



CITY OF CLEVELAND
Mayor Frank G. Jackson

Senior Day

CELEBRATING SENIORS!

CONNECT, CREATE, CONTRIBUTE: MAY 2019



OLDER
AMERICANS
MONTH



CONNECT, CREATE, CONTRIBUTE MAY 2019





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Recognizing Outstanding Cleveland Seniors

Every year during the month of May the nation celebrates Older Americans Month in recognition of the many contributions older adults have made to the community. The City of Cleveland proudly joins the Administration for Community Living in this celebration. This is the 30th year that we will honor Cleveland Seniors at Senior Day.

The 2019 theme for Older Americans Month, “Connect, Create, Contribute” encourages older adults to: connect with friends, family, and services that support participation; to create by engaging in activities that promote learning, health, and personal enrichment and to contribute time, talent, and life experience to benefit others.

Communities that encourage the contributions of older adults are stronger. By engaging and supporting all community members, we recognize that older adults play a key role in the vitality of our neighborhoods, networks, and lives.

Older Americans Month provides us an opportunity to celebrate the many ways in which older adults are making a difference right here in Cleveland.

Today, 17 special seniors will be recognized for the contributions they have made to improve the lives of others. These individuals represent thousands of local seniors who devote their time, talent and efforts to make Cleveland a great place to live, raise a family and grow old. I congratulate the seniors being honored here today.

On behalf of the people of Cleveland, I am honored to recognize older adults in our community for their knowledge, experience, dedication, diversity and sacrifice, all of which help to make Cleveland a great city.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Frank G. Jackson".

Frank G. Jackson, Mayor



CITY OF CLEVELAND
Mayor Frank G. Jackson

DEPARTMENT OF AGING'S MISSION

The Cleveland Department of Aging is committed to ensuring Cleveland is an age friendly community by enhancing the quality of life for Cleveland seniors and adults with disabilities through advocacy, planning, service coordination and the delivery of needed services.

OUR TEAM

Mary McNamara, *Director*

Eric Anderson, *Home Maintenance Aide*

Ronald Bridges, *Aging Services Administrator - Senior Initiative*

Hillman Britton, *Home Maintenance Aide*

Shaniqua Caffee, *Aging Services Administrator - Access Your Benefits*

Adam Cisler, *Administrative Manager*

Victoria Corrigan, *Administrative Manager*

Julie Dahlhausen, *Aging Services Administrator - Housing Coordinator*

Anthony Dial, *Geriatric Outreach Worker*

Judy Drost, *Geriatric Outreach Worker*

Jerimiah Greathouse, *Chore Services Coordinator*

Susan Hijjawi, *Project Coordinator - Homeless Prevention*

Tanisha Hunter, *Administrative Manager*

Angela Johnson, *Geriatric Outreach Worker*

Kathye Johnson, *Geriatric Outreach Worker*

Paul Jones, *Volunteer*

Theresa Kirby, *Intake Specialist*

Christopher Martinez, *Project Coordinator - Hispanic Liaison*

Jerilyn Mason, *Grant Administrator*

James McCants, *Geriatric Outreach Worker*

Alisha Memaran, *Aging Services Administrator - Social Services*

Donna Motley, *Project Director, Cleveland Care Calls*

Alissa Moore, *Geriatric Outreach Worker*

Angela Niemiec, *Aging Services Administrator - Age Friendly Cleveland*

Fallon Peterson, *Aging Services Administrator - Information & Assistance*

Darr Reitknecht, *Home Maintenance Aide*

Michael Robinson, *Home Maintenance Aide*

Jennifer Rosich, *Administrative Manager*

Malik Sledge, *Student Intern, St. Martin De Porres High School*

Deborah Smith, *Junior Clerk*

Gladys Soto, *Geriatric Outreach Worker*

Loretta Stiles, *Aging Services Administrator - Options Counseling*

Patricia Stineman, *Aging Services Administrator - Medicare*

Brandon Tarr, *Home Maintenance Aide*

Christy Washington, *Utilities Liaison*

Yiran Xu, *Student Intern, Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences*

ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Department of Aging has an Advisory Council, a diverse group of individuals who represent the concerns of Cleveland seniors and adults with disabilities. The purposes of the Advisory Council are to:

- Advise the Director of Aging on issues of importance to older persons and adults with disabilities in Cleveland;
- Provide input on programs and long term planning;
- Advocate on behalf of Cleveland's older population; and
- Increase awareness of the abilities of adults living with a disability.



SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

Age Friendly Cleveland – The Department of Aging is a member of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Network of Age Friendly Cities and the AARP Network of Age Friendly Communities which includes assessing and developing a community plan to increase the age friendly aspects of the city.

Bed Bug Assistance Program – This program helps seniors and adults with disabilities, on a limited income, with the extermination of bed bugs in their homes.

Benefits Assistance – Benefits Assistance provides seniors and adults with disabilities help in securing benefits to meet their financial and health needs. The free confidential Benefits CheckUp program is used. One on one assistance to enroll in benefits is provided. Benefits Assistance is a service of the Cleveland Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC).

Cell Phone Recycling – The Cleveland Department of Aging is participating in a program of the National Council on Aging and Cellular Recycler to collect old cell phones, which are sold, and the proceeds support senior programs. This initiative is good for seniors and is good for the environment.

Chore Services – Chore services may include: general house cleaning, lawn mowing, leaf raking, snow shoveling, simple home repairs and installation of smoke detectors.

Cleveland Care Calls – Cleveland Care Calls is an automated telephone reassurance system for Cleveland seniors to check on their well-being.

Cleveland Disability Awareness – The Cleveland Department of Aging, in collaboration with other departments and agencies, celebrates disability awareness with programs highlighting abilities and inclusion.

Cleveland Senior Day – Senior Day is a citywide celebration of our older citizens with an information fair, entertainment, lunch and recognition of outstanding contributing seniors.

Cleveland Senior Walk – The Cleveland Department of Aging sponsors the Cleveland Senior Walk in partnership with the Cleveland Department of Public Health, the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging, the YMCA and MetroHealth.

Cleveland Tree Assistance Program for Seniors – This program assists Cleveland seniors and adults with disabilities by removing and trimming hazardous trees on their property.

