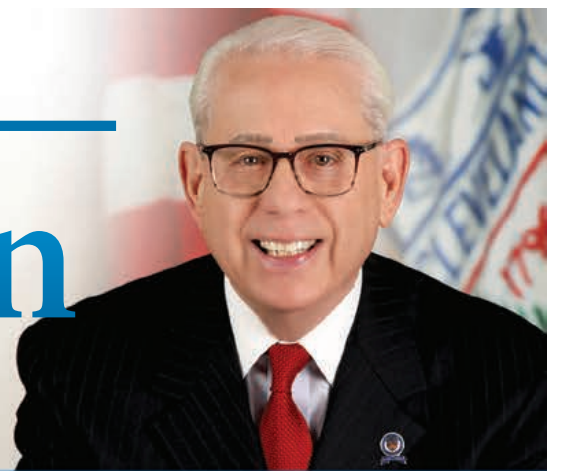


Keeping you informed about our neighborhood!

# The Ward 8 Citizen

Michael D. Polensek • Councilman, Ward 8 | Fall 2025



## A MESSAGE from your Councilman Michael D. Polensek

### I hope everyone had a great Summer.

A lot has transpired since my last newsletter, and a lot is going on in the community, too. I want to bring everyone up to speed on projects, initiatives, and happenings in the greater community.

I don't have to tell anyone that, as a result of what is happening in Columbus and Washington in regard to State and Federal cutbacks and potential impacts on city funding, the city faces many challenges. Fortunately, as of now, we still have a balanced budget. If the economy holds, we should be able to complete and/or start a wide variety of projects in our community. Let me update you about what the community organizations, leaders, and my office have been working on so far.

**The acquisition and abatement work of the 28-acres of the former Euclid Beach Mobile Home Park (EBMHP) is well underway.** I wish to thank the non-profit Western Reserve Land Conservancy for their expertise and the support they gave to the former tenants during this process. The property was transferred to the Cleveland Metroparks September 4th. Community engagement and planning will begin soon on how to incorporate the property into the Euclid Beach, Villa Angela Beach, and Wildwood lakefront parks.

**Discussions are ongoing with the Cleveland Public Library about the future of the Memorial Nottingham Branch,** specifically whether the facility should be renovated or a new branch constructed in the general area. The Library is waiting to see how the Metropark's will design the former



mobile home park property before any further decisions are made. Of course, I have insisted that the community be engaged in any future planning. We are still waiting on final decisions as to plans for expansion and improvements of the Collinwood Branch CPL, as previously discussed.

**The historic Euclid Beach Arch** has been moved to the former McDonald's property next door for its protection. The site will now be known as the Euclid Beach Arch Park. The Arch will be restored to its historic look, complete with lighting. East 159th Street is being completely rebuilt at the adjacent property owners' expense and will be renamed Euclid Beach Boulevard.

As we did for Waterloo Road, East

**We still face significant challenges, including absentee landlords, crime and public safety issues... So, here's my challenge to you all. Become believers who will commit to making our community the best it can be.**

*Councilman Polensek, members of the Cleveland Division of Fire command staff, and Local 93 members at a press conference on August 5. Councilman Polensek is the Chair of Council's Safety Committee.*

185th Street, and East 140th Street, **we are working to reimagine Lakeshore Boulevard and are nearly ready to enter into a development/option agreement with a major developer for the former Dave's and Ponderosa properties.** This has been a long time coming, and I appreciate the Department of Economic Development's engagement in this process. There will be further announcements soon.

The final piece of legislation was passed by Council, creating the **\$14 million Euclid Beach Connector project**, running along the lakefront from the Euclid Beach Pier to approximately East 151st Street at Shore

*Continued on page 2*

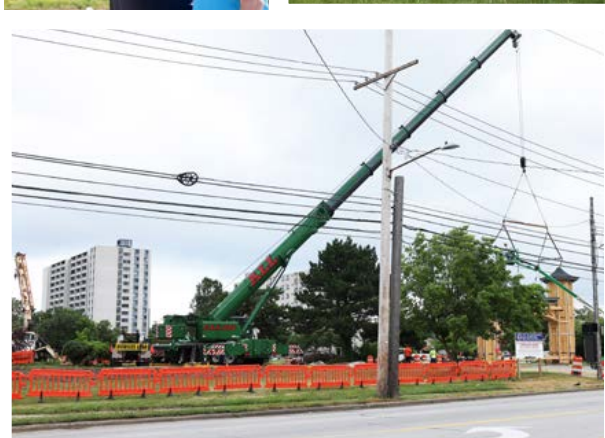
## Historic Euclid Beach Arch Relocation and Renovation



