

The Sojourner's Truth

www.thetruthtoledo.com

Volume 68 No. 7

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

September 8, 2021

Moving People to Votes and Vaccines



Tina Butts, Founder of The Movement

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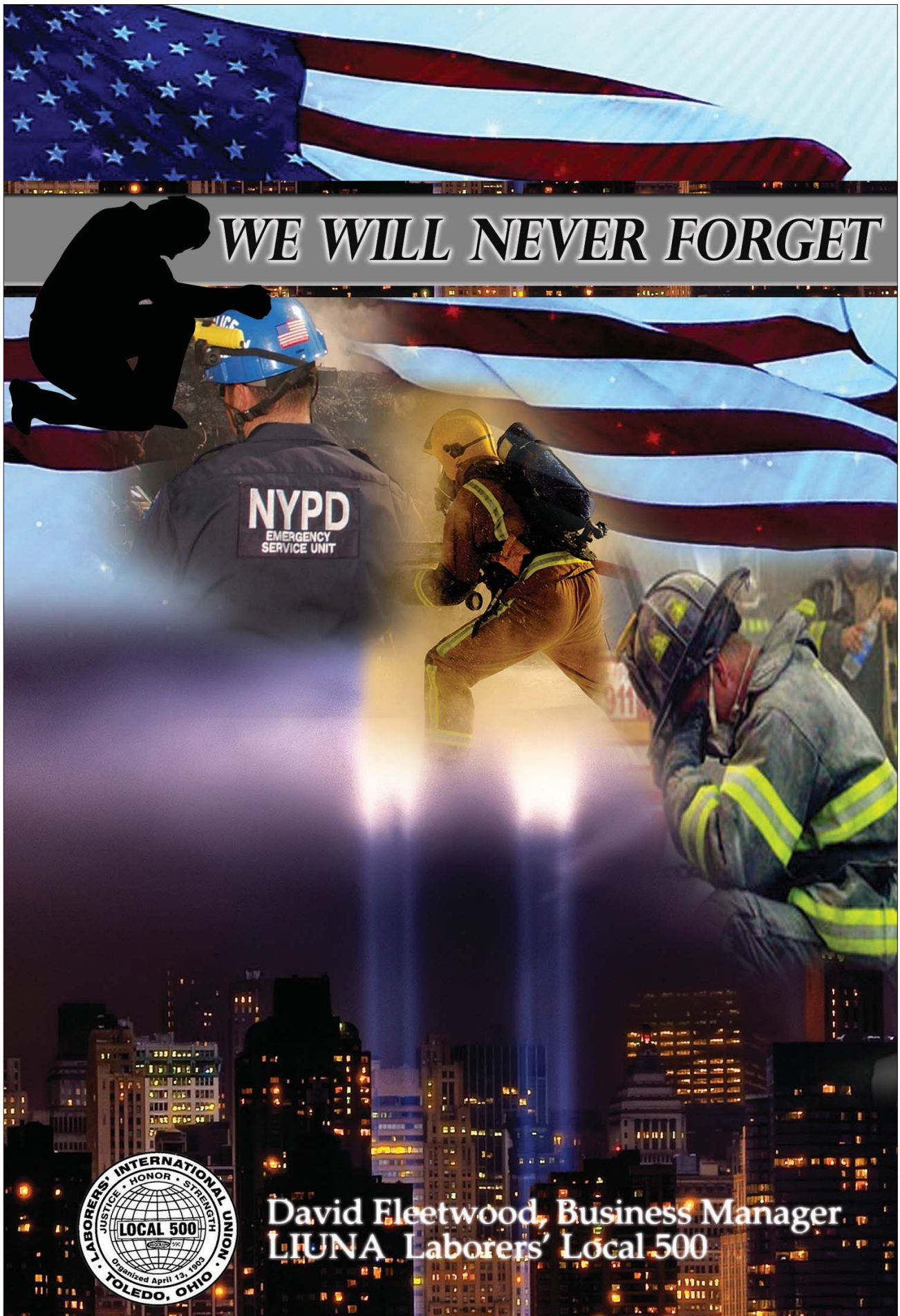
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David Fleetwood, Business Manager
LIUNA Laborers' Local 500

Experience Matters

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



I really believe that all problems are solvable, that it is a matter of getting the right people, technology and capital focused on them.

- Peter Diamandis

Don't overlook the importance of public school board elections.

Increasingly, school boards are "driven by political than educational considerations," as COVID-19 in the classroom has put school governing policies under intense scrutiny.

At the same time, the pandemic has ignited a firestorm of hostile reaction against school boards' decisions across the country. An anti-mask political hopeful recently said of a Pennsylvania school board: "I'm going in with 20 strong men to tell (members) they can leave or they can be removed."

I spoke with Polly Taylor-Gerken, a candidate for Toledo Public Schools Board. We discussed her candidacy, the challenges our local school system faces, and the importance of experience in obtaining solutions to our schools' burgeoning demands and pressures.

Here is our conversation:

Perryman: So, you are running for re-election?

Taylor-Gerken: Yes, thank God because otherwise, you'd have my opponent, Jason Sobb. He's never voted in a municipal election, which means he's not engaged in local anything, let alone public schools. He went to a Catholic school. He's using all the hot button issues to rattle chains. His entire platform is 'how bad everything is, and it's (TPS') fault.' He's doing police ride-alongs to imply that TPS is contributing to the violence in the community. He's already screaming that we're probably teaching Critical Race Theory and calling us names, the unicorn school board. I don't feel threatened by his candidacy. Still, I'm concerned about the distraction to our day-to-day governing of the district.

Perryman: Can you tell readers about your background?

Taylor-Gerken: Okay, so I am Toledo born and raised, as were my parents and grandparents. I'm a public school kid. Everyone in my family went to public school; my kids, my grandkids are in public school now. I grew up mainly in East Toledo, eventually moving to the Shoreland area and graduating from Whitmer High School in 1978.

Not only did I come up through public schools, but I spent 30 years working for the district. More than half was working as a school secretary, where I learned how schools work and the nuts and bolts of a district. Parenthetically, that was an excellent public employment opportunity for me to work my way through college and graduate school. Eventually, I became a school psychologist in the same district where I learned how kids learn, how classrooms work, what parents need to advocate for their children's education, and what resources teachers need to reach as many students as possible.

