



Volume 25, No. 1                      *“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”*                      October 23, 2013

# St. Paul MBC 10th Pastoral Anniversary



*First Lady Linnie Willis and Rev. James Willis, Sr.*

**“He’s blessed us with 10 years of ministry and leadership. You should understand why this day of appreciation is important and why this time you should say to your pastor and first lady, ‘thank you and we love you.’” – Rev. Kevin Bedford, Guest Speaker**

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# Common Pursuit of Common Good

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



*"If you can't count, they can cheat you. If you can't read, they can beat you."*

— Toni Morrison

Some enter the educational fairness debate on the side of school funding adequacy and others on the side of school choice. However, the core conviction of two Toledo Public School board candidates is that a high-quality education experience is critical for all students. While high-poverty schools require access to the same funding and quality instruction as more affluent schools in order to salvage the diminishing social and economic prospects of poorly educated minority youth, it has been difficult to generate a sense of urgency around educational issues in Toledo.

I spoke with Rev. Randall Parker and Polly Taylor-Gerken, who have a passion for public school education and are attempting to provide positive impact within the public education arena. Campaigning as a team, the duo is at the battlefield to eliminate inequitable educational gaps in funding, teaching and achievement and attempting to become the driving force in bringing change to TPS.

**Perryman:** At the heart of the TPS levy request, as well as your candidacies, is the tension between funding and fairness, funding and educational quality. It seems as though the poorer schools get less money, and so they're less able to educate those whom they serve at the same level as the more wealthy districts. Rev. Parker, why do you think that this issue has not caught on with some of our clergy?

**Parker:** One of the issues that we, as clergy, struggle with is the issue of relevancy and being in touch with what is presently going on in society and with our generation. And often, it's a challenge to get out of the four walls of a church building and go out in the community and have a hands-on approach in recognizing what's going on and the struggles we're dealing with here and now.

**Perryman:** Mrs. Taylor-Gerken, your thoughts on fairness and funding?

**Taylor-Gerken:** Obviously, I see the matter of fairness as a major issue. Our educational funding system has been ruled unconstitutional a number of times and still hasn't been revised. We know that the funding is unfair and we also know that there is an achievement gap that has to do with poverty. In urban schools, kids come to school unprepared and behind and we have few resources to bring them up to speed. The only option with the system we've got in place is to make sure that we're using every resource in a way we know to be effective and not those practices that are unproven. We don't have any wiggle room there.

**Perryman:** Mrs. Gerken has mentioned the prevalence of poverty among the children in TPS. We're talking about poverty in schools, while at the same time, about a pervasive pop fixation with celebrity and prosperity cul-

ture in religion and society. Can you talk about the disconnect between what's emanating from the mouths of our so-called "public intellectuals" and what's happening in the streets a little bit further?

**Parker:** At the end of the day, if all you talk about is your new car, or your new house, or how much money you have, but I have to go home and wonder if my lights are going to be cut off, or if I'm going to have enough food to feed my children, I can never be able to connect with someone who doesn't understand what I'm going through right now. And at the end of the day people are still going home broke, still going home frustrated, and we have to be able to reach and teach people where they are. If I can't share with you and connect with you where you are, then our relationship has no validity.

**Perryman:** What do you each bring to the table?

**Gerken:** I am a child of poverty who has never forgotten where I came from. I am part of a four-

generation family that is the product of public school education. I have also worked from the bottom to the top in public school administration, so I know a lot from an internal and external perspective. I have the education and experience to connect parents and children with TPS and teach them how to succeed in the system. I am a psychologist and trained collaborator with problem solving skills that can help unite the board.

**Parker:** I am a public education man, born and raised in Toledo and in TPS. To me, public school was not merely preparation for college. It prepared me for life, and provided me with opportunities to meet new people and to learn new things. It motivated me to become who I am today. I do believe with all of my heart that what gives me an edge, if there is an edge, is that I'm in the community. I've been in this community by way of growing up through public education, but also, I have three children that are actively a part of TPS. And so, not only

... continued on page 11

## The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's Truthful African American  
Owned and Operated Newspaper

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## Community Calendar

### October 11-25

Reynolds Elementary Holiday Treat Fundraiser: Tantalizing Treats – variety of baked goods: 419-671-1500

### October 26

1973 Scott High School Class 40th Reunion: Dinner cruise on Detroit Princess; 5:30 pm: 419-509-1761 or 419-671-4000 (Desiree Carn)

### October 27

City of Zion, the Mt Zion Church 90th Anniversary: Guest Rev. Anthony Bennett of Mt Avery Baptist of Connecticut; 10:30 am: 419-246-1850 or [www.cozmtzionchurch.com](http://www.cozmtzionchurch.com)  
75th Birthday Celebration for Bishop M.C. McGhee: 5 pm; 1101 Woodstock: 419-290-7344

### November 2

Phillips Temple CME Meet and Greet Celebration for New Pastor: Rev. Antoine Shyne; 4 to 7 pm: 419-242-7906  
Evangelical Church of God – Overview of Christianity Seminar: 9:30 to 11:30 am: 419-297-3530

### November 9

Evangelical Church of God – Understanding Prayer Seminar: 9:30 to 11:30 am: 419-297-3530

### November 16

Evangelical Church of God – Working Through Un-forgiveness Seminar: 9:30 to 11:30 am: 419-297-3530

# African American hamber Meets with TPS

By Jay Black, President TAACC  
TAACC Mission Statement

The Toledo African American Chamber of Commerce (TAACC) advocates and promotes the economic growth and development of African American owned businesses by focusing on the development of business opportunities, business alliances, and legislative advocacy.

As promised we are reporting on a series of meetings we had with Toledo Public Schools (TPS) Administrators and Board Members relative to their efforts to be more inclusive of minority business enterprises (MBE's) in their procurement programs.

Leaders of the TAACC and Hispanic Chamber of Commerce met with Romulus Durant, Ed.D, current superintendent, and James Gant, chief business manager. All of TAACC's meetings with Durant and Gant were positive and productive. The TAACC believes that both are sincere in their efforts to be more inclusive of our business community.

