

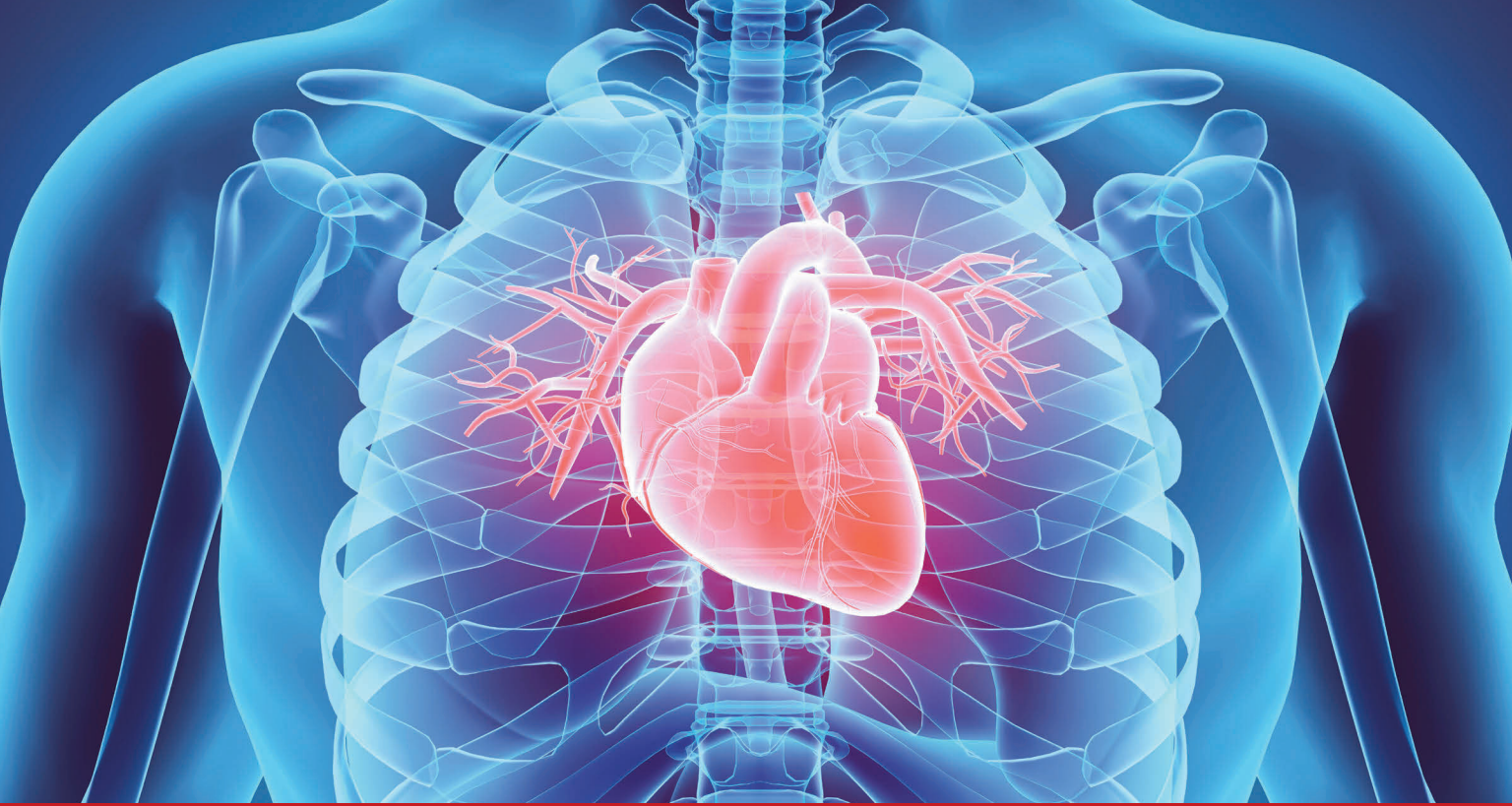
# south euclid

Winter 2021

magazine



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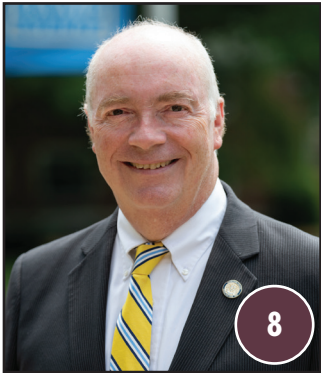
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Georgine Welo

**2021 City Council**

Joe Frank, Council President, Ward 2

Sara Continenza, Ward 3

Jane Goodman, Ward 4

Ruth Gray, Ward 1

Chanell Elston, Councilwoman-at-Large

Susan Hardy, Councilwoman-at-Large

Justin Tisdale, Councilman-at-Large

**Editor**

Keith Ari Benjamin

Director of Community Services

South Euclid Magazine is a quarterly publication of the City of South Euclid. We are looking for interesting South Euclid people and places to profile in upcoming issues. If you have any story ideas, please share them with us by contacting Keith Benjamin at 216.691.4234 or [kbenjamin@seuclid.com](mailto:kbenjamin@seuclid.com).

Special thanks to resident Jean Nadeau for her editing and proofreading expertise!

Cover photo by Roger Mastroianni

## Interested in Advertising in South Euclid Magazine?

Make sure to schedule your advertisement for the Spring 2022 issue. Call Sherry Tilson at 216.342.5204 for more information.



In South Euclid, we have a great story to tell about coming together to overcome great challenges, adapting to adversity and working hard to keep our community a safe, vital and vibrant place to live, work and play.



Mayor Georgine Welo  
216.381.0400

While this last year and a half of the pandemic has been difficult and trying, our resilience as a community has brought us together to help residents in need and keep each other safe. I am heartened by the countless stories of those in our community who have gone above and beyond to help others during this time to assist our more vulnerable residents.

### South Euclid Awarded Holiday Lighting Display from First Energy for our commitment to diversity & inclusion initiatives.

The front cover of this magazine is a photo of our new holiday lighting display at the corner of Mayfield & Green! There are lots of fun elements for residents to enjoy and take photos, so please take some time to walk through the beautiful holiday display. The lighting display will brighten the corner of Mayfield & Green during the December holiday season for many years to come!

South Euclid was selected from 16 communities that applied for the professionally designed lighting display. We distinguished ourselves because of our commitment to diversity and inclusion initiatives, including the passage of comprehensive fair housing and anti-discrimination laws by our City Council, as well as our work throughout the community to promote racial equity and social justice. We achieved these efforts by working together as a team with City Council and our residents to make our city's slogan – "Come Together & Thrive" – a reality.

### Congratulations & Farewells

Congratulations to Council President and Ward 2 Councilman Joe Frank, President Pro-Tem and Ward One Councilwoman Ruth Gray, Ward Three Councilwoman Sara Continenza and Councilwoman-at-Large Chanell Elston on your re-elections to City Council and for your continuing leadership and service to our residents and the community. And a fond farewell to Ward 4 Councilwoman Jane Goodman, who is retiring from City Council after 16 years of service. We are so appreciative of Jane's efforts to preserve our greenspace, protect our tree canopy and attract projects that preserve and protect our environment and make South Euclid, and our region, a more sustainable place to live, work and play.

### Thanks to our residents for your support and inspiration

South Euclid remains a great place to live because of the hard-working, creative and innovative people that call our amazing community home. In the last year we have covered so many great and inspirational stories about South Euclid residents and business in this magazine – and the stories in this issue are just as inspiring!

Because of your support we have accomplished so much during this challenging year as we strive to continue to provide excellent services, repave and repair our roads, revitalize aging business districts, provide services to seniors and our youth, invest in our parks and public spaces and most importantly, keep your city safe with excellent Police, Fire and EMS services. We know that we must continue to be good stewards of your tax dollars and look for ways to change and innovate so that we can deliver the services that matter most to you in a more efficient and cost-effective manner.

### Moving Forward with Big Projects in 2022!

In the next year we look forward to major improvements and new amenities in our parks – including a new Victory Park recreation area at the community center that will include outdoor bocce ball, pickleball, sand volleyball courts, exercise equipment and more! We will also be working with our local business community to continue the revitalization of our business districts and continue working with our schools, non-profits and faith-based partners to provide for the growing needs of our seniors, youth, teens and young adults. In addition, thanks to your support of the road levy, we will continue our work to repair and restore our residential streets, and expect that all of our worst-rated residential streets (rated No. 1) will be resurfaced in 2022!

### Building Our Community

Most importantly, with the pandemic hopefully in our rear-view mirror, we will continue our efforts to improve and spark new vitality in our neighborhoods - and bring people together - by working with block groups, neighborhood associations and One South Euclid (our community development corporation) to continue to beautify our homes, streets and public spaces.

To all of you, thank you for your commitment, dedication, compassion, collaboration and courage. You are the reason why South Euclid remains a place where we can all "Come Together & Thrive"!

On behalf of City Council and all of our hardworking public servants, our best wishes to you and your family for a wonderful holiday season and a safe and healthy New Year!

