



CITY OF CLEVELAND  
Mayor Justin M. Bibb

# Senior Day

AGING MY WAY



AGE MY WAY: SEPT 2022





## *Recognizing Outstanding Cleveland Seniors*

Dear Friends,

The City of Cleveland is proud to join the Administration for Community Living to celebrate our amazing Cleveland seniors during the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Cleveland Senior Day. This outstanding tradition honors our older residents through events and programming and recognizes the positive impact they have made in our community.

Today, 17 individuals will be honored for the contributions they have made in improving the lives of others. They are positive role models for our city, and we congratulate them for their accomplishments.

My administration is committed to providing our older residents with the resources, support and services they need to thrive and age with dignity. Please do not hesitate to contact our Department of Aging for any needs you may have.

On behalf of the City of Cleveland, thank you to all our seniors for your impact in our community and the experience and knowledge you lend to making Cleveland a diverse and welcoming city for all residents.

Sincerely,

**Justin M. Bibb**  
Mayor of Cleveland



**CITY OF CLEVELAND**  
Mayor Justin M. Bibb

## 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*

**Jehonica Bell**, *Aging Services Administrator*

**Adam Cisler**, *Administrative Manager*

**Reba F. Clardy**, *Geriatric Outreach Worker*

**Zhuoyun Deng**, *Aging Services Administrator*

**Frank Isaac Jr.**, *Chore Services Coordinator*

**Angela Johnson**, *Geriatric Outreach Worker*

**Theresa Kirby**, *Intake Specialist*

**Renee Lavelle**, *Project Director*

**Luis Luna**, *Home Maintenance Aide*

**Tawanda McCoy**, *Aging Services Administrator*

**Tyrone Montgomery**, *Aging Services Administrator*

**Raymond Poage**, *Home Maintenance Aide*

**Michelle Rivers**, *Administrative Manager*

**Jennifer Rosich**, *Administrative Manager*

**Ursula Rossman**, *Aging Services Administrator*

**Gwen Sanders**, *AARP Senior Employment*

**Augustina Sears-Foy**, *Aging Services Administrator*

**Deborah Smith**, *Junior Clerk*

**Keyna Smith**, *Administrative Manager*

**Gladys Soto**, *Geriatric Outreach Worker*

**Yahaira Soto**, *Hispanic Liaison*

**Loretta Stiles**, *Aging Services Administrator*

**Shani Stokes**, *Aging Services Administrator*

**Edward Tytko**, *Aging Services Administrator*

**Yolanda Walker**, *Utilities Liaison*

**Christy Washington**, *Utilities Liaison*

**Bill Webb**, *Home Maintenance Aide*

## 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, 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 Cleveland Senior Walks in partnership with Public Safety and with Recreation.

**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 T. Jones, Ward 1

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF**

*William Frederick Richards Jr.*

William Richards was born in New Philadelphia, Ohio to Ruth Jordan and William Richards. He grew up with many siblings and appreciates the care his grandparents took to help raise him. Many in the community today know him as Silver B, a nickname he received from his grandmother Beatrice. In addition to New Philadelphia, Mr. Richards considers Cleveland and Philadelphia, PA cities in which he grew up. Mr. Richards graduated from South Philadelphia High School. He graduated from Berea College, in Berea Kentucky. While there he was an active member of the arts community including as a member of Berea College's Black Ensemble, a Play Director and a disc jockey on the radio station to name a few.

He credits Rubie J. McCullough at Harvard Community Center as his inspiration to join the entertainment world. Silver B is passionate about the power of positive music and is well known as a DJ. For many years he was the entertainment chairman for Congressman Louis Stokes of the 11th Congressional Caucus. Many know Mr. Richards as the "King of the Summer Festivals" and he considers the Glenville Festival a highlight. He

was also a member of the "Hip Hop Committee" for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame where he consulted in the development of programming and student outreach events.

His work career included positions at Glenbeigh, East Cleveland Straight Talk, Parmadale, Harvard Community Services Center, East Cleveland Neighborhood Center and Cleveland Treatment Center.

As a broadcast veteran and entertainment industry legend, he continues to host a weekly radio broadcast.

