



VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND HILLS, OHIO

# Community News & Views

*(A collaboration publication from Administration and Council featuring news and information in our community.)*

Spring 2012



## Mayor's Report



It is with a warm heart that I thank you, the community, for showing confidence in me through my unopposed re-election for another four years. As Mayor, and official spokesman for the Village, I am always proud to represent our community on intergovernmental matters.

While the New Year brings economic challenges, the Mayors of North Randall, Woodmere, Bedford Heights and I met recently and will continue to meet monthly with local communities to brainstorm and work together for the common good of the area.

We are all welcoming Spring after a light snow season this past year which was a plus for the Village. We continue to provide outstanding services to the community. Administration, along with Council, are working diligently to bring businesses to our community.

A special thank you goes out to two former employees who retired this year, former Properties Director Lynn Seawright and Gus Harper, who was our very first Finance Director. Thank you for your years of loyalty and service to the Highland Hills.

It is my pleasure to welcome several new employees to the Village. I would like to introduce them at this time: Steve Clymer, our Service Director and mechanic, has stepped up to the plate after the loss of our acting part-time Service Director and friend, Jordan Edwards. Please join with us in prayer and thoughts for Jordan's family and for Larry Smith, who is recovering from a serious trauma. Steve is doing an excellent job and developing a rapport with the department, administration, community and the districts we communicate with.

Also in Mayor's Court we welcome Linda Moses, a longtime Highland Hills' resident, as Office Assistant and Don Williams, our new Prosecutor. Additionally, please help me welcome Jer'me Franklin, our new Properties Director. Jer'me comes to us with a background that enhances the organization of the Shaker House.

Last but certainly not least, we would like to formally welcome our Finance Director, Andrea Morris, to our Administration. Andrea has been able to step in and guide our Finance Department to new heights.

Congratulations also are extended to Lillian Moore and Jean Smith as newly elected Councilmembers. Administration and Council continue to work together to create the best possible environment for our residents to live in.

As always, the mission of the Village government is to provide excellent quality of life for all residents and businesses alike. It is a mission we take very seriously. Our doors are always open to you!

Mayor Robert L. Nash

# Working Together to Strengthen Our Region



On February 16, 2012, the Northeast Ohio City Council Association (NOCCA) sponsored their quarterly forum which featured Mayor William Currin of Hudson, past NOCCA President Councilman Matt Zone of Cleveland and Tom Tyrrell. As many of you know, the job of any mayor, council member or township trustee is to provide the best possible services to his or her constituents while trying to keep tax rates low.

When all communities in a region like Northeast Ohio *independently* seek to maximize their tax base, a number of problems arise:

- **Accelerated Outmigration:** New communities at the edge of the metro area are under pressure to build their tax base, so they encourage the migration of development from older communities;
- **Competition Rather Than Cooperation:** In a fragmented region, there's little incentive to cooperate for the greater good; and
- **Distorted Land Use:** Some communities, such as those with a lot of environmentally sensitive land, are pressured to develop at greater intensity than they should.

## STRATEGIC REGIONAL PLANNING

The NEO Consortium for a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development is a major three-year undertaking, involving 12 counties, funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The project represents an unprecedented opportunity to engage existing institutions in coordination of planning and information systems from a strongly regional perspective, and to bring that perspective to bear on local government policy and allocation of public resources. Success of the project depends heavily on engagement of the public sector and its commitment to the project's goals.

At the outset of the RPI it was recognized, in order for cooperation and coordination on strategic regional planning among public officials to advance, that the incentive to compete for tax base (which dominates existing relationships) would have to be mitigated. The mechanism RPI chose to overcome this inter-community competition is new gain sharing. In sharing, a portion of a jurisdiction's cumulative annual income tax is pooled. The pool is then distributed by group-determined formula to those jurisdictions based on relative tax capacity, generally favoring older communities with low or no growth. RPI initially modeled a sharing

system that would involve commercial and industrial property value and income tax, but determined this methodology too confrontational for early success.

## OPPORTUNITIES

Ideas and efforts to recalibrate local government to better serve the public interest have been developing for a number of years. During the past four years the RPI has advanced a substantial conversation regarding regional and collaborative principles. RPI has focused on the two core areas of gain sharing and strategic regional planning.

