



Councilman Kevin Conwell | Winter 2022-2023

# WARD 9 NEWS

*The Drumbeat of the Community*

## Congratulations to the Glenville Tarblooders!



The Tarblooders won the Division IV state championship after beating Cincinnati's Wyoming High School 26-6. They are the first Cleveland Metropolitan School District team to win a state title football.

"I'm so happy, so proud of the team," said Councilman Kevin Conwell. "This is a dream for them and here's hoping for a repeat next year. All of Cleveland is proud."

CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

CONGRATULATIONS  
**GLENVILLE  
TARBLOODERS**

~ 2022 ~  
DIVISION IV STATE CHAMPS!





# Patrick Henry School is now Stephanie Tubbs Jones School

Councilman Kevin Conwell sponsored resolutions calling on Cleveland Metropolitan School District to change the names of those schools named after slave holders.

Councilman Conwell emphasized that the school community should be the driver in renaming the buildings. Now three schools have been renamed, including the former Patrick Henry School, now the Stephanie Tubbs Jones School. The official renaming of the Glenville neighborhood school was on Tues. Aug. 30th.



Councilman Conwell, Cuyahoga County District 7 Councilwoman Yvonne Conwell, CMSD CEO Eric Gordon, Cuyahoga County District 9 Councilwoman Meredith Turner, Congresswoman Shontel Brown and Mervyn Jones, son of Stephanie Tubbs Jones, provided remarks during a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Members of the community and Tubbs Jones' beloved Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. packed the auditorium for this special occasion. A reception with refreshments and music by Councilman Conwell and Footprints band followed the ceremony.

"Stephanie walked the same streets these students walk, Durant, Parkgate, Ashbury... It would be great for them to do a book report on her, someone who looks like their mother," said Councilman Conwell. "That can inspire them to become whatever they want to be."

The councilman sponsored the legislation to change the names of schools honoring former slaveholders and racial oppressors back in 2020 after the death of George Floyd. Councilman Conwell also sponsored a resolution calling on Cleveland State University to rename its law school named after John Marshall. Recently, CSU trustees voted to change the name.

Other CMSD school name changes include the former Louis Agassiz to Mary Church Terrell and the former Thomas Jefferson International Newcomers Academy to Natividad Pagan International Newcomers Academy. There are four additional schools slated to undergo the name changing process.

"I do believe these changes will have a positive impact on children in these buildings," said Councilman Conwell.



# Judge Sara J. Harper Village opens in Glenville

The Judge Sara J. Harper Village opened for female veterans recently with a moving event.

The Judge Sara J. Harper Village consists of two buildings with 12 thoughtfully-designed, efficiency-style apartments. Each building is approximately 3,000 square-feet, housing four one-bedroom apartments and two, two-bedroom suites for women with small children. The units are ADA accessible/ compliant while the site also includes indoor and outdoor common space, an office, community room, laundry facilities and parking.

According to the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, women make up the fastest growing segment of the homeless veteran population with an estimated 1 in 4 experiencing sexual trauma.

Volunteers of America is dedicated to helping people achieve well-being by offering hope, restoring dignity, and transforming lives, to ensure communities thrive. The VOA's Judge Sara J. Harper Village is specifically for female veterans and is located at 10531 Lee Avenue.

For over 125 years, the VOA has uplifted individuals, families, and communities including veterans, homeless individuals and families, men and women returning home after incarceration, low income seniors and



PHOTO CREDIT: Volunteers of America Ohio & Indiana



those recovering and healing from addiction.

Supportive wrap-around services and medical care at the Louis Stokes Cleveland Veterans Affairs Hospital (VA) is within walking distance to the new village. The Volunteers of America will also offer case management, employment services, support groups, individual counseling and other services will be made available as well.

"I'll spend time talking with these women to hear their needs," said Councilman Conwell during the ceremony. "They fought for our country. We need to fight for them."

The project is a \$12 million investment into the Glenville community.

# ShotSpotter Expands in Cleveland

ShotSpotter gunshot detection system will be expanded from 3-square-miles to 13-square-miles in Cleveland after council approved the legislation.

Currently ShotSpotter is only in a 3-square-mile pilot section in the 4th Police District that was paid for by a grant to the city.

