

6th Annual



Friday, August 31, 6-9 PM

The Junction Speaks

Eddie Davis Community 1312 Maple Street

Sat., Sept. 1, 2-10 PM Street Festival

Railroad Pavilion and 4th Street

THE DES MOINES URBAN EXPERIENCE

MISSION: TO EDUCATE, EMPOWER, AND PROMOTE LEADERSHIP



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The Junction Speaks



Friday, August 31 | 6PM - 9PM
1312 Maple Street West Des Moines, Iowa

Rich history, not printed in history books.

Valley Junction descendants sharing
History, Storytelling, Pictures & Slideshows.
Special video presentation
Honoring Valley Junction Legends
"Barbara Jean & John E. Long, Jr."

TASTE OF THE JUNCTION MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

It's All About The People • The Culture • The Cuisines

Saturday, September 1
2pm-10 pm
Railroad Park Pavillion

Budweiser Beer Tent, Live Entertainment,
Inflatables, Food & Craft Vendors,
Kid Zone, Fun For Whole Family!





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Breman Love Story



Family Name: James C. Jordan

Bobbie is the great granddaughter of the founder of Valley Junction.

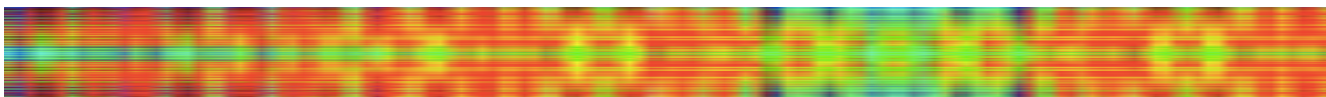
By Melissa Munoz Breman



This photo was taken in the spring of 1950, when Bobbie Jean Cook and Bill Breman were picking up their wedding rings for their upcoming July wedding. Bobbie and Bill were introduced by a friend in 1947 when Bill was a student at Iowa State College (before it was named Iowa State).



Bill was a World War II Navy veteran going to college on the GI Bill and Bobbie and her mother were living in Valley Junction where she and her siblings were raised. Bobbie and Bill went on to raise their family here and the kids all graduated from Valley High School. Their daughter, son, and granddaughter still reside in and call West Des Moines their home. Bill passed away in 2005 and Bobbie is now 92 years old, but she still enjoys hearing about the renewed vitality of Valley Junction. Her eyes light up when she hears that her family still enjoys events in The Junction and it's as though she's picturing herself walking along Fifth Street once more, enjoying the happiest times of her life.





Long Family History

The Long family history in Valley Junction began when David and Viola Eppright moved the south side of Des Moines to work at the old Hawkeye Cement Company, later known as Marquette and Monarch Cement. Johnny E. Long Jr. is the son of their daughter Mae Ella and John Long Sr. Johnny had seven siblings (John, Betty, Lucille, Robert and Patricia, Marion Eppright and Jackie Logan). Due to the pollution emitted by cement plant, the family moved to the one hundred block of 6th Street in Valley Junction when Johnny was ten years old.

In 1927 Alonzo Page married Jencie Mae Reeves. Together they later raised Dorothy Lee (Hawkins),



Geraldine (Allison), Barbara (Long), Shirley (Ramirez), Sheila (Pedigo), Gerald, and Deborah. In the early spring of 1942, Alonzo joined the janitorial staff at the Armstrong Rubber Manufacturing Company in Des Moines. After a few months of the work-a-day routine, his fascination for cooking again came to the surface. So to help make ends meet, he opened a small barbecue establishment, Blue Jays, in his Valley Junction home. His

specialties were barbecued ribs, beef, ham, and wild game all smothered in his delicious secret sauce. Alonzo retired from Armstrong in the early 1960's. But he continued to cook at Blue Jays until the late 1960's. Feeding the masses was something that was imbedded in Barbara Jean.

