



Collins Corner

“Connecting with the Constituents of District 2”

Volume 3, Issue 1 - March 2010

D. Michael Collins

Councilman, District 2

Jenny Gogol, Legislative Aide

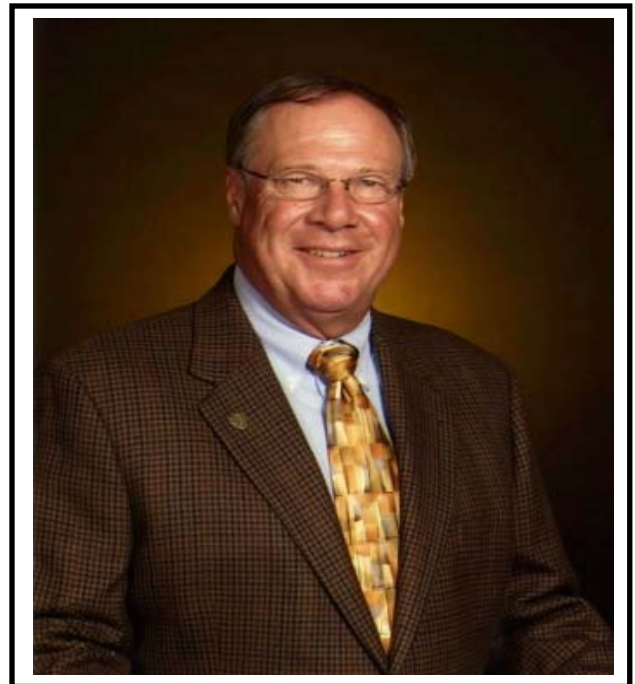
Toledo City Council

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A message from Councilman Collins:

Welcome to my first edition of Collins Corner for 2010. I hope this newsletter finds you in good health. District 2 is comprised of wonderful neighborhoods and businesses, all of which I am extremely proud to represent on City Council. My goal for 2010 is to continue to serve the needs of those whom I am privileged to represent. I always welcome any comments and feedback from constituents; you are the eyes and ears of the community! If you have any concerns of which I may be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me, anytime.

~ D. Michael Collins

Update on the City of Toledo's Current Budget Deficit and Proposed Budget for 2010

Both the city charter and state of Ohio require that Toledo City Council pass a balanced budget by March 31, 2010. As you may know, former Mayor Finkbeiner presented his Administration's balanced budget last November, and current Mayor Bell submitted his Administration's revised budget to Council on March 1, 2010. As I write this today, Council has less than 30 days to hold budget hearings for each city department and also evening community meetings to discuss the budget with citizens and hear input on ideas and suggestions to balance the budget.

Mayor Bell has challenged Council members that if we vote no on any of his suggestions, we should be prepared to offer alternatives. I have done just that! I do not support his refuse fee proposal, I do not support the elimination of the income tax credit and I do not support the entertainment tax. I presented the Mayor a suggestion to create an early retirement incentive plan. Today, Deputy Mayor Herwat informed me that Mayor Bell has no interest in exploring this possibility to reduce our operating expenses and help balance the budget. He further stated that he feels there is no assurance the City can save dollars in 2010. I totally disagree!

The City of Toledo has very serious challenges and the stakes are high, however the cost of loosing our city to fiscal emergency will be devastating.

Share your thoughts with me, won't you?

I ask for your assistance to help me understand your priorities by sharing with me your thoughts on how Council should create a balanced budget that addresses the fundamental issues of our city, while remaining fiscally responsible. If you would like to share ideas about ways the city can save money, or generate revenue, please call me at City Council at 419-245-1050, or email me at dmichael.collins@toledo.oh.gov.

A Candid Conversation With Your Councilman

Bringing City Hall to YOU!

One of the greatest joys in serving as a Councilman is communicating with constituents. I appreciate all of the meetings that I have been invited to attend and speak at over the last two years and now, I would like to take the initiative to invite YOU to attend a neighborhood meeting with me.

