

Volume 64 No. 9                      *“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”*                      December 16, 2020



**Pathway's Jay Black**

*Jay Black Assumes the Reins of Pathway Inc, Page 5*

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# Expand Opportunity, We Must Fully Commit to Fair Housing

By Lisa Rice, President and CEO of the National Fair Housing Alliance, and Nikitra Bailey, EVP at the Center for Responsible Lending

The African principle of Sankofa teaches that to have a strong future, we must bring forth knowledge gained from our past. The United States is at an inflection point on race – including on the fundamental question of housing policy.

In the United States, we continue to uphold exclusionary housing practices, rooted in our segregationist past, that hold back whole communities and stifle economic growth. We should instead choose inclusive and equitable solutions that support all people, particularly children; strengthen our communities; and grow the economy. Fully enforcing the Fair Housing Act, including its Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing mandate, offers the opportunity to build economic stability for Black people and for communities long denied. The incoming Biden-Harris administration can seize this opportunity.

Unfortunately, President Donald Trump did not, and he has grossly mischaracterized AFFH, which is a requirement to undo segregation and discrimination and the inequity they created. His false statements about the suburbs evoke racist tropes. They are reminiscent of discriminatory policies imposed by federal agencies that warned of the “infiltration of ... inharmonious racial groups” and promoted the use of racially restrictive covenants.

After four years of desolation of civil rights and less-than-adequate housing policy, we are looking forward to working with the Biden-Harris administration and hope they place tackling housing discrimination, ensuring equal housing opportunity for all, and advancing restorative justice solutions at the forefront of their priorities.

To move forward as a country, opportunity must not be monopolized by suburban, mostly White communities. We must recognize that the pursuit of fair housing is a shared value and a shared interest. Diverse, inclusive communities are stronger socially, culturally and economically.

By looking at the Black experience in America and drawing on the principle of Sankofa, we see where our country fell short on delivering its promise of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Despite constant violence, Black people were resilient, establishing thriving communities in cities like Tulsa, Oklahoma; Memphis, Tennessee; Wilmington, North Carolina; and Rosewood, Florida. However, a state-sponsored system of terrorism and redlining relegated Black families to live in environmentally toxic areas and deprived them of economic opportunity. Meanwhile, the nation's first fair housing law, passed during Reconstruction in 1866, languished for 102 years without enforcement. Today's housing landscape reflects this ugly history.



Lisa Rice



Nikitra Bailey

Our large, overwhelmingly White middle class was created with direct government support — greatly expanded through New Deal programs like Federal Housing Administration-backed mortgages, Social Security, GI Bill benefits, and Department of Agriculture loans. The government facilitated and subsidized the accumulation of intergenerational wealth — but only for White families. Even as the labor and taxes of Black people helped push the economy forward, they were systematically denied financial security, public education and voting rights.

Like our present moment, 1968 was filled with tragedy and promise. Mere days following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a measure designed to expand opportunity was put in place — The Fair Housing Act. In addition to banning the invidious practice of housing discrimination, this civil rights law requires the Department of Housing and Urban Development to take active steps to ameliorate state-sponsored segregation and promote neighborhood integration.

The latter obligation was captured in the law's section on Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing. However, no federal regulation to provide meaningful guidance on this requirement to foster well-resourced inclusive communities free from discrimination was promulgated until 2015. The goal of AFFH is to expand housing choices and make all neighborhoods places of opportunity.

In July of 2020, the Trump administration announced it would revoke the 2015 AFFH rule, which was designed to eliminate racial disparities in housing. It has offered inaccurate and inconsistent excuses for gutting the 2015 AFFH rule and has distorted its purpose, therefore ignoring the benefits of eliminating housing discrimination.

Locking families out of the opportunity to own a home or live in their community of choice has fueled the growing Black/White wealth gap, a divide that drags down the economy. According to recent reports from both Citibank and McKinsey & Company, addressing this racial wealth gap could expand the U.S. economy by \$1 trillion per year. This would add thousands of dollars each year to the pockets of the typical family and help those left behind in today's uneven recovery. Unleashing the full wealth-building potential of Black consumers would result in increased savings and increased spending — money that would circulate throughout the economy, creating jobs, lifting wages and raising living standards along the way. In other words, the financial benefits of closing the racial wealth gap would be broadly shared by everyone.

Our nation has failed to achieve the goals of the Fair Housing Act because we never committed to fully implementing the law or eliminating the structural barriers put in place by centuries of race-based, harmful policies. We must now muster up the will to do so. In addition to the moral imperative, it promises a clear financial benefit for all parts of our country — city, suburb and rural — and for all people of all backgrounds.

*Lisa Rice is President and CEO of the National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA), an organization that works to eliminate housing discrimination and ensure equal housing opportunity for all people. She previously served as president and CEO of the Fair Housing Alliance of Greater Toledo.*

*Nikitra Bailey is Executive Vice President at the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL), an organization focused on closing the racial wealth gap and protecting homeownership and family wealth by eliminating abusive financial practices.*

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# The Historic Nomination of Secretary of Defense-Designate Lloyd Austin

Last week, President-elect Joe Biden announced his nomination of retired four-star General Lloyd J. Austin to serve as the 28th United States Secretary of Defense. Secretary-designate Austin was praised as an experienced, crisis-tested, and historic choice by a bipartisan chorus of lawmakers, servicemembers and veterans, and national security leaders.

Susan Rice, Former National Security Adviser

"I've worked closely with Gen. Lloyd Austin and know him to be a strong leader, a kind man of decency, principle and integrity, who is highly respected by those who have served with him. I am also proud to call him a friend. This country will benefit yet again from his service."

Hillary Clinton, Former Secretary of State

I've known Lloyd Austin for 15 years, and worked closely with him from both the Senate and as Secretary of State. He will make history, and serve this country well.

Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House

"President-elect Biden's nominee for Secretary of Defense, General Lloyd Austin, brings a great understanding of the challenges facing our nation's defense and a deep appreciation for the sacrifice of our military heroes and their families."

Senator Dick Durbin, Democratic Whip

"I opposed the waiver on Mattis, but I have to tell you I was so impressed with his performance that I would consider a waiver for Austin, once I get to know him."

Senator Jim Inhofe, Senate Armed Services Chairman

"Armed Svcs Cmte Chair Inhofe says he would vote for a waiver for Lloyd Austin to serve as DefSec "in a heartbeat"

Senator Bernie Sanders

On waiver: "My inclination is that I would support that."

Senator Chris Murphy

On waiver: "I inherently trust the Biden administration on issues of national security in a way that I did not inherently trust the Trump administration. So I'm certainly — given that I'm a believer in his policy, I'm much more willing to give him deference."

Congressional Black Caucus

"The appointment of Retired Gen. Lloyd Austin to serve as Secretary of Defense makes our country stronger and safer. He has led a distinguished career of service to this nation, most recently served as the head of the United States Central Command and vice chief of staff of the Army. He is a decorated combat veteran, having been awarded the nation's third-highest award for valor: the Silver Star. But this is about more than an impeccable record. This appointment reverberates throughout the history of military service and courage in United States Armed Forces. Black Americans have sacrificed their lives for this country in every war since the Revolutionary War. Appointing Retired Gen. Lloyd Austin to a position of command and authority over the United States military, second only to the President of the United States, is historic and well-deserved."

ed States, is historic and well-deserved."

Representative James Clyburn, Majority Whip

"It [the nomination of Secretary-designate Austin] is exactly what I think needed to be done. As you know, the military is about 40% minority. I think the kinds of experiences that General Austin has had are the kind of experiences that needed to be put to play. So much of what we do in our governmental process is sometimes skewed, because people have not had the kind of experiences that are necessary in order to have the compassion and the empathy that is needed for our brave men and women serving in the armed services. So I think General Austin has those experiences and I think this is a great appointment."