Durant has made himself available to attend our meetings in the future to discuss any concerns we may have. Gant committed to being accessible whenever needed. As a result of these meetings the TAACC provided both men with a list of ways TPS can be an economic catalyst in support of TAACC and its Members and our business community in general (it should be noted that TPS joined TAACC as a general member rather than a corporate member). The list provided is as follows:

1. Use local MBE firms first before contracting with out of the area MBE firms. This is a concept we borrowed from labor unions on promoting the use of locals first. **Both men agreed with this concept.**

2. Make a conscious effort to contract with TAACC member firms. **Both agreed.**

3. Make a conscious effort to do business with TPS MBE Alumni as a way of being TPS Proud (both firms and individuals). **Both men agreed whenever possible.**

4. Whenever possible, exceed their community inclusion goals for including MBE's utilizing local MBE firms. We provided them with examples and firms where this could be accomplished. **Both men agreed.**

5. Do bond issues using all MBE firms on a rotational basis (using local MBE firms first). Examples of how this could be accomplished were given. This one is particularly important because TPS issues hundreds of millions of dollars in bonds over time. **This one is primarily the responsibility of the Treasurer**

**supported by Finance Committee recommendations. While they could not commit to this one they agree with the concept in principle.**

6. Give preference to companies in contracting opportunities that have a high rate of inclusion of local MBE firms in their plan versus a plan that doesn't. **Both men agreed that it makes sense and would give them the best chance to achieve their goals in their MBE inclusion plan.**

7. Join TAACC as a corporate member (TPS joined as a general member - i.e. \$100 level, which is the membership level for individuals. All other institutions have joined at the corporate member level). **Durant agreed to revisit this one.**

Next we met with some of the board members to express our concerns over a number of issues. TAACC has gotten a variety of feedback concerning the leadership from the Board and how it

has impacted our community.

Members from the community have expressed frustration over the fact that we again have three African-American board members (and four minority board members overall) yet our interests haven't been represented accordingly (especially economically).

People from the Libbey community are still upset that it was an African-American board member's swing vote that closed Libbey. Many of our members are upset that (according to TPS board minutes from the October 23, 2012 meeting) that two board members voted against the adoption of TPS' inclusion policy resolution.

We wanted to know where Board Members Cecelia Adams, Ph.D., Lisa Sobecki, and Bob Vasquez stood on a number of issues that are important to our business community. We provided the same list given to Durant and Gant (listed above) to the three board mem-



Jay Black

bers. In addition, we wanted to know what their positions were on the Aramark proposal for TPS food management services. Listed below are their responses:

	<u>Adams</u>	<u>Sobecki</u>	<u>Vasquez</u>
1.	Yes	Yes	Yes
2.	Yes	Yes	Yes
3.	Yes	Yes	Yes
4.	Yes	Yes	Yes
5.	Maybe	Not sure	No
6.	Yes	Yes	Yes
7.	Agreeable	Depends on budget	Agreeable

Sobecki does not support the Aramark proposal, Adams indicated that she needs more information but has not closed the door on the idea at this point, and Vasquez was neutral at this point.

It is our understanding that Aramark was the only firm that responded to TPS' foodservices invitation to bid, and they complied with TPS' request that they guarantee that there would be no loss of jobs, salaries, or benefits to the people who are currently employed in TPS's food services division.

In addition, they guarantee that their operation of the food services would be budget neutral to TPS (which means that it would not lose money). We were told that the food services operation runs at a deficit currently. Aramark has proposed

to use TAACC and Hispanic Chamber member firms and other local providers as part of their plan should they get the contract as a way of creating jobs in the MBE community.

Lastly, we should remember that TPS and Toledo Lucas County Port Authority have levies on the November ballot. We encourage our community to support those who support us economically and refrain from supporting those who do not support our community with their economic resources.

Next week we will report on additional economic issues that impact our community along with our efforts to engage the Toledo Lucas County Public Library, the Metro Parks, and County Commissioners.

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# Jack Ford Seeks Return to City Council

By Fletcher Word  
Sojourner's Truth Editor

The details of his political resume are familiar to most local voters. Jack Ford was first elected to office as a Democrat in 1987, to Toledo City Council, where he served parts of four terms and became the first African-American president before being appointed to the Ohio House of Representatives.

He served in the House for seven years – the last several as minority leader, before winning the 2001 Toledo mayoral election.

He lost his re-election bid in 2005 to the person he had succeeded – Carty Finkbeiner. He was only out of office for a few years before returning on the ballot and winning a seat on the Toledo Board of Education.

Now, coming full circle, it appears that Ford may be returning to his elected-office roots on November 5. Having finished second overall in the September 10 primary for an at-large seat on Toledo City Council – only behind incumbent Rob Ludeman – Ford is all but certain to finish

in the top six during the general election.

There's a big difference this time in Ford's campaign. He didn't seek nor did he receive the endorsement of the Lucas county Democratic Party. Ford, in fact, hasn't stopped by Democratic Party headquarters on Madison Avenue, he says, in the past eight years, so deep is the estrangement between the former mayor and the area's dominant political party.

What has not changed and what will not change, says Ford, is his commitment to use his Council platform for causes that may not always be to his political advantage.

As mayor, for example, Ford championed issues such as the non-smoking ordinance and affirmative action. Neither won him much popularity among the business community. The non-smoking ordinance, in fact, probably scuttled his chances for re-election right at the start of his term. Nevertheless, after the voters turned him out of of-

fice, he always said it was the right thing to do and he had no regrets over forcing the issue.

Ultimately, of course, Ford's position on the non-smoking issue was validated on a state and regional level. The Toledo ordinance served as a model for state legislators.

Ford is ready once again with an agenda. He will focus now, he says, on the issues of poverty and inner-city housing.

Why build new tax credit-funded houses in areas that already have an abundance of new tax credit-funded houses that are vacant and boarded up, he asks, of a plan by the City of Toledo to spend in excess of \$10 million to do just that?

