



Volume 74 No. 6      *"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."*      September 21, 2022



**The Junction Coalition's Alicia Smith**

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# The Amazing 2022 Midterm Races: An Update

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

The Truth Contributor

*Win or lose, we win by raising the issues.*

– Charlotta Bass



In a marathon race, your strategy can be to hang back and kick to overtake the leaders at the end. Or you can, in the words of NYC Marathon legend Alberto Salazar, gut it out, “push, challenge the others, and risk everything,” including losing.

Ultimately though, marathon running is about being in contention over the last quarter of the race. That’s when the going gets toughest, causing many marathoners to hit the proverbial “wall.”

The Ohio Midterm Election is less than two months away, and early voting begins on October 12. As a result, local candidates have started to pick up the pace preparing for their finishing kick in this highly consequential electoral phenomenon.

Democracy is at stake, and therefore the grueling campaign will ultimately test the candidates’ determination, endurance, conditioning, and technique.

Here are my updates on a few crucial races:

## U.S. Senate

The political outlook is rosier for the Democrats and Tim Ryan than we thought on January 1. J.D. Vance, Ryan’s Trump-supported opponent, decided to hold a lightly attended rally last week in Youngstown during the Ohio State football game against Toledo.

Not only is Youngstown Ryan’s hometown, but Mahoning County went for Trump in 2020, possibly supporting the Republicans for the first time, maybe going back to President Abraham Lincoln.

While Trump may remain visible, Ryan is not as vulnerable as others to his blue-collar grievance strategy.

Polling indicates that the race is very close. However, Trump and his base supporters traditionally are under-pollled and turn out better than expected in major elections.

Yet Tim Ryan is a quality candidate who continues to show grit. Like Sherrod Brown, he has a great message that’s connected, focuses purely on economics, avoids culture wars and he plays the China card well.

## U.S. House of Representatives

In Ohio’s 9th Congressional District, Marcy Kaptur is running the race of her life but will be fine. Her opponent, J. R. Majewski, has portrayed the longest-serving congresswoman in D. C. as an antiquated politician whose time has passed.

Kaptur has responded by investing heavily in a hard-hitting television media blitz that depicts Majewski as an assault-weapon toting radical who brought January 6 protesters to the capital.

At the end of one of Kaptur’s commercials, an African American sher-

iff’s deputy from Lucas County emphatically utters concerning Majewski, “There’s something wrong with that guy!”

It is unknown if the Republican Party will financially support Majewski or if he can attract regular donors. However, Marcy’s message is clear, forceful, and has some value.

## Ohio Supreme Court

The Ohio Supreme Court races are probably the most crucial of all the midterm contests because of the potential generational impact on redistricting and abortion.

Unlike two years ago, party affiliation will be shown next to the candidate names on the ballot and designed to keep voters from electing Democratic judicial candidates like Jennifer Brunner and Terri Jamison.

Brunner is running against Republican Sharon Kennedy for Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice. Both are incumbents and cannot retain their general seats. So, Ohio Governor Mike Dewine is looking hard at longtime jurist Gene Zmuda to fill the resulting vacancy.

Influential in Toledo-area politics, Zmuda is a self-described “urban Republican” and has always been “aligned with common sense and a fair balance.” Therefore, many consider this a positive move if the appointment occurs.

## Ohio Legislature

Elgin Rogers is running an exceptional campaign. Any politician who keeps to their roots yet receives simultaneous endorsements from adversaries like the Farm Bureau and the Ohio Environmental Council has a message for people across the entire political spectrum.

Ericka White is another outstanding candidate who is running the race well. White is energetic, charismatic, tireless, and has a compelling message of empowerment for people and women. If anyone has a chance to defeat Republican Derek Merrin in this highly competitive Ohio House district, it is White.

Michele Grim remains steady in her dedication to what she believes in and is also running a tireless race. The fascinating intrigue will occur when Grim wins her race for the Ohio Legislature. What will the Lucas County Dems do to replace her on Toledo City Council? Several candidates will be interested in that seat. Yet, look for Matt Cherry to move over to take her at-large seat, creating an opening for someone to succeed him from Toledo District 2’s deep bench.

The struggling Democratic runner I see is Nancy Larson competing against Josh Williams, a Black Republican and attorney.

Larson has not run a savvy race thus far. Instead, she has stumbled several times. Most recently, Larson called Project Labor Agreements corrupt, a not-so-subtle slap at collective bargaining, labor unions and trade association, and the community.

Larson also wants to debate her opponent on television. That might not be smart, either.

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

## The Sojourner's Truth

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## Community Calendar

### September 25

Concert featuring Anthony Pattin and Friends; 4 pm; Third Baptist Church; A tribute to Third Baptist former musicians and choir directors  
Perfecting Church Family and Friends Day: 8 am: 419-382-1300

### October 2

St. Mark's Baptist Church Women's Day: 10:30 am; Theme: “Having Joy Through It All” Psalm 30-5; Speaker: Sister Charlon Dewberry, St. Mark Mission President; Please to join us in person or parking lot service

# White House Hosts United We Stand Summit to Counter Hate and Violence

By Ashleigh Fields, Howard University News Service  
Special to The Truth

The room fell silent as Brandon Wolf reflected on the loss that has shaped his life after surviving the 2016 Pulse Nightclub shooting in Orlando, Florida.

"I remember the hair jolting up on the back of my neck. I remember panic. I remember a sprint to the emergency exit," Wolf recalled. "Some days I still feel like I can hear every one of the 110 rounds pumped into the club from an assault rifle."

Wolf joined survivors of hate crimes from Atlanta; Buffalo, New York; Charleston, South Carolina; El Paso, Texas; and Pittsburgh who shared their personal experiences at the United We Stand Summit that the White House hosted for over 80 guests on Thursday. The event was designed to rally around public safety awareness and end hate-fueled violence in America.

"My best friends, our stolen loved ones aren't just numbers or statistics," Wolf said, describing the night that left 43 people dead and 53 wounded in Florida. "They're missing faces at birthday parties. They're empty seats at dinner tables. They are the human cost of hate violence."

Shortly after he spoke, Vice President Kamala Harris recognized Wolf as a national leader for the work he's doing as an activist to end LGBTQ+ hate crimes and gun violence. Then she shared the significance of the summit's date.

"On this day 59 years ago, four white supremacists planted dynamite in the basement of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama," Harris said. "The blast took the lives of four beautiful little girls and injured a dozen more people including Sarah Collins, who is here with us today."

