



Volume 57, No. 3

“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”

August 14, 2019

### African American Male Wellness Walk Coming Soon!



AAWALK Project Manager Carlton Weddington; Actor and Spokesman Robert Ri'chard; Toledo Fire Chief Brian Byrd

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# For Times Like These

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, Ph.D.

The Truth Contributor

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

– Toni Morrison



Life is a fight, said the Apostle Paul, one of the Bible's great dignitaries of faith. I agree. Living out our existence is like an exacting 15 round heavyweight fight. Life is a race, the scholarly ecclesiastic also declared. And it is. In fact, life is a marathon, to be more precise.

And now, having just completed my Ph.D. after a long, often brutal eight-year journey, although I am tired, these concluding words by Laurien Alexandre, Ph.D. provide me with a second wind.

The speech was delivered just a few short hours prior to the recent mass shooting in Dayton, Ohio's Oregon District and approximately a day and a half before the death of Toni Morrison, our (and the world's) remarkable and revered literary genius.

Alexandre's remarks are so relevant for such a time as this. Here are a few excerpts.

".. I usually tell graduates during these Graduate School Commencement speeches to go forth and be bold engaged scholar-practitioners. Go forth to do powerful research, to write meaningful books and blogs, to speak passionately about the causes you value. I still want to tell you that. But today I am going to tell you to go out and READ.

"No question, you've learned that habit in your years in the program. A forced habit I might add. Taking five random dissertations published this year, you read a total of 350 books, 520 articles, 50 websites, blogs and white papers. That's A LOT of reading.

"So why am I talking about reading today? It is because – reading is essential for a healthy democracy.

"Miguel de Unamuno, the Spanish intellectual and writer, who died in 1936 after living years under house arrest and exile for using his public voice and writings to condemn the Spanish dictatorships wrote: 'Fascism is cured by reading and racism is cured by travel.' For him, fascism meant ignorance...and racism was the close-minded expression of fear.

"But let me share a few thoughts. At Commencement, I typically go back to Horace Mann, Antioch's founding president – so let's start there.

"Mann's statue on the Boston State House lawn shows him holding a book. That's intentional. Mann believed that education – tax-supported public education - could ultimately eliminate poverty, and

unite a society fragmented by class, race and gender. His revolutionary idea - one that still seems contested today – was that a high level of general education for women and men, majority and minority - was good for all. Mann believed that reading books could inspire students and open minds. 'A house without books,' he wrote, 'is like a room without windows.'

"It isn't surprising Mann believed in the power of reading. He drew heavily from Transcendentalists, like Ralph Waldo Emerson, who thought reading was at the core of engaged democratic citizenship and a necessary counterweight to blind allegiance and ignorance.

"I'm sure if they were alive today both would argue that reading was a necessary counterweight to the lies that currently fill our public discourse. Theirs was a vision of human potential tied to learning how to read words and the world differently, a way to develop the imaginative capacity to put oneself in the place of others and to develop empathy and rise above self-interest.

"Bottom line, for Mann like Unamuno and others, there is nothing as costly as ignorance. And, that's why those who want to control what others think and do, try to control reading.

"Think about that.

"Dictators know an illiterate crowd is the easiest to rule, thus the history of reading is replete with book bannings and burnings.

"Perhaps the most ingrained in our recent memories are the bonfires across World War II Germany, incinerating the texts of Freud and Einstein, the books of Marx and Lenin, the novels of Steinbeck, Hemingway, and so many more. They say over million books were burned in those years.

"In his fabulous History of Reading, Alberto Manguel recounted how during his high school years, the Argentine military government censored and banned books. It became dangerous to be seen in cafes or streets with the poems of Pablo Neruda or books by Steinbeck. The very fact of being in possession of a book was sufficient grounds for

... continued on page 12

## The Sojourner's Truth

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## Community Calendar

### August 17

Ottawa Park Free Summer Concert Series: 6 to 8 pm; Nu-Tones

Lincoln School Community Coalition 3rd Annual Neighborhood Picnic: 11 am to 3 pm – corner of Lincoln and Detroit; Food, fun activities, ABC health services, music: 419-350-0421

The Perfecting Care Department of Perfecting Church School Days Donation drive: Accepting new and gently used clothing, uniforms, socks, shoes and jackets for pre-k -senior high students. Toiletry items are also; Donation drop off dates are every Saturday until Sept 14 from 3-6 pm: 419.382.1300.

### August 24

Ottawa Park Free Summer Concert Series: 6 to 8 pm; The 25's

### August 25

Braden UMC Friends & Family Day: 10:30 am; Dress Down Sunday – tailgate after worship

### September 14

Eleanor Kahle Senior Center 2019 Fall Bazaar: 9 am to 3 pm; Crafts, gifts, bake sale; Hosted by the Happy Hookers Crochet/Knitting Club: 419-476-2745  
Baden UMC Total Wellness Health Fair: 9 am to 4 pm; Screenings for diabetes, blood pressure, prostate cancer; Education about nutrition, insurance, CPR, cyber and fire safety

### October 23

UT's "Tricks Treats & Dunks:" 6 to 8 pm; Savage Arena; Trick or treat for kids from 6 to 7 pm; Costume contest at 7; Rockets players at various games

# White America ... In the Valley of Decision

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq  
Guest Column

Well, has White America exhaled yet? Have they exhaled from remotely thinking that Herr Trump is going to "pivot" and suddenly like shower in a dry desert, he is going to have a love feast, pass the peace pipe and tell his raucous base to "cool it!"

The chances of that epiphany occurring is as likely as building an elevated land bridge from Texas to Rhode Island.

Not only is talk cheap but words have meaning and consequences for both the utterer and the listener. Neither escape unharmed from reckless chatter.

If you had an occasion to watch the pitiful performance of Herr Trump addressing the nation and, like a coached prisoner of war, he said heartless words with facial expressions that screamed, "Someone get me out of here!"

It was not the usual bravado and reckless speech that Trump is welded to and he wanted no part of it because it was not of his character or nature to appease, apologize or to re-cast his verbal knives once they hit their intended target.

To clear the air, it is nigh impossible for Herr Trump to morph into what he is clearly not: a statesman, a problem solver or simply just a kind and benevolent person who smiles at the right times and can utter sentences beyond a fifth-grade level of comprehension.