On July 17, Councilman Polensek joined crews as they relocated the historic Euclid Beach Arch Park from its longtime home on East 159th Street to a new site on Lakeshore Boulevard, approximately 150 feet away, at the location of a former McDonald's. The area will become the future Euclid Beach Arch Park.

"This is a dream come true," said Councilman Polensek, whose Ward 8 includes the park. "I've been working on this for a long, long time, and finally the stars have lined up."

**The cost to move and preserve this iconic Collinwood landmark is approximately \$800,000,** funded through the City of Cleveland's capital bond funds.





Message Continued

Acres. This connector will not only provide greater public access for pedestrians and cyclists but also address the growing erosion problems along the lakefront. This project is anticipated to go out for bid shortly.

**The Euclid Creek/Euclid Beach bike and pedestrian connector should begin next year.** This path is planned to run down Chardon Road to St Clair Avenue and then meander to Lakeshore Boulevard. This has been in the works for a long time, and now it is about to become a reality.

**I have allocated funding for additional repairs at the Collinwood Recreation Center,** including replacing outdated fitness equipment for the Exercise Room and a brand-new commercial refrigerator for the kitchen. The new playground behind the Center was completed earlier this year. We are finalizing **a new master plan for Humphrey Sports Complex,** which will include pickleball courts and a new soccer field.

**The renovation of Neff Park and Playground** should be completed by the end of summer. Once completed, it will have a new ball diamond, parking lot, walking track, and pickleball courts. Thanks to all the parkgoers for your patience during construction.

As many of you know, we are one of the few neighborhoods that has a park dedicated in honor of our community’s Veterans. Located at East 174th Street and Nottingham Road, **Veterans Park** is slated for the placement of additional memorials to honor the young men from the Waterloo area and the 184 young men and 1 woman from Collinwood High School who paid the ultimate sacrifice during WWII. The Waterloo memorial will be relocated to Veterans Park, and a new stone is being created to honor the sacrifice of the alumni of Collinwood High School. A dedication ceremony will be announced at a future date. We should never forget those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

Speaking of parks, **a pocket park with a new gazebo will be installed at the corner of Westropp Avenue and East 152nd Street,** directly across from Raddell’s Sausage Shop. This will complement Meadow City’s investment in our community. Good news!

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Cleveland is completing **ten new age-in-place homes on Grovewood Avenue at East 164th Street.** I am working with Habitat and other developers who wish to build additional homes in East Glenville and the Collinwood Village neighborhoods. My sincere appreciation to Habitat and those private developers who see our community as a bright spot for new affordable housing. Watch for future announcements.