1951 was a big year for Johnny and Barbara. Johnny had attended West Des Moines schools and went directly to work at the Marquette Cement Plant in 1951. He and Barbara Jean Page married



that same year. In fact they were best man and bridesmaid to Elliot -Smith Wedding that same weekend. They lived on 11th street most of their 59 years of married life. Their nine children included, Gerald (Page), Gregory, Stephen, Vicky (Long-Hill), Valerie (James), Rachelle, Darryl, Johnnetta, and Margaret. In the mid-sixties after several attempts to purchase a home in



the Ridgeway and Fairmeadows additions, they built a new house at their 11th Street location. Their home became a center of attraction for many of the areas youth.

The Longs were a friend to the workingman. Johnny, known by many as "June Bug", worked at the cement plant for 34 years. Johnny was recognized in the book, "Outside In", as the first African-American heavy equipment operator in the state of Iowa. He also became the first African-American foreman of a major company in Iowa. Barbara worked for the city of Des Moines and WDM Opportunity Center where she later became its director.

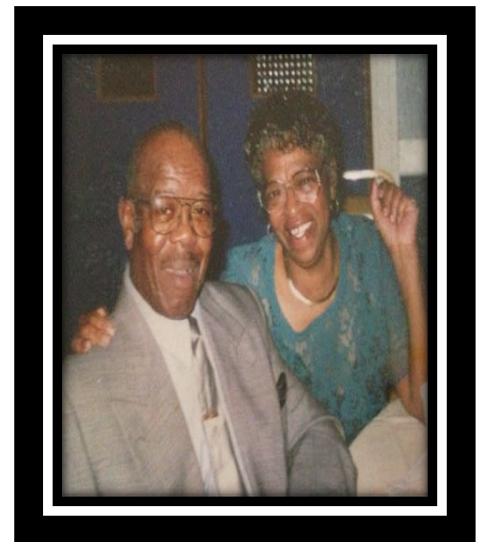


They also tried their hand at running a restaurant when they opened a lunch diner in Des Moines called June Bug's Café. The café allowed Barbara to share delicious recipes, and both appreciated offering employment to those who needed it. During the holidays, Barbara with her daughters and granddaughters would cook and sell scrumptious pies and cakes.



In retirement, they became dedicated community activists on behalf of the historic Valley Junction. The Longs advocated on behalf of the residents of the historic Valley Junction district, to ensure, enhance and maintain the same "quality of life" as all others in West Des Moines. As a means to organize and give voice to the community they loved,

they were founding members of the Valley Junction Residential Association where Johnny served as president and later vice-president. They enjoyed personal relationships with the West Des Moines Mayors, City Council and City Managers. John and Barbara attended all the West Des Moines City Council meetings.



The Longs loved their community as though it were their family by blood. They saw a great need in the families and knew from the spirit of the community that was used to operating like a family, that social services could be brought directly into the Valley Junction community. Barbara and Johnny were along with others the chief cornerstone in the creation of the Eddie Davis Community Center. The community center located on Maple in Valley Junction was named after his grandfather. He began as the general contractor in the renovation of the community center, where he and his son-in-law, Gerald B. James III, tirelessly worked

many months towards the completion of the project. Johnny later became the building Supervisor and managed the community service workers. He was loved beyond limits by the young people and others who participated in the program. Barbara, like the neighborhood mother would, worked to fill the hunger, clothing, and childcare need in the community. Daily she prepared free meals for lunch and ensured the food pantry and clothing closet was



stocked for anyone who needed it. Like their home, the door was open to family. By family, they meant everyone.



In 2009, Johnny and Barbara were crowned Iowa's Juneteenth King and Queen recognizing their longevity in and years of service to the community. At the heartbreak of the family and community, Johnny Edward Long, Jr. passed away in 2010. The funeral service was held at Valley Church

on Fuller Road with standing room only for four hours. Multiple city officials and clergy wanted to speak on the great honor and service of this great man.

Barbara has continued to work at the community center and can still be found stirring a pot or two on occasion. In 2010 their legacy included 34 grandchildren, 82 great grandchildren, eight great-great grandchildren that has continued to grow. Their legacy of community service and entrepreneurship flows strongly in the veins of any who call themselves descendants of Johnny and Barbara Long.