Those experiences together uniquely qualified me, in the first place, to come on the school board and contribute immediately. Since then, I'm finishing up

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A Bounty Hunter Free-for-All

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq.
Guest Column

The State of Texas recently passed a draconian law that prohibits abortions from the time of six weeks and onwards. The only exceptions are medical emergencies. Incest and rape are not included in the exceptions.

What is novel about this law is that the Texas legislature, in order to circumvent the fact that the state is a sponsored actor in the implementation of this law, passed off the enforcement of this law to its citizens.

What is about to be spawned in Texas is a new wild west in which any person can self deputize themselves and seek out those "lawbreakers" who assist a woman in getting an abortion.

Yes, you read it correctly. Now, in the Lone Star State, any person, without a license or a badge or any training, can take upon themselves the duties of an "abortion bounty hunter." That person can, without legal restraint, set him or herself up as a posse of one and undertake acts that will root out anyone who aids or abets a woman in the procurement of an abortion.

By the way, there is a "bounty" of up to \$10,000 if your investigative acts result in a conviction of a person or persons who engaged in aiding or abetting a woman getting an abortion in Texas.

So, if you are a man or a woman who wants to engage in possibly lucrative part-time work, you can gear up and start an enterprise in which you ferret out people, organizations, doctors or anyone for that matter, that aided or abetted a woman in getting an abortion.



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Toledo Holds Final Community Forum on How to Allocate Funds

By Dawn Scotland

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

On August 31, over 120 community members gathered at Scott High School for the final public forum presented by the City of Toledo to address the allocation of funds for the Toledo Recovery Plan. The forum was the last public one of a series of six that allowed for suggestions from Toledoans on the city's use of the 180 million dollars provided by the United States government per the American Rescue Plan.

In 2021, President Joe Biden created the American Rescue Plan in response to the racial disparities created by the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. \$180,948,591 in funding has been allocated to the city of Toledo with half of the funds received in May 2021 and the other half to be received in May 2022. The funds must be used in their entirety by December 31, 2026.

The information provided by the city stated, "the American Rescue Plan Act puts an emphasis on equity – addressing the root causes of poverty and building wealth within communities of color. ARPA must be spent on specific terms that are approved by the US Department of Treasury. It cannot be used for everything Toledo needs."

The city states that funding can also be used for third party grants. "The City may deliver all ARPA services itself as the recipient. [The City] may also choose to award some of this funding to third-party partners called sub-recipients. These include non-profits and other units of local government. These decisions will be made by the Mayor and City Council after community input has been received and reviewed."

Doni Miller, CEO of Neighborhood Health Association, served as moderator for the forum with Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz and city council members in attendance in the audience. The forum responses were recorded by

the City of Toledo staff.

Opening the forum Miller stated, "This is your time to talk to the city about how you would like to see the money spent." Miller ensured the audience "there is no pre-planned agenda (from the city)... tell the city what you want them to do."

Miller presented the bullet points from the city that served as "sample categories" for Toledo's Recovery Plan, emphasizing to the audience "do not allow it to limit your thinking."

"Toledo's Recovery Plan Priorities" presented by the city are: "youth, recreation, and parks; safe and livable neighborhoods; job creation and economic development; green and healthy housing; and avoiding cuts to city services (such as keeping capital improvement funding for capital improvement projects and replacing old equipment and vehicles for first responders)."

Participants, who came from all areas of Toledo and across varying demographics, offered a range of suggestions and problems to city. These suggestions included but were not limited to: home repair programs, creating an endowment for city parks, creation of community hubs, infant mortality assistance, 24 hour programs for those battling addiction and assistance with the groundhog infestation in the inner city. Many in attendance were those who are in the frontlines of the community's issues serving as advocates and leaders in community programs and nonprofits. Also present were local artists, activists and concerned residents.

The forum exceeded the one-hour limit set by the city with many of the participants offering a resounding call for the need to speak. The city extended the time of the forum. Throughout the event several participants offered frustrations about the process and were uninhibited in vocalizing their suspicions and distrust over the government's distribution of the funds.

Participants were offered a survey on Toledo's Recovery Plan to return to the city with their suggestions by August 31. It is unclear by the information provided when the city will make its decision on the distribution of funds.

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-Brian Tracey

R.W. Inspires

Tina Butts and The Movement: Bringing More Equity for the Underserved

By Asia Nail

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The protests over police brutality against Black people is inspiring a new wave of Black civic engagement. One of the best ways to create change at all levels of society and to have your voice heard is by voting. US Civil rights leaders of the past knew this and fought for decades to ensure Black people had the equal right to vote. But even now, there are still barriers – barriers that The Movement and founder Tina Butts are educating the community on how to overcome.

The Movement is mobilizing the next generation of black voters here in Lucas county. "We have a special trust within our own community," says Butts. "We make sure everyone is registered and engaged in the political issues that matter to them."

By trade, Butts is a bail bondswoman dealing in all types of bonds from criminal, janitorial, travel checks and those dealing with guardianship appointments, just to name a few. She is the owner of T-Bonds Bail Bonds Services, located in downtown Toledo across from the county jail, at 1709 Spielbusch Ave.

"Frankly many are disillusioned with the voting process and overall feel like black votes have been historically counted out," shares Butts. "The only way to have faith in our current process is to know the issues and candidates that best support the goals of equality for the black community."

Anything less than systemic change will allow a current supremacist system to continue to function as it was originally designed—to the detriment of black and brown livelihood.

"We want people to understand WHY their vote matters when it comes to fixing institutions that no longer serve us," says Butts.

To that end, The Movement has identified five key policy areas to systematically address the challenges often facing the underserved: Disproportionate neighborhood violence, institutionalized racism, improving the education system, improving employment rates and mentorship opportunities.

"Health equity is also on our agenda in the midst of this pandemic. We want to save as many lives as possible," shares Butts. "We know a lot of the trends and the statistics around our Black and Latino citizens here in Lucas County in terms of vaccination rates, we are two to three times more likely to be hospitalized and to die from COVID-19 without preventative treatment."

Removing barriers and providing accurate information is part of the state of Ohio's push to get more people in Black and Latino communities vaccinated.

