



Volume 73 No. 6

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

July 20, 2022



AA Prayer Breakfast Honorees - Adam Levine, David Ross, Suzanne Rorick, Sonia Flunder-McNair and Rev. Willie Perryman

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# The African American Festival Parade

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

Gotta love a parade!

And it gets bigger and better every year it seems. The annual African American Parade began at the corner of Dorr and Detroit, at the office of the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union, on Saturday morning, July 16. Hundreds of spectators lined Dorr Street to watch the hundreds of paraders – the marchers, the cars, the slingshots, the horses, the dance teams, the elected officials and the candidates for elected office.

Parade route started at the corner of Dorr Street & Detroit Avenue and traveled east on Dorr Street towards Collingwood; then took a turn south at City Park toward Indiana Ave. The Parade turned west on Indiana Avenue and travel towards Detroit Ave ending at Nelson Grace Park located at Detroit Avenue and Indiana.

The Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union has been organizing the parade for 17 years – it was canceled in 2020 because of the COVID pandemic.

This year, once again, the Prayer Breakfast and Parade were both held on the same weekend and the Festival will be held on August 6 at Promenade Park.



*Former Councilwoman Wilma Brown and TUFUCU CEO Suzette Cowell*



*Rich Hogan of The Juice*

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# Expect the Unexpected

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

The Truth Contributor

*Decisions are made by those who show up.*

**- Aaron Sorkin**

Look for low voter turnout to play a significant role in the special August 2, Ohio General Assembly primary.

The combined early voting turnout, including Republicans and Democrats, stood at only 728 of 279,000 potential voters as of Monday morning. In addition, just 1,500 voters have requested absentee ballots.

But don't look for numbers to improve by primary election day drastically.

Confusion reigns among many voters resulting from Ohio's controversial redistricting process and federal court rulings which removed the state legislative races from the May 3 regular primary ballot.

Perplexed voters at various Toledo Senior Centers mistakenly assumed that their May votes negated the need to vote again in August. Others presumed an absentee ballot obtained for the May election would make another one unnecessary in August.

Director LaVera R. Scott of the Lucas County Board of Elections said she anticipates a much lower turnout because of the confusion. Yet, she has strategically prepared for a much larger turnout, such as a gubernatorial election.

The result could make for some surprising outcomes in an extremely low turnout primary where anything can, and often does, happen.

Here are the Ohio Statehouse races most affected:

## **Larson vs. Flanagan: Ohio House District 41**

District 41 is a contest between Colin Flanagan from Oregon and Nancy Larson of Sylvania. Flanagan has been described as a young, brash, political newcomer with little experience. On the other hand, Larson has been chiefly an activist but never held an elective office.

Larson is a progressive, big Bernie Sanders supporter who previously ran against Republican Derek Merrin in a tough assignment. After running a particularly active campaign against Merrin, she planned to run for city council in Sylvania but decided she was more interested in issues at the state level. So, Larson is now running in the new 41st district from Sylvania to Oregon.

The Flanagan/Larson winner gets to square off in the November general election against Josh Williams, a black Republican and ardent conservative.

Former President Donald Trump and the National Republican Committee have worked hard to attract black male voters. Josh Williams has an interesting personal story. Should the Republicans continue to fund candidates like Williams, their efforts could get traction, even in Northwest Ohio.

On the other hand, Flanagan has been rapidly picking up labor support, possibly due to Larson's "poor interpersonal skills and self-righteous attitude," according to the word on the street. The tendency to rub potential supporters wrong while seeking endorsement can quickly capsize a cruising campaign.

The Outcome in the 41st?

Expect the Unexpected.

Nancy Larson has more name recognition, but in an extremely low turnout race, Flanagan has a legitimate shot at winning. He wouldn't have to personally turn out very many people to influence the primary election. Yet, the 41st district is considered a 50/50 district, equally among Democrats and Republicans. So, with labor's backing, it is more likely that Flanagan can defeat Williams in the general election if he gets past Larson.

I predict Flanagan to upset Larsen.

## **Grim vs. Ortiz: Ohio House District 43**

The Michele Grim and Daniel Ortiz primary is a fascinating clash. Both candidates have a wide-open future. Grim will be well funded, and her husband is Ben Krompak, a partner in a national polling firm. The latter provided polling for the recently elected New York City mayor Eric Ad-



# Buckle Up ... Butter Cup!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

There it is. The former disgraced president Donald Trump will soon announce that he is more likely than not to run for another chance to occupy the White House in the 2024 elections.

Trump shamelessly inked another political pact with the Devil, who is described as the "father of all lies" by Jesus himself.

If you did not know better, you would think that Trump is the actual spawn of Satan with his endless trail of lies, deceptions and proven con games foisted upon his gullible voting base.

But, no matter. To them, Trump is nigh their savior and chief; and the adoring and fawning white evangelicals were and are more than willing to toss the Bible and Jesus on the heap of their dereliction of duty pile to all things scripture, and vote for a twice impeached president.

No shame in their game!

Herr Trump is also betting on having a royal flush (poker term) in his hand by announcing early his White House ambitions, so he can chill out any possible contenders; and more importantly, he can send a message to Merrick Garland that any continued investigations will come off as a "witch hunt."