Page Love Story

Gerald (Gerry) Page is the son of Barbara Jean Page (Long). He was raised by his grandparents, Jencie and Alonzo Page, on the one hundred block of Eleventh Street. Gerry attended Phenix school, Stilwell Junior High and Valley High Schools. His class was the first to graduate from the new Valley High School in 1968. The summer of 1967, Gerry became the first African-American drum major to lead a high school marching band in the Iowa State Fair parade. At graduation, Gerry was recognized as a "Top Ten Outstanding Student" in his class. Gerry received a full scholarship to attend Drake University graduating in 1972 with a BA degree in Elementary Education. A degree was not all he acquired at Drake University. It was what dreams are made of!

Gerry dreamed of this mystery girl in high school. In his dream, it was the night before a major football game against Roosevelt High School. Oddly when he looked into the Roosevelt stands he recognized a face. Although he felt like a traitor, he had to get to a closer look to see clearly her face. Imagine a Valley High football player in the Roosevelt student cheer section. Just as he found the familiar girl dressed in a black sweater with a white collar shirt, she looked up. Before his eyes could focus on the girl he had to see, he woke up.



Four years later, Gerry is in a Drake University calculus class when he sees a beautiful girl. Since it was the night before the annual Roosevelt vs. Valley rivalry, he decided to talk to the former Roosevelt seated next to



the angelic girl. She was wearing the same colors as those in the cheerleading section from the dream. They talked for a couple of days before he asked her out on October 8, 1969 for their first date to Burger King to get a Whopper for \$.55. The rest was history, and they married a year from that day. Four years after they were married he had the same dream again. This time Gerry was sleeping next to his beautiful wife, Julia, in her parent's Ohio bedroom. This time the dream ended the same way, but when he woke up the street light through the blinds spotlighted a freshman year picture of Julia on the desk. That is exactly how old she was in the dream. He

then realized that he had was living his dream with his dream girl.

The Pages have two children Dr. Annissa Roland and Senior Master Sergeant Warren Page, eight grandchildren Dominique, Nigel, Warren, Julia, Wesley, Madison, Taryne, and Maleigha. and one great grandchild with one on the way. They have resided in Clive since 1988. Gerry retired in 2005 as a principal from Westridge Elementary School. Julie retired from Principal Financial Group in Des Moines and started work as a travel agent. In retirement, Gerry and Julie have become world travelers visiting locations in Europe, Asia,



South America, Australia, Mexico, Canada and the Caribbean. Hawaii, Savannah, Ga. and Phoenix annual stops for the two during the cold months. Because they wanted everyone to have the experience of travel, Julie organized the Thankful Thanksgiving Family Trip to the Caribbean every other year. Often, they traveled with their children and grandchildren. In 2014, Julia lost her battle against cancer, but not without a 17-month fight while traveling the world. Gerry showed her the



world like seen only in most people's dreams.





Valerie Jean Long James Love Story

I am the sixth child of John and Barbara Long. Siblings include Gerald Dean Page (Retired Principal Westridge Elementary School), Gregory Maurice, Stephen Edward (Rev), Vicky Long-Hill (Attorney) and Rachelle Long (Chellies Sugar Shack). My step siblings include sisters Margaret and Johnetta and Deceased step brother Darryl Long. I was born and raised in Valley Junction and was educated in the West Des Moines School District. I attended Phenix Elementary School, Stilwell and Hillside Junior High School and graduated.



From Valley High School Class 1973.

I have been married to the love of my life Gerald James Jr. for 46 years. Gerald and I were blessed with 4 children Gerald III (Bo), Peyton, Valerie Jr., Valora and 2 stepdaughters Colatha and Michele. We have 23 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.