The environment for consideration of major change has improved substantially, particularly; this has been influenced by fiscal stress at state and local levels. Researchers and policy makers in Northeast Ohio have talked about these problems for decades without much impact on regional land use trends. The most promising response has been the Ohio Lake Erie Commission's Balanced Growth Program, an innovative framework to promote collaborative planning within river watersheds in order to protect water quality.

In 2008 a group of politically influential mayors, council members and commissioners, came together to put a new idea on the regional agenda—gain-sharing from new development so that all communities in the region can benefit from smart growth. It's an idea that has worked well for many years in other regions of the United States.

To implement the RPI, its leaders are promoting state policy reforms that will make it easier to collaborate at the regional level. Ideas from the RPI were incorporated into Northeast Ohio's recent successful proposal for the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant offered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Once implemented, the RPI will provide the structure for coordinated regional land use planning and new growth gain-sharing in the 16-county Northeast Ohio region. In short, the RPI will allow our region to plan, gain-share and grow... together. This effort—to benefit through collaboration—is an important step toward government reform at the municipal, county and regional levels, with comprehensive results that can propel our region into a new and prosperous era.

For more information please visit: [www.neo-rpi.org](http://www.neo-rpi.org).

*Patricia DeBerry, Council Pro Tem*

*(Written in collaboration with Cleveland Councilman Matt Zone)*

## Public Works



**STEVE CLYMER, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR**

Thank you for the warm welcome as the Village of Highland Hills' Public Works Director. As the heavy duty mechanic as well, we here in the department are making efforts to see more greening of the community.



Thank you for all your recycling efforts. If you have yet to pick up of your recycle bin, call the Properties office, 216-991-6000, to set up a time to stop by to get yours. Remember, recyclables are collected on regular trash days. Town-house residents may put items in their blue bins alongside their regular trash on pick up day.

Having been a light snow season, we easily kept up with plowing. The roads and street lights this summer will be a priority this warm season of 2012.

In addition to greening our community, trees can make a difference. If you are intending to plant your own tree, give me a call for the best "recipe". This information was recently shared at a forest forum session on the area watersheds by the Cuyahoga ReLeaf program.



## Financially Speaking?



**ANDREA MORRIS, FINANCE DIRECTOR**

*Do not miss out on getting a \$25,000 exemption on the value of your home for property taxes, through the State of Ohio Homestead Exemption.*

### WHAT IS THE HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION?

The Homestead Exemption allows senior citizens and permanently and totally disabled Ohioans to reduce their property tax bills by reducing a portion of the market value of their home from taxation.

The exemption, which takes the form of a credit on property tax bills, allows qualifying homeowners to exempt \$25,000 of the market value of their home from all local property taxes. For example, through the Homestead Exemption, a home with a market value of \$100,000 would be billed as if it is worth \$75,000.

### WHO QUALIFIES FOR THE NEW HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION?

Any Ohio resident homeowner who:

- Is at least 65 years old during 2012; or
- Is totally and permanently disabled as of January 1, 2012 as certified by a licensed physician or psychologist, or a state or federal agency; or
- Is the surviving spouse of a person who was receiving the previous Homestead Exemption at the time of death and where the surviving spouse was at least 59 years old on the date of death.

To qualify, an Ohio resident also must own and occupy a home as their principal place of residence as of January 1, 2012. For individuals who own more than one home, the principal place of residence is the home where the person is registered to vote and the person's place of residence for income tax purposes.

To apply, complete the application form (105A- Homestead Exemption Application for Senior Citizens, Disabled Persons and Surviving Spouses), then file it with your local county Fiscal Officer. The form is inserted in this newsletter.

Applications for the new Homestead Exemption must be submitted and received by your county Fiscal Officer's office no later than the first Monday in June.

## Building Blocks



**LOU HOVANSCEK, BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

Dear Residents:

As spring quickly approaches, many residents will start working on their exterior properties and structures, cleaning and clearing the remnants of winter. Spring cleaning is a yearly ritual, and here's some reminders to help you get started.

### Grass and Weeds:

Every property owner is responsible for maintaining a manicured lot or parcel, keeping it free of all noxious weeds, overgrown grass and woody vegetation.

### Exterior Areas:

As part of your spring clean up, you should complete an inspection of your property noting conditions of your exterior structures and areas which have become weathered or worn and adversely alters the appearance of your home.

*Hint:* Sanding and painting is an easy way to freshen the look of your home and property.

### Inspections:

Please note that the Building Department will commence inspections and sending out violation notices in April 2012. So make sure your spring clean up and repairs have been completed by that date.

