and to vilify members of Law Enforcement is not the answer and I refuse to endorse those ill-conceived thoughts and proposals.** What I hear daily from residents of Ward 8 is that they want more police officers on the street not less, real community policing and a Department that is accountable, professionally managed and one that is reflective of the City's diverse ethnic and racial populations. Criminals have taken advantage of the pandemic; there is no doubt about that. On the other hand, we as concerned citizens, must look out for each other more than ever before. As it has been repeatedly said by our Commander, Sammy Morris, of the 5th District, if you see something, say something. The greatest deterrent to crime and violence, besides our “men and women in blue,” who protect us daily, is a concerned and engaged citizenry. Let's all recommit to keeping Ward 8 the safest community on Cleveland's east side.

Finally, I wish to thank all of you who have been engaged in our community along with all the churches, groups and organizations who have gone above the “call and duty” in responding to the needs of the community during these difficult times. I look forward to working with all of you throughout 2020 and beyond.

Please, do not forget the businesses in the community or the institutions and/or the organizations which serve this community. During this time of giving, remember these in your generosity and patronage. They cannot do what they do if the rest of us do not support them.

As always, I may be reached via the office at 216-664-4236 or via email at mpolensek@clevelandcitycouncil.org.

On behalf of myself, my Staff and my family, I wish you and yours a Blessed Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah and a joyous Kwanzaa. May the new year bring prosperity and good health to all. God bless you and your family and God Bless America.

Sincerely yours,

PARKING CONCERNS



For some unknown reason during this pandemic, a number of folks in our ward have taken to parking cars on their front lawns, sidewalks, or tree lawns, as well as adjacent vacant lots. PLEASE BE ADVISED - THIS IS ILLEGAL!

A ticket can be issued for \$150 by CPD for violation and parking within the setback. In addition, your vehicle could be towed if it is parked on a city or county landbank lot.

Addresses and locations where this is occurring may be turned into the 5th District Commander's Office at (216) 623-5505. Or, you can always call the non-emergency Police Dispatch Radio at 216-621-1234.

This practice is UNACCEPTABLE in Ward 8 and quite frankly, it greatly distracts from the appearance of our community. Violators should be warned.

Cleveland Public Library News

Due to the recent increase in COVID-19 cases across the county, Cleveland Public Library is making changes to protect staff and visitors. **As of November 21, 2020, all Library buildings will close to the public until further notice. Curbside and walk-up services will still be available.**



Our neighborhood locations:

Memorial-Nottingham

17109 Lake Shore Blvd • Ph: 216-623-6934
Monday – Saturday, 10 am – 6 pm

Collinwood Branch

856 East 152nd St • Ph: 216-623-6934
Monday – Saturday, 10 am – 6 pm

Glenville Branch

11900 St. Clair Ave • Ph: 216-623-6983
Monday – Saturday, 10 am – 6 pm

Ohio Library for the Blind & Physically Disabled

6901 Superior Ave • Ph: 216-623-2911
Monday – Friday, 9 am – 5 pm

Visit cpl.org for up-to-date information.

PRESORT STD.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CLEVELAND, OH
PERMIT NO. 2893



GOLD WEATHER SAFETY TIPS



CITY OF CLEVELAND
Mayor Frank G. Jackson

- Older people are more susceptible to getting frostbite and hypothermia (a drop in body temperature) and this can cause illness.
- Stay inside as much as possible. If you have to go out cover all exposed areas. Wear warm footwear and dress in layers. Wear a hat and gloves and cover your mouth to avoid getting cold air in your lungs.
- Keep a list of emergency phone numbers next to your phone.
- Check your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors to be sure they are in working order.
- If you are using a space heater keep it at least 3 feet from furniture and draperies. Heaters that use liquid fuel, if faulty, may cause carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Be sure to check with a doctor before shoveling snow if you have heart problems and/or don't exercise regularly.
- Replace rubber tips on canes, walkers, and crutches. Home health care stores sell "ice picks" that fit on the ends of canes and walkers to provide extra traction.
- Understand your prescription drugs. Be aware that some medicines make people more susceptible to cold. Ask your doctor if you should be taking extra precautions.
- Have chimneys, furnaces and flues checked before using them.
- Wrap inside pipes with insulation to keep them from freezing.
- Make sure to have extra food, blankets and water available along with a flashlight and extra batteries.
- Call your friends and check on them and have a friend or loved one check on you.

Call the Cleveland Department of Aging at 216-664-2833 to receive a copy of the Winter

Resource Guide of home heating assistance programs available to qualifying Cleveland residents. Or you can go to our website www.city.cleveland.oh.us/CityofCleveland/Home.

The Ward 8 Citizen

COUNCILMAN

MICHAEL D. POLENSEK



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

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 (CP)	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**

NORTHEAST OHIO RENT HELP

IF YOU'RE HAVING TROUBLE MAKING YOUR
RENT PAYMENTS DUE TO COVID-19,
WE MAY BE ABLE TO HELP YOU.

**833-377-RENT (7368)
NEORENTHHELP.ORG**

 CHN
Housing Partners

 EDEN

FUNDED BY:



Five Pointe Community Center
SPONSORED BY Greater Collinwood Development Corporation

PANTRY/FOOD GIVE-AWAY
Last Thursday of the Month
1:30 pm - Lower level; MUST have ID
PRODUCE GIVE-AWAY
Every 2nd Wednesday • Next Date: Dec 9th
2:00 pm; MUST have ID

LOCATION: 813 East 152nd Street • For details call 216-268-2138