

## Mayor Devone Jones of Northern Wayne County

Mayor Devone Jones was born and raised in Wayne County. He was the fifteen of sixteen total children his mother and father had; they were very poor and had to farm to help earn money. He attended Springfield High then moved to Norwayne High where he met his wife of three children. Later he attended classes at Wayne Community College then became an entrepreneur - founder Jones Floor Covering, which he has owned for 49 years. In 1983 Mr. Devone became a board member on the Board of Alderman in Fremont because he had concerns for the black population, of issues not being addressed. After twelve years of being a board member, Devone ran for town mayor and won the election. He has been the Mayor of Fremont ever since.

Mayor Devone is the head of Fremont, presiding over all the town meetings and he calls the meetings to order. Even though education was not a requirement to becoming the mayor, Mr. Devone was the appropriate age to run for mayor and all he needed was the citizen's votes. After each 4-year term as Mayor, Mr. Devone would have to run for mayor against other candidates. Every four years in November it was election time. Mayor Devone said this position had no effect on his family because he came home everyday. Mayor Devone has a salary and attends one town meeting every month unless there is a called meeting.

As Mayor, Mr. Devone tries to handle situations or issues as they occur. He tries to make the citizens happy while doing what is best for the town of Fremont. One issue that arose recently was trying to keep Fremont Library open and running. Mayor Devone had to weigh out the benefits of keeping the library compared to the operational cost. He had to go through many steps to keep the library open. First of all he established a board to discuss the issue. Once they came to the agreement of keeping the library open, the board presented the issue to the community. This group shared information about the expense to operate the Library. Through this process donations were made to keep the library open. Mayor Devone had resources of workers, so instead of paying for them he was able to repair some of the building with little pay of labor. Now the town promotes the library through many different ways for the use of citizens.

Mr. Devone Jones has been a board member and/or mayor for a total of twenty-nine consistent years. He has had a major affect on the town of Fremont. Even after retiring June 19, 2012, he plans to continue taking part in his community.

Patrick Smith  
Boys & Girls Clubs Wayne County  
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