*Very truly yours,  
Georgine*

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# Working Together to Keep South Euclid Safe, Strong and Vital

By Council President Pro-Tem Ruth Gray

As a resident for almost 24 years and councilwoman for 16 years, I have seen and experienced firsthand the challenges facing municipalities, and how the greater economy has had a devastating effect on the housing market, residential and commercial construction, the retail community and the well-being of its residents. Before the great recession and crash of the housing market a decade ago, South Euclid had already begun the work of changing paradigms by asking critical questions, exploring best practices, building coalitions, and adopting legislation aimed at making us a more diverse, inclusive and overall healthier city.



Ruth Gray

I'm not going to put much energy into explaining the struggles, you know them all so well. However, as my mom would say, "there is great wisdom in the use of discernment," in being able to see how city government has persevered, coming out of the storm better prepared, working together, implementing ideas, and pressing forward for a better tomorrow.

So, let me address the elephant in the room. Those that know me, also are aware that in the past I have supported Municipal Court Judge Gayle Williams-Byers and was proud that she was elected as South Euclid's first Black Judge. However, as a Black woman and civic leader in the city I hold in high esteem, it is extremely troubling and offensive to hear our Judge, another black woman elected by the South Euclid voters, make claims that South Euclid's leadership is racist. It is just not true. It's hurtful and it only serves as a contrived tool to deflect from the real issues that are impacting our city and fueling the Judge's assumed inability to work with the other two co-equal branches of government more effectively. Instead of working to divide our community, we have an obligation to come together and work towards a prosperous future for all South Euclid residents.

In the 16 years I've served as an elected official in South Euclid, City Council has worked with the Mayor and Administration to promote South Euclid as a successfully diverse community comprised of people of all races, religions and cultures. We have passed some of the most comprehensive fair housing and anti-discrimination laws in Northeast Ohio and

conducted cultural competency training with our police, trained building and housing staff members on fair housing and anti-discrimination laws, and hosted community forums on diversity, inclusion and race relations. We're not naïve and we know we're not insulated from the issues of race in our country, but we have worked hard to manage these issues and will continue to work together to promote diversity, equity and inclusion in South Euclid and throughout our region.

Democracy, just like aspiring thoughts and actions, is always evolving to greater heights, and challenges us all to better understand what public service is about – especially at the local level. For this reason, it is incumbent upon all of us to apply reasoning, to put aside personal biases and utilize diplomacy skills in order to sit at the table and make the important decisions that you have elected us to do as your representatives.

With that said, I am asking that South Euclid residents not buy into the divisive bantering offered by Judge Williams-Byers, as it does not address the challenges we are facing. Instead, there should be an expectation that the South Euclid Municipal Court meet with South Euclid City Council to develop an action plan to manage the real issues facing the Municipal Court, including their ability to maintain auditable financial records, establish an annual budget that does not financially cripple the city's purse, and even work together to look at the possibility of merging with another municipal court as a way to reduce the financial obligations of taxpayers.

The Honorable Shirley Chisholm once said, "You don't make progress by standing on the sidelines, whimpering and complaining. You make progress by implementing ideas".

As the longest serving black elected official in South Euclid, I respectfully ask Judge Williams Byers to put an end to the divisive actions that are hurting our community and join us in working together towards implementing productive solutions. The people have elected us to lead our community and keep it a "great place to come together and thrive". Let's make a commitment to putting an end to the bickering and to resolving these issues in 2022. South Euclid and our residents deserve better. ✍️

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# PRESSIMONE

## Notre Dame College President J. Michael Pressimone: Managing Positive Change at NDC

By Carlo Wolff

**J** Michael Pressimone sees himself as a change manager. All the skills he developed as a higher education executive came into play in April 2020, when the Baltimore native became the 15th president of Notre Dame College. Hired during the first flush of the coronavirus pandemic, he promised the trustees of the Catholic college on South Green Road he would visit a hundred donors in his first hundred days. Little did Pressimone know that would be by Zoom.

Well into his second full year as Notre Dame president, Pressimone presides over a campus of about 1,000 undergraduate students and another 350 graduate and online students. Wearing masks is de rigueur in school buildings and classes.

Otherwise, things are nearly back to normal, Pressimone says in an interview in his spacious, wood-paneled office. Classes are again in-person, and despite a decline in undergraduate enrollment over the past few years – a trend the board would like him to arrest, even reverse – enrollment in online and graduate students was up 24 percent over 2020. Tuition costs \$30,650 a year; room and board adds \$10,000. Notre Dame provides “generous discounts” to about 65 percent of its enrollees, Pressimone notes. Still, costs are rising, which is worrisome.

### Being presidential

There weren’t many reasons to be cheerful when Pressimone left the presidency of Fontbonne University in St. Louis for the Notre Dame post. He arrived just as students were sent home because of COVID-19, and virtual learning became the new normal. At the same time, he had to make “sure the people who were here on the ground had my support in

doing the things necessary to shift from highly personal, in-person education to less-than-perfect, doing-the-best-we-can virtual those last couple of months.”

Next was figuring out how to make return to in-person education as painless as possible. Economics, too, figured, as the college refunded students for unused residence halls. Thankfully, the federal government’s Paycheck Protection and Higher Education Emergency Relief programs, along with coronavirus relief money from the state of Ohio, helped. So has Pressimone’s track record.

Pressimone’s career in higher education includes serving as vice president of advancement at Alvernia University in Reading, Pennsylvania; at Belmont Abbey College in Belmont, North Carolina; and at Elizabethtown College in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania. He holds a doctorate in Higher Education and Organizational Change from Benedictine University in Lisle, Illinois.

He also earned a bachelor of fine arts degree in theater – his undergraduate major was in acting – from the Catholic University in Washington, D.C. Acting, which he says was not conducive to family life (he and his wife, Cathy, have 12 children and nine grandchildren), was the road not taken, though, he jokes, he convincingly acts like a college president.

### Setting a fresh agenda

Pressimone enjoys developing a stage for collaboration and innovation at Notre Dame, South Euclid’s largest employer.

“Part of what management is is leading institutions through hard times and challenge and crisis and change,” he says. “I see myself as a manager of change, or a change agent, in an industry that is going through a number of challenging episodes,



the pandemic being one of those.”

Managing a college during a pandemic taught him that people who work in higher education “respond collaboratively in lots of ways. When pushed against the wall, their first inclination is always, How do we serve the students? What is it that we need to know about our students and how our students learn and what are their situations and circumstances outside of campus? How do we adjust to make sure we can deliver the best possible education for students that are in our care?”

One route to that is to anticipate the market, tailoring education to regional need and demands. But there are hurdles.

### Meeting the challenges

Because of a decline in the college-bound—particularly in this part of the country—student recruitment is more competitive each year, Pressimone says, citing increasing educational costs. Meeting the requirements of Title IX legislation, which prohibits discrimination

on the basis of gender, incurs legal costs. An increase in counseling for mental-health issues adds costs, too. “There’s a much greater emphasis on mental-health problems today – not that we didn’t have students back in my day who were struggling from a mental-health perspective – but we know more about it today,” Pressimone says.

Satisfying these demands requires nimbleness and foresight, he suggests. Building on Notre Dame’s reputation as a “wonderfully diverse institution that has become an institution of access, opportunity and empowerment,” Pressimone would like to beef up its Honors Scholar Program (for students with a high school GPA of 3.85 or minimum ACT of 27) and its moot court program.

While he wants to build on the “healthy athletic identity” Notre Dame began to forge when the former all-female institution admitted men in 2003, he also wants to expand opportunities for the Thrive Learning Center, which helps

students with learning disabilities in their socialization and career choices. Another area with growth potential is Notre Dame’s nursing program: The Cleveland Clinic, University Hospitals and MetroHealth have “a tremendous need for more nurses,” he says. “We just have to find more ways to get them into the pipeline.”

Notre Dame also recently launched a program in cybersecurity. That’s another area of “tremendous employment opportunities but not enough people in the pipeline,” he says; the school is in conversation with private companies and the state to “look for ways to bolster that pipeline so we can get more students into our programs so that more students can go to work.” Such a program would dovetail nicely with a collaboration between Notre Dame and Case Western Reserve University in an ongoing engineering program.

**Giving back**

Pressimone enjoys bringing an outsider’s perspective and fresh

ideas to Notre Dame, “a wonderfully diverse institution that has become an institution of access, opportunity and empowerment, to help students move to the next level of their lives.” He’s also looking forward to 2022, the hundredth anniversary of Notre Dame. Expect a multifaceted celebration.

Pressimone was encouraged by a recent fund-raising function for alumni who graduated since 2007, noting the largest number was “also the youngest alumni, who have not yet necessarily reached their philanthropic lives.”

He called the gathering “a vibrant group, really well-connected to each other. They’re building families, they’re building businesses, they’re at the beginnings of their careers. I hope we can keep them engaged and involved and active. They can come back and be mentors for our students and show them this is the path after graduation. At some point in their lives, they’ll say, I think it’s time for me to give back.” Here’s hoping. ✍

# What’s wrong with this picture?

South Euclid loves to recycle. That’s good! BUT putting trash, or the wrong things, into the recycling bin will contaminate the load. Then it all might have to go to the landfill. That’s bad.

## DO recycle

- 👍 Cans.
- 👍 Paper and cardboard (but not pizza boxes.)
- 👍 Glass bottles and jars (leave the lid on.)
- 👍 Plastic bottles and jugs, but ONLY if the neck is smaller than the body (ignore the numbers)(and leave the cap on.)