He asks that community development corporations who build such houses be asked to fully disclose any fees or incentives received for such work. He will seek to establish an annual report on blighted, vacant houses, market studies to be completed before the city spends money on such projects and the use of city



Jack Ford

funds, when appropriate, above and beyond those funds granted by the federal government.

One of his key concerns in his anti-poverty list is the recent decision by Mayor Bell's administration to decrease funding directly to homeless shelters and divert it to programs to prevent homelessness. Move the money back, says Ford.

Says Ford, even though he will be a newly-minted councilman, he will brook no interference from special interests. He promises to tackle such issues with both passion and doggedness. "I'm going to be fierce," he says. "I'm going to be unrelenting."

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# Larry Sykes Makes His First Run for City Council

By Fletcher Word  
Sojourner's Truth Editor

Larry Sykes, a four-term member of the Toledo Board of Education is just completing his run for another office – Toledo City Council. In the September 10 primary, Sykes finished with 8411 votes (8.37 percent), in fourth place among the 17 candidates on the ballot. The top 12 have moved on to the general election and the top six in the general election will be sworn in as at-large City Council members.

Sykes, a longtime banker – 30 years of experience during which he became Fifth Third's vice president of community development, a management consultant, a community activist and member of numerous area non-profit boards of directors, has been involved in education for many years and until recently had limited his elected-office ambitions to Toledo Public Schools.

All that has changed and Sykes hopes to put the breadth of his experience to use on a larger stage.

Sykes announced his platform months ago and over the course of the campaign has refined his message to a six-point agenda that he will be working towards as a councilman.

First, Sykes says he will seek to increase police and fire department staffing levels by introducing legislation that would transfer money from the city's rainy day fund when those funds exceed \$3 million. The transfer would automatically take 15 percent of that excess for the police and fire recruits.

Sykes' second initiative would create jobs by adjusting the pay-

roll tax rate for small business owners when they hire new employees," he says.

"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," says Sykes, adding that such a plan would encourage businesses to hire new employees.

Streets and infrastructure would also be a top priority, says Sykes, introducing the third part of his platform.

Sykes will be 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," says Sykes. "By creating a business district, it would not take money away from surrounding neighborhoods."

Sykes, in his fourth initiative, notes 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."

"I will seek partners on the local, regional, national and global level to help create jobs and opportunities for Toledoans of all ages," he says of part five of his agenda.

Finally, but perhaps most importantly of all, says the candidate, he



Larry Sykes

intends "to focus the City of Toledo's resources on the scourge of domestic violence and make sure that educational and law enforcement resources are implemented to address this crucial issue."

Sykes, a Democrat, has had the party's endorsement in the past for his school board campaigns. This time around he did not seek nor did he receive the Lucas County Democratic Party's endorsement.

# United North Recognized as Ohio CDC of the Year

*Special to The Truth*

On October 12 at the Ohio CDC Association's Annual Meeting, United North (UN) was recognized as the Ohio CDC of the Year. CEO Terry Glazer received the award on behalf of United North at a breakfast ceremony in Cincinnati attended by over 200 members.

Formed in 1984, the Ohio CDC Association is a state-wide

membership organization of community development corporations that engages in capacity-building, advocacy and public policy development to foster socially and economically healthy communities.

Since the collaboration and subsequent merger between Lagrange and NorthRiver Development Corporations in 2007, UN has in-

vested approximately \$33 million dollars in ONE Village. This investment in community development has resulted in even greater impact through implementation of the New Schools New Neighborhoods concept, a collaborative effort in targeted areas to create sustainable communities and neighborhoods of choice.

During the past year United North completed Cranes Landing, a 40-unit senior independent living community on the site of the former Chase School. This project is part of a comprehensive effort around the new Chase STEM School including construction of a housing subdivision, construction and management of over 50 homes with lease-purchase options for tenants, a new fire station and plans for the Lucas County Metro-Parks to purchase and develop the Manhattan Marsh.

UN also completed the first phase \$1.3 million renovation of the Ohio Theatre and reopened it this past May. In addition, UN's Financial Opportunity Center has helped over 400 residents meet their financial goals and initiated a jobs campaign to provide residents with living wage employment.

In his comments to the gathering, Glazer stated, "community development corporations are the best vehicles for revitalizing neighborhoods, but face new challenges due to decreased funding and capacity. In Toledo, over a dozen community development corporations have been reduced to less than a handful."

UN's comprehensive "place-based" strategy and partnerships in Toledo's ONE Village is now considered a model for addressing these challenges.



Staff CDC of the Year 10-2013



Ohio CDC of the Year - Glazer's Acceptance Speech

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# Port Authority Provides Working Capital for Local Minority Entrepreneurs

By Sojourner's Truth Staff

When people think of the Toledo Lucas-County Port Authority, they think of cranes, ships and airplanes. The Port does those things, but it is also involved in programs that create jobs and support local business here in Lucas County.

A good example is the Diversified Contractors Accelerator Program (DCAP), which the Port Authority launched in 2011. The program has provided and provided more than \$1,600,000 in working capital for minority contractors—helping to create jobs which have a ripple effect throughout the County.

The staff of the Port organized a gathering on October 16, at the offices of American Floors and Interiors, bringing together several participants of DCAP to discuss how they had personally benefited from the program. On hand were minority entrepreneurs such as Paul Bryson of Bryson-Tucker, Gary Johnson of American Floors and Interiors and Roy Hodge of REH Systems Solutions.

Hodge, founder and CEO of REH Systems Solutions, LLC, a 17-year-old IT company, is a prime example of how DCAP has successfully brought local minority contractors to the table, en-

abling them to bid on contracts and gain fast access to the operating capital they need to execute the contract.

Hodge is in the process of completing a project for the Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) in which he has provided a wide-area computer network system – fiber-optic links connecting 19 LMHA locales.

Hodge successfully bid on the contract, the scope of which included providing network routing equipment and firewall equipment along with configuring and installing the equipment.

Because the purchase of the equipment was such a large number, Hodge was prompted to reach out to the Port and negotiate “terms mutually beneficial” to both parties. The Port provided the working capital in a much more timely fashion, says Hodge, than traditional lending institutions are accustomed to doing. “They provide a niche need in certain situations,” he says of DCAP.

