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 28th year that we will honor Cleveland Seniors at Senior Day.

The 2017 theme for Older Americans Month “Age Out Loud”, gives us an opportunity to shine a light on many important issues and trends surrounding the aging community. Many Cleveland seniors are trying new things, striving for wellness, focusing on independence, and engaging in their communities.

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,

Frank G. Jackson, Mayor
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
Juanita Bradley-Douglas, Senior Clerk
Angela Branch, AARP Senior Community Services Employment Program
Adam Cisler, Administrative Manager
Norman Claxton, Home Maintenance Aide
Anthony Dial, Geriatric Outreach Worker
Judy Drost, Geriatric Outreach Worker
Jakimah Dye, Project Coordinator Senior Initiative
Katie Gedeon, Aging Services Administrator – Economic Security Project
Wendell Hawkins, Home Maintenance Aide
Susan Hijjawi, Project Coordinator – Homeless Prevention
Tanesha Hunter, Aging Services Administrator
Angela Johnson, Geriatric Outreach Worker
Kathye Johnson, Geriatric Outreach Worker
Theresa Kirby, Intake Specialist
Ruby Malone, AARP Senior Community Services Employment Program

Alissa Moore, Geriatric Outreach Worker
Greg Nelson, AARP Senior Community Services Employment Program
Angela Niemiec, Aging Services Administrator – Age Friendly Cleveland
Raford Odom, Administrative Manager
Ricky Ortiz, Home Maintenance Aide
Fallon Peterson, Student Aide
Jennifer Rosich, Chore Services Coordinator
Forriest Russell, Home Maintenance Aide
Elijah Smith, Home Maintenance Aide
Gladys Soto, Geriatric Outreach Worker
Loretta Stiles, Aging Services Administrator – Options Counseling
Patricia Stiteman, Assistant Aging Services Administrator
Barbara Warren, AARP Senior Community Services Employment Program
Samantha Williams-Pierce, Project Director – Cleveland Care Calls

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.
Cleveland Senior Day – Senior Day is a citywide celebration of our older citizens with a senior 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 to help tie them over until a longer term plan for accessing food is established.

Economic Security for Cleveland Seniors – This program helps seniors to improve their economic situations. 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.

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 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 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 – 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.
Eugene Molton was born and raised in Cleveland and is proud of it. He was born in 1934 and grew up in the Mount Pleasant neighborhood. He moved into his current home in Ward 1 in 1967. In April, Eugene celebrated 56 years of marriage to his wife, Mary. He has two children. He is a graduate of John Adams High School and Case Western Reserve University. A veteran of the Air Force, Eugene also is a retiree from the US Treasury Department, where he was employed for over 30 years. Mr. Molton is passionate about serving his community and always strives to keep people connected.

Eugene has been actively involved as the President of the Invermere Avenue Street Club since 1993. Mr. Molton enjoys working with the citizens of his neighborhood to address their concerns and make the community safer for one another. In addition to his involvement with his street club, he has also served as the Vice President for the Lee-Harvard Community Association for many years. A leader in his community, Mr. Molton has served the community by assisting with the Kerruish Park Restoration Committee, as well as the Lee Harvard Focus Committee. Eugene is dedicated to connecting neighbors to community leaders and to each other.

Besides being involved with community organizations, Mr. Molton volunteers at the Lee Road Baptist Church. He enjoys spending time with his childhood friends, meeting at least monthly to enjoy lunch or dinner. An avid sports fan, Eugene is a fan of the Cavaliers, Indians and Browns. He was beyond thrilled to see the Cavaliers win the Championship for the City of Cleveland, and hopes the Indians can bring home a World Series win soon. When asked what he loves about Cleveland he stated, without hesitation, “I’m born and raised in Cleveland. This is a family town – where my family lives. I am happy to have family to spend time with!”

Mr. M. Eugene Molton

How do you Age Out Loud?