It is my pleasure to host this meeting and I look forward to a candid conversation where you can share your thoughts and concerns and offer insight and ideas. Last week I visited the Margaret Hunt Senior Center and had a great conversation with a group of seniors who shared with me their concerns and ideas. On Saturday, March 13th I will be at the Heatherdowns Library and on Monday, March 15th I will be at the Reynolds Corners Library. If your schedule permits, come out and let's have a candid conversation!

Saturday, March 13, 2010

10:00 AM at the

Heatherdowns Library

3265 Glanzman Road

Monday, March 15, 2010

4:00 PM at the

Reynolds Corners Library

4833 Dorr Street

In the District

In addition to the above-mentioned meetings, I will be speaking this month at the Block watch Meetings listed below. These are public neighborhood meetings and you are welcome to attend.

- March 16th – 6:30pm at Heatherdowns Library, 3265 Glanzman
- March 23rd – 6:30pm at All Saint's Lutheran Church, 5445 Heatherdowns

Transition to Solid Waste Automation

By now, all District 2 residents should have received their new refuse and recycling containers. To implement this transition in the dead of winter has been challenging to say the least. The challenges of the elements combined with the challenges of change have made for a less than desirable experience for some. Having said that, the employees in our Division of Solid Waste have been very responsive to constituent concerns and, in my opinion, have exhibited nothing but commitment and professionalism.

Over 80% of the cities our size are using automation as the preferred and most cost-effective method of waste and recycling collection. I believe that by mid-year the efficiencies that automation provides will be considered a value added and our community will have a positive experience as a result of this change.

Bowsher High School Students Volunteer to Assist Seniors and Disabled with Refuse and Recycling Containers

On March 1, 2010, I met with Bowsher High School Principal Larry Black and Student Shana Nelson, to discuss their idea of Bowsher students assisting neighborhood seniors and disabled with the placement of refuse and recycling containers to the curb for collection, as well as return.

This volunteer program will be implemented and coordinated by Bowsher. This truly speaks to the quality of students at Bowsher High School and I am very thankful and proud of the fact that these students have recognized a need and are reacting to it in a very positive way. To sign-up for this program, please call Principal Larry Black directly at 419-671-2150.

City of Toledo Texting Ban

On November 24, 2009, Toledo City Council passed legislation that prohibits “use of text messaging devices while operating a vehicle” in the City of Toledo. This ordinance went into effect on January 1, 2010.



Did You Know...

that you can find out how Council members vote on pieces of legislation? All votes are a matter of public record and if requested, this information will be provided to you. All you have to do is call Council at 419-245-1050.

Also, if you missed the last meeting and want to watch it on video, you can do so, as it is available online through the City Council webpage. To go directly to the video, click [HERE](#).

Upcoming City Council Meetings

March 16, 2010 | March 30, 2010 | April 13, 2010

All City Council Meetings are broadcast live on Buckeye Cable Channel 69, beginning at 4:00 PM.



Veteran's Village

I, along with Congresswoman Kaptur, UT President Jacobs and the Veterans Administration, have been working diligently on this project, which is proposed to be located on the Health Science Campus of UT. More to follow.

Southwyck

I spoke with M.D. Properties, the majority partner in the Southwyck complex. The representative advised me that there are no specific plans for the redevelopment of Southwyck at this time. He further stated that the firm is confident that when the economy shifts, Southwyck will become a vibrant and positive property. It is my opinion that the future of Southwyck will be market driven and the only role the city will take, or can take, is to assist the developers with improvements to the infrastructure.

City Council authorizes police to tow or immobilize vehicles for unpaid red light or speed camera tickets

Ordinance to take effect in early April

[Click HERE to read the article from
the Toledo Blade](#)

Download the AT&T 2010 Phone Book

Click on the link below:

[AT&T Real Yellow Pages](#)

VITA Programs

Income tax season is upon us and once again free volunteer income tax assistance is available at locations in District 2, and throughout Toledo. Trained volunteers are on hand to prepare income taxes, free of charge, to those who qualify.

Appointments are necessary, so if you are interested in obtaining this service, or would like some additional information, please call directly for details. Locations in District 2 are:

Heatherdowns Library
419-259-5270

Margaret Hunt Center
419-385-2595

District 2 Community Budget Meeting

March 18, 2010, from 6-8PM at Bowsher High School, in the cafeteria