Courtesy Cupboard – This service, a collaboration between the Department of Aging and the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, provides clients in need with a small supply of shelf ready emergency food until a longer term plan for accessing food is established.

Economic Security for Cleveland Seniors – This program helps seniors to improve their economic situation. Core services, provided through a team of partner agencies, include: assistance with public benefits, housing, employment, emergency assistance, financial counseling, legal assistance, health and mental health services, supportive and aging network services and kinship family support. Economic case management and specialized service coordination is a service of the Cleveland ADRC.



SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

Homeless Prevention Services for Seniors – The Cleveland Department of Aging provides case management for persons 60 years of age and older and adults with disabilities 50 years of age and older who are at risk of homelessness to help them maintain housing.

Information and Assistance (I&A) – Provides current and unbiased information on services that support independence and links seniors and adults with disabilities to organizations that can help. I&A is a service of the Cleveland ADRC.

Options Counseling – Provides guidance to seniors and adults with disabilities, family members, caregivers and/or significant others about community services and support to fit one's need and preferences in decision making about long term support options. Options Counseling is a service of the Cleveland ADRC.

Outreach Activities and Social Media – Department staff attend community meetings, senior fairs, health fairs, and festivals to present and to distribute literature about programs and services available for older persons. Follow us on Facebook at Cleveland Department of Aging and on Twitter at ClevelandAging.

Senior Homeowner Assistance Program & Age Friendly Home Investment Program – Provides grants to low-income seniors and adults with disabilities who own and reside in homes needing critical health safety or maintenance repairs. Typical repairs include: roof replacement, major electrical work, major plumbing work, repair or replacing the front and/or back steps, porch repairs, and the installation of ramps.

Senior Guest House – Located on the campus of Fairhill Partners, this home like setting for persons 60 years of age and older provides a safe environment for seniors in residential crises or unsafe living conditions. This is a collaborative project of Fairhill Partners and the Cleveland Department of Aging.

Senior Initiative – The goals of the Senior Initiative are to provide Cleveland seniors and adults with disabilities assistance to prevent them from falling victim to predatory lenders or scam contractors; and to help them avoid citation for housing violations. This initiative is a cooperative effort of the Departments of Aging, Building and Housing, Community Development, Public Health and Law.

Senior Power – A program designed to increase knowledge and awareness among older persons in the areas of crime prevention, fire hazards, fire and fall prevention, emergency services, consumer issues, and programs for the elderly. The program is a collaboration between the Departments of Public Safety and Aging.

Senior Transportation – Provides transportation services for seniors to medical appointments and errands through collaboration with the Senior Transportation Connection, Cleveland City Council and the Departments of Community Development and Aging.

Supportive Services – Helps older persons and adults with disabilities access the services, benefits and programs available to them. Examples include, but are not limited to: assisting seniors with utilities that have been or are about to be disconnected, assistance in accessing food, housing, homemaker services, personal care assistance, chore services, and home repair and maintenance services.







Nominated By Council Member Joseph Jones, Ward 1

Reverend George O. Stewart

George Othello Stewart was born in Mt. Pleasant, Georgia; to the late Reverend & Mrs. Arthur W. Stewart. After attending Savannah State and Moody Bible College, George joined the U.S. Army and served in Korea from 1953 -1955.

George followed three of his brothers to Cleveland in 1955, and soon after began working at Republic Steel. In 1957, George married D. Lorraine Stewart; they were married for 55 years at the time of her death in November 2012. They are the parents of three daughters, Carolyn, Tonya and Kimberly and are the grandparents of Rosalyn, Gerald, Andrea and Isaiah.

Before he joined the ministry, George wanted to be an Industrial Arts teacher, but, as most plans we make, God has another plan for us—whether we know it or not. After being laid off from Republic Steel, George began working for Swiss Labs, where he worked for over 20 years.

George received the call to enter the ministry in 1968. In June 1969, he felt called to lead Zion Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, located in Cleveland's Lee-Harvard neighborhood. He has been the religious and spiritual leader of Zion Chapel Missionary Baptist Church to the present day.

Reverend Stewart is active both in the ministry, evangelical leadership and church administration.

He has been President of the Northern Ohio Baptist District Association Congress of Christian Education. He has served on many boards and committees, among them the Religious Conference Management Association, the Baptist Pastors' Council and the National Missionary Baptist Association of Ohio.

He has served on the board of the Hunger Network of Greater Cleveland; teaches five bible classes weekly at his church home and has been part of initiatives to 'adopt' Charles W. Eliot Middle School and John F. Kennedy High School; both located in the Lee-Harvard community.

When able, and when he has the time, Reverend Stewart finds time to exercise and stay active. Often he can be found taking on repairs of the church building and also enjoys playing golf.

Through his life, his work and his ministry, Reverend Stewart is a true example of how to lead, guide and support both the Lee-Harvard community and its residents. He continues to give back to the community in even greater ways than he has been rewarded.

When you look at the life of Reverend George Othello Stewart, you can see how he truly connects with the community by being and living in "faith, leadership and stewardship."







Nominated By Council Member Kevin Bishop, Ward 2

Ms. Tahia Herd

Tahia Herd was raised in the Cedar-Central neighborhood in Cleveland. Ms. Herd is the only child of Theresa Hocker-Edes, who divorced Tahia's father when Tahia was 5 years old. After divorcing, Theresa married Zoltan Edes; Tahia's stepfather, who helped raise Tahia. When Tahia was a child, both Zoltan and Theresa often worked the second shift in the hospitality industry and her maternal grandparents assisted with helping to raise her. A naturally bright and curious child, Tahia loved to visit the Cleveland Public Library and developed a love of books, reading, science, and art. "I had my microscope and my books," Tahia says. Her sense of wonder and inquisitiveness were encouraged by her mother.

Ms. Herd attended Cleveland Public Schools and after graduating from John Adams High School in 1964, she worked at the Cleveland Public Library as a desk assistant. She also worked for the Department of the Navy and at Medical Mutual as a claims examiner.

