

Volume 71 No. 6

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

March 16, 2022



*Toledo's Clerk of Municipal Court Is Running for Judge, Juvenile Court*

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# A Matter of Choice

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

The Truth Contributor

*Life presents you with so many decisions. A lot of times, they're right in front of your face and they're really difficult, but we must make them.*

- Brittany Murphy



JoJuan Armour's departure not only dealt a devastating blow to the Mayor's Initiative on Gun Violence but is also a gut punch to the African-American community. Armour's efforts had begun to transform the culture in some of Toledo's most challenging neighborhoods.

Toxic masculinity and language of the oppressed become a way of life for many who lack even basic needs like food, education, safety, and health. Armour had begun to create new terminologies to challenge several behavioral norms which perpetuate oppression and prevent residents from advocating for themselves. Sayings such as "snitches get stitches" or "killers get prayed for, but victims get prayed on" are not in the best interest of the community's children and families.

In reality, Armour pointed out, "You can't be a snitch if you are a law-abiding citizen who comes forward to help your community when lives are at stake. Rather, snitches are those who receive benefits such as lesser sentences or time off from their crimes in return for information."

The effort to enable our community to stop victimizing each other or internalizing the negative self-images engendered through years of living in a racist society requires an extraordinary individual and team. Armour was effective because residents regarded him as genuinely a part of their everyday world and experience, an asset many faith or institutional leaders do not possess. In addition, his "respectful to those whom society considers disrespectful and patient with those considered impatient" approach was a new way to look at, listen to, and converse with those deemed "society's problems."

How will Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz respond to Armour's unexpected exit? Specifically, who is qualified to navigate the institutional corridors of the City of Toledo and simultaneously deliver black self-affirmation, a necessary component of effective violence interruption?

"We have a lot of different options," says Kapszukiewicz. "We could replace JoJuan with another person. We could maybe see if Angel Tucker could perform some of those duties and if so, then maybe we'll use that money to hire more violence interrupters. We have some flexibility here, and I think I'm always guilty of overthinking, if anything. We will take the time and get feedback from many people, including Toledo City Council and community leaders, on what we should do. I know that we'll make the right decision," the mayor added assuredly.

However, one name that should indeed be included on the mayor's menu of options is former police chief Derrick Diggs. Currently, Diggs is Chief of Police in Fort Myers, Florida, considered one of the top police departments in the country and one of the best in the State of Florida. Diggs' experience empowering minority communities and improving police-community relations in Toledo and Fort Myers is impeccable.



Chief Derrick Diggs

The Fort Myers police department has been recognized across the country for excellence in improving police-community relations and reducing violence. In addition, Fort Myers has received national recognition for its resurgence in tourism and flourishing real estate development and other investment following Diggs' snuffing of gang violence and crime reduction accomplishments in southwest Florida.

Can Mayor Kapszukiewicz see former Chief Diggs as part of the solution to fill the void left by JoJuan Armour's exit?

"I could, absolutely!" Kapszukiewicz maintains. "I don't know if he is interested in filling this role, but he's certainly the sort of person I would want to reach out to and see if he's interested. I would say everything's on the table. All options are available, including bringing in someone like Diggs or someone else. I think right now is the time to pause, catch our breath, and talk to the community and others to reach a consensus on the next step. In that context, I think highly of Diggs and could see him in that role if he were interested."

My thoughts? In the words of best-selling author and pastor John C. Maxwell, "Every choice you make makes you!"

Undoubtedly, Kapszukiewicz has many options. However, there is no need to overthink this. The best choice is right in his face. Many are watching to see if the mayor makes the right decision.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at [drldperryman@enterofhope-baptist.org](mailto:drldperryman@enterofhope-baptist.org)

## The Sojourner's Truth

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## Community Calendar

March 28

Dorr Street Coalition Townhall Meeting: Jerusalem MBC; 6 pm

April 10

Braden UMC Healing Services at 4:00pm; For more information please contact the church at 419-386-2700. Rev. Cecil J. Thompson, Pastor



# A Statement on the Upsurge of Domestic Violence Femicides in Northwest Ohio

Guest Column

The Northwest Ohio Silent Witness Project, housed at Bethany House, tracks domestic violence femicides. Each year life-size silhouettes bearing the names and stories of each victim are created, and each woman or girl is honored at our annual Unveiling Ceremony. The project exists to remember victims, raise awareness of the extent of domestic violence in our region, connect survivors to resources, and encourage community and legislative action.

We write today to shine a light on the overwhelming increase in domestic violence femicides occurring in our region. Recently, in Northwest Ohio, we have borne witness to four murders in less than three weeks. Since September, domestic violence incidents have killed no fewer than 10 women and girls. According to the Ohio Domestic Violence Network, Ohio has seen a 62 percent increase in domestic violence fatalities.

It is time that we have laws and processes in place that hold criminals who do harm behind closed doors to people they claim to love accountable. Without adequate legal repercussions for abusers that prioritize the safety of victims, we will continue to see cycles of escalation that bring extreme harm, mostly to women and girls. Alarming, a bill is being developed right now by Ohio Legislators which, if signed into law, will increase the risk of homicide or extreme harm for survivors of domestic violence.

## Ta-Nehisi Coates and Nikole Hannah-Jones Speak Truth to the Power of Journalism

By Nyah Marshall

Howard University News Service

"Two of America's best journalists are teaching?"

An audience member asked this question during the 15th annual Knight Media Forum in reference to Ta-Nehisi Coates and Nikole Hannah-Jones who recently joined the Howard University faculty.

Coates, who is a Howard alumnus, is the Sterling Brown Chair in the Department of English. Hannah-Jones is the Knight Chair in Race and Journalism. She is teaching a journalism course named after her Pulitzer Prize-winning "1619 Project" in the Department of Media, Journal-

...continued on page 11

House Bill 315 and Senate Bill 182 would require that people held on misdemeanor charges be released within 72 hours of their arrest, even if the judge determines the person charged is dangerous. We agree that bail reform is desperately needed. The problem with these pieces of legislation is the vast majority of domestic violence offenses are charged as misdemeanors and the offender's danger to their victim is likely to escalate after arrest. Domestic violence victims would have only 72 hours to make arrangements for safety for them and loved ones.

Intervention like shelter and advocacy for survivors is paramount, but it is made infinitely more challenging by a legal system that fails to hold offenders adequately accountable. For almost 40 years, Bethany House has provided safety and advocacy for survivors to rebuild. Consistently, the onus falls on the survivor, the victim, to take responsibility and pay the price for the disruption created, criminally, by an abusive partner. House Bill 315 and Senate Bill 182, as proposed, only increase the risk of further harm.