Needless to state, right wing media and his base of "deplorables" (Hillary Clinton's term) are swooning and fainting at the mere mention that their hero and rabble rouser will take them to new heights of glory if he were to win the White House.

When Herr Trump makes the official announcement of his White House run, you can rest assured that his coterie of past political sycophants will be saluting the Trump flag and announcing that they are again, at his beck and call.

To be sure, the debauched churches of the supportive white evangelicals will be in fervent prayer to a god unknown asking that their savior save America from the clutches of those "lefties" and socialists and pedophiles and media scums and gun haters also known as Democrats.

Trump will fire up his salivating base of voters by zinging them with outrageous campaign ads saying he must complete "unfinished" business and if they want to make America great again, they need to send in their best contribution (please, a fifty dollar minimum) to make this happen!

The weirdos and wackos whom we saw preening before the media

... continued on page 4



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... continued on page 4

*Perryman... continued from page 3*

ams' winning campaign.

Ortiz is down to earth, very visible in the community, and has previously run for public office. Grim seems omnipresent, having been a constant in local television commercials during her successful recent run for Toledo City Council.

I love everything about Michele Grim's policies. With her training in public health and expert knowledge of social issues, Grim can have an extensive impact and be more useful in the City of Toledo than in Columbus. Unfortunately, the Republicans have a supermajority in the State Legislature, thus possibly diluting Grim's potent talents.

The Outcome for the Ohio 43rd?

Anything Can Happen!

Although she is heavily favored, the Ortiz race is not a slam dunk for Grim. Yet, we are just beginning to see increased support for women candidates because of collateral damage from SCOTUS' decision to strike down Roe vs. Wade. Many believe that the loss of rights could even extend to a potential ban on contraceptives.

So, this contest is a toss-up. However, I'm rooting for Ortiz. On the other hand, Michele Grim would be more valuable to Toledo if she accepted a smaller paycheck to remain on City Council. Toledo is where Grim's work will yield more meaningful results.

In the end, the big story will be which candidates can mobilize their supporters to show up to cast ballots in the special August 2 primary for Ohio House and Senate seats.

These crucial decisions will indeed be made by those voters who show up!

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



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-Brian Tracey

*R. Winspires*

*Tolliver... continued from page 3*

and spouting the Trump talking points, will be jockeying for fat cat political plum jobs in his administration, if he were to win.

About winning, you ask? Of course, Trump will do his usual lying con game and say from the start of any campaign that if he does not win this time, the system is beyond repair; and his base needs to march on the Capitol, again.

Contenders against him? Hah! If Rick Scott or Ron DeSantis or Mike Pence or Chris Christie or Mitt Romney were to challenge him, Trump will pin on them demeaning nick names and accuse them of being RI-NOS (Republican In Name Only).

Trump should know by now that there is no law or custom or tradition that if you run for a political office, you are deemed off-limits by the legal or judiciary system. Trump is hoping for untouchable status by running again so that if he wins, he can claim immunity or, even better, pardon himself for any alleged crimes, past or present.

What a deal!

The prevailing question will be if the GOP has tired of Trump and his negative baggage, or have they gauged the wind of their base and found it to be in favor of another Trump run.

If so, the feckless GOP will bay like good sheep and fall into line.

We know of course that if the GOP takes the House of Representatives, they will in all likelihood, shut down the January 6th Select Committee because they are perilously close in exposing the complicity of Republicans in the nigh coup that took place on that date.

What does the forebode for American democracy? Simple. If Merrick Garland does not soon eat two full bowls of Wheaties and take some iron supplements, Trump will mock him as a "wuss" and would dare him to indict him on any charges.

If so, that leaves game, set and match to Fanni Willis out of Georgia to save the day and for the Georgia courts to take him on and hopefully measure him for an orange jumpsuit.

If you are faint of heart at the upcoming tumultuous events that will occur between now and November 24, you had better, "BUCKLE UP BUTTERCUP!" for it is going to be a long and bumpy ride.

Did I say that we live in interesting times?

Contact Lafe Tolliver at [tolliver@juno.com](mailto:tolliver@juno.com)



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# Area Leaders Address Greenbelt Place Apartments Issues

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

Thursday morning, July 14, Lucas County Commissioner Pete Gerken and leader of The Movement Tina Butts, along with community leaders, held a press conference in front of Greenbelt Place Apartments to discuss the improvements of the once infamous apartment complex on Cherry Street.

For decades, the Greenbelt Apartments have been synonymous with neglect, crime and violence. This year, through a collaboration with local government, grassroots movement and the owner, that narrative is starting to change.

"The conditions [at Greenbelt] were deplorable, said Gerken. "There were doors off the hallways, in the winter the wind would blow through, rodents would come in, there was always the problems of infestation of mice and roaches. We're trying to turn that around."

Improvements have been seen in the past 10 months. "The grass is cut, the doors are on, blinds have been replaced, new refrigerators come in everyday, it's clean and people are now coming out to be with each other rather than staying in and being afraid."

"It's not perfect, it's only a start but we're pretty proud of the start," said Gerken.

Last October (2021), there was a meeting at the One Government Center where issues were raised regarding the conditions of the Greenbelt Apartments. Members of local and federal governments, as well as the Toledo Police Department and other organizations took owner Rene Campos to task. The Greenbelt had been deemed a public nuisance by the City and had failed its U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) inspections scoring 36 out of 100.