His passions include supporting public health testing, sports, intergenerational programs, and violence prevention programs. Mr. Richards is an ardent supporter of the Black Studies Program at Cleveland State University. Each year at the school's annual Kuumba Arts Festival, the Black Studies Program gives an award in honor of "Silver B" to an individual whose vocation and/or activism has benefited the Cleveland community.

*Silver B died unexpectedly on August 30, 2022.*







Nominated By Council Member Kevin L. Bishop, Ward 2

# Charles Brown

Charles Brown was born in Cleveland Ohio to Mary and Jimmy Brown. He was the youngest of 15 children. His parents were born in Sunflower Mississippi. Charles attended Wade Park Elementary, Addison Junior High and East High School. As a young person he enjoyed going to the Main Theatre, Carter Theatre and working in the Central Market. He grew up in Shiloh Baptist Church.

Mr. Brown took some classes at Fenn College before beginning an apprenticeship with the iron workers. After a 3 year apprenticeship, he joined Local Union 17 and was the 3rd Black iron worker in the union. As an iron worker, he worked on many different jobs including Glenville Recreation Center, John F. Kennedy Recreation Center and the shopping plaza at East 93<sup>rd</sup> and Wade Park Avenue. For more than 40 years he has also worked in the funeral home business.

Mr. Brown is the proud father of Charles Brown, Jr.

You can often find Mr. Brown on his street helping to cut grass for older residents. He has been dubbed the "Mayor of Dove Avenue". He is very passionate about taking care of Dove Park at the corner of East 102 and Dove Avenue. He enjoys working with his hands. He communicates often with the Ward 2 office and Councilman Bishop, reporting various issues that need to be addressed.

He enjoys singing, attending fish fries and gathering groups of people. For his most recent birthday, more than 300 people attended. He is looking forward to the next one.

**Congratulations Charles!**





Nominated By Council Member Kerry McCormack, Ward 3

## Bea Delpapa

Bea Delpapa grew up in Colorado. She raised her sons, Tim and Andy, with her husband Chuck in Denver. Chuck's job at Higbees' brought her to Northeast Ohio when she was 44. With a background in food and a love for cooking, she opened Riverside Cooking School in 1984, where home cooks could take classes to hone their skills or simply enjoy an evening of good food. Once Higbee's sold, they found themselves on the move again, to New York, and Pennsylvania and back to Ohio, but this time a rural community, where she operated a B&B.

In 2011, Chuck and Bea returned to Cleveland, this time to Ohio City to be near their son, Tim. Because Tim was long established here, they immediately became entrenched in city life once again. They were drawn to Ward 3 for its vibrancy, diversity and walkability. It was time to put away any thoughts of working full time and to give more time to their neighborhood and the folks who live here. After nearly 20 years in the country, she was struck by all of the trash strewn along the street,

so one of her first tasks was to start picking up trash and then placing and maintaining trash cans in two places along their block.

Today you can often find Bea and her husband at the South of Lorain Block Club. She helped establish a more cohesive organization along with a few other residents and together they established officers and written by-laws for the block club. She served as the secretary of the block club for four years.

Bea has been an active volunteer for many years in her neighborhood. She was an engaged volunteer with the reading program at Dunbar Elementary School and was a neighborhood liaison for the Lutheran Hospital committee for fall prevention. She helped for many years with the spring planting at Market Square across from the West Side Market. She loves the West Side Market and is an advocate for improving its amenities.

**Congratulations Bea!**





Nominated By Council Member Deborah A. Gray, Ward 4

## *Delores Stokes*

Delores Stokes was born to Jessie Nelson in Chicago Illinois and spent the first 15 years of her life in Chicago. Delores is the oldest of her siblings: Betty, Hubert, Joanie, Brenda, Mary Etta and the late Johnny Jr. She moved to Cleveland in 1970 when her late stepfather, Johnny Nelson, moved his family for work in the steel mill industry. Ms. Stokes graduated from East High in 1972.

She is the proud mother of Oliver Stokes.

In the 1970's you could find Delores working at the Diplomat Restaurant or at the Neighborhood Centers Association. In the 1980's, she began employment with City of Cleveland. She worked at the Justice Center for several years. When Zelma George Recreation Center opened, she transferred there and worked as a custodian. She retired from

the City of Cleveland in 2017 with 33 years of service. After a short retirement, she returned to Zelma George as a part time employee. Ms. Stokes ensures the needs of seniors who utilize Zelma George Recreation Center are met. She wants the community to know that the Center is here for the community, no matter your age. Stop by and ask her about all of the great programming at the Zelma George Resource and Recreation Center and she will get you connected.

