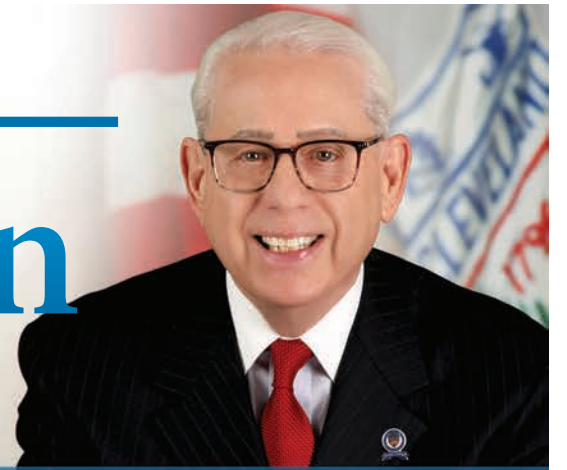


Keeping you informed about our neighborhood!

The Ward 8 Citizen

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



A MESSAGE from your Councilman Michael D. Polensek

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I hope you and yours had a very enjoyable Holiday season. May 2025 bring peace and prosperity to you and yours.

Last year was a very interesting year, to say the least. Not only was the City still dealing with some of the fallout from the pandemic, but as you all know, we elected a new President and a new U.S. Senator with another to be appointed shortly by Gov. DeWine. **Many of us are watching closely as to what Federal, State and County programs could be affected by decisions coming out of Washington.** We will know shortly and I am hoping, like most, that critical programs such as Safety grants, Brownfield abatement, Community Development programs and critical infrastructure funding will not be affected negatively.

My message to my colleagues in City Council, is that we need to make sure that with the upcoming General Fund Budget Hearings, our priorities must be in line with those of our constituents. That means we must make sure the City Administration is focused on "quality of life" issues such as public safety, housing code enforcement, street and road repair, recreation, economic development and, in general, making sure that people's voices are being heard.

Last year was a very productive year to say the least in Ward 8 and 2025 should be no less busy for there are many projects underway or in the pipeline. So, let me address several of the major projects and initiatives.

The East 185th Street streetscape project

The last ward redistricting was a disaster and was specifically designed to rip the eastside apart and to suppress voting... With his leadership, President Griffin has attempted to address and correct the gerrymandering which took place in 2013.

continues. I would be less than honest to say that I am pleased with the overall project, because I am not. This streetscape cost approximately \$25 million which included new water and sewer lines. **I indicated to ODOT District 12, who has been in charge of the project, that they need to hold the contractor and their subs responsible for the ongoing issues we have experienced with the road surface and other deficiencies.** They have assured me that they plan on doing just that. We will see. At least some of the street identification is finally going in.

The East 140th Street project continues and we should see new treelawn areas and other amenities including some new signage installed this year. **East 200th Street should also be completed this year.**

It goes without saying that **the new Longfellow Senior Living complex** on East 140th Street at Darley is now fully occupied. It has received several preservation awards for its design and is now being used as a prototype for other closed public school buildings across the city. This project was very special to me since my grandparents lived on the same street

as the school.

As I have mentioned before, **I sponsored legislation for the complete rebuilding of Villaview Road from East 162nd Street to East 200th Street and engineering work has already begun.** This is a project which has been a long time coming.

The Division of Streets completed resurfacing Wayside, East 123rd Street, and other residential streets. The new waterline installation and resurfacing of Holmes Avenue will be completed this year as well and there will be additional residential streets resurfaced which must qualify under the new street rating system soon.

In addition, **East 159th Street**, north of Lakeshore Boulevard, which runs under the historic Euclid Beach Arch, **will be totally rebuilt, paid for by the adjacent property owners.** The roadway was never built to city-code and now it will be as well as a dedicated city street.

Speaking of the landmarked **Euclid Beach Arch**, which is owned by the City, the plans

Continued on page 2

Fifth District Community Relations Awards

On October 17, 2024, the Cleveland Division of Police Fifth District hosted its Community Relations Awards Ceremony at the Greater Cleveland Food Bank Campus. The event celebrated the remarkable dedication and service of Fifth District officers, recognizing their commitment to making a difference in the community. In addition to honoring law enforcement, Councilman Polensek presented the Ward 8 Fifth District Citizen's Award to Mike Jenovic, President of the East Shore Park Club, in recognition of his extraordinary efforts to strengthen and uplift neighborhoods in the district.