"That meeting started a process... this process is a national model that can get replicated," said Gerken.

"We have been here every single day since that moment," said Tina Butts leader of the grassroots organization The Movement. "Every Monday thru Friday we're here 9-12 and 1-4 pm." The Movement is an onsite resource aiding residents with the help they need. "We have built a strong relationship with the owner(s) and whatever we say that's needed --they make it happen."

Thanks to this joint effort, residents have received rental assistance, new furniture and improvements to their apartments. There are now also new community services at Greenbelt including Pathway, Lucas County Children's Services and Connecting Kids to Meals. Next week there will be a Job Fair for the residents at the complex --Thursday July 21 at 10 a.m.-2 p.m. with Job 1 USA.

Butts and the Movement encourage more community partners to get involved. "The people that have the resources in our community -- get them in here!... We're here!" charged Butts on Thursday.

Deshawn Hutchings has been a resident at Greenbelt for over 30 years and has seen the change. "The improvement here -- excellent... we still



Tina Butts, leader of the Movement, addresses press conference at Greenbelt Place

have our problems... but families are starting to bring their kids back."

She said parents had taken their kids away because of the violence. "It's a blessing to see more kids being able to enjoy playing outside.... without your heart racing as soon as your child walks out the door." Hutchings noted that previously she wouldn't let her four-year-old goddaughter outside. She now lets her play at Greenbelt's playground. "Now you can let your child out at peace."

"We need people that want to live here to live here, we don't want this to be a last resort for people's residence... we want this to be a choice," noted Gerken. There are opportunities for people to live in Greenbelt with more units being fixed.

On Thursday, Gerken, Greenbelt owner Rene Campos, The Movement and Greenbelt residents were there to applaud the progress.

"The owner can't do this by himself remotely, he has to stay engaged locally... the government can't do this from the outside. You can't have the county commissioners here going door to door -- they don't trust us. You have to find a community partner that's well respected with results, as the Movement has [brought] that can create those kind of relationships," said Gerken.

Gerken celebrated the work of the Movement and leader Tina Butts in Greenbelts Apartments during the press conference. "The reason this is a success today is because we reached out to the community. We couldn't do this without the community. This is not the government's work that you see... this is government and owner support."

"We're going to continue our fight, whether it's in the Greenbelts, the other side of town, the east side... We're here to stay," commented Butts.

To join The Movement or become a community partner visit [www.themovementteamlucascountry.com](http://www.themovementteamlucascountry.com) or call 419-450-3325.

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# Police Recruitment Is a Priority with the City of Toledo

*The Truth Staff*

Once again the Toledo Police Department is seeking recruits for its upcoming police class – the one that starts in March 2023. That effort is being led by Sgt. Lourdes Rocha of the TPD Backgrounds and Recruitment Unit.

It's an effort, says Rocha, geared to both building up the number of sworn officers and to increasing the diversity within the department to reflect the population of the city the department serves.

The ultimate goal, established by Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, is to bring the number of police officers to 700. Currently the department has 641 sworn officers and the class currently in session that started on June 25, has 40 students. However, getting to 700 will be no small task says Rocha.

"We're trying to keep up with retirements," she says of the ongoing

struggle to maintain numbers in an age when officers see opportunities to leave the department with their pensions after 25 years.

"You can stay longer," she says, "but a lot are now leaving sooner than expected."

Rocha joined the Recruitment Unit four years ago in an effort to ensure that area residents knew of the opportunities available. "I wanted to give back to the community by showing what the department has to offer – there are a lot of different things we offer as a career," she says.



*Sgt. Lourdes Rocha*

# Toledo Opera Seeking Applications for Third Round of "View Then Voice" Focus Groups

Toledo Opera is now accepting applications for first-time opera attendees to become guest critics in its third round of its View Then Voice focus group. These groups are designed to engage with new audiences and gain insights that will help build and diversify the next generation of opera-goers in Toledo. Each selected participant will receive two complimentary tickets; one for them and a guest to attend the final dress rehearsal of Toledo Opera's upcoming performance of Blue.

"This project was inspired by 'Look at Art. Get Paid.,' a model co-created by artists Maia Chao and Josephine Devanbu. We believe we can learn a lot from first-time opera attendees," said Alyssa Greenberg, community engagement director for Toledo Opera. "We look forward to meeting our participants, listening to what they have to share, and developing impactful ways to engage more deeply Toledo area residents."


The performance will take place at the Valentine Theatre, located at 410 Adams Street, Wednesday, August 24 at 7:00 p.m. Then, during the week of August 29, participants must also participate in a focus group session that will be held at the ProMedica Ebeid Center, 1806 Madison Avenue. Free transportation will be available upon request. All selected participants will receive a \$50 honorarium.

"This initiative is in line with Toledo Opera's new mission, vision, and values," said Suzanne Rorick, executive director of Toledo Opera. "In order to create a space for everyone, we must listen to feedback, collaborate with the community, and innovate. We are excited to see where this will lead."

The View Then Voice application form can be found at [toledoopera.org/view](http://toledoopera.org/view).


Toledo Opera will accept applications now through Sunday, July 31. Selected participants will be notified in early August.