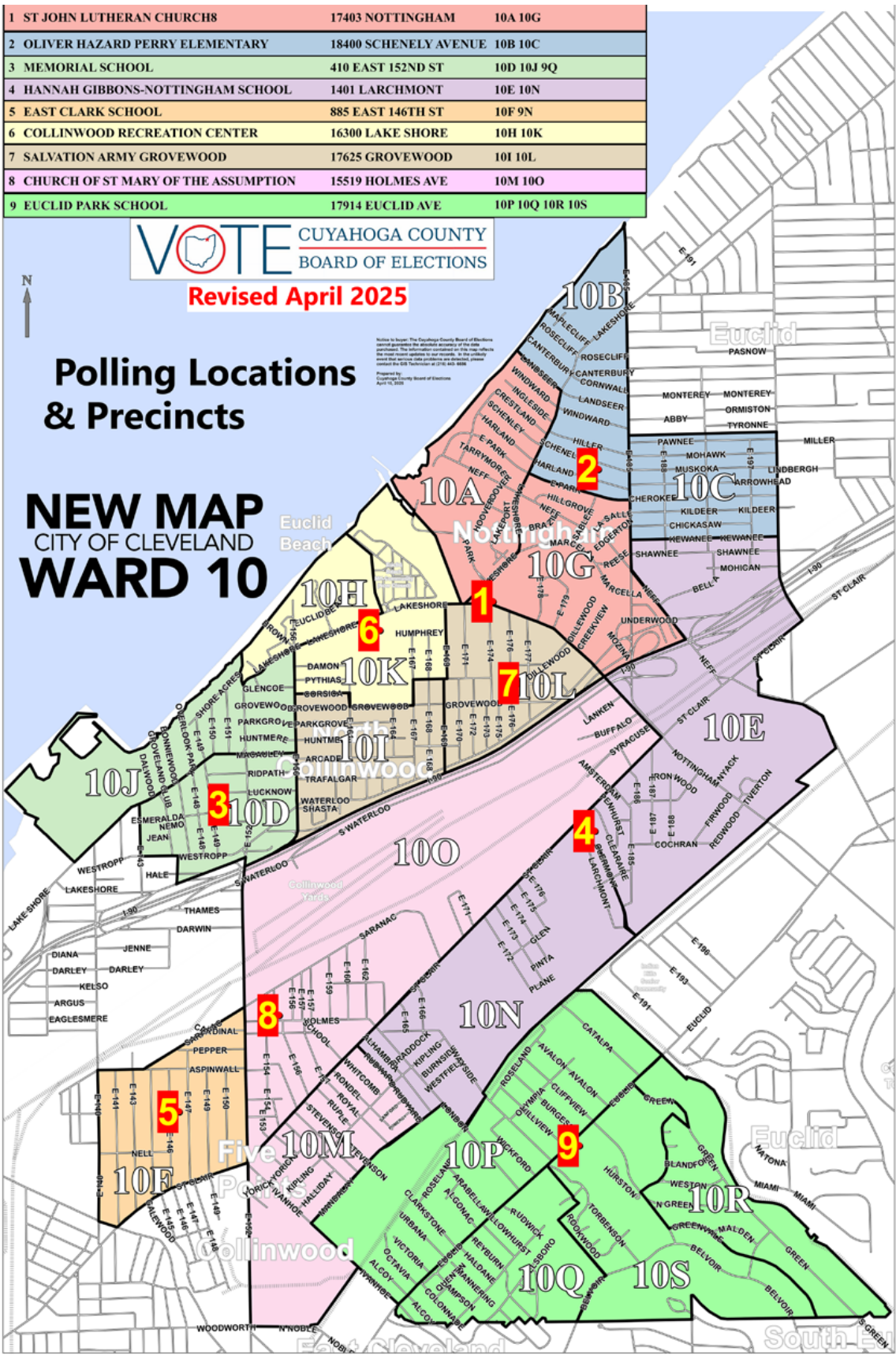
I’d like to thank the **Hospice of the Western Reserve** for their commitment to building their **new \$24 million campus west of Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School.** This is a tremendous investment, and I am working with them now on how to redevelop the remaining 8 acres of the site. Watch for future community engagement on this critical and historic lakefront property.

We all know how important road repair is, so **I am pleased that rebuilding East 140th Street and East 200th Street is in its final stages.** These projects are very important to the viability of the surrounding neighborhood. The long-awaited **Villaview Road project** is underway and will run from East 162nd Street to East 200th Street. I am also working with City Planning on a St. Clair Avenue Safety Plan to address the condition of the road surface and sidewalks, along with growing traffic concerns.

The process of vacating East 166th Street between St. Clair Avenue and Wayside Avenue is underway and will allow Varga-Victor Metals to move from Lake County to the long-vacant Cerro Copper building. This investment in the roadway will help satisfy Varga-Victor’s need for employee and truck parking. This is good news for the Collinwood Village neighborhood. The **\$11 million demolition of the former National Acme in East Glenville on Kirby Avenue at Coit Road is also underway.** The site will be cleaned and prepared for future development. The same will happen with the former GE Lamp Plant site on East 152nd Street, south of St. Clair Avenue, where we are already entertaining development proposals.