Delores's philosophy is to take one day at a time and put God first in her life. Working at Zelma George has kept her young at heart. She is an active member of Harvest Baptist Church. She is also grateful to be one of her mother's caregivers.

**Congratulations Delores!**





Nominated By Council Member Richard A. Starr, Ward 5

## Mattie Polk

Mattie Polk is the daughter of Mary and Walter Thomas of Greenwood Mississippi and the sister of Leonard and Robert, who are both deceased. She attended Central Public School and enjoyed going to Karamu House as a child and participating in spiritual dramas.

She is a very proud mother of 7 children: Richard, James, Reginald, Yvonne, Lorenzo, Mary and the late Howard. It is a gift to her that many of her children live nearby. Mattie is very proud of the accomplishments of her children as all are involved in their community and have interesting and successful careers. Ms. Polk has 14 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

She was a stay at home mother for many years. Her work career has included being a nursing

assistant at University Manor and Euclid Hospital and working at Bobby Brooks Clothing. She is well known in her community for operating Big Ma Day Care for more than 30 years. Her day care served generations of children and was open for all shifts.

Today Ms. Polk is very involved in her ward club and can be counted on to help share information with other neighbors.

Ms. Polk has been a member of Jordan Stream Baptist Church for more than 30 years and served in the nurse ministry. She enjoys visiting sick members of the church in their home and praying with them. Ms. Polk also enjoys bowling for fun.

**Congratulations Mattie!**







Nominated By Council Member Blaine A. Griffin, Ward 6

## Robert L. Render III

Robert Render was born and raised in Cleveland and attended St. Mary's and Cathedral Latin High School. After high school, he attended Cuyahoga Community College and graduated from the University of Dayton. While there, he became the 1st Black Student Government President in the history of University Dayton.

Bob honorably served in the Air Force. Bob's career has taken him to the Western Reserve Historical Society and to the Cleveland Public Library to name a few. Bob is president of RLR III and Associates, Inc. and is actively involved in the community.

Bob is an activist. He is secretary of the Fair Housing Board at the City of Cleveland. He is an active member of the subcommittee Shaker Square Alliance, through Organize Ohio. You can often find him engaged with the North/South Moreland Working Group dealing with landlord and tenant issues and safety issues. Mr.

Render is a member of the Executive Committee of the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party and a Precinct Committee Person in Ward 6.

Mr. Render is president of East 128<sup>th</sup> Street Block Club Association, a street known as a model street. In the fall of 2021, the East 128<sup>th</sup> Street Club unveiled a beautiful public art project at Amos Norwood Mini Park. The mural, titled the History of African Americans, provides inspiration, education and illuminates the scope of contributions of African Americans. The mural is unique in that it includes QR codes so individuals can quickly and easily read more information about each individual.

He is the father of 2 sons, Timothy and Marcus and the grandfather of 4, Taj Malik, Emmanuel, Sayvia, Delicia.

**Congratulations Robert!**





Nominated By Council Member Stephanie D. Howse, Ward 7

## *Yvonne Ball*

Yvonne Ball was born in Jackson Mississippi to Velma Earline and Ken Young. She was raised in a large household with treasured siblings and step siblings.

Ms. Ball moved to Cleveland when she was twenty years old. She worked for 32 years at Singleton Health Care Center, a nursing home in Ward 7. She loved her work caring for the residents as a nursing assistant and later restorative assistant. In her retirement, Ms. Ball is a leader to the residents in her apartment building. She is respected and appreciated by the residents. She can often be found organizing back to school drives, toy drives and coat collections for residents.

She is the proud mother of Victoria Banks and TaWanda Ball and stepmother to Larnell

Washington, son of her late husband L.C Washington. She is a proud grandmother to Kierra, Brittany, Willie Jr., Fernando and the late Precious Yvonne. She is a great grandmother to Lamier, Lori, Bri-youn, Keyontay, Kason, Willie III and Payton.

Ms. Ball fellowships at two churches, Holy Grove Missionary Baptist Church and Green Grove Baptist Church. She enjoys socializing with others and sharing meals. She is a Precinct Representative to Ward 7-S. Ms. Ball refuses to let her need for a wheelchair deter her from staying actively engaged in her community.