In addition to Collins, the summit also included civic and civil rights leaders like the Rev. Al Sharpton, founder and president of the National Action Network; Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers; and Keisha Lance Bottoms, former Atlanta mayor and White House senior advisor for public engagement.

Throughout the day, elected and appointed officials spoke on panels while local changemakers or "uniters" engaged in conversations centered around bridging the gaps in the American community. Before the day concluded, President Joe Biden discussed his vision for the American dream.

"Look, I decided to run for president after Charlottesville, Virginia — literally not figuratively," Biden said. "I thought to myself: 'This is the United States of America. How could that happen?'"

"We give no safe harbor to hate," Biden said. "In America, evil will not win. It will not prevail. Hate will not prevail. And white supremacists will not have the last word. And this venom and violence cannot be the story of our time."

The president then appealed for social networking sites to be held more responsible for posts.

"I'm calling on Congress to get rid of special immunity for social media companies and impose much stronger transparency requirements on all of them," Biden said.

In a pledge to end assaults, the Department of Homeland Security is providing \$20 million in grants to fight violence.

"The funds will go to 43 local community organizations to build or strengthen their capacity," said Alejandro Mayorkas, U.S. secretary of Homeland Security.



Brandon Wolf

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration will also award up to \$69 million from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to assist states, Tribal entities, and U.S. territories as they develop programs to improve digital literacy and online skills. The Departments of Justice, Homeland Security, Education, and Health and Human Services will release a summary of federal resources for parents, caregivers and community members designed to provide information on how to prevent bullying.

The National Urban League, Anti-Defamation League, National Action Network (NAN), League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) and Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAJC) have promised to hold the Biden administration accountable for each statement made at the United We Stand Summit.

"The five of us wrote a letter to the White House asking for a summit," Sharpton said. "Never can we remember the White House having a full-day session about racism, antisemitism, homophobia, xenophobia."

"This has been a historic day, and I might say that it was beyond our expectations," he added, "but this is the beginning, not the end."

Ashleigh Fields is a reporter for NewsVision and HUNewsService.com.

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# TPS Report Card – The Good and The Bad

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

The Ohio Department of Education has released its school report cards for the 2021-2022 academic year and the reports are generally not good for virtually all small, medium and large Ohio cities' public school districts.

Toledo Public School students also did not fare well in categories such as Achievement, Graduation (four year) and Early Literacy. In a grading system using five stars, TPS students earned two stars in Achievement ("Needs support to meet state standards in academic achievement"); one star in Graduation ("Needs significant support to meet state standards in graduation rates") and one star in Early Literacy ("Needs significant support to meet state standards in early literacy").

However, TPS students, unlike most of their peers their peers around the state, did much better when it came to showing progress. In the Progress category, Toledo public school students earned a rating of four stars ("Significant evidence that the district exceeded student growth expectations").

Among Ohio major cities, all of which also earned low grades in the graduation, achievement and early literacy categories, none but Cleveland Public Schools matched Toledo's high grade in the Progress category.

"In our Progress score, we've shown significant growth," said TPS Superintendent, Romules Durant, EdD. "Our kids have shown more growth and outpaced their peer group – they've exceeded when it comes to making up for the learning loss [over the last two years] within the last year's period assessment."

The Progress category is significantly good news, to be sure, but in the category of Gap Closing, TPS also scored a hit with three stars ("Meets state criteria in closing educational gaps").



*Ella P. Stewart students starting the new school year*

"There is wholistic growth in our gap closure," said Durant. "We are closing the gap among ethnicities, among socio-economic groups along with the other sub-groups such as special needs."

The growth Durant noted can be seen in the improvement on 16 of the 18 tests taken by the students and in the solid results amongst third graders. "Ninety-seven percent of third graders met the promotional score which we have never had before," he said, observing that typically, over the years, third graders have been around the 85 percentile in their promotion scoring.

"Let's stay the course, continue to do our end-of-the-school interventions as well as our summer interventions."

While the four-year graduation rate needs significant improvement according to the state report card, Durant touted the five-year graduation rate of 85.1 percent. "It is a dip in the four-year rate but a huge spike in the five-year rate – showed us that kids are not wanting to give up."

"I'm proud of our staff and the resiliency. The staff is going out, pulling the kids off the job lines and saying you can't be out here working. The staff did not give up on these kids and the kids did not give up on themselves."

There is more good news to come. Romules and TPS are announcing this week a plan to bring increase the total number of magnet schools to 10 by the 23-24 academic year – focusing on a variety of skill areas such as pre-med, maritime, performing arts, construction trades, nature sciences and more. Details to follow in our next issue.

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# Alicia Smith: The Junction Coalition Is Helping Businesses, Potential Homeowners and Youth

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

In 2016, the Center for Community Progress prepared an Open Space Action Plan for the Junction neighborhood. The report noted, among other factors, that the Junction community, a neighborhood of 4,700 land parcels, had "a staggering vacancy rate of 45 percent" and that "54 percent of residents live in poverty."

Given the all-encompassing poverty and the dwindling population of the Junction neighborhood, it would not be surprising if efforts to turn the situation around had all but ended in fits of frustration. Such is not the case. The area is the focus of so many dedicated groups and individuals striving to make a difference in the lives of the residents.

The recent groundbreaking for two new houses on Belmont Street is a case in point. The Maumee Valley Habitat for Humanity is the point organization on those structures and has plans to build an additional 13 houses in the City Park/Collingwood Corridor of the Junction neighborhood.

According to Michael McIntyre, executive director for Habitat for Humanity of Maumee, Alicia Smith, community liaison for the Junction Coalition, invited his organization to extend their work in home renovation and building in the Junction area. Habitat joined with funding partners such as Owens Corning, ProMedica Junction, Greater Toledo Community Foundation, the City of Toledo, the Lucas County Land Bank and the Toledo Design Collective, among others, to put the money together for the new construction.

The roots for the Junction Coalition were planted in 2012 when funding for the inner-city neighborhood from ESOP (Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People) dried up and community leaders decided to take matters into their own hands.

The neighborhood, bordered by Dorr Street, on the north, to Klondike and from I-75 on the east, to Brown Street sits within the former ONYX community Development Corporation (CDC) which is no longer a resource for the community.

Director Smith, she prefers the "community liaison" title rather than the director label because she insists that she is a voice for the needs and desires of the community, began her work with the Junction Coalition in 2012 as the community took on a smattering of activities in the wake of that loss of outside funding – caring for elders, cutting grass, clearing spaces.

