



THE VILLAGE OF NORTH RANDALL

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

FEB 01
MAR 01

Village History

The Village of North Randall was established in 1908, originally known as Plank Rd Station. Most known for the Thistledown Racetrack which opened in 1925. With the increased popularity of the racetrack, it became the home of the Ohio Derby. Upon new ownership of Thistledown in the year 1960, the Randall Park Mall was built years later in 1975. The mall would become known as one of the largest commercial shopping complexes in the country. After the mall officially closed in 2009, it was developed into an Amazon fulfillment center in 2018. The Racetrack remains a trademark of the community as it was reopened as Thistledown Racino in 2010.

HIRAM RHODES

FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN TO SERVE IN
THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS

Born the child of a Baptist preacher, Hiram Rhodes would go on to become a profound preacher himself. With his great leadership skills he found himself becoming not only a religious teacher, but a school principal and educator. This made him a great fit for politics as he would then run for the Mississippi State Senate and win. Following his term in Mississippi he went to Washington and filled an empty seat in the United States Senate becoming the first African American in the United States Congress.



MAYOR SHELTON T. RICHARDSON

THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN MAYOR
OF NORTH RANDALL



Shelton Richardson was a resident of North Randall and became a member of the Village council in 1991. After serving for many years as a councilman he was elected as the Mayor of North Randall in 2000, making him the Village's very first African American Mayor. He served as Mayor up until his untimely passing on August 4, 2003. He is remembered as a loving and helpful leader to the community and many others.



MADAM C.J. WALKER

THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN
FEMALE MILLIONAIRE

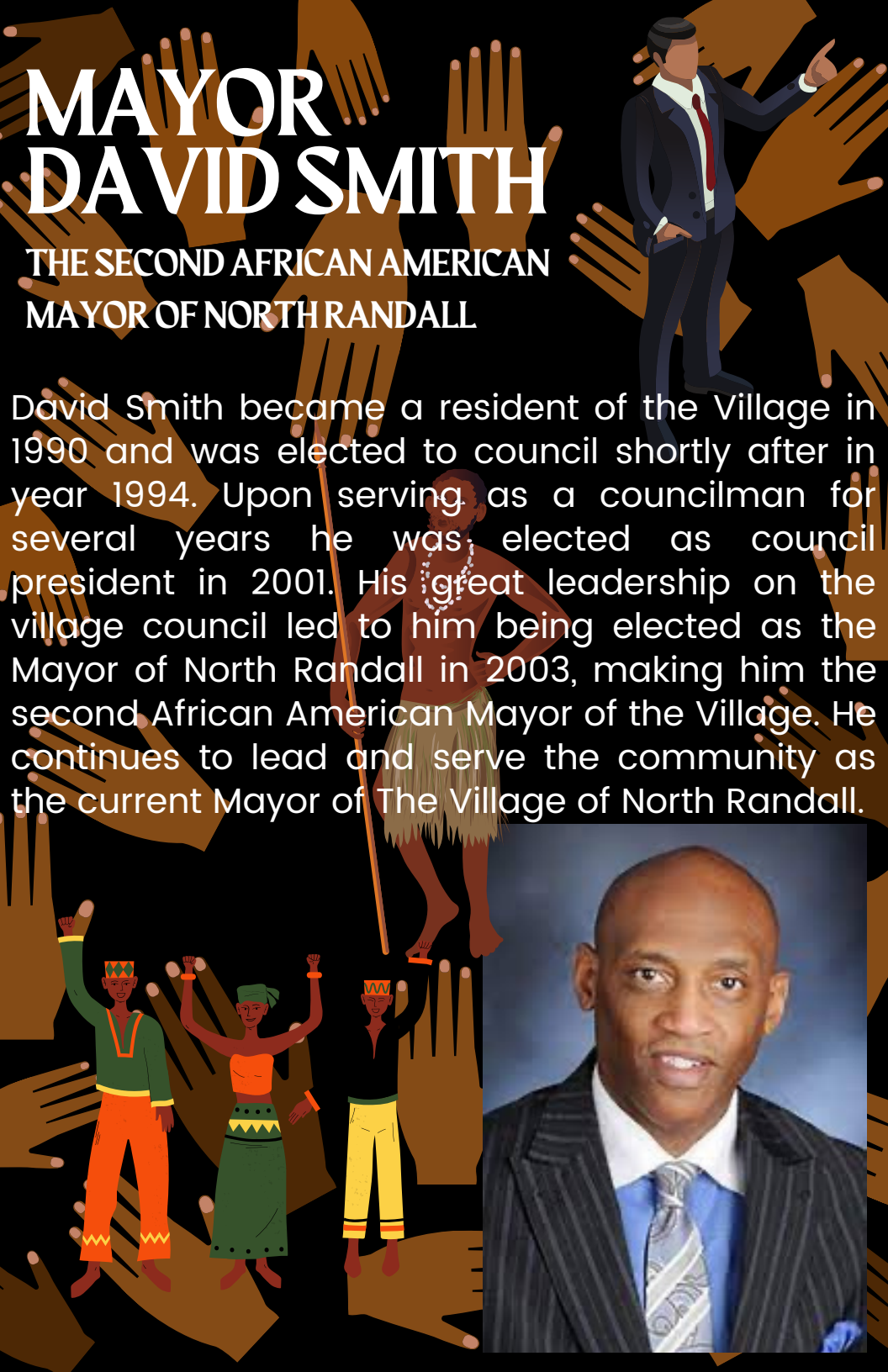
After experiencing hair loss, Madam C.J. Walker, formally known as Sarah Breedlove, created her own hair care products for black women. She went on to build an empire, hiring sales associates to help sell her product door-to-door. With her new found fortune she graciously made donations to foundations such as the NAACP and the black YMCA. She is remembered as one of the most popular black female pioneers and will forever be an inspiration to black women in business.



MAYOR DAVID SMITH

THE SECOND AFRICAN AMERICAN
MAYOR OF NORTH RANDALL

David Smith became a resident of the Village in 1990 and was elected to council shortly after in year 1994. Upon serving as a councilman for several years he was elected as council president in 2001. His great leadership on the village council led to him being elected as the Mayor of North Randall in 2003, making him the second African American Mayor of the Village. He continues to lead and serve the community as the current Mayor of The Village of North Randall.





LIUTENANT HARRY ROSE

**THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN TO
HOLD A POSITION IN THE NORTH
RANDALL POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Lieutenant Harry Rose began working part time for the Village of North Randall Police Department in the 1960's. He was the only detective in the department. He was instrumental in solving an untold number of crimes. Lt. Rose was well known in the Cleveland area and was frequently called upon by the Cleveland Police, Cuyahoga County Sheriffs Department, and other agencies to assist in major crimes. He was the first African American employee of the Village of North Randall.

He was appointed to full time Detective, was later promoted to Sgt. and was then promoted to Lieutenant. He was the head of the detective bureau and was an instrumental part of the police dept.

Lt. Rose was also a well known DJ. He went by the name of "Gay Rose". He performed throughout Cleveland. He DJ'd in several states and was the only 4 time DJ at the National Roundup motorcycle meets.



BEVERLY FERGANSON

ONE OF THE FIRST BLACK REGISTERED
NURSES AT HER HOSPITAL

Beverly Ferganson was a nurse for over 40 years. Although she grew up in Louisiana, she would travel to St. Louis Missouri to attend nursing school at the renowned Homer G. Phillips Hospital School of Nursing. At the time this was the only public hospital for African Americans in the city of St. Louis. Upon graduation she traveled back to her hometown in Louisiana to work at the Veterans hospital, where she would be one of only 3 African American registered nurses at the facility. She moved to Cleveland in 1970 and in 1974 she made a home here in North Randall. Throughout the years she would go on to work at various hospitals such as University Hospital, and the Veterans Hospital. She practiced surgical and rehab nursing but enjoyed working as a mental health nurse the most.

