



Collins Corner

“Connecting with the Constituents of District 2”

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Office Of:

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Click [HERE](#) to learn more about
Councilman D. Michael Collins

A Message from Councilman Collins

Greetings!

As I sit and write this, I cannot believe how fast 2009 has gone. Here we are in July already, and what a beautiful summer it has been. Thank you to the many people that have emailed and asked to be added to the list to receive this newsletter and also to those of you who have called and asked when the next edition would be coming out. Well over 300 people have signed up to receive this electronically, and another 50 or so wish to receive it in the mail. This tells me two things: 1.) my message is getting out 2.) people want transparency and updates from their elected officials.

I encourage you to continue calling my office, writing and emailing me. In addition, I invite you to visit the City of Toledo website and encourage friends, neighbors and loved ones to sign up for my newsletter for up to date legislative information as to how I am working on your behalf. This also allows me to interact with you directly to discuss/share your concerns/ideas. I commit that I will remain dedicated as your voice on City Council and will work diligently to ensure that taxpayer dollars are not spent foolishly.

Best wishes for a safe rest of the summer. I hope you enjoy the warm outdoors with friends and loved ones, and find time to take advantage of all Toledo has to offer.

Intermodal – UPDATE

Neighborhood Meeting Scheduled for July 30th

On Thursday, July 30, 2009 at 6:30 pm there will be a neighborhood meeting to offer residents, neighbors and any interested parties an update on the Airline Yard Intermodal project and the proposed closure of Westwood Avenue at Norfolk Southern rail tracks.

This meeting will take place at the University of Toledo Scott Park Student Center Auditorium, on the Scott Park Campus. Members of the Joint Intermodal Task Force and City of Toledo representatives will be on hand to make presentations at the meeting, and will also be available to answer questions from the audience.

This is a very exciting project and I look forward to attending the meeting myself. If you are not able to make the meeting, and would like me to ask a question on your behalf, it would be my pleasure. Just call me at 419-245-1284 or email me at <mailto:dmichael.collins@toledo.oh.gov> with your questions and/or concerns and I will do my best to get them answered for you. I have also taken the liberty of attaching a map of the University of Toledo Scott Park Campus just in case you need directions. Please click on the link: [UT Scott Park Campus Map](#) Hope to see you there!

Public Safety Collective Bargaining Agreements

Police

Unfortunately, at this time we have 46 police officers are currently on layoff status. The Administration's decision to layoff 75 police officers on May 1st was the decision that our City Council had no voice in, and by charter had no authority to interfere. I am very sensitive to the fact that 46 police officers are still unemployed, and recently, I personally contacted the Department of Justice and spoke with an Administrator regarding the COPS grant. I was advised that due to the overwhelming number of applications received there were no way all of the officers that Toledo requested could be budgeted on the payroll. I am hopeful that we will receive authority to hire 31; with the expectation of 40 retirements before the end of 2009, we will bring back the 46 officers and consider hiring the 31 who were scheduled to enter the Academy in December of 2008.

Fire

Yesterday, the member of Local 92 voted in favor of a three-year contract with the City of Toledo. City Council will hold a special Council Meeting on Tuesday, July 28th to vote to approve the contract.

Now that the Bargaining Agreements are negotiated, I feel it is appropriate to say THANK YOU to our public safety officers for the services that they provide and their willingness to recognize the serious economic situation the city is facing.

** My commitment to Public Safety will not be compromised in any political process and I vow to always present the facts to my constituents in an unfiltered expression of the truth. **

Nature's Neighborhood at the Toledo Zoo

On June 19, 2009, The Toledo Zoo unveiled its newest exhibit, Nature's Neighborhood. As you can see from the below photo, I, along with then Council President Mark Sobczak had the privilege to represent City Council at the grand opening celebration. I can say without a doubt that this addition to the Zoo is world class!

In my opinion, we have one of the finest zoo's in the world right here in Toledo. I would like to "tip my hat" to Dr. Ann Baker, the Zoo Board, her staff, the contractors, vendors and numerous volunteers who collaborated to make this super project and the zoo a success!