“By being joyful! Getting older is a blessing! I’ve been blessed with good health and a long life – share that with others.”
Ruby Fields has lived in Ward 2 since the 1960’s. Born to Virgil and Gerline Fields she was the second of three children. She is a proud graduate of John Adams High School and Bowling Green State University, where she earned her Bachelor’s Degree in Education. Ms. Fields worked as a supervisor for Cuyahoga County Department of Health and Human Services for more than 30 years. A “mother to many”, Ruby loves to spend time with her family, especially her nieces and nephews.

Ms. Fields is an engaged leader in her community. Ambitious and caring, she serves in several capacities. Ruby helped reorganize the East 108th Street Club in November 2010 and continues to play a key role. Conveying that she is always willing to help wherever needed, she has served on the Union Miles Development Corporation Board, attends monthly ward and community relations meetings, is a part of the neighborhood watch, and is secretary on the Juvenile Court’s Citizen’s Advisory Board. She attends Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church, where she is the Vice President of the 50+ Ministry. Ruby loves to see positive outcomes from her work and remains committed to the growth and prosperity of her community and takes great pride in her involvement.

In her free time, Ruby likes to read both books and magazines. Reading allows her time to get away and enjoy the quiet. She likes to travel and discover new places, as well as be involved with various recreational activities. When asked what she loves about Cleveland she stated, “It’s home! I’ve never had the desire to leave. It’s where I grew up, where my family is, where I worship – It’s everything to me.”
Deane Malaker was born in 1932 in Illinois, and has also lived in Indiana and Michigan prior to moving to Ohio in 1983. He practiced law for 57 years, specializing in title insurance and real estate law. Deane has two children, a son and a daughter. He has lived in Tremont since 1998, where he has built two new homes, one of which won an AIA Architectural Design Award. He loves this community and proves this by his volunteerism and general involvement in many capacities. Deane, a Korean War veteran, is known as a doer, not a talker.

Mr. Malaker is a graduate of Indiana University Law School in Bloomington, Indiana. He has been involved with assisting residents with limited incomes with legal matters, pro bono, throughout his professional career. In addition to helping the less fortunate with legal matters, Deane likes to connect his neighborhood, and is a member of Walkabout Tremont, where he delivers promotional fliers to Tremont businesses. He is active with the North of Literary Block Club where he represents residents of his neighborhood and they keep each other informed on issues and concerns. He helps with various community events, such as Taste of Tremont, National Night Out Against Crime and the Rite Aid Cleveland Marathon. He also contributes by being a part of the Tremont Safety Committee and the 2nd District Community Relations group. In 2010, Deane received the Gail Long Award from Tremont West Development Corporation for outstanding service to the neighborhood.

Civic engagement is one of his interests, but Deane also stays active in other ways, including being an avid swimmer. He regularly trains at Cleveland State University’s Busbey Natatorium and Recreation Center. He loves to read, especially espionage and historical fiction novels and is a collector of art. He supports local artists and also enjoys attending The Cleveland Museum of Art.

Deane is young at heart and feels that he truly benefits from all that Cleveland offers. He also loves the special feel the proximity of Lake Erie provides. When asked what he loves most about Cleveland he said, “There are so many things - the diversity, the ease of travel, the social and cultural amenities of the city, the restaurant scene. The overall progress of Cleveland is so nice to see – Cleveland has a lot going for it!”

How do you Age Out Loud?
“I keep moving, keep my mind active, and surround myself with good friends and strong personal relationships.”

Nominated By Council Member Kerry McCormack, Ward 3
Willie Huggins was born in Birmingham, Alabama. Willie was the ninth of eleven children, and followed his brother to Cleveland for a new opportunity. His brother had been successful in securing employment and loved living here, and encouraged his brother to join him. In 1947, Mr. Huggins moved here with his “wife by my side and only $65 in my pocket.” Married to his high school sweetheart, they were blessed with a son and he is the proud grandfather of two grandchildren. He is an active resident of Ward 4 where he has lived for over 60 years. A people person, Willie feels it is important to give back to the community any way that you can and to do so with a “positive voice and a full heart!”

