

Local and National News



# The *Sojourner's* Truth

Volume 24, No. 16

*"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."*

August 14, 2013

## *The Durant Era Starts At TPS*



**Romules Durant, Ed.D,  
TPS Superintendent**

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# Black Youth: Political Perspectives, Policies and Promises II

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, D.Min.  
The Truth Contributor

*"Real tragedy is never resolved. It goes on hopelessly forever."*

— Chinua Achebe



To many, the Trayvon Martin tragedy beamed a bright light on the biases that play a major role in how young black males are treated. The effects of these stereotypes are seen clearly in education, the criminal justice system, healthcare and employment. Are those who petition political support from the black community committed to proposing specific policies as solutions for those whose plight has so long been ignored or denied?

I held a series of conversations on this critical subject with several of Toledo's mayoral aspirants, including current Lucas County Auditor, Anita Lopez. This is part two of our discussion.

**Perryman:** The black community's current frustration in the aftermath of the shocking "not guilty" verdict for the accused killer of Trayvon Martin is not merely a temper tantrum. Rather, it is, in the words of researcher [www.clasp.org/experts?id=0003](http://www.clasp.org/experts?id=0003) Rhonda Tsoi-A-Fatt Bryant, "because the African American community has just watched all of the injustices against its race-slavery, mass incarceration, poverty, media attacks, poor education,

unemployment, redlining, predatory lending, premature death, etc. culminate in the most horrific way, in the death of a child and the exonerated of his killer." So the obvious question for you is, what specific new policies will you put in place to actually deal with the plight of young black males should you be elected mayor?

**Lopez:** We will be meeting with key individuals in the African-American community to set the agenda on how we're going to address this. It has to be a community itself that changes the future. I will use my strength and my position as mayor to bring all the entities together including Children's Services, Toledo Public Schools, Job and Family Services and Mental Health and Recovery Services. I understand that we continue to spend millions of dollars in our community, yet outcomes and the plight of African-American young males has had no major impact.

**Perryman:** Why is that?  
**Lopez:** I think that it's because it's easy to make decisions from your desk and not make decisions from being part of the community. We don't have any relationships with our communities

and we're not going to make any dent in the problem if people are outsiders who try to come in and make decisions on individuals who are not from their backgrounds. It can't just be government trying to go in there and tell people what to do. It has to be government working side-by-side, hand-in-hand with the citizens we want to help. I think that's the difference.

**Perryman:** I couldn't agree more that for too long people have been "deciding for" African Americans instead of "deciding with." It certainly reflects a disgusting arrogance of privilege. However, again, can you be specific as to the type of policies and processes you plan to implement?

**Lopez:** Children first when I become mayor. Citizens first, business first and children first. First of all, as Auditor, we've reached out to African-American churches. We went to the J. Frank Troy Senior Center on a regular basis. We participated annually in festivals and parades just to have a

presence, to build trust in citizens particularly diverse citizens to say that we are here to help.

**Perryman:** I understand that but I'm trying to get some sense...

**Lopez:** You're going to see us in the communities actively working door-to-door, street by street, house by house, neighborhood to neighborhood. We're going to be part of the community and we're going to acknowledge the problems that exist and then we're going to sit down line by line and start fixing them. We can't deny the fact that we have gang activity in our community, that our children drop out of school, or that our children are not prepared when they begin school and we allow that to happen. And we're going to have to change the way we perceive our responsibilities.

**Perryman:** You're going to talk but what practical solutions or policies do you have? How do we get the resources to where the problems are? You can't fight a war without resources.

**Lopez:** Correct, but I think we have to sit down and have a hard discussion. I think we have to sit here and say where are these dollars going and what are the end results and how early do we start to intervene to help parents be parents? The people who are going to change how an African-American child succeeds are its family. And we must feed and help that family be stable in this community. We have to sit there and say what are we going to do different from the cradle, from the birth of the child. And I think we need to get everybody on that track. I think we need to sit in a room with African-American leadership and the current leaders of multi-million dollar government entities and say whatever you've been doing it's not working because we've now made an art out of feeding the poor. It's devastating.

**Perryman:** I think if you went to the community and told them that, they would agree that the situation is dire, but they would also say that "We're tired of talking, we want

results."

**Lopez:** I don't think it's about talking.

**Perryman:** We're long on talk and short on action, they want to see some action. Are you willing to invest city dollars to move our children from cradle to career or other effective programs that deal with poverty or unemployment? My concern is that I haven't yet heard any specific policies from you.

**Lopez:** We will work in partnership but those policies and how we're going to address it and what the benchmarks are I have a vision and I will hold my workforce accountable. We cannot move forward unless we address what's happened and what has been allowed to happen. We'll create an agenda and benchmarks. I work with benchmarks and goals and my job is to check them off and complete them. That's how I work, that's how I operate.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, D.Min, at [drldperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org](mailto:drldperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org)

## The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's Truthful African American Owned and Operated Newspaper

Fletcher Word – Publisher and Editor  
Becky McQueen – Business Manager  
Folasade Oladokun – Office Manager

Artisha Lawson – Reporter  
Carla Leonard – Social Editor  
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## Community Calendar

### August 12-16

Warren AME Vacation bible School:  
Sports clinic from 4 to 5 pm; Dinner at 5 with lessons, crafts and music til 7:30; 419-243-2237

### August 13-17

Trinity Central West CLG 15th Annual Convention: New Covenant CLG

### August 17

Back to School Music Festival and School Supply Give-Away: Wilson Park; Noon to 3 pm; Free food, fun, entertainment: 419-704-6195

### August 18

Dedication Ceremony for The Terrayah Parker, Quinn Foundation: 4:30 pm; Bibleway Church

Beulah MBC Church Ushers' Anniversary: 4 pm; Guest preacher Pastor Tim Pettaway of Walk the Word Ministries

Macedonia Baptist Church 101st Anniversary: Morning message by Pastor John Johnson, St Paul

MBC of Starkville, MS; Afternoon message by Pastor Allen Overton of Second Baptist of Monroe, MI; Fellowship dinner after morning service

St. Paul AME Zion Pre-Women's Day Service: "Women in Worship;" 4 pm; Guest speaker Rev. Shirley Sparks of Wall Memorial: 419-243-2106

### August 23-24

5th Annual Sacred Strings Showcase Concert: Faith Community United Holy Church of America (formerly Mays Chapel); Fri – 5 to 9 pm; Sat – 3 to 8 pm; Celebrating African American steel guitar tradition: 419-243-0568

### August 25

Macedonia Baptist Church 101st Anniversary: Morning Service speaker Min. Christopher Cody  
P.U.S.H. (Perseverance Until Success Happens) 3rd Annual Two Mile March and Rally: To stop gang

violence: 419-290-6850

### August 30-September 1

Libbey All Classes Reunion: Sat – Dinner/Dance at Cambridge Hall; Sun – Picnic at Maumee Bay State Park

### August 31

Toledo District of the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship International Evangelism Explosion 2013: City of Zion, Mt Zion Church campus; 6 to 8 pm; "Do You Know Jesus Christ

### September 21-22

Spring Street MBC 80th Church Anniversary: Sat – Musical at 5 pm; Sun – Friends and Family Day at 11 am: 419-726-326

### September 29

Spring Street MBC 80th Church Anniversary: Worship Service at 4 pm; speaker Rev. Clayborn Arnett of Greater Harvest Baptist: 419-726-3263

# Big Bucks, Inc.

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq  
Guest Column

By now, you may have read the article in The Blade regarding the jaw-dropping interest rates that many "payday" loan companies charge for their services.