Tahia was also employed at the Greater Cleveland Growth Association and the Standard Oil Company, where she started as a keypunch operator and then she was promoted and became the first female computer operator to work 3rd shift

in Standard Oil of Ohio's credit card department. She rounded out her employment with General Electric. In 1992, after leaving General Electric, Tahia started her own printing company, It Is Written, where for over 25 years, she has specialized in the printing of funeral obituaries.

Tahia is very active in the Ward 2 community and adjacent neighborhoods. She is the co-founder of the Mt. Pleasant Sustainability Association, a resident-driven organization. She is a project manager for the First Street Coalition in Mt. Pleasant; and is a graduate of the 35th cohort of the Neighborhood Leadership Institute. Tahia is both editor and writer of the Southeast Community Information Magazine and counts chess, fencing and art as her hobbies. She is active and passionate about issues that center on community development and engagement, inclusion and urban planning.

Ms. Herd has one son, Bryan and two grandsons, Gabriel and Davian.

"I want to re-establish neighborhoods and neighborliness. I'm very loyal to my neighborhood, says Tahia." Tahia's good works and deeds truly manifest her words.







Nominated By Council Member Kerry McCormack, Ward 3

Mr. Gary Horvath

Gary Horvath was born in Cleveland in 1946, one of three sons born to parents Ethel and Frank Horvath. Gary is the middle son and Frank, the oldest and Dennis, the youngest son. Gary grew up on Cleveland's west side and has only lived in two residences his entire life; his childhood home located on Fulton Avenue and the home that he resides in on West 26th Street.

Gary graduated from West Tech High School in 1964. While studying at West Tech, he studied mechanical drawing and business. In 1965, a year after graduating from high school, Gary married Judith (Judy) Peterson. From this union, five children were born, Tatia, Gary, Therese, Dominique and Christopher. Gary and Judy are grandparents to twenty-three grandchildren ranging in age from 2 months to 25 years old. Gary recently lost his wife, Judy, in January 2019. They had been married 53 years and would have celebrated their 54th anniversary on April 24, 2019.

When Gary was 12 years old, he "walked into the gym," at the Old Angle Boxing Club and "never left." He is a seven-time Open Golden Gloves Champion, a distinction that he earned in the 1960s; he is also a member of the World International Boxing Hall of Fame. Gary has been involved in boxing as a coach, trainer, and mentor. The late, great, Jimmy Bivens trained Gary in the mid-1950s.

After high school, Gary held several jobs before settling on one career, he first worked as a Driver for Teamsters Local #436, he worked in

deliveries and sales for Cadillac Glass; he was a Longshoreman for five years, and then he entered the restaurant, catering and hospitality fields. Gary owned several restaurants and businesses in the Ohio City neighborhood for over 40 years. He owned both Gary's Hungarian Restaurant and Evelyn's Hungarian Restaurant (named after one of his granddaughters), until 1994. He also operated a bar and barbeque restaurant and a bazaar that specialized in international cuisine, clothing and gifts.

Boxing is in Gary's blood. He still spends seven days a week at the I'll Make Them Pay MMA Old Angle Boxing Gym, renamed to show the contribution of local attorney Tim Misny, who gave financial support to the gym. Over 100 children, teenagers and adults visit the gym on a monthly basis. Gary says that through boxing kids learn how to be "strong mentally, physically and spiritually." They just don't learn how to throw punches; they learn how to be champions in the fields that they choose. The boxing club is a "safe environment," for kids and a place for them to do something positive.

Gary is a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church on Bridge Avenue, where he has worshipped for over 50 years. He is active in block clubs in his Ohio City neighborhood; a neighborhood which he loves and the neighborhood truly loves him back. He connects with his community through his unselfish giving of his time and resources to the sport of boxing and the gym that he loves.







Nominated By Council Member Kenneth L. Johnson, Ward 4

In Loving Memory of
Ms. Valerie Edwards

Valerie Edwards was born in Cleveland and raised in the Mt. Pleasant neighborhood. One of four siblings; Valerie attended Cleveland Public Schools and is a 1970 graduate of John F. Kennedy High School. After graduation from high school, Valerie attended Notre Dame College of Ohio, and Marymount Radiology School, where she graduated from the radiology program there.

In the early 1970s, Valerie worked at Society National Bank as a secretary and worked at Ohio Bell as a teletype operator in the Business Information Systems division of the company. After leaving Ohio Bell, Valerie worked for GMAC and worked in advertising at The Cleveland Plain Dealer.

She later moved to Houston, Texas; where she worked in advertising at the Houston Chronicle and at Wang Laboratories as a computer operator.

After returning to Cleveland in the early 1990s, Valerie worked at Blue Cross/Blue Shield and became active in her community. One of the ways that Valerie connects with her community is through her worship and fellowship at Mt. Haven Missionary Baptist Church, where she has been a member since childhood.

Among the community-based groups and activities that Valerie works with are the First Street

Coalition, and Education and Empowerment, Inc. Valerie managed and operated an emergency pantry out of her home.

Another way of how Valerie gives back to her community is evident by an incident that occurred in the community. Valerie related the story of a young woman from the neighborhood that died of an opioid overdose. The young woman's family had no funds or insurance to give her a proper funeral. Valerie was able to rally the residents to raise the needed funds so that the young woman was able to be buried in a respectful and dignified manner. Caring and doing for those in need is a hallmark of Valerie's character.

Valerie has been a widow since she lost her husband, George Richardson, over twelve years ago. She has two daughters, Kelley and Toccarra; she is a loving grandmother to Denosj, William and Valerie. Valerie counts cooking, gardening, travel and reading as her hobbies. She also enjoys exercising and staying active.

Through her selflessness and good works, Valerie made a difference in her community.

Ms. Edwards died unexpectedly on April 9, 2019. She will be missed by many in the Ward 4 community.







Nominated By Council Member Phyllis E. Cleveland, Ward 5

Ms. Delores Gray

Delores Gray was born in Saginaw, Michigan in 1955 to parents Jean Larkin Gray and Porter Gray. Delores is one of eight siblings in the Gray family; she has an identical twin sister, Deborah Anne. Their family also included three brothers and three other sisters. Even though they were identical twins, both girls were encouraged to develop their own identities and their own interests by their mother, Mrs. Gray.