**What can I say about the Greater Cleveland Food Bank that I haven’t said before?** I commend them for continuing to serve our greater community despite the numerous Federal and State cutbacks they have experienced this year. I have worked with them from day one and am pleased to announce that Cantenese Seafood—formerly State Fish Cleveland, located in the Flats—has leased 40,000 square feet of space behind the Foodbank’s Resource Center. This means more job opportunities for residents of our community. Thank you, Greater Cleveland Food Bank!

As you can see, we have been working on a lot of projects in the community. I want to thank the community groups and leaders who have



been so helpful to me on these projects. Our work isn’t completed yet. We still face significant challenges, including absentee landlords, crime and public safety issues, as well as the potential impact next year if the Cleveland Municipal School District attempts to close additional schools on Cleveland’s east side. So, here’s my challenge to you all. Become believers who will commit to making our community the best it can be.

With that, as most of you know, due to declining population in the city, **Cleveland City Council will go from 17 to 15 wards starting in January 2026.** As a result, the present Ward 8, which was Ward 11 years ago, will now become the **new Ward 10.** See the enclosed map. As you can see, the new ward runs from Lake Erie south to the borders of the cities of East Cleveland, Euclid, South Euclid, and Cleveland Heights. We will share our Ward’s western border with the new Ward 9, which will consist of eastern Glenville and western Collinwood.

After a great deal of discussions with neighborhood leaders, businesses, and family, I have decided to seek re-election and election to the **new Ward 10** Council seat. I understand all too well that the new ward configuration poses a great personal challenge for me. Nonetheless, I still feel passionate about serving this community, and I felt that with all the projects and initiatives that are finally happening, I could not walk away from my responsibilities.

For me, serving on Council has always been about the neighborhoods. I was born in Glenville on East 120th Street, lived on Darley Avenue, and grew up in the Nottingham neighborhood. My roots are firmly planted on Cleveland’s east side, and I love this community — and the good people who call it home.

This was not an easy decision, but it is the right one. I stand on my record. Please watch for future announcements.

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

Stay healthy and safe. God Bless.

Sincerely yours,  




GREATER CLEVELAND FOOD BANK  
COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER  
15500 South Waterloo Road | Cleveland, OH 44110



In November 2023, the Greater Cleveland Food Bank opened its second location, the Community Resource Center (CRC). Located on the site of the organization’s former headquarters on South Waterloo Road, this renovated facility helps address both the immediate need for nutritious food and the wide-ranging root causes of food insecurity.

In addition to providing a grocery-style Healthy Choice market to help connect eligible neighbors with fresh and nutritious food, the CRC also houses 16 other social service partners. These partners are available to assist neighbors with issues ranging from housing, employment, and healthcare to affordable wireless internet access, senior services, and more. The CRC also offers live, onsite cooking demonstrations and nutrition education to help neighbors learn how to cook healthy meals using fresh ingredients from the market.

In this fiscal year to date, the CRC provided fresh and nutritious food to more than 43,000 unduplicated neighbors and made over 17,000 connections between neighbors and onsite partners.

16 ONSITE PARTNERS

- Benjamin Rose
  - CHN Housing Partners
  - Carmella Rose Health Foundation
  - Cleveland Animal Protective League
  - Cuyahoga Community College
  - Cuyahoga County Department of Health and Human Services
  - DigitalC
- Family Connections
  - Legal Aid Society of Cleveland
  - MAGNET
  - MetroHealth Clinic
  - Ohio Means Jobs
  - Shoes and Clothes for Kids
  - The Diaper Bank of Greater Cleveland
  - Towards Employment
  - United Way 211

To learn more about the CRC, including building and market hours, monthly partner schedules, calendars and volunteer opportunities, scan the QR code below.

Greater Cleveland Food Bank

Need help with food?

Call our Help Center: 216-738-2067

Have you heard about 311?

Your link to city services —just one call or click away

MISSED TRASH PICKUP

POTHOLE

GRAFFITI

HANGING BRANCH

ILLEGAL DUMPING

DAMAGED GUARDRAIL

Whether you’re reporting a pothole, missed trash pickup, or even finding resources like senior programs, 311 is here to make it simple.