In Lucas County only 28 percent of the African-American community is vaccinated. That's a number that has many worried especially as positive case numbers are rising with the highly transmissible Delta variant.

Not only has The Movement invigorated new life into the voting booths, they are also helping the inner city (many of whom are hesitant) to get vaccinated, as Ohio pushes to reach a 70 percent vaccination rate to obtain herd

immunity against SARS-CoV-2.

After losing her mother to coronavirus and watching her sister fight for her life on a ventilator for two weeks, Tina Butts decided nothing will deter her from assisting Toledoans from receiving education and easily accessible vaccinations.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said that a new study shows that the coronavirus vaccines work efficiently at keeping people out of the hospital. The study examined over 43,000 cases of COVID-19 in Los Angeles County between May 1 and July 25 and found that unvaccinated people are 29 times more likely to end up in the hospital than those who are fully vaccinated.

The Movement uses grassroots efforts to build trust back in black and brown neighborhoods one personalized conversation at a time. They have now teamed up with the V Project who has the same simple shared goal: Help vaccinate 70 percent of Toledo and northwest Ohio and be a model for other cities.

Walking around the neighborhoods, Butts encounters mixed responses to the vaccine.

Medical officials say, although the vaccine was released with unprecedented speed, it went through the same rigorous review process as other vaccines.

While what appears to be 'fast' to the general public, government health officials assure the public that the science behind the shot already existed, perfected more than 15 years ago, but just needed a new virus to be applied to.

The leadership of The Health Department, the Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners may be good but many say they are not necessarily the people who are going to be effective in delivering the message surrounding vaccination to communities of color.

"The black and brown community don't personally know corporations, they know people. They know Tina Butts and The Movement. The community knows they can trust us," explains Butts.

Many people in our underserved areas still have the barriers of transportation, technology, and education surrounding inoculation. The Movement is finding much of the African-American hesitancy in our area is simply due to these factors. "With our events and door-to-door canvassing we continue to increase our success rates. We put 8-10,000 life saving shots into arms because of our ground roots efforts alone," says Butts.

Still building trust and educating the community is at the heart of Butts'



Tina Butts

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Perryman... continued from page 3

my eighth year on the school board, where I've gotten the important experience of oversight and policy and governing the district.

Perryman: What are TPS' current challenges?

Taylor-Gerken: From the governing aspect, it is the continual assault on public education by our state and, to some extent, federal leadership

Perryman: You used the term "assault." Please elaborate.

Taylor-Gerken: This is where I think about policies ranging from over-testing our kids in a way that doesn't actually measure what's important in education but instead measures poverty. Then, also, there is the push to privatize so many different aspects of public education, including funneling so many dollars to charter schools without any accountability whatsoever. Then, finally, the push to continually expand vouchers for students to attend private schools where again, they don't have to be accountable to the same flawed instruments to assess progress.

I worry about the policies that I think are very well planned to dismantle public education as we know it. So, frankly, that's a constant battle.

Perryman: What are other challenges for the district?

Taylor-Gerken: When you get down to what we're facing on the ground is being able to be innovative because we're always chasing less than helpful things. We're constantly worrying about test scores and whether funding is fair and equitable instead of concentrating on maintaining more innovative practices as we learn more about best practices and what is needed.

If we get down to even a little more in the weeds, we also continue to have challenges with communication, both internal and external, but we're getting better. We are developing more streamlined ways of ensuring everyone knows what's going on and all the stakeholders have access to information. The way we do that is to build out a much more transparent system, to begin with. So, that way, you don't have to dig for information, even if it's not pushed out as efficiently as we'd like. So, we could improve communication with the community at large.

And, as far as immediate challenges are, we have some critical staffing shortages. We have to run the school system, and many days we don't have enough substitutes to cover classrooms, and that's frightening.

Perryman: What are some strengths about which our district can be proud?

Taylor-Gerken: The extent to which our career tech programming has not only expanded but intensified in terms of meeting the needs of the job market is very exciting. We have added layers and levels of rigor to include industry credentials and certificates and college credits, and sometimes even associates degrees. So, we have really put ourselves on the map with career technology, which significantly improves our outcomes.

The career tech department is really about addressing a broad spectrum of learner needs, a broad spectrum. There is something for everyone in TPS, so I really like that.

I think the other strength is that, at least for the period of time I've been on this board, we developed a new strategic plan, and we have brought it to life more and more. I think the strategic focus that has been sustained over the last eight years accounts for a lot of the excellent progress you see. The third strength that we should shine a light on is our continually growing and expanding early childhood offerings. We're killing it in early childhood.

Perryman: Okay, let's shift from the nerdy-type discussion to practical mat-

ters. I'm looking around the country and seeing the hostility in school board meetings over masks and vaccines. Why would you want to be a school board member in such a contentious environment?

Taylor-Gerken: As far as the real, in general, I think we are a community that's not going to put up with that. Sure, I've gotten emails and read comments on Facebook when it comes to the mask that says: 'Nobody's gonna make my kid wear a mask, and you touch my kid and make them wear a mask then I don't know what I'm going to do.' I see the grumbling, but I haven't seen signs of that kind of arousal on these topics, so I don't feel threatened yet.

Because we're an urban community and have a good relationship with the community at large, there's a buffer between the rest of the community and us before it gets that crazy with us directly. So, I just don't see it rising up as readily now.

Perryman: The COVID cases are rising, and we have a deadlier variant than previous iterations. What do you think about our future?

Taylor-Gerken: Well, I can tell you that we've already had to put two preschool classes in quarantine. So, for 10 days, I've got two preschool classes that will be virtual again already, so that's pretty foreboding.

I don't know what it will take for the community to back off and do what they have to do. I also feel like if I'm going to go to the wall for mask mandates and have people beat my doors down and follow me to my car because I want a mask mandate, then I'd rather go to the wall for a vaccination mandate because that might actually make a more lasting impact on this. I'm not sure we'll get there. I don't know if my administration has the stomach for it. But, we're going to start hopefully with some incentives.

Perryman: Please talk about diversity, equity and inclusion. You just lost one-half of your entire department.

Taylor-Gerken: Dr. Treva Jeffries and Dr. Hope Bland laid a good foundation by convening a series of community focus groups and so forth to get started on a framework. Honestly, the building out of that department was interrupted by COVID. In the meantime, the department stays busy with the immediate crises that come at us one after the other. So, there's a little bit of building the ship and flying it simultaneously.