Working in several positions throughout Cleveland, including Wilson Brothers asphalt company, Farrell Engineering, and White Motors, Mr. Huggins is most proud of his tenure with St. Luke’s Hospital. He worked there for over 27 years and feels “blessed with opportunities they provided to me, and the nice people I got to work with.” Starting in the custodial department, he worked his way up to a Clinical Nurse Technician.

Mr. Huggins has been active in his neighborhood in a variety of capacities. Serving on his precinct committee, he has helped register people to vote, and has taken joy in campaigning for many prestigious Cleveland leaders. He shared how important it is for “people to have a voice, be a part of your community and work together to make positive change.” As a part of Street Club Incorporated and an active member of his church, he has enjoyed being a positive influence to people in his community, especially to the youth. He has devoted his life to helping youth know there are people who care for them, the importance of education, being kind to one another, treating others with respect, and most importantly that they can be somebody. His motto is, “You only have one life, so do something with it.”

Besides spending time with his cherished dog Elmo, he loves to spend time with people in the neighborhood. He loves going out to eat and also watching all the Cleveland sports teams. When asked what he loves about Cleveland, he enthusiastically said “Cleveland is the best location in the nation! We have some of the best restaurants in the world, Lake Erie, the Indians, the Browns, and the World Champion Cavaliers.”
Patricia Miles grew up in Elyria and moved to Cleveland in 1973. A devoted wife of 33 years, she has one daughter. She has been blessed with two grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Mrs. Miles has lived in her community since 1996 and is a graduate of Hillsdale College and Kent State University. Patricia, and her husband, Reverend Furman Miles Jr. have shown unwavering dedication to serving their community over the years. Patricia's husband, Reverend Miles, passed away in February of this year.

With a Bachelor's degree in sociology and a Master's degree in rehabilitation counseling, Patricia has always strived to help others. As a professional, she worked for the State of Ohio's Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation for 34 years. In this role, she helped people with mental and physical disabilities find meaningful jobs.

Mrs. Miles has been an active member of her ward club for many years. She likes to stay connected to what is happening with her neighbors and provide insight whenever possible. The work she is most passionate and dedicated to is the ministerial work that her husband and her provided to the sick and homeless. Patricia and her husband have spent much of their time providing support, leading bible studies, prayer groups and church services at various nursing facilities.

In her free time, Patricia stays very active with her hobbies. She loves to work in her yard and in her vegetable garden, where she grows tomatoes, collard greens, and peppers. She is talented in many ways and finds much joy in sewing, baking, and scrapbooking. She understands the value exercise has to one's health. When asked what she loves about Cleveland, she said, “Things happen here – Things get done! Cleveland continues to make upgrades, is upbeat. Mayor Jackson put us back on the map.”
Johnny Woodson was born in Vicksburg, Mississippi in 1945. He moved to Cleveland in 1968 in hopes of landing a construction job, so he could provide for his family. One of 14 kids, he had to be resourceful and enjoyed helping his siblings. He has been married to Nancy for 51 years, has 11 children and ten grandchildren.

Johnny’s career in construction took off in Cleveland. He was trained here, and worked for more than 30 years in mason work including Great Lakes Construction and The Albert M. Higley Company. He helped with construction of major Cleveland highways including bridge work on Interstates 90, 71, 77 and Route 422. It was particularly thrilling for him to work on construction of First Energy Stadium, home of the Cleveland Browns.

Mr. Woodson has always understood the importance of attention to detail and takes pride in contributing to the good of the community. Johnny helps older neighbors with their yard work. He provides assistance because he knows he is able and wants to ease their minds by lending a helping hand. In addition to helping older adults, he takes pride in various beautification projects in Ward 6. He takes time picking up litter and pays special attention to the grounds of Life Skills High School. He was very fond of his high school Rosa A. Temple High in Mississippi and wants students to have the same pride in their school.