Please feel free to contact the Building Department at 216.283.3000, ext. 240 if you have any questions or concerns. We are here to help you!

### *Stormwater Question of the Month?*

**Q: Why is stormwater runoff a problem?**

**A: Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, river, wetland, or coastal water. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water.**

## Policing Your Neighborhood



**ANTONIO F. STITT, CHIEF OF POLICE**

Police Chief Antonio F. Stitt, and members of the Highland Hills Police Department are here to serve and protect everyone residing in the Village, as well as patrons who work and travel through our community.



Having said this, Chief Stitt and his administrative staff consistently seek out ways to improve the credibility, professionalism and efficiency of their police agency.

Recently, we implemented video "Body" cameras. These cameras are another tool which have already been proven to be effective in court cases, and ensuring the professionalism and credibility of our officer's statements and conduct.

We also purchased three new police cruisers. These three new cruisers represent our new colors, which are "Silver and Blue"!

A new camera system was installed in the police station which enables us to view and record all activities in the station, as well as around the building. Our investigations department successfully uncovered an embezzlement scheme at one of our local businesses.

In our efforts to remove impaired drivers from the streets, the number of people arrested for driving impaired is up 30% from last year. This has been accomplished with the help of acquiring the "state of the art" Intoxilyzer 8000, which measures the amount of alcohol in the blood.

# NO HAND- HELD CELL PHONES!!!



On January 11, 2012 Council passed legislation under Part 3: Traffic Code (Ordinance No. 2011-54) that banned the use of hand-held mobile phones talking or texting while operating a vehicle in Highland Hills.

It is noted in 2009, National Safety Council has called for the ban on the use of cell phones by drivers of motor vehicles. The Director of Transportation when discussing cell phone use by drivers and other distractive driving causes has stated that “cell phone use occurs more frequently and for longer durations than other, riskier behaviors. The number one source of driver inattention is cell phones, as per Virginia Tech 100-Car Study for National Highway Traffic Safety Administration – NHTSA.

According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, drivers that use hand-held devices are four times as likely to get into crashes serious enough to injure themselves and others. Therefore, it is the desire of Council to enact legislation, which coupled with other educational programs, will reduce the chance of automobile accidents on the public streets within Highland Hills.

**Please note Texting or Typing on Mobile Communication devices while driving in Highland Hills is strictly prohibited.**

As used in this part of our code, “Mobile communication devices” include any of the following:

- ✎ A wireless telephone;
- ✎ A text-messaging device;
- ✎ A personal digital assistant;
- ✎ A computer used for personal communications between persons;
- ✎ Any other substantially similar wireless device that is designed or used to communicate text or data.

As used in this section “text message or text messaging” means the act of touching the key(s)/virtual keys(s) or mouse or mouse pad of the mobile communication device for the purpose of sending a message electronically or responding to a message received.

Use or using means the act of talking on a cell phone, answering a cell phone or causing numbers to be entered into a cell phone so that a number may be entered and called.

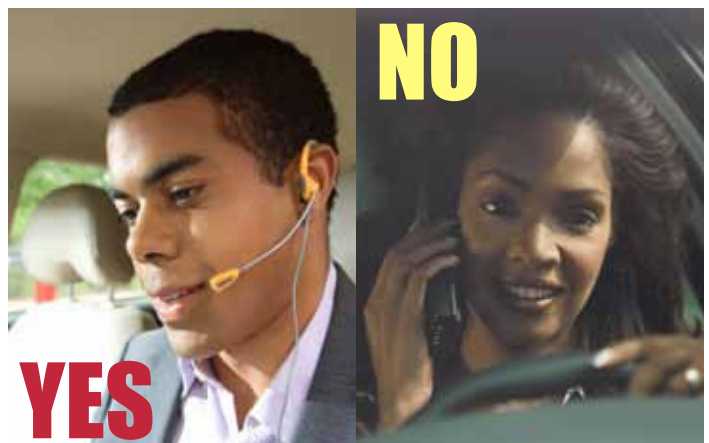
No person shall text message on a mobile communication device while operating a motor vehicle.

A study by Consumer Reports dated September 29, 2009 reported that the American Automobile Association and eleven automakers are developing hands-free and voice recognition systems that will allow drivers to send and receive phone calls without looking away from the road and without using a hand held cell phone.

This information is being shared with you so that you can update your family and friends who travel within the Village of Highland Hills.