I'm still anxious to see how it settles into its role. Still, we are definitely committed to Diversity and Inclusion being a very robust and vital department.

Perryman: Does TPS need to triple the police presence as union leader Kevin Dalton has suggested?

Taylor-Gerken: I would like to reduce the number of armed police officers in the schools. I can tell you that we're working hard on rethinking the roles of what's traditionally known as security personnel in our schools. We're looking at a way to really enhance that level of work and service to our students, including more social workers and thinking of that level of staff more as intervention and relationship folks than security folks.

The rescue plan dollars, there's a whole line item on that topic that we would significantly increase the number of psychologists, counselors, and social workers.

In fact, I wish that would've been the answer to tripling police: 'Well, why don't we triple the social workers? They're in your bargaining unit; you should want more social workers; they're in your union.' So, we are definitely going to be upping the ante on those providers.

Perryman: Finally, can you crystallize your campaign message for readers?

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Finkbeiner Urges City to Build a New Wayman Palmer YMCA

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Mayoral candidate Carty Finkbeiner held a press conference on Thursday, September 2, to announce his support for a new YMCA facility. He said that with the American Rescue Pact funds coming the City's way – in excess of \$190 million, some of it should be earmarked for a new Wayman Palmer Y building.

"The roof leaks; there are infrastructure issues ... we don't deserve anything in this neighborhood but born again, fresh new building. The city needs to take some of that money for a new building. We need investment in the YMCA. Let's leave no one out."

Citing the weekend's upcoming Solheim Cup event and what the city has done for it, Finkbeiner said: "How much money was put into the golf tournament compared to how much was put into facilities like this one?"

Sharing the podium with Finkbeiner were City Council candidates George Sarantou and Harvey Savage who both agreed with the mayoral candidate about the need for a new facility

"We cannot leave our grandchildren a building like that one falling down," said Savage. "We did that with the county jail. We need to be sure the next generation is headed in the right direction."

Bishop Brehon Hall attended the Wednesday press conference to add his voice to the idea for a new facility. "Our community needs not just a rehaul but a re-do," said Hall. "This community needs something that children can come to. Carty Finkbeiner has fought for years for justice and for neighborhood facilities."

Tina Butts, founder and director of The Movement, also spoke and advocated for a new Y: "Our kids should come and see a place they can be proud of; our babies are all around here. It's time for us to demand changes and fight for our kids when they don't have a voice for themselves."



Carty Finkbeiner asks for a new Wayman Palmer YMCA



Bishop Brehon Hall addresses the press



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KeyBank, NeighborWorks and The Fair Housing Center Expand Access to Home Loans in Toledo

Special to The Truth

On Thursday, September 2, representatives of KeyBank, NeighborWorks and The Fair Housing Center held a press conference to announce a partnership designed to make financing for single-family homes easier and more affordable for low to moderate income individuals and families in the city of Toledo.

The program is funded by a \$3 million investment from KeyBank, administered by NeighborWorks and will provide an estimated 60 first mortgage and refinance loans at below market rates to borrowers in low-to-moderate income neighborhoods in the city of Toledo. To be eligible, borrowers must have incomes of not more than 80 percent of the area median income.

"This loan program is unique," said Jim Hoffman, president, Northwest Ohio Market, KeyBank. "We can finance individuals who have good income that is not necessarily verifiable. By turning distressed properties into valued residential assets, as well as creating an affordable pathway to purchase and improve homes, we hope to help neighborhoods and people thrive."

NeighborWorks views KeyBank's investment as a tremendous opportunity to add home purchase resources that will benefit low- and moderate-income consumers," said William Farnsel, executive director, NeighborWorks.

The goal of the program, noted several Fair Housing Center leaders, is to promote homeownership and thereby decrease the wealth gap between the black and white communities.

"Homeownership fosters stronger and more stable neighborhoods," said Marie Flannery, president and CEO of The Fair Housing Center. "Homeownership is a major way to build generational wealth. Unfortunately, this opportunity is too often out of reach for many in our community."

"The home is a family's most valuable asset," said George Thomas, vice



(L to R) William Farnsel, Nicole Reno-Osby, Abdul Saqi, Jim Hoffman, Marie Flannery, George Thomas

president and general counsel for The Fair Housing Center, as he noted that 74 percent of white families own their homes compared to only 44 percent of black families. Such a homeownership gap, he added, results in the fact that the average American white family's wealth is estimated to be 10 times that of the average black family.

"These are the types of steps we can take together," Thomas said of the KeyBank, NeighborWorks, Fair Housing Center collaboration.

On hand at the press conference was Abdul Saqi, one of two Somali refugees who are part of the first group of individuals who will receive approved loans through the new collaboration. For five years Saqi has been waiting for approval for a loan and finally received it when the new program was enacted. He will be purchasing a home in Autumn Woods in the Angola area.

"He and his family are now settled," said Nicole Reno-Osby, his spokesman with NeighborWorks. Saqi had much to overcome having had no credit score whatsoever at the beginning of the process.

Loan applicants will be required to attend a NeighborWorks home buyer orientation session, as well as individual counseling sessions that will include an affordability analysis. Additional credit counseling, credit repair instructions and on-site home buyer education will be offered by NeighborWorks Financial Opportunity Center.

NeighborWorks underwriting standards will be used to qualify loan applicants and applications will be submitted for consideration to an internal loan committee made up of senior NeighborWorks management. The Fair Housing Center will ensure the program is inclusive and delivers on its goal of building communities that create and offer opportunity for all.

For more information, interested borrowers can contact NeighborWorks by phone at 419-691-2900.

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Former Toledo Mayors Endorse Jan Scotland for Mayor

By Dawn Scotland

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

A press conference was held by mayoral candidate Jan Scotland at Rev. H. V. Savage Park in central Toledo on Tuesday, August 31. Scotland received public endorsements from former Toledo mayors and fellow Republicans Michael P. Bell and Donna Owens. Both former mayors acknowledged Scotland for his commitment to the city and voiced their support for his plans to create programs that will target the city's youth and increase the city's policing.