Some rates, over a period of time, come up to over 300 to 700 percent. Now, that is a lot of "juice" to pay for a small loan.

Understandably, people who are in desperate straits for some quick money will sign away their birth rights for a quick fix and will have to pay the price when the creditor comes knocking at their door with their hands out.

Some of these "lenders" are very crafty in that they can shape shift in order to stay one step ahead of the Ohio laws regarding usury rates for their products. It goes without saying but with just a wink that you will not see such sharks in Perrysburg or Ottawa Hills or Maumee but they proliferate like mushrooms after a

spring rain in what is colloquially known as the central city.

Hmmm. I wonder why? Who says there is no money in cashing in on po' folks? Mucho dinero is there! You just gotta know about how to mine such pockets of poverty and with the right concept and product.

Since a lot of the borrowers of these financial products are known as "you" people, I decided as the local reporter for the fledgling news network known as

All Negro News Network (ANNN), to try my hand at a little investigative reporting and find out what is what with some of these loan companies.

What I found out startled even me, whom I thought I had seen it all. Below is my report that I obtained from an insider contact with the loan company known as Big Bucks, Inc.

Looking back, I am somewhat ashamed at the ques-



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BLADE

Lafe Tolliver

tionable tactics I used to get this explosive report but as a service to my deserving readers, I was willing to hold my nose and close my eyes and perform this public duty.

What you are about to read is a summary of the internal workings of this company and I trust by the time this news gets out, the attorney general will have started an investigation to root this financial cancer out of our communities:

**Confidential Report:**

To: Andrew Crason, President, Big Bucks, Inc.

Re: Financial recoupment methods for loan diversification models

From: (name blackened out)

Please check over the following client profile report before it is utilized as our screening method for new borrowers. The model answers are below. We have found out that a client that gets all four questions right is an ideal candidate for a Big Bucks, Inc. loan.

[1] Which of the following do you have to pledge as security for this loan:

- [a] car title
- [b] household furniture including 70 inch plasma TV
- [c] wife's wedding ring and her three wigs
- [d] first-born child

[2] Which of the following types of a borrower are you:

- [a] regular borrower
- [b] irregular borrower
- [c] I can't stay away borrower
- [d] if allowed, I would camp out at your store borrower

[3] Which of the following interest rates best work for your budget:

- [a] a daily charge of 15 percent
- [b] an hourly charge of eight percent
- [c] a minute by minute charge of two percent
- [d] whatever rate and frequency you think best for me.

[4] If payment is not received on time, we reserve the right and with your permission to:

- [a] break one knee when loan is one day past due
- [b] break one knee and one hand when loan is one

week past due  
[c] break both knees and burn your house down when loan is two weeks past due  
[d] past three weeks due: do you really wanna know? (Answers: 1d/2d/3d/4d)

Well, dear readers as you can tell from this insider report, this company does not have your best interest at heart. So, if you really, really want to do business with such a company, wear protective body armor and go into a state certified witness protection program if you miss your payments by more than two weeks.

Even better, do not do business with any loan company that a baseball bat and brass knuckles displayed in their company logo!

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@Juno.com

## NAACP Commends Court Ruling that Stop-and-Frisk Violates Constitutional Rights

The NAACP commends US District Court Judge Shira A. Scheindlin for her decision today regarding the New York Police Department's racial profiling tactic of "stop-and-frisk?". In Floyd vs. City of New York, Judge Scheindlin ruled that stop-and-frisk violates the constitutional rights of New Yorkers, and said she would appoint an outside lawyer to monitor the NYPD for further violations.

"This is a groundbreaking victory. Judge Scheindlin recognized what the NAACP has been saying for years: the racial profiling tactic of stop-and-frisk has no place in our enlightened society," stated NAACP President and CEO Benjamin Todd Jealous. "We hope that Mayor Bloomberg and Commissioner Kelly will heed this decision and end their crude and abusive policy. We will continue to stand up with the tens of thousands of New Yorkers who marched with us last June and fight for the protections of the Community Safety Act."

On Father's Day 2012, the NAACP joined with SEIU 1199 and National Action Network to lead a "Silent

March to End Stop-and-Frisk" down Fifth Avenue in New York City. The march drew tens of thousands of people from diverse races, ethnicities and religions.

"This is a great day for justice and equality in this city," said New York NAACP President Hazel Dukes. "Our city is leading the way for others to follow. We are grateful to the city council members and those in our coalition who have stood up against this racial profiling policy. We now need those council members who courageously voted for the Community Safety Act to stay strong and override Mayor Bloomberg's veto."

The New York City Council is currently considering whether to override a veto of the Community Safety Act, a bill that would create an Inspector General for the NYPD and allow victims of stop and frisk to charge police for racial profiling.

"Judge Scheindlin's decision to appoint an outside lawyer to monitor the NYPD bolsters the need for the Community Safety Act," said Niaz Kasravi, Ph.D., director of the NAACP Criminal Justice Program. "We need an effective policy that bans racial profiling, an independent city agency to oversee the police department, and a legal recourse that empowers victims of racial profiling."

dependent city agency to oversee the police department, and a legal recourse that empowers victims of racial profiling."

According to the NYCLU, in 2012 the NYPD stopped and interrogated people 532,911 times, a 448 percent increase in street stops since 2002. Nine out of 10 people stopped were innocent, and about 87 percent were African-American or Latino. White people accounted for only about 10 percent of stops.

Judge Scheindlin wrote that "no person may be stopped because he matches a vague or generalized description - such as male black 18 to 24 - without further detail." In 2011, black and Latino men between the ages of 14 and 24 made up less than five percent of the city's population, but 42 percent of those targeted by stop and frisk.

She also announced that "In a separate opinion, I will order remedies, including immediate changes to the NYPD's policies, a joint-remedial process to consider further reforms, and the appointment of an independent monitor to oversee compliance with the remedies ordered in this case."

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# Toledo City Council Candidate Larry Sykes Unveils Campaign Platform

By Fletcher Word  
Sojourner's Truth Editor

Toledo School Board member Larry Sykes, candidate for an at-large seat on the Toledo City Council, unveiled his platform last week, a four-point plan for reducing crime and improving economic development.

During a press conference at Kent Branch Library, Sykes, a Democrat, announced that he will seek to increase police and fire staffing levels by introducing legislation that would transfer money from the city's rainy day fund when those funds exceed \$3,000,000. The transfer would automatically take 15 percent of that excess for new fire and police recruits.

Sykes' second initiative would create jobs by adjusting the payroll tax rate for small businesses when

they hire new employees," he said.

"If you own a small business with 50 or fewer employees and you hire new employees you should only pay 50 percent of city payroll taxes for 24 months and then an adjusted payroll tax rate for the next 24 months," said Sykes, adding that such a plan would encourage businesses to hire new employees.

Streets and infrastructure would also be a top priority, said Sykes, as he introduced the third part of his platform.

Sykes proposed encouraging his City Council colleagues to develop a business district in each of the city's six council districts.