Always a leader, Delores found her voice very early on; she says that she was always very “outgoing and vocal,” and was a natural leader. After living in Saginaw, Michigan; the family moved to Vicksburg, Mississippi, where Delores lived until she moved to Cleveland, Ohio in 1966, when she was 12 years old.

Educated in the Cleveland Public Schools, Delores attended George Washington Carver Elementary School, Central Jr. High and East Tech High School, where she graduated from in 1973. As proud alumnae of East Tech High School, nicknamed ‘The Scarabs,’ Ms. Gray has served on their alumni board for 16 years.

After graduating from high school, Ms. Gray worked for the Bureau of Workers’ Compensation, the Federal Reserve Bank, the United States Postal Service, Cleveland Clinic Foundation, the Cleveland chapter of the Democratic Party, Horseshoe Casino and Care Alliance, where she is currently employed. Ms. Gray also attended Cuyahoga Community College and the University of Phoenix while she worked full-time.

Delores is active in the faith community and has worshipped at Truly Holy Temple, where she has attended for the past 14 years; and has been a member of St. Phillip Christian Church, located in the Central neighborhood, for the last five years.

Among the civic groups that Delores is involved with include the Cleveland Democratic Party, where she serves as a delegate; she serves on the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority’s (CMHA) Board of Commissioners; also at CMHA, Ms. Gray serves on the Local Advisory Council (LAC) and Progressive Action Council (PAC). She is on the Legal Aid Society’s board, and is on the board of Burten, Bell, Carr Community Development Corporation. In her spare time, Delores enjoys “all kinds of movies,” concerts, bowling, picnics, travel and socializing with her East Tech friends. She promotes healthy lifestyles, exercise and nutrition in her role as Community Engagement Coordinator with Care Alliance.

Ms. Gray has one son, Angelo, and three granddaughters, Alysia, Angelia and Kila, who lives in Texas.

How does Ms. Gray connect to the community? Ms. Gray makes connections by “listening to the people, hearing them, caring about them and bringing them the information that they need; or telling them where to go to get support and help.”







Nominated By Council Member Blaine A. Griffin, Ward 6

Ms. Annette Kristosik

If Cleveland's Little Italy ever needed a cheerleader, booster and ambassador, look no further than Annette Kristosik, a lifelong resident of Little Italy. Annette was born in 1942 to parents Michael and Antoinette Spuzzillo. Annette also has a brother, Nicholas, who is ten years younger. Annette has lived all her life in the Little Italy neighborhood. Annette's Little Italy roots run deep.

While growing up, Annette's father owned and operated Spuzzillo's Market, a grocery store that he owned for over 40 years. Annette's mother helped run the store and was also a homemaker. Sadly, when Annette was 14, her mother died. Her father never remarried. Annette says "I was a big sister and a Mom to my brother, Nicholas." When asked how her Mother's passing impacted her teenage years, Annette says, "I began to feel the loss of my mother when I started having kids." She continues, "I had two Italian grandmothers who helped raise me." Annette's father had a strong hand in raising both her and her brother, Nicholas.

Annette attended Murray Hill Elementary School and graduated from Our Lady of Lourdes High School in 1960. She later attended Dyke College and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Accounting. Annette worked at Society National Bank and later KeyBank as both a teller and customer service representative. She retired from KeyBank in 2007, after working in the banking industry for 28 years.

Annette met her husband, Raymond at Dyke College, he graduated and became an Accountant; together they raised five children, Raymond, Lisa, Richard, Michael and Kathleen. Annette and Raymond are proud and loving grandparents to 15 grandchildren ranging in age from 7 to 31. Annette and Raymond will celebrate 57 years of marriage this August.

How does Ms. Kristosik remain connected to her neighborhood? She is a board member of the Cleveland Montessori School, a school that all five of her children attended. She is a lifelong member of Holy Rosary Church, having worshipped there for over 70 years. Annette is an active member of Alta House, during the summers, she plays bocce ball there. She has a network of friends, ladies that she's known all of her life. These ladies meet up once a month and have lunch or dinner at one of Little Italy's great restaurants. Annette enjoys yoga and exercising. She's a great cook and says that her meatballs and pasta are a couple of her specialties.

Annette says that there is a lot of growth and development going on in Little Italy, and "as she wants the neighborhood to grow, she wants it to maintain its unique character." Annette's life is a testament on how to remain connected to your home, your family and your community.







Nominated By Council Member Basheer S. Jones, Ward 7

Mr. Robert Allen

Robert Lorenzo Allen was born on August 23rd, 1938 in Holden, West Virginia to Karl and Willa Allen. Robert was raised in Beckley, West Virginia along with his younger sister Sandra. Robert attended Stratton High School in Beckley and was the captain of the football team. He was an accomplished athlete and also excelled academically and was at the top of his graduating class. Robert was also known for being a good singer and was part of a high school singing group that included the famous Bill Withers.

After graduating high school, Robert joined the United States Air Force and served as a radio communication technician in the Radio Relay Squadron. He helped set up communications between all the European countries and had assignments in Germany, France and Italy. Robert was honorably discharged from the Air Force in 1960 and moved to Columbus, OH, where he attended Ohio Technical College and received an Associate's Degree as an electronic engineer technician. After he graduated, Robert worked at North American Rockwell in Columbus and at the Newark Air Force Guidance and Metrology Station Center in Newark, Ohio.

In his spare time, Mr. Allen was very active and played softball and coached boys and girls youth baseball teams in the Southfield community of Columbus. He also mentored and trained many young men in his community and was a father figure to many. Robert was an avid bicycle rider and he trained his two sons Karl and Dwight, his nephews, and others to ride long organized bike

rides including the Tour of the Scioto River Valley. These rides would take two days and cover almost 200 miles.

Robert met his wife, Carolyn Watts in 1978. Carolyn and Robert were married in 1979 and moved to Cleveland. Robert was employed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in Cleveland from 1979 until his retirement in 1998. While at NASA, Robert worked on projects including the silicon carbide chip project, for which he was awarded special recognition.