Message Continued

currently are to relocate the arch to the former McDonald's property adjacent to its current location, which I sponsored legislation to acquire. As most know, the arch continues to be hit and damaged by motorists. It is our opinion that if it takes another hit it might not survive. The plans are to create a mini-park with a pedestrian path featuring the arch and its history.

The complete renovation of Neff Road Park and Playground will begin this year as well. This is exciting, for we will be able to address this park in a new vision with **new playground equipment** and for the first time on the east side, **Pickle Ball Courts**. In addition, **new playground equipment has been installed behind the Collinwood Recreation Center at Humphreys** and the city, at my request, is working on a master plan for the complete renovation of Humphrey's as well to include a regulation Soccer Field and Pickle Ball Courts.

As many of you know, it has always been my goal to have our parks, playgrounds and Recreation Center on par with our suburban neighbors. That process will continue as we move through the year just as the renovations had been done at Mark Tromba Playground a few years ago.

We are working closely with Cuyahoga County Planning on **the proposed Euclid Beach Connector**, which will run west approximately a quarter mile from the Euclid Beach Pier, to create greater public access and to address the severe shoreline erosion we are experiencing along the lakefront. We still have a funding gap, though. Regardless, we need to address issues here soon.

The Euclid Creek Bike Trail project is still being developed and this year should be extended to St. Clair Avenue from Euclid Avenue. From this point forward it is our intention to bring it to Lakeshore Boulevard at the Wildwood Park entrance.

The Hospice of the Western Reserve broke ground in September for their new Hospice Care Facility and Community Center on the former site of the St. Joseph Christian Life Center on Lakeshore Boulevard just to the northwest of the Villa Angela-St Joseph High School. So many of our own neighbors and their families have been helped by Hospice in their "end of life" journeys. We are blessed to have the Hospice of the Western Reserve in our community since 1994. They have already raised \$15.8 million of their intended goal toward the building of their new state-of-the-art building to include a community room for families and community organizations to use.

Another project special to me, that is now fully operational, is **the Greater Cleveland Food Bank Distribution Center on Coit Road** along with the complete renovation of the Food Bank building on South Waterloo Road into the new Community Resource Center. This facility happens to be the finest complex of its kind anywhere in Cuyahoga County and possibly the State. My sincere appreciation to the CEO and Board members of the FoodBank, and above all my Colleagues in Council who approved my request for funding for this most worthy endeavor. **If any of our citizens should need help for a whole host of services please call the Center at 216-738-2067.**

Last year for the first time since the pandemic we experienced a renewed interest with developers looking at the construction of **new affordable housing**. Thus we have two projects approved; that is the **10 new ranch homes being built by Habitat for Humanity at East 164th Street and Grovewood Ave.** and a **6-unit row house development on the site of the former Fanny's Restaurant on East 156 Street and Arcade**. At present there are two other developers actively pursuing other city landbank lots for new housing opportunities throughout the ward. This is great news for our ward.

We all know what happened to our industrial legacy in Collinwood and Glenville. With the passage of the Federal NAFTA legislation years ago. The majority of our industrial jobs either

disappeared or relocated outside the County. Case in point is **the former National Acme plant**, a major manufacturer of metal working machinery, located at East 131 Street and Coit Road. The property was abandoned, vandalized and then used as an illegal dumping ground. I inherited this mess with the last Council redistricting and made it a personal goal to abate this disaster. **I am proud to announce that with the help of Federal, State, County and City funds, this site will be cleaned and the structure demolished starting soon. It was not an easy road to identify the \$12 million in funds needed to abate this site.**

It has been my opinion, as **I have stated repeatedly, if we do not remove these derelict factories no development will ever take place at these sites and they will continue to be a reminder of abandonment and disinvestment in our city.** Moving forward, once this area is cleaned we can look forward to redevelopment opportunities just as we are now moving forward with marketing the former **General Electric Light Plant** property on East 152 Street, which has been completely cleaned after the demolition of those buildings and now available for redevelopment.

East 166th Street is in the process of being vacated between Wayside and St Clair Avenue to assist in **the expansion of Varga Victor Metals** coming into Collinwood from Lake County who has purchased the abandoned former Cerro Copper Plant for their manufacturing business.