## DON’T recycle

- 👎 Plastic bags. And don’t put recyclables in plastic bags!
- 👎 Plastic cups, or tubs, or take-out containers, or any plastic thing that’s not on the “DO” list.
- 👎 Aluminum foil or pie plates.
- 👎 Chip/snack bags, candy wrappers or food wrappers.



Let’s recycle right. When in doubt, throw it out!

# Pastor Jenkins

## REV. COURTNEY CLAYTON JENKINS: LEADING CHANGE & CREATING COMMUNITY

By Carlo Wolff

**T**urning points in the life of Courtney Clayton Jenkins evoke the Resurrection. As Jesus Christ did when he arose to fix the world, Jenkins has seized openings for the spirit throughout her career. The senior pastor and teacher at the South Euclid United Church of Christ has spent 11 years turning a church arisen from the ashes into a powerful engine of social change. As South Euclid UCC's first Black pastor, first female pastor, and youngest leader, she enjoys being its agent.

"I grew South Euclid UCC into the type of church I would want to join," says Jenkins. "I love it here."

Hers is a busy church. Part of the South Euclid-Lyndhurst School District's faith-based partnership that provides mentoring services to Brush High School students, the Bluestone Road institution also operates the BIN (bless-inspire-nurture) food pantry, which has served close to 4,000 families since the start of COVID-19. The church also offers a special needs program, which has eight regular clients.

To Jenkins, South Euclid UCC, with 1,000 members in 14 states combining its physical plant and online presence, is a "jewel church."

### Heeding the call

Jenkins grew up in Pepper Pike in predominantly White society. Her mother was a leader in volunteering for various service organizations around Cleveland, and her father started his own electrical supply business. "Some leaders are made," she says. "I was born a leader."

In sixth grade, she took the Myers-Briggs, a personality test designed to predict profession choices. Her top two: truck driver or pastor.

"My job is to walk with people and meet them where they are in their life and walk them to wherever their final destination is," she says. "Truck drivers have to make sure goods aren't broken or destroyed in transit. There are going to be some tough hills to climb, but we're going to make it over. There are going to be some great views. It's going to be all right."

In 2000, Jenkins graduated from Orange High School, where she was the first Black commencement speaker. She headed for Spelman College, a historically Black school in Atlanta.

She wanted to become CEO of a Fortune 500 company, but the math in an economics course was discouraging, and for the first time in her life, her grades slipped. Part of the reason was late-night partying. Still, leader that she is, Jenkins was elected class president.

That first semester was trying, and her parents were disappointed,



threatening to pull her out of Spelman and enroll her in Cuyahoga Community College. She begged them to give her another shot, and they did. When Jenkins returned to Atlanta for an academic Resurrection, she went to town not for letting loose, but for faith.

### The turnaround

On weekend nights, buses stopped at The Gate at Spelman, across the street from Morehouse College, an all-male HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities), to drive students like Jenkins eager to party in local nightclubs. When Jenkins returned for her second semester, she opted for the Sunday morning bus taking students to church. She asked another girl waiting at the stop what church she was headed for, and the girl said Ray of Hope. They rode there together.

"My whole life changed when I went to that church," she says. "I saw a ministry in a way I'd never seen it before. Ministry wasn't a noun, it was a verb there."

"It was light, it was bright, it was action, it was warm, it was welcoming, it was preaching strong. But it was also making an impact in the community. And it was all under a woman pastor." Ray of Hope became Jenkins's template, "the place where I reconnected with God around my call."

Most churches either operate under the spirit or under truth. A blend is rare.

"What I saw at Ray of Hope was a spirit-filled church that understood that if we are so heavenly bound that we are no earthly good, we are not being a good reflection of God's people on the earth," says Jenkins. "I've been working with this church to also be a jewel church. It's my term, and they're jewels because jewels are rare to find."

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Pastor Jenkins with son Caleb.



Pastor Jenkins with a volunteer at the monthly BIN Food Pantry.

## Getting there

After she graduated from Spelman in 2004 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English literature, she came home to Cleveland and worked for the Council for Economic Opportunities, started a bible study at her family church, and then went to Princeton Theological Seminary for three years of work toward a Master's degree in preaching and congregational ministry.

Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Cleveland gave her "a good foundation, and Ray of Hope put the drywall up," she says. In fall 2008, she got married, and her husband was hired for a pastoral job in New York. Around this time, her family beckoned: her father got sick, and her mother needed help.

Jenkins hit rock bottom. She had a degree from a top HBCU, a master's degree from Princeton University, her husband was a minister, "and I'm selling comedy show tickets in Times Square. It was the most humiliating job I ever had. Every night I would cry in the shower." Her husband told her she didn't have to work, but "I'm not that woman that's just going to not contribute, and that was all I could find at the time. I was waiting on a job in ministry." And it was the heart of the Recession.

One day, the charismatic Jenkins got an invitation to preach at a Reform church in Queens, N.Y. She was so impressive, officials there told her they wanted to include her in their search for a pastor. When she got home, her husband told her the Rev. Otis Moss Jr., then pastor of Olivet Institutional Baptist Church in Cleveland's Fairfax neighborhood, had called to urge her to apply to be pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church, the "mother Black Baptist church in Cleveland," at East 55th Street and Scoville Avenue.

By the end of the day, she got offers from both churches. Her father died Feb. 13, 2009. Her husband got the job at Shiloh Baptist and they moved back to Cleveland so she could help her newly widowed mother. She became "the first lady of Shiloh," aka "the pretty girl who sits in the front row." She yearned for more.

## Home base

Several months later, Jenkins heard that the Shaker Heights Community Church, known as the "red door church," was looking for a pastor. The United Church of Christ wanted to assign her to it, and the church was in danger of closing. Despite warnings from friends, family and clergy that the tiny church was a hive of infighting and nastiness, she interviewed. She heard the spirit say to her, So you don't believe in the Resurrection? She told God people told her it was a bad church. She also told God she believes in the Resurrection, so God said, If you believe dead things can live, go with this church.

Shaker Heights Community Church ultimately hired Jenkins as designated pastor at \$350 a week, her pay to be docked when there was a guest preacher. Still, it was a job.

In late March 2010, six months into the Shaker Heights work, the Resurrection surfaced again: The Euclid Avenue Congregational Church in downtown Cleveland offered her a job, with better pay and benefits.

"The red door church was tough, but they wanted to grow," she says. "They wanted to change their situation. These people, who had all these resources, a whole building, and lots of stuff, hadn't made a major decision in 40 years." She planned to say no to Euclid Avenue the following morning.

At 2 a.m., she got a telephone call. She thought her grandfather had died. A friend told her to turn on the TV and watch as the Euclid Avenue Congregational Church at Euclid and East 96th Street burned to the ground. She recalls watching Leon Bibb (now a member of South Euclid UCC) "reporting that his home church was struck by lightning." She found herself weeping, thinking how she would have felt if a similar twist of fate struck Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

Jenkins and Euclid Avenue Congregational went back and forth for months, and she had deep reservations about the church's

governance and policies. Yet she also recognized how badly that church needed someone to help it bloom again after its destruction in March 2010. She ultimately accepted the church's offer, which came with a three-year contract.

**A joyous landing**

With the help of administrative assistant Diana Scott and church moderator Charles Williams, the church found a home in South Euclid. At the time, the Catholic Church was closing various churches in an ongoing downsizing, and the Bluestone Road site, formerly the St. Margaret Mary campus, became available.

Ziska Architecture of Cleveland, which specializes in nonprofits including churches, designed the South Euclid facility for UCC, recasting and expanding on existing buildings in an \$8.15 million renovation. The church began to occupy its new quarters in 2014.

"One of the reasons we chose South Euclid is because, at the time we moved

here, the average adult living in South Euclid was 35 years old," says Jenkins.

"I was always clear that we need to have a multigenerational church – and today, we're a six-generation church, from babies to people older than 100. We're 75-percent African-American, 25-percent people of other nationalities and races ... our term is 'open and affirming.' And we currently have members in 14 states."

**A virtual congregation**

In 2017, Jenkins had a vision for a digital campus that would open the window to South Euclid UCC. Megachurches like Joel Osteen's and T.D. Jakes's use social media so the faithful can watch services. Jenkins wanted social media for interaction, for an online extension of her church's community. As Facebook Live and YouTube were coming into vogue, she raised \$150,000 for the venture – on top of the tithing she raises for church operation – and installed the necessary equipment, but didn't hire

people who could run it.

One Sunday, a Los Angeles woman named Miss B popped up. "I flew to Cleveland to go to church," Miss B told Jenkins. The next month, a New York woman flew to Cleveland with a similar tale.

Just before COVID-19 shut everything down, the digital campus was up and running. On March 15, 2020 the church held its last in-person service due to the pandemic.

The following week, Jenkins hired two people who'd expressed interest in the technological work years before.

"God times everything just right," says Jenkins.

Moving forward, Pastor Jenkins plans to offer in-person and virtual programs with the goal of keeping South Euclid United Church of Christ welcoming to all.

For more information about SEUCC visit [www.southeucliducc.org](http://www.southeucliducc.org).



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21-0272



# Room to Bloom

Life often takes many twists and turns. For one South Euclid couple, that meant trading the bright lights of New York City for the quiet suburbia of South Euclid. Eight years ago, Scott Robertson and Chet Rojice were living in a 350-square-foot apartment in Manhattan. Chet worked as the director of operations at a synagogue, and Scott was employed as a designer for the famed L'Olivier Floral Atelier.