In 2014, when the algae bloom outbreak took place, the Coalition undertook bigger challenges and started dealing with public health issues – particularly because of the lead and asthma concerns that plague inner city communities – "issues of environmental justice and equality," says Smith.

The mission of the Junction Coalition became one of providing a viable voice for neighbors and cultivating healthy relationships while working to combat the blight of vacant lots and abandoned homes.

The Coalition focuses on four pillars that are essential to achieving its goals, says Smith. Those are as she describes them:



"Social Justice, which is the social impact of the individuals that live in the Junction;

"Economic Justice to ensure community wealth and the reduction of generational poverty;

"Environmental Justice which ensures the health and wellness of our earth, ourselves and our futures by way of clean air, clean energy, clean and affordable water making sure that there are green infrastructures for the reduction of our urban heat island;

"Peace Education – we've always heard everything about war. Never do we hear about peace. People of color have been known throughout our history to induce peace through music, art and culture – so peace education is a large part of all those things.

"Each pillar is interconnected, there's intersectionality. You can't have one without the others."

Several years ago, the Junction Coalition moved into their headquarters at, appropriately enough, 419 Junction Street. The Coalition has formed six departments under its umbrella.

The housing department, under the guidance of Eunice Glover, is "focused on making sure that low-to-moderate income families understand Homeownership, housing sustainability while also ensuring our families have the support they need from the banks," says Smith. "It's about equity and building community wealth."

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# Rail Agreement Avoids Disruptions to Supply Chain and Passenger Travel

By Julius Washington, Howard University News Service

Special to The Truth

Freight rail employee unions and company officials reached a deal early Thursday, following 20 hours of marathon talks, ending fears of a nationwide strike that would compromise shipments and further disrupt public transportation.

Members of the Biden administration had been involved in negotiations for months and proposed a measure to break the standstill between the unions and rail companies in July.

On Wednesday, with no resolution in sight, Senate Republicans floated a proposal to force the rail workers to accept the contract proposed by the Biden-appointed board, but it was ultimately stopped by Sen. Bernie Sanders, who said in a statement, "I am proud to have blocked those efforts."

In a tweet from his official @POTUS account, President Biden took a victory lap on the negotiations' success, stating "This is a win for the economy and for the American people."

The United States has one of the most extensive freight rail networks in the world, covering nearly 140,000 miles of track and making up an \$80 billion industry.

Tanya Penny, director of Howard University's Center for Excellence in Supply Chain Management, pointed out just how catastrophic a potential strike might have been.

"About 40 percent of our cargo in the U.S. travels by rail so it would have been a disaster," Penny said. "I've seen estimates in the billions of dollars, in terms of impact."

While strikes and shortages have occurred in the past, Penny says that a



At Union Station in Washington, the second-busiest station on the Amtrak network, some passengers expressed concerns about the status of their transportation amid threats of a rail employee strike. (Photos: Julius Washington/HUNewsService.com)

railroad strike would have been particularly troublesome. "The issue here is that we already have so many supply chain challenges."

"You can't necessarily move from train to truck, because there's not enough truck drivers to do that," Penny said. "There's already issues going into the ports, so the ability to go from one mode of transportation to the other is

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# Ohio Democrats Bring the “Not-So-Strong Ohio” Tour to Toledo

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

Last week, Ohio Democrats brought their “Not-So-Strong Ohio” tour to Toledo as part their election strategy to tour the state attacking Gov. Mike DeWine and the Republican Party’s stance on abortion, guns, the ongoing First Energy scandal and the redistricting map that has greatly favored Republican candidates.

Joining Marion, OH Mayor Scott Schertzer, candidate for the Ohio Treasurer office, were local elected officials and candidates: Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, State Rep. Lisa Sobecki, candidate for Lucas County Treasurer; Councilman Nick Komives; and Erika White, candidate for state representative.

Leading off the Friday press conference at the Lucas County Democratic headquarters, Kapszukiewicz took the Republican governor to task for not doing enough to address gun violence. Speaking of DeWine’s response to the Dayton mass shooting, Kapszukiewicz noted that the governor “promised he would do something.” Instead, said the mayor “DeWine made the problem worse ... and did what cowards do, he caved in to the far right extremists.”

Continuing on that theme, Kapszukiewicz said DeWine’s signing into law the “permitless carry” bill in 2022 was “just another example of absolute cowardice and weakness of a leader who says one thing and does another because it’s expedient.”

“On issues ranging from abortion rights to gun violence to redistricting to the largest public corruption scandal in state history, Mike DeWine’s weakness is costing Ohioans big time and taking our state backward,”

Schertzer spoke of his intent to “stand up for the women of the State of Ohio and their right for pro-choice ... DeWine, you need to get out of our bedrooms.”

DeWine, said Schertzer, was “not following the law, the will of the people, the constitution.”

Schertzer took aim at the First Energy scandal and the cost to Ohioans which has been placed at \$287,000 per day.

“DeWine has failed us time and time again and Nan Whaley won’t let that happen and I won’t let that happen as the state treasurer,” he added.

“Ohio is at a crossroads,” added Sobecki. “We have been moving backwards in the state of Ohio. I’m ready for Ohio to move forward and for putting the economy back on the right track.

Komives also pointed to the governor’s apparent lack of willingness to antagonize the right wing of his party. “DeWine should be held accountable for his cowardice.”

The “Not-so-Strong” tour is hitting a number of Ohio cities and communities focusing on the four major issues of guns, abortion, the First Energy bribery scandal and redistricting.

“Guns have more rights than women in Ohio,” said Kapszukiewicz closing out that portion of the Toledo tour.



*Marion Ohio Mayor Scott Schertzer speaks as Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, Erika White, State Rep Lisa Sobecki and Councilman Nick Komives look on*

## New Businesses Registered

Last week, two more entrepreneurs were registered with the City of Toledo as part of the National League of Cities, City Inclusive Entrepreneurship Grant.

Vanard Shelton (All Out Catering) and Walter Crockrel (BW Resellers) were registered in the Department of Finance and spent highly valuable time with Director Sandy Spang learning the requirements for building a successful and compliant business. Joyce Hill (Div of Taxation & Treasury) and Bryan Benner (Finance Dept) answered questions and were very helpful also.

Five businesses have been registered under this program which also provides the entrepreneurs with 10 hours of business coaching, a Quickbooks subscription, free setup and training, a digital notepad, and covers the cost of relevant licenses and certifications. The grant seeks to formalize businesses in order to make them more resilient and prepared for growth.