Mr. Allen and his family moved to Ward 7 in the Hough neighborhood about 25 years ago. Both he and his wife started the Renaissance Place Housing Development Home owners association. Robert's vision for his community consisted of networking with other African American families and creating the kind of community he had experienced growing up in Beckley, WV and Southfield, OH. Twenty families came together to build their private homes in Renaissance Place, which laid the foundation for the continued resurgence of the historic Hough neighborhood. Robert still believes that "our communities can be what we want them to be if we are willing to work together and make it happen." According to Robert, he is happy that the neighborhood is continuing to build and grow. Everyone is active around the community and he looks forward to the continued growth and prosperity of the area. Robert is also an active board member with Fatima Center and League Park.





LOVE

the journey!



Nominated By Council Member Michael D. Polensek, Ward 8

Ms. Elva Brodnick

Elva Brodnick was born in Zeeland, Michigan in 1951 to Robert and Dorothy Fricke. She has a sister, Mary and a brother James. The family lived in South Milwaukee as well as Southern California, where Elva attended La Mirada High School in the Los Angeles area. She graduated high school in 1970 and her family moved to Cleveland in 1971.

Elva attended Cuyahoga Community College and received an Associate's degree in Liberal Arts in 1973. After she graduated, she started in the workforce and spent twenty years in the restaurant business. After that she worked in manufacturing for over twenty years and worked on the punch press machines and did bench work. She also worked on aeronautics and airflow parts. Elva enjoyed working in different areas and sectors. She has never been one to stick with just one thing and she loves doing different things to expand her skill set. Elva retired from manufacturing in 2013.

Elva's late husband, Frank Brodnick, was from the Collinwood neighborhood and together they were leaders of the Euclid Beach Park Now. With Frank's passing, Elva adopted Collinwood as her home and purchased a home in the community to be closer to her friends. They were married for 35 years and she continues what she and her husband started together. She has continued to take on a leadership role in the Collinwood community and is very active in her neighborhood.

Currently, Ms. Brodnick is the Chair of the East 185th Neighborhood Association, which is one

of the oldest block clubs in the area. She is also the Secretary and Tech Chair of the Collinwood Nottingham Historical Society and works closely with the Greater Collinwood Development Corporation. She works as the Secretary of the Northeast Shores Development Corporation Board and is a Committee Chair for the Memorial and Oliver Hazard Perry Elementary School and the Collinwood School Fire Memorial Garden at Memorial School. Ms. Brodnick also works on a lot of other historical projects in the community that help keep Collinwood's history and memories alive.

In her spare time, Elva volunteers at Lakeview Cemetery and leads many of the historical walking tours for the cemetery. Elva also enjoys reading and is an avid collector of antiques. Elva also has two cats; Cheese and George that help inspire her to stay youthful and active. Elva also still loves riding rollercoasters and enjoys going to amusement parks, especially the older, traditional ones.

Ms. Brodnick connects, creates and contributes to her community from her active involvement at community meetings, staying active in the neighborhood, and her participation on many of the neighborhood organizations and boards. Elva says that "Collinwood comes together as a community and when something needs to happen, we make it happen and that they look out for each other always."







Nominated By Council Member Kevin Conwell, Ward 9

Ms. Cassandra Gibson

Cassandra J. Gibson was born in Cleveland, Ohio on October 27th, 1952. Her parents were Anna and George Mills; Cassandra's mother was from Pace, Mississippi and her father was from Kingston, Jamaica. Cassandra has seven siblings and they all grew up in the University Circle area in Cleveland. Cassandra attended East High School and graduated in 1970. After high school, Cassandra attended Mount Union College for two years and then attended Cuyahoga Community College where she obtained an Associate's Degree in Applied Sciences.

After graduating from Cuyahoga Community College, Cassandra worked at Winnie's Nursery School for 6 years as a teacher. She then went to Warrensville Developmental Center and was an activities aide for 5 years. During her career she also worked at the Ohio Residential Center as a house manager for over 7 years. Cassandra retired in 2013 from Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities as a job coach.

Cassandra met her husband, Matthew Gibson through mutual friends and they were married in 2001. Cassandra has a son, Jayson Mills and four grandchildren and loves spending time with her family.

Cassandra has been President of her Block Club, North Park Place Neighbors for 7 years. When Cassandra first moved into the Glenville area, there was issues with car break-ins and she wanted

to do something to get her neighbors involved, so that everyone would know one another, thus North Park Place Neighbors was formed. The North Park Place Block club meets monthly. Cassandra says that they were able to hire two teenagers that help pick up paper, debris, and also help out seniors in area with lawn work and other jobs. They also applied for a grant and received funding to install two security cameras on the street.

In her spare time, Cassandra stays healthy and active. She enjoys line dancing and bowling and also participates in the Cleveland Clinic 6 Week Health Challenge, which is a competition throughout various neighborhoods including Glenville. Cassandra also likes to ride her bike with her grandkids and explore all that Glenville has to offer, including the new East Side Market. She is a volunteer at Good Shepherd Church food bank. She enjoys spending time in University Circle and going to different museums and parks in the neighborhood. She attends Everlasting Baptist Church and has been a member for more than 20 years.

Cassandra stays connected with her community through participating in her Block Club, attending community council meetings, attending 5th District Community Police meetings, as well as other community events. Cassandra wants to keep Glenville a safe and clean community for all to enjoy.







Nominated By Council Member Anthony T. Hairston, Ward 10

Ms. Denise Ferguson

Denise Ferguson was born in Cleveland to parents Henrietta and Seth and grew up in the Glenville neighborhood. Her mother was from Jacksonville Florida and her father was born in North Carolina, they met in Cleveland. She has two sisters who live in Cleveland, Charlene Johnson (husband Anthony) and Edna Kirby (husband Regis) and three deceased siblings. They are all very close with one another and spend a lot of time together.

Denise attended Glenville High School and since she was a teenager she was always very involved with her home church, Temple Baptist Church. She worked with both seniors and youth and was a pastor's aide and helped with the children ministries and also became a director over the youth ministry. Denise worked at Dave's Supermarket for over 17 years and was very close with the family especially Burt and Danny Saltzman.