God has really blessed our union. Gerald had a thriving Construction business (JMJ) prior to his retirement in 2014. Our son

Gerald III (Bo) is the CEO of a non-profit organization HipHope Inc. which was established in 2014 to bless the children of the community through different Social programs that assist the youth in inspiring to a better life physically, socially



and mentally. He also has a Music Production business Launchpad DMI. He is known as the Russell Simmons of Iowa. Peyton has a carpentry business, Allswell Carpentry, in Stanberry Missouri. Valerie Jr. and her husband Austin Jones have a thriving cleaning business, Jones Cleaning & Remodeling in Ames, Iowa. They have a contract with Iowa State University during the summer they employ approx. 50 people to clean Iowa State properties. They also have other Cleaning and Remodeling customers throughout the State of Iowa. Valerie Jr. is also a

Lady Elect Minister in her church. Valora received her Master's Degree in Business and has been employed over 13 years with Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield as a Senior Operations Specialist/National Accounts.

God is truly blessing our family to be involved with HipHope Inc community activities and servicing others. This trait is truly something



that was passed down from my grandmother (Jencie Page) and Grandfather(Alonzo Page-Blue Jay). There was never a time that I went to my grandparent's house and did not see a big pot of food enough to feed the whole community and they always had someone

that was living with them until they got on their feet. They were truly an example of hospitality in the Junction.

This trait was passed down to my mother (Barbara Long) and father (John Long Jr) which actually took the hospitality to another level by not only helping people get on their feet but got involved in the City of West Des Moines civic activities. Mom and Dad attended the West Des Moines City Council meetings for years as representatives for Valley Junction. A lot of the Neighborhood improvements made in the Junction was made because they were always there fighting for the Neighborhood.



God put the frosting on the cake when He blessed them along with Grandpa Eddie Davis and Mel Harper and company to birth the

Eddie Davis Community Center to ensure the hospitality spirit would live on. The Eddie Davis Community Center has a food pantry, free clothes closet, Medical Clinic and Legal Clinics.(Executive Director Attorney Vicky-Long Hill). Valley



Community Church (Pastor Stephen Long) also has services at the Center which helps minister to spiritual needs throughout the week.

I was employed by Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield for 45 years before retiring as a System Analyst February 9 2018. I have been a Gospel Minister for Christ for over 16 years. I will be spending my retirement years ministering to the



Community and supporting HipHope Inc as Chaplain. I am also the Administrative Assistant for my son CEO Bo James. I will always be forever grateful and to my descendants and friends of the Junction. Growing up in Valley Junction taught us how

to love God first and to respect one another regardless of race, creed or color we lived as one big happy family. My prayer is that God will continue to bless our family to be his servants while blessing others!!





The Eddie Davis Community Center

Houses:

Free food pantry,

Free clothes closet,

Legal Clinics (Executive Director Attorney Vicky-Long Hill).

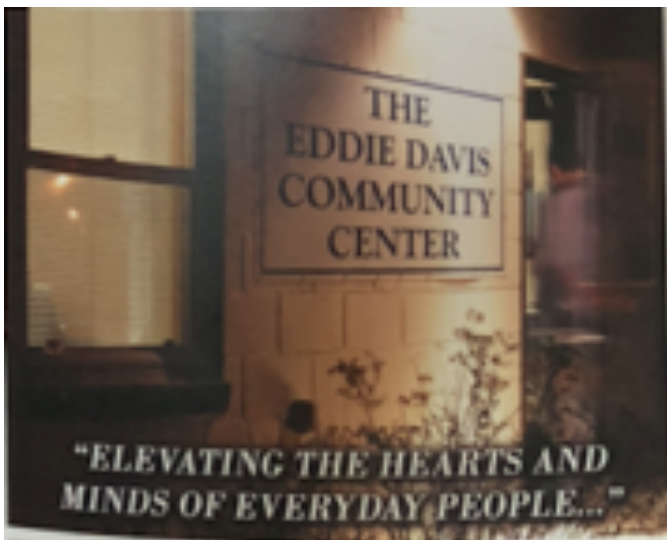
Valley Community Church

(Pastor Stephen Long)

Medical Clinic

Services Offered

- Illness/minor injury care
- Well child exams
- Adult immunizations (Tetanus only)
- School/sport physicals
- Employment physicals
- TB testing
- Lead testing
- Patient assistance program enrollment
- Physical therapy
- Translation languages: Spanish (on call only)
- Chronic disease management
- Diabetes/blood glucose testing
- High blood pressure testing