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# St. Paul's Saturday Women's Day Breakfast and Conference

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church held its first "Alive and Well Women's Conference" Saturday September 18. The program, which is a part of their annual Women's Day Celebration, featured five esteemed female panelists across various disciplines who discussed the issues facing the wellbeing of women today.

"We want women to have wisdom and knowledge concerning the various aspects of their lives to help them have a better life, is what we're working towards..." said Women's Day Chairperson Yvonne Gayle. "All of the topics are most important for the women of today. That's why we chose this [them]."

She spoke on the present anxiety in society today. "We want to be able to prepare our women for these different difficulties and vicissitudes of life that they encounter."

Gayle expressed the importance "we have a high suicidal rate in our community, we have much and too much domestic violence [and] we need to educate ourselves concerning those particular topics."

Sister Daisy Fisher, Women's Day co-chairperson, provided the welcome. Followed by Sister Lenora Barry who served as facilitator for the event. "We need to recognize that in this community and everywhere we go - we can make a difference if we choose to make a difference," remarked Barry.

The theme for the event was "Caring for Your Whole Self: Focusing on Wellness." Attendees enjoyed a complimentary continental breakfast preceding the presentation. Guest presentations included:



Sister Fisher, Sister Gayle, Pastor Willis, First Lady Willis and Sister Simmons-Walston



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Weekends or Weekdays

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# A Praised Filled Sunday Women's Day Service

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church's held the Sunday portion of its annual women's day service in traditional praise and worship style on September 18, 2022. Purple and white filled the sanctuary as the celebration theme and the 2022 theme, "Celebrating Women Reflecting the Love and Light of Christ," was inspired by Bible scripture Genesis 1:27.

"It is with humility and honor that I serve as chairperson for this glorious celebration. To our First Lady Willis, Sister Fisher, all of St. Paul's women, and our honored guests, I thank you for your prayers and cooperation. As we reflect on our theme, we thank God, our creator for the gift of womanhood. We thank God for women everywhere, all races, color, and creed. We thank the almighty God, for he has blessed women immensely with many gifts and talents. We praise Him for the leadership of great women from the past, present and generations to come," said Sister Yvonne Gayle, Women's Day chair.

The celebration opened with a brief moment of silence, praise and worship led by Sister Deborah Gardner and the church Deaconess, procession of the women's day choir, call to worship and innovation by Sister Vontyna Smith, Lord's Prayer led by Sister Deborah Gardner, welcome response by Sister Mary Reed, reciting the Women's Day Litany by Sister Kaitlyn Diggins, solo worship selection by Sister Valencia Nurrudin of Mt. Nebo Baptist Church, and recognition of visitors and reading of community announcements by Sister Debbie Dean.

"Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I am extremely humbled and honored to serve as the Women's Day co-chairperson alongside an awesome chairperson Sister Gayle, and program chairperson First Lady Linnie Willis. I thank Pastor Willis for his leadership and continued support of the women from St. Paul. I greatly appreciate my amazing sisters in Christ of St. Paul who are willingness to give their time and God-given talents year after year," shared Sister Daisy Fisher, women's day co-chair.

The celebration continued with a scripture reading by Sister Loretta Quinn, altar call by Sister Vontyna Smith, altar and offertory prayer led by Sister Dorothy McDougal, a women's day choir selection, and then introduction of the speaker by Sister Betty Simmons of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church of



Lenora Barry



Kimbriy Toles

Cleveland, Ohio.

Sister Valerie Simmons-Walston of Transformation Church in Toledo was the featured speaker. She's earned the Black Girls Rock recognition awarded by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, inducted into the Blue Key Honors Society, and

... continued on page 14



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St. Paul's... continued from page 8

- "Wellness and Women" - Dr. Meiuttenun Brown, MD
- "Disparities in Women's Health and Infant Mortality" - Kimberly Toles
- "Mental Health in our Minority Communities and Churches" - Sonya Quinn
- "Domestic Violence" - Kimberly Sanders

The women at St. Paul addressed these issues in hopes of shining God's light, educating its membership and the community.

Dr. Brown is a graduate of Spelman College with a bachelor of science degree in biology/pre-medicine, the University of South Carolina with a masters of Public Health and a medical degree from Morehouse School of Medicine

She is board certified in obstetrics and gynecology and she has practiced in Detroit as a National Health Corps Scholar working in an urban, underserved area after residency. She moved to Toledo after her service with the Corps and has also worked in home care as a general practitioner.

Kimberly Toles is the Minority Health Program Coordinator for the Toledo Lucas County Office of Minority Health, Toledo Lucas County Health Department. She earned a master's degree in Clinical Mental Health from the University of Toledo, served 20 years as a forensic counselor with the Lucas County Sheriff's Office, is a certified suicide instructor and a certified chemical dependency counselor.

Sonya Quinn is the Community Engagement Coordinator for NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) and has over 10 years working in the mental health field. She is a native Toledoan and attended the University of Toledo earning a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. She is the chairperson for NAMI's African American Leadership and Latino Leadership Initiative, an executive committee member for the Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition, a member of the Trauma Informed Care Advisory Board and a member of the Toledo Minority Health Advisory Board.

Kimberly Sanders is a long-time health care coordinator and domestic violence advocate. She earned a bachelor's degree from Lourdes University and a master's in Human Development and Family Studies from Spring Arbor University. Most of her professional career has been in higher education, educating health care professionals, most recently working with woman and children experiencing domestic violence.

Each woman spoke for 10 minutes addressing important health issues of concern for the African-American community, particularly issues impacting women.

Dr. Brown, obstetrician, provided and defined for the group the Six Dimension of Woman's Wellness: physical, emotional, spiritual, intellectual, occupation and social, stating, "Wellness deals with the whole being for a better quality of life... if we are no good we are no good to

anyone else."

Kimberly Toles provided the mission for her office, to "advocate for black and brown people in order to find out why we are so disproportionately disadvantaged when it comes to things like health, insurance, housing, education - anything that we can name - we want to get out and raise that awareness." She and her colleague presented statistics and figures on the different disparities affecting black women. "A lot of time what you don't know - you don't know you don't know," stated Toles.

"We want women to know - we have a right, you can ask," said Toles, emphasizing the duty of Black women to press for answers concerning their health and that of their babies. "Babies die disproportionately [in the Black community] because we don't go to the doctor, we don't get treatment."

Toles spoke of the need to find about the resources available to women and families, the need to find out about the secrets that are kept from them due to systemic racism.