*Humbly submitted,  
Councilwoman Lillian Moore*



## Properties & Buildings



**JER'ME FRANKLIN, PROPERTIES DIRECTOR**

### **New Look Under New Leadership**

First let me say that I am very delighted to be here working in Highland Hills. Since I am so new to this position, I would simply like to highlight a couple of very important updates that have occurred within my first month:

- Increased the occupancy rate at the Shaker House from 72% to 80%; and
- Begun to give suites that have been, and are being, renovated a new and appealing look.

The properties department staff also appear to have a renewed attitude and are thus truly working diligently to get these suites expeditiously renovated.



Over a dozen vacant units were renovated and rented in the month of March, with a dozen more on schedule to be renovated in April.

I look forward to continued growth as we continue our work to improve the Shaker House and all of the various other properties in Highland Hills.

## Fire Tips & Tidbits

**Laurie Loveman, Fire Department**



Our unusual winter and spring days may seem like summer, but if you're thinking of putting a box fan in your window before summer

officially starts, take time to examine it carefully before installing it. Is the cord still supple, or is it stiff? If you see small crack lines in the insulation, it's time to either replace the cord or to buy a new fan. A fire may start if something flammable comes into contact with a bare wire.

The next thing to check is the motor, which in most residential box fans is not completely enclosed. Over the winter months has dust collected around the motor? If you have access to a portable air compressor, blow out any accumulated dust. Dirt and dust inside the motor housing can prevent air from cooling the motor, allowing it to overheat.

What happens is that the hot motor melts the plastic surrounding it and the motor falls to the floor. If it lands on something flammable (carpeting, furniture) you may have a fire on your hands. So, clean your box fan(s) before using them, and make sure they are turned off if you are leaving your residence for more than a few minutes, even if you go no farther than your backyard.

And, speaking of backyards, if you have a gas or charcoal grill, place it at least 10 feet from your house so a flame-up on the grill won't allow flames to reach wood siding or other painted surfaces. It's a good idea to locate the grill away from the prevailing winds, too.

Taking a few minutes to follow these few suggestions will go a long way to ensuring you have a fire-safe summer!

## Legal Points

### TOM O'DONNELL, LAW DIRECTOR



After more than 10 years of handling the duties of the Prosecutor, our Law Director, Thomas P. O'Donnell, relinquished those duties. The Mayor appointed Donald C. Williams as Prosecutor for the Village. Mr. Williams took over those responsibilities in December 2011. The need for the

appointment arose when Mr. O'Donnell accepted a full time position as Administrative Counsel to the Cuyahoga County Board of Health. He will continue to serve as the Village Law Director, as usual, in a part time capacity.

Mr. Williams is a long-time Cleveland area resident. He has been practicing law for more than 30 years. He is in private practice. His private practice consists of criminal defense, personal injury and probate matters. Most recently, he served as Magistrate in the Woodmere Mayor's Court and Acting Judge in Shaker Heights Municipal Court. He brings a wealth of criminal law experience. But, most important, he is well known to our community and is a very competent attorney who is well-respected by his peers and the judges in the Cleveland area. He is a fine addition to the Law Department and will serve the Village well for years to come.

Last year, was a quiet year for the Law Department. There was only one civil lawsuit, namely, the case involving the Northeast Regional Sewer District ("NEORS") in which NEORS sought to convince the court that it had authority to regulate storm water county-wide. The court recently agreed. Several communities that oppose the court decision are filing an appeal. This case will likely result in all property owners having to pay a small monthly fee to support NEORS in its efforts to control storm water on a regional basis. The Village and the Law Department supported the position of NEORS as the agency will plan several projects in Highland Hills to help control flooding coming from the Highland Park golf course and the cemetery.

One other major issue in 2011 was whether or not internet cafés are a form of gambling. Highland Hills Council, at the urging of the Law Department, passed a moratorium preventing any internet café company from opening in Highland Hills until the Ohio Attorney General takes a position on this issue. Recently, the City of Cleveland successfully prosecuted a company for operating an internet café as a violation of gambling laws. The Village's official position is that internet cafés are gambling and therefore prohibited. However, our current code does not address the existence of internet cafés directly.

Highland Hills Community News

## HH Website Coming Soon!!!!!!



It is with great pleasure that I announce the construction of our new Highland Hills website.