Ever since she was a young girl, Denise was always passionate about politics and government. She was always politically involved and couldn't wait to register to vote. She was very enthused with the idea of making her vote known. Denise helped work the polls and then in 1998 started to work at the Board of Elections under the poll workers department. She then moved into the community outreach division and was a Coordinator, where she coordinated, hired, and trained all the extra poll workers throughout Cuyahoga County to

work on Election Day. Denise also assisted with the Student Poll Worker Program for high school seniors. She went out to all the high schools in Cuyahoga County and trained and hired youth to work the polls during election time. Denise worked at the Board of Elections for over 10 years. She left in 2008 to help take care of her mother.

Denise met her husband, Farley Ferguson, through mutual friends. They have been together for over 44 years and married 40 years. She has one son (Andre Sr.) and one stepson (Leslie). Denise has three grandchildren; including two grandsons; Andre Jr. and Carlos, and a granddaughter; Diamonique.

Ms. Ferguson connects, creates and contributes to her community on a daily basis. She is very active and is a member of various boards including; a member of the Executive Committee, Precinct Committee Person for Ward 10, Board member of Greater Collinwood Development Corporation, President of her street club, and President of her residential community club of Euclid Park. She is always helping someone and is an advocate and community activist. She also enjoys being involved in different events and meetings throughout Cleveland and Cuyahoga County, especially if it is going to help enhance her community.







Nominated By Council Member Dona Brady, Ward 11

Ms. Barbara C. Rogers

Barbara C. Rogers was born in 1946 to parents Henry and Eleanor Durica on the west side of Cleveland. Barbara was named after both of her paternal grandmothers and has 5 brothers and 1 sister. Barbara and her siblings attended St. Procop's grade school and Barbara went on to attend St. Procop's all girl high-school and was the class president and graduated in 1964.

After high school, Barbara attended Cuyahoga Community College for one year and also attended Cleveland State University for one year. She started working for Murch & Company Brokerage Firm doing stock and cash dividends for 9 years. After, she worked for the bakery department at Finast. Whenever they would open a new grocery store she would supervise the bakery department and assist with opening and managing it for the company. She managed the Parma Finest bakery for over 8 years.

In 1986, Barbara started working for the United States Postal Service, where she was a letter carrier for over 13 years. She worked out of the Puritas post office branch and was an elected Union Steward as well as an elected AFL-CIO delegate for The National Letter Carrier's Union. Barbara trained as an advocate and represented the Union in contractual and disciplinary grievances in front of an arbitrator. During the last 13 years of her career, she was also trained as a mediator and worked with a management counterpart on a Dispute Resolution Process. Ms. Rogers retired in November 2011 and still remains active in her Union by attending meetings and several local, state, and national conventions.

Ms. Rogers is very active in her community. She attends the Democratic Party meetings and in November, was elected as Precinct Committee Member for Ward 11. She was also recently appointed to the Executive Board. She regularly participates in the 1st District Police Department safety meetings. Ms. Rogers volunteers at the Rocky River Nature Center and is a member of the Green Team, where she helps with gardening and landscaping. She stays active by participating in different senior exercise classes, walking her neighborhood and loves to dance, especially Zumba.

Barbara loves spending time with her family and her pride and joys in her life are her two sons Paul and David, her daughter-in-law Colleen and her granddaughters Eleanor and Frances. She loves all that Cleveland has to offer including the Metroparks, Lake Erie, all the Museums, University Circle, Wade Oval Wednesdays, vacations in Port Clinton, summer concerts at Edgewater Park and Halloran Park. She also loves to eat out at Cleveland restaurants with her sister.

Ms. Rogers connects, creates and contributes to her community on a daily basis. From her community activism in Ward 11, to her volunteering in the neighborhood, and enjoying all that Cleveland has to offer. She has attended St. Vincent De Paul Church for over 50 years and grew up learning the importance of talking to your neighbors and being active in the community. She also says that you have to look for the beauty in things and stay positive!







Nominated By Council Member Anthony Brancatelli, Ward 12

Mr. Richard Krzynowek

A proud Cleveland native, Richard Krzynowek was born in 1943 to parents Walter and Clara, along with brothers Walter, Jr. and Ronald. He is loved by his two sons, Christopher and Scott, and six grandchildren. Richard has lived in Slavic Village for nearly all his life. Attending Saint Stanislaus High School, which later became Cleveland Central Catholic High School, Richard graduated in 1962. Paving the way for his extensive career, Mr. Krzynowek formally studied at the Cleveland Barber College.

Richard works as a barber at Ye' Olde Clip Joint over thirty-five years after his career began. Living above the storefront with his wife Sharon, whom he married fifty-six years ago at Our Lady of Good Counsel, he is happy to report that he "has customers that come to the shop from all over the city."

Mr. Krzynowek enjoyed working with his community during his tenure as Executive and CEO of the Slavic Village Association beginning at its inception in 1978. The Slavic Village Association operated as a nonprofit organized to preserve residential and commercial buildings in the Slavic Village neighborhood. In this role he was responsible for the planning and executing of the Slavic Village Harvest Festival for 1980 and 1981, a hugely successful event from E. 50th & Fleet to E. 65th that drew 80,000 people to the neighborhood for food, beer, and music. "Those were the good times, when you could take a beer

in one hand and a kielbasa sandwich in the other and walk right on down the street."

Richard started the Fleet Merchant's Guild, a community engagement group that was responsible for the first Party-In-The-Park, an event he remembers fondly. These parties continued with consistent success under Richard and other merchants' guidance and financial contributions.

Mr. Krzynowek also organized the Polish Constitution Day Parade for two years. Among other duties, Richard raised money to install Polish and American flags along Fleet Avenue and eventually became Chairman of the parade. As a member of the Polish American Congress, he helped organize shows from bringing in the Singing Angels to polka bands. Additionally, he was able to secure signage to let visitors know which way to Slavic Village. Much deserved, Richard received a proclamation from the state of Ohio for all of his efforts to his community.