Welcome to Collinwood!

We all know the importance of businesses to our community, both large and small. However, they need to have a talented and competent workforce to support their businesses. For us in the Greater Collinwood and Glenville community, this has been a major issue. It starts with our children and since CMSD stripped our high schools of technical and vocational training programs it has only complicated the problem much more than anyone had ever imagined.

That is why, I am elated with the recent announcement that Ms. Caroline Peak has been appointed to the Cleveland Board of Education.

A long time neighborhood resident, mother, community activist, and former Branch Manager of the Collinwood Library, we look to Caroline to be our voice and to stress the importance of re-imagining our three high schools of Collinwood, Ginn Academy and Glenville and support our elementary schools in our ward. Our elementary schools are doing a good job but they could always use additional resources. Our eastside kids deserve the same opportunities as those on the westside. As the schools go so do our neighborhoods and our city. I am here to support Ms. Peak, whom I know will do a great job. CONGRATULATIONS!

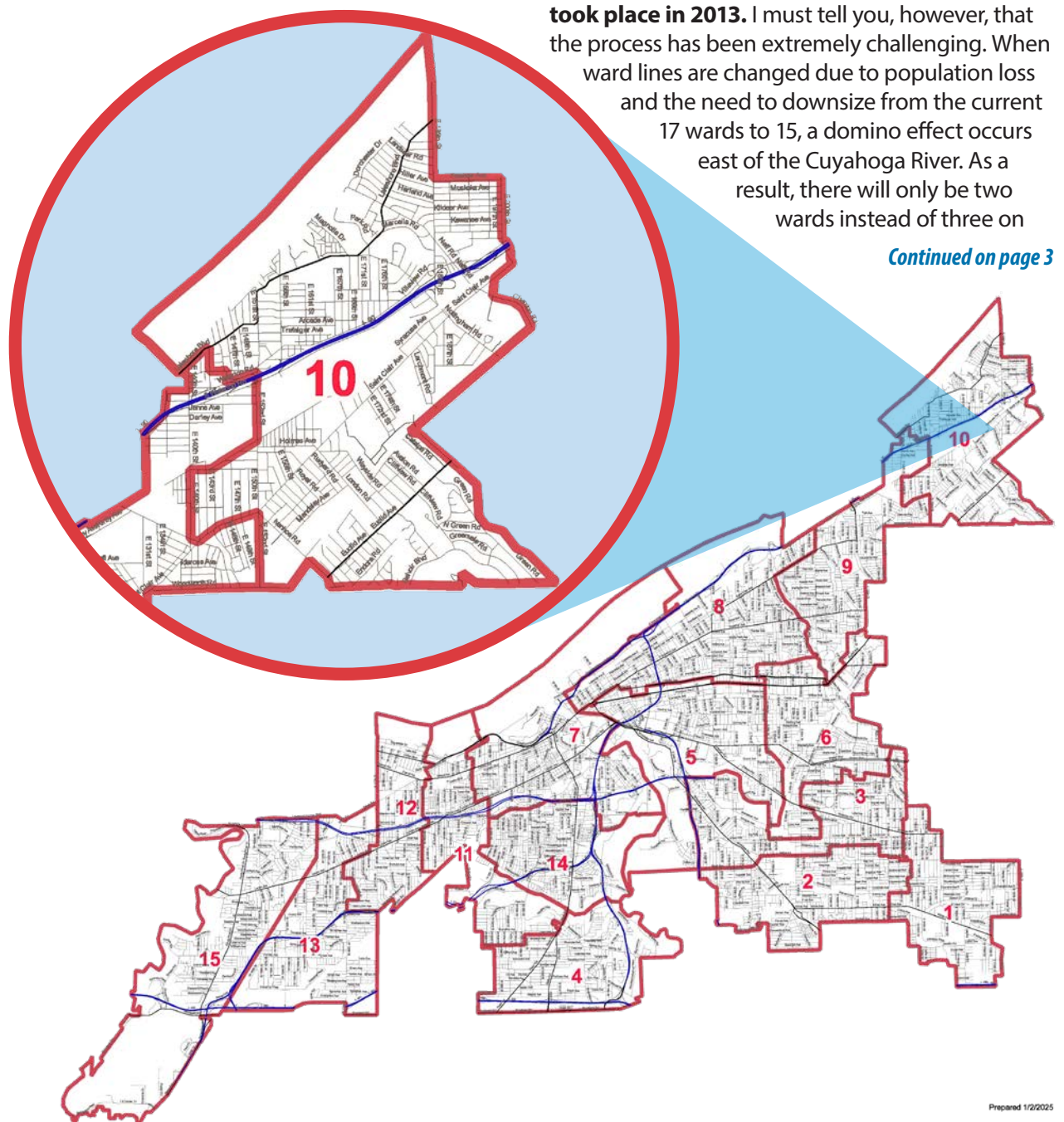
In regards to our education, in Collinwood we have choices but we need to support those choices whether they be public, charter or parochial schools. I am proud to announce that **enrollment is up at Villa Angela-St Joseph High School** and you can see the improvements they continue to make at the school as well.