In his spare time, Johnny enjoys spending time with his high school sweetheart, his wife – Nancy. They enjoy traveling, going for walks, and listening to blues music. They have traveled all over the US, including Michigan, Arkansas and the Poconos, to attend various blues concerts. He is also an avid sports fan, particularly the Cleveland Cavaliers. When asked why he loves Cleveland, Mr. Woodson said, “I love the climate – especially in the summer time. It’s the perfect temperature. Everyone is happy. Cleveland always knows how to come together.”
Ms. Linda J. Allen

Linda J. Allen is a native Clevelander and the second oldest of seven siblings. Linda is the loving mother of three, grandmother of 13, and great grandmother of one. Ms. Allen is very honored that the late Fannie M. Lewis was a fellow great-grandmother to her great-grandson. Her alma mater is East Technical High School and she also attended Cuyahoga, Lorain, and Lakeland Community Colleges where she majored in Early Childhood Education and Entrepreneurship. Linda proudly exclaimed that she "always puts God as the first priority in her life."

Ms. Allen has worn many hats in her life. She is proud to be "a daughter, a mother, a grandmother, a friend, a confidant, a companion, an aunt, a cousin, a volunteer, a teacher, a homemaker, a caregiver", as well as so many other roles. Children are "her business, her passion." She believes that education is the best legacy to a child. In her early years she worked with Head Start programs. After retiring as a paraprofessional educator, she started her own childcare and tutoring services. She has also volunteered with AARP as a tutor and mentor to children. Today, she gives back to her community by serving as a crossing guard and an aide at Wade Park Elementary School. She also serves in the children's ministry at Kingdom Kidz University. Previously, she served as Secretary, Missionary, and children church assistant at Christ Centered Community Church, and in the childrens ministry at University Church of Christ. She also serves as the presiding judge and polling location coordinator for the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections.

Linda loves reading, art, music, cooking, gardening, traveling and writing poetry. She has been active in many community programs, including Fatima Silver Thread Senior Program, Fairhill Partner’s Kinship Caregiver program and Cleveland Housing Network. She enjoys line dancing, Zumba, nature walking and Tai Chi. She understands the importance of staying active – she even won first place in the Cleveland Clinic Health Challenge. When asked why she loves Cleveland, she said, “I love Cleveland, it’s empowering, with many resources and a wealth of history. It’s home!”

How do you Age Out Loud?
"Don’t do it! Aging is what others put on you.”
Ms. Caroline J. Peak

Caroline J. Peak was born in Batesville, Mississippi in 1954. She moved to Cleveland in 1972 after graduating from high school. Ms. Peak has two sons and has been a resident of Collinwood for over 30 years. She is a certified Librarian with a degree from Kent State University. She also attended Cuyahoga Community College and Cleveland State University. Ms. Peak is the manager of the Collinwood Branch of the Cleveland Public Library. Caroline has served as a committed and engaged community leader and volunteer.

Besides her work with the Cleveland Public Library, Ms. Peak serves as True2U Mentor for 8th graders at Memorial School. In addition to her commitment to youth, she serves as the secretary of the Cleveland Housing Network board, is the treasurer on the Collinwood Recreation Board, and serves on the board for the Collinwood Neighborhood Catholic Ministries. She is the past Secretary of the Board of Northeast Shores Development Corporation and is still involved with them, an active participant of MyCom, and works with the Salvation Army Temple Corps. She somehow finds time to serve as an Executive Committee member of the Ward 8/Bratenahl Village Democratic Club. She is a graduate of the Neighborhood Leadership Institute and Prism -an awareness program that focuses on racism and social inequity. Caroline is also a participant of the neighborhood leadership development program a member of HIP-C (Health Improvement for Cuyahoga County). Ms. Peak’s passion is to improve the quality of life for members of her neighborhood as evidenced by the various ways she gives back.