Representative Karen Bass

"Having someone like Austin be appointed is very important. I had the opportunity to meet him on congressional delegation to Iraq several years ago. I believe he will bring the type of leadership & stability needed to the military."

"We have given waivers before. We voted on a waiver for Mattis, and I think we need to do it now." [Tweet

Representative Don Bacon, House Armed Services Committee Republican

"I plan on supporting the waiver. It does not bother me to have a retired general be the secretary of defense," he says, touting the experience he'll bring to DoD. [

Representative Joyce Beatty

I applaud the historic nomination of General Lloyd Austin to be our nation's first-ever Black Secretary of Defense. His long history of service & unequal qualifications make him the perfect leader for our military & national defense during this critical moment in time ... I support his nomination waiver, urge the Senate to hold his confirmation hearings quickly, and look forward to working with him to protect our people, our country, and our national security interests around the globe.

Valerie Jarrett

"Ambassador Rice is absolutely right. It was an honor to serve with Gen. Lloyd Austin in the Barack Obama/Joe Biden Administration. He will be an extraordinary leader for our country."

... continued on page 12



Lloyd Austin

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# Statement by President-elect Joe Biden Marking Eight Years Since the Shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School

Special to The Truth

To the grandparents, parents, siblings, children, spouses, and fellow broken and healing hearts of Sandy Hook, I know. No matter how long it's been, every time you talk about it, you relive it as though you just heard the news. Eight years later, I know the pain never fully heals.

I think about how that day eight years ago was the saddest day we had in the White House. Twenty first-graders. Their six educators. And I think about the time we have spent with each other grieving since then. I remain in awe of you. I have heard from and watched as so many of you turned pain into purpose, working to change our laws and our culture around gun violence and how we protect and nurture our children.

I know it can feel like an impossible task. Since this December day eight years ago, your nightmare has been felt by thousands of other families in our country who have lost a piece of their soul in other schools, a shopping mall, a movie theatre, a club, a house of worship, in their neighborhoods, and in their homes. Some of these tragedies make national

headlines, so many more do not. Every year, more than 30,000 people die from gun violence across America—a statistic we would associate with war in a far-off place. Countless more are left with a lifetime of injuries and trauma.

But in this collective pain, you've helped usher in a collective and growing purpose. You've helped us forge a consensus that gun violence is a national health crisis and we need to address its total cost to fully heal families, communities, and our nation.

Eight years later, there have been plenty of thoughts and prayers, but we know that is not enough. Together with you and millions of our fellow Americans of every background all across our nation, we will fight to end this scourge on our society and enact common sense reforms that are supported by a majority of Americans and that will save countless lives.

Jill and I send our love to you and we pray for the twenty-six angels in heaven and in our hearts.

# Rep. Hicks-Hudson's Bipartisan Criminal Justice Reform Bill Passes out of Senate Judiciary Committee

HB 1 prioritizes rehabilitation by expanding access to drug treatments, allowing more opportunities for a fresh start

State Rep. Paula Hicks-Hudson (D-Toledo) announced last week that House Bill (HB) 1, her bipartisan criminal justice reform bill, was passed unanimously out of the Senate Judiciary Committee. HB 1 prioritizes rehabilitation by expanding access to drug treatments, and it allows record-sealing of convictions for low-level, non-violent, non-sex offense felonies.



Rep. Paula Hicks-Hudson

"I am grateful for the unanimous vote today by members of the Senate Judiciary Committee as we continue our promise to give Ohioans a second chance at turning their lives around. This bill is truly one of the pillars for criminal justice reform as we look to address the link between drug addiction and the criminal justice system," said Rep. Hicks-Hudson.

HB 1 would:

...continued on page 5

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# Jay Black Takes the Reins at Pathway

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

Jay Black, newly appointed president/CEO of Pathway, Inc, describes the mission of the decades-old community action agency succinctly – “helping to move people from poverty to self-sufficiency.”

Black, of course, is well qualified to help Pathways achieve its mission with his wide array of experience in so many relevant fields. Before he took the helm at the agency a month ago, Black ran his own business consulting firm specializing in business development, governmental affairs, capital acquisition and economic diversity services.

That followed a 23-year career in banking management and a stint with the City of Toledo as chief of staff in the Mayor Jack Ford administration.

He has also served as president of the Toledo African American Chamber of Commerce and has been a board member of a dozen various companies and non-profits in the area. One of those assignments was as the board president of the Economic Opportunity Planning Association (EOPA) – Pathway before the name change.

So he arrived at the top job fully aware of the mission of the agency, the operational reach of the various programs and the history of the Model Cities-era project that underwent drastic upheaval a half dozen years ago when EOPA lost Head Start and 75 percent of its funds that that program provided.

Now he takes over an agency with an urgent immediate mission – to give away a bunch of money before the year ends.

Pathway has a federally-funded Home Relief Program that is designed to provide “rental, mortgage and utility assistance” says Black. The funds must be dispersed before the end of the year and given that the COVID-19 federal funds have yet to be renewed, on December 26, the day after Christmas, a lot of folks can get evicted, he adds.

The State of Ohio acquired the relief grant funds early in the 2020, says Black, but Pathway didn't receive its share until November. “We are scrambling to get the money out,” he says. “I'm not of a mind to send the money back, we are doing everything we possibly can to get the money to those folks who need it.”

There are several other Pathway programs that Black has been fortunate enough to inherit, such as the Heat Program and the Emergency Assistance Program, but he counts himself especially blessed to be working with such a committed, established staff.

“I want to recognize the hardworking and talented employees we have here,” he says. “They have been such a great help to me walking in. In particular, he points to Tamika Rushing, director of Employment and Career Services, and Claudia Rodriguez-Salazar, director of Emergency Assistance and Empowerment Services. Both have been with the agency for about two dozen years.

Also of note is Avis Files, who ran the extraordinarily successful Brothers United Program over the past five years, a program that connected fathers in previously difficult situations with their children and assisted them in bringing order to otherwise chaotic lives. Pathway is trying to develop another grant in order to renew the program.

Black, however, also has his vision set on the future for the agency and



Tamika Rushing, Jay Black, Claudia Rodriguez-Salazar



Jay Black

the clients it serves. The agency's mission now is to help “move people from poverty to self-sufficiency” but Black, with his extensive background in finance, government and business ownership, wants to take that mission a step further. “Helping to move people from poverty to self-sufficiency to prosperity,” he says, “through entrepreneurship.”

He will be adding another track in the future to focus on business development and growth – to develop and maintain entrepreneurial skills in the agency's clients who feel that such a path makes sense for them.

To that end, Black and Pathway will work collaboratively with other groups, such as ASSETS Toledo and JumpStart. “I see we are going to have more collaborations with other entities – there is no need to recreate the wheel when wheel already exists,” says Black. He sees such partnerships as especially critical during a time in which “public funding will continue to decline.”

Black also envisions growing Pathway itself, as he has expressed to board members. That plan entails growth in budget, in numbers of staff and in the impact the agency will have, particularly the impact.

After all, “it's all about helping people move from poverty to self-sufficiency to prosperity!”

*Sandy Hook... continued from page 4*

- Broaden the scope of continuing law intervention in lieu of conviction (ILC) by requiring an eligibility hearing on an application for intervention in any case in which the offender alleges that drug or alcohol usage was a factor leading to the underlying offense;

- Broaden the application of continuing law conviction record sealing by removing the cap, currently based on total felony convictions, on eligibility for fourth or fifth degree felony and misdemeanor offenses, and by raising the caps on restricted felony and misdemeanor offenses;

- Modifies the time at which an offender may apply to have a conviction record sealed.