At Savage Park, the location of recent gun violence, Bell took the podium to enthusiastically endorse the mayoral hopeful on behalf of himself and Owens, saying "We need a change... We believe Jan Scotland is the man that can do that."

Bell, who was mayor of Toledo from 2010-2014, highlighted Scotland's community involvement and business sense. Bell stated, "He understands the community, in order to turn the city around we need to focus on the safety related issues."

Bell acknowledged the recent shooting that took place at Savage Park. "What we have experienced at this park ... is not what the standard should be... I believe Jan will change that direction" adding, "He is a businessman... he understands how to deal with money and budgets ... you can't move the city forward if you're not fiscally responsible. I believe he will be fiscally responsible... I whole heartedly endorse Jan Scotland for mayor."

Followed by Bell's endorsement, Owens (Toledo mayor 1983- 1989), echoed Bell's support saying, "Jan is the man for Toledo to move the city forward!" Owens emphasized the importance of programs for the city's youth and criticized the current administration's budget initiatives. She remarked, "Kids are our future... you have to show them love. You need the compassion he has... I whole heartedly support [Jan]."

Scotland was humbled upon receiving the public endorsement of his longtime friends and fellow party members saying, "Having two people who sat in the seat and know what it takes, believe in me... that has to be more powerful than anything else. Who would know better than them?"

Scotland has presented three press conferences addressing his platform for the mayoral seat. His plan includes an increased police presence, a joint recreation district for city parks and an increase in job opportunities. He has been adamant about his disapproval of the current mayor's administration and has offered the same criticisms of opponent Carty Finkbeiner. He remarked, "The problems are not difficult, and the solutions aren't difficult to come by. It's the commitment to making sure those things happen that is missing... I plan to turn the city around".

Bell later commented, "There is a difference between a politician and a public servant. A politician will tell you what you want to hear... a public servant is willing to do the right thing even if it may sacrifice their own welfare to make sure that the public is safe. I see [Jan] as a public servant." Bell added, "Sometimes we get into the issue of party [Republican or Democrat]... you have to be able to figure out is there is a difference between the

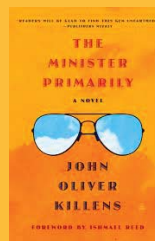


Former Mayor Mike Bell speaks as Rev. James Willis, former Mayor Donna Owens and mayoral candidate Jan Scotland look on

individuals that you're electing... we get so stuck in party politics and forget that the issue is about this community that is dying."

Scotland has operated a State Farm insurance agency in the Reynolds Corner neighborhood of Toledo for 30 years. He is the founder of the Sleepy Hollow Athletic League that has served inner city youth since 1996. Scotland is a former chair of the East Toledo Family Center and Frederick Douglass Community Association and served on Toledo City Council in 1987. He filed his petition to run for mayor in July 2021 as a Republican.

WHAT WE'RE READING NOW



The Minister Primarily
by John Oliver Killens



She Memes Well
by Quinta Brunson



The Wild Ones
by Nafiza Azad



Up All Night
edited by Laura Silverman

TOMMY KAYE'S
Classic
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THE PEOPLE'S STATION

TARTA To Remain Fare-Free Through 2021

As the effects of the pandemic continue to impact people and businesses in the Toledo area, those who depend on public transportation can continue to get to work, school, and other sites without having worry about how to pay.

The Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) Board of Trustees has announced that rides will remain fare-free on buses, paratransit, and Call-A-Ride vehicles through Dec. 31, 2021. TARTA hasn't charged passengers since March 17, 2020.

"We hope the extension of the free-fare period gives some peace of mind to people who rely on TARTA to reach their job, their doctor's office, or

anywhere else their day-to-day routine and needs may take them," said TARTA Board President Kelsie Hoagland.

"As our local businesses and residents continue to deal with the COVID pandemic, now is the time to make TARTA easy to use and continue safety protocols such as free-fares."

Masks are still required for passengers on all TARTA vehicles through January 18, 2022, and are available for free on board.

TARTA remains committed to reaching out to members of its ridership negatively impacted by the effects of the coronavirus pandemic and keeping passengers safe and moving on a reliable transit system.

Tina Butts... continued from page 6

plight. "I'm not sure there's another community in Ohio that is doing what we are doing," she says.

"The corporate community, the institutional and government community, the private sector and us, the people with our feet to the street, are all collaboratively determined to defeat this invisible ghost named COVID."

Still giving people data and numbers isn't always a convincing methodology in the black community, other Black and Brown people telling their stories and giving first-hand accounts with the virus on the other hand may be.

"There will be more storytelling activities to amplify the voices of real people in our vaccine hesitant communities who have been impacted by this virus. Our hope is that our community takes notice and makes educated medical decisions with their healthcare providers based on facts and not rumors," stresses Butts. "People will hear from others they may actually identify with. We can't forget about health equity in the black community, either."

The Movement's message is not one of forcing people to get vaccinated, rather they want to ensure people have the information that leads to them making a confident decision and to also have the opportunity to be vacci-



nated quickly, in a convenient way.

Those behind The Movement emphasize the importance of our underserved communities having a collective generational voice to affect change within the issues that matter most *with their votes*.

The Movement is bridging these generational voter gaps with their four-part education strategy:

1. Empower community through voter education and voter registration
2. Increase minority and young adult voter participation in Lucas County.
3. Bring political empowerment through social engagement.
4. Create meaningful fun experiences through voting.

Often when it comes to voting, millennials are more engaged than generations. "All the generations matter and when we come together more institutional change that makes a real difference in our communities will happen," explains Tina.

Mature leaders understand that it enhances black and brown communities to train the next generation and more so to cultivate them to carry on a strong historic ancestry of African-American progress with their VOTE.

Many believe being black in America in itself is living in a perpetual state of distress. People always say things like you'll be a great leader one day, but never have any practical steps on how to bring that into reality.

The Movement also shares resources to link our community's youth to tools on how to be effective while they are maturing through this uniquely stressful time in the world.

We are dealing with a spectrum of issues within underserved communities. What does leadership look like to us? Until we collectively vote, The Movement would argue, black and brown communities will never effect true change in organized politics.

Ms. Tina Butts isn't into labels, she's into action. Although working at the helm of The Movement, she doesn't give herself a title. "We are all in this together. We don't need special titles to complete our mission. We prefer good ole hard work and a lot of love," she explains.