After the incomprehensible double/triple mass shootings of the past week in California, Dayton and El Paso (need also to count the one in Brooklyn), Trump behaved as if he was troubled by a pesky mosquito.

He was absent without a care and played golf while the nation shuddered in horror at the mass carnage. His public statements did not mention the word gun or white nationalist or Hispanic.

It was as if he was calculating that the longer he could put off making any public pronouncements, the horrific body count would slowly fade away like a patch of damp water evaporating on a shirt in a hot sun.

Didn't happen and so Herr Trump was faced with either chastising his rabid base or sugar coating the events under the guise of mental illness being the true culprit...not his vile and divisive rhetoric.

The media played a steady drum roll of using the words, white nationalist, domestic terrorism, guns, racism and infestation to show that the off-putting marriage of Herr Trump and his rabid base has left a baby at his front door of the White House. Trump 2.0 is now in play.

The baby looks just like his daddy...Trump...even with enough orange hair for a comb over.

The tom-tom drums of national racial discontent and rising anger over the feckless GOP Senate to pass even bi-partisan gun control measures can lead to a resounding defeat for those cowardly Republican senators who are up for re-election.

But I am getting ahead of my skis. The profound and stark issue facing America is a reckoning with the male psyche of white America as they are being forced to transition into a national culture in which they will be the minority ethnic group by 2045 (or earlier).

America was open hearted and gracious to accept immigrants over the decades as long as they hailed from Northern Europe but when the immigrants (immigrants do not include people of African descent who were brought here against their will) started getting a little sun tanned and started speaking languages other than English, America, as a melting pot, suddenly lost its melt.

Out of some fantasy generated from a script of Manifest Destiny, White

America was of the deluded thinking that the New World was their oyster, prime for their plucking.

That included a near wipe out of the original settlers of North America, those we call the American Indians; and the wars of conquest with Mexico regarding certain vast sections of western lands.

From being fed a history of lies of how the West was won, the twisted history of the slave trade and its aftermath and how white society created a Frankenstein of their own choosing about the created lies of the inferiority of the African American, white America arrives at this crucial point in their history.

Eventually, truth will rise to the top and the constant lies about people of color and the aggrandizement of wealth in the hands of the few, have created enormous race/class problems that will not be solved by a business as usual approach.

Due to White America's deplorable racial history and just its pure meanness against all things, non-white, the racial sins of the white father are now upon his children.

White America is in the valley of decision and the whole world is watching to see if the Statute of Liberty is taken down for a re-cast job or if the soul of America can find itself and right the listing ship of state.

If people were previously lax about their belief in right and wrong, good and evil and God and the devil, these current cultural and political rip tides will either have you a believer that evil exist, or you will become dissolute and fall prey to hucksters like Herr Trump who will plunge you into abject fear.

A fear that unless you surrender your values to his corrupted way of thinking about the value of people and you abandon all points on your inner moral compass, America has seen its best days.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com

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 \*\*\* The gift offer is good for first time responders who provide a valid email address. Responders will be sent an email to confirm the gift. All responders in IL, IA, MI and WI who do not provide an email address are still eligible to receive the gift. The gift offer is not available in CA, MD, MA or PA, but residents may still request a quote. This gift is available only as a limited time offer. Please allow 4-7 weeks for delivery. Gifted and included. † If you are age 50 or older, once you've insured through this Program for all used 60 days, you cannot be refunded or rated as long as applicable premiums are paid when due. Also, you and other customers (drivers of your vehicles must obtain valid licenses, cannot physically and mentally capable of operating an automobile (not applicable in WA), have no convictions for driving while intoxicated and must not have obtained prior policy through mutual reinsurance. Benefit currently not available in HI, MI, MN, NC and TX.  
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# Large, Toxic Algal Bloom in Lake Erie Occurring, Are We Prepared?

By Latia Leonard, Freshwater Future

Guest Column

Flint Michigan became synonymous with disaster after their water source was switched. For nearly two years, residents of the Midwest city of roughly 100,000 were unable to drink water from their taps due to dangerously high levels of lead.

While it is true that Flint currently reins as the poster child for all things related to undrinkable water, the harsh reality is millions of people across the Great Lakes region are unable to safely drink their water.

Water is essential and fundamental to the existence of basic life.

When people think about 'access' to water, it's natural for people to assume reference to the water that comes out of one's tap. Even still, many people across the region, some right in our own neighborhoods, are dealing with the effects of water shutoffs. In the City of Detroit alone, its estimated that more than 100,000 people have lost access to water due to unaffordable water bills.

While many civil rights activist, social advocates, and lawyers seek remedies from the state to address ongoing water shutoffs in Detroit, it's important to understand that water quality is closely related to water access.

In the Great Lakes region, where water touches the eight surrounding states, water is highly valuable for both personal use, and its importance to the area's economy. A recent study published by the Great Lakes Commission, concluded that "for every dollar spent on GLRI projects from 2010 - 2016 will produce \$3.35 in additional economic output in the Great Lakes region through 2036."

The economic value of tourism and connection to water accessibility can't be understated. Family trips to the beach, swimming, kayaking, and canoeing, provide some of the most entertaining and family fun activities around the region.

However, even beaches aren't always safe. The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, formerly known as MDEQ, recently announced several beach closings due to high levels of contamination.

When water is deemed unsafe to drink, bathe, and play in, it causes an immeasurable amount of harm and trauma in how children experience water. As children, most people can recall the bubble baths they shared with siblings, the slip & slides at a local playground, or beach parties with friends. But contaminated water does the opposite, it leaves scars.

Freshwater Future, in partnership with The Junction Coalition of Toledo, hosted a youth water camp in which youth, ages 11-19, canoed the Maumee River and received water policy education around Algal Blooms in Lake Erie.

In connecting the issues of Lake Erie to the rest of the region, engagement activities centered around the living organisms in the ecosystem, all of the Great Lakes, and most importantly, the health and well-being of residents being impacted by Algae.

Just recently, several reports have surfaced that Algal Blooms are returning with clear threats posed to public health and safety. A public health advisory has been set by the Ohio Department of Health, issuing a 'Do Not Touch' warning to residents in the area.