With her limited free time, her hobbies include reading, staying active and dancing. She is also a fan of our arts and cultural options. “We are known nationwide for our museums and arts scene.” When asked why she loves Cleveland, she said, “The uniqueness and diversity of the communities and our citizens.”

How do you Age Out Loud?
“Reminding others to enjoy each and every moment of your life – find happiness in every day.”
Mr. Kenny Davis

Kenny Davis was born on July 30, 1941 and attended Wade Park Elementary, Addison Junior High School and East High School. He was married in 1962 to his high school sweetheart, Betty. Together, they have three children and 13 grandchildren. They have lived in Glenville since 1967. Mr. Davis is a veteran of the U.S. Navy, where he served two tours of duty in the Mediterranean. Kenny is a world renowned trumpet player with a prestigious resume, playing with numerous legends, including Marvin Gaye, Smokey Robinson, and Stevie Wonder. One of his greatest loves has been using his musical talents to give back to the community.

Starting out as a drummer, Kenny’s Aunt Pauline gave him his first trumpet and he instantly fell in love. Recognizing his talent, he applied and was accepted into the United States Naval School of Music, at the age of 17. After his service with the U.S. Navy, Mr. Davis came back to Cleveland and began playing professionally. Besides having a variety of opportunities playing all over the world, with a variety of Motown and Jazz artists, Kenny also taught at Oberlin College for over 30 years, as well as Cleveland State University for over 15 years, in addition to other locations. In 1981, Kenny was named Jazzman of the Year.

Mr. Davis is thrilled that he has been able to educate youth about music. Through the program called “Fundamentally Jazz for Kids”, he has traveled with his group to schools and recreation centers throughout Northeast Ohio teaching preschoolers to teenagers about the fundamentals of jazz. He loves teaching children of all ages about the joys of music. Over the last four decades, he has had the distinct pleasure of performing for Carl and Louis Stokes, George Forbes, and Mayor Frank Jackson.

Kenny Davis has traveled the world. He has been to many countries and some of the biggest and well known cities. When asked what he loves about Cleveland, he said, “Listen, I’ve been everywhere. I’ve been to the Eiffel Tower, but I am always ready to get back to the Terminal Tower! I love Cleveland.”
Patricia Townsend was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio to parents Marie and Thurmond Townsend. Patricia has one son Charles, seven grandchildren and one great grandchild. An avid supporter of the Glenville neighborhood, Patricia devotes her time to helping young people find their way.

Ms. Townsend graduated from Glenville High School and immediately began working in various department stores in downtown Cleveland. Eventually, she started a career at Marriott Hotels within the restaurant division. After many years of dedicated service, Patricia retired from Marriott Hotels in 1997. After retirement, Patricia studied at World Changers Church International Divinity School in Atlanta Georgia and is currently very active at both the New Spirit Revival Center and New Life at Calvary Church. In the community, she is devoted to helping the youth of Glenville realize their full potential. She tutors second and third graders at Wade Park Elementary and volunteers at the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Center where she mentors young women. Patricia was the secretary for many years of the ward club.

For the past 16 years, Patricia has been diligent in setting up an annual prayer gathering in the Glenville neighborhood. This outdoor gathering is a place where individuals can come together and bring awareness to the community. Patricia believes this gathering gives young people a place where they can recognize all they have to give to the community.

In her spare time, Ms. Townsend loves to draw portraits, write, go to the movies and spend time with friends and family. Most importantly, she loves being a part of the renewal of the Glenville neighborhood. When asked what she loved most about Cleveland she stated, “I grew up here, there are so many wonderful memories that I can pass on to my family.”
David Stack is a lifelong Cleveland resident born at St. John’s Hospital on Detroit Avenue. He and his loving wife Mary Campbell-Stack have two children and seven grandchildren. David is a true family man and valued member of the Cleveland Community.