As a group, most African Americans feel that there has yet to be a white generation to have a revolutionary commitment to black people's liberation in America. If this is the case, voting as a priority in the black community has never been more important.

"Our strategy is not to align with specific candidates or parties as much as building people's understanding of political power," shares Butts

Let's all bring black and brown issues to the forefront of our lives, not only as we near election months but always. Ms. Tina Butts, The Movement and their allied partners are doing their part in bringing more equity for the underserved through voter education, registration and vaccination.

Remember the deadline to register to vote or to update your voting information is 30 days prior to the election in which you wish to vote. You can find more information and get involved with The Movement at www.themovementteamlucascounty.com.



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September is
National Sickle
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Start the School Year Strong with the Toledo Library

The school year is officially underway for students across Lucas county. Fortunately, the Toledo Lucas County Public Library can help make this school year great. No matter the scholar's age, Toledo Library programs assist on the road to excellence.

For lesson help

Tutor.com is a fantastic site serving those enrolled in kindergarten through intro-level college studies.

The cornerstone of Tutor.com is instructional help delivered in an online classroom with a tutor best suited for your needs. Lessons cover more than 40 subjects, including math, science, and English. In the calculus field alone, there are tutors with Ph.D.s in mathematics, and others who use math daily in their careers as pilots, engineers, and teachers.

Online writing support takes place through either live sessions or convenient drop-off review via Tutor.com's website.

For teachers

From Pre-K through twelfth grade, the Toledo Library has an assortment of free resources to complement teachers' lessons plans. On-demand tutorials and storytime videos, remote class visits, and book kit bundles are among the

many offerings available to teachers.

The Library also provides teachers with book ideas by topic and grade level. We can also help teachers sign their students up for a Library card!

For student research

A wealth of expertly curated databases are available to expand students' understanding of the world. All that is needed to get started is a Library card.

Gale in Context: Middle School offers detailed reference materials in numerous subjects. For high school students, Gale Virtual Reference Library hosts hundreds of books and publications on 21 different topics, such as arts, business, and multicultural studies.

Access World News – Newsbank boasts the most comprehensive collection of full-text newspapers, with coverage from all 50 states and nearly every country. In addition, CultureGrams users can experience reports and unique perspectives on life and culture in other countries.

The Toledo Library has students and teachers covered. Whether it's an especially stubborn math equation or challenging term paper, help is just around the corner. These resources—and more—are available at toledolibrary.org/prek12.

Owens Signs Transfer Agreement with Siena Heights University

Owens Community College and Siena Heights University signed an articulation agreement creating a seamless transfer path for Owens graduates to complete their bachelor's degree in business and healthcare programs with the 4-year university located in Adrian, Michigan.

"We are pleased to offer Owens Community College graduates the opportunity to complete their bachelor's degree online with Siena Heights University," said Siena Heights President Sister Peg Albert, OP, Ph.D. "We are excited about this collaboration with Owens Community College."

The articulation agreement is designed to provide Owens Community College graduates equal consideration with other students seeking admission and financial aid. Credit completed at Owens will transfer toward a SHU baccalaureate degree in Applied Science, Business Administration and Community and Human Services.

"We are proud to partner with Siena Heights University on this agreement," Owens President Dione D. Somerville Ed.D., said. "Owens remains committed to providing pathways that lead to meaningful student outcomes and this partnership is further demonstration of that commitment."

In addition, the articulation agreement also provides eligible full-time Owens Community College employees a discounted tuition rate for SHU undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

For the eighth consecutive year, SHU's undergraduate Online Learning Program was ranked nationally by the U.S. News and World Report. For the fifth consecutive year, Siena Heights was top-rated in Michigan among all institutions. Siena Heights tied for 34th among all public and private institutions.

Siena Heights University is a Catholic university founded and sponsored by the Adrian Dominican Sisters. Siena Heights is a coeducational North Central accredited institution founded in the liberal arts tradition, offering associate's, bachelor's and master's degrees. The university is headquartered in Adrian, Mich., with degree completion centers in Dearborn, Southfield,

...continued on page 13

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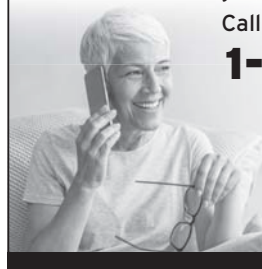
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1-844-334-8627
dental50plus.com/truth



¹ "Medicare and You," Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2020
Includes the Participating (in GA: Designated) Providers and Preventive Benefits Rider. Product not available in all states.
Acceptance guaranteed for one insurance policy/certificate of this type. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. This specific offer is not available in CO, LA, NY; call 1-800-969-4781 or respond for similar offer. Certificate C250A (ID: C250E; PA: C2500); Insurance Policy P150 (GA: P150GA; NY: P150NY; OK: P150OK; TN: P150TN); Rider kinds B438/B439 (GA: B439B). 6255

Tolliver... continued from page 3

The Republican dominated legislature in Texas has given the green light to let anyone "cowboy up" and go a-hunting for any suspicious activity that could result in a civil conviction for anyone who assisted a woman in getting an abortion.

Through some nifty Google searching, I was able to get in contact with a quickly formed abortion bounty hunting group out of Dallas weirdly called, "Knees Up!"

The director, a disgraced former FBI agent, named Kirby Ellis, consented to the below telephonic interview regarding how he plans to engage in both overt and covert operations in the State of Texas to catch these malefactors.

Me: Mr. Ellis, exactly what is your plan to have this law enforced by private citizens such as yourself?

Ellis: It is quite simple. I have three proven techniques that I learned from the early

Fugitive Slave Laws that were in operation in the South when private citizens were able to locate and capture runaway slaves; and they received a sizable financial reward for their efforts.

One, you must see every woman from the age of 14 years to 50 years as being a possible abortion seeker. Two, Video record every possible meeting that you see a pregnant woman have with any third party. Everyone is a suspect! And three, wait until they enter a women's health clinic; and when they do...BAM! Break into the front door with cameras blazing and issue a citizen's arrest for everyone there.

Me: That sounds like a dragnet in which innocent people are accused of criminal activity without a chance to clear their name or their supposedly "criminal" conduct.

Ellis: Doesn't matter to me. Let the law sort it out in court. My job is to get names and addresses, file the lawsuits and let the fur fly!