**Congratulations Yvonne!**





Nominated By Council Member Michael D. Polensek, Ward 8

## *John Hairston Jr.*

John Hairston Jr. was born in Johnson City, Tennessee. His family later settled in Gary, West Virginia where he graduated from Gary District High School. Mr. Hairston earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Bluefield State College and a Master's Degree in Education from Cleveland State University. John began his teaching career in 1964 at Kennard Junior High School in Cleveland. Over the next 27 years with the Cleveland Public School District, he would hold various positions including staff development director and chief of community relations. In 1991, Mr. Hairston was hired as the director of external programs at NASA John H. Glenn Research Center in Cleveland. In this role, he worked closely with U. S. Congressman Louis Stokes and Director Julian Manly Earls to facilitate a relationship between the center and the Cleveland community. From 2008 to 2011, John served as the chief of communications for Cleveland Public Schools. He also served as the district director for 11th District Congressional Office in Warrensville Heights, Ohio under U.S. Congresswoman Marcia Fudge. Mr. Hairston was also president of Cuyahoga County Board of Elections of 4 years.

Mr. Hairston has received numerous awards, including the Presidential Rank Award (2005),

a Key to the City of Cleveland (2001), United Cerebral Palsy President Humanitarian Award (1999), NASA's Exceptional Achievement Medal (1993) and NASA's Medal for Outstanding Leadership (1997). He was appointed to the Martin Luther King Ohio State Commission by then- Governor George Voinovich (1992) and was presented a Congressional Record Commendation from Congressman Louis Stokes (1989).

John currently serves as Vice President of the Board of Trustees of Cleveland Public Library and is in his second term as a board member of MetroHealth System.

John was married to his lovely late wife Delaney for 47 years. He is the proud father of four children, James Colvin, John Hairston III, Tracey Hairston Brown and Charles Hunter. He has six grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. John enjoys walking in Wildwood Park, hunting and fishing. He is Chairman of the Deacon Board of his church Imani Temple Ministries. He loves to volunteer for nonprofits and is very active in his North Collinwood neighborhood. He has a vision for economic development in the ward that will improve the quality of life for all.

**Congratulations John!**





Nominated By Council Member Kevin Conwell, Ward 9

## *Alma Smith*

Alma Smith was born in Tuskegee Alabama to Lula and John Lanier. She grew up in a large family with 10 siblings. Ms. Smith moved to Cleveland where other family members lived after her high school graduation.

After graduating from Erma Lee Beauty and Barber College with second honors, she worked in several beauty salons. After several years, Ms. Smith opened her own salon, Beau- Monde Beauty Salon, on Cedar Avenue in the Fairfax neighborhood. She later purchased the building and added a boutique store, Beau- Monde Variety, to her salon business. As a business owner, Ms. Smith worked with other business owners to organize the Fairfax Business Association and served as its vice president for a period. She is proud to have launched the first Cedar Festival thru the Fairfax Business Organization. You could always count on Ms. Smith to say yes when the community reached out asking for her participation as a business owner.

Alma has received numerous awards from the Fairfax Business Association including the Esteemed Award from the Sea Wright Foundation. Alma has been recognized for her business leadership by local and state political leaders.

Ms. Smith is an active member of Olivet Institutional Baptist Church. She is also very engaged in Ward 9 activities and can often be found helping out the Council Office.

Ms. Smith and her late husband Edward are the proud parents of Jeannette, Diane, Anthony, Donald, Rickey, Eric and an adopted daughter Jeanine. She is a stepmother to Lavonia and Edward, Jr. She is also a grandmother and great grandmother.

She enjoys traveling, cooking, hosting her family for dinners and organizing family reunions.

**Congratulations Alma!**







Nominated By Council Member Anthony T. Hairston, Ward 10

## *Shirley Thompson*

Shirley Thompson was born in Cleveland and is the 2nd eldest of 11 children to Matilda (100 years old) and late Arthur Hawkins. Born and raised in several Cleveland neighborhoods, Shirley has made her lifelong home in the Collinwood, Ward 10 neighborhood for more than 44 years.

