



*Maxine Gilman has served as mayor of West Carrollton since 1988.*

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### **News Release**

#### **AFTER 32 YEARS SERVING CITY OF WEST CARROLLTON; MAYOR GILMAN TO RETIRE AT END OF YEAR**

WEST CARROLLTON, Ohio - It may be hard for many long-term residents to picture the city of West Carrollton without thinking of Mayor Maxine Gilman.

Gilman has served as mayor of West Carrollton since 1988. She also served as a council member from 1972 to 1981 and 1986-87. Gilman was the first woman to be elected to office in West Carrollton.

She has decided not to run for another term and will retire when her term expires at the end of the year.

“She is a dedicated and compassionate leader who has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life in West Carrollton and the whole Miami Valley region,” said city manager Tracy Williams, who will also retire at the end of the year.

Gilman, 74, attributes her life-long interest in civic participation to a high-school government teacher at Burriss High School in Muncie, Ind. She started volunteering with the city during an income tax campaign in 1969.

The most gratifying aspect of being mayor is helping citizens solve problems, Gilman said. “If you can solve a citizen’s problem, it gives you great satisfaction,” she said.

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The economic downturn that occurred in the city after Sept. 11, 2001 was the most challenging part of her tenure, she said. "I think that we all wanted to maintain services, but when revenue goes down it's a very difficult situation," she said.

In addition to her work with the city, Gilman is involved in many other state and national civic organizations. Gilman served as president for the Ohio Mayors Association in 2006-07. She is also a past-president (2001-02) of the Ohio Municipal League and the (1991-92) Montgomery & Greene County Mayors & Managers Association.

She has also served on the Small Cities Steering Committee for the National League of Cities for 13 years. Gilman has made 14 trips to Washington, D.C., to lobby legislators on issues that affect local citizens.

One of her long-term projects has been to acquire funding for the Interstate 75 Exit 47 improvement project. "I hope that it's finally completed in my lifetime," she said.

Locally, Gilman also serves on the Canterbury Court Episcopal Retirement Home Development Committee and the CountyCorp Home Start Board.

She is also involved in many other organizations including First Presbyterian Church, League of Women Voters, American Auxiliary Post #165 and VFW Auxiliary Post #3438.

In 1999 Gilman was inducted into the West Carrollton School District's Distinguished Service Hall of Fame.

Gilman retired as an office manager of Cincinnati Conveyor Company in 1997. She and her husband, Bill, moved to West Carrollton 52 years ago. They raised three children, Karen Debell, Kent Gilman and Karla Gilman in the West Carrollton School District.

Despite her active civic involvement, Gilman still finds time to help people in need, according to her son Kent Gilman.

"She does everything from transporting those who can't drive to the doctor or store, cooking a meal or finding volunteers to help the disadvantaged maintain their homes," he said.

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For media interviews, call **Mayor Maxine Gilman** at (937) 859-8727. Call **Kent Gilman** at (937) 859-4924.