The need for bail reform is crucial to help improve racial and class equity in the criminal justice system however victim-serving organizations stand ready to help create a bill that would also take into consideration highly lethal domestic violence, sex offense, and child abuse offenders. We urge those crafting these Ohio bills to consider suggested language changes that would significantly increase safety for victims of domestic violence.

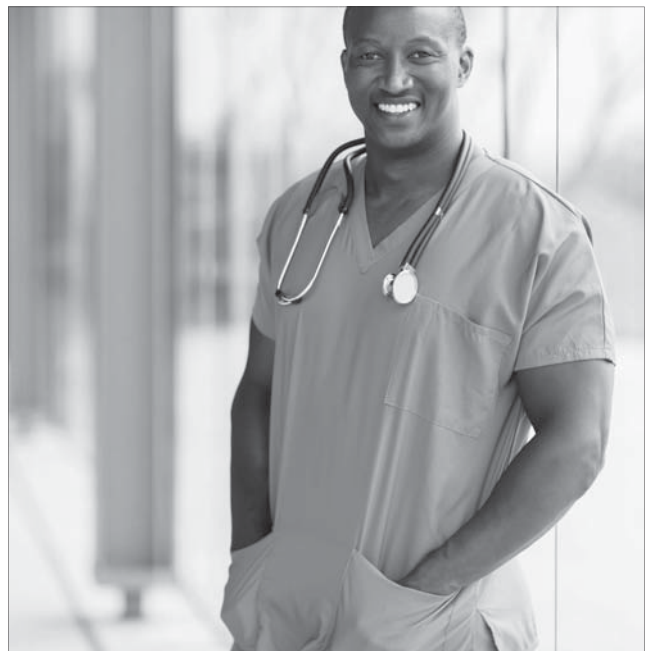
Deidra Lashley MPH, LSW

Executive Director, Bethany House  
Project Coordinator

Anna Turner

Northwest Ohio Silent Witness

*The Northwest Ohio Silent Witness Project is housed at Bethany House, a long-term transitional shelter for survivors of domestic violence and their children in Toledo. More information about Bethany House and other resources for survivors of domestic violence can be found at [www.bethany-house.toledo.org](http://www.bethany-house.toledo.org)*



"The lenders kept asking me for additional documents. I quickly provided them, but they still needed more. It took so long, I lost the house to another buyer."



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# Michael Hood: Candidate for Lucas County Commissioner

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Editor

Michael Hood, longtime member of the Spencer Township Board of Trustees, is making another run for Lucas County Commissioner, a post currently held by Gary Byers who is running for re-election. Hood's other opponent is State Rep Lisa Sobecki. For Hood, he sees the prospects of public service at the county level as continuing the commitment to constituents he has followed in the township since being first elected to that job in 1986.

"I come from amongst the people and I listen to the needs of people," says Hood of his motivation to once again step up to the challenge of running for the position he failed to capture in 2014 and 2018. "Too many politicians these days want to tell you what they want to do instead asking you what you want."

Hood has put together a three-point platform to explain what he will be focused on should he win the race this time around. Those priorities, he explains, are what he has gathered from listening to his constituents and those who might someday be his constituents.

Hood's number one priority is safety. Given the rise in violent crime in recent years, Hood's sees the need for elected officials to turn their attention to solving an issue that has caused such consternation in this and virtually all parts of the nation.

Second on Hood's list is economic development.

"The government should play a limited role in economic development," he explains. A believer in the now-three centuries old economic philosophy of laissez faire policy – an economic philosophy of free-market capitalism that opposes government intervention – the candidate believes that "nobody is going to come save us – we have to learn to do that for ourselves."

Hood believes that the African-American community must eschew the inadequate help that government purports to provide and take matters into its own hands – supporting and assisting each other.

And third, there are the youth. "There needs to be more resources committed to youth – to programs and activities."

Hood believes that there is a "sense of hopelessness among the youth in the African-American community. They are not feeling connected to anything. When I was growing up there were lots of things to do but over the last 30-40 years there has been a shift of resources from youth to the elderly. We can't take all the resources and shift them to the youth but we can [do things] to tell them what they can do and what they can't do."

Hood has a record of accomplishment in Spencer Township, he has noted before, that stands as a testament to his ability to accomplish.

"We have the best roads in the county; we've cleared up brown fields," he has said previously. "I'm a public servant and not a politician." Spencer Township, he adds is a beacon of cooperation with its neighbors, particularly Swanton and Whitehouse, "collaborating on fire protection, road repair projects and equipment purchases. We know how to do more with less through cooperation and dialogue. We treat our citizens as equal neighbors when the needs arise to keep public service levels up to par."

Hood has also worked closely with Habitat for Humanity, the Port Authority and in Democratic Party politics for over 20 years and has been engaged with the Lucas County Board of Commissioners for as long as he has been on the board of trustees for Spencer Township.

"My experience engaging with Lucas County and the City of Toledo on hundreds, if not a thousand issues, gives me the insight and expertise in many if not most of the county's activities," he once told The Truth. "I think I can be a valuable asset in bringing people together and balancing the needs of citizens with the requirements of governance and large-scale community project management."

The Hood campaign is accepting donations via mail at P.O. Box 443, Holland, OH 43528; through First Federal Delta Bank and the Zelle Account; GoFundMe. He can be reached by email at [mikehood057@gmail.com](mailto:mikehood057@gmail.com).



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# Vallie Bowman English: After 18 Years, She's Needed Elsewhere!

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

After 18 years as Clerk of Toledo Municipal Court, Vallie Bowman English has thrown her hat in the ring for another elected position – judge of the Lucas County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division. And after 18 years, Bowman English's list of accomplishments as Clerk is both extensive and impressive.

In July 2003 when Bowman English was in the midst of her campaign for Toledo Clerk of Court – the first-time candidate set forth some rather clear-cut goals that she wanted to accomplish.

"I want to bring the technology up to date," she told The Truth in a 2003 conversation.

Bringing the technology up to date, she said back then, would: "utilize[e] real time recording ... to keep someone from being arrested for something they have already appeared in court about; would enable "law enforcement officials ... keep violent offenders from getting guns; would make it "easier for motorists to pay tickets; would "make the system more user friendly for the attorneys .. so they can retrieve information for themselves; and would prevent "instances where criminals have been allowed to walk away because the records weren't right."

When she assumed her current position in January 2004, Bowman English set about accomplishing those campaign goals of bringing the Clerk's Office into the 21st century. "The reason I ran for the Clerk's office," she says now, "was to do all those things."

For example, real time data entry was accomplished by ensuring a clerk would be "in every criminal and traffic courtroom," she says. Entries are now made "as the judge or magistrate verbalizes them, not hours or days after the fact."