Unfortunately, it's not hard to imagine that in a short amount of time following our youth water camp experience, the very same Maumee River where our kids canoed with Wilderness Inquiry is now shut down and deemed unsafe to touch. All over the region, young people are exposed to unseen dangers in their drinking water.

From the ongoing water crisis in Flint, the high lead levels in Highland Park, to now the 'forever chemicals' PFAS, our water stands to harm the next generations if we do not act immediately. Water issues such as lead exposure, have the ability to cause permanent psychological and physiological damage to children before they even reach adulthood. Over time, lead eventually settles into a person's bones, with possible implications for pre-genetic exposure for children born to mothers whom have been exposed to lead.

Algal Blooms cause skin rashes, hives, and blisters. PFAS has been closely linked to several health issues including cancer. Our children take the brunt of that, especially when exposure is occurring in the developmental stages of a child's life. Without knowing it, every drink of toxic water for our most vulnerable, greatly endangers our child's future, and the generations thereafter.

These are the exact public health dangers we need to be aware of so we can work to prevent as much harm as possible. This Saturday marks the fifth anniversary of the Toledo water crisis. Algae Blooms, which caused the City of Toledo to shut down its drinking water supply to protect public health in 2014, are now back on the radar.

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# Toledo's Seventh AA Male Wellness Walk Initiative To Be Held This Weekend

By Asia Nail

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

"Can I skip my doctor appointment? Please? What if I'm diagnosed with some terrible disease? What if the procedure is painful? Suppose they use me as a test dummy in some 2.0 version of the Tuskegee Study? Ummm, no thanks, I'll pass. Better safe than sorry."

Unfortunately, this is a common thought pattern for males within the black community. Every year African-American men die prematurely of the top five preventable diseases nationwide. Is this safe or is this sorry? You choose.

"Fear of doctors, is surprisingly common today and since black men are dying due to it, BE PART OF THE SOLUTION," says Toledo Fire Dept. Chief Brian Byrd. "This health awareness campaign, which has been in existence nationwide for more than 15 years, will bring together various entities with the community to collectively address the health of African American men."

The National African American Male Wellness Walk Initiative (AAWALK) is addressing such issues, dispelling myths and saving lives, one black man at a time.

"This is our official call to action for Toledoans to be more hands on with the AAWalk," says Byrd.

On Saturday, August 17, 2019, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Warren AME Church, AAWALK - Toledo will host its 5K WALK & RUN providing health screenings, food, music, and family fun.

The National African American Male Wellness Initiative (AAWALK) is a subsidiary of the National Center for Urban Solutions (NCUS). NCUS has served the urban community for nearly 20 years specializing in the areas of Education, Community Safety, Workforce Development, and Health and Wellness.

National Ambassador and Emmy-winning actor, Robert Ri'chard, best known for "One on One" and "Coach Carter," will be in attendance, in his, "high-performance loafers," as he calls them - a New Balance Sneaker collaboration supporting this initiative.

The only event similar in size and scope in the health-related realm is the Susan G Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and Walk.

Here in Toledo, notes Byrd, there is a much smaller demographic. "I'd love to have a few thousand people out here," he adds. "That has not been the case in the past for whatever reason. Toledo is a tough nut to crack. It is a challenge to get people out to participate early Saturday morning."

Living a healthy lifestyle is about taking a holistic approach to maintaining good health.

"Good health is only maintained through healthy behaviors. We promote annual doctor visits, while encouraging men to stay active and know their numbers. This is a key component to maintaining good health," says National Project Manager Carlton Weddington.



Carlton Weddington displays the preferred footwear



AAWALK is changing an old mindset that has not served the black community well, say the organizers. "This is about lifestyle changing opportunities among other complementary services. This is an African-American male wellness initiative and the Walk is only one component of the whole," says Weddington.

There are a number of non-profit vendors who will be present with ser-

... continued on page 6

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*AA Male Wellness Walk... continued from page 5*

vices for not only the men, but the woman and family unit as well.

"We have been consistent for seven years here in Toledo and we keep the same data forms across all event sites following all HIPPA privacy laws and regulations.. Each year we screen between the hours of 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. and offer between 600-700 individual health screenings within this two hour window," says Weddington.

Each person registers for their free screening and participation in the walk is also free. After you receive your screening, you sit down with a nurse practitioner or doctor and go over your results together with the medical professional, who will then sign off on the form. Every participant who completes this process will receive a free AAWALK T-Shirt.

"We want people to feel confident in our ability to help our own community and go to the doctor at least once annually," says Ri'chard.

African-American men's life spans are almost 10 years shorter than other segments of the population for preventable ailments. Diabetes, high blood pressure and stroke are a few of the major assailants.

A few examples of screenings include: vision, hearing evaluations, prostate, sickle cell, a variety of cardiac EKGs, and HIV testing with immediate results, to name a few.

When asked if there will be health insurance company tie-ins available, project manager Weddington answers with a resounding, "YES!"

There will be other nonprofit organizations there that will be giving information. One of the sponsors, Mercy Bon Secours, will be speaking specifically on these details.

There will also be managed care providers such as Care Source and Buckeye Health there to discuss and share information. Planned Parenthood is a major state-wide supporter this year as well.

"As we collect this data, we then turn around and put out a national data report Which will help the community understand what is going on and how to address it," says Weddington.

"The more participation we receive, the more information we are able to provide and give back to places like the CDC. We then receive funding that goes back into our communities based on this knowledge."

Again, the biggest challenge is that black men do not participate in surveys nor do they go to the doctor regularly.

"Information needs funding, so if we're not getting that information then we are not getting the funding," says Chief Byrd. Places such as the CDC (The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) determine where the

funding gets allocated. They are the national public health institute of the United States. The CDC is a United States federal agency under the Department of Health and Human Services and is headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia.

As a result of this new information being collected at the AA walks nationally, the African-American male community will have data they have not had previously.

"Going to the doctor is now a sign of weakness when really it is not. It is a sign of responsibility," says Carlton, noting the view that black males too often have when they see themselves as the super males who rarely get sick.

As cities grow AAWALK also conducts "barbershop talks". Barbershop talk is the community conversation around mental health and wellness. Among other subjects, fathers and their children are taught how to cook healthy meals for under \$20.