*From the Kitchen
of
Barbara Jean*

Fried Cabbage

INGREDIENTS:

*1 Head Cabbage, Cut up
1 Red Pepper, cut up
¼ c. Green Pepper, cut up
3-4 Tbs. Fried Meat Grease
Salt & Black, sprinkle to taste*

DIRECTIONS:

*In a large skillet add ½
grease, half green pepper.
Simmer for 2-3 minutes then
add cabbage and remainder
of green pepper, add spices.
Cover and cook until tender.*



**Barbara Jean (Page) Long
Married John E. Long, Jr.
July 23, 1951**

*Growing up my Mom's
career goal was to be a
"Mother". She loves to cook,
and some of our best
family memories were
Mom creating culinary art
in the kitchen. She would
often pair the cabbage
with fried pork chops and
hot water cornbread.*

Long's Entrepreneur Legacy

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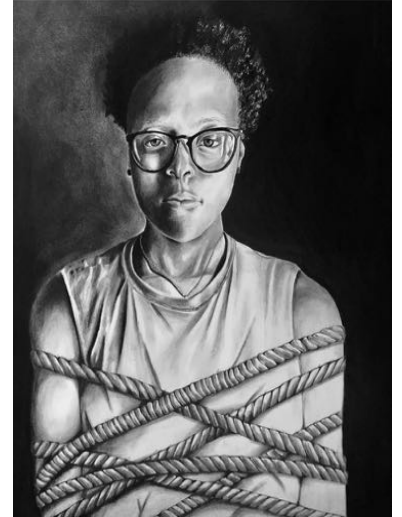


Many Shades of Colour
 Young Women's Conference

In partnership with Drake University

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 Valora James - Sr. Operations Specialist
 Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield of Iowa
 B.A. - Business Management, William Penn University
 M.A. - Business Leadership, William Penn University
 Valerie Jones - Entrepreneur/Owner
 Jones Cleaning & Remodeling Services, LLC
 B.A. - T & C Merchandising & Production, Iowa State University

Chellies
 Sugar Shack
 Cookies Cakes & Cobblers



A GREATER DES MOINES
Conference for Young Men of Color
 "Full STEAM Ahead..."

VALLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday School 8am
 Worship Service 9am
 1312 Maple Street
 West Des Moines, Iowa 50265
 Stephen E. Long, Pastor



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COMMUNITY PRAYER & POTLUCK

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SATURDAY SEPT. 8, 2018

3:30PM-7:30PM



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“She Is Me”

By Dr. Annissa (Page) Roland

Recited at Many Shades of Colour Young Women’s Conference 2018

I am me
Uniquely me
My gifts are my specialty

I am me
And that’s who I be
And no one can take that away from me

But who is that
The she in me
Does she know my worth
Does she know my dreams
Does she know I’ve got talent
Busting out of my seams

Does she see me fall
Does she see me rise
Does she believe the truth
When she’s heard all the lies

Of whom do I speak? They say who is that?
I am me
Uniquely me
My gifts are my specialty

I say, I am me
And that’s who I be
And no one can take that away from me

But who is that
That she in me
Does she know I’m made wonderfully
Does she know about all the love
Does she know my true mystery
I’m fearfully crafted from above

Has she heard my heart’s passion
Has she heard of all my choices
Or does she hear my indecision
Has she heard my confident/ definitive voices

Of whom do I speak? They say who is that?
I am me
Uniquely me
My gifts are my specialty

I say, I am me
And that’s who I be
And no one can take that away from me

But who is that
That she in me
Will she respect my beauty
Will she respect my prize
Will she respect my prayers of hope
Reflecting in my potential filled eyes

Can she feel my greatness getting greater
Can she feel my knowledge building knowing
Can she feel the misery in my mistakes
Can feel my pains as genius growing

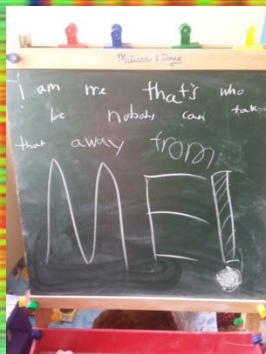
Can she feel my greatness getting greater
Can she feel my knowledge building knowing
Can she feel the misery in my mistakes
But can she feel my pains as genius growing

Of whom do I speak? They say who is that?
I am me
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My gifts are my specialty

I say, I am me
And that’s who I be
And no one can take that away from me

But who is that
That She Is Me!