Eventually Scott landed a solo gig designing weekly floral displays on three floors of the Carolina Herrera Flagship boutique on Madison Avenue, where Scott and Chet spent every Monday hauling loads of flowers and plant material down the four floors from their walk-up, into a cab, and up the three floors of the boutique. That successful venture led the two to open their own New York City floral shop, Moss. These days, Scott and Chet

have traded their chaotic life in the big city for a more quiet existence in South Euclid. Now, the couple is happily settled in their Elmwood Road bungalow in South Euclid and are running their Cleveland Heights-based flower shop, Stems Fleur. "We were living in a tiny apartment with four dogs in a hectic city and we were burned out," said Scott. Both Ohio natives, Scott and Chet, wanted to get back to a calmer life with more space to spread out and a bit of land to garden. After renting on both the east and west sides of Cleveland, the couple decided that they preferred the east side and began their house search. They chose South Euclid because of the diversity of the neighborhood, proximity to amenities and to their flower shop. The bungalow was in the right price range but needed some extensive TLC. Fortunately, the couple had the design prowess to turn it into a showplace.



The Craftsman-style bungalow had great bone structure with good potential for outdoor living – a must for the garden-focused couple. A spacious front porch, an ample back deck, and an attractive brick driveway provided a good jumping off point for the renovations to come. Inside, Scott and Chet have reinvented the home with a rich deep gray color scheme, with inviting areas to lounge at every turn. After living in a small apartment for so long, the couple has mastered the ability to use every square foot to its best advantage. Upstairs, a guest suite is cleverly tucked under the eaves – with a dark moody color palette that feels like a luxury spa retreat. Even the basement carries through the spa-like atmosphere with a hot tub, perfect for relaxing after long work days. Outside, the transformation is equally dramatic. New siding, a new roof, and outdoor lighting were added. The couple went to work creating gardens all around the property shortly after moving into the home in 2019. In 2020, the two were able to acquire the vacant lot next door through One South Euclid’s Grow and Thrive Program and started expanding the gardens after having both lots cleared of old trees and overgrown shrubs. A new

pond was created, a fence added, and 110 arborvitae shrubs planted to create privacy and a sense of enclosure. Plans are underway for a formal garden, a greenhouse, and possibly a swimming pool. The dramatic plantings surrounding the house feature unique tropicals, tall grasses, and lush planting beds with the sophisticated color palette that the duo is known for at their flower shop. The distinctive property has caught the eye of neighbors and passers-by, and the home was featured this past summer on the South Euclid Garden Walk. For the past two years the couple have lent their enviable design skills to the community to beautify the city’s welcome sign at May-Green with attractive plantings. “As a child, Scott asked for mulch and potting soil for his birthday,” joked Chet. Neighbors and those passing by the charming bungalow on Elmwood Road have surely noticed Scott’s long-honed gardening skills and will continue to appreciate the ever-evolving curb appeal of Scott and Chet’s stunning forever home.

To see photos of their floral work and learn more about Scott and Chet’s business, check out [www.stemsfleur.com](http://www.stemsfleur.com). 🌿



# JANUARY



**Saturday, January 29, 2022**  
**Rock the Block Fundraiser**  
 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
 Black Forest  
 Drink Specials, Raffle Prizes, Food, and More

# MARCH

**Wednesday, March 9, 2022**  
**South Euclid Business Appreciation Mixer**  
 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
 Notre Dame College Falcon's Nest

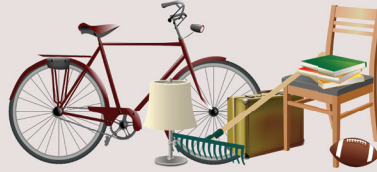
# APRIL



**Friday, April 29, 2022**  
**Arbor Day**  
 Save the Date! Location & Time will be announced in Spring 2022.

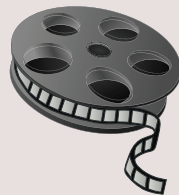
# MAY

**Saturday, May 7, 2022**  
**City Sweep**  
 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 a.m.  
 City-Wide Community Clean-Up Day. Look for more information in Spring 2022.



**Saturday, May 7, 2022**  
**Community Garage Sale**  
 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Saturday, May 21, 2022**  
**Community Center Shred Day**  
 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
 City Hall's rear parking lot



**Saturday, May 21, 2022**  
**Drive In Movie Night**  
 8:00 p.m.  
 Bexley Park  
 Fundraiser for Rock the Block, Movie TBD



**Monday, May 30, 2022**  
**Memorial Day Parade**  
 9:00 a.m.  
 South Green Road (Notre Dame College to War Memorial)

# JUNE



**Sunday, June 5, 2022**  
**Band Concert (Ray Rhode Concert Series)**  
 7:00 p.m.  
 Notre Dame College  
 The Pop Tarts

**Saturday, June 10, 2022**  
**INTERSECTION**  
 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
 Rushton Rd. City Parking Lot  
 Music, games and more

**Saturday, June 18, 2022**  
**Juneteenth Commemoration**  
 Save the Date! Look for more information in Spring 2022.



**Saturday, June 25, 2022 -**  
**Sunday, June 26, 2022**  
**South Euclid GardenWalk**  
 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. each day

# JULY



**Sunday July 3, 2022**  
**Band Concert (Ray Rhode Concert Series)**  
 7:00 p.m.  
 Notre Dame College  
 Akron Symphonic Winds

**Sunday, July 31, 2022**  
**Band Concert (Ray Rhode Concert Series)**  
 7:00 p.m.  
 Notre Dame College  
 Band TBD

# AUGUST

**Tuesday, August 2, 2022**

**Bexley Bash featuring the National Night Out Safety Commemoration.**

6:00 p.m.

Bexley Park



**Friday, August 19, 2022-Saturday, August 20, 2022**

**Rock the Block**

6:00PM-11:00PM Friday and 2:00PM-11:00PM Saturday

St. John Lutheran Church

**Sunday, August 28, 2021**

**Freecycle**

9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Bexley Park

## 2022 RUBBISH & RECYCLING HOLIDAY PICKUP SCHEDULE

Our rubbish and recycle provider Kimble only observes six holidays during the year when collection is delayed one day: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. On all other holidays, your rubbish and recycling will be picked up on your regular pick-up day with no one-day delay in service.

- In 2022, if your pick-up day resides on Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day and Thanksgiving day, your collection will be delayed one day.
- In 2022, New Year's Day (January 1) and Christmas (December 25) fall on a weekend, so there will be no delay in your scheduled pick-up. 🗑️

# SEPTEMBER



**Browns Tailgate Party**

Date & Time to be determined when 2022 Browns schedule is released.

Rushton Road Municipal Lot

**Saturday September 10, 2022**

**City Hall Open House**

11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.



**Sunday September 11, 2022**

**Electronics Recycling Event**

10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Community Center

### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Police & Fire Emergency: 911

Police (Non-Emergency): 216-381-1234

South Euclid City Hall: 216-381-0400

South Euclid Community Services: 216-381-0400

South Euclid Community Center: 216-291-0771

South Euclid Economic Development: 216-381-0400

South Euclid Service Department: 216-381-0402

South Euclid Building & Housing: 216-381-0400

South Euclid Municipal Court: 216-381-2880

SELREC @ YMCA (Recreation): 216-691-2246

Community Partnership on Aging: 216-291-3902

South Euclid-Lyndhurst Branch County Public Library: 216-382-4880

SE Juvenile Diversion Program: 216-691-4252

Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA): 440-526-0900

Cuyahoga County Fiscal Office: 216-443-7010

Cuyahoga County Board of Elections: 216-443-3298

First Call For Help: Dial 211

# OCTOBER

**Saturday, October 1, 2022**

**Heights Move-a-Thon Bike/Walk for Charity**

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Location TBD



**Saturday, October 8, 2022**

**Community Garage Sale**

9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Community Center

**Saturday, October 15, 2022**

**Shred Day**

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

City Hall rear parking lot



**Saturday, October 29, 2022**

**OctoberFeast**

12:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Bexley Park

# DECEMBER



**Sunday, December 4, 2022**

**Lighting Ceremony**

4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Location TBD

# A Home of Their Own



**South Euclid's**  
*Beautiful homes and gardens*



Sometimes when you least expect it, the right house finds you. Sean and Elise Hamlin were renting in Parma while saving for their first home, with the plan to start a house search in a year or two. Sean’s best friend since seventh grade is Kristopher Kramer, a Keller Williams realtor, who facilitates many home rehabs as part of his real estate practice. “Kris called us and said he’d found our house,” said Sean. That house was a charming, but tired, Tudor bungalow on Neville Road.