He spends his rare spare time as a school crossing guard at Fleet Avenue Bridge, a position he has held for nearly twenty years. You can sometimes find him at Red Chimney restaurant enjoying breakfast with other longtime regulars. For more than twenty seven years, Richard gets Cleveland swinging as an independent broadcaster for prime time polka on WHK 1420 once a week. Be sure to call in to Richard's radio show for a chance to win two pounds of kielbasa!







Nominated By Council Member Kevin J. Kelley, Ward 13

Ms. Denise Kahwagi

Denise Kahwagi was born in Colorado Springs in 1955. Following her military father Leon Curry, Denise, her mother Leslie, and three siblings moved from state to state as children. During her freshman year of high school, Denise's father retired and settled his family in Agle, Texas to be close to extended family. Once out of high school, Denise made the move to Fort Worth where she lived for many years and eventually met her husband, Michel.

In 1986, Michel and Denise started their now popular business, Cake Royale. Looking to relocate to a friendlier market, Michel and Denise looked to Cleveland. Testing the waters up north, Michel established the business in Cleveland for two years before Denise moved to follow suit in 1989. In the following year they bought their home in Old Brooklyn, where they still reside.

In the beginning Cake Royale was only wholesale but the high caliber cakes quickly caught on, leading Denise and Michel to transition the business into retail with a stand in the West Side Market. When looking to change shop locations, the choice was easy. "We always knew we wanted to support our community so we decided to do that by keeping our business in our neighborhood." From there their business grew, eventually picking up an account with the Cleveland Indians. Largely staying behind the scenes, Denise enjoys the busyness of wearing many hats.

Proudly supporting Old Brooklyn, Ms. Kahwagi is always happy to open Cake Royale's doors to local fundraisers and drives. Cake Royale sponsored the Pedal For Prizes event through a local nonprofit, where bikes are given out to neighborhood children. Cake Royale also donates food and money to Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation during their yearly fundraiser. Denise helped sponsor her local block watch, as well as various school fundraisers through the years. "If you care about where you live, you have to be involved where you live."

Together over thirty years, Denise and Michel enjoy spending time with their two great-grandchildren, six grandchildren, and four children – Elijah, Nick, Misty, and John. Denise is a member of Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church. When she gets a moment to slow down, Denise likes to spend her time reading, walking, and caring for her dog. Enjoying her husband's Lebanese food, Denise cites a healthy diet and active mind for her ability to get up and go.

A transplant to Cleveland, there is no denying Ms. Kahwagi's devotion to her neighborhood. "I love the area where we planted our business. The downtown area of Old Brooklyn is building up and there are a lot of things for us and our neighbors to enjoy. We encourage people to come check out our local businesses, maybe even start your own here!"







Nominated By Council Member Jasmin Santana, Ward 14

Ms. Julia Smith

Julia Smith was born in Sumter County, Florida in September 1938 to her loving mother, Margie Wiggins. Julia enjoyed growing up in Georgia until she completed high school at the young age of sixteen. She came to Cleveland with her mother after graduation to be with her sister, brother in law, and other family members. Growing her family, Julia raised a son, a daughter, three granddaughters, and one grandson. Valuing time spent with her family, Ms. Smith enjoys that her nieces and nephews still reside in Cleveland. Julia has been in her neighborhood for thirteen years. "I like living in my neighborhood, I'm comfortable here."

Graduating from Stally High School in 1956, Julia has always understood the importance of keeping your brain active, especially in older age. Wanting to continue her educational career, Julia recently enrolled and excelled in multiple courses at Cuyahoga Community College. Studying a broad range of subjects including computer literacy, Julia enjoyed the opportunity to exercise her brain in a classroom setting.

Working a variety of jobs over the years, Ms. Smith's favorite point in her working career was being employed at a H.H. Frisch Knitting Mills Company producing for Bobbie Brooks, Inc., a company that specialized in making stylish clothes

for teenage and junior girls. A hard working woman her entire life, Julia retired from Dalton Industries in Willoughby as a sewer more than thirty years ago.

Ms. Smith is a proud and active parishioner of the Scranton Road Bible Church. Previously, Julia enjoyed her time as the acting Treasurer of her Local Advisory Committee. Operating out of Ms. Smith's apartment complex, this committee served to raise money to fundraise, go on trips, and other group activities. Julia also speaks fondly of her time as Executive of her local Democratic Club where she focused on community engagement, issue based education, and civic engagement. Continuing her volunteerism, Ms. Smith also enjoyed working for her community as the Ward 14 Precinct Committee Mediator. In this role Julia would communicate issues and ideas from the community to local politicians at public meet and greets.

In her free time Julia stays active by taking walks around her block and utilizing the exercise room in her apartment complex, especially the stationary bike and treadmill. She also likes to cook and attributes staying healthy to eating clean. Ms. Smith enjoys spending time at her church, taking walks in Lincoln Park, and socializing in her apartment complex.







Nominated By Council Member Matt Zone, Ward 15

Ms. Dolores Watson

Dolores Watson is a collaborative community leader and educator. Born in Norfolk Virginia in 1951, Dolores moved with her parents as an only child to Cleveland. Once a Clevelander, she attended Garfield Heights Senior High school. After high school Dolores studied and graduated from both Cuyahoga Community College and Cleveland State University, earning a bachelor's degree in psychology. Dolores has three children, eight grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

Ms. Watson has lived in the Eco-Village for ten years. Dolores has worked almost all of her life in the non-profit sector, including working for non-profit agencies and labor unions. Working for Planned Parenthood of Greater Cleveland, Earth Day Coalition, District Nine to Five Service Employees International Union, Dolores is passionate about engaging with and working for her community.

Dolores is an active member of the Greater Cleveland Beekeeping Association where she helps teach beginner level bee keeping classes. She also enjoys spending her time as a librarian at the Lending Library. Dolores is a proud and active member of the Eco-Village Neighbors Block Club. She also engages at the Westside Village Group, which is a group of seniors working together to help each other age in place.

Dolores served for many years on the board and various committees of Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Cleveland. More recently, Dolores lent her experience and knowledge to Sustainable Cleveland 2019 Initiative's Vital Neighborhoods Working Group, a committee that strives to cultivate sustainable neighborhoods of choice where residents are engaged, empowered, enlightened, resilient and self-reliant. Lately Dolores has spent a considerable amount of time working with the West Side Tree Stewards helping to reforest Cleveland by planting trees in her community. "We're working hard to reforest all of our streets to keep Cleveland beautiful."