Conference directors Valerie Jones and Valora James with Dr. Annissa (Page) Roland are all granddaughters of John and Barbara Long





TASTE OF THE JUNCTION MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

It's All About The People • The Culture • The Cuisines

Saturday, September 1

2pm-10 pm

Railroad Park Pavillion

*Budweiser Beer Tent, Live Entertainment,
Inflatables, Food & Craft Vendors,
Kid Zone, Fun For Whole Family!*

Budweiser

Main Stage Events

Isiserettes Drill & Drum Corps

2:00 PM Kids Against Violence

2:10 PM Queen Kenzie

2:20 PM DSM Metro

2:30 PM Collaboration

3:30 PM Supin Doo

5:30 PM Steve George & The Groove

8:00 PM The Tony Valdez Large Band





STEVE E. GEORGE



DANCE!

DANCE!

DANCE!

Beer



Tent

Street Festival Food Vendors



Garcias Murillo Enchiladas



Rudy's BBQ

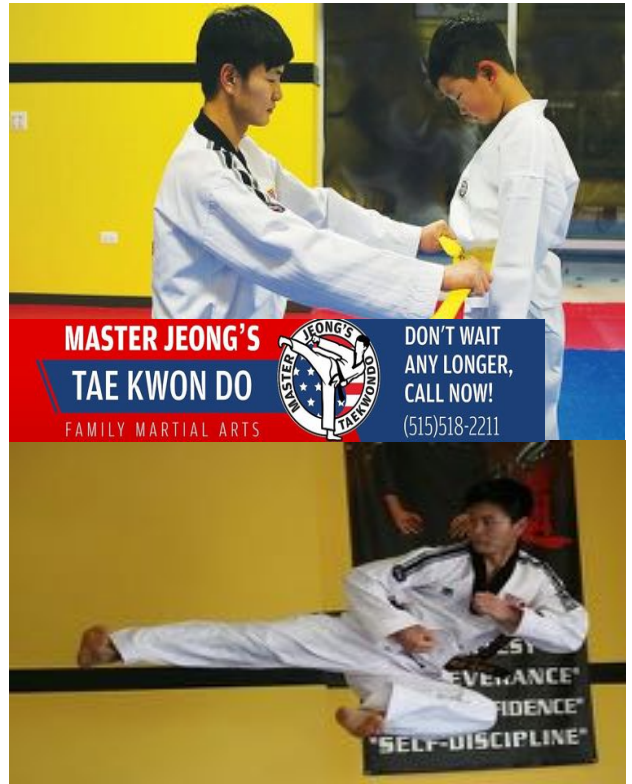


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VALLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday School 8am
Worship Service 9am
1312 Maple Street
West Des Moines, Iowa 50265
Stephen E. Long, Pastor

A vertical banner with a background of a bright sunset over a landscape with two crosses on a hill. The text is white and purple.