The bill now awaits referral to the Senate floor for a vote.

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# TARTA Announces New Executive Team Members: Chief Financial Officer and Director of Paratransit

The Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) announced new members of the Authority's executive team: David Robinson as Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Patricia Talbott as Director of Paratransit.

Robinson and Talbott were selected from a national search based on their professional achievements and extensive experience. "A top priority for 2020 was to build a new executive team at TARTA," said TARTA Chief Executive Officer Kimberly Dunham. "We have worked diligently to accomplish that goal and have been very successful in attracting top talent. The addition of David and Patricia brings two more individuals who have moved to Toledo from afar to join Team TARTA and lead this agency into a very bright future."

In his role as CFO, Robinson is responsible for managing all aspects of TARTA's financial condition including pursuing cost-efficient strategies, managing the annual budget and financial reporting, coordinate internal and external audits, and lead the Authority's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) activities.

Robinson has served in senior executive finance roles in the public and non-profit sectors for over 20 years. He possesses a track record of spearheading initiatives leading to improved financial performance, heightened productivity and enhanced internal controls.

Previously, Robinson served as CFO of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio in Cincinnati. -more- Page 2 His public finance experience includes roles as Treasurer/CFO with Jefferson Township Local School District and Finance Director with the Butler County Children Services. "Public finance is a wonderful arena in which to work," said Robinson. "This position at TARTA offered the opportunity to join a team of professionals looking to make broad transformational change and bring an exceptional transportation service to the community of Greater Toledo."

Robinson has a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and Finance from Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Talbott will oversee the long-term planning and day-to-day operations of the Toledo Area Regional Paratransit System (TARPS) which is a door-to-door transit service provided in seven Northwest Ohio communities for



David Robinson

people with disabilities who have physical and/or cognitive challenges.

Talbott brings over 15 years of experience in paratransit operations and a track record of implementing cost-effective services that also strengthen customer and community relations. At her previous role with First Transit in Northern California, Talbott was responsible for the day-to-day oversight of service operations including vehicle maintenance, dispatch, supplemental taxi operation, and customer support and reservations.

She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of Southern California.

"I plan to bring my experience in transit and commitment to improvement to the TARPS Team," said Talbott. "I know we already have a great team of people. I want to help give them the tools and knowledge to bring our TARPS system to the next level of service and continue to grow with the community."



Patricia Talbott

## Brown, Scott, Booker and Graham Introduce Resolution Celebrating the 110th Anniversary of the National Urban League

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH), along with Sens. Tim Scott (R-SC), Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC), introduced a resolution congrat-

...continued on page 7

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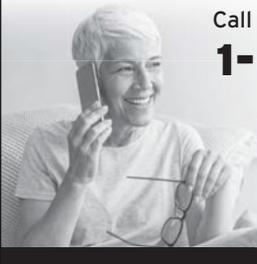
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# After Payday Reform, Lenders Find New Ways to Bilk Ohioans

By Policy Matters Ohio

Special to The Truth

A 2018 law has helped protect Ohioans who turn to certain kinds of short-term loans to get through an emergency. However, unethical financial corporations found new ways to profit by trapping borrowers in a cycle of debt, a new Policy Matters Ohio report shows.

"Everyone deserves the chance to pursue a better future, no matter how much they're paid," said report author, Policy Matters Project Director Kalitha Williams. "Even before the pandemic recession, many of Ohio's most common jobs paid too little for a family to get by. Certain lenders rigged the rules for their own profit by trapping borrowers in a costly cycle of debt. With so many people out of work and facing eviction, it's more important than ever to protect Ohioans in financial crisis."

Two years ago, Republicans and Democrats joined together to pass House Bill 123, reining in the onerous fees and interest rates that accompany auto-title and payday loans. After HB 123 took effect, auto-title lending stores closed and the number of payday lending stores decreased. Lenders using the Ohio Small Dollar Loan act, a statute used to make payday loans, made 72 percent fewer loans in 2019 than in 2018. They collected 93 percent less in origination

*National Urban League... continued from page 6*

ulating the National Urban League on 110 years of service. Ohio is home to seven affiliates, including Greater Cleveland, Columbus, Southwestern Ohio, Greater Stark County, Lorain County, Akron and Greater Warren-Youngstown.

The National Urban League is the oldest and largest civil rights organization in the U.S. and was founded in 1910 by Ruth Standish Baldwin and Dr. George Edmund Hayes as a multiracial, diverse, and grassroots campaign. Based in New York City, it was created to empower and advance the education, voting, health, housing, economic, and civil rights of African Americans and other historically underserved communities throughout the United States.

Since its founding, the National Urban League has been active in the civil rights movement and has worked closely with A. Phillip Randolph, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and many other leaders. Since the 1960s, the National Urban League has worked with the federal government to address race relations, provide assistance to minority-owned businesses, deliver aid to urban areas, and improve housing, education, and healthcare-- and continues to advocate for these policies today.

"The National Urban League has been on the frontlines for years, uplifting Black communities through activism and fighting for racial justice," said Brown. "The Ohio Urban League affiliates have a proud history and strong presence throughout the state. As we celebrate 110 years of the National Urban League's service, this milestone should remind us all of the dedication and commitment it will take to transform our communities and prepare the next generation of leaders."

"The National Urban League has worked to empower African-Americans and other underserved communities for 110 years, and I'm proud to coauthor

*... continued on page 10*

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fees. Licensed lending locations — typically storefronts — fell by 55 percent, according to data obtained from the Ohio Department of Commerce.

Yet unscrupulous financial corporations found new ways to increase their profits. In 2008, Ohio voters approved a ballot amendment to cap payday interest rates at 28 percent. After HB 123, financial corporations drove up costs by adding charges like origination fees and check cashing fees to payday loans. As a result, the Ohio Department of Commerce calculated the average annual interest rate for payday loans was 148 percent last year.

Meanwhile, consumer installment loans — made for larger amounts with longer, structured repayment periods and terms — proliferated in Ohio. The number of originated loans increased by 35 percent; the dollar amount by 40 percent, from more than \$533 million to more than \$745 million. The origination fees collected grew by 180 percent. Ohio has 24 percent more licensed installment loan locations in 2019 than it did in 2018. The situation could soon become worse. The Ohio Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee is considering an amendment that will allow installment lenders to add "junk fees" to their loans.

"Ohioans of all races are harmed by these dangerous financial products, but they're especially dangerous for Black and brown people," Williams said. "People of color already face so many barriers to financial security, from discrimination in lending to being paid nearly \$5 an hour less than white Ohioans. Lawmakers say they want to expand opportunities for all Ohioans, no matter our race. One thing they can do immediately is to stop advancing legislation that allows lenders to exploit consumers and implement policies that protect people who need help to make ends meet."

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# Alpha Phi Boulé Supports Toledo Food Banks

Special to The Truth

One in seven individuals in northwest Ohio suffers from food insecurity. In Lucas County nearly one in five people suffers from food insecurity or 85,000 individuals. Ohio's overall rate of food insecurity is higher than the national average. It is estimated that over two million Ohioans will go hungry each year.

ProMedica's CEO Randy Oostra has appropriately called hunger a health issue as it impacts a patient's ability to both fight and recover from disease. But it is also an educational issue as data clearly demonstrates that hungry children have lower math scores and are more likely to repeat a grade, come to school late, or miss school entirely.

Furthermore, hungry children experience developmental impairments in areas like language, motor skills, and behavior. Hunger is also a crime issue. For every one percent increase in food insecurity within a community there is an approximately 12 percent increase in the rate of violent crime. And it would be impossible not to acknowledge that hunger is a social justice issue.