I am presently working with a website designer to develop our site as a means of bringing government closer to our residents. It is the Administration and Council's intent to keep our residents well informed. The website will include various categories of information:

- ✓ Building Department
- ✓ Council Contact Information
- ✓ Mayor's Corner
- ✓ Monthly Calendar of Events
- ✓ Public Works
- ✓ Safety Services
- ✓ Senior Department
- ✓ Village Landmarks
- ✓ And so much more...

Residents will be able to view our website from any computer. There is no cost or passwords needed. Information about Highland Hills will only be a click away.

It is our goal to strive toward continuous improvements in service for our Highland Hills Community. When launched, please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or comments regarding the site or its content.

*Sincerely,  
Councilman David Scott*



## In the Community!



On January 25, 2012, Mayor Robert Nash, Councilwomen Lillian Moore and Barbara Spearman, and Council Clerk Jeune Drayton attended the unveiling of the American Red Cross's new bloodmobile, funded by Nationwide Insurance Foundation in Highland Hills. The event is a collaboration and partnership that started 60 years ago when associates began participating in the blood donation programs. Nationwide employees donated more than 14,000 units of blood. Now the partnership includes support of the Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund and Nationwide leaders who volunteer on Red Cross chapter boards around the country.

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies nearly half of the nation's blood; teaches lifesaving skills; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families.

The Red Cross is a charitable organization—not a government agency—and depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) or join their blog at <http://redcross.org>.

If you would like to donate blood please call 1-800-RED-CROSS or log on to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) for more information or to schedule a blood donation appointment. All blood types are needed to ensure the Red Cross maintains an adequate blood supply. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in.

Donors must be in general good health, weigh at least 110 pounds and be at least 17 years old (16 with completed Parental Consent Form). New height and weight restrictions apply to donors younger than 19. Visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) to learn more.





# HOPE FOR OUR SCHOOLS



First let me thank you, the residents of Highland Hills, for putting your trust in me to be your representative on Council for the next four years. I am excited, proud and honored to accept the challenge and it is my goal to be worthy of your support.

As most of you know, I held an elected position on the Warrensville Heights City School District's Board of Education for twelve years. I was your only representative during that time. Now that I am your Councilwoman, I still have a strong interest in our children and their education. This strong interest causes me to remain active in our school district and assist in any way I can to ensure that the academic standards will once again rise to excellence.

I am happy to report that the school district's administrative team, the board of education, elected officials, and community residents are working with the Superintendent, Marva K. Jones, on a strategic plan that focuses on increasing student achievement and the betterment of the school district as a whole. You will be pleased to know that your Council members are a part of this Strategic Planning Team.

The school district held a two day Strategic Planning Retreat on January 17th and 18th. Both Councilwoman Lillian Moore and I were in attendance. It was a rewarding and productive two days with over 35 people in attendance.

The following Mission and Vision statements were presented for Board approval:

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the WHCSD is to educate, prepare and empower students to be lifelong learners and well-adjusted citizens in a global society.

## VISION

By August 2017, the WHCSD will be effective on the State Report Card. Our goal ultimately remains to be ranked "excellent" on the State Report Card.

The Strategic Planning Team also created seven goals that further supports the Mission and Vision statements.

I am also a member of the Family/Civic Engagement Team that focuses on the academic goals and student behavior, chaired by Administrator Dr. Donna Kolb.

School board meetings are held the second and fourth Thursday of each month. I encourage you to attend and let your voices be heard. Together we will make a difference for our children!

*Thanks again for your support,  
Councilwoman Jean Abernathy-Smith  
216.921.6658*



Eastwood Elementary School



Warrensville Hts. High School



John Dewey Elementary School



Warrensville Heights Middle School

# Senior News & Views

## SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD



This year Mayor Nash has appointed the following members to the senior advisory board: Doris Bridges, Phylliss Burke, Louise

Howell, Farris Jackson, Juanita Lett, Frances Lipscomb, Doris Nelson, Bonnie Norfleet, Delores Mitchell, Barbara Wesson, Annie Todd, and Patricia Triggs. On March 27th the board held their first meeting of the year and elected officers. The board and senior staff are excited about events to be planned for the rest of the year! Please come and join one of the meetings. The board meets quarterly so look for specific details on the monthly calendar and plan to attend. All are welcome to join as meetings are open to the public and non-political.