Once in office, however, "I found out there was so much more to do," she recalls. And although she had anticipated that her original laundry list should have only taken her a one six-year Clerk's term in office, she uncovered enough challenges to keep her busy for a far lengthier time.

These are some of the other improvements Bowman English has brought to the Clerk's office over the years:

- The scanning and imaging of court documents – making them accessible without the case file;
- Opening public access to case information – by placing case information online;
- Imaging and destruction of court files – freeing up space in the Courthouse;
- E-filing of court documents – to allow court users to submit case filings 24 hours a day;
- Electronic filing of traffic citations – enabling clerks to enter citations four times faster;
- Collection of delinquent accounts – the collection program has brought in over \$29 million since 2005;
- Electronic reporting of case dispositions to Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation;
- LiveScan fingerprint and mugshot machine;
- Regional Electronic Protection Order system – streamlining the protection order process;

• Electronic daily docket screens – displaying dockets daily on LCD screens in the lobby for the public;

• A cash bond system – entered directly into the computer system;

• CourtWatch Mobile Apps – allowing users to search court case information and schedules;

• Automated employee attendance system;

• Office renovations;

• Reduction in staffing – due to increased use of technology and saving taxpayer money.



Vallie Bowman English

After years of such accomplishments as Clerk, Bowman English now feels that it's time to move on. "I see a great need in Juvenile Court for someone like me," she says. She sees a need for youthful offenders to see someone like her in a position of authority, someone who can mete out both punishment and encouragement.

"They need to hear someone to say, you can do it; you can do anything you can imagine," she says.

Bowman English, like so many adults in the Toledo area who have borne witness to the rising serious crime rates, especially homicides, is especially concerned with the fact that offenders have gotten younger and younger and that those offenders are oblivious about the consequences of their actions.

"When I was a prosecutor, kids were shocked by the consequences when they turned 18 and became adults. In Juvenile Court, we need to do what's best for these [younger] kids. We need to show them the consequences and that needs to coincide with compassion."

Bowman English's opponent in her race this fall is Judge Linda Knepp, who was appointed to fill the slot left empty in July 2021 by the retirement of Judge Connie Zimmelman.

"I have a good chance based on my experience and community involvement," says Bowman English of the upcoming contest. Indeed, she is involved in numerous professional and community groups and activities: She is a member of The Links, Inc; on boards such as Area Office on Aging, Susan G. Komen; the past president of the Toledo Bar Association and newly appointed to the Ohio State Bar Association.

"I invest myself in so many things," she explains. "I'm a visionary, I have great administrative skills and I am never satisfied."

After 18 years as Clerk of Municipal Court, 18 years of transforming and modernizing the Clerk's office, Bowman English is ready for a new challenge and, as with her current post, she will be on the bench for as long as she feels is necessary.

"I will stay as long as I'm needed – as long as I can make a difference I will stay," she says.

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# My Personal Women's History Month Heroines. Who Are Yours?

## *I Was Just Thinking...*

By Norma Adams-Wade

Guest Column

March, of course, is Women's History Month when the nation highlights women who have made a difference. But, like in sports, everyone can't be Most Valuable Player.

But through their achievements, they can carry a torch for others.

I have listed women who I learned about over the decades and why I admire them. Let's place them center stage for a moment. I hope you'll salute them, too.

Who's on your list? Here's mine:

1. Joan of Arc. (Life span 1412- 1431) Admired for her bravery and strategy as a teenage female warrior who died a martyr during a French-English war.

2. Marian Anderson. (1897-1993)



Norma Adams-Wade



Joan of Arc



Marian Anderson



Eleanor Roosevelt

The Truth

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For her stunningly powerful contralto voice and magnificent presence that, as a youngster influenced my music appreciation.

3. Eleanor Roosevelt. (1884-1962). Admired for her multi-cultural influence and self-awareness as the wife of a powerful U. S. President.

4. Yvonne Ewell. (1926-1998) Because this HBCU graduate rose from the small farming town of Frankston, Texas to hold many top-ranking positions and "firsts" in Dallas school administration and who taught a young Norma Ruth Adams (me) in one of her early classrooms.

5. Harriet Tubman (my favorite). (Circa 1822-1913) For her seeming fearless resolve in not accepting southern slavery as a way of life for herself and, historians estimate, about 300 other enslaved[cq Africans that she shepherded to freedom.

6. Ida B. Wells Barnett. (1862-1931) For inspiring me to pick up a pen and write to tell the many untold stories of my African-American people.

7. Shirley Chisholm. (1924-2005). This daughter of Barbados immigrants was the first Black female elected to Congress in 1968 and -- with the now-famous slogan "unbought and unbossed" -- also was the first Black candidate for U. S. presidential in a major party. (Frederick Douglass, in the Liberty Party, reportedly received 1 vote in 1848.) Major party nomination winners in 1972 were Richard Nixon (Republican), George McGovern (Democratic).

9. Alice Ball. (1892-1916) This brilliant, rising-star, young chemist created the first effective treatment for leprosy at age 23. But her heartbreaking story of triumph and tragedy, to me, represents the countless episodes of African descents who did not get credit for their creations. Ball, who some researchers call a genius, died suddenly and mysteriously, a year after her achievement. Researchers say her death certificate was altered. Yet she received some honors years after her death.

11. Josephine Baker (1906-1975). Captivating, risqué vaudeville dancer, actress, civil rights activist. The first Black woman to star in a major motion picture in 1927 – the silent film *Siren of the Tropics*.

12. Golda "Iron Lady" Meir (1898- 1978). The former Prime Minister was the first top female government leader in Israel and any Middle East country.

Runners-up: Barbara Jordan, Michelle Obama, Kamala Harris.

14. Lucille Ball (1911-1989). One of the funniest and most entertaining actresses I can think of. Always reminded me of my mother's humor.

15. Samaritan woman at the well, Bible, John 4:1-42. (Circa 20-30 C. E./

... continued on page 7



Harriet Tubman



Ida B. Wells



Shirley Chisholm



Alice Ball



Golda Meir



Lucille Ball

*Women's History Month... continued from page 6*

common era). Love the message of this tainted woman who receives and passes on an important message that ultimately improves her life and that of others.

16. Ethiopian Empress Taytu (Also Taitu) Betul (1851-1918). Fought on the frontline of her own battalion in a famous 1896 battle that saved Ethiopia from European colonization.

17. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg (1933-2020). Memorable women's rights advocate by example and on the U. S. Supreme Court.

18. Fannie Lou Hamer (1917- 1977). Led effective voting rights efforts for disenfranchised Southern Blacks and a movement to encourage women of all races to run for elected offices.

19. Lorraine Hansberry (1930- 1965). One of my favorite authors who wrote the acclaimed play A Raisin in the Sun. Runner-up: Bebe Moore Campbell.