No child's birth status should condemn them to hunger. So when the Archons of Alpha Phi Boulé decided to once again invest in the local organizations of Toledo that maintain this great community through both thick and thin, they decided to support local food banks.

Sire Archon (President) Dr. Mallory Williams stated, "We will get through the COVID 19 worldwide pandemic as a united community

... continued on page 9



James Caldwell, President and CEO of TNWOFB with our troops from Toledo.



Dr. Mallory Williams and Archon Paul Hubbard of Alpha Phi Boule present Mr. James Caldwell, President & CEO of TNWOFB with \$1,000 donation.



Connecting Kids to Meals Food Program



Sire Archon Dr. Mallory Williams and Archon Paul Hubbard of Alpha Phi Boule present President Wendi Huntley, esq with a donation for \$1,000

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Toledo Food Banks... continued from page 8

caring for one another and leaving no one behind. As horrible as living during this pandemic has been, it has forced us to see the things that matter the most, our health. And so we are very honored to join forces with the Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank and Connecting Kids to Meals, two outstanding pillars of our community."

Alpha Phi Boulé donated \$1,000 to each of these food banks and began discussions on long-term future support including volunteering with meal preparation and distribution. Archon Paul Hubbard said, "particularly in this season and at this time these contributions are needed."

Hubbard and Dr. Williams visited James C. Caldwell, president and CEO of Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank at their 25,000 square feet food distribution center on Woodruff Avenue. The food bank is currently feeding 50,000 individuals per month. Over 220 agencies across eight counties depend upon the food bank. The food bank has fed over 500,000 people during the pandemic distributing over 10 million pounds of food. Overall demand for the food bank's services are

up over 50% during the pandemic.

The next visit the gentlemen made was to the Connecting Kids to Meals Program within the Cherry Street Mission on Monroe St. to meet with President Wendi Huntley, Esq. They presented her with a check for \$1,000 and toured the facility.

Sire Archon Mallory Williams reflected, "to learn that one in four children in Lucas County has food insecurity and 40 percent live in poverty is astonishing. This was present before the pandemic and has only become worse."

Huntley shared the fact that the overall cost of food distribution has increased during the COVID 19 pandemic. Keeping children safe remains a priority as we feed them. Individually wrapped meals are now a requirement. Also continuing to provide individually wrapped warm meals with outside distribution sites can be challenging.

Connecting Kids with Meals uses local products and producers of food. Hubbard and Dr. Mallory delighted in tasting one of the 100 percent beef hot dogs and both agreed, "the meal was tasty."



President Wendi Huntley, Esq. Connecting Kids to Meals, demonstrates individually wrapped meals for Lucas County children.



Sire Archon Dr. Mallory Williams and Archon Paul Hubbard sample a 100 percent beef hot dog at Connecting Kids to Meals.



Items in a lunch from Connecting Kids to Meals.

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# Social Security Benefits Increase in 2021

By Erin Thompson

Social Security Public Affairs Specialist in Toledo, OH  
Guest Column

Nearly 70 million Americans will see a 1.3 percent increase in their Social Security benefits and SSI payments in 2021. Federal benefit rates increase when the cost-of-living rises, as measured by the Department of Labor's Consumer Price Index (CPI-W).

The CPI-W rises when inflation increases, leading to a higher cost-of-living. This change means prices for goods and services, on average, are a little more expensive, so the COLA helps to offset these costs.

January 2021 marks other changes that will happen based on the increase in the national average wage index. For example, the maximum amount of earnings subject to Social Security payroll tax in 2021 will be higher. The retirement earnings test exempt amount will also change in 2021. You can read our press release for more information at [www.ssa.gov/news/press/factsheets/colafacts2021.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/news/press/factsheets/colafacts2021.pdf).

We will mail COLA notices throughout the month of December to retirement, survivors, and disability beneficiaries, SSI recipients, and representative payees. Want to know your new benefit amount sooner? You can securely view and save the Social Security COLA notice online via the Message Center inside my Social Security in early December without waiting for the mailed notice.

If you don't have an account yet, you will have to create your account by November 18, 2020 to receive the COLA notice online this year. My Social Security account holders can opt out of receiving a mailed COLA notice and other paper notices that are available online. You can choose text or email alerts when there is a notice in Message Center by updating your Preferences at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount/opt-out.html](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount/opt-out.html) so you always know when we have something important for you.

Be the first to know! Sign up for or log in to your personal account today at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount). Choose email or text under "Message Center Preferences" to receive courtesy notifications. This way you won't miss your online COLA notice!

You can find more information about the 2021 COLA at [www.ssa.gov/cola](http://www.ssa.gov/cola).  
**Get Your New Standardized Benefit Verification Letter Online**

If you receive a Benefit Verification letter, sometimes called a "budget letter," a "benefits letter," a "proof of income letter," or a "proof of award letter," we have good news for you! A new standardized Benefit Verification letter is now available when you need proof of Social Security benefits, Supplemental Security Income, or Medicare.

In addition to name, date of birth, and the benefits received, the new Ben-

efit Verification letter includes other identifiers to prevent misuse and fraud. This is an added benefit to you as proof of income for loans, housing assistance, mortgage, and other verification purposes.

The same standardized letter is also available if you need proof that you do not receive benefits, or proof that benefits are pending. If you are an individual representative payee, you can use the my Social Security Representative Payee portal to access the same standardized Benefit Verification letter online for your beneficiaries.

This new standardized Benefit Verification letter is another example of our commitment to improve our service to you.

No matter how you request your letter, whether calling our National 800 Number, your local office, the Interactive Voice Response system, or online with your personal my Social Security account at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount), the Benefit Verification letter now contains a seamless look.

### Social Security and Small Businesses

According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, about 30 million small businesses in the United States employ tens of millions of people. Running a small business can be a 24-7 endeavor. Managing employees, inventory, scheduling, services, and marketing can be challenging.

If you're a small business owner, or you work for one, we can help make your life easier with our suite of services. Our business services allow you to file W-2/W-2Cs online and verify your employees' names and Social Security numbers against our records.

If you run a business, make us your first stop at [www.ssa.gov/employer](http://www.ssa.gov/employer). It will save you valuable time when you need information on W-2s, electronic filing, and verifying Social Security numbers. Small business owners can also take advantage of our Business Services Online at [www.ssa.gov/bsowelcome.htm](http://www.ssa.gov/bsowelcome.htm). You must register to use this free service, which also offers fast and secure online W-2 filing options to Certified Public Accountants, enrolled agents, and individuals who process W-2s and W-2Cs.

For more information about electronic wage reporting, please read our publication at [www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10034.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10034.pdf).

### National Urban League... continued from page 7

this resolution honoring their work," said Scott. "I will continue working with the National Urban League, as well as their affiliates in South Carolina and across the nation, to find solutions to pressing issues such as economic opportunity and job creation in urban communities."

"For the past 110 years, the National Urban League has been a champion for the Black community and other underserved communities in the United

... continued on page 11

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## Taxpayer Advocacy Panel (TAP)

## Want to Improve The IRS? SPEAK UP

By Andrea Price, TAP member representing Ohio

## Guest Column

The Taxpayer Advocacy Panel is comprised of civic-minded citizen volunteers from all walks of life representing each state, D.C., Puerto Rico and an international member (citizens living, working or doing business abroad). TAP is a Federal Advisory Committee whose mission is to listen to taxpayers, identify taxpayers' issues and make suggestions for improving the IRS service and customer satisfaction.