"The city would then divide its street repaving plan into six districts and

take the money away from that district to fund major street repaving in that district," said Sykes. "By creating a business district, it would not take money away from surrounding neighborhoods."

Sykes, in his fourth initiative, noted his 14 years of experience on the board of education and said that "my passion has been to ensure that our children received the best education they could."

Sykes offered to work "directly with companies and develop job opportunities for our youth between the ages of 16 and 23."

"Young people have more guns than they have homework," said Sykes as he elaborated on his ideas about dealing with gangs and gang violence.



Larry Sykes

## Larry Sykes Assails Living Conditions at Alpha Towers and Greenbelt Place

By Fletcher Word  
Sojourner's Truth Editor

Larry Sykes, candidate for Toledo City Council and current member of the Toledo Board of Education, sent a letter to city leaders last week asking that attention be paid to the issue of the lack of "safe and sanitary living conditions" at the Alpha Towers and the Greenbelt Place apartments.

"The problems that plague these units are too numerous to mention but when children are sent home from school because of bites from bed bugs that causes impetigo, enough is enough and too much stinks," wrote Sykes in a letter that was addressed to "Concerned City Leaders" and copied to Mayor Mike Bell; U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown; Linnie Willis, executive director of LMHA; Robert Cole, an attorney with the Advocates for a Basic Legal Equality; Judge C. Allen McConnell; Diane Patton, attorney with Fair Housing Center; Paula

Hicks Hudson, president of the Toledo City Council; Lucas County Treasurer Wade Kapszukiewicz and Raymond Keyser, acting field director of the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department.

"These existing conditions are unacceptable for any human beings," said Sykes during a press conference last week to elaborate on his concerns. "Regardless if they are low income or no income, they are still our parents, our children, our citizens and they are our responsibility."

The 176-unit Greenbelt Place apartment complex is owned by the Hampstead Cherry Wood Partners LP and is managed by California-based Intercoastal Financial. Alpha Towers is owned by the Maryland-based New Alpha Housing LP and managed by Donaldson Group LLC of

Maryland. Both complexes, although privately owned and managed, are subsidized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for low-income tenants through the Section 8 program.

HUD, through its Cleveland office, has undertaken a review of conditions in Greenbelt Place, prompted at least in part, it would seem, by a letter from Mayor Bell to Senator Sherrod Brown asking that HUD be directed to terminate such subsidies for the complex.

Sykes called for the following actions:

- Rents should be escrowed by tenants until issues are addressed and resolved;
- Remove HUD vouchers that provide Section 8 housing and allow tenants to seek other living accommodations;
- Force owner fines per

day for inaction.

Sykes was named to the board of Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority in the early 1990s. He has referred to that experience in his present quest for a seat on City Council to demon-

strate his experience in dealing with difficulties in public housing situations. As he noted last week, after his appointment to the LMHA board, the board moved police offices into strategic positions to improve visibility

and contact with residents, decreasing crime and complaints.

Within five years, LMHA received national recognition for those efforts in decreasing crime.

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# D. Michael Collins: Independent Candidate Pushing Change, Public Integrity

By Sherese Davis  
The Truth Contributor

D. Michael Collins stepped into the political arena as a result of frustration. As many of us do, Collins would often complain about the city administration and its failings. Unlike many of us, however, his wife got frustrated by his complaining and told him to pick up his mitt and get in the game.

As the saying goes, "Behind every successful man....."

Collins is the only independent candidate who has not been a member of a political party. He believes he can be more effective by not being attached to a particular party because too many decisions are politically motivated or party driven. He won his first election by engaging in door-to-door communication without the support of any party apparatus.

As a police officer for 27 years Collins has had the opportunity to see the city, its neighborhoods, and its residents up close. He has had both the fortune and misfortune of seeing the good, the bad and the ugly, interacting with the population on a very personal level but always for the public good. As a councilman he has had the ability to see the city from a different perspective and to effect changes on a larger scale.

One thing he has learned, he says, is that the city needs to change. As one of his priorities he recognizes that economic development is a key to Toledo's growth. Not just development, but sustainable development.

"Toledo has lost a unique circumstance as a desirable place for art and for people to live and thrive," says the councilman. "Young people are leaving for better jobs outside of Toledo and are only returning to see their parents or grandparents."

In this respect, Collins speaks sadly from experience having three daughters who left Toledo for job opportunities outside of the city.

Economic development must first start with the coordination of all of the economic drivers that can impact the city as well as the region, he says. His recommendation is to focus on the assets the region has including access to fresh water, highway networks, connection to 60 percent of the nation's population within several hours and affordable housing. He wants to make Toledo more affordable for the entrepreneur to do business as well.

All we need is a "dynamic leader" to bring it all together, he believes.

Another priority for Collins is the need for neighborhood growth through emphasis on public safety. He wants to return to an earlier



D. Michael Collins and Sherese Davis.

time when police officers walked a beat and knew all of the business owners and residents in the areas that they patrolled.

To get back to those times will require a return to a level of trust between citizens and its policing representatives. "[Basic] law enforcement has not changed since Cain and Abel," he says. His vision will require increasing the police presence by 25 percent once he is in office.

Domestic violence requires trying to change how we approach certain aspects of law enforcement. Collins will open up the Northwest Police Station and will make domestic violence as one of its priorities. He recommends that the city work with victim advocacy groups and with special prosecutors. He says that under his administration he will have zero tolerance even without a victim complaint.

As a former law enforcement officer, Collins understands that gang violence cannot be cured overnight. "We need a recipe to create social change and that all begins with education." Go into the first through third grades and identify the students who will be challenged and may have the potential of falling into the clutches of the gangs, he suggests. Go into the fourth, fifth and sixth grade and identify students who are successful and pay them to mentor those in the K - 2 who need the assistance. He also recognizes that he will need to get buy in from both the public and private sectors.

— Continued on Page 13

# Lopez Receives Local 500 Endorsement in Mayoral Race

Sojourner's Truth Editor

Telling the members of Local 500 Laborers Union that "her concerns align with ours and her economic plan is on point," David Fleetwood, business manager for the local, on Wednesday, August 7, extended his union's endorsement to Lucas County Auditor Anita Lopez in her campaign for mayor of the City of Toledo.

"We stand with you, support you and will do all we can to impress upon our families, friends and business associates the importance of supporting you in your candidacy," Fleetwood had written earlier in the formal letter of endorsement.

Lopez, whose father was a long-time union member, accepted the endorsement in an impassioned speech reflecting her own family's union connections.

"My father was a meat cutter and started at \$1 per hour. He became an organized union meat cutter and raised seven kids on meat-cutter wages," Lopez told



Anita Lopez

the audience gathered for their regular membership meeting, promising them that they would always have a voice and an advocate in the mayor's office should she prevail in November.

Lopez went on to take issue with Mayor Mike Bell's

assertions that his administration had created in excess of 6,000 jobs during his term in office. Calling such jobs those of the underemployed, she pledged to work with unions to bring to Toledo higher-paying, full-employment opportunities.

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## Back to School Tips to Get Your Home Organized for a Successful Year

### Special to The Truth

When your carefree summer comes to an end, getting the family ready to go back to school can seem a little daunting. Establishing a routine will help students kick off the new school year and reduce stress for the whole family.