AAWALK circles back around and addresses HIV/AIDS awareness and healthy relationships. That discussion is relevant whether a relationship is alternative or heterosexual. "We have to be open about that because that is another issue that we are dealing with in the African-American community," says Weddington.

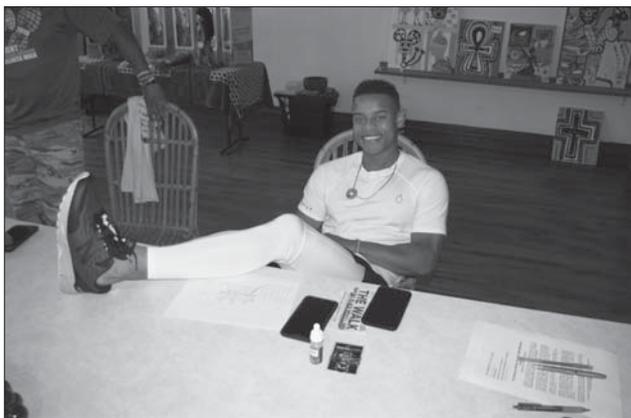
African Americans are now becoming at a higher risk for contracting HIV so the community has to be willing to have these tough discussions, he adds.

This initiative will also encompass financial wellness. So the organizers are bringing in banks, credit unions and credit repair professionals to help communities thrive as opposed to merely surviving.

The walk itself is the most physical component of this initiative and it is the most powerful component because the opportunities abound and the health screenings are absolutely free.

Chief Byrd, Weddington and Ri'chard offer a special thank you to all the AAWALK sponsors and volunteers who are donating their time and resources while spreading positive energy, health and wellness to over 30,000 people nationally.

Catch AAWALK Ambassador Ri'chard in theatres October 12 as the leading man in "KINKY," popularly referred to as the black "50 Shades." Also stay tuned to "The Rich and The Ruthless" (Sept 2018 on UMC), "Throwback Holiday" (this holiday season), "Bolden" (2019), "My Brother's Keeper" (2019), "Real Talk" (2019), and his recurring role on "Family Time" (Bounce TV).



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If you are concerned that someone may be a victim of forced labor or commercial sex, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline to report what you see and learn how you can help.

For more information about human trafficking visit [www.acf.hhs.gov/ndtrafficking](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ndtrafficking)

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LOOK BENEATH THE SURFACE

*Toxic Algal Bloom.. continued from page 4*

However, this time we must be better prepared for an emergency. In such a short amount of time, a public disaster can arise, threatening hundreds of thousands in an area. It is critically important to the public to have readily available information so we can protect our families. Anything less than clear and transparent communication to mitigate unsafe drinking water is inexcusable. Not sure whom to contact in the case of an emergency?

Our partners at the Junction Coalition have a helpful tool to use in this year's algal bloom season. The Water Quality Dashboard is simple and easy to understand, including who your concerns should be addressed too. Contact your local official today to gain the most up-to-date information related to water quality in your community.



# Health Department Reminds Residents on the Importance of Back-to-School Vaccinations

The Toledo-Lucas County Health Department recognizes August as National Immunization Awareness Month and encourages parents to have their children immunized now to avoid the back-to-school immunization rush. Shots 4 Tots n Teens is a walk-in immunization clinic for children from birth through 18 years old. In order for your child to receive services, please bring the following items:

- Child's Paper Shot Record
- Child's Insurance Card (if any)
- Parent's ID

All insurance plans are accepted. A fee of \$21.25 per shot is charged for those without insurance; however, no child will be turned away due to inability to pay. Cash, checks, and credit cards are accepted.

The Shots 4 Tots n Teens staff will ensure your child is up-to-date on their immunizations and ready for daycare or school. There are special shot requirements at kindergarten, seventh, and twelfth grades.

"Back to school vaccinations help protect our children and families from the spread of infectious diseases," said Health Commissioner, Eric Zgodzinski, "I encourage parents to review their child's immunization records along with school requirements, and make plans to obtain needed immunizations soon."

Vaccines help develop immunity to countless infectious diseases by enabling the body to recognize and fight vaccine-preventable diseases. The following vaccines are required for children entering pre-school and grades K-12: diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), measles, mumps, rubella, polio, varicella (chickenpox), and hepatitis B. Students entering college should check with health services at their college regarding immunization requirements.

If additional information, please call 419.213.4121 or visit [lucas-countyhealth.com](http://lucas-countyhealth.com) for a complete listing of all upcoming vaccination clinics.

# Toledo Public Schools Back to School Dates and Times

## Elementary Open Houses

All Elementary Schools

Thursday, August 15 from 5:30 – 7 p.m.

## First Day of School

- Friday, August 16
- All high school freshmen report for a full day of classes
- Elementary students – grades 1st through 8th - report for half a day of school

- Monday, August 19
- All high school students report for a full day of classes
- Elementary students – grades 1st through 8th – also have a full day of school

## Westfield @ Phoenix

Staggered Start Schedule

- August 19 - Grades 11-12 only
- August 20 - Grades 8-10 only
- August 21 - First full day for all students
- Thursday, August 22
- First day of school for Kindergarten students

## High School Open Houses

Aerospace and Natural Science Academy of Toledo  
Tuesday, August 20 from 5 – 6:30 p.m.

Bowsher

Wednesday, September 4 from 6-7 p.m.

Jones Leadership Academy of Business

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Education Section • Education Section

Back to School Events

# Calvary Baptist Hosts Back to School Festival

On Saturday, August 10, Calvary Baptist Church held its annual backpack giveaway that was, as usual, much more than a back pack giveaway.

Vendors, hot dogs, games for children and music by the Glass City Disciples were also a part of the day's activities for guests. At 2 pm, the church gave away more than 200 back packs loaded with school supplies.

Calvary is under the leadership of Pastor Floyd Smith.



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Education Section • Education Section  
Back to School Events

# Books 4 Buddies Host Back to School Block Parties

On Wednesday, July 31, Books 4 Buddies, hosted its second Back to School Block Party for LMHA families at Weiler Homes and treated residents to free books, school supplies and lunch. The first of the LMHA block parties was held on July 17 at Birmingham Terrace.