Everyone has something to say about taxes and the IRS. Please take a moment to give us your suggestions for TAP to consider by contacting one of the following:

TAP Ohio member: [taphioandreaprice@gmail.com](mailto:taphioandreaprice@gmail.com)

Call Toll-free at: 1-888-912-1227

Website: [www.improveirs.org](http://www.improveirs.org)

## Get Ready for Taxes: Steps to take now to make tax filing easier in 2021

The Internal Revenue Service is encouraging taxpayers to take necessary actions now to help file federal tax returns timely and accurately in 2021. This notice is to help taxpayers get ready for the upcoming tax filing season. A special page updated and available on [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov), outlines steps taxpayers can take now to make tax filing easier in 2021. 2020 has been a busy year, with a lot of changes. To make sure taxpayers don't miss out on tax benefits or make mistakes, they can take a few simple steps now to make filing their taxes easier in 2021.

An important first step to getting taxes ready is to gather all tax records. Having records organized makes preparing a tax return easier. It may also help discover potentially overlooked deductions or credits.

- Most income is taxable, so taxpayers should gather income documents such as Forms W-2 from employers, Forms 1099 from banks and other payers, and records of virtual currencies or other income. This also includes, unemployment income, refund interest and income from the gig economy.

- Beginning in 2020, individuals may receive **Form 1099-NEC**, Non-employee Compensation, rather than Form 1099-MISC, Miscellaneous Income, if they performed certain services for and received payments from a business.

- Taxpayers may also need **Notice 1444** Economic Impact Payment, which shows how much of a payment they received in 2020. This amount is needed to calculate any Recovery Rebate Credit they may be eligible for when they file their federal income tax return in 2021. People who didn't receive an Economic Impact Payment in 2020 may qualify for the Recovery Rebate Credit when they file their 2020 taxes in 2021.

- To see information from the most recently filed tax return, recent payments and more taxpayers can sign up to **view account information online**.

- Taxpayers should notify the IRS of address changes and notify the Social Security Administration of a legal name change to avoid delays in tax return processing.

**Special \$300 tax deduction helps most people give to charity this year**

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<sup>1</sup>As updated annually by the FFIEC (Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council).

<sup>2</sup>Property must be located in a census tract within the following counties: Allen Ohio, Allen Indiana, Defiance, Delaware, Franklin, Hancock, Lucas, Madison, Union, Williams, and Wood. Actual amount applied at closing.

### – even if they don't itemize

- Following special tax law changes made earlier this year, cash donations of up to \$300 made before Dec. 31, 2020, are now deductible when people file their taxes in 2021.

- “Our nation’s charities are struggling to help those suffering from COVID-19, and many deserving organizations can use all the help they can get,” said IRS Commissioner Chuck Rettig.

“The IRS reminds people there’s a new provision that allows for up to \$300 in cash donations to qualifying organizations to be deducted from income. We encourage people to explore this option to help deserving tax-exempt organizations – and the people and causes they serve.”



Andrea Price

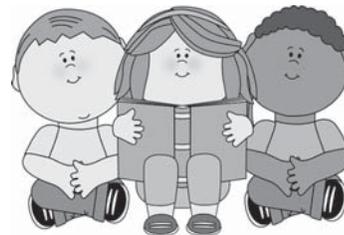
### National Urban League... continued from page 10

States,” said Booker. “Whether through the provision of services like education, healthcare and housing, contributions to research and journalism, and efforts in the fight for civil rights, the National Urban League’s impact cannot be overstated. I thank the National Urban League for their great work on behalf of so many, and for playing an integral role in helping us meet the challenges we face today, just as they have done for over a century.”

During this uniquely challenging and historic moment of racial reckoning, it’s incredibly meaningful to have the Senate acknowledge the legacy and impact of the National Urban League,” said Marc H. Morial, National Urban League President and CEO. “I thank Senators Booker, Brown, Scott and Graham for the honor.”

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# LISC Receives \$70,000 From PNC to Expand Career Training Programs

## Supports Advanced Manufacturing, Healthcare in Cherry Street Corridor

Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Toledo announced last week a new \$70,000 commitment from PNC that will be used to increase Cherry Street Corridor residents' access to free career training programs in advanced manufacturing and healthcare.

The funding will support LISC's Bridges to Career Opportunities (BCO) programs. Launched in 2019, the five-to eight-week programs provide participants with hands-on job skills training to receive a Certified Production Technician (CPT) or State-Tested Nurse Assistant (STNA) certificate, credentials that are recognized and in demand with local employers. BCO programs also include one-on-one financial coaching, career coaching, and access to income supports through the Toledo Financial Opportunity Center (FOC) network free of charge.

The credential resulting from the training allows participants to obtain a living wage job. Participants will continue to have access to a coach as they gain the necessary work experience and/or additional credentials to further advance in their careers, build credit, and acquire assets to ensure long-term financial stability.

"What sets the BCO model apart is that it provides participants support before, during, and after the job training portion of the program so they can achieve long-term financial and career success," said Valerie Moffitt, LISC Toledo Director of Financial Opportunities. "Additionally, the trainings are

designed specifically to support the needs of local employers by bridging critical skills gaps," she added.

"PNC understands financial stability and independence can be difficult to achieve without proper guidance and assistance," said Bill McDonnell, PNC regional president for Toledo. "LISC has been an important link in our community as individuals strive for a solid financial future, and we're proud to partner with them on this training."

Expanding career opportunities and improving financial stability can have a substantial impact on community health. The BCO expansion joins the Mercy Health - Franklin Avenue Medical Center Financial Opportunity Center, Getting Healthy Zone initiatives, and other programs aimed at addressing social determinants of health in the Cherry Street corridor's neighborhoods.

"Mercy Health applauds the work of our community partners who continue to tackle the issue of workforce development and career opportunities in the Cherry Street corridor," said Bob Baxter, president, Mercy Health - Toledo. "There are many aspects to a community member's health and through collaboration, we work to address the whole being - mind, body, and spirit. We are collectively making great strides and Mercy Health looks forward to continued growth in the wellbeing of our neighbors."

Lucas County residents interested in the Advanced Manufacturing BCO

... continued on page 13

### Lloyd Austin... continued from page 3

ary Secretary of Defense. I am so grateful once again for his willingness to serve our country."

Michael Steele, Former RNC Chairman

"From the 54th Massachusetts to Buffalo Soldiers to Tuskegee Airmen Joe Biden pick for Secretary of Defense is both historic and important. Presidents Truman and Eisenhower are smiling."

Vote Vets

"The pick sends the signal to our senior military leadership that a Biden administration respects them and will listen to them, even when they disagree with the president. There will be no loyalty tests, other than the oath of

service, declaring loyalty to our Constitution."

James Stavridis, Retired United States Navy Admiral

"I think we should provide another waiver. I think the Pentagon is in turmoil right now, we've had 4-5 Secy's of Defense, and I think a figure like Lloyd Austin who has an unimpeachable combat record...who is well-liked, a team personality, who can walk into the building and command instant respect."

Reverend Al Sharpton

"It's a good choice that I think many in the civil rights community would support. It's the first time we have seen a person of color in that position. That means something, in a global view, especially after such an antagonistic relationship we had with the previous administration."

Claire McCaskill, Former US Senator

"You're going to need somebody really strong to stand up to those cronies. I think Lloyd Austin is the guy to do that. I think he'll be confirmed."