Shirley graduated from John Hay High School and attended Cuyahoga Community College and Cleveland State University. Ms. Thompson is passionate about lifelong learning and earned degrees in Real Estate, Urban Studies and Office Administration. She earned her Master's Degree in Urban Planning from Cleveland State University. She considers the people she met along the way a highlight of her life.

She purchased her first real estate property, a 4 suite apartment in 1981 and co- founded a trucking company (Thompson Ground Development, Inc.) in 1988. Shirley worked for the City of Cleveland

Police Department from 1995-2018 as a Project Manager in the Policy & Procedure Unit.

You can often find her at Ward 10 meetings where she is very active on Councilman Hairston's committees. If something needs to be done, she will do it. Shirley remembers fondly all of the neighborhood services that were available to her as a young person. Her love of being engaged in the community stems from her childhood. She believes constant and accountable action with government is how change occurs.

Ms. Thompson is proud mother of daughter Rhoni Thompson and son Curtis L. Thompson II. She is the proud grandmother of Dominique Wright and great grandmother to Ayden, Josiah and Makhi. Shirley enjoys exercising, visiting family and friends and watching movies.

**Congratulations Shirley!**





Nominated By Council Member Brian Mooney, Ward 11

# Helen Clare Malloy

Helen Malloy was born in Cleveland to parents Catherine and Patrick Malloy. She along with her late brother Patrick attended St. Vincent De Paul School and were very involved in church life. Helen graduated from St. Joseph Academy. After graduation she began a career that would last 38 years with East Ohio Gas.

Helen's parents were immigrants from County Mayo, Ireland and so she was born into volunteering at the West Side Irish American Club. She was very active with the drill team, a highlight of the St. Patrick's Day festivities. Helen has held many volunteer roles with the West Side Irish American Club and currently serves on its Board of Trustees. She is also a lifetime member of the Irish American Archives Society, a member of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians and a member of the United

Irish Society, an organization who coordinates the City of Cleveland's annual St. Patrick Day parade each March.

Ms. Malloy is happy to help out wherever she can but prefers to stay in the background. She enjoys helping organize fundraisers for organizations like Malachi House and Little Brothers and Sisters of the Poor. She remains an active member of her church, St. Vincent De Paul.

She enjoys spending time with her nieces, nephews and "adopted" nieces and nephews, gardening, golfing and traveling to Ireland. She believes that staying active and social has been good for her health.

**Congratulations Helen!**





Nominated By Council Member Rebecca Maurer, Ward 12

## *Lucy Torres*

Lucy Torres was born in Comerío Puerto Rico to Ampero and Luis Bonilla. After high school, she earned a two year degree from University of Sacred Heart, Puerto Rico. After moving to Cleveland, she took courses from Cuyahoga Community College and Cleveland State University.

Ms. Torres worked for the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, Multilingual Multicultural Educational Program for 25 years. Lucy also worked at the City of Cleveland for 10 years as the City's Hispanic Liaison, Cleveland Community Relations Board. Ms. Torres is co-founder of the City of Cleveland's Puerto Rican Parade. She has also served as a member of the Spanish American Committee. Ms. Torres has worked for years to support and elevate the Hispanic community in Cleveland.

Today, you can find Ms. Torres as the leasing manager at Valley Road Villa Apartments in Ward 12. More than 90% of the residents of Valley Road Villa are older adults and Ms. Torres ensures that its residents have the services they need. She helps residents schedule appointments and brings resources to the apartment building that she believes are beneficial. She is a strong advocate and cares deeply about the residents.

Lucy was married for 31 years to her late husband Ivan Torres. She is the proud mother of Yaris Martinez and proud grandmother of four, Christopher, Christian, Kris and Yariliz. In her spare time, she enjoys volunteering with political campaigns.

**Congratulations Lucy!**





Nominated By Council Member Kris Harsh, Ward 13

## Bonnie Robertson

Bonnie Robertson was born and raised in the Cleveland area. She is grateful to her grandparents who helped raise her. Bonnie worked in the restaurant business for many years. She reflects fondly about her time working at Glenn Restaurant, at the corner of Memphis and Pearl, where the staff felt like family.