Elise, a commercial interior designer by trade, was immediately smitten. “We have friends living in South Euclid and always liked the area. I love the architecture around here, and always wanted a house with character,” remarked Elise. The Neville house certainly has character in spades. Situated on a corner with a large lot, the home features natural stone, a distinctive curved front door, a large fireplace, and exposed wooden beams. The home required a full gut rehab, facilitated by Kris Kramer, which provided an opportunity for the couple to customize the design. “I never thought my first house would be one I would get to design,” said Elise. The home presented numerous design challenges for the couple, with dated bathrooms and a kitchen with a less-than-ideal layout. Elise spent months creating mood boards, looking at tile selections and fixtures. The result is a home that is as beautiful as it is functional. The kitchen features quartz countertops; hexagonal floor tiles; and an attractive, trend-forward tile backsplash

with an eye-catching star pattern. The refined layout creates an ideal cook’s kitchen, with plenty of prep space, storage, and ample seating for guests. The home’s two bathrooms are appointed with new tile, fixtures, and a large walk-in-shower in the principal bath. The side entrance to the home retains the original stone floor tile and now has new, larger windows to accommodate Elise’s growing collection of house plants.

For the couple, who met while attending Bowling Green State University and married in 2017, the move to South Euclid brought an easier commute and more peace and quiet. “We keep our windows open at night and never hear any noise,” said Elise. “We love how green the city is, and all the amenities so close by,” said Sean, who works in the advocacy field for the developmentally disabled in Highland Hills. So far the couple has checked out the city’s Thursday night farmer’s market and would like to meet more neighbors by hosting a block party next summer.

Shortly before the couple moved into their new home, pal Kris Kramer purchased a home a block away on South Green Road, and the three friends have weekly get-togethers at Sean and Elise’s house. The beautifully renovated home is now a perfect reflection of the couple’s taste and lifestyle. “Sean says we’re never moving again,” laughed Elise. ✍



# Ghani

## Abdul Sunni Ghani: All Roads Lead to the Heart

By Carlo Wolff

**A**bdul Sunni Ghani walks five miles each morning, leaving his South Euclid house on the border with Cleveland for the Post Office on South Green Road, back over to South Belvoir Boulevard, then north for the return home. It clears the mind.

Inspiration may hit Ghani on his walks, prompting him to write poetry. At 81, the former musician, labor-union advocate and Army veteran doesn't write regularly. But, perhaps inspired by an overheard remark or the sight of something unusual on the street, he has written enough to fill several boxes with his work. He even published a book, "All Roads Lead to the Heart." It is poetry of celebration and assertion. One aim, he says, is to celebrate Black women.

"I felt that Black men weren't giving Black women enough praise," Ghani said in a recent interview in the house he and his wife, Diane, have lived in since 1992. "I wanted them to feel the love of a Black man."

Pride and spirituality also matter to the man born Edward Lee Williams Jr. in Atlanta. Williams changed his birth name to the Muslim name Abdul Sunni Ghani in 1972. He no longer wanted to be known by his "slave" name, he says.

Ghani first encountered his abiding faith thanks to a girl he fancied when both were students at the defunct East High School. Ghani and the girl, a believer, attended a nearby Nation of Islam temple a few times. When they broke up, the visits ended, and Islam didn't fully come back into Ghani's life for years. When it did, it changed him.

Probably 10 years ago, a good friend said, "Abdul, I thought you were Muslim. I said, Yeah, I am. When he asked me that, he said you're only Muslim in name, and it was like something stuck in my heart," Ghani says. "I wasn't doing any drugs at the time, but it was something that was prohibited in being Muslim, and from that day on, I never had a drink, never did anything against the religion of Islam."

Ghani lives his faith. He traveled to Mecca with a small group for about 10 days at the end of 2016. "It was mind-blowing.



Mecca is a place that if you can afford it, every Muslim is supposed to make the trip," he says.

### Secular days

Ghani's parents moved to Cleveland when the infant was six months old. Like his father, Ghani was a career man at Ford Motor Co. He retired in 1997 as a supervisor after years as a United Auto Workers representative. His father would pick him up after school and drive him to the afternoon shift, and he

worked in the foundry making the core mold that goes into V6 and V8 engines until Ford laid him off in 1961. He then joined the service as a paratrooper – “a notch above just being in the Army” – in the 82nd Airborne Division. He spent three-and-a-half years in Pforzheim, Germany, and never saw combat.

Years before he was laid off from Ford, Ghani sang in several doo-wop groups, including the Deons (who had their own fan club, the Deonettes) and the Sensations. He tells a story suggesting he could have been a contender – at Motown, the pop-soul powerhouse out of Detroit.

The teenage Eddie Williams was tuned into daytime station-AM one day when he heard Harvey Fuqua promote the Spinners over the station. Ghani went to WABQ to ask the deejay Eddie O’Jay (yes, he managed the O’Jays and effectively gave them their name) if he could arrange an audition for the Sensations with Fuqua, an early architect of the Motown Sound. Fuqua agreed to hear them and gave Ghani Anna Gordy’s business card, and said, You guys just get to Motown. You don’t have to worry about anything. You just get to Motown.

Anna Gordy was Motown founder Berry Gordy’s older sister. Anna’s sister Gwen was married to Fuqua. Anna eventually married Marvin Gaye.

“We never did go to Motown. We didn’t know for sure it was for real and we didn’t have financial means to get there. Going to Detroit was like going to the moon,” says Ghani.

Years later, Ghani ran into a woman who turned out to be Anna Gordy as she was closing up the Motown Museum just as Ghani wanted to tour it. She wouldn’t let Ghani and his group in but brought them some brochures after identifying herself. Ghani then told her the story of his 1961 Sensations audition with Fuqua.

Gordy said her business card would have gotten them in the Motown door – and farther. “We would have been part of the Motown family, that’s what she was really saying,” Ghani says.

**Becoming his own man**

When Ghani mustered out of the service in 1965, he went back to Ford, which had only one Black union steward in the foundry. He organized a group of older workers and formed the United

Improvement Group. “We elected four or five Black union stewards and got other positions in the union,” he says. “My intention, when I started doing that, was to get more Blacks into the union.”

A graduate of The University of Akron with a bachelor’s degree in technical education, Ghani also boasts an associate degree in industrial management and science from Cuyahoga Community College. After he helped strengthen the union and contributed to integrating the workforce at Ford, he transitioned into a managerial role, which meant leaving the union.

He cut his beard off for the initial interview to represent his willingness “to be part of the team,” growing it back before he was called to start the job at least a year later. His was the first supervisory beard ever at Ford. “I had some crosses to bear to take that job,” Ghani says.

After he retired from Ford’s Cleveland Casting Plant, he worked at Gund Arena (now Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse) as a supervisor in what he called the “suite department.” He managed the care of high-dollar suite owners and the people who serviced them until 2013, when his job was cut in a reorganization in which “quite a few” managerial and supervisory positions were eliminated.

Since then, he’s been enjoying retirement, taking his daily walks, visiting relatives in New York and Atlanta, keeping the faith, and enjoying the company of his wife Diane, his inspiration for more than 50 years. His house is full of artifacts, including paintings, sculpture and wood carvings, he brought back from a trip to Africa in 1975, and Africa drives him, too. Ford published a story about Ghani in the in-house newspaper Ghani wrote before his trip:

“I dream of my  
Home in the East  
Where I’ve never been  
Africa: the mother land  
Of the whole earth.”

Abdul Sunni Ghani is a man at home in multiple worlds. ✍

**HOLIDAY CLEAN**

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- \$30 1 Month CLEANest Membership (\$36 Value)

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# New Businesses Abound in South Euclid!

This past year has been very busy here in South Euclid. Nearly 25 new businesses opened in the City in 2021, ranging from new restaurants to retail shops and everything in between. When small businesses thrive, so does our community! We wanted to use this edition of the Magazine to highlight a few of these new businesses as well as some exciting developments around the city.

## Cedar Center North Continues to Thrive Post-Pandemic

New owners recently purchased the Cedar Center North shopping plaza and have made a long-term commitment to ensure it remains one of the city's premier shopping and dining destinations. Since purchasing the property, they have worked to aggressively fill vacant storefronts, many of which were caused by the Covid pandemic. Over the past year, three new businesses moved into Cedar Center with one more business on the way. Pulp Smoothie moved into the former Menchie's location. Jersey Mike's took over the former Jimmy John's. Sprinkles and Milk moved into the former Cookie and a Cupcake location, offering a variety of ice cream treats and hot dogs. Lastly, Arova is relocating from Cedar and Green into the former Pacific Grill location. This leaves just two vacant storefronts at Cedar Center, which the new owners are working to quickly fill.

## New & Unique Businesses Abound Throughout South Euclid

We have seen new businesses open and expand in some of our other commercial districts as well. The Grove Kosher Market opened at Oakwood Commons,

bringing a 40,000-square-foot full-service grocery store to the community. We are very excited that The Grove chose South Euclid for their first location in Northeast Ohio. Coach K's Sports opened at Cedar and Green and offers a wide range of sports collectibles and memorabilia. Waterway Express opened in the former Al Paul location and has been a fantastic community partner, serving as a "Producer" Sponsor of the annual Rock the Block event.

## South Euclid Welcomes Local Jewish Day Schools

Our educational institutions also continue to grow and expand in South Euclid. This year saw the opening of Yeshiva Derech Hatorah Day School. The school has opened in the former Sacred Heart of Jesus Academy after performing a complete building renovation. The school serves girls K-8. The school also purchased the former vacant lot at the corner of Rushton and South Green Roads, where they will be installing an outdoor play area. Torah Nursery School is completing Phase 1 of their expansion project at 1980 S. Green Road. We are excited to see this facility grow.