Residents were also able to register their children for the Toledo Public Schools Head Start program, for kindergarten and obtain vision screenings. As usual, school officials, such as Superintendent Romules Durant, EdD, was on hand to greet residents and prospective students.

This year's block parties were co-sponsored by Buckeye Broadband, Hart, The Blade, Apex Micrographics, Franklin Park Mall, LMHA, Lucas County Sheriff, Taylor Auto and the Toledo Lucas County Public Library.



Laneta and Bill Goings of Books 4 Buddies



LMHA Director Demetria Simpson and Taylor Auto Terry Crosby



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Education Section • Education Section

# Jason Kucsma Named Toledo Library Director

At a special session of the Toledo Lucas County Public Library Board of Directors on Aug. 1, 2019, Board President George Tucker announced that acting director Jason Kucsma has been selected for the Toledo Lucas County Public Library Director position.

The Board worked with Bradbury Miller Associates to conduct a national search after the unexpected loss of longtime Director Clyde Scoles in Feb. 2019.

Jason Kucsma has been serving as Acting Director/Fiscal Officer at the Toledo Lucas County Public Library since Feb. 2019. Kucsma's 12 years of leadership in libraries comes after nearly a decade leading a non-profit independent media organization and publishing an internationally distributed politics and culture magazine. He is a born-and-raised Ohioan who earned his bachelor's degree in Communication and Master's degree in American Culture Studies at Bowling Green State University. He earned his Master's degree in Library and Information Science at the University of Arizona before moving to New York City to work with public, academic, school, and special libraries at the Metropolitan New York Library Council.

Kucsma returned to Ohio in 2015 to assume the role of Deputy Director at Toledo Lucas County Public Library where he has helmed a leadership team in providing world-class library services to the diverse communities of Lucas County. His work in libraries is informed by his dedication to the role public libraries play in building strong communities through equitable access to information and technology — and the expertise librarians bring to help navigate both.

The appointment is effective immediately.



Jason Kucsma

## Back to School Dates... continued from page 7

Scott

Friday, August 30 from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Start

Thursday, August 22 from 4:30-6:30 pm

Toledo Early College

Wednesday, August 21 from 5-6 p.m.

Toledo Technology Academy

August 22nd from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Waite High School

Tuesday, August 27th from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Woodward

September 4 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Westfield @ Phoenix

August 27th from 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Escuela SMART Academy Hosts Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening Celebration\*

Escuela SMART Academy, formerly Toledo SMART Academy will hosts its ribbon cutting and community celebration, Tuesday, August 13, from 11am. – 1 p.m.

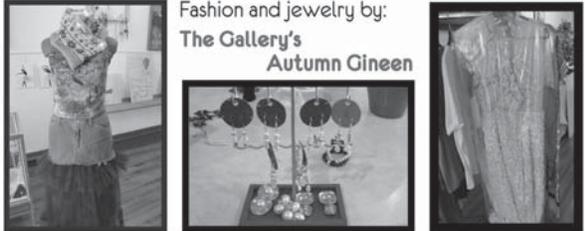
Escuela SMART Academy is an elementary school that offers a challenging individual learning path filled with academic growth and character development within a Spanish - English, bilingual curriculum format. There will be a formal program from 11am- 11:20 a.m. with a community celebration to follow.

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...continued on page 11

Education Section • Education Section

# Three Ways to Save Time and Money on Back-to-School Shopping

Special to The Truth

New grade levels and new routines mean it's time to purchase back-to-school essentials that will help make this year a success. Though this time of year can be stressful for parents, a few tips below will go a long way to helping you navigate a new school year.

### Save More on School Supplies

School supplies are often the top priority for parents and students when shopping for back-to-school season. Start by referencing your students' school supply list given by the school and determining if you have leftover items from the previous school year that can be reused. Check to see if your state offers a tax-free weekend incentive to save even more. From pencils and paper to binders, markers, calculators and planners, you can enjoy hundreds of deals on the products most purchased during back-to-school season.

### Meal Prep Made Simple

The new school year is often more chaotic than laid-back summer days, especially when it comes to preparing meals for your family. De-stress meal planning by taking one day a week to search ideas for breakfast, lunch and dinner with resources like DG Easy Meals, available at [dollargeneral.com/easy-meals](http://dollargeneral.com/easy-meals). Shop ahead for easy snacks for your family to eat between activities, like nuts, pretzels and trail mix. Making the switch to private brand items, like the Clover Valley brand at Dollar General can help you save on snacks and treats you already love. With the right amount of preparation, you can easily knock meal and snack planning off your list in no time!

### Take Advantage of Discounts

Buying back-to-school items for one or more students can get pricey. While shopping for necessities, look to save even more through coupons and digital coupons. Download Dollar General Digital Coupons and check out deals before you shop. Now through September 7, all customers can save \$5 on a \$15 purchase of school supplies, and teachers can save 20 percent on stationery items every time they shop with a valid ID. Downloading savings before you shop saves you time in-store and ensures you are getting the best possible deals on back-to-school items. For deals, visit [dg.coupons.com/coupons](http://dg.coupons.com/coupons).

This season, don't be overwhelmed as you take on your back-to-school shopping. With a bit of preparation, you can save time and money getting ready for the new academic year.

Courtesy StatePoint

### Back to School Dates... continued from page 10

#### Hawkins Elementary launches at TPS' newest STEM school!

Hawkins Elementary will now be Hawkins STEM Academy. To celebrate the transition, you are invited to Join Dr. Romules Durant, Superintendent/ CEO of Toledo Public Schools for a special Open House.

The event will feature several community organizations that will set up tables such as: Toledo Lucas County Public Library, The Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of Western Ohio, The Toledo Zoo and Aquarium and more. In addition, there will be an ice cream truck and food trucks to welcome the families of Hawkins STEM Academy.

August 15, 5:30- 7:30 p.m.\*

#### Student Back to School Community Welcome Events

This year, community welcome celebration events will be held at the following schools:

August 16

7:00 a.m. Martin Luther King Academy, "Men of Distinction,"\*\* welcome event and reception.