20. Nettie Ruth Ivory Adams, my mother (1921-2006). For her humor,

energy, people skills with youth and adults, Runners-up: My maternal and paternal grandmothers Lucy Miller Ivory, Eva Williams Adams.

Now list your own. E-mail [norma\\_adams\\_wade@yahoo.com](mailto:norma_adams_wade@yahoo.com)

*Norma Adams-Wade, is a proud Dallas native, University of Texas at Austin journalism graduate and retired Dallas Morning News senior staff writer. She is a founder of the National Association of Black Journalists and was its first southwest regional director. She became The News' first Black full-time reporter in 1974. [norma\\_adams\\_wade@yahoo.com](mailto:norma_adams_wade@yahoo.com)*



*Ethiopian Empress  
Taytu Betul*



*Fannie Lou Hamer*

## Congressional Black Caucus Commemorates Women's History Month

Last week, Congressional Black Caucus Chairwoman Joyce Beatty (OH-03) and the Congressional Black Caucus released the following statement:

"Women's History Month is a time to reflect on the remarkable achievements women have made in American history and recommit to expanding equal opportunity here at home and around the world. From the earliest days of the American Revolution to leaders who powered the civil rights movement, our first female Vice President, and countless other unnamed heroes, women have driven the nation to live up to its ideals. For example, women like the honorable Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman elected to the United States Congress, and the first woman and African American to

seek the nomination for president of the United States from one of the two major political parties; or Patricia Harris, the first Black woman to serve as an American ambassador, and the first appointed to a Cabinet when she was named Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in 1977," said Congressional Black Caucus Chairwoman Joyce Beatty.

Beatty continued, "As we celebrate women's history this month, we must continue to draw inspiration from those who blazed a trail for progress. We stand on their shoulders as we march forward as a nation committed to equality, equal opportunity, and the full inclusion of every voice in our democracy."

## TARTA Awarded Grant For Facilities Upgrades

Sorely needed upgrades to the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA)'s maintenance facilities and paratransit fleet are on the way thanks to a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation.

TARTA is one of five transit agencies in Ohio that received a Buses and Bus Facilities Grant this week. The award for just over \$2.3 million will allow TARTA to improve its facility and TARP fleet in preparation for expanding service to all of Lucas County and Rossford through the TARTA Next redesign.

"We are incredibly fortunate to be represented by Senator Sherrod Brown, Representative Marcy Kaptur, and others who recognize the benefits of a robust public transportation system," said TARTA CEO Laura Koprowski. "Through decades of underfunding and a pandemic, TARTA team members worked tirelessly to get customers to essential destinations. These upgrades will give those team members the tools they need to be of even greater service to the people who depend on public transit in northwest Ohio."

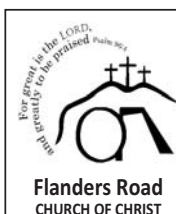
"These areas of our infrastructure have been neglected due to budget cuts for far too long, and this grant will allow us play catch-up and be of better service to transit riders."

"Transit is all about the dignity of work – it creates jobs, it connects people to jobs, it reduces the cost of commuting, and it will help communities across Ohio grow and create opportunity," said Senator Sherrod Brown through a press release.

"Employers, entrepreneurs, and workers have all been asking for better transit – now we're delivering by making major investments that will create good-paying American jobs that cannot be shipped overseas, and that will help Ohio communities thrive and grow."

The most recent grant comes one week after Senator Brown and Rep. Kaptur were instrumental in securing a \$14 million grant for TARTA through the American Rescue Plan. That grant is designed to help recover funds lost due to the pandemic by offsetting costs related to staffing, recruitment, training, and health and safety measures.

"Investments in TARTA are investments in Toledo's workers, families, and seniors," said U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur. "I am honored to fight for and secure the resources that Toledo and our region need for the future."



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# Perlean Griffin: YWCA 2022 Milestones Honoree for Government

*Special to The Truth*

Every spring, the YWCA of Northwest Ohio honors women who demonstrate outstanding leadership qualities and open doors in their communities for other women to also achieve their potential.

The Milestones Awards Luncheon was established in 1996 to recognize women of northwest Ohio for their outstanding contributions in the areas of Arts, Business, Education, Government, Sciences, Social Services and Volunteerism.

This year for her lengthy and influential service with the City of Toledo, the YWCA is honoring the role that Perlean Griffin played in the area of Government.

Perlean Griffin was the longest serving Affirmative Action director in the City of Toledo's history, having served with distinction for over 23 years. She wrote the comprehensive Affirmative Action plan which included hiring and promotional goals to correct disparities and deficiencies throughout city government; a plan approved by the Ohio Civil Rights Commission. She also wrote the City's Sexual Harassment policy to address issues of hostile work environments.

She convinced city leaders to hold an annual women's conference, initiated the annual Pacesetter Awards Conference to recognize individuals working for civil rights, designed the Diversity Training Manual for the City, drafted deed restrictions for homeowners in Plats in Washington Village and trained groups through the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to deal with various areas of daycare services.

Griffin also developed a city-wide training program to sensitize all employees to negative behaviors, comments and actions which adversely affect minorities and women as well as the first sexual harassment and hostile work environment policies and procedures for the City of Toledo.

Griffin played an integral role in helping minorities and women gain employment and promotional opportunities within the City of Toledo

workforce. She changed policies and procedures which had ignored education and skills held by female and minority employees and removed barriers which inhibited their advancement. She also worked with the Department of Justice to ensure that all buildings, streets, parks and restaurants in the City of Toledo were in compliance with the American Disabilities Act.

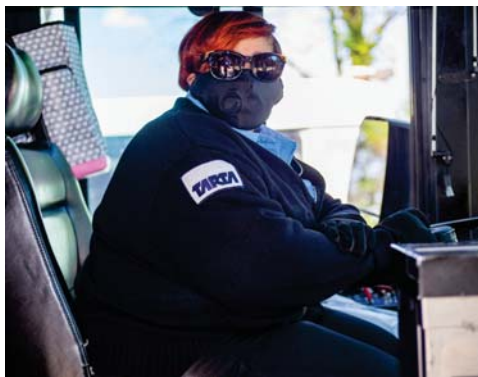
A pioneer in advocating for women to engage and thrive in the workforce, Griffin initiated an annual recognition program and banquet recognizing women with exemplary performance and achievement in their field within city government. She recognized obstacles that prevented fair and equitable employment and also trained leadership to understand how and why this was problematic and unjust.