For more information about View Then Voice, please contact Alyssa Greenberg, community engagement director for Toledo Opera, at [agreenberg@toledoopera.org](mailto:agreenberg@toledoopera.org), or visit [toledoopera.org/view](http://toledoopera.org/view).



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# Area Office on Aging Wins Top Honor for Its Innovative Older Adult COVID Vaccination Efforts

Building upon its reputation as being locally known and nationally recognized, the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc. (AOoA) received the first place national Aging Innovation Award for its innovative older adult COVID vaccination efforts today. The AOoA is one of 618 Area Agencies on Aging providing programs and services to older adults.

USAgings presented the AOoA with national Aging Innovations Award at its national conference for the AOoA's Operation COVID-19 Response: Take Your Best Shot initiative. Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio (AOoA) fielded more than 1,000 telephone calls daily from older adults and community members seeking information about the virus and resources to protect against it.

To support underserved older adults, communities of color and individuals at high risk of morbidity and mortality, the AOoA developed Operation COVID-19 Response: Take Your Best Shot, partnering with two Federally Qualified Health Centers, the Ohio National Guard and a coalition of local for-profit and nonprofit entities to educate, dispel myths and empower targeted communities




to make informed decisions related to COVID-19. "We are honored to receive this national recognition for the life-saving work we have been doing with our partners to get older adults vaccinated," said Area Office on Aging President/CEO Billie Johnson.

The Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio is a leader in helping older adults, their family caregiv-

ers, and younger persons with disabilities live long, quality, independent lives. Through providing both direct services as well as contracting with over 180 provider organizations, the Agency serves thousands of northwest Ohioans a year with home care, nutrition, support of family caregivers, and senior services.

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# The Big Mecca Giveaway

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

Mecca Temple #43 and Daughters of Mecca Court #73 donated free bikes to local children as part of their annual Bike Give-Away outside of the Grenadier Club Saturday, June 16. This is a decades long tradition of the local masonic order that corresponds with their annual Shrine Day Celebration.

There were a lot of celebrations this weekend in Toledo!

At the corner of Avondale and Junction Avenue 38 children chose their favorite bicycle to take home with them Saturday afternoon. During the day the children enjoyed free food, face painting, bounces houses and crafts from Home Depot in an all-day block party. The giveaway is an annual tradition of the local masonic order that has been ongoing for over 25 years.

Mecca Temple #43 is a Prince Hall Masonic Order headquartered in Toledo, OH. The Prince Hall Masons are the oldest and largest black fraternal organization in the nation dating back to 1784. Mecca Temple #43 was founded in Toledo in 1965.

The Grenadier (now called 'Club Thirteen 43') located at 1343 Avondale Avenue has been the lodge of Mecca Temple #43 since 1973. "Shrine Day" according to Mark McBee, the Imperial Deputy of the Oasis, is a celebration of the Shriners' presence in Toledo and a day to give back to the community.



Illustrious Potentate Sherard Ramsey (of Mecca Temple #43) and Illustrious Commandress Wanda Terrell Galloway (Mecca Court #73)



Daughters of Mecca Court #73



Dakota Petts chooses her new bike!

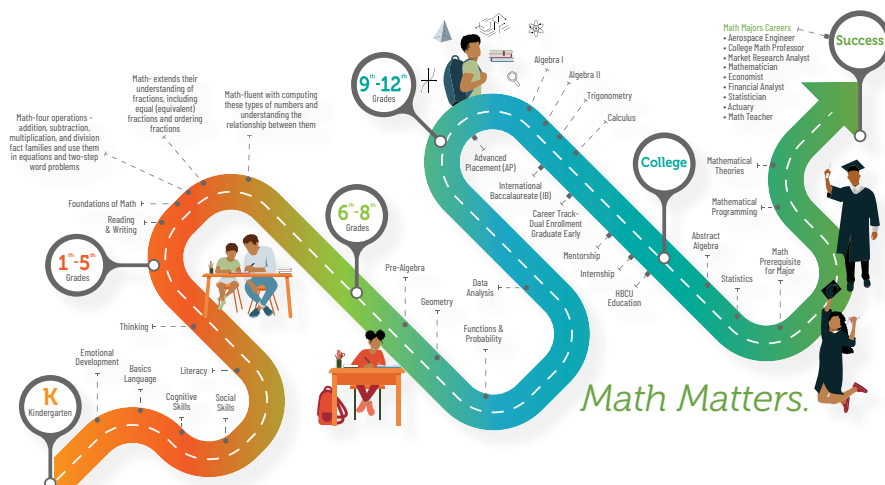


New bikes lined up on Junction Ave to be given away to children

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# African American Festival Community Day – Going Back to the Roots

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

"It's good to be home" said Suzette Cowell, founder of the African American Festival and Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union, as she glanced at children playing and enjoying activities at Nelson Grace Park. "They are able to experience things here that they wouldn't normally have the chance to," she smiled.

This year the African American Festival and Parade went back to the community. While the festival has expanded over the years and ventured into new locations, Cowell believed it was important to go back.

Nelson Grace Park is in the heart the old Dorr Street Corridor at the corner of Detroit and Indiana Ave --it's back in the neighborhood that helped foster it to grow.