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\*\* Based on customer experience survey shared online at www.hartford.com/aarp as of April 2019.  
††† The gift offer is good for first-time respondents who provide a valid email address. Respondents will be sent an email to confirm the gift. All respondents in IL, IA, MA and RI who do not provide an email address are still eligible to receive the gift. The gift offer is not available in CA, HI, MD, MI or PA. Not available for GEICO, State Farm or Allstate. Please allow 4-7 weeks for delivery. Gifts not included.  
† If you are age 50 or older, once you've insured through this Program for at least 60 days, you cannot be refunded without a long as applicable premiums are paid when due. Also, you and other customary drivers of your vehicles must remain valid license holders, remain licensed and remain capable of operating an automobile (not applicable in WA, where no restrictions for driving while intoxicated and must not have obtained your party through national representation). Benefit currently not available in HI, IL, MA, NC and TX.  
†††† AARP and its affiliates are not insurers. Paid endorsement. The Hartford group policy does not provide for the use of its individual property. These fees are used for the general purposes of AARP. AARP membership is required for Program eligibility in most states. The AARP Automobile Insurance Program from The Hartford is underwritten by Hartford Fire Insurance Company and its affiliates, One Hartford Plaza, Hartford, CT 06183. It is underwritten in CA by Hartford Underwriters Insurance Company, in WA by Hartford Casualty Insurance Company, in MI, NY, Central Insurance Company, and in MA, RI and PA, by The Hartford Insurance Company. Specific features, coverages, conditions, and amounts may vary and may not be available in all states in accordance with state filings and applicable law. Applicants are individually underwritten and some may not qualify. The program is currently available in Canada and 12 US Territories or possessions.  
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# Long Time Coming: Reckoning with Race in America by Michael Eric Dyson

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

You've got mail.

No, real mail, delivered by a carrier in a mailbox outside your door. It doesn't happen very often and it's rarer if there's a letter in those envelopes because everybody you know texts or emails and a hand-written, lick-the-envelope, put-a-stamp-on-it letter is so old-school. Who even writes letters anymore? Author Michael Eric Dyson, that's who, and in *Long Time Coming*, you'll want to read them.

"Dear Elijah McClain..." he begins.

When the grief of history is a part of a burden, the pain of now becomes keener and the action more urgent. "Black death" has been in this country for more than 400 years. We know how Elijah died and the knowledge is unbearable. It's time for a "reckoning."

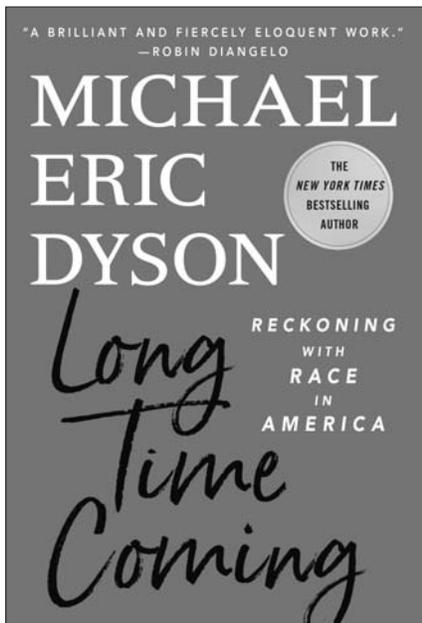
"Dear Emmett Till," it hurts to know that if you were a boy today, your life could be taken as easily as it was in 1955. Maybe not the same way, but taken nonetheless and the fact that it happens is something most white folks don't see. We need all eyes opened.

When George Floyd died, it echoed what happened to you, "dear Eric Garner." You said you couldn't breathe; Floyd said he couldn't breathe. Neither of you were real trouble-makers, but both of you called out in pain to the "blue plague," and lost your lives anyhow.

Why is it that Black women are victims, too, but we don't talk about them quite as much as we do Black men? "Dear Breonna Taylor," there's irony in the fact that you served as an EMT but the city you served gave you no justice after you died. "Dear Hadiya Pendleton," we can't use "cancel culture" as justice. No, "dear Sandra Bland," we must eliminate "white comfort" before we can end the lack of knowledge that contributes to the end of Black lives.

As you may have

c.2020  
St. Martin's Press  
\$25.99 / \$34.99 Canada  
240 pages



guessed – especially if you've read any other works by author Michael Eric Dyson – there's a lot to unpack inside *Long Time Coming*.

It starts without preamble, as Dyson dives straight into his series of letters written to Black Americans whose deaths demand a reckoning with racial issues. This abruptness is unusual in a work of nonfiction, and it forces readers to pay immediate attention.

Though there's a lot of repetition from story to story here, each chapter examines a separate aspect of racism by speaking directly to a deceased individual while also referring to another. There's an urge embedded in this, to understand each issue before dismantling it, and to see how it matters. Readers may also find Dyson's choice of subjects to be interesting; there are other victims of racial violence he could've picked, as evidenced by his long list of names, each of which begs to have their own stories told.

Perhaps the most crucial thing about this book, though, is that it's not so much for Black readers as it is for White ones who metaphorically started school late last May. Respectful discussion, soul-searching, urgency: if that's what you need, *Long Time Coming* delivers.

*LISC... continued from page 12*

program should call Shaulonda Jones at (419) 216-2971. For the STNA BCO program, call Meg Leahey at (567) 585-0540.

LISC is a community development financial institution (CDFI). With residents and partners, LISC forges resilient and inclusive communities of opportunity across America—great places to live, work, visit, do business, and raise families. Since 1979, LISC has invested \$22 billion to build or rehab more than 419,000 affordable homes and apartments and develop 70.3 million square feet of retail, community, and educational space across the country. In Toledo, LISC has focused on a comprehensive approach to community development, investing nearly \$200 million since 1989 to fuel economic opportunity and build stronger, healthier neighborhoods. For more information, visit [www.lisc.org](http://www.lisc.org).

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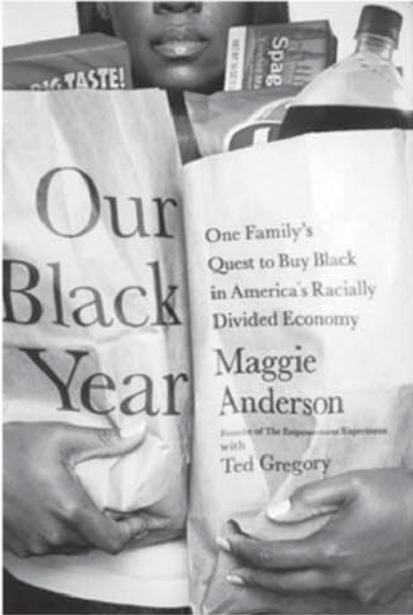
Call in days Monday 12 noon - 2pm & Wednesday 12 noon - 2pm  
# (712) 770-4010 use access code 760462



**THE TOLEDO BLACK**

# Market Place

Toledo's First Online Source for African-American Owned Businesses (419) 243-0007

**Our Black Year**

One Family's Quest to Buy Black in America's Racially Divided Economy

**Maggie Anderson**  
*Founder of The Empowerment Experience with Ted Gregory*

**LITTLE GENERATION DAY CARE**



419-724-7920

**NEED A RIDE?**

**TRANSPORTATION COMPANY**

**1.855.475.RIDE(7433)**

**Truth Art Gallery**

and Event Center

1811 Adams Street • Toledo, Ohio 43604

ADS POSTED ONLINE AT:  
[www.TheTruthToledo.com](http://www.TheTruthToledo.com) and  
[www.ToledoBlackMarketplace.com](http://www.ToledoBlackMarketplace.com)

**POZATV PROMOTIONS**  
*Making Your Marketing Dream a Reality*

**Monique Ward**  
 Owner/CEO

c 419.870.8757  
 b 347.692.8481

 Pozativ Promotions, LLC  
[pozativpromo@gmail.com](mailto:pozativpromo@gmail.com)

**"THE GATHERING PLACE"**

**Nothing but PURE FUN!**  
 5235 Hill & Reynolds @ Meadowbrook Plaza, Toledo, OH 43615  
 419.320.8571 or 419.322.4462  
 Hours Open Thursday - Sunday @ 7 PM

Wedding Receptions, Book Signings, Birthday Celebrations, Retirement Parties, Board Game Tournaments, Special Celebrations, and much more!