7:30 a.m. Escuela SMART Academy\*, Community Welcome

8:30 a.m.\*. Ella P. Stewart Academy "Pride from Bows to Toes,"\*\* a collection drive for new and gently used shoes along with hair bows for the young ladies of the Academy.



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*Perryman... continued from page 2*

imprisonment or worse.

"Let's look in our own country.

"We aren't immune to efforts to deny the freedom to read to others. Slave owners were concerned that a 'literate black population' might find dangerous ideas in books and if slaves could read the Bible, then they could also read abolitionists' texts and be inspired by notions of revolt and possibilities of freedom. Some states still had laws up to the mid-1800s that forbade all blacks, whether slaves or free men (let alone women) to be taught to read.

"More recently, literacy tests were embedded in voter registration processes throughout the Jim Crow South to deny African Americans the right to vote; And bilingual ballots weren't commonly available until the mid 1970s making English-only ballots a de facto literacy test for Spanish-speaking citizens.

"Imagine –the right to vote depended on the right to read.

"During the 1950s' Cold War, the American Library Association felt compelled to issue a public statement 'defending the freedom to read' and fought proposals to burn textbooks perceived as insufficiently patriotic.

"It's not over.

"Between 2000-2010, the Association received over 5,000 reports of challenges to that freedom, efforts to remove, restrict or ban books. The list of the most challenged books in the US invariably includes Twain, Huxley, Salinger, Steinbeck and a disproportionate number of black writers, such as Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, Richard Wright.

"Within the past several years, we've witnessed Koran burnings in Florida. A California-based nationalist group wanted to burn all the books of 'liberal, democratic values,' which ironically, it felt were contributing to the decline of our country! And just last year, the Iowa director of a 'pro family' group called for burning LBGQT books from the public library live on Facebook.

"Yes, these are one-offs but they are frightening reminders of what can happen to democracies.

"So, what is the state of reading these days?

"Reading is at risk, whether from reader apathy or from zealots' zeal. The US ranks # 22nd of all countries in terms of the average reading hours per week. India and Thailand top with about 10 hours. The US sits at less than 3.5 hours a week.

"The US ranks as only the seventh most literate country in the world – quantified by number of libraries, newspapers, years of schooling, computer availability and so forth. And, according to National Endowment of the Arts recent report, less than half of all US adults read even one book a year if it isn't for work or school in 2017.

"If you believe reading is an essential practice of engaged democratic citizenship, these trends are disheartening at best and are deeply frightening at worst.

**READ WE MUST.**

"Despite the ineffective banning and showcase bonfires, ideas don't burn and books rise again. They come back even more powerfully as survivors. After all, we're still reading Freud, we're still debating Marx, we're still getting lost in the novels of Steinbeck and Morrison, and dreaming with the poems of Neruda and Angelou. Authors never vanish and ideas don't disappear.

"A German Foundation has plans to create a Library of Burned Books, to bring together in one place all of the titles that went up in flames and disappeared from public life. Now, those thousands of authors will come back home again.

"And Argentinian artist Marta Minjuin used 100,000 Nazi-prohibited books to construct a Parthenon of Books, an ancient Greek symbol of democracy, on the site of the 1930's German book burnings. She actually first constructed the statue on the streets of Buenos Aires using 25,000 books taken from cellars where they had been locked up by the Argentine military in the mid1970s

"So, to my theme today - Reading is a form of action. Don't take it for granted.

"First, one reads to educate oneself.

"As a form of personal and professional development, reading really does matter. Not that these are my heroes, but Warren Buffet says he reads 500 pages a day, Mark Cuban reads three hours a day, and Bill Gates reads 50 books a year. For them, reading is a necessary precondition of their leadership roles.

"But let's go to reading as an act of engaged democratic citizenship, an act of empathy building, knowledge expanding. Book clubs – on site and on line – are popping up everywhere. And libraries, seemingly threatened a decade ago, today have become digital hubs as well as physical spaces to gather, learn, work and connect.

"Iranian author Azar Nafasi, famous for Reading Lolita in Tehran, reminds us that the reader, in selecting what to read, chooses to be her own person and can take individual initiative to go against the dictates of family, church or state. She argues that believing in the Constitution's 'We the People,' means defending the right to free thought and imagination. And that that right can only be guaranteed by the 'active participation of every one of us, citizen readers.'

"Nafasi dreams of creating a Republic of the Imagination, as a 'Nation of readers, large and small, old and young, rich and poor, of all colors and backgrounds, united by the shared sense that books matter, that they open up a window into a more meaningful life, that they enable us to tolerate complexity and nuance and to empathize with people whose lives and conditions are utterly different from our own.'

"So, let me conclude by saying, as your PhD Director, I want to encourage you to go read – to be proactive and irreverent now that you no longer have residencies, learning achievements, and dissertations.

"Read for the joy of it. Read for professional development. Read so that your bold research, powerful voice, and compelling practice will be well-informed.

"But more.

"As Emerson, Mann, Unamuno, Manguel and Nafasi remind us, A well-read society recognizes demagoguery and will reject it.

"As a citizen of a democracy in turmoil, I encourage you to:

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... continued on page 13

# A Mercy by Toni Morrison

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

In the natural order of things, parents sacrifice for their children.

If there is hunger, a mother will feed her child and go hungry herself. If it's raining, a father will be drenched while the child stays sheltered. Parents work long hours to make sure the child has a good education and a sunny future.

And sometimes, a parent will do the unimaginable to save her child's life. In the book *A Mercy* by Toni Morrison, a girl forever mourns her mother's decision while those around her nurse their own griefs.

It is 1690 and Rebekah Vaark is gravely ill. If Mistress dies, it won't be good for the farm, or for the three women servants who live there, too. If Mistress dies of the pox, Lina fears that she and Sorrow and Florens will be taken by the Anabaptists. They'll take the farm, too, and everything Mistress and Sir worked hard for.

A trader by profession, Jacob Vaark never wanted a farm, but he was pleasantly surprised when a distant uncle left him a plot of land. Suddenly wanting roots, Jacob paid for Rebekah's passage and married her, straight off the ship that brought her across the ocean. Soon, babies came but none of them survived except Patrician, the little girl who put light in Rebekah's eyes.