Finally, **I need to update each of you on the citywide Council ward redistricting. The last ward redistricting was a disaster and was specifically designed to rip the eastside apart and to suppress voting.** Unfortunately, the westside Council Leadership at the time was successful in that effort, which also caused an unanticipated reality in that it aided and abetted residents moving out of the city from the eastside neighborhoods.

Now, the process has been undertaken by Council President Blaine Griffin. **With his leadership, President Griffin has attempted to address and correct the gerrymandering which took place in 2013.** I must tell you, however, that the process has been extremely challenging. When ward lines are changed due to population loss and the need to downsize from the current 17 wards to 15, a domino effect occurs east of the Cuyahoga River. As a result, there will only be two wards instead of three on

Continued on page 3

Do I like what has transpired? Absolutely not. However, I understand the math and the population numbers, probably better than anyone in Council.



New One-Stop Shop Home Repair Applications

Cleveland homeowners can now submit one application to be considered for four separate home repair programs.

The new application process launched in October, the program has received more than 1,323 requests through its new Universal Home Repair Application. Previously, residents had to submit a separate application for each of the city's four repair programs:

- Exterior Paint Program
- Healthy Homes Program
- Senior Homeowner Assistance Program (SHAP)
- Repair-A-Home (RAH)

Staff can now review one home repair application and

make recommendations based on eligibility. In some cases, staff can also combine funding sources. For example, a homeowner may be eligible for multiple programs based on their application.

The universal application is meant to take the burden off homeowners.

Each program has income restrictions that homeowners are required to meet. Even if you don't know if you're eligible, you can still submit an application. You can also call the Division of Neighborhood Services at 216-664-2045. The application is available online at: <https://preliminary-universal-resident-submission.powerappsportals.us/>

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 > Scan the QR code:

**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 15 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 its first year, the CRC provided fresh and nutritious food to more than 47,000 unduplicated neighbors and made over 7,500 connections between neighbors and onsite partners.

15 ONSITE PARTNERS

- Benjamin Rose
- CHN Housing Partners
- College Now
- 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

CLEVELAND DIVISION OF POLICE

WE'RE HIRING

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR GED
- VALID OHIO DRIVER LICENSE
- MUST BE BETWEEN 21 AND 54 YEARS OF AGE AT TIME OF APPOINTMENT
- ABILITY TO OBTAIN OPOTA BASIC PEACE OFFICER AND LEADS CERTIFICATIONS

SALARY AND BENEFITS

- STARTING SALARY \$62,651 WITH A \$5,000 SIGN-ON BONUS
- TOP SALARY \$84,387
- OPOTA CERTIFICATION REIMBURSEMENT
- TUITION REIMBURSEMENT UP TO \$6,000/YR
- LONGEVITY PAY UP TO \$800/YR
- \$1,200/YR FOR CLOTHING AND MAINTENANCE
- 12 WEEKS OF PAID PARENTAL LEAVE AND 20 HOURS OF PAID PRENATAL LEAVE
- GENEROUS MEDICAL, VISION, AND DENTAL INSURANCE
- OHIO POLICE & FIRE PENSION FUND
- OVER 50 SPECIALIZED UNITS
- PROMOTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT THE RECRUITMENT UNIT
216-623-5233
CPDRECRUITMENT@CLEVELANDOHIO.GOV

CITY OF CLEVELAND
Mayor Justin M. Bibb

Scan to Apply

Message Continued

the northeast side of the city. Wards 8, 9 and 10, as they exist now, will become just two wards: wards 9 and 10. The Ward 8 number will move to the west which will encompass the Hough neighborhood.