David graduated from St. Colman Primary School in 1954 and St. Edward High School in 1968. He served our country honorably in the United States Army from 1969 to 1971. David graduated from Cuyahoga Community College with an Associate Degree and Cleveland State University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Business. He is a Certified Public Accountant and graduated from Cleveland State University earning a Master’s Degree in Business Administration.

For 16 years, David was employed as an Accounting Supervisor at State Chemical Manufacturing Company. David also worked at Ohio City Near West Corporation as a Controller and Property Manager and Interim Director for 14 years. He retired from Salvatore Consiglio CPA., Inc. after six years as a Staff Accountant and Auditor but continues as a part time staff person.

He is a member of the Ward 11 Democratic Club; and serves as a Central and Executive Committee Member; Board Member of the Westown Community Development Corporation; belongs to St. Colman Church where he serves on the Parish Council, is the Finance Council Chairperson and Greeter Coordinator. He is a member of the American Legion and East Side Irish American Club.

David enjoys politics and has been active in voter registration initiatives and many local, state and national campaigns. He is always willing to help anyone in need and serves as a positive role model to all the residents of Ward 11. When asked what he loves most about his hometown he stated, “Cleveland is where my family is, it’s hard to uproot and go somewhere else when the people you love are here.”
Margaret Dobrovich was born to John and Anna Kurak in Uniontown, Pennsylvania on October 21, 1930. Marge, as she is more commonly known, moved to the west side of Cleveland at the age of 13 with her family. She and her late husband Michael have five children, ten grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Marge, a selfless and hardworking Clevelander, has been affectionately dubbed “the pierogi lady” by the residents she so lovingly cooks for.

Marge has been a diligent worker since a very young age. She took her first job at the age of 14 as a proofreader for Gospel Press on W. 47th Street. There she would proofread biblical texts and make spelling corrections while making 45 cents an hour. She then went on to work at Reeves Cleaners, Woolworth’s on West 25th Street and White Sewing Machine Company. At the age of 20, Marge began a job at Medal Machining as a burring machine operator and retired after 25 years with the company. After retirement, Marge took her love of cooking to Foot Market where she worked in their bakery. She continues to cook and bake in her free time, making creations for birthdays, anniversaries and graduations.

An active member of her church parish at St. Barbara’s, Ms. Dobrovich enjoys leading and partaking in their holiday activities. She is a long time member of the Southwest Citizens Area Council and the Old Brooklyn Crime Watch. Both organizations are dedicated to improving the safety and quality of life for the residents of the neighborhood. Along with her activism, Marge attends and volunteers at Senior Citizen Resources. There she assists with meals, cooking demonstrations and daily bake sales. She is truly dedicated to working hard and making her community a better place.

In the little free time she has, Marge enjoys bowling at Red Circle, crafting and having large family dinners. Marge has always made her home open to anyone who wants to come and loves to share her legacy by teaching those she loves to cook. When asked what she loves most about Cleveland, she stated, “Best location in the nation, I don’t care what anyone says, everything is in our reach, the people are friendly and most of them try to help one another. You have to live your life like that.”
Barbara Spaan was born on June 11, 1955 to Bill and Marie Spaan in Cleveland. Barb has three sisters, Diane, Nancy and Linda and currently resides in the Old Brooklyn neighborhood with her partner of 13 years, Dan Ezra. A true lover of Cleveland, Barb is dedicated to creating a safe and active community.

Barb graduated from Midpark High School in 1974 and immediately joined the work force and began a job at Manner’s Big Boy on W. 130th. Barb started school at Cuyahoga County Community College for Computer Programming and eventually began a career with the State of Ohio, Office of Unemployment and assisted individuals in finding employment opportunities. In the late 1980s, Barb began an endeavor that would create change throughout the entire community. She was soon part of the birth of Crime Watch within the Old Brooklyn neighborhood. Ms. Spaan collaborated with public safety officials and wrote one of the very first grants to fund the program. Crime Watch would allow individuals to share information about the neighborhood to increase its safety.