Ms. Robertson has been a proud member of Senior Citizen Resources (SCR) for 31 years. Senior Citizens Resources, Inc. has been helping seniors in Cleveland's Old Brooklyn community maintain independence and quality of life for more than 50 years. Bonnie has a bright cheery attitude and is willing to help with just about any task that needs to be done. Despite being legally blind her whole life, Bonnie has helped out with many different jobs at SCR over the years, including tirelessly selling 50/50 raffle tickets, helping with home-delivered meal packing, assisting with the monthly newsletter mailing and delivery, posting SCR communications around her apartment

building, and helping with the annual Senior Olympics. Along with helping at SCR, Bonnie also volunteered for many years at St. Augustine Church and helped out at the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corp.

Bonnie never had the opportunity to learn to read as child, but about 20 years ago she began attending the Saint Augustine Learning Center, where she was able to work with a tutor and a very large magnifying glass to begin to recognize words and eventually be able to read. She still works with her tutor today and considers herself to be a lifelong learner.

Bonnie's positive personality and her commitment to our community are so appreciated. Almost every day, she tells Senior Citizen Resource employees: "I love this place!" – And it is clear the feeling is mutual.

**Congratulations Bonnie!**







Nominated By Council Member Jasmin Santana, Ward 14

# Ernest O' Connor

Ernest O'Conner was born in Charleston, West Virginia to Ernest and Betty O'Conner. He grew up in a family of 11 children. His family moved to Cleveland when he was a teenager as part of the Appalachian migration movement. Ernie, as he is more commonly known, was a youth representative for Mayor Carl Stokes to the Appalachian Committee. In this role he helped others adjust to city life from West Virginia. Ernie graduated from West Tech High School. After high school he served in the U.S Navy for five years. He also worked in the steel industry for several years. He attended college at Cuyahoga Community College, Western Campus. For the last 22 years, Mr. O'Conner has worked as a telemetry technician at Select Medical Gateway at St. Vincent Charity Hospital.

Mr. O'Conner is a long time member of a 12 step recovery program and has been a sponsor to many people. He celebrates twenty eight years of sobriety. He regularly speaks about the 12 step program to community groups. If someone needs a bed while

waiting to get into treatment, you might find that person on Ernie's couch.

He has lived on his street for 42 years and is known as a good neighbor. He believes that your "neighborhood does not end at your property line" and encourages others to get active. He can be found cutting grass at vacant properties, cleaning up alleyways, sharing phone numbers with neighbors and encouraging neighborhood get-togethers. He believes that one way to ensure a safe neighborhood is to know your neighbors. He enjoys gardening and beautifying the neighborhood.

Mr. O'Conner is a member of Harmony Baptist Church. His dog Brutus, named after The Ohio State University mascot, is a constant companion and is a great conversation starter in the neighborhood. Mr. O'Conner has many "adopted children".

**Congratulations Ernie!**





Nominated By Council Member Jenny Spencer, Ward 15

## Nora Rodríguez

Nora Rodríguez was born in Yauco, Puerto Rico to Francisco and Cándida Quiñones. Her family includes her sister Norma and her brother Francisco. She is grateful to her grandparents for helping to raise her.

Ms. Rodríguez moved to New York City in 1956 from Puerto Rico and then relocated to Cleveland in 1958. She married her husband Carlos in 1966. She proudly worked for Chilcote Company and May Dugan Center.

Nora and Carlos raised two daughters, one son and three adopted daughters on West 81<sup>st</sup>; all of the children attended Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School. She is a proud grandmother of seven: Cassandra, Caitlyn, Mariah, Carlos Jr, Thalia, Mercedes and Christian.

Nora and her husband, Carlos, have lived in their home on West 81<sup>st</sup> Street in Ward 15 since 1966. Even when things got challenging, Carlos and

Nora never gave up on the neighborhood. Nora is one of the most dedicated advocates you will ever meet. She is well-known by her neighbors and for the past five decades, she has taken the lead to ensure that the issues of West 81<sup>st</sup> are resolved. Nora has always been community-minded and previously worked hand-in-hand with Judge Raymond L. Pianka, who served the community on Cleveland City Council from 1985-1995. Nora works closely with the Council office to this day and her contributions are invaluable.

Ms. Rodríguez is a member of St. Coleman's Parish community and attends other churches as well.

Although her family, her home, her hobby of fixing cars and her beautiful garden keeps her busy, she always makes time for her community and West 81<sup>st</sup>.