Afrika Taste & Lounge



Black Forest Bar & Grill



Coach K's Sports

**Opportunities Abound at Mayfield & Green**

We continue to work on improving and strengthening the Mayfield-Green downtown district. This year saw the revitalization of the long vacant Burger King on South Green Road. Mr. Chicken spent a significant amount of money renovating and beautifying the building and we are very pleased with the end result. Owner Mike Simens is committed to being a great community partner and we look forward to working with him. We were also proud to welcome Taste of Afrika to the district. Owner Martinas Nwangwu did an amazing job renovating the former Mirage Party Center into what is now a regional dining destination specializing in Nigerian cuisine along with full bar service. Black Forest undertook a major expansion, building out a full kitchen and back patio along with introducing Sunday brunch service.

Opportunities abound in the Mayfield-Green district. We are working closely with the broker marketing the Palermo property adjacent to the Telling Mansion to ensure it is developed in a way that serves as a signature gateway to our downtown district. We were successful in obtaining a grant from JobsOhio to help guide us through this development process. We are working with One South Euclid to explore the expansion of the Mayfield-Green downtown zoning district along South Green Road from Mayfield to Rainbow Road to allow for new and unique residential and commercial uses. As the Green Road revitalization project continues, we will see major improvements at the Mayfield-Green intersection that will increase the walkability of the district and allow for additional development.

**2022 Brings Positive Change and Continued Business Growth**

As we look ahead to 2022, there are changes on the way. Starbucks is building a new location in the downtown district at the front of Marc's Plaza that is expected to open in February. The former American Commodore complex on Mayfield Road is being razed and replaced with a CubeSmart self-storage facility. The city's boards and commissions worked tirelessly to ensure the facility is designed in a way that will beautify the Mayfield Road corridor. The Warrensville Center corridor will also see the expansion of the highly successful Milky Way vegetarian restaurant and the opening of a new Jamaican restaurant. Internationally known artist Aimee Lee will be opening her studio and gallery space at 4060 Mayfield Road. We are very excited for this opening and hope to spotlight Ms. Lee in a future edition of the magazine.

**Assisting Businesses & Sparking Recovery from the Covid-19 Pandemic**

As we recover from the Covid pandemic, we are very lucky to have such a strong small business community in South Euclid. With the help of One South Euclid and federal CARES dollars, we were able to award over \$100,000 in grants to small businesses in 2020 to help guide them through the pandemic and on the path to recovery. City Council has also generously supported an exterior storefront renovation program that continues to beautify our commercial districts and attract high quality small businesses to the community. We look forward to further investment in our commercial districts, ensuring that South Euclid remains a destination for local businesses.



Mr. Chicken



Sprinkles and Milk



Starbucks



The Grove Kosher Supermarket



**Sign-up for South Euclid's e-newsletter at [www.cityofsoutheuclid.com](http://www.cityofsoutheuclid.com)**

# Three Things to Know About One South Euclid

## 1. We Offer Residential and Business Grants



Beginning in January, residents and businesses will be able to apply for our Neighborhood Grant Program, which includes support for:

### Exterior Home Repairs

Assistance to residents for up to 50% of a project cost for exterior home repairs.

### Senior Landscape Services

Senior residents may apply to receive grass-cutting and snow-plowing services for one year.

### Business Storefront Renovations

Matching grant funding to support commercial property owners in completing transformational exterior renovations.

Updates on grant guidelines and application deadlines will be shared on our website, social media, and your local newspaper.

## 2. South Euclid's Downtown Revitalization is Our Priority

A strategic priority of One South Euclid is enhancing, expanding and promoting the Downtown Mayfield-Green District. We created a webpage to provide updates on our progress as we partner with the City of South Euclid, businesses, residents, and other stakeholders, like you.

Visit [OneSouthEuclid.org/Downtown](https://www.onesoutheuclid.org/Downtown) to learn more.



## 3. We Support Small Businesses



We are offering a workshop on January 19 at 12 p.m. in collaboration with the City of South Euclid and the Minority Business Assistance Center. Join us to learn about the benefits of certifying your minority, woman and/or veteran-owned business in South Euclid. Subscribe to our newsletter or follow us on social media to ensure that you are the first to know when registration opens!

4645 Mayfield Road  
South Euclid, Ohio 44121  
[OneSouthEuclid.org](https://www.onesoutheuclid.org)  
216.316.5373  
[Info@OneSouthEuclid.org](mailto:Info@OneSouthEuclid.org)



# News from your Community Partnership on Aging

CPA is looking forward to 2022 and the introduction of new programs, the return of favorite activities, making new friends, seeing old ones and enjoying a healthier, safer year.

## New Programs and Activities Coming in 2022

Does cardio drumming sound like fun? How about Qi Gong? Would you like more line dancing classes? In the area of technology, we plan on adding more classes to our popular CPA Connects technology training program, including CPA Connects 2 U where participants attend eight sessions to learn how to use a Chromebook and navigate the internet. At the end of the series, they get to keep the Chromebook (participants must meet eligibility requirements). Our Winter 2022 program is funded by Cleveland Clinic, and we are proud to call them our partner. Other tech classes will include our popular Smart Phone series and Advanced Laptop and Tablet classes. Call Rebekah at 216.291.3902 for information and to sign up.

## Snowplow/Grass Cutting Program

For those of you who are participants in the city's Snowplow/Grass Cutting

program for older residents, please be aware that CPA social workers provide the brief assessments for the registration, whether you are a new or returning participant. Please answer your phone when we call so we can get you processed for the program.

## Lunch and Food Security Programs

South Euclid Community Center is the site for in-person lunches on Wednesdays. We continue to follow safety protocols including four persons at a table (instead of six) and wearing masks if not actively eating. Mary Beth and Jeri are looking forward to seeing you at lunch. (We also serve in-person lunches on Mondays and Fridays, so if you are interested, please call the office for locations.)

Lunches are also available for pickup at the Lyndhurst Community Center on Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. Frozen entrees, bread, fruit and milk (a five-day supply) will be put in your trunk for contactless distribution. Call 216.650.4029 to reserve your meals by the Tuesday of the week before you would like to receive the food. Our monthly produce distribution is always the third Thursday of the month,



beginning on January 20 for 2022. And don't forget to check our website ([www.communitypartnershiponaging.org](http://www.communitypartnershiponaging.org)) for menus and dates of LunchBox, which are delicious pick-up meals homecooked by Chef Mary Beth for only \$5 apiece.

## Safe At Home

Our Safe At Home program, supported by the Rusty Seech Fund, is available to you if you need minor home safety modifications, like grab bars or additional railings, and meet eligibility requirements. Please reach out to our social workers at 440.442.2628 for information. Availability of contractors is dependent on current COVID-19 protocols.

Best wishes from the staff of Community Partnership on Aging for a happy, healthy, and safe 2022. ✍️

# NEWS FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## What do I do if I see an injured deer?

If you encounter an injured deer, please do not approach it. Call our dispatch center's non-emergency line 216.381.1234 and an officer will be dispatched to evaluate. If the animal is unable to walk/move, the officer will euthanize the deer and notify the service department for removal.

If the animal is still mobile and does not appear to be suffering a traumatic injury, it will be permitted to leave the

area. Deer are very resilient animals and often live in the wild with three legs. Leaving it alone is its best chance for survival.

If you encounter a baby deer (fawn) leave it alone. To protect her fawn, the mother will spend very little time with it. This is to prevent attracting predators to the fawn's location. She will leave her fawn in various hiding places for long periods of time, returning several times a day to nurse it. By staying away, the mother is protecting it. ✍️



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**Did you miss the chance to advertise in this issue of South Euclid magazine?**

The 2022 South Euclid Magazine dates will be available soon, in the meantime if you would like more information or have questions about advertising feel free to call or email Sherry Tilson at [stilson@cjn.org](mailto:stilson@cjn.org) or 216-342-5204.

**Thank you for your continued support and readership and Wishing You & Yours a Happy, Healthy & Safe Holiday Season!**

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South Euclid-Lyndhurst  
Schools: **216-691-2000**

**Dear City of South Euclid Community Supporters,**



Linda N. Reid

The 2021-2022 school year is officially underway, and despite the new dynamic of education associated with COVID-19 safety protocols and procedures, students are back in the classroom learning in-person. Without question, new complexities have emerged in educating our children during a pandemic. While starting the year with a mask recommendation, the SEL Schools began requiring masks for everyone on Friday, September 10, a requirement that remains

in effect until further notice. According to national, state and county health standards, when masking is correctly and consistently followed, along with a minimum of 3 feet of physical distancing between students, we minimize the potential risks of in-person instruction, which we know is optimal for learning.

**Investments in our School Facilities**

The South Euclid Lyndhurst Schools began collections in January 2021 for the levy that was passed in May 2020 for 5.9 mills of new operating funds in addition to 1 mill of permanent improvement dollars. While those two collections remain separate, the permanent improvement dollars have immediately gone to work during this first year of collections, as the district has begun investing in the installation of air conditioning units at Adrian Elementary and Sunview Elementary Schools. While our plan was to install air conditioning in one building per year, this year we completed two building installations, essentially jumping ahead of schedule. Actual collections of the levy generate approximately \$795,000 per year that will go toward the installation of a new air conditioning system at each of our buildings. This, and the fact that district Treasurer Josh Hill refinanced Tax Anticipation Notes (TANs), the savings from which have been redirected into the air conditioning installation project, have thereby

permitted two buildings to be completed in its first year.