But Patrician was gone, as were the brothers who followed her in birth and to the grave. And so was Jacob, dead of the pox. He left his wife an almost-finished mansion, a tumble-down farm, and three slave women. Jacob never wanted slaves, but when he was offered first Lina, then Sorrow, then little Florens in exchange for debt, he knew he could give them a kind home.

As Mistress lay, delirious, Lina had no choice but to send Florens out to find the blacksmith who could save Mistress' life. The blacksmith was

*Perryman... continued from page 12*

"Read without walls or borders. Read to build bridges of understanding. Read to get to know the other. Read about topics you don't know much about. Read about people who don't look like you or live like you. Read about places you've never been. Read about places you want to go.

"Read as if our democracy depends upon it.

"It does!"

*Laurien Alexandre, PhD, is the provost of Antioch University's Graduate School of Leadership and Change, a university division dedicated to preparing scholar-practitioners to lead change that improves the lives of those being served in organizations, workplaces, and communities around the globe. During her over 30 years in higher education, she has served in leadership roles at Antioch University as well as the Immaculate Heart College Center, an ecumenical institute devoted to research and training on peace, justice and global concerns, where she directed a teaching training (K-16) program on international and multicultural classrooms. She also taught for over 10 years at California State University, Northridge, in the Department of Mass Communications/Journalism where her focus was on graduate courses in media analysis.*

(contact Rev. Dr. Donald Perryman at [drdlperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org](mailto:drdlperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org))

c.2008  
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a freed-man and Lina knew that he had coupled with Florens, which was bad. Still, she knew he could save Mistress, so she sent a love-struck girl to fetch him.

No matter where he was, Florens was sure she could find the blacksmith. Wearing Sir's boots and carrying a wax-sealed letter from Mistress, Florens set off to bring him to the farm. She had hopes that they would be together after he saved Mistress. The blacksmith would never send her away in the way that her own mother did.

It's been said about author Toni Morrison's work that you'll either love it or hate it.

I loved it.

*A Mercy* is tender and brutal, quiet and urgent, with a cast of characters that will make you forget you're reading a novel. I loved the contemplative Lina, and Rebekah, who seemed to so resigned. Morrison gives Florens the perfect touch of "teen-with-attitude", which made her heart-breaks all the more painful.

If you're looking for a short novel that will, at the end, make you want to turn around and experience it again, get *A Mercy* and sacrifice some time. You won't be sorry.



Toni Morrison

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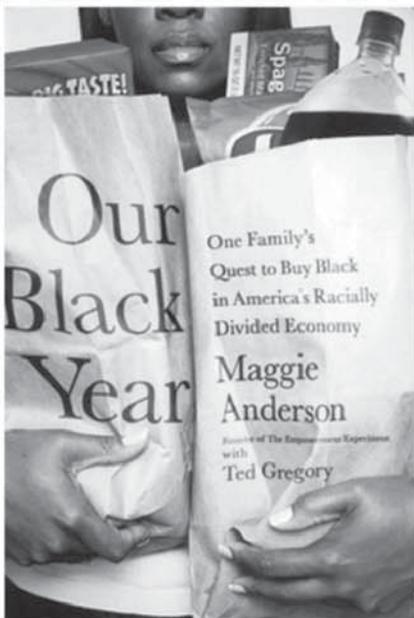
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# CLASSIFIEDS

August 14, 2019

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## CLASS ROOM AIDES WANTED

Center of Hope ELEVATE Program is seeking classroom aides for its ELEVATE program. Monday through Friday, 2 to 6 pm. Call 419-861-4400

## DEPUTY (EXECUTIVE) DIRECTOR

Lucas County Children Services is seeking candidates for a Deputy (Executive) Director. Education and experience requirements can be viewed at [www.lucaskids.net](http://www.lucaskids.net). Apply online by **8/30/19**. No Phone Calls Please. EOE valuing diversity

## HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

Lucas County Children Services is seeking candidates for a Human Resources Manager. Education and experience requirements can be viewed at [www.lucaskids.net](http://www.lucaskids.net). Apply online by **8/30/19**. No Phone Calls Please. EOE valuing diversity

## LCCS PARALEGAL

Lucas County Children Services is seeking candidates for a Paralegal position. Education and experience requirements can be viewed at [www.lucaskids.net](http://www.lucaskids.net). Apply online by 9/13/19. No Phone Calls Please. EOE valuing diversity

## MANAGER TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

Lucas County Children Services is seeking candidates for a Training & Development Manager. Education and experience requirements can be viewed at [www.lucaskids.net](http://www.lucaskids.net). Apply online by **8/30/19**. No Phone Calls Please. EOE valuing diversity

## EARLY HEAD START HEALTH ADVOCATE LUCAS COUNTY FAMILY COUNCIL

Lucas County Family Council is accepting applications to fill the **Early Head Start Health Coordinator** position. Applications are accepted until position is filled. Additional information regarding the duties is available on the Lucas County web site ([www.co.lucas.oh.us](http://www.co.lucas.oh.us)). Click on "Apply for a Job" and then select "Early Head Start Health Advocate" from the list to read more or apply.

*An Equal Opportunity Employer*

Call to place your ad:  
419-243-0007  
[www.TheTruthToledo.com](http://www.TheTruthToledo.com)

## EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TRAINER

WGTE Public Media seeks an innovative educator who will create, promote and deliver teacher professional development focused on early childhood education and technology integration in the classroom. Requirements include a Bachelor's degree (Education or similar degree preferred) and 1 year of experience in the field of early childhood education -OR- an early childhood Associate's degree and 3 years of experience in the field of early childhood education. Applicants must also have two years of experience teaching adult learners. Educational technology skills and previous experience with Google Apps preferred. Must be self-motivated and have excellent oral and written communication skills.

Send your letter and resume to: Human Resource Manager, PO Box 30, Toledo, OH 43614 or online at [employment@wgte.org](mailto:employment@wgte.org).