During her many years in community service, Perlean Griffin received numerous community service awards and recognition for her deep commitment to employees and advancement of women and minorities including the National Sojourner Truth Award from the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club; the Rosa Parks Award from the Board Of Community Relations of Toledo; the Ohio



*Perlean Griffin*

*...continued on page 12*



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# Local Residents Among Student Leaders at the University of Kentucky Black Student Union

By Ann Blackford, UK Office of Public Relations & Strategic Communications

Special to The Truth

In 1967 when Theodore Berry was a student at the University of Kentucky, he was one of about 100 Black students on the predominantly white campus. Berry had been involved with the Civil Rights Movement since an early age and considered himself an activist student while at UK. With the goal of making the university a better place, he was instrumental in finding a home and a feeling of belonging for Black students.

With the help of a few classmates, UK professors and staff, he founded UK's first Black Student Union in 1968, and served as the BSU's president until he graduated in 1970 with a degree in English Education and later, a law degree. At the time, BSU's began popping up on college campuses all across the nation following in the footsteps of the first BSU organized on the San Francisco University campus.

Some significant milestones in the Civil Rights Movement actually originated on UK's campus because of Berry's activism. Of note, Berry and other students started a movement and engaged in talks with university officials about the lack of integration on the basketball team and its staff, which at the time, had no Black players. Berry also advocated for, and created the first African American history, literature, anthropology, and art course at UK. While Berry was a law student, he and others wrote the proposal for the first summer pre-law program to recruit 25-30 students who did not have scholarships.

"Twenty-five students were accepted to law school because of that program," Berry said. "UK was the only university in the country at the time to take up a Counsel on Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO) program without being part of a consortium. We now have that as a result of what the BSU put together with cooperation from the university. They were very good to work with us and provided funding for transportation, meals, books, and tuition for the students. UK was the only university to have done that at the time."

Berry leaves behind a 54-year legacy of the BSU at UK, a thriving student organization of which every Black student at UK is considered a member. The current president, Jocelyn Grimsley, a junior from Columbus, Ohio,

says the BSU is Black students and students of a different dissent, find a bond, confidence and a sense of community while attending a predominantly white institution.

"The mission of the BSU is to promote prosperity, unity and mentorship while creating a judgement free zone that celebrates all forms of blackness," Grimsley said.

Ja'Mahl McDaniel, director of the Martin Luther King Center at UK, was a member of the BSU when he was a student from 2011 - 2015, and now serves as advisor for the BSU. The MLK Center provides collaborative programs with the BSU, including advisory and financial support.

"Members of the BSU strive to be advocates for Black students and have conversations about issues that are central to Black students on campus. Also, being socially aware continues to be part of the BSU's foundation," McDaniel said.

The BSU conducts general body meetings every other Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and anyone is welcome to attend. When Berry led the BSU in the 60s, members often met at his apartment and they would have a discussion around a topic, such as Black Identity. That tradition has remained in place to this day as the current general body meetings consist of picking a topic and having a conversation around that topic. The first meeting of the spring semester this year included members making vision boards to set goals and plan how they wanted to move forward the rest of the school year. Other topics have included a theme, such as loving your Blackness and Black at UK: what it's like being Black at UK, personal experiences, and what they feel could be better.

The BSU serves the local community and hosts donation drives including food and clothing to the HOPE Center, and packaged food and meals for them as well. The BSU's largest community service project of the year is coming up on March 5 called "Nurturing through Generations," hosted by Mr. and Ms. Black UK.

"The initiative of the program will give college students the opportunity to pour into the next generation, made up of middle schoolers, by providing access to leaders and mentors in the community. It will create

...continued on page 12



Orlando Williams



Dakari Parish-Baker

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# Americans' Recognition of Racism's Impacts is Fading

*Special to The Truth*

In the summer of 2020 when calls for racial justice and the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 were on full display, some speculated that the country seemed to be at a turning point for acknowledging how much racism affects people's health and economic well-being.

However, a new national survey from the non-profit RAND Corporation reveals that despite the public outcry and mounting evidence that racism and the pandemic are contributing to disparities between people of color and White people, the public's recognition of racial inequities and the impacts of systemic racism is fading. Indeed, in July 2020, 61.1 percent of respondents agreed that people of color face more of the health impact of COVID-19 than White people, and 57.5 percent agreed that they face more of the financial impact. More than a year later, these numbers have dropped to 52.7 percent and 50.3 percent, respectively.

The data suggest that there has not been a seismic shift or enduring change in perception.

"We conducted this survey because we wanted to see whether living through a once-in-a-century global pandemic would spur a shift in deep-seated perspectives and attitudes around health, systemic racism, and equity," Anita Chandra, vice president and senior policy researcher at RAND Corporation, said. "We found that views around race and racism appear to be extremely entrenched. Moving forward, policies and actions that seek to address these issues must factor in where the public is and what needs to happen for these sentiments to evolve."

As legislators around the country convene to tackle the pandemic and build

their priorities for 2022, researchers say these findings must be top of mind as they work to make change. The good news is that of the same people surveyed about their views on race and health, most see the pandemic as a moment for positive change. Changes people hope to see include:

- improving access to health care (25.3 percent),
- prioritizing science in policy decisions (11.7 percent),
- protecting our freedom (11.1 percent), and
- increasing flexibility in how we all work (10.9 percent), among others.

And legislators can often look in their own backyards for inspiration. There is so much work being done at the community level to undo the impacts of racism and rebuild a more equitable society that are worth recognizing and learning from. For example, over the past few years, more than 200 cities, counties, and leaders declared racism a public health crisis. Researchers say that this is an important step that can lead to efforts for real, lasting change centered on equity. We are already seeing this play out in some settings, from statehouses to city halls, where health equity is driving policy decisions.

To read more about "COVID-19 and the Experiences of Populations at Greater Risk" survey findings, visit [rwjf.org/covidsurvey](http://rwjf.org/covidsurvey).

To read more about communities working to center equity to improve the health of everyone, visit [rwjf.org/prize](http://rwjf.org/prize).

With more than two-thirds of respondents believing the pandemic presents a moment for positive change, researchers say that while there's work to be done, there are also reasons to be hopeful.

*Courtesy StatePoint*

*Power of Journalism... continued from page 3*

ism and Film.

In thinking about the state of race relations, Coates and Hannah-Jones elaborated on what can be done so journalism better serves communities and ultimately becomes more trustworthy.

The three-day forum opened last week with a discussion titled "How Howard University Worked to Reframe and Elevate the Conversation Around Truth, Journalism and Clarity." Alberto Ibarra, president and CEO of the Knight Foundation, moderated the panel, which also featured Dr. Wayne A.I. Frederick, president of Howard University.

Frederick emphasized journalism's role in facilitating national conversation and social progress. Howard's commitment to train future journalists effectively and document stories that otherwise wouldn't be

told is evident. In fact, the university's Moorland-Spangman Research Center — the world's largest repository for the documentation of African history and culture — recently received a \$2 million grant from the Jonathan Logan Family Foundation to support the preservation and digitization of the Black Press Archives.