Having enjoyed living the last ten years in Cleveland's first affordable LEED platinum house, Ms. Watson is striving to have a solar panel array and battery back-up system installed to generate and ensure her own power supply, while helping to sustain Cleveland Public Power's power grid and a cleaner, brighter future for all. In her limited free time, Dolores is an avid birder, bee keeper, and reader. She also enjoys needlecraft and socializing with her neighbors. "The people in Eco-Village are very civic minded and loving people, who are willing to lead by example and I very much appreciate that." Dolores is a passionate environmentalist and encourages everyone to feel free to stop by to hug the Elm tree in her yard anytime.







Nominated By Council Member Brian Kazy, Ward 16

Mr. John Lavelle

John A. Lavelle was born in County Mayo, Ireland in 1939. Born to parents Patrick Lavelle and Mary Malloy, John immigrated to the United States in February 1976. While living in Ireland, John ran a farm along with working full time jobs, including working for the Mayo County Council and O'Donnell and McDonald Builders. He also worked all around his village and neighboring villages as a handyman.

John moved to Cleveland in 1976 to marry Maureen Cooney, who he first met in Ireland. His first visit to Cleveland was in 1975. He felt very much at home in Cleveland since several people who he knew in Ireland lived nearby. The following year he returned to begin his new life in Cleveland. He arrived two days before St. Patrick's Day and has marched in the parade every year since. He walks with the Cleveland Pioneer's Total Abstinence Association of the Sacred Heart and is their Vice President. They also honored him as Pioneer of the Year in 2009.

His first job in Cleveland was landscaping for Emerald Valley Turf Nursery where he became a foreman before he left to drive a Senior Citizen's Bus for the South Euclid Tri-City Office on Aging. His next job was with Central National Bank in the Maintenance Department, which eventually became Key Bank. John retired in March of 2001.

Mr. Lavelle's favorite hobby is wood-working. He has made several storage areas for the West Side

Irish American Club, wood signs, and an Irish Cottage mail box. At home he made a dining room table with hand carved chairs, amongst many other detailed projects.

After retiring John had more time to volunteer. He joined the volunteer catering group at the West Side Irish American Club, volunteered for the Claddagh Ball Decorating Committee and was head of the Christmas Decorating Committee for more than sixteen years. He also served on the Board of Trustees and was honored as the West Side Irish-American Club's 2001 Man of the Year. Mr. Lavelle is also a proud member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, where he and other community members assist neighbors with food insecurity and utility payment assistance.

A founding member of his local block watch of fifteen years, John takes pride in his neighborhood's parks. Especially notable is John's involvement with the Memorial Banners project, an effort to line Jefferson Park with American flags to honor servicemen and women. Mr. Lavelle also stays busy by helping his neighbors with handyman repairs and grass cutting. "You wouldn't believe the need for a little help. When something needs to be done I'm not the type of person to ignore it, I'll always try and help."







Nominated By Council Member Martin J. Keane, Ward 17

Ms. Kathleen Kilbane

Kathleen Kilbane was born in Cleveland in 1953 to parents Ann and Patrick Kilbane. Kathy has two brothers, Patrick and James, and two sisters, Maryanne and Eileen, six nieces and nephews, and one great nephew. Kathleen's father Patrick built her West Park childhood home in 1960, where she still resides.

Graduating from St. Stephen High School in 1971, Kathleen shortly after joined the workforce with United Airlines. Her duties ranged from working in the flight kitchen to working on the ground in the airport. This career lent her the unique opportunity to travel the world, including visiting China, Germany for the Christmas Market, Switzerland, and her favorite - Ireland. Speaking on her travels abroad Kathleen stated, "Part of the advantage of working for the airline is that I was able to constantly travel - I have friends all over the world."

Ms. Kilbane is a member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church in West Park. Upon the reopening of St. Patrick's, she joined the parish council. She also volunteered to make a new church directory when the pastor wanted to have pictures and names of church staff to help connect the community. "It was a lot of fun and I got to meet a lot of people."

On the first Thursday of every month, you can find Kathleen at the Commander's First District Safety Meeting discussing the needs, concerns,

and upcoming community events of West Park. On the second Thursday of the month Kathleen attends the Ward 17 Neighborhood Meeting where residents get the opportunity to speak with public officials and candidates. Keeping the trend of busy Thursday nights, on the third week of the month Kathleen attends the West Side Irish American Club. Kathleen also enrolled in and completed the Cleveland Police Department's Citizen Police Academy.

Keeping moving, Ms. Kilbane has plans to visit Ireland, where both of her parents were born, yet again this year. She also enjoys walking around her neighborhood to visit with community members. Her hobbies include traveling, reading books, and swimming.

Kathleen is the precinct member for the Central Committee and Executive Committee. As precinct member, Kathleen works as a liaison for her community to public officials and agencies that can assist when there is an issue. She also serves on the Democrats of Cuyahoga County's Executive and Central Committee. Kathleen represented Cleveland in the Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Association Telethon, as well as local fundraising events.





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Ward 10 – *Anthony T. Hairston*

Ward 2 – *Kevin Bishop*

Ward 11 – *Dona Brady*

Ward 3 – *Kerry McCormack*

Ward 12 – *Anthony Brancatelli*

Ward 4 – *Kenneth L. Johnson*

Ward 13 – *Kevin J. Kelley*

Ward 5 – *Phyllis E. Cleveland*

Ward 14 – *Jasmin Santana*

Ward 6 – *Blaine A. Griffin*

Ward 15 – *Matt Zone*

Ward 7 – *Basbeer S. Jones*

Ward 16 – *Brian Kazy*

Ward 8 – *Michael D. Polensek*

Ward 17 – *Martin J. Keane*

Ward 9 – *Kevin Conwell*

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- Install a rain barrel to collect water runoff from your house to use for watering your lawn and garden.
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NOTES

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing notes, overlaid with a large, faint, stylized graphic of three people holding hands in a circle. The central figure is purple, the left figure is green, and the right figure is blue.



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