EOE/ADA

**Notice to Bidders:** Inquiry # FY20-07, (Project # 5007-19-1866) for University Medical Center Pharmacy Compliance Ventilation System for the University of Toledo Health Science Campus. Sealed bids for this project must be clearly marked with the project number on all inner and outer envelopes and/or shipping containers. Bids must be addressed and delivered to the University of Toledo, Main Campus, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 20, 2019 Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 2:05 p.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000. Copies of Plans, Specifications, and Bid Forms may be obtained from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Rd., Toledo, Ohio 43615. Call 419-385-5303 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of \$60.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Julie Cavese of PMBA Architects at 419-873-8450. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, August 13, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. in the Health Education Building, Room 227, at the University of Toledo, Health Science Campus, 3000 Arlington Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43614. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 15%. Project Estimate: \$500,000.00; Breakdown: General: \$500,000.00.

## NORTHGATE APARTMENTS

610 Stickney Avenue  
Toledo, Ohio 43604

\*Now accepting applications for One and Two bedroom Apartment Homes\*

Senior Community for persons 55 years and older. Rent is based on income. Our Activity and Service Coordinators are on site. Heat included. Chauffeured transportation to nearby shopping and banks available. 419-729-7118



Equal Housing  
Opportunity/Equal  
Opportunity Employer



## ORGANIST WANTED

Second Missionary Baptist Church located in MONROE Michigan is seeking a Organist to play a Sunday morning church services as well as mid-week rehearsal. Individuals must be able to follow directions and work well with other musicians both spiritually and professionally. Candidates should be very familiar with modern contemporary Christian worship as well as traditional gospel music. Individuals must be serious about their relationship with Jesus and able to follow the direction of the Holy Spirit while playing.

## LEGAL NOTICE

Proposals will be received by Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services (LCDJFS) until **4:00 p.m., September 18, 2019** for the selection of Provider(s) to implement a wide variety of innovative programs serving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) eligible individuals residing in Lucas County. Submitted proposals must be completed according to the specifications and provisions outlined in the Request for Proposals (RFP). The contract period will be from approximately January 1, 2020 through **September 30, 2020**.

No proposals will be accepted after **4:00 p.m., September 18, 2019**; proposals 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 **August 14, 2019**. It will be available for potential bidders to download by going to the site: <http://www.co.lucas.oh.us/bids.aspx>.

A Q&A Bidders Conference providing bidders the opportunity to ask clarifying questions regarding the RFP will be held on August 29, 2019 10:00 A.M., Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services, 3210 Monroe St. Toledo, OH 43606. **(PARTICIPATION IS OPTIONAL, BUT IS HIGHLY ENCOURAGED)**. If any changes are made to the RFP as a result of the Q&A Bidders Conference, an addendum to the RFP will be posted on the website address (noted above).

This notice is posted as of **August 14, 2019** at <http://www.co.lucas.oh.us/bids.aspx>.

The right is reserved to reject any and all proposals.

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

Tina Skeldon Wozniak - President

Pete Gerken - Commissioner

Gary L. Byers - Commissioner

**Bid: 48-20-RFP-01**

# TARTA New Transit Hub Site of Dedication Ceremony

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

Local officials participated in a dedication ceremony for the new public transit system's main bus station on Wednesday, August 7. The NEW TARTA hub, located at the corner of Cherry and Huron Street will be open for business on August 19 – also the first day of classes for Toledo Public Schools.

The new station will allow TARTA to close its current four-station downtown loop that encloses nine city blocks.

TARTA purchased the former Goodwill Building at Huron and Cherry streets in 2018 for \$1.5 million and spent about \$650,000 to remodel the space into its central bus station. The monies were obtained through federal Transit Authority and Ohio Department of Transportation grants.

The newly renovated space contains a passenger lobby of 5,000 square feet, a climate-controlled waiting area, information booths, restrooms, security, on-site pass purchases and fac-to-face contact with information operators. The hub is 100 percent accessible to those with disabilities.

Present at last week's ceremony were U.S. Representative Marcy Kaptur; Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz; Stacey Clink, TARTA interim general manager; City Councilmen Larry Sykes, Yvonne Harper; Toledo Public Schools Board Member Bob Vasquez; State Rep Lisa Sobecki, among others.

Kaptur noted that the new hub continues a downtown revival for the Toledo, calling the reuse a "major victory."

The ceremony last week is the first phase of the TARTA hub transformation. The second phase, due to be completed in August 2020, will bring administrative offices into the facility.

Now, with the new development, most TARTA buses will line up along either northbound Huron Street between Orange and Cherry streets or eastbound on Cherry between Huron and Superior streets. During the open house last

week, information listed seven routes that will have lineups on the westbound side of Huron.

Next spring, TARTA hopes to place on local ballots for voters' approval, a measure that will switch local funding from a property tax to a sales tax. The key to getting the measure on the ballots is the approval of the representatives from all of the member communities of the TARTA system and, so far, the board of commissioners of Sylvania Township have blocked those efforts.

"With proper funding, we can become an innovative, effective, viable transportation option," said Clink.



## Y.E.S. Youth Enhancement Services

for ages 16 – 24 (out of school)



### EDUCATION

- Tutoring to improve basic literacy skills
- Assistance in pursuing short-term training
- Financial Literacy Education
- Assistance with funding and preparation for GED

### FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR SHORT-TERM TRAINING:

Phlebotomy • Medical Assisting • STNA • LPN • Personal Trainer • CDL • Forklift  
MSSC Manufacturing Credential • More Options Available!

### EMPLOYMENT

- Vocational assessment to identify interests, skills, abilities and potential job matches
- Internships, volunteer opportunities and paid work experience
- Job support on-site during work experience to develop skills to get and keep jobs
- Assistance developing resumes, interview practice and instruction on completing applications
- Individual job development and job leads
- Access to job search resources
- Individual guidance and counseling
- Leadership and mentoring opportunities



### You are eligible if:

- Single parent or pregnant
- Low income
- Previous conviction
- Homeless
- In foster care
- And More...

*Must meet eligibility criteria in order to participate.*

If You Are Interested in Participating Call:  
**567.203.4040**



1946 North 13th Street, Toledo OH  
Business Technology Center (BTC), Suite 485





# RIBFEST

## 3rd Annual Urban Rib Off

Hosted by The Junction Coalition

Think You Got  
The Best Ribs  
in Town?

Sign Up

Sept.  
14th  
2019

Libbey Hill  
9am-5pm

1st Place  
\$1,000



Entry Form  
Junction Coalition  
419-408-0998

Kenny Boles 419-356-1198