"Going back to school is a pivotal time for children and families across the country," says Wendy Froehlich, vice president of Marketing for Homes.com, one of the nation's top online real estate listing and lifestyle resources. "Get your home and life organized now to ensure the transition is smooth

and the school year is the best yet."

With that in mind, Homes.com is offering tips to help beat the back to school blues and ensure an A+ performance year-round.

- **Eliminate clutter:** Designate a specific location to store school papers and materials. This will keep homework and projects from getting lost or in the way. Label individual baskets for each child.

- **Create a family calendar:** A family calendar displayed in a central location will keep everyone organized and in the know. Include important project reminders, after

school activities and test dates. Get the kids involved by having them write in their own activities. Review the calendar together to keep everyone on track.

- **Make lunch a breeze:** Pre-pack food for the week and store it in easy-to-see containers, so little helpers can lend a hand. Hang an over-the-door shoe organizer in the pantry and fill it with lunch supplies like sandwich bags, napkins and snacks that children can access when packing their lunches.

- **Create perfect study spaces:** Creating a dedicated study space is

an ideal way to help a student focus and stay on top of their schoolwork. And several studies show that by learning children's study habits and tailoring spaces to reflect how each child best learns, you can help kids achieve their maximum potential. For example, some students need to work in a central location so they can get quick help, while others might need a more private, quiet space.

- **Eye-catching Inspiration:** Hanging a bulletin board in the study area creates a place for important reminders at eye level.

Cover bulletin boards in bright fabric to bring color to the space and spark brilliance and imagination. Or paint an area above the desk with chalkboard paint so children can write with chalk on the wall to stay on top of projects or work through math problems.

For more organization tips, study space inspiration and DIY ideas, visit the Idea Gallery at [www.Homes.com](http://www.Homes.com).

A little prep can go a long way in ensuring your family's transition back to school is well organized and stress-free.

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## Owens Alumni Association and Community Partners Assist Area Children with School Supply Drive through Aug. 18

### Special to The Truth

Owens Community College's Alumni Association in collaboration with two Books-A-Million Inc. stores, nine Directions Credit Union branches, two Great Lakes Credit Union branches and five Genoa Bank branches are reaching out to area children in need of school supplies by holding a month-long "Backpack to the Future" School Supply ending Sunday, Aug. 18. Collected items will benefit low-income kindergarten-age school children throughout Northwest Ohio.

The "Backpack to the Future" School Supply Drive will occur at the Books-A-Million bookstores (2105 Levis Commons Blvd.) in The Town Center at Levis Commons in Perrysburg and (1800 Tiffin Ave.) in the Findlay Village Mall

in Findlay; nine Directions Credit Union branches (5121 Whiteford Rd.) in Sylvania, (3000 Tremainsville Rd.) in Toledo, (3321 Briarfield Blvd.) in Maumee, (4150 Brockway Dr.) in Perrysburg, (3312 Dustin Rd.) in Oregon, (2533 S. Reynolds Rd.) in Toledo, (3450 Central Ave. Suite 128) in Toledo, (2742 Crossroads Pkwy.) in Rossford and (1 Owens Cornring Pkwy.) in Toledo; two Great Lakes Credit Union branches (5823 Monroe St.) in Sylvania and (580 Craig Dr.) in Perrysburg; and five Genoa Bank branches (801 Main St.) in Genoa, (3201 Navarre Ave.) in Oregon, (703 Conant St.) in Maumee, (24950 W. State Route 51) in Millbury and (9920 Old U.S. 20) in Rossford.

The 18 community loca-

tions expand the College's educational initiative for individuals to drop off their donations. Among the charitable items that will be accepted as part of the school supply drive are gently-used or new backpacks, crayons, markers, bottles of glue, glue sticks, colored pencils, pencils, pink erasers, school boxes, pocket folders, marbled covered composition books and Kleenex tissues.

According to Kaye Koevenig, Owens Alumni Association Community Service Chair, the Northwest Ohio community's initial response toward the "Backpack to the Future" Supply Drive has been positive.

"Owens' 'Backpack to the Future' school supply drive

— Continued on  
Page 7

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initiative has expanded efforts thanks to the support of Books-A-Million, Directions Credit Union, Genoa Bank and Great Lakes Credit Union," she said. "I encourage area residents to lend a helping hand to those children who are in need of school supplies."

Since establishing the program in 2004, the Owens Alumni Association has given 2,881 backpacks and 54,243 school supplies to benefit disadvantaged children throughout Northwest Ohio.

Owens' Alumni Association is committed to the personal and professional success of alumni and students through the ongoing development of value-added initiatives. Owens has provided higher education to more than 250,000 students in its nearly 50-year history.

In addition to the community supply drive locations, area residents can bring their charitable donations to the College's Office of Alumni Relations on the Toledo-area Campus in Perrysburg Township, the Education Center Atrium on the Findlay-area Campus in Findlay and the Arrowhead Park Learning Center in Maumee. For more information about the school supply drive, or to make a donation, contact the Alumni Relations Office at (567) 661-7876 or alumni@owens.edu.

## Scott High School's Centennial Celebration Headed to Gala Weekend

*Special to The Truth*

It's almost here! Scott High School's Centennial Celebration, in swing for most of this calendar year, peaks during October. The weekend of October 18-20, to be specific.

Three years ago, Scott alumni put together a centennial committee, chaired by Stan Odesky, '55. "We wanted to make sure that Scott High School had an opportunity to celebrate its 100 years," says Odesky.

The result has been a year-long series of activities that will culminate in a gala weekend in October. The grand celebration has been coordinated to coincide with Homecoming Weekend.

On Friday of the weekend, there will be a 100th Anniversary parade through the Old West End, bringing together alumni from as many classes as possible. The Homecoming football game will also take place on Friday.

On Saturday, the banquet will

be at the SeaGate Centre and will feature a video presentation by alumnus Dick Eppstein, much of it based upon yearbooks of the ages. There will be a jazz, entertainment organized by Clarence Smith with a centennial choir and various proclamations from local and state-wide elected officials.

On Sunday, there will be an open house at the school itself from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Centennial Committee consists of Chairman Odesky; Theresa M. Gabriel, dinner chairman and Memory Book co-chairman; Jerry Chabler, Memory Book co-chairman; Eppstein, dinner program chairman; Jim Scheib, finance chairman; Bill Harris, media chairman; Avie Dixon, events chairman; Marvin Jacobs, legal chairman; Treva Jeffries, Scott principal, and members Gay Blossom, Gwendolyn Briggs, Susan Hirsch, Barbara Meyers, Ed Weber and



Nannette Wooley.

Proceeds from the dinner will start an ongoing college scholarship fund for Scott students. A committee to disperse such funds will consist of the president of the Alumni Club, the principal, the Advisory Club and a student advisor.

The cost for the dinner at the

SeaGate Centre is \$75 per person and reservations can be made and tickets obtained by calling the school - 419-671-4000 or by mailing the Scott High School Centennial Celebration, PO Box 350472, Toledo, OH 43635.

Information can also be obtained on Facebook - Scott High School Centennial Celebration.

# CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

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- A special viewing of a selection from the PBS documentary *Eyes on the Prize* focusing on the March on Washington
- Watch for more details at [toledolibrary.org](http://toledolibrary.org)



For more information call 419.259.5200

## Romules Durant: Interim Superintendent Faces a Range of Challenges

By Sherese Davis  
The Truth Contributor

On August 1, 2013, Romules Durant, Ed.D. began his term as interim superintendent of the Toledo Public Schools district. Durant has been given a one-year contract. When that contract expires on July 31, 2014, Durant will be named permanent superintendent and given a longer contract or the board will announce a nation-wide search for a replacement.

Durant, a Toledo native, attended Toledo Public Schools and graduated from Waite High School. He received undergraduate and graduate degrees from The University of Toledo.

During his year as interim superintendent, he will face a mass of issues including raising academic standards, passing a levy, completing the transformation plan and enhancing the accountability of the administrative



Romules Durant

staff.

Within the first year Durant said that he wants to fully establish an understanding of the common core state standards which are the Ohio learning stan-

dards. That in turn becomes the core mission of the district's mission statement. These are the standards that need to be mastered for a child to be prepared to either go to college or enter the



workforce.

He will start a comprehensive instructional plan. This plan will focus on standards in math and reading that have been correlated to standards for academic success. Durant believes that data can be used to provide information on what works and what does not work in the educational system.

To aid in the passage of the levy, TPS under Durant's guidance will employ a different strategic plan – mini campaigns. These campaigns will be directed at the various learning communities – those communities surrounding each high school. They will utilize members of the community to communicate with their fellow community members.

Rather than trying to sell the levy to the city, TPS will concentrate on selling learning to the families in the communities where it may have the most impact. Durant wants to develop intergenerational relationships with a number of the senior centers, relationships with the business community and with faith-based communities as well.

As far as the development of a transformation plan that will replicate and establish some of the best practices, Durant said: "We are look-

ing into trying to provide some thematic opportunities to address learning in areas such as the performing arts as well as in some of the trade fields.

We are exploring the options of using people or other organizations who are currently engaged in some of those activities for support in providing these opportunities to students. One of the biggest challenges is trying to find a way to centralize these programs."

Durant will continue to remain engaged with the youth groups he started. These programs – YMOE (Young Men of Excellence) and YWEO (Young Women of Excellence) – now possess their own brand label. They have designed and marketed their process and are looking to expand. They are anticipating expanding to a membership of 2000 for each group.

They are planning on a youth march in the spring with the goal of getting the youth more positively engaged with the communities in which they live. It culminates in a rally as a counterpoint to gang violence. Durant sees his continuous involvement as part of his leadership responsibility not only as providing guidance but as a way to learn about those things that impact his

students.

With regard to administrative structural changes Durant wants to focus on accountability. He and his staff on all levels will be more engaged both with students as well as the community. "Leadership requires presence and presence requires action," said Durant.

Certain cabinet members will block out some time where they will have to be in the schools available to both students and administration. The advantage for Durant of having been involved on all levels within the school system from teacher to head of TPS is that his experiences have allowed him to see how his decisions affect those at the "ground level."

As part of his legacy after his tenure in office, Durant wants people to remember that his actions were both student driven and data driven. He wants those students who graduate to feel proud that they were products of the Toledo Public Schools.

He wants them to feel that their success was the result of school system and teachers who supported them throughout their primary and secondary education years. Durant also wants the community to feel that their collective efforts have provided a solution to what has been a collective problem.

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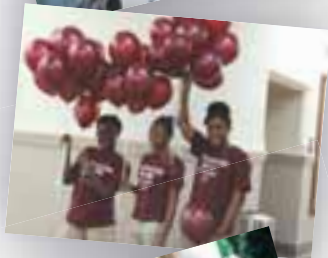
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## What Every Parent Needs to Know About Changes in the Classroom

### Special to The Truth

Across the country, parents are beginning to notice that today's classroom looks quite different from what they experienced in their own school days. From personalized learning technologies to new educational standards, teachers and administrators are using a variety of tools to ensure students are better prepared to succeed than ever before.

In this era of innovation in education, this school year will be particularly exciting in part because states will be piloting assessments aligned to the Common Core State Standards, the new set of K-12 educational standards designed to improve students' readiness for college and future careers.

So just what do these changes mean for your kids?

### Shift to New Standards

Schools nationwide are finding new ways to provide individually tailored lesson plans while addressing the Common Core State Standards, often relying on a new generation of educational technologies that help students learn and succeed at their own pace.

McGraw-Hill Education's Reading Wonders is one such tool. Available in both all-digital and print/digital formats, it is the first K-6 core reading program designed specifically for the new standards.

"Even before the advent of the Common Core, we knew that preparing students for the demands of college and careers required setting a solid foundation in skills such as reading comprehension and writing," said

Christine Willig, senior vice president of products at McGraw-Hill School Education. "When the new standards reiterated the importance of these skills, we saw an opportunity to build an entirely new program that would address the Common Core requirements, by leveraging contemporary cognitive science about how we learn, using cutting-edge digital tools."

### Personalized Learning

Education research has shown that instruction becomes more effective when tailored to students' unique learning styles and needs. Personalized learning tends to lead to deeper learning – which will help students meet many of the new Common Core standards. As classrooms continue getting bigger however, delivering that sort of individual attention to students becomes more difficult.

With this in mind, Reading Wonders was built using entirely new educational technology, offering interconnected platforms personalized for students and teachers and accessible across any device.

Other digital learning tools use additional techniques to help students succeed.

McGraw-Hill Education's LearnSmart and FLEX Literacy, for example, each use "adaptive" technology to continually assess students' knowledge, skill and confidence levels and to create a unique study path designed to help each student in the topics and concepts they need most – a level of personalization previously only available from a personal tutor. LearnSmart delivers this adaptive learning experience for a variety of high school subject areas, while FLEX Literacy incorporates it into a comprehensive, Common Core-specific reading and language arts intervention system for students in Grades 3-8.

More information about new digital programs, including those designed specifically for the Common Core State Standards, can be found at [www.mheducation.com](http://www.mheducation.com).

In this ever-evolving educational landscape, keeping up with the changes can seem daunting – but it needn't be. Parents can rest assured that teachers are increasingly equipped with new technologies that ensure their students are getting the personalized attention they need to improve their chances for long-term success.

## Y Child Development Programs Give Children Support for Success in the Third Grade Reading Guarantee

### Special to The Truth

In June, 2012, Governor Kasich signed into law SB 316, which impacts a number of educational policies most notably, the Third Grade Reading Guarantee (TGRG). The purpose of the TGRG is to ensure that all students are reading at grade-level by the time they

end their third-grade year. Third grade is commonly thought of as a transition year when students begin reading to learn. Studies show that students who do not meet grade-level reading standards by the end of third grade are likely to struggle with reading for

years, sometimes into their adult lives.

Children enrolled in the Y's early education and school-age programs are engaged in activities to support their reading and language development which prepare the children for school or

support academics

"The Y's commitment in early education to support the TGRG, comes from years of research that states that strong gains in early literacy for children is critical to their success in K-12 education," said Sarah Otis, vice president of child development at the YMCA and JCC of Greater Toledo. "The Y is strongly committed to the educational building blocks in the early years and uses classroom supports to have young children prepared for learning," she adds.

The Y follows the Ohio Department of Education's (ODE) Early Learning and Development Standards and Common Core Standards which are the building

blocks for its classroom lesson plans and environment.

In addition, Y centers have been recognized through a voluntary quality rating system award from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services called Step Up to Quality. Step up to Quality recognizes early care and education and after-school programs that exceed quality benchmarks over and above Ohio's licensing standards. The program standards are organized into the following four domains: learning and development, staff qualifications and professional development, administrative and leadership practices, and family and community partnerships.

"Being a successfully

rated early childhood center provides the extra classroom supports, teacher credentialing and family supports that are essential for our most vulnerable children," said Otis.

The YMCA and JCC of Greater Toledo is the largest provider of child care in the region, serving 2,000 children at 24 locations, including its new locations – Owens Community College, DeVeaux Elementary School and the Early Learning Academy at the Eastern YMCA in Oregon. Enrollment is going on now for early education care and afterschool programs for this upcoming school year. For more information, call 419-474-3995 or visit [www.ymcatoledo.org](http://www.ymcatoledo.org).



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**Real Talk for Real Teachers by Rafe Esquith**

c.2013, Viking; \$26.95 / \$28.50 Canada; 319 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
 The Truth Contributor

Nobody can ever say that you don't have class.

Nope, you've got a big one this year, and it contains more kids than you've ever taught before. More possibilities and responsibilities, more eager faces.

For them, you've organized your classroom and arranged it twice. You've packed in supplies, finished behind-the-scenes paperwork, and made reams of lesson plans. You're ready for your pupils... aren't you?

Even veteran teachers ask that question, and in the new book *Real Talk for Real Teachers* by Rafe Esquith, you'll get some classy answers.

When you're a brand-new teacher, the vision you have of your very first classroom probably resembles a Hollywood movie: you'll get a roomful of problem kids but you'll somehow connect

with them and turn them into scholars.

Esquith, a 30-year veteran, says it doesn't happen that way. You'll have students you can help, and students that will make you doubt your career choice – which leads to his first advice: "You are going to have bad days." They're inevitable because kids aren't usually "golden drops of sunshine;" the job can be stressful, everything you plan "sooner or later falls apart" and "teaching hurts."

And yet, there are reasons

to smile – so do it. Make sure students know they can ask you anything, without ridicule. Hold them to high standards, but let them make their own decisions. Know that interesting lessons are "the most effective way to keep a class in order..."

and keep in mind that homework can sometimes kill the joy of learning.

When helping a child who needs it, remember that certain lessons are more important than others. Don't hold achievers back while working with kids who are behind. And understand that

there are times when some kids should be left behind.

Choose your battles wisely behind the scenes, Esquith says; know when to fight and when to wait. Accept that your influence on a child doesn't trump that of the child's family or circumstances. Learn to deal with haters. And remember that, in the classroom, one size doesn't fit all because students are not all created equal.

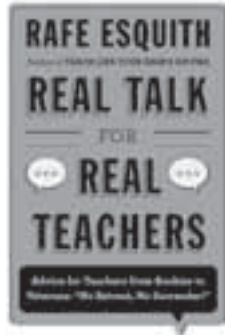
Though it may seem like *Real Talk for Real Teach-*

ers has a very narrow audience in its focus on first- or second-year teachers, I think there's also a surprisingly large group of readers who need this book: parents.

There is, in fact, quite a lot of information that will help parents become their child's best cheerleader and their child's teacher's best ally. Author Rafe Esquith offers neophyte (and veteran) teachers advice on reaching for joy in the classroom and coping with ever-increasing bureaucracy, both

of which open eyes and windows for parents who want to enhance their child's education. That, and the illustrational anecdotes contained between these covers, can only help, inside the classroom and out.

Bring a lot of bookmarks when you read this book, because it's packed with info that you'll want to remember. If you're a teacher or have kids that will have one soon, get *Real Talk for Real Teachers* – and don't be tardy.



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*Kevin Dalton, President*

**Back to School Tips**

- ☑ Make appointments for doctor (immunizations), dental checkups and physical exams (sports & extra-curricular)
- ☑ Gather all copies of health records, proof of residency and emergency contact information
- ☑ Start now and gradually return to early bedtime, **early rising** and meal routines
- ☑ Check with the school for supply lists and buy them early
- ☑ Call and set up a visit to your child's school and request a meet and greet with the teacher and principal
- ☑ Review routines for checking and emptying backpacks daily with your child
- ☑ Set up a location for homework and establish a routine for when it will be completed
- ☑ Play some learning games that review basic skills that will build confidence and ease your child into the learning process
- ☑ **TPS dress code:** Any solid color dress shirt, polo, oxford, or turtleneck with black, gray, navy, brown or khaki pants. Girls may wear skirts and jumpers of the same color. For more specific information on dress code, contact your TPS school.

*Toledo Federation of Teachers wishes you a great 2013-2014 school year!*

# Local Residents Participated in the March on Washington

By Rhonda B. Sewell,  
Library Media Relations Coordinator

Little did Toledo twins Harry F. Brown, Sr., and Howard L. Brown know they were participating in one of the most historic gatherings in American history when they boarded an Amtrak train on a sunny August day in 1963.

The 15-year-olds were headed to Washington D.C., along with their National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Toledo Chapter youth group to attend the March on Washington for Jobs & Freedom, which took place on August 28, 1963 and was attended by an estimated quarter of a million people of all races and backgrounds. The March on Washington is one of the largest peaceful demonstrations ever seen in the nation's capital.

The twins, who will be age 66 in September, shared their thoughts and memories recently with the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library about attending the March on Washington. This year, the demonstration, where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered his legendary I Have a Dream speech, is being commemorated for its 50-year anniversary.

As part of the anniversary, Library officials are interviewing local figures, including the Browns, for their memories of attending the civil rights demonstration. Lucas County residents who attended the March are invited to contact librarian Irene Martin, of the Local History and Genealogy department, at 419.259.5233 to share their recollections.

The Library is also scheduled to host a commemorative event from 2-4 p.m. on



Harry Brown



Howard Brown

Saturday, August 24 titled Celebrating 50 Years: The March on Washington for Jobs & Freedom in the McMaster Center of Main Library, 325 Michigan St. Please plan to attend this FREE family event that will feature performances by the musical group USHERING and others; a play performed by New Works Writers Series, adapted and directed by Imelda Hunt, Ph.D.; a presentation by Angela Siner, a University of Toledo professor of African American History, and a special viewing of an excerpt from the PBS documentary Eyes on the Prize. For details on this Library event, please call 419.259.5233 or visit toledolibrary.org.

The Brown twins said the 50-year March anniversary allows them to go back in time, to their teen years as freshmen at Scott High School, and reflect upon the deeper impact of attending the March on Washington.

"We didn't have enough guts to ask my parents to go to the March. We were very active in the youth group of the NAACP and they were going, but we were shocked that our parents allowed us to attend without them," recalled Harry, a retired coun-

selor for the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP).

The twins' parents were Clifford, an owner of a local funeral home - Brown Funeral Home - and Dorothy, who was hired in 1946 by the Toledo police department, making her one of the earliest hires of an African-American woman on the force.

The couple, along with their twin sons, were active in the Toledo NAACP, the third oldest chapter in the United States.

Harry's twin Howard said at the time of traveling to the nation's capital, he and his brother did not realize the full magnitude of their participation and attendance at the March on Washington, a demonstration represented by a coalition of religious leaders and civil rights organizations such as the NAACP, Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and others.

"Our NAACP youth chapter was very involved in mimicking some of the things they were doing down South, such as using non-violent tactics . . . When we boarded the train and got to the March, everyone knew what a big deal it was, but we didn't quite know the history we were making. There were groups representing all different types of folks. There



Above: A photo from the March on Washington.

Right: A high school yearbook photo of the twins.



Harry Brown

Howard Brown

were labor groups who were white, people our age from across the country, so many different groups and types of folks, just tons of people, some black, some white, some old, some young," recalled Howard, a retired educator and education administrator who served in the Toledo Public School system some 35 years.

The Brown twins recall their parents giving them money to take to the March, and their mother Dorothy packing food and snacks for her tall, angular teens to take aboard the train. Harry said his parents were concerned that when the train made stops throughout the segregated South, food would not be accessible for their teen sons due to the discriminatory practices of the day against black people.

During the time of the March in 1963, the country faced many instances of racial unrest. Howard added that while Toledo was a nice place to grow up, it was not always the most friendly city for race relations during the early 1960s. He recalled instances of both subtle and overt racism at school, in

school sports, and in city politics.

"I can't believe it's been that long ago since the March, 50 years, and I can't believe how things have changed and how so many things have remained the same," said Howard, adding that the Trayvon Martin case cast a dramatic light for him on how some forms of racial discrimination have remained the same as they were in the turbulent 1960s. Martin, a 17-year-old unarmed Florida teen, was killed by gunshots from a neighborhood watch leader in 2012. The case sparked controversy when the shooter was acquitted by a jury of six women.

He said he is equally disappointed that some African Americans have not taken advantage of various opportunities, such as in education. "That's what we were fighting for during the March."

The March on Washington for Jobs & Freedom was organized to change discriminatory policy, end all forms of racial segregation especially in schools, pass meaningful civil rights legislation, and shed light on the civil, political and social challenges faced by blacks across the country.

"I still think about the March and how when we

boarded the train, people were so friendly and so happy to see you, and when we got to the March, it was very crowded but it was so peaceful, it was as if everyone who attended was an old friend and everyone was on the same page as to why we were there," recalled Harry.

The Brown twins noted that they were not very close to the main stage and couldn't hear all of the notable words contained in the speeches, including that of Dr. King's historic I Have a Dream speech, now said to be one of the most important speeches in American history. However, the Brown brothers were able to hear some of the cheers and reactions to speeches and walked around the grounds meeting and talking to other demonstration participants.

The event included speeches by many civil rights leaders, religious and labor leaders. Historians point to the two most notable speeches as those given by Dr. King and John Lewis, now a United States Congressman representing Georgia's 5th District, who at the time represented SNCC, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

Musical performers and celebs also graced the March on Washington stage includ-

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# Giving You The Business... A Guide to Starting Your Music Career

By Michael Hayes  
Minister of Culture

For rappers and singers just starting out:

You probably have a notebook full of songs or rap lyrics you have yet to record or perform. You know you need some guidance but a little uneasy about trusting just anyone. All you really know is that you can sing or rap and people say you could probably make it.

**THE ABSOLUTE FIRST THING:** Check Yourself.

Decide if you are really cut out for this business or not as a person.

Some people are more suited for being a gig/live band singer or niche artist than they are someone trying to get a deal in the music industry as a recording artist.

It's better to do your soul searching now before you and others invest time and resources into a career you may not be cut out for. Do you have the personality to take criticism well and make adjustments? Can you handle having your art treated like a product? What is the main reason you even want to pursue this?

No doubt, expressing yourself should be fun and fulfilling but if you just want to hear some songs with your voice on them you can sit and entertain yourself in a corner... This is about getting in the industry. And if you think TALENT by itself opens the door, you are sorely mistaken!

Television and radio are full of people who are barely talented so that should be proof that the biggest requirement is not necessarily talent.

A little bit of talent and a lot of hard work can go a long way.

A quick dose of hard reality is good for you at this stage.

If you want the cheap thrills of 15 minutes in the limelight, go get a reality show.

Otherwise, check the glamour and ego at the door.

Every day is not a photo shoot. Actually, by the time you even get to having photo shoots it might come on a day after you've spent five hours recording just one verse and hook of a song and another five hours rehearsing for a show. Not to mention changing your diet so you sound as you should in the booth and have enough energy to do a set onstage.

My artists can tell you first-hand, this is a lot of hard work... even at a local level.

So if "yeen 'bout dat life", it is better to find out sooner than later.

**THE ABSOLUTE SECOND THING: START MAKING SONGS**

Singers, you have to learn the basics of breath control and tone early!

Youtube is full of aspiring singers who have never had adequate vocal training and it shows. Understand the mechanics of singing before you post 10 or 15 videos of an unpolished acappella voice all over the internet. Getting a 100 likes or comments on a video does not mean you are prepared for singing on a track or making a song.

They call it "recording artist" because getting in the booth and delivering a vocal that is accurate and emotive takes true skill. I'm not saying you have to be Juilliard perfect, but you do have to strike the right balance between technical know-how and natural talent.

Get some industry instrumentals and write new songs to those or get with an R&B producer and start making your own material. Write tracks, however you can.

Don't pile up a ton of lyrics with no beat or try to fit your whole notebook of unfinished material around tracks that may or may not be a good match. Start fresh, get some beats and write to those beats and record.

Rappers, you have to avoid sounding amateurish early!

If you're just some aspiring rapper with a notebook or cell phone full of rhymes, but no understanding of wordplay and delivery... those "cat in the hat" rhymes are just not gonna cut it these days.

J. Cole, Kendrick Lamar and consistently successful icons like Jay Z, Kanye and Nas have been proving that the current theme in rap music is a return to actual skills. I always encourage rappers to experiment with flow patterns and riding a beat before even stepping in the booth to create original material.

Get some industry instrumentals and aim as high as you can, push the limits of your vocabulary and cadence. Be able to command attention with your spit game on flow alone, because all the wordplay in the world won't make a difference if people aren't engaged in the rhyme.

You have to have personality and wit to stand out, but before that you have to know how to take breaths at the right place between your bars for you to even say your rhyme without getting

winded. You learn that skill by matching your rhymes to beats as early as possible. Not by sitting on an ever growing mountain of what you say is "hot fire" and "all you need is a beat." Beat first, then write, then record.

Get with an experienced producer and start making songs!

I'm not saying he or she has to be successful or well off but there are plenty music producers around who know what they are doing.

Just get with someone who can give you an understanding of song structure.

Stacks of unrecorded material starts to feel like homework after awhile so don't keep writing without music to actually write to. Get some beats and make sure the producer is someone who will tell you when you make a mistake.

That's how development starts. Get some tracks and just start making songs.

They will be amateurish at first and still unpolished, but it's the best way to get the hang of what this is all about. It will allow you to learn the basics of your voice or skill and you will improve quicker because you can make mistakes and apply what you've learned on a consistent basis. The world "NO" is your friend, expect to hear it a lot.

I have to tell my artists: "No, that note was not in the right key" - "No, that lyric won't work right before the chorus" - "No, that concept doesn't make sense".

But if someone is telling you "no" and also providing you with ideas, that is someone invested in polishing your craft and they really have your best interest at heart.

Many of you know I'm still pursuing my own goals of producing R&B, hip-hop, neo soul, pop or whatever else an artist or video game or film will pay me to produce.

I love creating music, it is my true joy and journey in this life.

I've seen a lot and learned a lot but obviously still have much more to see and do, but I just wanted to share some of what I know about this stage with anyone willing to take the information. Like I tell my own artists, what you do next is up to you.

Email: [mercuryspeak@gmail.com](mailto:mercuryspeak@gmail.com)  
Facebook Search Me:  
Michael Mercury Hayes  
Twitter: @Mercuryuge  
Website: [www.ugemusic.com](http://www.ugemusic.com)

— Continued from Page 5

The third item on his priority list is public integrity in government. He wants a government that is transparent and is focused on the merits rather than political motivations. During his first 100 days as mayor, Collins wants to completely restructure government. He calls it "right sizing" government.

He wants to add vitality to the administration by bringing in youthful, innovative and creative people. He will review the work of those who are near retirement and provide incentives for early departures. Additionally, he will no longer return those people to the payrolls who have already retired. "If you have retired, you're gone."

Collins believes that the whole city needs to be examined in order to determine

where the resources need to be applied for neighborhood development. The neighborhoods need to be involved when making decisions that affect their living. Much more money needs to be dedicated to the neighborhoods versus administrative salaries.

Having served on City Council, Collins believes it is the responsibility of the council members to challenge the mayor. That "creates a healthy relationship" without having to make it personal. "They are not my enemy." City Council is the voice of authority that provides the checks and balances.

How does a city survive with a reduced population? According to Collins, 53 percent of the city's population is not contributing to the city income tax base because they are on low fixed incomes. It

is a challenge but you have to right size government without compromising services. The best thing is to get rid of the duplication of systems and to reduce the number of managers and directors.

Collins was raised here in Toledo and graduated from Libbey High School. He spent several years in the Marine Corps and afterwards he served 27 years as a police officer for City of Toledo and was the president of the Toledo Police Patrolmen's Association for the last 10 years of his service.

He enrolled in The University of Toledo after he retired from the police department and earned a masters in Business Administration. He then served on the faculty of UT and then as director of the Ohio Police Corps. He has been on Toledo City Council for five years.

— Continued from Page 12

ing Bob Dylan, Mahalia Jackson, Paul Newman, Josephine Baker, Sidney Poitier, Marlon Brando, Diahann Carroll, Ossie Davis and many more.

"It's interesting how when you're involved in something, sometimes you don't know how significant it is until years later. But my brother and I did know that by our parents allowing us to attend without them, we were there for the purpose to show that we stood for something. We knew that we were doing something great and showing the country how life should be in America," said Harry, who recalled walking around the gathering and trading buttons with teens his age from other parts of the country.

Upon their return home from the March, the twins recall sitting around the dinner table

to share details of their trip with their parents.

"I think we grew up a lot after that trip, we knew we were a part of something pretty wonderful," said Harry, who along with twin brother Howard shared that their adult children and grandchildren have all benefitted from the strides made and the lives lost during the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s, where events such as the March on Washington made a huge impact on equality and freedom for future generations.

Join the Library on Saturday, August 24 for its commemorative event Celebrating 50 Years: The March on Washington for Jobs & Freedom from 2-4 p.m. in the McMaster Center of Main Library, 325 Michigan St. This is a FREE family event and is open to the public. Info: 419.259.5233 or visit [toledolibrary.org](http://toledolibrary.org).

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**Announcement:**  
 The Clarence Smith Community Chorus is asking: Is there a performer in you? Do you like to sing? Do you want to learn how to sing?  
 The adult choir, one of the area's most venerable singing groups for over 35 years, is directed by Clarence R. Smith, Jr., and typically performs both traditional and updated spirituals plus traditional jazz, classical music, and Broadway numbers. For more information and/or to schedule an audition, call 419-534-2299.

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**Teachers Wanted**  
 Little Generation Day Care, 3 Star Center is looking to hire assistant and lead teachers. Excellent Teaching Environment, Competitive Compensation Plus Perks. CDA, Associate's Degree, Bachelor's Degree. For More Information Call (419)724-7920.

**Job listing:**  
 The Padua Center is seeking an enthusiastic, knowledgeable teacher, to work with challenging students in a rewarding environment. The ideal candidate will have a Bachelor degree in Education or related field, at least three years teaching experience in an urban setting, excellent communication skills, administrative experience, and a passion for helping children. Primary responsibilities include teaching and tutoring in an alternative to suspension program (K-6). A job description is available upon request. This is a part-time position.  
 Send resumes by August 15th to:  
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 insresume@aaanw ohio.com

**Invitation for Bids**  
**Unit Kitchen Replacements at Ashley Arms**  
 IFB #13-B009  
 Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) will receive bids for Unit Kitchen Replacements at Ashley Arms. Pre-Bid Conf.: Thurs., August 22, 2013, 10AM ET - 1950 W. Bancroft St., Toledo, OH 43607. Received in accordance with law until Thurs., Sept. 5, 2013, 11AM ET.  
 For Documents: www.lucasmha.org, 435 Nebraska Ave., Toledo, OH 43604 or 419-259-9446 (TRS: Dial 711).  
 Bidders required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246.  
 Sec. 3 Compliance Applicable.





Tiffany Reynolds

# Networking Gala Returns on August 26

By *Tiffany Reynolds*  
The Truth Contributor

Wow! What a wonderful turn out for our first "Work the Net = Networking Gala" on July 29. The committee members and I truly enjoyed the refreshing time and great honest feedback from your evaluations and we plan to implement your recommendation. Thank you again. Please be sure to mark your calendars for the next "Work the Net = Networking Gala" scheduled Monday, August 26 at Preston Garden Apartments in Levis Commons, 5101 Hollenbeck Drive, Perrysburg, Ohio.

Turn by Turn Directions  
Take 75 South

Exit 192

Turn left unto N Dixie Hwy.

Turn right on Preston Pkwy.

Continue on street until you approach the corner of Preston Pkwy and Hollenbeck Dr.

The event will take place across the street in Preston Gardens Apartment's leasing office.

The event will take place in the community room within the leasing office of Preston Garden Apartments.

This "Work the Net =Networking Gala" was birthed

for three reasons: to provide an atmosphere of happy people filled with ambition and passion, learn how to network more efficiently, and most importantly build employment and business connections. It is a love connection you do not want to miss. Be sure to bring your happy friends. :)

See you next month.

With love,

Tiffany Reynolds

*Success Coach and Author  
Independent Certified  
Coach, Speaker & Trainer  
with the John Maxwell Team*

## In Memoriam Russell Ricardo "Ricky" Marr

Sunrise: May 6, 1950 - Sunset: July 17, 2013



The family of Russell Ricardo "Ricky" Marr sincerely thanks all those who with their love, sympathy and expressions of kindness shared in our grief.

Perhaps you sent a lovely card, or sat quietly in a chair.

Perhaps you sent a floral spray, if so, we saw it there.

Perhaps you spoke the kindest words as any friend would say.

Perhaps you were not there at all, just thought of us that day

Whatever you did to console our hearts, we thank you so very much.

— Mother Ruth Marr, Daughter Deanna, Grandchildren, Siblings, & Family Members

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