Friends of the Taste

Steve & Marilyn
Coleman

Renee Hardman

Valerie James

Valora James

Alonda Long

Margaret Long

Johnnetta Long



Descendants Of Valley Junction

Aguinaga	Frank	Lemke	Rhodes
Ames	Frazier	Lloyd	Richardson
Anderson	Frith	Long	Rocha
Argumedo	Fucaloro	Love	Rodriguez
Ayala	Gaitor	Lovelady	Runner
Bates	Gasca	Luther	Rush
Baty	Gallardo	Lyman	Sain
Bell	Galvan	Maher	Salazar
Beveridge	Garcia	Manferdini	Septer
Bissette	Garner	Martin	Shelley
Bohanna	Garrett	McIntyre	Sherwood
Bouma	Gaston	Lane	Shineflew
Bright	Gilligan	McLachlan	Shostall
Brody	Gomez	McQuerry	Sickel
Brown	Grant	Medina	Smith
Burch	Grgurich	Meza	Smuck
Campbell	Griffin	Miller	Snow
Canada	Gustafson	Moore	Sorenson
Carlins	Hagen	Morelock	Stamateloc
Carlson	Haltom	Moreno	Stewart
Carmody	Harlow	Morris	Stoddard
Carter	Harris	Munoz	Stonich
Chandler	Havel	Murillo	Swink
Clark	Hayes	Negrete	Taylor
Commodore	Heard	Newman	Tometich
Connors	Herndon	Page	Tonelli
Constance	Hill	Paine	Trachel
Cooper	Hodges	Painovich	Trumbo
Crawford	Howelton	Palacios	Underwood
Davis	Hughes	Paloma	Valdez
Dawson	Hull	Parker	Vasquez
DeFord	Indelacato	Peeler	Wardlow
Delatore	James	Perez	Warren
Diaz	Jamison	Perkins	Watson
Dixon	Johnson	Plascencia	Williams
Dryer	Kamerling	Plecas	Young
Duncan	King	Pryor	
Edwards	Kinney	Radocovich	
Elliott	Kirkman	Ramirez	
Eppright	Kramer	Reddens	
Fidler	Ladd	Reed	
Fisher	Lamar	Relay	
Fox	Lane	Renteria	
	Lawnsdail	Rhiner	



The Vision



An early Saturday morning in February 2013, she invited Valley Junction descendants to her home. Dino Rodish, Vincent Valdez, Mark Rocha, Larry McLachlan III, and Reike Plecas came to listen to a vision that resided on the inside of her for several years. She shared her vision and passion for the project ... a neighborhood reunion.

Reike made phone calls to the Mayor, Steve Gaer and others seeking support of this idea. The Mayor said "Tell Rachelle if she incorporates "it" I will support it." Within a week Reike processed the necessary paperwork and the first seed donation came from our own Steve Gaer; and thus, the Taste of the Junction, Inc. was born.

Taste of the Junction Inc. grows larger every year! This year the Multicultural Street Festival has grown beyond the Railroad Pavilion including 4th Street in Valley Junction for the food trucks. Vendors come from all over the country to participate in this event. The Junction Speaks builds a greater sense of community for the younger generations learning about the cultures and rich history of the junction.

Rachelle retired in 2012 after 33 years in telecommunications. She is owner and baker of a dessert business Chellie's Sugar Shack Emporium offering cookies, cakes & cobblers. She is the mother of five children, Natasha (Melvin), Robert, Alonda (Donault) Long, Omar Duncan (Nakitut), and Keesha Gaines. She has been blessed with thirteen grandchildren.





Officers

Rachelle Long, President/Founder
 Mark Rocha, Vice President
 Alonda Long, Secretary & Treasure
 Annissa (Page) Roland, Operations

Leadership Team

Linda Parker
 John Martin
 Jeff & Dana Duncan
 Nicholas Long

Junction Speaks Volunteers

Helen Frizell
 Valerie James
 Shelia Pedigo
 Shirley Ramirez

Festival Volunteers

Donault Moore Sr.
 Natasha Haygood
 Robert Long
 Valora James
 Keesha Gaines
 Marsha Spears

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Supervisor Angela Connolly
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The Board of Supervisors has both legislative and administrative powers and is the policy-making body for Polk County government. With its authority to adopt legislation and policies for department operations, the Board sets priorities, allocates resources and maintains budgetary control.

<https://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/supervisors/> retrieved 2018

The People, The Culture, The Cuisine Ahhh...



Taste of the Junction was incorporated in February 2013. This is a nonprofit created to advance the awareness and preservation of the diverse cultures of Valley Junction.

Taste of the Junction, Inc.

P O Box 65284; West Des Moines, IA 50265; Phone: 515-650-9352

TasteofJunction@gmail.com



<http://www.tasteofthejunction.org>