The SEL Schools will follow a timeline where Rowland Elementary School should see the air conditioning installation during the summer of 2022 with the remaining wings of Greenview Middle School to be completed in 2023. Memorial Junior High and Charles F. Brush High School will follow during the subsequent summers. The SEL Schools thanks the community for providing the funding for these full air conditioning installations in buildings within the district that were constructed prior to contemporary airflow systems. The district will keep the community apprised of the continued permanent improvement work that will ultimately benefit our students and staff when temperatures rise at the beginning and end of the school years.

**Learn more about your SEL Schools**

The SEL Schools encourages the community to see updates from our schools online at [www.sel.k12.oh.us](http://www.sel.k12.oh.us) and on social media, where daily news stories are posted. There, you will find great stories, such as one at Charles F. Brush High School, where the new innovation Lab is home to an exciting opportunity to develop and explore problem-solving skills with the launch of a new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) class in engineering using a variety of power and woodworking tools, 3-D design programs and printers.

Memorial Junior High Student Council members also recently held a car wash to raise money and awareness of the harmful effects of drug abuse. A new Career Readiness Course at the Greenview Campus is helping to stimulate a future-ready mindset among our students as well. Adrian kindergarten students learned about fire awareness through our partnership with the South Euclid fire department. Rowland Elementary students are creating their own video morning announcements, while Sunview students took time to honor the 20th anniversary of 9/11.

Please visit us online for complete stories of all the great news happening in all of our buildings.

Thank you for your continued support.

GO ARCS! ✍️

**Dr. Linda N. Reid, Superintendent**

### Councilwoman-at-Large Susan Hardy

Did you know...There was once a railroad used to transport rocks from the quarry that existed at the Euclid Creek Metropark? We have one of the 150 trees that was present when Moses Cleaveland first discovered and founded Cleveland in 1789 on the St. Gregory property in South Euclid? That the nearly extinct production of porcelain arts in America is preserved at the Telling Mansion in South Euclid, featured on the National Landmark of Historic Places?



Susan Hardy

Learning local history is a great way to grow curiosity. What happened to the rock quarry? What used to be on the corner of Mayfield and Green before the Key Bank? Why is the community center named after Arnold C. D'Amico? What did the Victory school building look like? Why has the production of porcelain transferred abroad? Who were the Tellings? How do we know which trees existed in 1789? How big does a 300 year old tree get?

Many of us were not born or raised in South Euclid, but we call this place our home. Learning local history can help you plant roots in your community and make you feel connected. The pandemic - we have been battling for nearly two years - has in some ways cost you and me the connectivity that keeps us grounded. Let's do something about it. I invite you to take a tour of the Historical Society Museum or attend one of their lectures. You never know what you might discover about yourself. I recently found handwritten PTA minutes from the 1950s. As a member of Adrian Elementary PTA it was an exciting and meaningful link to the past in the city I call home. Come! Ask questions. See what the historical society has to offer.

To receive up to date information regarding all the latest happenings at the South Euclid-Lyndhurst Historical Society contact Bob McKimm at info@SE-Lhistory.org. You can also check out the historical society's Facebook page: South Euclid/Lyndhurst Historical Society.

**Council-at-Large, Susan Hardy: 216-780-0238**

### Councilwoman-at-Large Chanell Elston

South Euclid is a city full of treasures. It is a vibrant, family friendly city, perfect for young adults, retirees and everyone in between. A city with diversity as its greatest strength, where we truly embody the idea, come together and thrive.



Chanell Elston

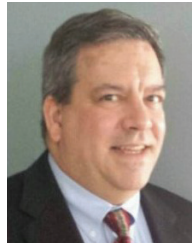
Come January we will begin organizing our 2nd annual Juneteenth Freedom Day celebration which will take place in June. Additionally, we will begin planning our 2nd annual Heights Move-A-Thon in October. I welcome you to volunteer and get engaged, help us continue providing memorable and enjoyable events for the community.

I would like to thank you for your support, during my campaign for City Council. I am humbled and honored to continue serving as I strive to engage, educate and empower those who call South Euclid home. I am here to serve, and you are always welcome to contact me. If you are interested in joining my email list, please email me at celston@seuclid.com.

**Council-At-Large, Chanell Elston: 216-502-2037**

### Councilman Joe Frank: Ward 2 and President of Council

I want to thank the voters of Ward 2 for their support in my re-election to City Council. I am proud to represent you and will continue to work on your behalf for the next 4 years. I also want to congratulate Ruth Gray, Sara Continenza and Chanell Elston on their wins.



Joe Frank

I am proud to be a part of this City Council and look forward to working with all of the Council to continue our work. Fall has come to us and with the change to Daylight Saving, the daylight will continue to shorten. We have a lot to be proud of in the City of South Euclid, with median home sales values continuing to grow, new businesses opening in our city, numerous road projects and infrastructure improvements on City Hall and other City buildings.

Next year will continue our investment in the infrastructure of the City, more road projects and other projects to continue our investment in the City as promised. I look forward to our continued improvements

and many more to come.

Happy Holidays and New Year!

**Ward 2 Council Joe Frank: 216-246-5614**

### Councilman-at-Large Justin Tisdale

Over the past few months I have taken a deep dive into the phenomenon of cryptocurrency. I became interested in cryptocurrency because a few of my friends had been investing in Bitcoin over the years and were making money.



Justin Tisdale

I never understood what the big deal was because you could not use that type of currency anywhere. However, after looking into all of the different coins and tokens, I found this new form of currency to be very fascinating.

Cryptocurrency is a decentralized, secured digital asset that is issued on a blockchain and cannot be counterfeited. The coins are distributed on a blockchain because it keeps a digital ledger of ownership allowing the currency exchanges to be transparent. There are many different types of coins or tokens that are being bought and sold on different crypto-markets. However, the one thing that makes cryptocurrency different from real currency is cryptocurrency is not issued by central

government. It's decentralized over hundreds of computers.

There are probably hundreds of different coins or tokens on the market but the big-name coins are Bitcoin, Litecoin, Dogecoin, Shiba, and Ethereum. I was overwhelmed by the amount of coins that have become available on crypto-market. If you would like to learn more about cryptocurrency take a look at sites like Coinbase.com. Coinbase is a good place to start, because it has an excellent education and learning section for cryptocurrency. While you learn about different coins, you will also earn free money for coins. Wishing everyone a safe and Happy Holiday!!

**Council-At-Large, Justin Tisdale: 216-965-4242**

## Councilwoman Ruth Gray: Ward 1

I have penned an article in this issue of South Euclid Magazine about some of the many issues we have confronted in South Euclid, along with our successes in embracing issues of diversity, equity and inclusion. If you haven't read it yet, you can find it on Page 6.



Ruth Gray

The last two years have been difficult for all of us as we dealt with the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic and worked to keep our families and friends safe. Many residents worked from home for several months and struggled to make sure our children continued to learn and adjust to online education. Thankfully, many of us are back to work and our children are back to in-person learning.

We have persevered by working together and helping each other through these challenges, however, many residents are still recovering from financial and job losses. If you or a member of your family face any financial, health and/or emotional challenge, please don't hesitate to call United Way's 2-1-1 for Help by dialing 211. There is help available and know that you are not alone.

If I can be of any assistance, please contact me at [ruthgray50@gmail.com](mailto:ruthgray50@gmail.com) or 216.926.4960. Have a safe and holiday season and my best to you and your family in the new year.

**Ward 1 Council Ruth Gray: 216-926-4960**

## Councilwoman Sara Continenza: Ward 3

Happy winter! I hope you are happy and healthy as we enter our holiday season.

Thank you so much for re-electing me as your Ward 3 Councilwoman.



Sara Continenza

It has been an honor to serve over these past four years, and I look forward to continuing my work. As Recreation Chair, I will continue to work with our Administration toward the enhancement of our public spaces. We will be investing a lot of funds into our parks over the next couple of years. We will be making sure there are activities for ALL ages, particularly our community's adolescent youth who don't have a lot of options. We are building an adventure trail in Bexley Park through the woods for bikers, skaters...even wheelchairs in one section! We are also turning our tennis courts into multipurpose courts for all sorts of

sports. We will continue to engage our youth and community members through this process to make sure we truly reflect our community's vision into the project.

Thank you to all who supported our new farmer's market in South Euclid! It was held Thursday evenings from 4 to 8 p.m. at the corner of Mayfield and Green. Next year, we are looking to move it to Quarry Park, and possibly partner with Cleveland Heights to enhance our efforts. We just qualified to receive SNAP (food stamp) benefits next year, too!

Deer culling season is upon us. We have been actively culling our herd this fall. Great news! We received the green light from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to implement our deer sterilization program! This means we will be able to even more effectively manage our deer population while offering a more humane approach. Thank you to Councilwoman Simon and to the County for their hard work! This will be a great opportunity for us to demonstrate a multifaceted deer management plan! Please let me know if you'd like to assist as a volunteer.

Please don't forget that we have brought a composting program to Bexley Park! For only \$10/month, you can access this central dropoff location to compost all of your kitchen scraps. <https://www.rustbeltriders.com/dropoff>

If you would like to be a part of my email list, please email me at [FriendsOfSaraC@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsOfSaraC@gmail.com), or call me at 216.816.1577. I send out regular updates about events, legislation, resources and news. Also, don't forget that NextDoor.com is a wonderful social network for neighborhoods, and is totally free to join! Cheers!