**Congratulations Nora!**





Nominated By Council Member Brian Kazy, Ward 16

## Lawrence McGinty

Lawrence McGinty was born to the late Loretta and Edward McGinty and raised in Cleveland alongside five siblings. He has lived on the same street for his entire life. He attended Annunciation grade school and graduated from John Marshall high school. His work career has involved kitchen restaurant work and driving. Lawrence worked for National Car Rental for 18 years as a bus driver.

Mr. McGinty can often be found helping Councilman Kazy with ward cookouts at McGowan Park or with concerts at Jefferson Park. He gladly assists with Bellaire Puritas Community Development Center activities. He is also very active in his community garden on West 130th and Sprecher Avenue. The community garden has 38 garden beds filled with tomatoes, peppers and more. He can often be found cutting grass, trimming trees and painting benches. He is a

block watch captain between the bridges and assists several older adults on the street with their lawn care needs.

He married his childhood sweetheart, Patti, who also lived on the same street. Her family was on his Cleveland Press paper route. Today he lives 15 houses down from his childhood home. Larry and Patti are the proud parents of two daughters, Melissa and Nicole and proud grandparents of three, Jaidyn, Xander and Amelia. He is a committed caregiver to his wife Patti.

Larry is a Mason, a member of the Cleveland Lodge 781, Grotto, Eastern Star River. In his free time, he enjoys golf, corn hole and swimming. He also enjoys helping with Relay for Life fundraisers.

**Congratulations Larry!**





Nominated By Council Member Charles J. Slife, Ward 17

## Vincent Birt

Vincent “Binky” Birt, is the sixth child of eight children, born to John and Josephine Birt in Cleveland Ohio. He attended Our Lady of Angels grade school and was in the first graduating class of St. Edward High School. As a lifelong West Park resident, his church home has always been Our Lady of Angels (OLA) Church.

In 1983 he married Karen Guthman and together they had four children, Christine, Annette, John, Brian. He is a grandfather of three and great grandfather of three.

Binky was a member of Local 38 IBEW, an electrician, for 45 years. He worked on or at The Midland building, Terminal Tower, East Ohio Gas, CEI building, Playhouse Square theaters, West Side Market, Erieview Towers, Twin towers at MetroHealth Hospital, Republic Steel, Jones and Loughlin Steel and Cleveland Convention Center.

For 37 years Mr. Birt was a volunteer coach at Our Lady of Angels School. This included Cougar football, baseball, basketball and track teams. Known by hundreds, if not thousands, of young men as “coach”, “Bink” or “Binky”. Always an ear to listen and help others find the best in themselves. It wasn’t just coaching at OLA, he would use his electrician skills to help keep the buildings in shape and sing in the choir. He is a man of many talents. You could find his gregarious spirit in many parts of the ward—whether volunteering at the Cancer Society Resale Shop or as the Precinct Committee person in the former ward 21. Mr. Birt loves his neighbors and his neighborhood along with golf, gardening and water exercise.

**Congratulations Binky!**

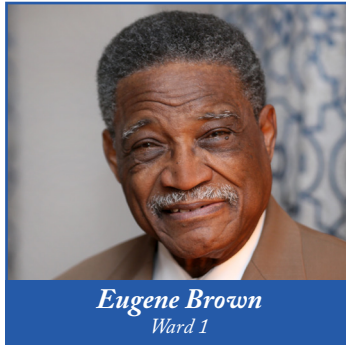




## THE 2021 SENIOR DAY HONOREES WERE:

*Due to COVID, there was not an in-person Senior Day recognition in 2021. The program was virtual.*