Annual Membership available and receive priority bookings, church and organizational bookings welcomed  
 Free Wi-Fi, Light refreshments available, Safe and secured lighted parking, Accommodations for parties up to 45.  
 Standard booking fee for Profit and Non-profit, Event Planner available upon request  
 Catering Referral Services Available upon request  
 \*Come and enjoy comedy, spoken word, music talent and more\*

**BOOK YOUR EVENTS NOW!**

**Child Care**

Footprints Day Care and Pre-School,  
 3215 Lagrange Street, Toledo, OH 43608,  
 419-242-9110



**RUBY'S**



803 N. Reynolds  
[msrubyskitchen.com](http://msrubyskitchen.com)

**A-1 BONDS**

**Tina Butts**  
 BAIL BONDS AGENT

**419-450-3325**  
 24 HOURS

**CRUSADERS FOR CHRIST CHURCH** Presents **Youth & Young Adult 4th Sunday**

Have you been feeling the nudge to develop your life more spiritually but aren't quite sure how to begin? If so, this theme-enriched and spirit-filled experience is designed just for you. Visit us on Facebook - I have a special video message for the serious pursuer!

**Youth & Young Adult 4th Sunday**

When: Every 4th Sunday  
 Time: 11:00 am  
 Where: Crusaders for Christ Church  
 910 Woodbine Rd.  
 Toledo, Ohio



*Brother Joseph Mitchell Jr., Pastor*  
*Emmanuel Lukers, Minister, First Lady*

 Crusaders for Christ Church • [www.crusadersforchristchurch.org](http://www.crusadersforchristchurch.org)

Attention Seniors:  
 House(s) For Rent.  
 Two Bedroom  
 Call (419) 708-2340

**Charleston House of Toledo**

A Premiere Consignment Shop for the Economical Conscious Woman

**STOP BY AND SEE OUR LARGE SPRING AND SUMMER SELECTION**

Sizes small to plus - excellent prices

Designer Suits and Dresses  
 Elegant Hats - Name Brand Shoes  
 Open 10:00 a.m. - Tuesday thru Saturday  
 4055 Monroe Street - Toledo, Ohio  
 419.472.4648

ADS POSTED ONLINE AT:  
[www.TheTruthToledo.com](http://www.TheTruthToledo.com)

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 Hours Open Thursday - Sunday @ 7 PM

Wedding Receptions, Book Signings, Birthday Celebrations, Special Celebrations, and much more!

Annual Membership available and receive complimentary Bookings Church and Organizational Bookings welcomed  
 Free Wi-Fi

**BOOK YOUR EVENTS NOW!**

# CLASSIFIEDS

December 16, 2020

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## HEARTLAND OF PERRYSBURG JOB OPENINGS

1. Heartland of Perrysburg has immediate openings in their Dietary Department. Openings are for FT Cook, PT Cook, FT/PT Dietary Aides. Wage is based on experience. We offer flexible scheduling, excellent benefits. For more information please call 567-336-4015.

2. Heartland of Perrysburg has immediate openings in their Housekeeping Department. Openings are for FT Floor Tech, FT/PT Housekeepers. Wage is based on experience. We offer flexible scheduling, excellent benefits. For more information please call 567-336-4015.

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ELEVATOR MAINTENANCE & REPAIR SERVICES RFP20 – R007

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Elevator Maintenance & Repair Services**. Received in accordance with law until **November 19, 2020, 3:00 PM ET**. see documents: [www.lucasmha.org](http://www.lucasmha.org); 201 Belmont Ave., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9446 (TRS: Dial 711). Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements (Executive Order #11246). This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH), located in Toledo, OH is seeking experienced applicants for the following position(s):

- Inspection Supervisor
- Maintenance Mechanic III

For complete details, visit <https://www.lucasmha.org> and click on Careers. Deadline: 12/18/20. This is a Section 3 covered position. HUD recipients are encouraged to apply and are to indicate on the application if you are a LMHA Public Housing client 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, gender, military status, ancestry, disability, handicap, sexual orientation, genetic information or national origin.



## PARK MAINTENANCE

Metroparks Toledo is looking for a qualified individual for Park Maintenance at Swan Creek Metropark.

HS Diploma or equivalent and valid driver's license required. Moderate level of specialty maintenance experience required. 40 hrs/wk. \$18.45/hr. Go to [www.metroparkstoledo.com](http://www.metroparkstoledo.com) <<http://www.metroparkstoledo.com>> for complete job requirements and to apply. EOE

## NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for bidding on **Metroparks Toledo, Howard Marsh Phase 2, 611 Howard Road, Curtice, OH 43412** will be received; opened; and read aloud at the Metropolitan Park District of the Toledo Area, Fallen Timbers Field Office, 6101 Fallen Timbers Lane, Maumee, Ohio 43537 **Friday, December 11, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.** local time.

COVID-19 UPDATE: In the event the office is not staffed to receive early, hand-delivered bids, bidders may drop off sealed bids to the aforementioned office address through the front door slot. Staff will be present at the Fallen Timbers Field Office for one hour prior to bid opening. If social distancing becomes problematic due to bid-opening turnout, the opening will be held outside or in an adjacent larger facility. Masks are required.

THE SCOPE OF WORK consists of **diked wetland construction**: including tile search/removal, erosion control measures, mass excavation and embankment for dikes and channels, riprap/fabric, pumps/pump unit structures & electric, seed & mulch and **park amenity construction**: including aggregate path & kayak channel. Bidders may obtain copies of plans, specifications, contract documents and plan-holder's list through Newfax Corporation, 333 West Woodruff, Toledo, Ohio 43604 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (check made payable to Newfax Corporation) or via the Newfax Digital Plan Room at [www.newfaxcorp.com](http://www.newfaxcorp.com). Newfax can be contacted at 419-241-5157 or 800-877-5157. A non-refundable fee of \$15 is required for each set of full-size documents obtained. For additional information, please contact Jon Zvanovec @ 419-360-9184, [jon.zvanovec@metroparkstoledo.com](mailto:jon.zvanovec@metroparkstoledo.com).

EACH BIDDER MUST FURNISH either (1) a bond for the full amount of the bid or (2) a certified check, cashier's check or irrevocable letter of credit in an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the bid with its bid. The successful bidder must furnish a 100 percent (100%) Performance Bond and a 100 percent (100%) Labor and Materials Bond.

No bidder may withdraw its bid within thirty (30) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF THE METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF THE TOLEDO AREA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to waive any informality in bidding.

By order of the Board of Park Commissioners  
METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF THE  
TOLEDO AREA

David D. Zenk, Director

## CONTROLLER POSITION AVAILABLE

The Fair Housing Center, 432 N. Superior St., Toledo, Ohio, seeks an experienced Controller to oversee accounting and financial operations. Reporting directly to the CEO, the successful candidate must demonstrate proficiency in generally accepted accounting principles for non-profit organizations to ensure that the highest accounting standards are met, maintain financial records to ensure accuracy and ease of reporting on fiscal activities to Board and funders, be well-versed in basic Microsoft Office software applications (Word, Excel, etc.) and Sage accounting software, with the ability to track activities in our proprietary case management system, and possess the knowledge and ability to interpret, Federal, State, and Local laws regarding non-profit financial management, including 2 CFR Part 200 and other federal guidance documents. The Controller is also responsible for managing the annual audit process, forecasting, budget preparation, 990 submission, preparation of the agency indirect cost proposal, and other duties as assigned, including the fiscal components of the grant writing process.

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in accounting, finance or related field; 3 to 5 years of non-profit financial management experience; and Certified Public Accountant or advanced degree preferred.

This is a full-time exempt position, with some evenings or weekends as needed.