Hodge, a graduate of St. Francis de Sales High School, earned a bachelor's of science degree from DeVry University. He founded REH Systems in 1996



Jerry Jones, Roy Hodge, Paul Bryson

in order “to collaborate with organizations and corporations as part of a strategic information technology alliance to provide development, implementation, training and support services for computer networking technologies and business solutions.”

DCAP was formed as a minority contracting assistance program by the Port under the guidance of Thomas Winston, director of Finance and Administration by securing funding from such institutions as the City of Toledo, The University of Toledo, the State of Ohio, among others.

## VOTE FOR LARRY SYKES For TOLEDO CITY COUNCIL



My life has been dedicated to public service. I want to continue to serve the public on City Council and bring to Council the experience and expertise I have accumulated during these decades of public life. A banker with 30 years of experience as a vice president of community development, longtime member of the Toledo Board of Education, a management consultant, community activist, member of a multitude of community and civic boards, I have the knowledge and the plan to improve the quality of life for all the citizens of Toledo.

1. I will seek to increase police and fire department staffing levels by reallocating funds already available to the City of Toledo.
2. I will work to create jobs by cutting the tax rates for small business owners.
3. I will work to create multiple business districts in order to provide funds for street and other infrastructure repair around the city and in the neighborhoods.
4. I will work with companies to develop job opportunities for our youth.
5. I will partner with local, regional and global organizations to help create jobs and opportunities for Toledoans of all ages.



6. I will focus the city of Toledo's resources on the scourge that is domestic violence and make sure that proper education, training and law enforcement resources are implemented to address this crucial issue.

Paid for by the committee to elect Larry J. Sykes, Verna Prude, Treasurer, 2368 Valley Brook Drive, Toledo, OH 43615

# GLAD Federated 4th Annual Jazz Breeze

By Sojourner's Truth Staff



GLAD members Gail Johnson, Mary Caldwell-Simmons and Leslie Poellnitz with Cynthia Dye, mother of scholarship winner Cheyanne Dye – University of Toledo.  
Not pictured – Lauren Poellnitz.

Since the 1990s, GLAD Federated has worked as a part of the community by adopting local families, granting book awards, providing scholarships and supporting community-based organizations. This year was no exception. Freshmen Cheyanne Dye, of the University of Toledo, and Lauren Poellnitz of the University of Dayton were this year's scholarship recipients at the GLAD's fourth annual Jazz Breeze, Sunday, October 20 at the Ramada Inn on Secor Rd.

"Reaching out to the community with financial assistance is one of the club's services that we provide," said club President Lisa Poellnitz.

Community service awards and funds were granted to Martin Luther King Jr Kitchen for the Poor, the Beach House Family Shelter and the

Family House. Harvey Savage Jr, board president accepted on behalf of the Kitchen for the Poor; Tammy Holder on behalf of the Beach house and Renee Palacios on behalf of the Family House.

The members raised over \$4,000 for this year's scholarship and donations.

Along with the organization's community service and scholarships, they mentor girls ages five-18 through an affiliate called GLADettes who served as hosts for the event.

GLAD officers are: Leslie Poellnitz, president; Gail Johnson, vice president; Paula Williams, secretary;

Joyce Pheniz, treasurer; Janice Foster, financial secretary; Barbara Campbell, chaplain; Lille Palmer, historian. Club members include Opal Bacon, Mary Caldwell-Simmons, Constance Coleman, June Cross, Clenastine Hamilton, Deborah Johnson, Barbara McGee and Thelma Osbourne.

GLAD Federated Women's Club, an affiliate of National Association of Colored Women's Club, was founded in 1896 and serves as the oldest organization for black women in the United States. In the Toledo area alone, there are three clubs and one junior affiliate, for more information on this organization visit [www.nacwc.org](http://www.nacwc.org).



GLAD Members back row: Janice Foster, Paula Williams, June Cross, Barbara Campbell, Lillie Palmer, Clenastine Hamilton, Opal Bacon, Joyce Phenix  
Front row: Thelma Osbourne, Mary Caldwell-Simmons, Leslie Poellnitz, Gail Johnson, Constance Coleman  
Not Pictured: Barbara McGee and Deborah Jackson

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GLAD Members Gail Johnson, Mary Caldwell-Simmons and Leslie Poellnitz with community partners Tammy Holder, Beach House; Harvey Savage Jr., MLK Kitchen for the Poor; and Renee Palacios, Family House

# Friendly Center Creates "The Menu" Program to Fight Hunger

By Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Friendly Center is a new sponsor of the USDA's Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and has created "The Menu" program to fight hunger and to support local business owners who provide childcare services.

On Thursday, October 24, at 6 p.m., The Friendly Center will host a kick-off event to introduce the community and local home care providers to "The Menu" with the aid of Chef Vanard Shelton, a Toledo Restaurant Training Center graduate, who will provide demonstrations of healthy, kid-friendly meals and snacks.

There will also be prizes, information on how home care providers can grow their businesses, and raffle prizes to help such businesses.

From the standpoint of The Center, the new program serves a dual purpose, says Executive Director Amelia Gibbon. First, "it recognizes individuals as business owners," she says. "Our packages connect providers with the resources to grow their businesses - to en-

sure they have the capacity to grow through a connection with The Friendly Center."

That also means supporting providers with relevant training for the SDA program and enabling them to use all the other services that the Center offers.

Secondly, the program will strive to ensure a nutritional balance to the community that is often skewed in areas of poverty, says Gibbon. "We want the community to become educated about healthy food and to make sure that child care providers give children the option.

"The Center is committed to providing nutritious food to our neighbors," Gibbon continues. "The Menu allows us to reach one of the most vulnerable populations - our children."

The Center is also partnering with Health By choice to ensure that providers have access to resources that will educate them about nutrition and provide practical tools such as food demos and recipes.



Chef Vanard Shelton and Karen Jobe, veteran of food program and member of Center team

The Child and Adult Care Food Program is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer. If you are currently with a Food Program, please continue.