**Ward 1:** *Eugene Brown*



**Ward 2:** *Patricia Hook*

**Ward 3:** *Hilda Ramirez*



**Ward 4:** *Marion Gardner*

**Ward 5:** *Beverly Collier*  
*(In Loving Memory)*

**Ward 6:** *Marilyn Burns*

**Ward 7:** *Patricia Williams*

**Ward 8:** *Joe Purpura*

**Ward 9:** *Diana Porter*

**Ward 10:** *Gail Mayhand*

**Ward 11:** *Art Card*

**Ward 12:** *Richard Sosenko*

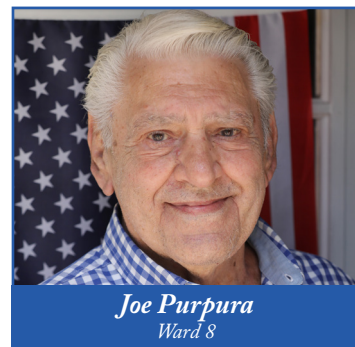
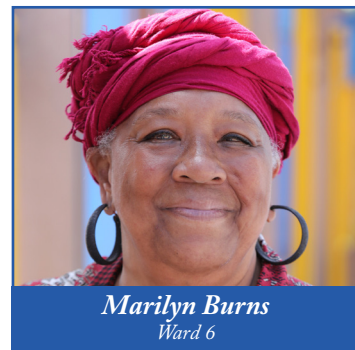
**Ward 13:** *Bill Schwark*

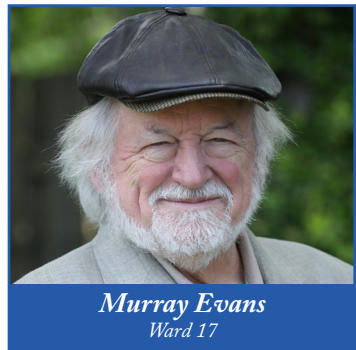
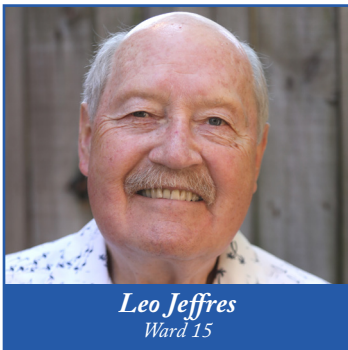
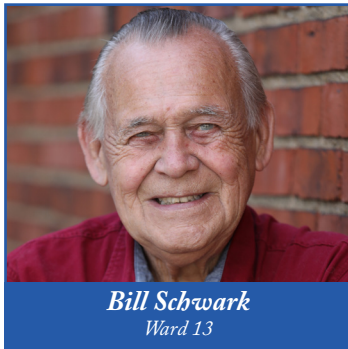
**Ward 14:** *Rosemary Fiorentino*

**Ward 15:** *Leo Jeffres*

**Ward 16:** *Janis Pongallo*

**Ward 17:** *Murray Evans*





*Congratulations 2021 Senior Day Honorees!*

*We Salute You!*



COMMUNITIES OF STRENGTH: MAY 2021

**THE CLEVELAND DEPARTMENT OF AGING  
THANKS THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL FOR  
THEIR SUPPORT OF SENIOR DAY.**

*Mayor Justin M. Bibb  
President of Council Blaine A. Griffin*

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**Ward 1** – *Joseph T. Jones*

**Ward 10** – *Anthony T. Hairston*

**Ward 2** – *Kevin L. Bishop*

**Ward 11** – *Brian Mooney*

**Ward 3** – *Kerry McCormack*

**Ward 12** – *Rebecca Maurer*

**Ward 4** – *Deborah A. Gray*

**Ward 13** – *Kris Harsh*

**Ward 5** – *Richard A. Starr*

**Ward 14** – *Jasmin Santana*

**Ward 6** – *Blaine A. Griffin*

**Ward 15** – *Jenny Spencer*

**Ward 7** – *Stephanie D. Howse*

**Ward 16** – *Brian Kazy*

**Ward 8** – *Michael D. Polensek*

**Ward 17** – *Charles J. Slife*

**Ward 9** – *Kevin Conzwell*

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**SPECIAL THANKS TO THOSE WHO PREPARED THIS BOOK:**

**Design:** *Randalene Porch*

**Printing:** *Cleveland Division of Printing & Reproduction*

**Writing:** *Mary McNamara*

**Photography:** *Ruggero Fatica*

**Scheduling:** *Michelle Rivers*

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*Cleveland's older Americans engage at every age, providing years of service and dedication to their families and communities. In addition, they continue to inspire and share their wisdom, experiences and values of hard work, making Cleveland a wonderful place to call home. At Cleveland Public Utilities, we're proud to celebrate all of our older Americans this month and always.*



***Engage at Every Age***

*The Department of Aging thanks the  
Department of Public Utilities for their  
support of the Senior Day book.*



**CITY OF CLEVELAND**  
Mayor Justin M. Bibb

**Cleveland Department of Aging**

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AGE MY WAY: SEPT 2022