Here is the issue in a nutshell. The Greater Glenville neighborhood has lost approximately 22% of its population with Hough, St Clair-Superior, and Euclid-Green not much better. Our present Ward 8 retained more residents than the other neighborhoods and as a result our ward was the one that had to be absorbed, especially since we are on the edge of the City. **Do I like what has transpired? Absolutely not. However, I understand the math and the population numbers, probably better than anyone in Council.** Remember though, these new ward boundaries do not become official until **JANUARY 1, 2026**, however, they will be the boundaries used for the 2025 General Election for

this November's Mayoral and Council elections.

A visual of the new Ward 10 as approved on Monday, January 6, 2025 by the majority of City Council, including myself, is on page 2 (*visit clevelandcitycouncil.org/redistricting-for-updates, including detailed maps*). Am I happy with the new lines? No, I am not and I could have voted "No." However, once again, I understood the dynamics and the population loss and I was glad that we could reunite Nottingham Village with Collinwood Village and the majority of North Shore Collinwood. Would I have liked the new ward lines to extend all the way down East 140th Street? Yes, because I have spent a lot of time trying to reunite that neighborhood, and losing the new Longfellow Senior Complex, the Food Bank, and Job Corps is not a happy event for me, either. However, this is the reality. The new Ward 9 will now pick up most of that area including areas of Collinwood west of East 152nd Street, south of I-90.

As we move forward, I will strive to keep the neighborhood updated and will continue to be heavily engaged with neighborhood leaders and our neighborhood Associations as to what the future holds. As all of you know by now, from my perspective, it has always been about the community and nothing more. I have never forgotten, in my time in office, where I have come from and who I represent. **Please stay tuned and be engaged as we move into Spring and Summer.**

I look forward to working with each and every one of you in 2025. As always, I may be reached at my office at 216-664-4236 or via email at mpolensek@clevelandcitycouncil.org.

Have a Healthy and Safe New Year.

Sincerely yours,



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

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 (dodged)	664-2513
Street Light Outages (COP)	621-5483
Traffic Signs Down & Missing	420-9282
Tree Trimming/Removal	664-3104
Waste Collection Issues	664-2397
Water Department (leaks, hydrants)	664-3060

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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; June 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.
- 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.
- 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.

QUESTIONS? Contact Mary Louise Jesek Daley in Councilman Polensek's office:
 PHONE: 216-664-4236 | EMAIL: mdaley@clevelandcitycouncil.org

WE'RE HIRING

Recreation Summer Jobs Hiring Event

Open interviews with HR Staff

12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

March 22, 2025

Collinwood Recreation Center

16300 Lakeshore Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44110

Available Positions

- Head Cook/Cooks - Camp Forbes
- Park Maintenance Aide Coordinator (Field Monitors)
- Park Maintenance Aide (Spray Basins)
- Play Director - (Camp Counselors)
- Play Director - Lunch
- Play Director - Playground
- Play Director - Showagon
- Truck Driver - Showagon
- Recreation Instructor - Jr. Golf
- Recreation Instructor - Playground

(Red Cross Certification to apply. Lifeguard applicants must be at least 15 years old, all other positions at least 18 years old.)

Register by using scan code

For additional questions contact
 Latashia Miller at
 (216) 664-2325
Lmiller3@clevelandohio.gov

Department of Public Works
DIVISION OF WASTE

Upcoming Holiday and Bulk Week Collections

Bulk Week
 One Day Delayed Collection
 Holiday with Regular Pickup

www.clevelandohio.gov

FEBRUARY

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Feb. 17th - President's Day
 No delay in collection

MARCH

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Apr. 18th - Good Friday
 No delay in collection

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May 27th - Memorial Day
 (1) day delay all week

JUNE

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June 19th - Juneteenth
 No delay in collection

JULY

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July 4th - Independence Day
 No delay in collection

COLLINWOOD

Neighborhood Resource & Recreation Center

Location 16300 Lakeshore Blvd | Phone 216-420-8323

Winter 2025 activities and programs are happening now through March 14. Scan the QR Code to view the schedule.