Mental health, said Quinn, is "that subject we just don't want to talk about ... but we need to erase the stigma. Our mental health needs to be cared for just like our physical health."

Quinn informed her audience of about 50 women that having a mental health issue or problem does not "define who you are ... does not stop you from being who you are."

Sanders, speaking on the subject of domestic violence, stated: "Domestic violence is all about power but not just about physical power - it's also about emotional, verbal and financial power." Sanders offered her audience a number of suggestions about working with those who are victims of domestic violence suggesting that they avoid the straightforward accusation: "Why don't you just move out?"

Be indirect, express concern, suggest alternatives to their present situation, she said.

Hicks-Hudson spoke of the "Black Maternal Caucus," the goal of elevating the Black maternal health caucus within the legislature to find policy solutions to improve health outcomes and eliminate disparities.

"The hypocrisy of some of my colleagues is so real," said Hicks-Hudson of the failure within the state legislature to address issues of concern to maternal health, especially black maternal health.

"In Toledo, we are one of the worst areas on maternal health, particularly black maternal health; infant mortality in Lucas County is at the bottom of the list and race is a primary factor."

Hicks-Hudson told her listeners that so much of what happens in Columbus happens fairly quietly compared to the news out of Washington, but as far as many issues, such as health issues, what happens on the state level is so much more important to the average household. Therefore, she urged her audience to vote, to encourage others to vote.

"It's important what happens on the federal level, but Columbus is the real deal ... exercise and eat right, but also vote."

The entire presentation can be viewed on St. Paul's facebook page.

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# Keith Carswell Teaches Chess and Sign Language

By Bernadette Graham

The Truth Contributor

Things don't quite go the way we planned and eventually it can very well turn into a blessing in disguise and take one on a journey on which he never thought he would be. One such story is that of Keith Carswell.

As a young man he made some mistakes and found himself in the legal system for some time behind bars in 1989. While he was incarcerated Keith learned how to play chess and learned sign language. "They were both things that intrigued me, I really enjoyed the strategy of thinking three steps ahead of an opponent and the signing felt good like learning another language."

Today he is utilizing what he learned while he was incarcerated to help children learn how to play chess and sign language. "If you had asked me years ago if I would have a 501c3 and the opportunity to work with kids helping them surpass their potential I would have laughed. My life started out full of mistakes and I knew it was not the life I wanted to live."

Chess and sign language are very under-utilized but both have the capacity to take a youngster very far and at the very least reduce the potential for being in bad situations making bad decisions and having no role models.

Chess is no easy game as it teaches strategy, thinking ahead, staying composed against a component and many find it just as competitive as basketball or football. Not every child is athletic, or musically inclined, and these are both subjects that provide other avenues of opportunity.

Sign language is sparingly used and only if necessary and the use of it promotes the idea that one has a disability. Again, sign language takes necessary intelligence to communicate with one's hands as opposed to speaking out loud. Sign language is not a game and it does take time and commitment to learn just as a foreign language and honestly most who learn sign language do so out of necessity.

One reason for learning sign language is that an individual has the knowledge to communicate with others in situations of places of employment, travel, and media (turn on any channel with our President speaking and there will be an individual signing.)



Secondly, like chess, it gives children an opportunity to be in a safe environment learning something that may promote their success in the future and one day it may be the highlight on their resume that sets them out from their competitors. Lastly, it keeps kids off gaming consoles, away from social media, out in the community and in social situations.

If you would like more information on how to get your child involved in sign language and or chess, please contact **Keith Carswell at 419-609-6940. Classes take place every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 5-7pm at 1119 Bancroft and are free, no costs are involved.** Also, if you would like to donate your time or dollars to help this business grow, they would be more than happy to accept your gifts. "We are always in need of more chess boards and chairs and eventually we hope to obtain a van to be able to provide transportation for kids."

"I don't want to see any child experience what I went through as a youth and I'm so grateful that I was able to turn around my life and utilize my God given gifts to help children learn skills and grow into successful men and women. Sometimes finding your purpose comes at a sacrifice but makes life worth living."

## The Toledo Plant Exchange on October 1

For many gardeners, free plants are like pollen to bees: irresistible.

The Toledo Plant Exchange will be the morning of October 1, rain or shine, inside a building at the Lucas County Fairgrounds in Maumee.

The timing is ideal: Autumn, when daylight decreases and plant-growth slows, is a great time to divide and move perennials, and to install trees and bushes.

People are invited to bring healthy plants, which should be weed-free and labeled with the plant's name, between 8:30 and 10 a.m. on the first day of October. Also accepted will be gardening tools and paraphernalia related to one of America's favorite hobbies. A crew of volunteers will immediately organize donations into categories such as hostas, daylilies, sun, shade,

edibles, ornamental grasses, house plants, and more.

Also during that time, attendees can peruse the many tables hosted by organizations that promote native plants, rain gardens, learning opportunities, and volunteering.

At 10 through 11:30, people will be allowed to select donated items in the "shopping" area. Everyone will receive at least a few items and those who bring donations will be allowed to take more plants.

Entrance to the fairgrounds at 1406 Key Street will be the Main Gate.

Begun in 2005, the Toledo Plant Exchange is a project of Lucas County Master Gardener Volunteers and private gardeners.

Additional information is on Facebook and at 419-578-6783.

## Is Your Wallet Recession-Proof?

Special to The Truth

As inflation continues to put a strain on budgets, talk of an upcoming recession has Americans worried about their finances. Prices on everyday items continue to rise and consumers are trying to find ways to make their dollar stretch further while safeguarding their money against the potential challenges a recession may bring. The future may be difficult to predict, but preparing now can help consumers protect their financial health during a recession.

A recent Experian survey found that two in three U.S. adults are concerned about a recession occurring in the United States. Consumers are most worried about the affordability of routine expenses, with 73% concerned that the price of everyday items like gas, groceries and rent will continue to rise to a level they can't afford. Meanwhile, 55% harbor supply chain concerns and 38% are

stressed about the affordability of big, planned purchases such as a home or a car.

As recession worries grow, more Americans are sizing up their finances to see where they stand. Only 48% are confident that they can financially handle a recession, and two in five believe that they'll need to rely on credit to cover essential and unexpected expenses over the next three months. In fact, 27% have already increased their credit card debt within the past three months. This trend is accompanied by additional anxieties: two in three survey respondents are concerned to some degree that their credit score will negatively affect their ability to access credit in the next three months.

... continued on page 13

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*Rail Agreement... continued from page 6*

limited."