Please vote for **Vallie Bowman-English & Shaun Enright** on November 5



Vallie Bowman-English & Shaun Enright are working hard to move Toledo forward

**"Councilman Shaun Enright is committed to strengthening our neighborhoods and ensuring a safe environment where our kids can flourish. We need Shaun on Toledo City Council to move our city forward."**  
**Vallie Bowman-English**  
Toledo Municipal Clerk of Court

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# Questions to Ask Your Doctor about Diabetes and Pain

*Special to The Truth*

The numbers are staggering -- 25.8 million people, representing 8.3 percent of the U.S. population, have diabetes, according to the most recent data available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That's one in every 12 people, and the numbers may have soared even higher since these statistics were gathered.

For those living with the disease, preventing and treating complications associated with diabetes is critical.

One serious complication is diabetic peripheral neuropathy (DPN), which affects 60 to 70 percent of people with diabetes. Since those with DPN don't generally experience symptoms at first, it often goes undiagnosed until the condition worsens.

"If left untreated, diabetic neuropathies can cause disabling chronic pain, increase the risk of falling in the elderly and trigger foot ulcers that may even require amputation,"

warns Shai Gozani, CEO of NeuroMetrix, a medical device company that develops home use and point-of-care devices for the treatment and management of diabetic neuropathies.

The American Diabetes Association recommends getting an annual screening to detect DPN before it leads to Painful Diabetic Neuropathy (PDN). Ask your doctor about a new fast and accurate test, DPNCheck, which may aid in the early detection and confirmation of DPN.

"With proper, early clinical intervention, more positive outcomes are possible," says Gozani.

Unfortunately, despite best efforts, many people with diabetes will develop PDN and require additional therapy.

"Staying on top of symptoms and their causes is important for early diagnosis and prompt treatment of PDN," says Gozani.

Gozani advises those living

with diabetes who are wondering if they have PDN to ask themselves if they have any of these symptoms:

- Burning, stabbing or shooting pain in your feet or legs.
- Pain when you walk, as though you are walking barefoot on marbles or hot sand.
- A persistent achy feeling in your feet.
- Pain in your feet or legs that makes falling asleep and waking up difficult.
- Pain in your feet or legs that makes you depressed or anxious.

If you're experiencing any of these symptoms, make an appointment with your health care provider to get a proper diagnosis. Your doctor may prescribe medications that can help control the pain.

Be sure to ask your health care provider about emerging chronic pain relief options, which provide non-narcotic, non-addictive complements to pain medications. These include the SENSUS Pain Management System, an electrical nerve stimulator that is lightweight, wearable under clothing and the first of its kind to be cleared by the Food and Drug Administration to be used



during sleep. Since many patients with PDN report trouble falling and staying asleep, a fast acting treatment that can be worn during sleep is a much needed solution.

More information about early detection of DPN and safely treating PDN can be found at [www.NeuroMetrix.com](http://www.NeuroMetrix.com).

Don't ignore the potential complications of diabetes and don't wait until you're experiencing symptoms. Early detection and subsequent treatment can help you manage conditions that can be debilitating and painful.

*Courtesy State Point*

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# Four Graduate from Class that Provides IT Skills

## Special to The Truth

When Perrysburg resident Kim Sautter enrolled in the iStar program, he was not quite sure what to expect. What he got was an opportunity to learn new skills that prepares him for a new career – a career in computer technology.

“It was challenging and I learned a lot,” he said.

Sautter and four others, Jason Law and Charles Cook, both of Sylvania, and Julia Saunders of Metamora, completed the iStar IT Specialist program in October at Northwest State Community College. Their capstone project was to complete a project for Powers & Sons LLC in Montpelier, Ohio, which they presented at their graduation ceremony.

“This has been a great experience,” said Law, who has a bachelor’s degree in accounting and finance. “Having had no previous computer experience, I learned a lot and I look forward to moving on from here.”

The group, which received instruction free of cost at Northwest State Community College in Archbold or at the University of Toledo’s Scott Park campus, was provided free tuition and books. They are now eligible for paid, on-the-job training to prepare them for careers in computer software engineering, computer systems analysis, and computer programming.

This program is funded by a grant from the

U.S. Department of Labor, Employment Training Administration. Northwest State Community College is administering the grant in partnership with WSOS Community Action Commission. It is intended to alleviate the need to export computer technology jobs.

It is open to residents of Crawford, Defiance, Fulton, Hardin, Hancock, Henry, Lucas, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Sandusky, Seneca, Van Wert, Williams, Wood and Wyandot Counties.

Enrollment is ongoing now for a new class. Those who would like to enroll, or who need more information, call Wilcox at call 419-267-1494.

## Perryman ... continued from page 2

am I a parent, but many times, when I’m in that school, I’m a father figure to many of the young people that are there, encouraging them, mentoring them and motivating them to be the best they can be, regardless of the environment that they’re in.

As a PTO president at Glenwood, I see kids come in there with holes in their pants and rushing to get breakfast because they don’t eat at home. These things concern me, and somebody needs to be on the board that can really be relevant and understand the times that we’re in, and not just going through the motions. I want the opportunity to serve.

**Perryman:** You’ve walked where these students have walked.

**Parker:** Yes, absolutely.

**Perryman:** One of the challenges for the district and for our community has been how to gain and retain the best teachers for high poverty schools so that we’re doing the best for our kids. How do you stop the parochial schools from cherry-picking those students who are performing at or above level and how does the district improve working conditions, given the social consequences of poverty for your schools?

**Gerken:** As far as keeping talent, we have to be able to pay for it! Our teachers and administrators are underpaid compared to every other urban district in the area. At the same time, we say we don’t have enough money. It goes back to getting enough butts in chairs – that’s going to make a difference having the kids return from charter schools. Also, the re-energizing and reconnecting with the community through our new energetic superintendent, Dr. Durant, makes a difference. We’ve also got to have the trust of the community and they’ve got to see some results.

**Parker:** I think that what really is important is the area of partnership and how TPS needs to be strategic in their partnerships, trying to develop working relationships to keep those students that are part of TPS so that they don’t leave the district. But then also, being able to develop funding and programming to keep children stimulated and active academically and through sports will really make TPS more attractive than it has been.