Following the prayer breakfast Friday at Glass City Metropark Pavilion and the Saturday morning Parade ending at Indiana and Detroit avenues, this free community day Saturday afternoon was the final destination in part one of the 17th Annual African American Festival that will span two weekends this year. (The final event is the music festival that will be held Aug 6 at Promenade Park).

"We decided that we needed to go back to our roots - that's why we're at the corner of Detroit and Indiana. Today we're going to love on the children... so everything that is going on is free for them," Cowell added.

The joy could be seen on the children's faces as they enjoyed rock climbing provided by Toledo Metro Parks, bounce houses, art presentations by Toledo Museum of Art, and horse rides to name of few of the many activities that engulfed the park in the center of the city Saturday afternoon.

...continued on page 11



The Toledo Fire Department shares resources with children



Children scale rock climbing wall provided by Toledo Metro Parks



Children spin the wheel for free prizes from Winterfield Venture Academy



Toledo Museum of Art helps children with their masterpieces

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**Festival Community Day... continued from page 10**

The parade Saturday morning was truly a sight to see. Cowell was warmed by the support and representation. "Over 60 participants [in the parade]... and some just showed up!" laughed Cowell. The parade started at Detroit and Dorr Street and extended all the way to Dorr and Collingwood. "The community respects it - it's there."

In a celebration that grows year after year this year's celebration was multigenerational. "I thank the community for supporting us these past 17 years. Without them we couldn't do this," said Cowell. "When you ride down Dorr Street and see the families and different generations [grandparents, parents, grandchildren]. They think enough of it to bring generations to see it. That just warmed my heart. It was amazing to see."

"It's a day the community comes together- they look forward to it." The next date to look forward to is the Music Festival Saturday August 6 at Promenade Park. Tickets are available at Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union or tickermaster.com. This year's lineup includes: The Whispers, Zapp, Lyfe Jennings, Sunshine Anderson, Troop, comedian Keith Bender, a presentation to Zia Cook and Tribute to Rance Allen.

The African American Festival welcomed many new partnerships this year.

The sponsors of the 17th African American Festival are: ProMedica, Metroparks Toledo, WIMX95.7, The Blade, The Sojourner's Truth, The Toledo Journal, Lucas County Commissioners, City of Toledo, Lucas County Port Authority, LISC, Metroparks Toledo, Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union, PNC Bank, Waterford Bank N.A., Huntington Bank, Toledo Museum of Art, Lourdes University, Mercy College, The House of Day Funeral Home, C. Brown Funeral Home Inc., Grogan Towne, Quality Time Day Care, and The Taylor Automotive Family.

Vendors and support of community day included:

Economic and Community Development Institute (ECDI), Human Relations Commission, Toledo Museum of Arts, Metro Parks Toledo, Rashawn Jones Enterprises, National Heritage Academies,

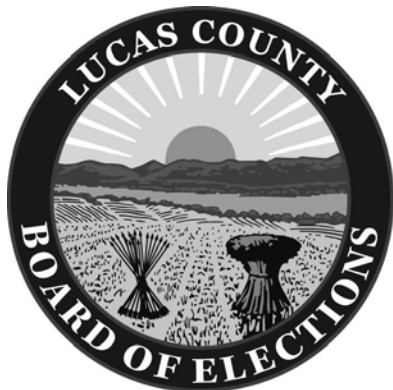
City Park League, Toledo Zoo, The Fredrick Douglas Community Association, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Ohio, Brightside Academy, Buffalo Soldiers, City of Toledo, City of Toledo - Department of Parks and

Recreation, Coordinated Workers First Campaign, Early Head Start Lucas County Family Council, Explores Academy Science and Technology, Giuseppe's Italian Ice, Hope Toledo, Imagine Environmental Science Academy, Lucas County Children Service, OptiGo - Free Youth Eye Screenings, Toledo Public Library, Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union, Urban Wholistics, Zeph Center, Famed Studios, Mud City Angels, Mystery Inc. Drumline, Parker Dance Factory, Reynolds Corner Rams Cheer Team, Squad Goals, Toledo Community Praise Dancers and Toledo Dream Queens.

Cowell still has plans to grow the credit union further in more efforts to revitalize Dorr St. "Our membership has doubled and we don't have enough room. We're going to break ground on a resource center soon to provide the community with more resources across the street" stated Cowell. The TUFUCU is venturing into 4.8 million dollar project.

"We [are more] than a credit union... we're like the hub of the community. If you have a problem you come to Toledo Urban. That's the way it is." Cowell notes how community members come to Toledo Urban regarding domestic disputes, police reports, children services. She has a plan. "We're going to put all those resources there and have people to man them."

For more information on the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union visit [www.toledourban.net](http://www.toledourban.net).



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# Easy DIY Summer Projects to Tackle Around the House

*Special to The Truth*

Summer is the most popular time of the year for home renovations, with the great weather making indoor and outdoor fixes a breeze. From simple remodel ideas to budget-friendly outdoor updates, these are the top projects to tackle this summer, according to a DIY expert.

## Shake It Up

If you're craving a modern aesthetic, but don't want to take on an expensive and time-consuming renovation, updating cabinets, doors and lighting can make all the difference.