Me: What other tactics are you using to enforce this law?

Ellis: My favorite one is to use informants on social media. There is a cache of valuable information on these sites. People love to blab about what they are doing and what others told them about what others are doing.

Another gem to use is to use ads that direct desperate women to call my office and we tell them that we are sympathetic to their situation and want to help and we will provide coverage for them to go to their doctor or clinic for an abortion. This works every time.

Me: So, you are telling me that you use blatant subterfuge to trick women into exposing others to your trap for this bounty money?

Ellis: Hey, I ain't no saint but ten thousand dollars is ten thousand dollars!

Me: How can you cover the State of Texas and be all eyes and ears to make this scheme work?

Ellis: That is the easy part. I pay informants for information for what they are hearing and if it pans out, they get a generous finder's fee.

Me: Do you know how eerily similar your tactics are to former slave holders trying to re-enslave their runaways? They used the same methods!

Ellis: Ain't history a great teacher!

Me: What happens if you go to court and lose? Aren't you worried about being slammed by opposing counsel for the fees and costs incurred to defend their clients?

Ellis: That is one of the beauties of this law. The Republicans said that any good faith efforts to undertake this work will not result in any civil or criminal repercussions against those who file these lawsuits.

Me: So, you get blanket immunity for filing these lawsuits, even if they fail?

Ellis: Yep! How sweet is that!

Me: You probably know that other states will copy the example of Texas and attempt to pass similar laws. What then?

Ellis: That's a no brainer. I plan to franchise my concept nationwide and have training classes here in Dallas. I placed a small ad in a national newspaper and already got over threehundred applicants and each will pay me \$20,000 for the franchise and a two percent royalty on each case that they win.

Me: Have you no shame! You are profiting from the misery of desperate women!

Ellis: Excuse me, but I got three lines on hold. Gotta go. CLICK!

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com

Perryman... continued from page 6

Taylor-Gerken: My unique set of qualifications and experience make me well-suited to continue another four years serving this district.

I've worked 30 years in Toledo Public Schools and 18 years as a school secretary. I learned how the schools operate and the mechanics of a district. Then, I worked another 16 years as a school psychologist, where I learned how kids learn, how students succeed, what resources teachers need to reach students. Now, I have eight years of experience in policy oversight and governance of a district.

Perryman: Thank you.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at drdperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org

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Black Health Matters by Richard W. Walker, Jr., MD

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

This morning, your head hurt something terrible.

Is it anything to worry about? Your grandfather had heart problems and died after a stroke. Your grandmother suffered from diabetes and you know there's got to be a way to avoid their fates. Does your headache have anything to do with that? Do you need *Black Health Matters* by Richard W. Walker, Jr., MD to calm your fears?

While growing up in Spanish Harlem years ago, Walker noticed how much diseases like heart disease, diabetes and kidney failure affected the people in his neighborhood. It made him "angry," he says, and it spurred him to study medicine as a profession.

It still dismays him that "poor health among our Black population" is almost epidemic but there is a solution. Walker says that if you take an "approach to wellness" and take steps to remain healthier, you could lower your chances of developing the more-common but most-serious diseases that plague a higher number of African American people.

First of all, he says, be aware of your "gut-microbiome-brain" connection and know what foods are best for you. Know what not to eat, too, and how probiotics can help your "GMB." Then, especially if you could stand to lose a few pounds, understand obesity, why it matters, and how you became overweight. Did you know culture has something to do with it? Yes, and though he only briefly touches on "food deserts," Walker addresses these issues.

Walker says that Black adults are 40 percent more apt to have high blood pressure than their white neighbors. Hypertension is a killer; knowing more about it – how to read a BP monitor, how smoking and salt intake figure in – will help you keep it under control.

c.2021
Square One Publishers
\$16.95
321 pages

Know the general symptoms of diabetes and what to do about them. Learn how kidney disease may start with another disease altogether. Read up on cancer, aging, sickle cell disease, and how dental care really matters. Finally, memorize the signs of a stroke or heart attack; your life may depend upon it.

Your regular physician is all tied up and it's hard to get in to see her. That doesn't make you feel any better, but with its clear-cut, easy-to-understand chapters on a variety of illnesses both major and minor, *Black Health Matters* might.

And yet, there's one important thing to remember, once you get this book: it shouldn't take the place of a physician with your medical chart in-hand. That's a reminder that author Richard W. Walker, Jr., MD offers, but caution and prudence don't seem to be stressed here quite enough. Then again, readers will want to bear in mind that this book is about proactive and preventative wellness, not fixing what's already broke.

The best use of this book, perhaps, is in the basics it offers: overviews, learning to read charts, understanding numbers, and making easy health-changes. That's all in here, it's do-able, and it could make *Black Health Matters* an patient-empowering tool for understanding major health-issues, recognizing them, and keeping ahead.



Black Health Matters author
Richard Walker, Jr. MD

Owens ... continued from page 11

Benton Harbor, Kalamazoo, Monroe, Battle Creek, Lansing, Jackson and Online.

Owens Community College has served Northwest Ohio since 1965 as an accredited two-year, state-assisted institution of higher education with an open-door admission policy. With a commitment to providing small classes, personal attention and unmatched affordability, the College serves the diverse academic needs of credit and non-credit students on the Toledo-area and Findlay-area campuses. Owens offers associate degrees in the Arts and Sciences and technical program areas in Agriculture, Business, Health Sciences, Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, Skilled Trades, and Engineering and Transportation Technologies. Owens Community College is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and multiple programs that are also accredited through their discipline-specific accrediting bodies. For more information, visit www.owens.edu, call (567) 661-6000, like our Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/owenscc> page and/or follow us on Twitter @OwensCC <https://twitter.com/OwensCC>.

HOW TO OVERCOME THE MOST
COMMON HEALTH CHALLENGES
FACING AFRICAN AMERICANS



BLACK HEALTH MATTERS

THE VITAL FACTS YOU MUST KNOW TO PROTECT
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CLASSIFIEDS

Page 14

September 8, 2021

**Public Bid Advertisement (Electronic Bidding)
State of Ohio Standard Forms and Documents**

Project #1030-22-264
Parking Lot 2 Expansion
The University of Toledo
Lucas County

Bids Due: 2:00pm, September 28, 2021; through the State's electronic bidding system at: <https://bidexpress.com>

EDGE Participation Goal: 15.0% of contract
Domestic steel use is required per ORC 153.011.