**Gerken:** For the kids who are already performing, we need to have more choices and opportunities for advanced and enrichment

courses. We need to really market our programs so that children know that there are a lot of high quality programs waiting for them that are under-enrolled right now or that count for college credit. I think that choices are important within the district.

**Parker:** It’s also important to have our teachers, parents, faith-based organizations, to be able to communicate and be able to have input one from another. I also believe that our teachers need to be able to have input and not just be on the sidelines. If we’re a team, everybody’s opinions and ideas have to be brought to the table. Each one of us is an important piece of the puzzle for the success of TPS, so we’ve got to be able to put all of the parts together.

**Perryman:** Do you know the percentage of African-American or Hispanic teachers in the district? There is a highly respected body of theory and confirmed by practice that has shown that a large part of the achievement gap is related to cultural gaps that often exist between teachers and their students – racial, generational, socio-economic status, gender and

culture gaps. How do we deal with these cultural gaps beyond reading it out of a book?

**Gerken:** No, I don’t know the percentage of minority teachers. However, shared experiences are extremely important, so I think that there needs to be more recruitment of African-American teachers. There’s no doubt we need to do more. It’s an absolute fact that no learning takes place without a genuine relationship. The kids know when adults care about them and if it’s real. When the connections are real, I think it goes a long ways.

**Perryman:** A final tag line for your campaign?

**Parker:** “Making Change a Reality”

**Gerken:** “Now is the Time”

**Perryman:** Mine would be: “Teach each child as if they were your own.”

*In memory of Delores Vinson (1930 – 2013), who taught melodies from heaven in TPS’s Gunckel School that gifted the life of this then young junior high student, with a dignity that can never be taken away.*

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

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# Losing to Win by Michele Grant

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

It's always in the last place you looked.

You know how it is: you've lost something. You look beneath, above, in and out, corners and cabinets. You turn the house upside down but no matter where you look, it's always in the last place you'd expect to find it.

It almost makes you lose your mind.

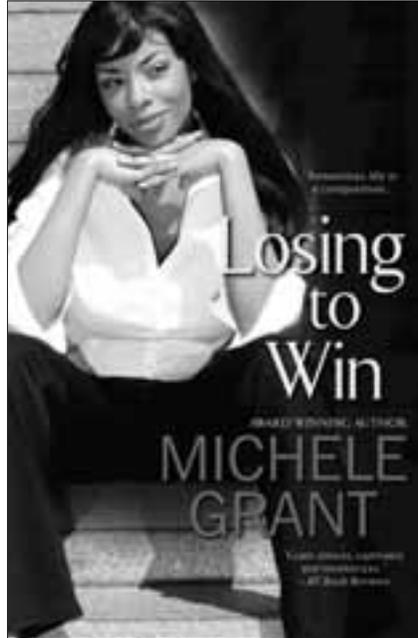
But there are worse things to misplace: love, for instance, and in the new novel, *Losing to Win* by Michele Grant, a loss might result in a bigger gain.

Carissa Melody Wayne was ambushed.

There was no other way to consider it: on the last day of school, while cleaning her classroom, she was called to the auditorium. That was never a good sign but on that day, it was doubly bad. Carissa learned that she'd been tapped to appear on a reality weight-loss show, along with several people from her past - including her ex-fiancé, the man she never wanted to see again.

Malachi Knight had been Carissa's best friend. They'd been together since high school, but not long before the ambush, Carissa left him standing in his Houston mansion when she realized his NFL career was more important to him than she was. Her dreams didn't matter anymore, which

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broke her heart so she broke it off.

But, of course, big ratings are the reason for reality shows and nothing would achieve that faster than putting two old lovers together. Because

there were big bucks at stake, as well as help for her struggling Louisiana town, Carissa agreed to go along with the hot mess... but she didn't have to like it.

When Malachi's football career tanked due to an injury, he knew he had a lot of re-assessing to do. He'd lost his future, in more ways than one: no football, no Super Bowl and no Carissa. He vowed to fix all three losses, and this reality show was just the ticket. He'd lose 50 pounds, get in shape, reignite his career and get back with the woman he'd always loved.

It was easy for Carissa to slip back into a relationship with Mal. It was easy to slip back into his bed. But if Carissa trusted Mal again, was it really a win-win situation?

Looking for something fluffy-light for your fall reading? *Losing to Win* may be what you need: it's a classic boy-gets-girl romance that doesn't let you know which boy gets the girl until the end.

That was a nice surprise, actually; author Michele Grant gives her strong main character lots of choices, including that of remaining single. In a romance, that's unusual. Here, it's refreshing because readers know that Grant's Carissa will be fine, no matter who she chooses (or doesn't). Surely, you'll have a preference for her, which is part of the appeal of a book like this.

Readers who are looking for a marshmallow (with heat!) will enjoy this book, and romance lovers will eat it up. If that's you, then I definitely think *Losing to Win* is what to look for.



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## FREE eMedia classes at Holland Branch Library!

Special to The Truth

The Toledo-Lucas County Public Library is offering **FREE eMedia** classes at the Holland Branch Library, 1032 S. McCord Rd.

· **Thursday, November 14 - FREE eMagazines from your Library:** (6:30-8 p.m.) - Great digital magazines are available at your fingertips FREE from the Library. Featuring a demonstration of the Library's eMagazine service, we'll show you how to save money, go green, and stay current with your favorite titles, available 24/7. **Bring your laptop and/or compatible mobile device and follow along!**

· **Thursday, November 21 - Do you hoopla? FREE Digital Video, Music and Audiobooks from your Library:** (6:30-7:45 p.m.) - What's all the hoopla about hoopla? Check out FREE eVideo, eMusic and eAudiobooks from the Library for your

PC (personal computer) or mobile device. With thousands of titles available 24/7, there's something for the whole family. Bring your laptop and/or compatible mobile device and follow along with our demonstration!