Thomas Batties, an Amtrak passenger at Union Station in Washington, voiced some of his fears about the potential supply chain issues. "It just was not the right time for other disruptions to our everyday life to happen and cause further inflation," Batties said. "That was my fear, and probably everyone else's as well."

The freight strike's impacts would have been felt far beyond cargo shipments and supply chain disruptions, however. Amtrak, the nation's largest passenger rail agency, owns only 3% of the rails it uses, mainly within the bustling Northeast Corridor. Freight rail operators, including CSX, BNSF and Union Pacific, operate the majority of the nation's tracks.

A potential strike would have snarled Amtrak's long-distance passenger rail, and as such, the railroad preemptively canceled its long-distance lines, beginning Tuesday, offering passengers refunds and waiving the difference in fares booked before Oct. 31.

Following the announced deal, Amtrak said it was "working to quickly restore canceled trains and reaching out directly to impacted customers to accommodate on first available departures." But as of the time of its scheduled departure out of Union Station, the overnight Crescent route to New Orleans remained canceled.

At Union Station, the second-busiest station on the Amtrak network, some passengers expressed concerns about the status of their ride that day.

Batties, who was traveling with his son and daughter, indicated that he was worried before hearing that the Northeast Regional was unaffected.

"We've got a very important trip," he said. "I was happy to hear last night on the news that the Northeast Corridor short-track activity was going to be OK."

While Batties was concerned about his travels, he was also sympathetic to the complaints of the union members.

"It sounds like unfair treatment of the employees that they didn't get sick time and other benefits, or treatment that normal workers get ... really sounded like stuff that was going on in the '50s, and not 2022," he said.

Another traveler, Jeremiah Johnson, an office worker who commutes between New York and Washington on Amtrak, echoed those sentiments.

"At the same time, I'm hoping the workers are getting a fair shake, getting paid their worth," Johnson said. "We want the workers that are maintaining and taking care of this important infrastructure - that they're well taken care of."

At the end of the day, some passengers were generally unfazed by the potential strike's impact on their travels.

"I'm interested in reading up on how it turned out today, but selfishly, I am relieved it's not affecting my travel plans at all," Johnson said.

*Julius Washington is a reporter for HUNewsService.com.*



*Passengers travel through Union Station's Main Hall*



*Amtrak Passengers line up to board a Northeast regional train to Norfolk, Virginia*



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# American Sirens: The Incredible Story of the Black Men Who Became America's First Paramedics by Kevin Hazzard

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

You can't not look for the whoop.

When that sound registers in your brain, let's face it: you're gonna rubberneck. You wonder if someone you know is inside that whooping vehicle, in an accident, or worse. You might even thank a higher power that it's not you in there. And once you've read *American Sirens* by Kevin Hazzard, you'll think of the heroes in the back of that ambulance.

When John Moon saw what was happening to the old homeless man on the street, he carefully stepped in, assuring the police that he could help. He knew the old man; admired the guy, had looked up to him once, as a mentor.

The man was a hero.

Moon had met the guy in 1971, back when he was working a dead-end job as a hospital orderly. One afternoon, he watched in awe as two impressive Black men in white uniforms swooped in to the hospital and took charge of a patient, leaving as unshakably as they'd arrived. They wore sewn-on Freedom House patches, and Moon knew instantly that he wanted in on whatever they were doing.

Before then, ambulance service was a whole different thing in America. If you had a medical emergency, you called police or funeral directors to get you to a hospital. If you were in medical crisis, tough luck; they weren't trained for that. If you lived in Pittsburgh's Hill area, you called an ambulance service that was run by Black men who did their best with what they had – until Peter Safar met the men of that ambulance service, Freedom House.

Born in Vienna, a survivor of Nazi Germany, Dr. Safar had spent his life studying ways to keep people from dying of things he could fix. He'd invented a lifesaving method called CPR and he taught it to anyone who wanted to learn, but it wasn't enough. No, Safar was sure that if he put together a team of indi-

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\$30.00  
336 pages

viduals, trained them, organized them, and give them wheels, they could save even more lives...

Someone's screaming into a phone. Someone else is panicking. Emotions are high, it's pure chaos, it's what happens in a medical emergency. American Sirens is quite a bit less frantic, and that's okay.

Yes, there are a few true-medicine type tales inside this book but more than anything, author Kevin Hazzard tells a tale of heroism performed by men and women, done during and despite discouraging frustration caused by politics and racism. The depth of the latter, and the lengths to which the former went to end Freedom House, are quite shocking, even given the times.

And while that's a big part of this story, it's not the best part: you'll be thrilled and proud of the people Hazzard introduces you to. Knowing them gives you a big chance to be thankful for all that professionals like them do.

This slice of history book is perfect for true-medicine fans, but adrenaline junkies might like it, too. If that's you, then *American Sirens* will make you whoop.

## Recession-Proof... continued from page 11

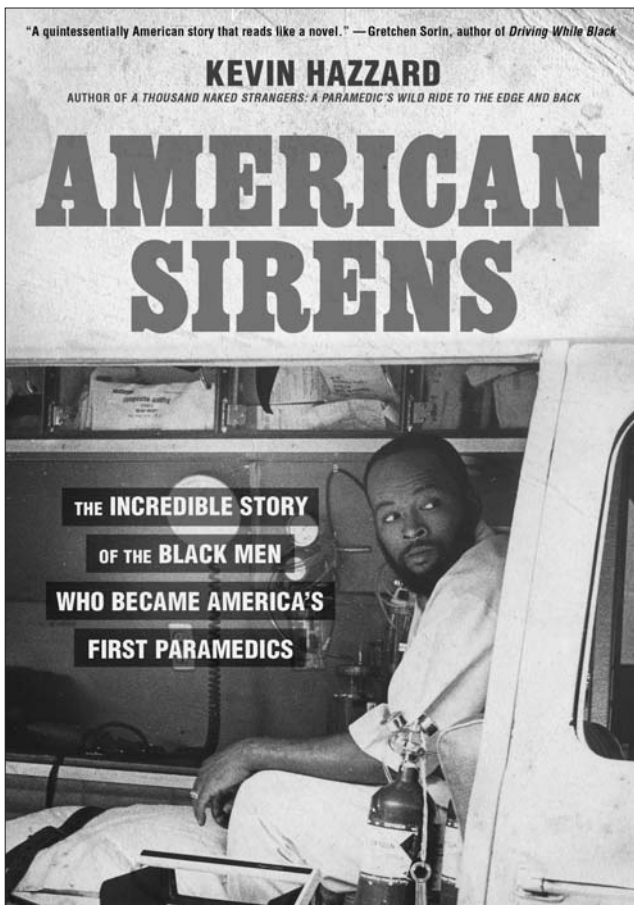
Being proactive is key to weathering financial storms, yet less than half of consumers have prepared for a recession when it comes to their finances and credit. Those who have are finding different ways to do so: 49% have cut non-essential expenses like entertainment and vacations, 45% have created a budget and 40% have paid down debt.