**Ward 3 Council Sara Continenza: 216-816-1577**

## Councilwoman Jane Goodman: Ward 4

Thank you for allowing me to serve you for the past sixteen years. As this is my last article as your Ward 4 Councilwoman, I want you to know it's been an honor to represent you during some of South Euclid's most eventful and challenging times.



Jane Goodman

So much of the city's renewal is evidenced in Ward 4 – converting the Langerdale basin to a living wetland and dedicating Lanphear Park, redeveloping Cedar Center, creating the first environmentally conscious shopping center at Oakwood Commons and our city's only nature preserve at Oakwood Green, and welcoming our new, state-of-the-art library. When I was appointed to the Tree Commission in 1993, I never imagined I'd become a Councilman, and now as I leave that position I thank the Commission members for their work. As the Council member whose focus has been on environmental issues, it means so much to have been part of initiatives that make

our city greener, healthier, and smarter.

Thanks to Mayor Welo, my Council colleagues past and present, our department heads, and all the people who labor to make our city work. I especially want to thank Keith Benjamin, our creative and conscientious Clerk of Council and Community Services Director, whose work goes far beyond what those titles suggest. By developing programs that serve young and old alike, writing the grants that fund them, and being our liaison to regional initiatives, Keith has made our lives richer and my tenure on Council that much more rewarding.

Thanks to Sally Martin, whose efforts lifted our housing assets from the foreclosure crisis and grew community gardens that enrich our neighborhoods. Thanks to Jim Anderson and the service department crews that keep our city running. Thanks to Michael Love who has brought new businesses and investments to South Euclid. Thanks to our Fire and Police Chiefs and their teams who keep finding new ways to keep us safe and healthy. Thanks to Meg Martines and her staff, who welcome everyone to the Community Center and make events fun. To everyone at city hall, and the folks at One South Euclid who have expanded our ability to grow and support our community, thank you.

Finally, and most importantly, thank you to the residents of Ward 4, for giving me the opportunity to serve. We've had some real challenges. I haven't been able to solve all the problems facing us, but I hope I've laid the groundwork for solutions to come. To all my constituents, so many of whom have become friends, I thank you. You've inspired me, supported me, and called me to task, and for that I'm eternally grateful. I'm honored to be your neighbor.

Though I won't be in office, I'll continue to work on sustainability issues and programs for this city we share. I hope to see you all, in person or online, and hope that each of you will get involved in one of the many groups, clubs, or projects where our city and our neighbors come together in good works. I hope also that you'll reach out to my successor, whom Council will appoint, and give her or him the support and guidance you've given me. Have a blessed New Year.

**Ward 4 Council Jane Goodman: 216-291-0442**

## Municipal Court Judge Gayle Williams-Byers

In March of 2020, Governor Mike DeWine declared a State of Emergency throughout Ohio due to the spread of COVID-19, a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death, caused by the SARS-Cov-2 virus, a new strain of coronavirus that had not previously been identified in humans and could easily spread from person to person.



Judge Gayle Williams-Byers

As the pandemic has progressed, we have all learned of several mitigating measures that, if implemented can allow for return to some semblance of normalcy. For courts, this includes the installation of safety and cleaning routines likely never utilized. One of the important and necessary safety features for courts is the installation of plexiglass barriers throughout courtrooms. These barriers have been known to help facilitate exchanges, discussion and testimony between parties, attorneys, court staff and judges. Such experiences are necessary to bolster faith in the justice system and ensure crucial Access to Justice rights in the traditional format litigants were accustomed to, pre-pandemic.

The Court understands how important the need to return to in-person hearings is and is committed to achieving this goal. In the interim, all avenues and resources will be exhausted to help ensure a safe return to a hybrid Court environment where certain litigants who still desire to attend Court virtually, will be permitted to do so. Please stay tuned for further information. SEMC staff are on site daily. For help or information, please contact the Court at 216.381.2880 or [info@secourt.org](mailto:info@secourt.org).

**Judge Gayle Williams-Byers: 216-381-2880**

# *The Destination School Community*

**Successes and Real World Skill Development at Every Level of Education in the SEL Schools!**



Friday, September 17th 2021

*Rowland third graders are delivering their own video recorded morning announcements, providing responsibility, teamwork, communications and leadership skills!*



*Memorial Junior High students engage the community with a car wash to raise funds, and also awareness about the harmful effects of drug use. Thank you to everyone who supported our Memorial Student Council.*



*Thank you to our partners at the South Euclid Fire Department, for their recent visit and training with our students on the importance of fire safety!*



**South Euclid  
Lyndhurst Schools**



*The Innovation Lab at Brush High School trains students with real-world, hands-on skills and opportunities and is offered through a new S.T.E.M. Class for students.*



*A new Career Readiness Class at the Greenview Campus is preparing our students for making wise choices for their future career paths.*



*Students from Sunview Elementary School join their classmates throughout the SEL Schools in honoring the lives lost on 9/11.*

# Sleep apnea: Implant provides relief to help catch some Zs.



**Alan Kominsky, MD**  
Cleveland Clinic  
Beachwood Family  
Health and Surgery  
Center

Are you snoring, gasping and choking your way through the night? Does that make it difficult to function the next day? Obstructive sleep apnea causes interrupted breathing during sleep and can be a long-term danger.

“Sleep apnea can cause many health issues like increased risk for heart attack and stroke. It even shortens the lifespan,” says Alan Kominsky, MD, a surgical sleep specialist at Cleveland Clinic Beachwood Family Health and Surgery Center.

If you haven't had success with a continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) machine, there may be an alternative therapy – a device that is surgically implanted beneath the clavicle. The implant delivers upper airway stimulation synchronized to your breathing to relieve obstruction during sleep.

Dr. Kominsky says patients may be eligible for the implant if they:

- Have moderate to severe obstructive sleep apnea.
- Are unable or unwilling to use CPAP.
- Have a BMI < 32 (most commercial insurance plans), BMI < 35 (Medicare).
- Are at least 18 years of age.

The device is implanted in an outpatient

surgery setting. Roughly every 11 years, a procedure to replace the battery is necessary.

“You use an external remote to turn the implant on when you're going to sleep,” says Dr. Kominsky. “It's not like Santa, it doesn't know when you're sleeping and when you're awake.”

By ensuring a good night's rest, this technology can eliminate the mental struggle and health issues that sleep apnea can cause.

Visit [ClevelandClinic.org/OSA](https://ClevelandClinic.org/OSA) for more information. To schedule an appointment with Dr. Kominsky or another Cleveland Clinic sleep specialist, call 216.284.8427.

## Cleveland Clinic diabetes education locations in your community.

Cleveland Clinic diabetes education and support programs offer comprehensive education to help you or your loved one succeed in managing all aspects of diabetes care. Group classes and individual visits are available, and both are taught by diabetes care and education specialists.

Choose one of these convenient locations:

- Cleveland Clinic main campus
- Euclid Hospital
- Hillcrest Medical Office Building I
- South Pointe Hospital
- Stephanie Tubbs Jones Health Center

A physician referral is required for all diabetes education programs.

To learn more, visit [ClevelandClinic.org/DiabetesEducation](https://ClevelandClinic.org/DiabetesEducation). Or call the Endocrinology and Metabolism Institute at 216.444.6568 and request diabetes education services.

Virtual visits are available.

## Don't put off your mammogram.

We know that there are a lot of questions when it comes to having a mammogram, but even in these uncertain times, your health should be a priority. And, rest assured that Cleveland Clinic – Ohio's leader in breast health – is one of the safest places in healthcare today.

For your convenience, Cleveland Clinic offers screening mammograms at 30 convenient locations, including:

- Beachwood Family Health and Surgery Center
- Euclid Hospital
- Hillcrest Hospital
- South Pointe Hospital
- Stephanie Tubbs Jones Health Center

Our walk-in screening mammography locations provide annual screening mammograms for women ages 40 and older who have no breast symptoms (such as pain, nipple discharge, or have felt a lump). A prior doctor's order is not required, except for at Lakewood Family Health Center.

Visit [ClevelandClinic.org/Coronavirus](https://ClevelandClinic.org/Coronavirus) to learn more about the steps we're taking to keep you safe. MyChart scheduling is available for patients with mammogram orders. For all locations and hours, visit [ClevelandClinic.org/WalkinMammo](https://ClevelandClinic.org/WalkinMammo).

## Share your care today. Inspire our future.

Everyone has something they want to see changed, treated, cured. A disease that's affected a loved one. A need in your community. As Cleveland Clinic steps into our second century, we're reflecting on how our history of healthcare has helped shape today – and how today can help shape tomorrow. It all starts with a simple question: “What do you hope for in the next 100 years?”

Go to [ClevelandClinic.org/Centennial](https://ClevelandClinic.org/Centennial) to share your care and help change the future of healthcare. Right now for every care shared, a generous supporter will make a donation in your honor to Cleveland Clinic's Centennial Campaign.



**Our goal remains the same – we care for everyone. And safety is our top priority.**

Don't delay your care. From extra safety measures at all locations to virtual visits, we're here for you every day.

Visit [ClevelandClinic.org/Access](https://ClevelandClinic.org/Access)