"During a recent bathroom remodel, I made shaker doors because they are easy to assemble yet give a nice style and modern look to cabinets," says Mark Robertson, the DIYer behind Mark the Builder, who specializes in accent walls and bathroom and kitchen remodels. "To give plain cabinets the shaker look, we basically take a door frame and add raised panels to it."

For this project, all you need is a cabinet door, wood panels found at your home improvement store, glue and paint or stain. Once you have all the materials, measure and cut the horizontal pieces to the length of the door and make the vertical rails two inches thick. Glue the panels together and then secure the molding to the cabinet door. For renters, Robertson recommends applying a peel and stick wallpaper over cabinets or doors for a quick refresh.

Under-the-cabinet lighting will help highlight your handy work and offer extra illumination at night. To easily install lighting without the hassle of hardware, Robertson suggests cutting small pieces of T-Rex Super Glue Tape and attaching them to LED light strips. The high-tack, double-sided tape offers super-glue-like adhesive strength for quick mounting and leaves no mess behind.

## Combine Storage With Style

The best home updates not only look good, but function beautifully, too. New shelves are an impactful way to add storage and enhance a room's style.

It's easy to find inexpensive shelving on resale websites—many just need a quick coat of stain or paint to look brand new. For those who want to build it themselves, Robertson recommends making an industrial pipe shelf using reclaimed wood—typically one to two inches thick—and a three-quarter inch industrial black pipe. Lay the piece of wood flat, trace the circular part of the pipe onto the wood and then drill two holes. Slide the wood over the pipe to assemble the shelf.

## Dress Your Walls

From indoors to out, options for accent walls are endless. However, Robertson follows these two design rules: stick with simplistic patterns in formal areas, such as a dining room or living room; and use abstract shapes in bedrooms, game rooms and offices. To achieve a perfect accent wall every time, Robertson uses templates instead of a tape measure.

"If you are making a wall with panels four inches apart, cut a piece of scrap to four inches and use it for all of the design," he says. "You will get the same spacing for the entire project and everything will be symmetrical."

## Create an Outdoor Oasis

Summer is the optimal time to fix up the backyard. From staining the deck to building a new fire pit, there are several projects that will make the area pop.

While working outdoors, Robertson suggests keeping T-Rex Waterproof Tape handy for quick fixes. The strong tape provides waterproof adhesion so you can easily patch a leak in a swimming pool, tape up a hole in a bucket, or repair a garden hose damaged from wear and tear.

After tackling these DIY projects, you'll enjoy interiors and exteriors that look and feel as bright and fresh as the summer weather.

*Courtesy StatePoint*



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# Agent Josephine: American Beauty, French Hero, British Spy by Damien Lewis

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

Buttoned up, lips sealed, under wraps.  
The secret's safe with you.

No matter how others beg, tease or try to trick you into telling, you can hold something on the Q.T. until the day you die. You're trustworthy, dependable, discreet and you don't blab. People admire that, and seek you out. And as in the new book *Agent Josephine* by Damien Lewis, they might kill you for it.

When Josephine Macdonald was a small child in St. Louis, Missouri, she grew to understand that her mother resented her for merely being born. Though Carrie Carson worked hard to keep the family fed, there was never enough money so little Josephine proudly contributed to the family by working as a maid and by dancing and street-performing for coins. That made her happiest.

Later, after she realized that she could actually make a living performing, she found stage work but Jim Crow laws were a constant in her life. Believing that leaving America was her best option, she headed for Europe in the 1920s, where she knew that racism wasn't as entrenched.

c.2022  
PublicAffairs  
\$32.00  
496 pages

Alas, most European countries were not welcoming, either. Everywhere but in France, she was looked upon with disgust. And so, says Lewis, Josephine married a Frenchman, took his last name, relinquished her American citizenship and gave France her heart.

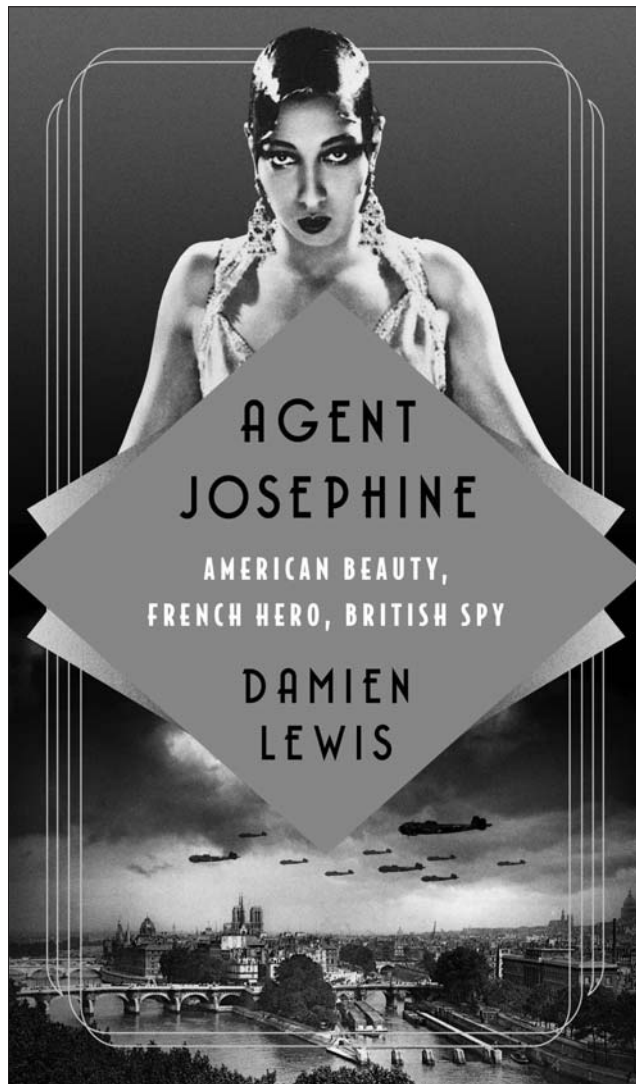
In the later part of the 1930s, when it became obvious that Hitler and the Nazis were becoming dangerous to the rest of Europe and to the world, authorities began looking for what they called "Honorary Correspondents" to help collect covert information and to pass messages. "HCs" possessed intelligence. They were calm and patriotic people of means. With her star power and her people-skills, Josephine Baker was considered immediately; officials were surprised when they interviewed her to find that she was "a natural."