While these are effective actions, there are other steps consumers can take to understand their credit history and safeguard their credit.

Consumers should check their credit report and credit score regularly to know exactly where they stand in the event that they need to apply for credit, or simply to be better informed as they prepare to pay down their debt ahead of an economic decline. They can get a free credit report and credit score from Experian (Spanish-language credit reports are also available) as well as access to free financial tools, an auto insurance shopping service and credit card marketplace.

Those who need help increasing their credit score can sign up for Experian Boost. This free feature enables consumers to add their monthly payments for cell phone bills, utility bills, rent and video streaming services to their credit history to potentially increase their FICO Score instantly. To learn more, visit [experian.com/boost](http://experian.com/boost).

"Inflation and recession fears are putting pressure on consumer's finances, but proactively planning for the worst can help consumers make it through potential challenges. Many consumers are already taking great steps to prepare, like creating a budget and paying down their debt, and we encourage them to utilize other available resources and tools to help," says Rod Griffin, senior director of Public Education and Advocacy at Experian.



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*Alicia Smith... continued from page 5*

The Junction Economic Transformation (J.E.T.), Ocie Irons' department, focuses on small businesses and, especially, helping owners working out of their homes to come out of their houses and use the building's facilities, on the second floor, as office space to contact and meet with their clients.

Also on the second floor of 49 Junction, is the podcast center – Urban Narrative Expression – where the Coalition “provides voice to our youth,” says Smith. The podcast is streamed over YouTube.

Environmental justice is in the hands of Smith herself and her assistance Marya Czech. “We try to ensure that we have education around water, air and soil issues. As Smith notes, “we have a host of issues around algae,” attributable to the fact that pollution continues and there is not enough regulation.

“Safe and affordable water” has been the mantra of the Coalition even before the 2014 water crisis.

The restorative justice program is under the guidance of David Ross and

the youth coordinator is Derrick Austin who strives to get youth out of juvenile court and helps the high-risk population/youth get into the J.O.Y. program (Jobs, Opportunity, Youth).

The Coalition's task is first and foremost, explains Smith, an effort to focus on the business opportunities.

“If you look at the Junction community, you have a Mecca,” says Smith. “It is a business district. That's what the vision of the Junction Coalition was. Any smart economic driver is going to look at where does the city indicate the money is supposed to be?”

There are currently 66 black-owned businesses in the neighborhood, according to Smith's count and they will thrive if the neighborhood's population can grow, if homeownership can expand and if generational wealth can be built.

*Women's Day Service... continued from page 9*

also recognized as one of the 10 women featured in the Moxie Magazine.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts from Kent State University, Masters Degree from Hampton University and currently working towards her Doctorate in higher education at Franklin University in Columbus. She was previously the Interim Vice President for Student Affairs and Associate Vice President at The University of Toledo, but was promoted to the role of Special Advisor to the President on all matters related to Community Engagement.

“All of the beautiful singing this morning has blessed my soul. Good morning in the spirit of our Lord. Let me give you words of comfort,” shared Sister Simmons-Walston during her opening remarks.

The service concluded with Sister Gayle delivering remarks and Rev. James Willis Sr, pastor of St. Paul MBC gave the invitation to discipleship, closing remarks, and benediction.

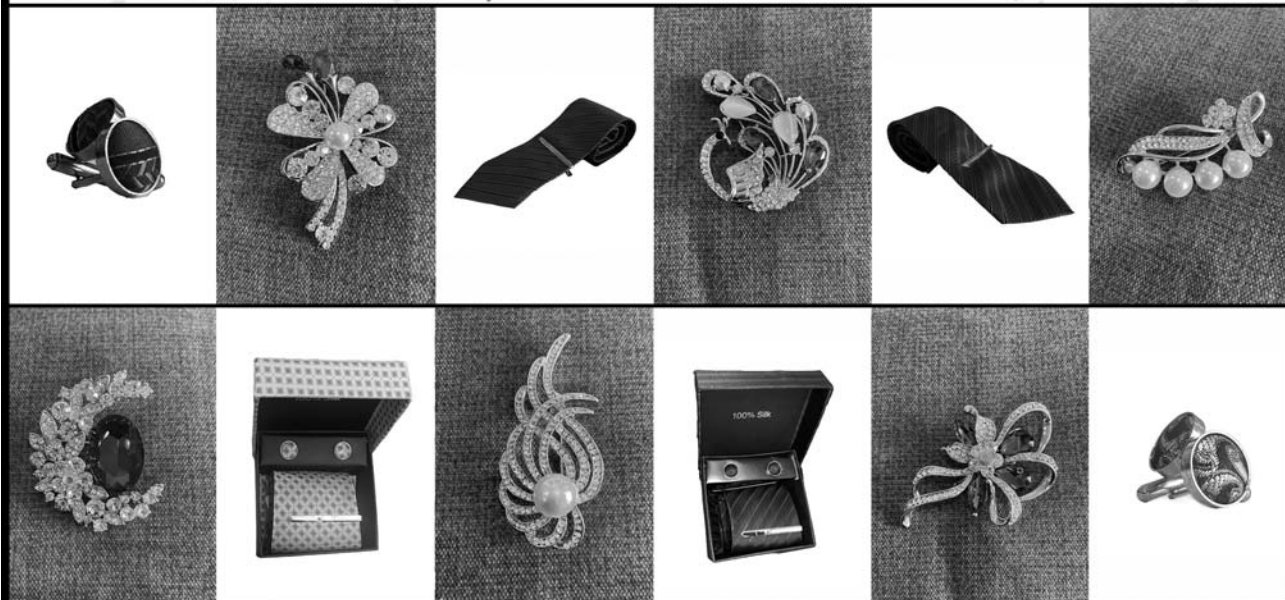
“Greetings to all of you. This is the day that the Lord has made and we should be glad and rejoice in it. I am with great joy announcing that this will

be my 20th year serving as pastor here at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, as well as sharing in the annual women's day celebration. We are honored to have this speaker from our community and from the University of Toledo. She has been a great part of the planning process from the beginning of this annual day,” shared Rev. Willis, Sr, DMin, pastor of St. Paul MBC.