· **Tuesday, December 3 - Navigating the Library's Downloadable Media Collection:** (6:30-7:45 p.m.) - The Library's downloadable media collection can be enjoyed on many mobile devices, such as the iPad, iPhone, and Android devices. Featuring a demonstration of the OverDrive Media Console mobile app, this class will guide you through navigating the downloadable media collection, checking out and downloading to a device. Bring your compatible mobile device and follow along!

For more information and to register for any of these exciting programs, please call the Holland Branch at 419.259.5240.

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# Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue at the Peristyle

By Michael Hayes  
Minister of Culture

The Peristyle at The Toledo Museum of Art is a venue like no other.

True to its legendary acoustics, the last time I caught the Toledo Symphony on stage there you could not only hear every instrument but also the random clicks and taps of fingers grabbing those instruments. It's a sound environment that needs no amplification.

So when Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue come to rock the house, the sound engineer has to find that perfect blend of technique and magic.

I have to admit that the sound guy was not up to snuff and actually worked against the masterful musicianship

on display by relying far too heavily on his board and not on the natural acoustics of a room built to suit orchestras. For the first two songs, my ears struggled to find clarity in a muddy mixture of bad leveling... even Shorty's mic seemed lost in the sauce.

At one point I thought maybe it was just me, so I glanced two seats to my right to see what an experienced drummer and sound engineer thought of the mix and this man, who just happens to be my dear old dad, had the same puzzled expression on his face that I had on mine. My mother was seated between us and although she could tell Shorty's microphone wasn't at the right level, she was having far too much fun to dwell on it. And just like that, the mantra for the evening was born.

Trombone Shorty ruled the night once again! Stellar skills on trombone and trumpet as well as an outstanding showman who held the audience's full attention the entire way through... this guy does it all!

Just like last year, the set he put together touches on various genres and standards.

Just like last year, the band proved they are just as masterful on their



Michael Hayes

instruments as he is on his. The drummer never had a chance to get open and truly go for his, but whoever he was, he killed it! The high point of the evening was obvious.

Not only did Trombone Shorty show love to the city by bringing out a few student musicians from the Toledo School for the Arts to join him in a song, he then lead the entire band offstage and through the aisles of the Peristyle while playing "When The Saints Go Marching In." I'm serious, they unhooked their guitars from the mixing cables... took apart half of the drum set, and literally marched around just like they do in the streets of New Orleans... it was amazing!

If you attend a Trombone Shorty show, wear comfortable shoes because the standing ovations are so frequent you won't be in your seat very often.

It was a treat to be able to go for the second year in a row and even greater experience to bring my mom and dad with me... so I want to thank Kay Elliot and the Art Tatum Jazz Heritage Society for making it possible.

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# CLASSIFIEDS

October 23, 2013

Page 15

## School Bus Driver

### Secor Gardens Academy

Must be able to work with students K-5 and submit to a criminal history check. Must have appropriate credentials (certified CDL Class B, passenger and School Bus endorsements and Airbrake). Call 419-534-1997 and send resume, including references, to the attention of Dr. Samuel Hancock, Superintendent/Principal Secor Gardens Academy 3319 Nebraska Avenue Toledo, Ohio 43607. We are an equal opportunity employer. Underrepresented minorities and women are encouraged to apply.

## Elementary Positions (Various)

### Secor Gardens Academy of Toledo

Secor Gardens Academy of Toledo is looking for K-5 Teachers (PE and classroom). Applicants need to have current Ohio licensure must be highly motivated, passionate, team oriented, willing to teach a new, technology driven curriculum (Success For All) and have a genuine desire to work with young people from an urban community. We are an equal opportunity employer and individuals from underrepresented minority groups are encouraged to apply. Applicants should send letter of interest, resume, copy of license, transcripts and references. All information should be sent to Secor Gardens Academy 3319 Nebraska Ave. Toledo, Ohio 43607 to the attention of Dr. Samuel H. Hancock, Superintendent.

## Account Executive Position - Toledo, OH (September, 2013)

Radio Station Marketing Consultants Enjoy an exciting career in radio broadcasting at Urban Radio Broadcasting stations-WIMX 95.7 FM ([www.Mix957.net](http://www.Mix957.net)) and WJZE 97.3FM ([www.Hot973.net](http://www.Hot973.net)) in Toledo, OH. If you are ambitious, self-motivated by results and understand and enjoy the sales and marketing process, then you should investigate this career opportunity. You will be selling advertising and marketing programs to businesses to help them generate new customers and sales. Prior advertising sales experience is A+.

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We offer healthcare benefits, and the best training anywhere. Our managers are committed to helping you become successful and earn big \$\$\$\$. Our environment lends itself to success, and one that rewards those with a solid work ethic. If you want to be a part of our exciting, growing Urban Radio Broadcasting TEAM, call and email Director of Sales, John Guzan, at 419-244-6354 ([johnguzan@urbanradio.fm](mailto:johnguzan@urbanradio.fm)). Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

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## PROPERTY MANAGER

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA), located in Toledo, OH seeks experienced applicants for a Property Manager position. For complete details of the position and to apply, visit our website at [www.lucasmha.org](http://www.lucasmha.org). **Only online applications received at the above website by Friday, November 1, 2013, will be accepted.** This is a Section 3 covered position and HUD recipients are encouraged to apply. Please note on your submittal if you are a LMHA Public Housing resident or Housing Choice Voucher Program participant. Persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply. **NO PHONE CALLS.** Equal employment opportunity shall be afforded to all qualified persons without regard to age, race, color, religion, religious creed, sex, military status, ancestry, disability, handicap, sexual orientation, genetic information or national origin.



## SECTION 3 COMPLIANCE COORDINATOR

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA), located in Toledo, OH seeks experienced applicants for a Section 3 Compliance Coordinator position. For complete details of the position and to apply, visit our website at [www.lucasmha.org](http://www.lucasmha.org). **Only online applications received at the above website by Friday, November 1, 2013, will be accepted.** This is a Section 3 covered position and HUD recipients are encouraged to apply. Please note on your submittal if you are a LMHA Public Housing resident or Housing Choice Voucher Program participant. Persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply. **NO PHONE CALLS.** Equal employment opportunity shall be afforded to all qualified persons without regard to age, race, color, religion, religious creed, sex, military status, ancestry, disability, handicap, sexual orientation, genetic information or national origin.