Hannah-Jones elaborated on how her efforts at Howard and as a co-founder of the Ida B. Wells Society for Investigative Reporting are sup-

*... continued on page 12*

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*Power of Journalism... continued from page 11*

porting the future of journalism. This includes founding the Center for Journalism and Democracy, which worked in partnership with Moorland-Spingarn in securing the gift. The center's goals also include training journalists in investigative reporting as well as the historical and analytical expertise needed to cover the state of the nation's democracy.

"Because of Dr. Frederick's vision of making Howard a hub for other HBCUs ... that helped me to think in a similar vein for the Center for Journalism and Democracy," Hannah-Jones said.

"So, we are going to be helping to bolster investigative reporting at a constellation of HBCUs that have large journalism programs. That's going to include funding visiting professorships to bring practitioners like myself and Ta-Nehisi into the classroom."

Another sentiment introduced at the start of the webinar by Ashley Zohn, the vice president of learning and impact at the Knight Foundation, is that "local builds trust." When Ibarguen geared the discussion toward the state of local journalism, the forum's underlying theme, Coates and Hannah-Jones had similar considerations: Good journalism questions power and is skeptical of those institutions. They added that skepticism should start at the local level.

"Does the newspaper reflect the community, or does the newspaper reflect power?" Hannah-Jones said. "And then we blame the community for not reading the newspaper. What I would argue, if you started actually reflecting the communities, people would engage with the media that you're producing."

Coates feels that being skeptical of institutions and power structures as a journalist is something that can be learned from the history of Black communities and journalists.

"Some of these differences are due to the fundamental difference that African Americans have with the State, and that there are lessons to be actually gleaned from the central skepticism that African Americans have to the State," Coates said. "We exist in a very different place, because of the history of Jim Crow."

"Because of the history of enslavement; because of the history of redlining, housing segregation and mass incarceration, you go down

the line, we have not been in the position to take State figures at face value," he continued. "That's just not really been a part of our history. And I think the larger community of journalists could actually benefit from that."

The need for newsroom diversity and the question of whether objectivity can ever exist in journalism were a few of the other aspects touched on during the conversation.

Hannah-Jones asserts that objectivity in journalism does not exist, because every choice a journalist or journalism organization makes is implicitly or explicitly biased. Instead, she suggests journalists should consider how they can make their reporting more credible, transparent and fair. Coates agreed, saying that objectivity is tied to power. "We should not pretend that discussions about objectivity are themselves objective, when they're not."

The Knight Foundation's first webinar of the forum proved to be a successful, thought-provoking discussion. In fact, over 40 questions from audience members in the virtual chat had to be left unanswered due to lack of time.

This conversation represents the ways in which Howard University is teaching journalism that examines democracy and sustains communities. Many, including Ibarguen, are interested in seeing how this thinking will help to train future storytellers.

Ibarguen said that Howard has the opportunity "to put out a really useful, challenging and different way of thinking about journalism that matters, journalism that is going to make us understand the world better."

*Nyah Marshall is a reporter and regional bureau chief for HUNewsService.com.*

*Black Student Union... continued from page 10*

a space for in-depth conversations that aren't spoken enough," Grimsley said. "The conversations are centered around five pillars: know yourself, love yourself, emotional intelligence, leadership, and dream and believe to know that failure is OK."

Grimsley says that community service events such as this gives members the opportunity to reach out to the community and demonstrate how they can give back. While the BSU works to build community ties, they also work to promote student success by providing programs such as resume building and budgeting. But most important of all, the BSU membership strives to build each other up as human beings and as students about to venture out into the world after graduation.

Dakari Parish-Baker, BSU vice president, has been a member of the BSU all four of her years at UK leading in several distinct positions

"The most rewarding part for me has been the ability to create a space for minority students at a predominately white institution, to be authentically themselves in whatever capacity that may look like, and be able to be seen, heard, and share their triumphs and struggles with others."

To learn more about the BSU at UK, go to UK\_BSU on Instagram.

The BSU leadership team at UK includes:

Jocelyn Grimsley, president, junior from Columbus, OH  
Dakari Parish-Baker, vice president, senior from Toledo, OH  
Dillon Howard, ambassador, senior from St. Louis, MO  
Jordan Brown, co-activities director, junior from Atlanta, GA  
Kylon Hill, co-activities director, junior from New Iberia, Louisiana  
Joel Paul, Jr., co-public relations chair, junior from Orlando, FL  
Kennedi Brookins, co-public relations chair, sophomore from Atlanta, GA

Erika Wilkins, outreach director, sophomore from Louisville, Ky  
Jamila Green, secretary, sophomore from Mt. Sterling, Ky  
Orlando Williams, historian, sophomore from Toledo, OH  
Tasia Chapman, graphic designer, senior from Louisville, Ky

*Perlean Griffin... continued from page 8*

Civil Rights Commission's Recognition Award; the City of Toledo Pacesetter Award; the University of Toledo's Community Service Award; and the Community Service Award from "Save Our Children Inc."

The 2022 YWCA Milestones: A Tribute To Women will be held virtually on March 24, 2022 at 11:30 a.m. Please consider purchasing a congratulatory ad or a zoom party to support all of the vital services the YWCA provides in support of vulnerable woman and children of north-west Ohio. Visit [YWCAwyo.org](http://YWCAwyo.org) got more details.

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# Speak Up, Speak Out! The Extraordinary Life of 'Fighting Shirley Chisholm' by Tonya Bolden, with a foreword by Stacey Abrams

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

Sometimes, you just gotta say what you're going to say.

Sometimes, you can't keep quiet. You simply just have to speak up, especially when you can make a situation better or fix what's wrong. Those are the times when it's right to state your opinion and be firm, and in the new book *Speak Up, Speak Out! The Extraordinary Life of 'Fighting Shirley Chisholm'* by Tonya Bolden, you'll have good, strong shoulders to stand on while you're doing it.

Charles Christopher St. Hill had guts and determination.

He needed it. In early 1923, at age 22, he boarded a ship in Cuba to come to the U.S. to be a shoemaker on Long Island. He "regarded himself" as a Barbadian man and he "fell in with Brooklyn's tight-knit Bajan community," but he was happy to become an American.

At about this same time, Ruby Seale boarded a steamer in Barbados to come to New York City, and the two were married in late 1922. In the winter of 1924, they welcomed their first daughter, a girl they named Shirley.

For most of her life, Shirley and her sisters heard their father say, "God gave you a brain; use it." He didn't tolerate laziness or time-wasting – as proof, Shirley's parents worked constantly, with a goal of buying a house and sending their daughters to college. To give them room to do that, they sent Shirley and her sisters to live with their Granny in Barbados. She was "strict" but life was wonderful. Barba-

c.2022  
National Geographic  
\$17.95  
144 Pages

dos was nothing like Brooklyn!