If you haven't visited the Toledo Zoo lately, check out its website for detailed information about their hours and upcoming events. Click on the link: [Toledo Zoo](#)

Toledo Botanical Garden

The weekend of June 26th was the 44th Annual Crosby Festival of the Arts at the Toledo Botanical Garden. As always, Executive Director, Janet Schroeder and everyone from her staff and the hundreds of volunteers did a fabulous job putting the festival together.

TBG has so much to offer. My summertime favorite is Jazz in the Garden. This takes place every Thursday through August 20th from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. **Click on the link below for the website.**

[Toledo Botanical Garden](#)



Mark Sobczak, D. Michael Collins and Janet Schroeder at the Toledo Zoo's grand opening celebration of Nature's Neighborhood.

Pam's Corner, LTD

116 10th Street 419-243-2081

[Pam's Corner Website](#)

If you have never been to Pam's Corner for a meal, you MUST check it out! Pam is open for lunch Monday through Friday, and on Saturday she is open for breakfast and lunch. Pam's is a favorite of my wife Sandy and I. We like to go there for lunch on Saturdays after we go to the Farmer's Market. (Try the soup of the day – it's out of this world!)

Best Wishes Mark Sobczak!

When Mark Sobczak announced his resignation from City Council last month I was very surprised. After speaking with him about his decision to resign I completely understood and supported his decision. Mark served over 3 years as an At-Large Councilman, representing ALL of Toledo, and ALL constituents. He is a true public servant, loves Toledo, and he is already sorely missed on this City Council. Thank you for your service to our community.

Best Wishes Mark!

Southwyck – UPDATE

The challenges I faced with the Southwyck complex were very difficult; however we are now moving in the right direction! If you drive by Southwyck today you will notice quite a bit of difference in the appearance! I have been told that demolition will be completed before Labor Day.

The future of Southwyck will be determined by the economy and go where the market drives it. I am confident that this is one of the prime pieces of real estate in our city. Whatever the future of Southwyck will set the stage for a vibrant future for this gem in South Toledo.

I will continue to keep my commitment to you and monitor the property, as well as keep you informed as to future developments under considerations for this complex. Anytime you have a question, suggestion, or idea feel free to contact me. I am always open and available to you, as I would not be here if it were not for you.

Marina District – UPDATE

I would like to begin by stating that that the Marina project is a very important part of what our new Toledo should look like. There must be, however a responsible approach considering the overall risk involved.

Recently, the Administration presented legislation authorizing the sale of 50+ acres of riverfront property to the Dillin Corporation for \$3.2M.

I voted against this legislation because we already have an additional liability of \$3.5M for an infrastructure loan from the State of Ohio and the Dillin Corporation holds first responsibility to satisfy this debt.

“Golf Dome” – UPDATE

After lengthy discussions with Greg Fish’s attorney it appears that he will NOT take down and remove the “Golf Dome.” I will, therefore present an ordinance calling for the revocation of his special use permit for the purposes of lawfully operating the dome. If passed by City Council, this will mean that Mr. Fish can no longer operate the dome.

I understand the importance of the small business owners and the value they bring to our community. Having said that, when the business owner does not follow the lawful expectations of the residents, then the rights of the residents must be protected.

It is for this reason that I am taking this action against the South Toledo Golf Club.

Stand Up, Get Involved, Have Your Voice Be Heard!

I have always believed that a person should have his/her voice heard. The Founding Fathers of our great nation ensured this right when they defined the freedom to speak and express one's ideas in our Bill of Rights. This freedom must never be taken for granted!

I strongly encourage you to take time to get involved. Share your thoughts with your elected officials, as well as the news media. If you don't share your thoughts, you will never know what could have happened if you had taken the time to stand up, get involved and have your voice be heard!