How to Apply: Please submit cover letter and resume to [HR@toledofhc.org](mailto:HR@toledofhc.org).

## ABUNDANT LIFE OF PERRYSBURG ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Abundant Life of Perrysburg is accepting applications for its subsidized apartment communities. Abundant Life #1 offers independent living for senior citizens 62 years of age or older and individuals 55 or older with a physical impairment. Abundant Life #2 is a supportive living complex for people 62 and older. To apply individuals must meet the age and annual income requirement of no more than \$25,200.00 for one person or \$28,800.00 for two people.

We are located in the Three Meadows subdivision near the Manor of Perrysburg. Our garden style apartments offer an open floor plan, one bedroom, secured buildings with private patios and individually controlled heat and air conditioning.

We have a bus that transports all residents to area grocery stores and monthly outings. We offer exercise, worship services and a variety of opportunities for our active and not so active seniors. Please call (419)874-4371 to find out more about our fabulous communities and our availability for apartments. You may also visit us on the web at [abundantlifeperrysburg.org](http://abundantlifeperrysburg.org).



# Capturing Your Holiday Memories

Carla Thomas, Owner CYT Images

The Truth Contributor

Let's recap. Week one, I showed you how Mini - sessions are a fun and inexpensive way to capture holiday memories of you and your family. Week two, we witnessed the beautiful advantages of natural light photography by shooting holiday photos outdoors.

This week, as we continue to explore the different genres of photography and creative ways to capture your holiday memories, we will look at lifestyle / portrait photography.

According to one definition, lifestyle photography is "a style of portrait / people photography which aims to capture and document real-life events, situations, or milestones in an artistic manner and the art of the everyday."

I enjoy this genre because I'm given the opportunity to capture images of my clients in ways that are unique to who they are, in settings and surroundings fun and comfortable for them.

Meet the Kynard family. Stephanie is the owner of Kynard's Child Development Center while her husband Clyde owns and oversees Kynard Enterprises, a commercial and residential building services and construction company. In addition to running two businesses, Clyde and Stephanie navigate the daily tasks and activities involved with raising their two children, Carrington, and Christian, three if you count their dog Remington. However, they decided to put their busy schedules



Carla Thomas



on pause and schedule a fun, holiday photo session.

When speaking of her family Stephanie says, "We absolutely love each other and love spending time with one another. We put God first and next, is the four of us. As parents, we have always reminded our children that if they don't have anyone else, they will always have each other and that has proven to be true during this COVID-19 season.

She adds, "During the holiday season, we love to capture memories through photos because they will serve as a reminder of the times we've spent together as a family and photos are something that can be kept and passed down for generations to come."

And so, I ask, when was the last time you decided to book a photo session for your family? Yes, thanks to the convenience of cell phone cameras, we are forever capturing memories however, inevitably someone is always missing from the photo . . . right?

There will always be tasks on your "To Do" lists, making it less of a priority to gather the family and schedule a photo session but let me encourage you to at the least, make it a yearly tradition.

Whether it be around holiday time or any other time throughout the year, the important thing is to schedule the time.

Visit [www.cytimages.com](http://www.cytimages.com) or email [info@cytimages.com](mailto:info@cytimages.com).



The Kynard Family - Clyde, Carrington, Stephanie, Christian and pet Remington



Christian (center) enjoying a game of Fortnite as family looks on.

## Anita Lopez, Lucas County Auditor

**2021  
DOG LICENSE  
SEASON  
December 1  
thru February 1**

"Look for your dog license renewal form in the mail or email. Stay safe Lucas County and please call with any questions."

**(419) 213-4406**



### DUE TO THE PANDEMIC WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO USE DROP BOX, ONLINE OR MAIL.

If you still wish to purchase in person, please get your 2021 license at one of the following agencies listed below:

- 1. Gladieux Do-It Best**  
5120 Navarre Ave.  
Oregon, OH 43616  
(419) 693-0601  
Monday - Friday 8AM - 6PM  
Saturday 8AM - 5PM  
Sunday 10AM - 4PM  
- Will be Open for Normal Business.
- 2. Lewis Vet**  
5104 Lewis Ave.  
Toledo, OH 43612  
(419) 476-9105  
Mon., Tues., Thurs. & Fri. 9AM - 12PM and 1:30PM - 5PM  
Wednesday & Saturday 9AM - 12PM  
- Will Only Sell to Clients.
- 3. Shoreland Animal Hospital**  
4940 Suder Ave.  
Toledo, OH 43611  
(419) 729-0766  
Mon., Tues., Wed. & Fri. 8AM - 6PM  
Thursday 8AM - 7PM  
- Please call, all information will be taken over the phone. A Staff member will meet you at the door to exchange Payment for the Dog Tag.
- 4. Heatherdowns License Bureau**  
4460 Heatherdowns Blvd.  
Toledo, OH 43614  
(419) 381-1390  
Monday - Friday 8AM - 5PM  
Saturday 8AM - 2PM  
- Sign in with your Name & Cell Phone Number. Return to your car and you will receive a Text when it's your turn.
- 5. Market Place West License Bureau**  
3606 W. Sylvania Ave.  
Toledo, OH 43623  
(419) 720-6900  
Monday - Friday 8AM - 5PM  
Saturday 8AM - 12PM  
- Sign in with your Name & Cell Phone Number. Return to your car and you will receive a Text when it's your turn.
- 6. Oregon License Bureau**  
3018 Navarre Ave.  
Oregon, Oh 43616  
(419) 698-4100  
Monday 8AM - 5:30PM  
Tuesday - Friday 8AM - 5PM  
Saturday 8AM - 12PM  
- Sign in with your Name & Cell Phone Number. Return to your car and you will receive a Text when it's your turn.
- 7. Sylvania License Bureau**  
4900 N. McCord Rd.  
Sylvania OH 43560  
(419) 885-0201  
Monday 8AM - 6:30PM  
Tuesday - Friday 8AM - 5PM  
Saturday 8AM - 12PM  
- Sign in with your Name & Cell Phone Number. Return to your car and you will receive a Text when it's your turn.
- 8. Lucas County Canine Care & Control**  
410 S. Erie St.  
Toledo, OH 43604  
(419) 213-2818  
Monday 11AM - 6:30PM  
Tuesday - Friday 8AM - 5PM  
Saturday 11AM - 5PM  
- Please call, a staff member will bring a form out to your car to be completed. They will process the order and deliver the Dog Tag to your car.
- 9. Lucas County Auditor**  
One Government Ctr.  
Suite 770  
Toledo, OH 43604  
(419) 213-4406  
Monday - Friday 8AM - 4:30PM  
- Please call, all information will be taken over the phone. A Staff member will meet you at your car to exchange Payment for the Dog Tag.

### DUE TO THE PANDEMIC,

we strongly encourage you to use the drop-box, online system or mail your renewal back.

#### LUCAS COUNTY TREASURER DROP-BOX

It is a silver box, on the front of the box it reads:

**Place Payments Here,  
Property Tax Payments Only  
(the Treasurer has partnered with us to use this drop-box),  
Lucas County Treasurer Seal,  
Lindsay M. Webb, Lucas  
County Treasurer.**

It is right at the curb as long as no car is parked in front of it, you will not have to leave your car.

It is located in front of the Safety Building (at the corner of Erie & Jackson Streets across from Government Center), the Treasurer's Drop-Box will accept Dog Tag Renewal Payments 24 hours a day (Checks and Money Orders Only).

#### PURCHASE YOUR 2021 LICENSE ONLINE

Purchase your 2021 license on our website:  
<https://co.lucas.oh.us/dogtags>

#### PURCHASE YOUR 2021 LICENSE BY MAIL

Complete the form with payment and the envelope provided to you. Attn: Dog Licensing