Contract	Estimated Cost
General Contract	\$568,000.00
Alternate #1	\$25,000.00
Alternate #2	\$97,500.00

Pre-bid Meeting: September 14, 2021, 10:00am, Plant Operations Building - Room 1000, The University of Toledo, 2925 East Rocket Drive, Toledo OH 43606

Walk-through: A walk-through of the project sites is scheduled for September 14, 2021 immediately following Pre-bid.

Walk-through Location: Plant Operations Building

Bid Documents: Available electronically at: <https://bidexpress.com>

More Info: Project contact: Joshua O'Neill, DGL Consulting Engineers, Phone: 419-535-1015, E-mail: jonell@dgl-ltd.com

**EARLY HEAD START HEALTH ADVOCATE
LUCAS COUNTY FAMILY COUNCIL**

Lucas County Family Council, is accepting applications to fill the Early Head Start Health Advocate position. Accepting applications until filled. Additional information regarding the duties is available on the Lucas County web site (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

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
LOW INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDIT CONSULTING
SERVICE
RFP#21-R030**

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **LIHTC Consulting Services in accordance with RFP#21-R030**. Received in accordance with law until **September 29, 2021 3:00 PM ET**. For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 435 Nebraska Ave., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9446 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246.



**Call to place your ad:
419-243-0007
www.TheTruthToledo.com**

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for bidding on **Repair/Replace Fire Damaged Maintenance Building, Secor Metropark, 10001 Central Ave., Berkey, OH 43504** 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, September 17, 2021 at 10:00 a.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. Advise mask use per current CDC guidelines.

THE SCOPE OF WORK consists of construction of a ~6,175 sq. ft. pre-engineered metal building to replace a fully removed, fire damaged maintenance structure. General construction involves the general building trades plus plumbing, mechanical and electrical. 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. Newfax can be contacted at 419-241-5157 or 800-877-5157. A non-refundable fee of \$20 is required for each set of full-size documents obtained. For additional information, please contact Jon Zvanovec @ 419-360-9184, jon.zvanovec@metroparkstoleado.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

MAINTENANCE/JANITOR

The Padua Center with St. Martin de Porres Community Center is seeking a full time maintenance/janitor person. The job requires basic electrical, painting, plumbing and cleaning skills, as well as time management and organization. High school diploma or equivalent, basic computer skills and at least five years of experience **desired**. The job offers health benefits. Applicants must have an active driver's license. BCI and FBI clearance are required. Pay range: \$15-20 an hour, based upon experience. EOE. Send resumes to: thepaduacenter@gmail.com, or Job Search 1416 Nebraska Ave. Toledo, Ohio 43607 by September 10, 2021

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP21-R027 BASIC PLUMBING SERVICES**

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for Basic Plumbing Services. Received in accordance with law until September 29, 2021, 3:00 PM ET. see documents: 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 opportunity is covered under Section 3 of the HUD Act of 1968.



JOB POSTING

The Rudolph Libbe Group is a one-stop provider of construction and consulting services that range from site selection and financing to ongoing facility management. RLG, comprised of Rudolph Libbe Inc., GEM Inc., GEM Energy, Lehman Daman and Rudolph Libbe Properties, operates as one team. RLG is headquartered in Toledo with offices in Cleveland, Columbus and Lima, Ohio; and Plymouth, Michigan. For additional information, visit RLGbuilds.com.

We are seeking an organized, detail oriented team player for the role of **SiteLine Coordinator for Rudolph Libbe Properties in Walbridge, OH**. The SiteLine Coordinator is responsible for assembling information on prospective sites/buildings and coordinating the due diligence process with our pre-construction team for a seamless purchase and transition to construction. Duties include document management, scheduling and ensuring we meet deadlines for our client's property acquisition. This person will coordinate the work of the client, real estate staff, due diligence professionals and pre-construction team on assignments.

Bachelor's degree and 2-5 years of real estate or construction experience preferred.

The Rudolph Libbe Group of companies is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer.

For more information and to apply, visit: www.rlgbuilds.com/careers.

A Party on Dorr Street

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Solheim Cup may have attracted a lot of attention from the golfing set but the Saturday party on Dorr Street also had a good number of visitors.

Roshawn Jones brought his horses to the Mott Branch Library lawn and the Buffalo Soldiers purchased tickets for youngsters in attendance.

Montrice Terry directed guests and supplied commentary. Fred LeFebvre moved guests from one venue to another via golf cart.

Albert Earl provided tours of the Dorr Street neighborhood and vendors set up for business at Dorr and Detroit providing food, clothing, an assortment of accessories and music to enjoy it all by.



Montrice Terry, Gwen Wilson and Fred LeFebvre



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The Barnhills' Roots Run Deep – The Love Runs Deeper

Dale Barnhill and his wife Beverly hosted the first Barnhill Family Picnic on Saturday, September 4, at Walbridge Park.

Realizing that the family, on his father's side, had never had a reunion or picnic, Dale and his sisters: Teri, Mimi, Margo, Kathy, and his brother, Ronnie, encouraged all the family, in town and out of town, to come together with their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren so that the family members could get to know each other.

Dale praised God for allowing the family to gather and enjoy each other's company and said: "In these last and evil days, it is very important first, that we have a relationship with Jesus Christ and, second, that we share our wisdom and get to know and enjoy our families."

Indeed, the family did heed the call and they came from far and wide. For example, Fred Davis, Rogers High School graduate and former tight end with the NFL Washington Football Team, flew in from the Nation's Capital on the East Coast and his son, living on the West Coast, flew in from Los Angeles.




THE ARTS COMMISSION
TOLEDO, OHIO

Momentum

SEPTEMBER 16 - 18 WITH A SPECIAL GLASS EXHIBIT BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 3.

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THEARTSCOMMISSION.ORG/MOMENTUM

Momentum is a free, three-day festival along the riverfront that celebrates our vibrant community through arts and culture. Day one is for the art lovers, day two is for the party people, and day three is for families. Do as much or as little as you want, but we feel confident there is something that will spark a little creativity in everyone.

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