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CHUCK HUMEL / CHRONICLE PHOTOS

Linda McVey, left, health and wellness director of the Greater Cleveland YMCA, leads seniors in a 1920s dance during a cotillion at Heritage Presbyterian Church in Amherst on Thursday.

## Puttin' on the Ritz

### Seniors swing and shag in 1920s cotillion

**Alison Dietz**

The Chronicle-Telegram

AMHERST — Dressed in their best, more than 100 senior citizens danced the day away at a 1920s-style cotillion Thursday.

Asked to wear what was chic of the era, men came dressed in the old-style gangster suits, and the women adorned themselves with fringe, feathers and long beaded necklaces at Heritage Presbyterian

Church. The event was hosted by Lorain County YMCA, Humana and Silver Sneakers fitness program for seniors.

"I even put on heels," said Diane Eswine, 63, of Amherst. "I haven't worn heels in a year."

Members of Silver Sneakers learned to dance the Charleston in the three weeks leading up to the cotillion.

"It's a chance for them to socialize and enjoy health

and wellness in a different setting," said Linda McVey, who taught the dance lessons.

Before the dancing began, the guests participated in themed carnival games for prizes. And even those were appropriately named, including the "bootlegger ring toss," "pin the moustache on Charlie Chaplin" and "Fly Lindbergh to France."

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Amherst sisters Virginia Kaada, left, and Diane Eswine dressed as flappers at the cotillion.