Along with her safety advocacy, Barb was one of the first trained volunteer Auxiliary Officers with the City of Cleveland. Within this role, she was able to actively participate in community policing and connect the neighborhood’s safety needs with public safety. She now commands one of the only Auxiliary bases on the West side of Cleveland. Today, Barb works full time with the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation overseeing the Crime Watch Program and its outreach efforts.

In the little spare time she has, Barb loves to spend it with family, friends and neighbors. A former member of the German dancing club, S.T.V. Bavaria, Barb continues to attend the group’s events and support her family’s German heritage. When asked what she loves most about Cleveland, she stated “The location is marvelous and the people are of all ages and races. It’s a family.”
Gloria Pagán was born on June 28, 1945 and is the oldest of 11 children. A devoted mother and grandmother, Ms. Pagán has four children, two girls and two boys as well as three grandchildren. Ms. Pagán, known for her compassion and selflessness, is always willing to assist those in the community she loves so dearly.

Gloria, born and raised in Puerto Rico, dedicated her life to caring for those around her. Ms. Pagán began her career as a home health aide to assist older adults in the community, simply stating, “I like to help people.” Gloria continued to help individuals when she moved to the West side of Cleveland, a neighborhood she has been a part of for over 20 years. After several years of dedicated service within the field of home health, Gloria retired in 2007.

An active member in her church, Gloria considers her parish at La Sagrada Familia to be a part of her family. Within the church, she assists with fundraising efforts, yard sales and meal programs. Three days a week she helps prepare and serve hot meals to homeless individuals in her community. Always willing to give back and help anyone around her, Gloria also volunteers at the West Side Community Center. At the center she cleans, helps with activities and prepares hot meals for older adults. Gloria also loves dancing. When she is not volunteering her time at the church or the center, she is participating in dancing and Zumba classes.

In the little spare time she has, you can find Ms. Pagán spending it with her family and friends. She enjoys cooking, gardening and playing bingo at the West Side Community Center. When asked what she loves most about Cleveland she stated, “I love Cleveland. The people in this community are willing to help.”

How do you Age Out Loud? “By helping those around me.”
Faouzi Baddour was born in Lebanon and has been a resident of Marietta Avenue in the Cudell neighborhood for the past 40 years. He has three children and three grandchildren who grew up within the wonderful Cudell neighborhood. As a lover of Cleveland, Mr. Baddour has advocated for safety by actively engaging in the betterment of his community.

Mr. Baddour has been involved with safety issues, specifically around reducing youth violence, since joining the Cudell community. He tries not only to dismantle violent activity, but also works to protect the youth of his neighborhood from gang activity. He has been actively involved in trying to connect former gang members with GED and other education programs. Mr. Baddour simply wants the youth of his area to be able to see outside the circumstances in their lives and better themselves through positive opportunities.

Mr. Baddour has also undertaken a significant gardening project that spans several vacant lots throughout his property and extends through to Cudell Avenue. Faouzi wanted to make these once unutilized areas into productive and beautiful spaces. Mr. Baddour is a passionate advocate for gardening and its ability to positively uplift a community. Mr. Baddour also works with landlords to get background checks of all future tenants to ensure safety in the neighborhood. He has worked with Cudell Improvement, Inc. and the Cudell Recreation Center to sustain his efforts and is active in the 98 Great Homes Model Block, as well as other community building initiatives in his area. Faouzi truly believes the Cudell Recreation is the heart of the community and spent a great deal of time there with his children when they were growing up.

In his spare time, Mr. Baddour loves to bike, swim, and garden. He is a vegetarian and believes vegetables and fruits are best for the human body. He loves to bring people together and is upbeat and willing to do whatever is within his ability to help. When asked what made him stay in Cleveland for more than 40 years, he stated, “I love it, the best location in the world. I love the community. People here come together and stay together.”
Mr. Terry Gorges

Terry Gorges was born to Edward and Rose Gorges on February 26, 1946. Born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, Terry has been an active member of Ward 16 for numerous years. He and his wife Joanne have one daughter, five granddaughters and seven great grandchildren.