311 or 216-664-2000 | [clevelandohio.gov/311](https://clevelandohio.gov/311)



**On June 27, 2025 I lost my best friend, “Lady” girl.** She was a rescue dog out of the City Dog Kennel, a brindle mixed Chow/ Dutch Shephard. She was going on sixteen years of age, and still thought she was a puppy until her back legs gave out. As many know in the neighborhood, she accompanied me to many neighborhood activities, like walks through our neighborhood parks, concerts and community festivals. And she loved swimming in Euclid Creek.

She was one heck of a watch dog and kept all the critters out of my vegetable garden. She never complained, never missed a meal, and above all never asked me for money, although I think I spent more money at the vet on her than I spent on myself. I miss her immensely along with her predecessor, “Spanky.” God willing, I hope to see them both again, someday.

Please take care of your kids, grandkids, and your pets.

Congratulations to Senior of the Year  
Christopher McGrath



Councilman Polensek and Mayor Bibb recognized Cristopher McGrath as Ward 8’s Outstanding Senior at this year’s City of Cleveland Senior Day ceremony.

Born in Cleveland to Philip T. and Marjorie McGrath, Christopher is one of nine children in a family with deep roots in the city. A graduate of St. Joseph High School’s Class of 1969, he has remained a dedicated volunteer there, assisting with fundraising, operations, and substitute teaching. His service earned him a place in the school’s Viking Hall of Fame. He also continues his lifelong commitment to Our Lady of the Lake Parish, where he serves as a Eucharistic Minister.

After briefly pursuing a vocation with the Marianists, Christopher worked on ore boats across the Great Lakes before building a career in sales. Married to his wife Linda since 1979, they have three children and five grandchildren, with one grandson watching over them from heaven.

Whether with family, church, or community, Christopher is, in Councilman Polensek’s words, “the perfect example of an active senior.”



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# The Ward 8 Citizen

COUNCILMAN

MICHAEL D. POLENSEK



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mpolensek@clevelandcitycouncil.org

Visit [www.ClevelandCityCouncil.org](http://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,  
15519 Holmes Ave

Meet in: March, Apr, May, and June;  
Sept., Oct., Nov. and Dec.

### East 185th Street Neighborhood Association

2nd Tuesday of the month\*  
6:00 pm  
Lithuanian Village Hall,  
877 East 185th St

\*Every month except January; July  
meeting at Wildwood Park Pavilion

### Ward Club

2nd Wednesday of the month  
6:00 pm  
Collinwood Recreation Center,  
16300 Lakeshore Blvd

Meet in: Feb, March, Apr, May, and  
June; Sept., Oct., Nov. and Dec.

### 5th District Police Commanders Meeting

3rd Wednesday of the month  
6:00 pm at various locations  
throughout year

### East 156th Street Neighborhood Association

3rd Thursday of the month  
6:00 PM  
Collinwood Recreation Center,  
16300 Lakeshore Blvd

Meet: Year round save for January  
and February. Call to be connected  
to Chairperson.

### Collinwood Community Civic Club

4th Wednesday of the month  
6:00 PM  
The Longfellow Senior Housing  
650 East 140 St at Darley Ave

Meet in: March, Apr, May, and June;  
Sept., Oct., Nov. and Dec.

QUESTIONS? Contact Mary Louise Jessek Daley in Councilman Polensek's office:

PHONE: 216-664-4236 | EMAIL: [mdaley@clevelandcitycouncil.org](mailto:mdaley@clevelandcitycouncil.org)



CITY OF CLEVELAND  
Mayor Justin M. Bibb

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

### OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
<b>B</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
	29	30	31			

### NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
<b>B</b>	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	31

Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> - Thanksgiving Day  
(1) day delay all week

### DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>B</b>	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31					

Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Day  
(1) day delay all week



### WASTE COLLECTION HOLIDAYS

Dial 311 for missed pickup

**ONE DAY DELAYED COLLECTION** for the rest of the week for:

- New Year's Day
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Day

# COLLINWOOD

## Neighborhood Resource & Recreation Center

Location 16300 Lakeshore Blvd | Phone 216-216-8323

Fall 2025 activities and programs are happening now!

Scan the QR Code to view the schedule.