## BLAST FROM THE PAST

The Senior Department ended the year 2011 with a bang! The Advisory Board hosted a *holiday luncheon* that was well attended and enjoyed by all. Special thanks go out to our own Mrs. Delores Mitchell who referred the caterer. Our menu was light and tasteful with delicious pastries included. We'd also like to thank Mayor Nash and the entire staff for their support in this endeavor. Kudos to the Board who donated gifts and raffled off several prizes. Holiday trivia games were played for extra fun, jarring the minds and childhood memories of Christmas.

## NEW ADVENTURES

Last summer the seniors enjoyed new ventures with trips including: *Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Train Ride, the Universal Soul Circus, Amish Country, Dinner With The Docs,* and the *Nautica Boat Ride*. Some of the ideas for trips were suggested by our own residents. This year we hope each one of you will continue to participate and share your ideas. Let's make this year one that's just as memorable as the last.

## SICK & SHUT-IN

Wanda Simpson ♦ Larry Smith ♦ Louise Howell  
Betty Woody ♦ Beulah Peyton ♦ Vivian Brimage

## PLANES, TRAINS & BUSES

Mark your calendars and plan to go with us on two great get-a-ways this year: The first one is planned for May 23-25 to Atlantic City...casinos, famous boardwalk, restaurants, shops and shows (bingo, prizes, movies and refreshments will be on our luxury tour bus). Second, September 9-15 we're off to Orlando, Florida featuring admission to the Holy Land Experience, Arabian Nights Show, Downtown Disney & The Marketplace, Universal's City Walk and much more. Great deals and payment plans are available. Call now for information.

## OUR OWN HERO



*Tuskegee Airman, Roy Richardson*, gave an oral history presentation highlighting his personal experiences during his years of service. On February 2, 2012 many residents came out to listen to our Village employee, as well as commend him for his bravery, sacrifice and service! In spite of adversity and limited opportunities, African Americans have played a significant role in U.S. military history over the past 300 years. They were denied military leadership roles and skilled training because many believed they lacked qualifications for combat duty. However, given the enormous need at the time of war and the opportunity, black pilots proved to be an invaluable part of our nation's history!!!



**REMEMBER:** we do not have to wait for Black History Month to celebrate our Black Heritage!

## HIGHLAND HILLS SENIOR DEPARTMENT

Frankie Lisaula & Monica Walker • 3700 Northfield Road • Highland Hills, Ohio 44122 • 216-283-3000, ext. 234 & 235

# Say Cheese...



Mayor Nash presents award plaques to Lynn Seawright and Gus Harper at their retirement party in March.



Councilwoman Lillian Moore, Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, and Council President Danita Love were participants at the NLC Congressional City Conference in DC.



## National League of Cities Ambassador Program

Council President Danita Love volunteered to become a National League of Cities (NLC) Ambassador to share experiences and advice on being a local elected official with fellow leaders. Danita will help leaders from across the nation, and also here at home, navigate challenges, discuss creative solutions to common problems and share valuable skills and perspectives.

The NLC Ambassador program is a field team which links tenured elected and appointed officials to share their experience with the next wave of city leaders. By serving as an NLC Ambassador, established NLC members may help new members navigate their position in public office, discuss creative solutions to common issues, work with NLC staff to ensure an engaged membership and share the value and importance of NLC has had for their city. Ambassadors are volunteers who are committed to serving cities by helping NLC build better communities. Ambassadors serve a special role in the organization and in municipalities by being able to connect members from one leader to another.

The NLC Ambassador program was officially launched during the NLC Congressional City Conference, March 10-14, 2012 in Washington, D.C. The program was created as a platform for experienced officials to foster connections and encourage engagement.

“Seasoned local officials have an opportunity to reach out to fellow members so they can get the most out of their NLC membership,” said James E. Mitchell, Jr., NLC Immediate Past President and Councilmember, Charlotte, NC. “Our ‘members helping members’ model allows us to make these important connections through personal engagement.”

NLC Ambassadors can volunteer at NLC conferences and events, State Municipal League meetings or by making personal connections with local officials in their own city. Danita did just that during the conference by mentoring and engaging our two newly elected councilmembers, Lillian Moore and Jean Smith. The program currently has more than 30 volunteer Ambassadors.

NLC is dedicated to helping city leaders build better communities. NLC is a resource and advocate for 19,000 cities, towns and villages, representing more than 218 million Americans.

*Respectfully submitted,*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danita Love".

*Danita Love, Council President*

*[www.DanitaLove.com](http://www.DanitaLove.com)*