Congresswoman Kaptur

[The Office of Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur](#)

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Television

[Channel 13 - WTVG](#)

[Channel 11 - WTOL](#)

[Channel 24 - WNWO](#)

[Channel 36 - Fox Toledo](#)

[Channel 30 - WGTE Public Media](#)

Print Media

[Laprensa](#)

[The Blade - Letter to the Editor](#)

[Toledo City Paper](#)

[Toledo Free Press](#)

[The Sojourner's Truth](#)

[Toledo Journal](#)

Radio

[Brian Wilson - WSPD](#)

[Fred LeFebvre - WSPD](#)

Blogs

Glasscityjungle.com

Crossgates Park Clean-Up

Last fall I worked with the neighbors of Crossgates Park to form a Park Association. This was done in a mutual effort with the City as a way for the neighbors to take pride and ownership in the park.

The group has met on several occasions, discussed issues and concerns and talked about improvements that they would like to see at the park.

They have taken a proactive approach and I am very proud to work with them. This is a prime example of the positive outcome that can result when people work together for a common goal.

Special thanks to Beth Fields for her leadership role in this endeavor!!



Would You Like Me to Speak At A Neighborhood Meeting?

One of my favorite activities of being a public servant is speaking to constituents at public meetings.

If ever you would like me to speak at a Block Watch Meeting, or to a group of neighbors, please contact my office. I would be honored.

Burroughs Neighborhood Organization

On July 13th I had the pleasure of speaking at the BNO monthly meeting. This is a very involved group of neighbors in the Burroughs neighborhood who have taken the initiative to step up to the plate and get involved in their neighborhood. I am proud of the hard work that they do and proud to work with them! To learn more, click on the link: [Burroughs Neighborhood Organization Blog/Website](#)

Save the Date!

The Neighborhood Block Watch Annual Family Picnic is Saturday, August 15th at Ottawa Park. Contact my office for more details.

Neighbors of Pickford Park

I can't say enough positive things about the quality of residents, neighbors, business owners and parishioners that have stepped up to the plate and volunteered their resources, time and talents to help beautify their neighborhoods in District 2. Pickford Park is the latest example of these outstanding efforts! We are truly blessed in Toledo with dedicated people who care enough about their neighborhood and are volunteering to take pride and ownership in the parks. One clean up took place before the Pickford Pool opened for the summer and another one is currently being planned. Many thanks to all of those who are involved in these efforts. If you would like to get involved, call my office at 419-245-1050 for details.

Toledo City Council Meetings

Toledo City Council Meetings are held every other Tuesday at 4:00 pm in City Council Chambers, 1st floor of One Government Center. These meetings are public, and I strongly encourage your attendance.

If you are unable to attend a meeting in person, you can watch a meeting broadcast live on Buckeye cable Channel 69, or watch the meeting online through WGTE and Knowledge Stream by clicking on the following link: [knowledge stream](#)

The following are the dates of the Council Meetings for July, August and September:

August 4, 2009 ~ August 18, 2009 ~ September 1, 2009

September 16, 2009 ~ September 29, 2009

Refuse Pick Up – UPDATE

The City of Toledo is moving forward with automated refuse collection. Our plan is to begin this service in January 2010. I know that many questions still exist, and I am happy to answer any question that you may have. Feel free to email or call me to discuss your suggestions/questions/ideas.

Lucas County Triennial Update of Home Values

[Lucas County Official Website - Property Value Update](#)

By Ohio state law, the Lucas County Auditor's office is responsible for the valuation of real estate. The revaluation of property in Lucas County and the property value update are two instances when all real estate must be reviewed to reflect the current market. Ohio law requires that the County Auditor revalue all real property every six years (revaluation), and update those values in the middle of the cycle, or third year (triennial update).

A revaluation was last conducted in 2006. This year the Lucas County Auditor's office will conduct a triennial update of property values to determine whether a change in market value has taken place since 2006. Beginning June 1, the Lucas County Auditor's Office started mailing out [Notice of Value Change](#) letters. This process should be complete by July 27, 2009. These letters are designed to provide information regarding your current and new value, as well as your property data.

Once you have received your Notice of Value Change letter from the Auditor, I strongly encourage you to thoroughly review the details. If you have any questions, you may call the Lucas County Auditor's Office at 419-213-4406.