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## School Bus Aide/Monitor Secor Gardens Academy

Must be able to work with students K-5 and submit to a criminal history check. Assists in the safe and pleasant transportation of children enrolled in the program, under the direct supervision of the bus driver or site Superintendent, and send resume, including references, to the attention of Dr. Samuel Hancock, Superintendent/Principal Secor Gardens Academy 3319 Nebraska Avenue Toledo, Ohio 43607. We are an equal opportunity employer. Underrepresented minorities and women are encouraged to apply.

## Legal Notice

Bid packets will be received by Lucas County Department Job & Family Services (LCDJFS) until **3:00 p.m., November 12, 2013** for the selection of Provider(s) to provide **Domestic Violence Prevention Services** for eligible participants. Submitted bid packets must be completed according to the specifications and provisions outlined in the Request for Proposals (RFP). The contract period for services to Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)-eligible participants will be from approximately **January 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014**. The contract period for services to IV-D-eligible participants will be from approximately **January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014**.

No bids will be accepted after **3:00 p.m., November 12, 2013**; bids that are submitted via any method other than that described in the RFP will not be accepted.

The Request for Proposals will be available on **October 9, 2013**. It will be available for potential bidders to download by going to the site: <http://www.co.lucas.oh.us/bids.aspx>.

An Electronic Question & Answer (Q&A) process will be from October 9, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. to October 23, 2013 at 12:00 p.m. **PARTICIPATION IS OPTIONAL, BUT IS HIGHLY ENCOURAGED.** Questions for the Q&A must be submitted in writing and received via email at [LUCAS\\_CONTRACTS@odjfs.state.oh.us](mailto:LUCAS_CONTRACTS@odjfs.state.oh.us) by October 23, 2013 at 12:00 p.m.; the posting of the Q&A will be on October 30, 2013. If any changes are made to the RFP as a result of the Q&A, an addendum to the RFP will be posted on the website address (noted above).

This notice is posted, as of **October 9, 2013** at <http://www.co.lucas.oh.us/bids.aspx>.

The right is reserved to reject any and all bids.

By order of the Board of County Commissioners, Lucas County, Ohio.

Carol Contrada - President  
Tina Skeldon Wozniak - Commissioner  
Pete Gerken - Commissioner

Bid: 48-14-RFP-04

# Toledo Pastor Honored for 10 years of Service to Congregation and City

By Artisha S Lawson  
Sojourner's Truth Reporter



Rev. and First Lady Willis with family



Rev. and First Lady Willis, with First Lady and Pastor Bedford

Religious and elected leaders, along with congregation and community members, filled St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church to acknowledge and honor Rev. James H. Willis Sr. and First Lady Linnie Willis during their 10th Pastoral Anniversary on Sunday, October 20, 2013.

The celebrations begun during the morning service and continued throughout the day, and featured a serenaded entrance of the honorees who were escorted by Deacon and Mrs. David Taylor in the morning, and escorted by Mr. and Mrs. James Willis Jr. in the afternoon. Celebrations continued with selections and solos presented by Deborah Gardner, the congregation, St. Paul's Choir, and Third Baptist Church.

Rev. Kevin James Bedford, Sr, the former pastor of Third Baptist Church in Toledo and current pastor of Progressive Baptist Church in Aurora, IL was the morning speaker. His message of encouragement included physical, spiritual, emotional and financial forms of appreciation that individuals can give to Pastor Willis.

"He's blessed us with 10 years of ministry and leadership," Bedford told the congregation and visitors. "You should understand why this day of appreciation is important and why this time you should say to your pastor and first lady, 'thank you and we love you.' Honor him with kindness and let him know how his ministry has touched your life."

In that same spirit of 'thank you,' members of the congregation and its ministries

provided public forms of gratitude. Lines and lines of individuals provided tokens of appreciation, each utilized heart-felt words of encouragement and acknowledgement.

Ohio State Representative Michael Ashford presented an official proclamation on behalf of the State of Ohio. "Over 15,000 requests are submitted for proclamations annually, less than 1,000 are granted," he noted.

The proclamation described Willis as a teacher, scholar and friend; who should be commended for his service.

The afternoon service welcomed Third Baptist Church pastor, Rev. Kenneth D. Johnson, D.Min, and an official proclamation from Toledo Mayor Michael Bell.

Willis publically thanked those in attendance for the encouragement and attendance: "There are so many people I want to thank. I want to thank the congregation for their faithfulness and working with me for the last 10 years of my service. I thank my Masonic family for travelling many miles to celebrate with me today. Also, my wife, she's stood by my side."

A souvenir booklet provided over 60 acknowledgements from local and out-of-state Masonic and faith-based institutions. The booklet also documented over 30 milestones of Pastor Willis, including: membership increase and increase current membership participation, expanding the parking area, and also establishing and expanding eight ministries.



Rev. Gibbons, Rev. Johnson, First Lady Willis, Rev. Willis, and Mayor Bell



Rev. and First Lady Willis during congregation appreciation

**LIUNA LABORERS LOCAL 500**  
**BUILDING AND PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY**  
*We strongly encourage you to take this slate to the polls with you*

**TOLEDO CITY COUNCIL**  
 Shaun Enright  
 Jack Ford  
 Theresa Gabriel  
 Steve Steel  
 Larry Sykes

**TOLEDO SCHOOL BOARD**  
 Aji Green  
 Randall Parker  
 Polly Taylor-Genken

**JUDGE - MUNICIPAL COURT**  
 Gretchen Debacker

**CLERK - MUNICIPAL COURT**  
 Vallie Bowman-English

**PROPOSED TAX LEVY (RENEWAL)**  
 Vote Yes, Toledo City Schools (Issue # 24)  
 Vote Yes, Toledo Port Authority (Issue #1)

**In Solidarity - LABORERS LOCAL 500'S PAC**  
 Earlie Reeves, Lee Johnson, Jr, Mark Hoover,  
 Justin Rogers, Tony Coleman, David Estis, David Fleetwood