And so Josephine became a spy, fighting the Nazis until danger made her temporarily flee to a small village in France. In a Chateau there, waiting word from her associates, was "the world's most famous woman of colour, who hungered to fight."

The very first thing you'll notice about *Agent Josephine* is that it's a brick. That should alert you immediately to what's in store for you: author Damien Lewis dives deep.

In his introduction, he explains what spurred him to write this book and the turns his research took, from America to Europe and into the darkest of corners of nearly-century-old history. There are jaw-droppers in what he found, and questions that still remain classified. Readers can take that as an alert, too: there's a lot of European history to unpack to get to the biography for which you grabbed this book. Baker's story is there, but it's eked out amid a long, complicated story of World War II espionage, and a well-more-than-basic knowledge of Europe, 1933-1945, is a must.

Without it, you may flail – although a love of a good spy story could redeem this book for fans of thrillers. If that's you, there's no need to keep *Agent Josephine* under wraps.



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Qualified candidates will have demonstrated knowledge of PCs, network hardware, operating systems, and software. A Bachelor's degree in Computer Science or a related field and three years of relevant experience with LAN and WAN technologies, including systems configuration and support, software installation, and set-up, is preferred. However, equivalent experience in related fields and education will be considered.

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**INVITATION FOR BIDS  
IFB22-B005 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE CLEANING  
SERVICES AT 424 JACKSON**

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMH) will receive sealed bids from General Contractors for the for Administrative Office Cleaning Services at 424 Jackson Ave. in the City of Toledo, OH. Received in accordance with law until August 16, 2022 at 3:00 pm. 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.



**MANAGER OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT  
LUCAS COUNTY BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH AND  
RECOVERY**

Lucas County Board of Mental Health and Recovery, is accepting applications to fill the Manager of Community Engagement position. The position is responsible for development, implementation and coordination of all board activities and/or responses that involve community engagement. The position will also be responsible for coordinating levy campaigns. Salary range \$50,000.00 to \$55,000.00 annually plus a full range of benefits. Additional information regarding the duties is available on the Lucas County web site ([www.co.lucas.oh.us](http://www.co.lucas.oh.us)). Click on "Apply for a Job" and then select "Manager of Community Engagement" from the list to read more or apply. Resumes are also accepted by email to [apriest@lcmhrsb.oh.gov](mailto:apriest@lcmhrsb.oh.gov)

**HOUSING CONDITIONS AND NEIGHBORHOOD  
REINVESTMENT ATTORNEY**

The Fair Housing Center (TFHC) seeks a Housing Conditions and Neighborhood Reinvestment (HCNR) attorney who will represent tenants and homeowners. The HCNR attorney will represent tenants in rent escrow cases, and housing conditions cases to enforce tenant rights to decent habitable living conditions. The HCNR attorney will also provide educational resources and presentations to the community regarding legal rights and responsibilities especially as they relate to housing conditions issues, particularly in historically redlined and disinvested neighborhoods.

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Law Degree and current license to practice law in Ohio.
- At least two years of housing related legal representation working with diverse groups. Alternatively, five or more years of experience in civil litigation, especially if maintaining a large caseload.
- Possess the ability to investigate rental, sales, lending, insurance, zoning, harassment, and appraisal complaints in a timely manner.
- Experience in a non-profit environment is preferred.
- Possess strong financial management, budgeting skills, organization, presentation, and writing proficiencies.
- Possess strong knowledge of fair housing principles and local, state, and federal laws governing housing discrimination and the landlord-tenant relationship.

This is a full-time position that includes a competitive salary and benefits package. Monday-Friday, 9a-5p, with evening and weekend hours as needed. Reliable transportation is required. TFHC offers a competitive wage and benefits package. Interested applicants should email their cover letter, résumé, and references in PDF form to [HR@toledofhc.com](mailto:HR@toledofhc.com). No phone calls, please.

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER:**

TFHC will not discriminate against any applicant or employee regarding any term or condition of employment because of race, color, sex (including gender identity and expression), sexual orientation, national origin, citizenship, ancestry, religion, age, disability, marital status, familial status or veteran status.

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**Branch:** Wayman Palmer

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**Wage:** \$14.00-\$16.00 per hour

The Y Achievers Director position is responsible for program delivery to Achiever participants between the ages of 14 and 21 in the area of tutoring, life skills, work readiness, field trips and other components of the program. The Y Achievers Coordinator is responsible for transporting youth home from programming and field trips. As well as coordinating, organizing and planning weekly programming that will engage and support participants to make their monthly goals, and track their progress. The Y Achievers Coordinator will provide monthly and quarterly reports and attend staff meetings upon request.

Candidates should possess a High School or GED Graduate. Some college preferred. Prior experience working with at-risk teens highly recommended. Must possess the necessary organizational skills to supervise, lead, coordinate, facilitate and design activities and programs. Must have the necessary computer and technical skills to coordinate participant files and coursework. Must possess good public relation skills and have the ability to establish and maintain effective communication with youth, staff, volunteers, and community partners. Must have a good driving record. Maintain a professional attitude toward participants and parents/guardians.

The YMCA is a drug free workplace and is committed to a policy of Equal Opportunity prohibiting discrimination in employment because of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, age, genetic information, disability or veteran status.

If interested, please send resume electronically by July 27, 2022 to Debbie Frison at [dfrison@ymcatoledo.org](mailto:dfrison@ymcatoledo.org)

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*Prayer Breakfast... continued from page 16*

by several hundred who enjoyed breakfast, listened to prayers offered by a number of community religious leaders and applauded this year's honorees.

This mistress of ceremonies for this year's breakfast was Delise Simmons, a longtime former staff member of TUFCU, and the various worship songs were performed by Amanda Heron, who dazzled the audience with her renditions of spiritual favorites.

Suzette Cowell, TUFCU CEO and founder of the African American Festival, Prayer Breakfast and Parade, explained to the audience the vision she had years ago, inspired by God, to start the annual tribute to African American culture.

Those offering prayers were Bishop Pat McKinstry of the Worship Center; Sr. Virginia Welsh of St. Martin de Porres; Pastor Otis Gordon of Warren AME Church; Sr. Maxine Young of the Sisters of Notre Dame; Min. John Jones of Christian Temple Baptist Church, Elder Lisa Key of Peoples Baptist Church and Pastor Randall Parker of Canaan Manifested Word Church.

The highlight of the morning was the presentation of honors to the awardees. Those honored were Adam Levine, Pastor Willie Perryman, Suzanne Rorick, David Ross and Sonia Flunder-McNair.

Levine, the Edward Drummond and Florence Scott Libbey director of the Toledo Museum of Art and a scholar of ancient art, is the 10th director of TMA since its founding in 1901. Levine came to the Museum in 2012 as an Andrew W. Mellon Fellow and went on to senior management roles – deputy director and curator of ancient art. He is now director of the Museum's \$16 million budget and 250 employees.

Perryman, pastor of Jerusalem Baptist Church for the past 17 years, has worked for both the State of Ohio and the City of Toledo in the past. He is currently the president of the Toledo Chapter of the NAACP and plays an instrumental role in the revitalization of Dorr Street.

Rorick, executive director of the Toledo Opera since 2011, has been a driving force in ensuring the Opera operates under a set of principles

called Sound Vision – the achievement of the highest artistic standards coupled with sound fiscal management. That commitment has enabled the Opera to maintain diversity in its offerings including bringing groundbreaking productions such as *I Dream and Blue* to the Toledo area.

Ross, a community artist who is an advocate for youth and creativity, is an alumnus of the Arts Commission's Young Artist at Work and a leader and founder of the charity Dunkin' 4 Donations. He is also a boxing coach for the Soul City Boxing Club, a member of the Arts Commission Creative Placemaking team, and is active in the community trying to connect art and social issues, such as youth against crime, health and honoring local legends such as Art Tatum and Jon Hendricks.

Flunder-McNair, the founder and CEO of SONIA Organics, LLC, has developed a line of health, hygiene and beauty products designed to help customers live and feel well. She has coordinated her efforts with community members such as the Lucas County Land Bank, Bench Farms and the Junction Neighborhood Community to construct Tatum Park by SONIA Organics, a wholistic green space near the historic Art Tatum House.

This year's breakfast meal was prepared and served by Decadent Catering.



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#### MISSION

The Fair Housing Center is a non-profit civil rights agency that promotes housing choice, the creation of inclusive communities, and the protection and expansion of fair housing rights to support communities free of housing discrimination.

The work that provided the basis for this publication was supported by funding under a grant with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The substance and findings of the work are dedicated to the public. The author and publisher are solely responsible for the accuracy of the statements and interpretations contained in this publication. Such interpretations do not necessarily reflect the views of the Federal Government.

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# The African American Prayer Breakfast At the Glass City Pavilion

The Truth Staff

The 17th annual African American Prayer Breakfast was held on Fri-

day, July 15 at the Glass City Metropark Pavilion. The sold-out prayer breakfast, which serves as the opening event for the trio of celebrations of local African American culture and entertainment, was organized, as usual, by the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union and was attended

...continued on page 13

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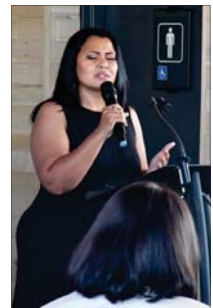
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