Once back home, though, Shirley and her sisters settled down to become young ladies and "good Christians." They attended church and school and when she graduated, Shirley was ready for college, just like her parents dreamed. She was tiny in stature but big on joining, and she was active with causes she cared about. She fell in love and married but by then, a flame had been lit in the new Mrs. Shirley Chisholm.

Says Bolden, "She had become alive to politics."

For a kid who's just learning about the ins and outs of politics, *Speak Up, Speak Out* is a great book to have because it does double-duty: not only does it give children a historical look at what it was like to launch a political campaign some 50 years ago, but it also introduces them to the first Black woman to run for the office of President. It's lively and relatable.

And somewhat too relaxed.

For much of the first half of this book, author Tonya Bolden repeatedly refers to Chisholm as "Shirls," which was apparently her childhood nickname. To include it is good and makes the narrative more child-friendly; to overuse it seems somewhat disrespectful, given the rest of the story. A little less casualness would have gone a long way here.

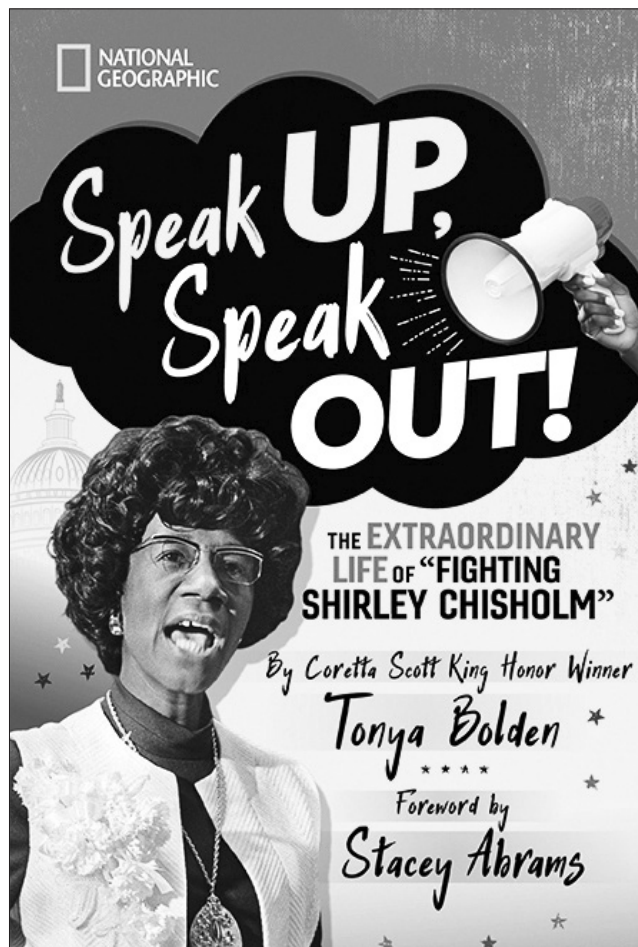
Still, though this book is good for nine-to-14-year-olds, and adults who don't remember Chisholm's career or her presidential bid will find it useful to read. Find *Speak Up, Speak Out!* and say yes.

\* \* \*

For younger readers who want to know about influential women in history, *Stand Up! 10 Mighty Women Who Made a Change!* by Brittney Cooper, illustrated by Cathy Ann Johnson is a great book to find. With its mini-biographies and its you-GO-girl tone, it's a winner for five-to-nine-year-olds.



Author Tonya Bolden



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# Rep. Hicks-Hudson Votes Against Shortening Voting Time for Military and Overseas Voters

## *Calls for primary election to be moved to a realistic date*

State Rep. Paula Hicks-Hudson (D-Toledo) issued a statement after the Ohio House passed a bill this week that would allow Secretary LaRose shorten the federally required 45-day military and overseas voting period before Election Day by 16 days. The bill comes after the federal Department of Defense denied Ohio's request to shorten the time for delivering absentee ballots to military and overseas voters. The Under Secretary of Defense said LaRose's waiver request failed to provide adequate time for military and overseas voters to receive their ballots or to return them. The bill also does not fix this problem.

"This bill is a smokescreen in the name of flag and country. It also does not address the real problem at hand, which is making sure the Boards of Elections are provided with Constitutional maps that they can use to conduct a fair, accurate and secure election," said Rep. Hicks-Hudson.

Democrats introduced an amendment that would have moved the primary date from May 3 to June 28, thereby allowing all military and overseas voters to fully participate in the election. The amendment was rejected by Republicans.

In a last minute, late-night maneuver Wednesday, the House attempted to make the provisions shortening military voting take immediate effect by adding an appropriation to the bill. However, case law provides that only the appropriation will take immediate effect while the substantive

change delaying the start of military voting will not take effect until 90 days from enactment.



## WELCOME COMMUNITY

### First Church of God Community Store

**Date: March 19, 2022**

**Where: First Church of God  
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**Time: 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM**





## INVITATION FOR BIDS IFB22-B001 CASUALTY LOSS (2 UNITS)

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMH) will receive sealed bids from General Contractors for the renovation of 2 Casualty Loss units located in the City of Toledo. Received in accordance with law until April 18, 2022, 3:00 PM ET. see documents: [www.lucasmha.org](http://www.lucasmha.org); 435 Nebraska Avenue, 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.



## Notice of Public Hearing

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) is preparing to submit its 2022-26 Capital Fund 5-Year Action Plan to HUD. Review the plan at <https://www.lucasmha.org/upages.php?id=120>. You may submit comments during the next 45 days to [msutter@lucasmha.org](mailto:msutter@lucasmha.org).

You are invited to a public hearing on **May 3, 2022**, at 8:30 am, at the Port Lawrence Community Room, 201 Belmont Ave., Toledo, OH 43604. Attendees will be provided information about LMH's Plan. You are encouraged to attend this public hearing and provide comments.

Should attendees require auxiliary aids due to a disability, contact LMH at 419-259-9457 or TRS 711, at least one week prior to hearing date. If you require language assistance services, contact LMH at 419-259-9459, at least one week prior to hearing date.

如果您需要语言协助服务, 请至少在听证会日期前一周致电 419-259-9459, 与 LMH 取得联系。

Si necesita servicios de asistencia del idioma, comuníquese con LMH al 419-259-9459, al menos una semana antes de la fecha de la audiencia.

إذا كنت بحاجة لمساعدة في خدمة الترجمة، عليك الاتصال بـ LMH على الرقم 419-259-9459، قبل أسبوع واحد على الأقل من موعد الجلسة.