Women's Day committee: Sister Yvonne Gayle, chairperson, Sister Daisy Fisher, co-chairperson; program committee: First Lady Linnie Willis, Sister Beverly Beasley, Sister Katie Davis, Sister Deborah Gardner, Sister Mary Liggins, Sister Dorothy McDougal, Sister Pamela Clark, and Sister Sharonda Diggins; publicity committee: Sister J'Vann Winfield and Sister Aufwiedersehen Winfield; finance committee: Sister Celina Winfield, Sister Loretta Quinn, Sister Amanda Woods and Sister Elizabeth Flournoy; ushers committee: Sister Shirley Carter, devotion committee: the Deaconess; decorations committee: Sister Beverly Beasley and Sister Barbara Ifeduba; music committee: Bro. Mike Odum on keyboards, Bro. Jan Scotland the percussionist, Bro. John Richardson guitarist and Bro. Richard Ellis on drums; and women's day book committee: Sister Veronica Faulkner.

# The Truth Colours Art Gallery

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# CLASSIFIEDS

September 21, 2022

Page 15

## LUCAS COUNTY BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

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- **Senior Manager of Programs & Services**  
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- **Technology Systems Analyst**  
Salary Range: \$51,200 to \$59,200 Yr.
- **Manager of Training and Development**  
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## CUSTODIAN POSITION

Toledo Lucas County Public Library (TLCPL), a public library that inspires lifelong learning and provides universal access to a broad range of information, ideas, and entertainment, is seeking candidates to fill a Custodian position. Please visit Employment Opportunities | Toledo Lucas County Public Library ([toledolibrary.org](http://toledolibrary.org)) <<https://www.toledolibrary.org/jobs>> to review the full details and to apply.

The Toledo Lucas County Public Library is an Equal Opportunity Employer and places a high value on diversity in its workplace including race, color, religious creed, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, protected Veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

## SNOW PLOW OPERATORS WITH VEHICLES

The City of Toledo Division of Road & Bridge Maintenance is interested in contracting with owners/operators of snow plow vehicles for plowing on residential streets during heavy snow conditions. All bids must be received by 1:30 PM October 11, 2022. For a copy of the bid proposals and specifications visit <https://pbsystem.planetbids.com/portal/22576/portal-home> or contact:

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## LUCAS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AND OHIO MEANS JOBS LUCAS COUNTY TO HOLD RECRUITMENT EVENT

TOLEDO, OH – The Lucas County Department of Planning and Development will partner with OhioMeansJobs Lucas County to sponsor a Public Safety Job Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 30, 2022, in the Lucas County Shared Services Building, 3737 W. Sylvania Ave. The following public safety jurisdictions will be represented:

- Lucas County Sheriff's Office
- Lucas County Canine Care & Control
- Lucas County Building Inspection
- Toledo Police Department
- Toledo Fire and Rescue Department
- Ottawa Hills Police Department
- Oregon Police Department
- Maumee Police Department
- Whitehouse Police Department
- Holland Police Department
- Toledo Correctional Institution
- Energy Harbor-Davis Bessie Nuclear Plant Security

Additional public safety departments will be announced later. Jobseekers are asked to bring their most up-to-date resume and may utilize the computer lab at the Shared Services Building to print copies if needed.

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

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**Domestic steel use is required per ORC 153.011.**

### Estimated Cost

General Contract – Transportation Center Building Demolition

### Contract

**\$208,000.00**

**Pre-bid Meeting:** September 20, 2022, 10:00am – **Plant Operations Building – Room 1000, The University of Toledo, 2925 East Rocket Drive, Toledo, OH 43606**

**Walkthrough:** A walkthrough of the project site is scheduled for September 20, 2022, immediately following Pre-bid.

**Walkthrough Location:** Plant Operations Building

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

**More Info:** Project contact: Kent Buehrer, Buehrer Group Architecture & Engineering, Phone: 419-893-9021, E-mail: [kent@buehrergroup.com](mailto:kent@buehrergroup.com)

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# Clifford Murphy and Joan Russell Honored by Street Naming

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

"It was a stellar location for Jazz," said Toledo Councilwoman Vanice Williams as she opened the dedication ceremony honoring musician Clifford Murphy and his life partner of 38 years, Joan Russell. The ceremony featured the renaming of the corner of Summit Street and Jefferson Ave to, appropriately enough, "Murphy's Place."

The Murphys, a band comprising Clifford Murphy on bass, Claude Black on piano and, for many of those years, Wendell Robinson on drum, were the house band at Murphy's Place. Russell was the business manager of the club and, unfortunately, it was her death that brought about the end of Murphy's Place in May 2011.

On Saturday, dozens of jazz fans and friends of the musicians joined the Murphy and Russell families to remember those good old days and to ensure that the good old days of Murphy's Place will be remembered for generations to come.

Deborah Murphy, Clifford's daughter, thanked the organizers, Williams

and Doni Miller, CEO of the Neighborhood Health Association, for their contributions to making the event happen and "for recognizing and honoring our culture," said Deborah Murphy. "I want to thank everyone who worked with Clifford and Joan throughout the years, especially Claude Black who played with Clifford for 60 years. I was in utter amazement of how they worked together and the awesome chemistry they had."

"Jazz was the music on the African American people," said Williams on Saturday as Murphy and Russell's families joined hands to unveil the street sign that will memorialize the place that brought so much pleasure to so many Toledoans and visitors over the years.



*Deborah Murphy thanks the organizers of the corner dedication*



*The Murphy and Russell families*

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**FALL CLASSIC**  
HONORING BRO. NORMAN BELL SR.

**MON SEP 26, 2022**

**HIGHLAND MEADOWS COUNTRY CLUB**  
7455 ERIE ST, SYLVANIA, OH 43560

1PM SHOTGUN  
ENTRY DEADLINE: SEP 12, 2022

**ENTRY FEE**  
**\$150**  
SINGLE PERSON BALL PLAY

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
JAY BARNETT 717-515-9648, JB@GOLF22@GMAIL.COM  
OR MARK RILEY 614-214-4691, REEMARKRILEY@GMAIL.COM  
TICKETS AVAILABLE: [HTTPS://TOLDOQUES.SQUARESPACE.COM/](https://toldoques.squarespace.com/)

**The Clarence Smith Community Chorus**  
*Time to Join Us*

**567-343-3042**  
**email: [crsmith2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:crsmith2@sbcglobal.net)**

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS