

Sam Ventura

Community Affairs



Sam Ventura became one of the youngest licensed barbers in the state of Ohio at the age of 16. While attending Collinwood High School, Sam worked at his trade on weekends and during the summer. On March 6, 1956, Sam opened his shop in Euclid, Ohio. In March 2006, Sam celebrated being in business for 50 years at the same location. Sam has been barbering for 66 years.

Sam became active in the Barber's Union and was elected Vice President of the Employers Guild of the Union. Sam created a contract that made it mandatory that an employee had 1 day off every week. He also helped to reduce the shop hours in a work week and was instrumental in creating a benefit plan for the Guild's members.

Besides barbering, Sam is an avid Photographer. At the age of 12 he developed and printed his first photographs. Many of his photos are in his Collinwood High School graduating class book. In 1952, Sam began working professionally at Raimor Studios where he took thousands of photos of weddings, school pictures, and many other special events. Even though Sam was cutting hair at the same time, he managed to always arrange his schedule to do both. Sam worked at Raimor Studio for 28 years. Sam greatly enjoyed his time as a photographer at Raimor. He still takes pictures, but now they are only for himself.

In the middle 1960's, Sam became politically active. He became a Precinct Committeeman. In 1972 Sam was appointed Commissioner of Weights and Measures for the city of Euclid – a position which he held for 17 years. Sam was honored for his diligent work. In March 2006, Sam was further honored by the city of Euclid, when he was presented a proclamation for having his business in the City for 50 years.

Sam Ventura is also responsible for the Collinwood Hall of Fame. Without Sam's tireless drive, devotion and dedication, the Collinwood Hall of Fame might not exist today. Sam drew up the plans for the Hall of Fame and worked tirelessly to get approvals from the Alumni, Trustees and the Collinwood High School Administration. The Hall of Fame also was responsible for over \$18,000 of school remodeling. Sam personally sent out requests to a great number of people asking for their help in improving the Collinwood Hall of Fame. Because of Sam's requests, the school received many donations of money, labor and materials. Sam also added in another very important component to the Collinwood Hall of Fame – The Collinwood Clock! Sam was instrumental in getting the clock repaired and restored to its place of honor in the main lobby. As a result of all of Sam's hard work, there is a renewed sense of pride in Collinwood for all of the Alumni and their many contributions to society. Sam has created a true legacy for all the sons and daughters of Collinwood High School.

Sam still lives in Euclid, where he enjoys the company of his lovely wife, Patricia. Sam and Patricia have 4 children and 6 grandchildren.