The pilot area now touches Wards 1, 2, 4 and 6.

Funding of the expansion is close to \$2.8 million from the city's American Rescue Plan Act dollars. Cleveland is also spending \$150,000 on an independent consultant that will review ShotSpotter's effectiveness.

"I was strongly in favor of expanding ShotSpotter and actually recommended using this type of technology about five

years ago," said Councilman Kevin Conwell. "I believe ShotSpotter will help reduce gun violence in Ward 9."

"Too many people don't call the police when they hear gun shots, either afraid or believe it won't help."

According to police data, nine lives have been saved following a ShotSpotter alert, along with 44 arrests and 52 guns seized, directly tied to use of the technology. And average police response time in the area with the technology is more than two minutes shorter than in the rest of the 4th District.

The police found that so far this year, only 9% of shootings in the city have produced a call to 911.





# Watch Councilman Kevin Conwell

Use the QR code to watch an episode of *Catching Up with Council* with Councilman Conwell as he talks about Ward 9 and the great things happening there.



## 2022 Senior of the Year: 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



*In September, Alma Smith was recognized as Ward 9's Outstanding Senior of the year at the 32nd Annual City of Cleveland Senior Day Event at Cleveland Public Hall. Pictured with Ms. Smith are Sonya Pryor-Jones, City of Cleveland Chief of Youth & Family Success, Council President Blaine A. Griffin, and Councilman Conwell.*

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.

## Two exciting projects coming to Cleveland's Ward 9

### The Davis @ Churchill Avenue

"The Davis" housing complex, named after the former Harry E. Davis School where it is being built, will offer 40 market rate one- and two-bedroom units. Councilman Kevin Conwell believes The Davis is going to benefit older residents in the area who may be looking to downsize their homes.



A University Hospital resource center, designed to help fight against health inequity, will be located on the site. There will be telehealth services, a food pantry, programs for pregnant mothers and senior citizens, plus so much more. The University Hospitals resource center will include a workout facility, on-site nurses.

Construction of the development on Churchill Avenue near E. 105th Street is underway and is scheduled to be completed late 2023.

### Planet Fitness in Uptown

Scheduled to open after the New Year, Planet Fitness is coming to Ward 9. Planet Fitness will be located in Uptown on Euclid Avenue.



## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: House of B Jewels @ GlenVillage

After doing pop-ups between Canton and Cleveland, traveling state-to-state and selling online, Brittany Leigh, owner of House of B Jewels, opened her first store in GlenVillage last year.

"I feel like jewelry is an intimate buy," says Brittany Leigh. "Online is restrictive. People like to try it on. To have people come into a store, it's top-tier. They can see the actual sizes. That helps."

"Plus, local clients ordering online can avoid shipping by picking up," she says.

Favoring jewelry with a positive message, Brittany Leigh focuses on carrying spiritual and uplifting pieces, nothing that degrades African-Americans as a community. House of B Jewels also specializes in custom pieces and finds initials to be most popular.

Quality is very important at House of B Jewels. And, the jewelry is affordable. House of B Jewels pieces range in price from \$38 to \$698, including gold-filled items, sterling silver and 14k gold name plates.

"I love jewelry but I don't like the cost of real gold and diamonds," says Brittany Leigh who personally loves to layer jewelry and deems it an asset to any wardrobe.

Brittany Leigh applied to be a part of original stores that opened at GlenVillage back in early 2020 but didn't get accepted. That didn't deter her. She continued to work and grow her business, then the opportunity for this expansion became available.

She likes the location, has existing clients in the medical field, who work close by, and has picked up new ones since opening the store. Her dream is to one day open in a literal house. But until then, be sure to head over to check out her beautiful space, the one with the black and gold decor, at GlenVillage.

"Black is my favorite color. It makes the jewelry pop," she says.



To learn more about House of B Jewels visit [houseofbjewels.com](https://houseofbjewels.com)





Councilman Kevin Conwell shows off a newly built home in Glenville, a Cuyahoga Land Bank property now a three-bedroom, two 1/2-bathroom home for sale (with a full basement and garage). Across the street, new townhomes are going up.



**The Drumbeat of the Community • Serving the Glenville and University Circle Neighborhoods**  
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# WARD 9 NEWS

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