Hugh W. Grefe, Chairman  
Joaquin Cintron Vega, President & Chief Executive Officer



## FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC

In an effort to establish a current Applicant List, **Sylvania Fire-EMS** is seeking firefighter/paramedics for full-time positions.

Sylvania Fire-EMS offers entry level examinations for the position of firefighter/paramedic through National Testing Network, Inc. To initiate the application process and schedule an examination, go to [www.nationaltestingnetwork.com](http://www.nationaltestingnetwork.com).

Sylvania Fire-EMS also offers a lateral entry process for the position of firefighter/paramedic for those who are currently employed, or who separated (within the last twelve months) as a result of layoff, as a full-time firefighter/paramedic by a federal, state, county or municipal fire/EMS department or holds an equivalent position in the United States military.

For full details about our hiring process, please visit our website at: <https://www.sylvaniatownship.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/2011-001-Hiring-Policy-Revision-1-18-2022.pdf>. Or you may contact our administrative offices at 419-882-7676 for further information.

The deadline for initiating an application and completing the entry level examination and Firefighter Mile is April 1, 2022.

Sylvania Fire-EMS is an Equal Opportunity Employer

## MAUMEE VALLEY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY- COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

Maumee Valley Habitat for Humanity (MVH-FH) is a nonprofit housing organization that brings people together to build homes, communities and hope in Lucas County. Our vision is of a world where everyone has a decent place to live. We work toward this vision by building and improving homes in partnership with individuals and families in need of a decent and affordable place to live.

Maumee Valley Habitat for Humanity is looking for a position for Community Engagement Manager. The Community Engagement Manager plays a critical role in strengthening relationships through planning, coordination, and implementation of projects in partnership with key neighborhoods. This position will oversee all aspects of Neighborhood Engagement. A bachelor's or associates degree from an accredited college or university is preferred.

Full time with benefits. Maumee Valley Habitat for Humanity is an Equal Opportunity Employer For a complete job description and to apply, visit <https://www.mvhabitat.org/main/work-with-us/>



## JOB POSTING

**JOB TITLE:** Senior Scheduler

**LOCATION:** Rudolph Libbe Inc., Walbridge, Ohio

Rudolph Libbe Inc. (RLI) offers a complete range of project contract delivery methods including general contracting, design/build and construction management. Based in Toledo, Ohio for more than 60 years, RLI is part of the Rudolph Libbe Group of companies with offices in Cleveland, Columbus and Lima, Ohio, and Plymouth, Michigan. For additional information, visit [RLGBuilds.com](http://RLGBuilds.com).

Rudolph Libbe Inc. is in search of a Senior Scheduler. The Senior Scheduler will leverage their knowledge, experience, and relationship building skills to foster a culture of planning and scheduling for all projects with a focus on working with our project teams to enhance our customer experience. In this role you will work with Pre-Construction, Project Controls, Construction Operations, Field Operations, and Marketing. As part of a high-performing team, the Scheduling Manager will be expected to develop strong relationships within the organization to further improve our scheduling process. A Bachelor's degree, 5+ years of construction scheduling experience and a strong knowledge of Primavera software and PMP certification is preferred

Interested parties should apply on our website at [www.rlgbuilds.com/careers](http://www.rlgbuilds.com/careers).

Rudolph Libbe Inc. is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

# St. Paul's Annual Men's Day Celebration

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

The congregation of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church held their annual men's celebration on March 13 in dignified and unified fashion at the historic St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church. The 2022 theme was, "Men of God Walking the Walk that Talks Louder than your talk talks," taken from Biblical scripture I John 1:6-7.

The men of the church were dressed in black suits. Pastor James Willis explained the purpose of the theme in the walk that men experience.

"This theme is about letting your actions speak louder than words. I applaud you for your efforts for clarifying your duty as a man of this church. We understand that light represents what is good, pure, holy and reliable. Darkness represents sin and evil. If we want to have a relationship with God. To demonstrate God's character, you must walk speak louder than your talks. This is a sound illustration as to what men of God need in order to understand the will of God," said Rev. Willis.

The Men's Day Sunday service opened with a deacon-led devotional service, processional of dignitaries and call to worship, official welcome delivered by Eugene Woods, then responsive reading led by Deacon Darryl Reed. Then the men's day choir sang several soulful selections as the serve included the reading of scripture and alter call.

The Men's Day 2022 Chairman Deacon Bobby McDole officially welcomed all the congregational members and guests during the morning service, "We're here to celebrate the men, thank God this morning," said Deacon Bobby McDole.

The 2022 speaker was the church's own Rev. Stanley Clark who is



Chair Deacon McDole, Rev. Clark, First Lady Willis, Rev. James Willis and Co Chair Jan Scotland

originally from Arkansas but was raised in Toledo and attended Toledo public schools. As a Libbey graduate, he continued his service by enlisting in the Army and earned the rank of Staff Sergeant. He received education from several institutions including University of Toledo and Toledo Bible Institution. He was the founder of United Vision Baptist Church in Toledo and currently serves as the Assistant Minister and Armour Bearer to Rev. Willis.

Rev. Clark gave several Bible scripture story examples that explained how various men from the Old and New Testaments walked with God and demonstrated their faith. "Thank you to the men and women of St. Paul for supporting this service. Walking with God means that at some point in your life that you need divine companionship. You will experience stumbling blocks and may not be able to cross the Jordan river by ourselves. The true answer is that we must keep walking with God."

During the introduction of the speaker, Pastor Willis shared comments about the occasion and speaker with the congregation. Glad to be a part of this service today but the speaker doesn't need an introduction. He can preach and teach, and is a great assistant to me. Thank God for him, his wife and family. He's a true child of God," shared Rev. Willis.

The 2022 Men's Day Chairman was Deacon Bobby McDole, and Trustee Jan Scotland was co-chair. St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church is located at 1502 N Detroit Street in Toledo. Services and Bible studies are held in-person at the church and via Facebook live.

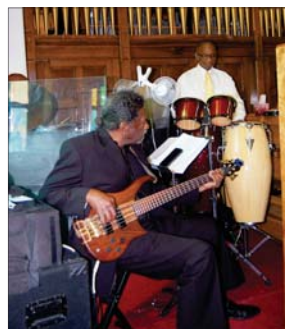
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Tyree, UTMCM Physical Therapy Patient

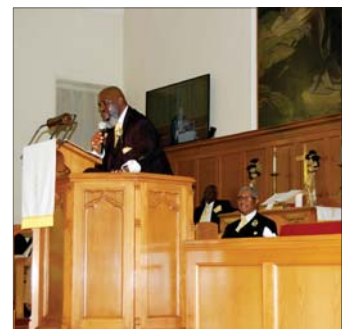
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Mens Day Co Chair Scotland



Speaker, Rev. Clark and Rev. Willis



The Congregation



The deacons during devotion