Mr. Gorges attended West Tech High School and shortly after enlisted in the United States Navy. In the U.S. Navy, he served three years and traveled throughout the world. Eventually he began a career at General Motors where he worked for over 15 years. After his employment with General Motors, Terry was employed with the United States Postal Office for 23 years before retiring in 2007.

Within the community, Terry is very neighborhood focused. He volunteers at the monthly community meal at St. Patrick’s and at the annual Bellaire Puritas Neighborhood Summit. Terry and his wife are very active in volunteering with the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. Recently, Terry became a docent volunteer at the Zoo which will enable him to engage the community and educate individuals about specific animals. Mr. Gorges is a member of Blessed Trinity and participates in the Funeral Ministry. Terry has a true passion for travel, the environment and the outdoors. He has traveled to New Zealand, Ecuador, the Grand Canyon and almost every National Park.

When he is not volunteering within the community, Terry enjoys golfing, fishing, and kayaking. He also enjoys biking, Tai Chi and birdwatching with his wife. When asked what made him stay in Cleveland after traveling the world, he stated, “I love it, my family is here.”
Carole Anne Kilbane Kennedy was born on August 26, 1933 to Michael James and Mary Ages Kilbane. Born in Lakewood, Ohio, Carole has lived in the Greater Cleveland area for over 80 years. She has three children, Patrick, Mary Agnes and Therese along with four grandchildren, Mary Catherine, Alannah, Aine and Patrick. Well known for her laughter and humor, Carole is a cherished member of the Cleveland community.

Carole graduated from Lourdes Academy which was located at West 41st and Bridge Ave and soon began her career by working the mail desk at Erie Railroad. Carole’s hard working mindset enabled her to work her way up in the company from the mail room to the office. After over 43 years of dedicated service, she retired in 1995 at the age of 62. Retirement gave Carole the honor to take on her greatest role in life, grandma. For the next 20 years, she had the privilege of loving, caring and watching her four grandchildren grow into remarkable adults.

Along with her role as grandma, Carole is a part of numerous Irish organizations. A proud Irish woman, she is an active member in the Ancient Order of Hibernians, which is the largest Irish Catholic organization in the United States. In 2015, Carole was nominated as the Hibernian of Year. She is also a member of the Westside Irish American Club, which is known for its charity work. Carole is a member of St. Patrick’s Parish in West Park.

In her free time, Carole’s favorite thing to do is simply visit with her family and friends. Whether it’s at church or PJ McIntyre’s in Kamm’s Corner, you can always find her surrounded by those she loves. When asked what she adores most about her hometown she stated, “Cleveland is where my friends and family are. I love it.”
THE CLEVELAND DEPARTMENT OF AGING THANKS THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF SENIOR DAY.

Mayor Frank G. Jackson
President of Council Kevin J. Kelley

Ward 1 – Terrell Pruitt
Ward 2 – Zachary Reed
Ward 3 – Kerry McCormack
Ward 4 – Kenneth L. Johnson
Ward 5 – Phyllis E. Cleveland
Ward 6 – Mamie J. Mitchell
Ward 7 – TJ Dow
Ward 8 – Michael D. Polensek
Ward 9 – Kevin Conwell

Ward 10 – Jeffrey D. Johnson
Ward 11 – Dona Brady
Ward 12 – Anthony Brancatelli
Ward 13 – Kevin J. Kelley
Ward 14 – Brian Cummins
Ward 15 – Matt Zone
Ward 16 – Brian Kazy
Ward 17 – Martin J. Keane

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When it comes to aging out loud, Pat Broome’s 69-years-young, soulful voice can be heard across the community. Pat always has an inspirational quote or a word of encouragement and she’s always happy to share the love in her heart. At Cleveland Public Utilities, we’re proud to have Pat as a part of our Human Resources team and proud to celebrate all of our older Americans this month and always.

Older Americans Month 2017
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