



Volume 75 No. 1 *“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”* October 19, 2022



Rob Shorter: The Artist on Display

“Drawing Is the root of everything” - Vincent Van Gogh

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From Humble Beginnings to the Highest Heights

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



The most fundamental leadership role is simply to be an example, a model: one whose life has credibility with others, has integrity, diligence, humility, the spirit of servant-leadership, of contribution.
— Stephen R. Covey

The Ohio Supreme Court races are clearly at the center of the Ohio midterm elections.

Looming high court decisions on redistricting, abortion, and LGBTQ+ rights may decide the course of history for centuries.

With three seats available, voters must ensure fairness comes to Ohio's highest court.

Judge Marilyn Zayas, Ohio Supreme Court candidate, deserves our political support and utmost focus. Currently a judge of the Ohio First District Court of Appeals, Zayas is the first and only Latina elected to any Ohio appellate court. But, more importantly, her life's journey and professional pilgrimage have been that of integrity, diligence, humility, a spirit of servant-leadership, and contribution. Zayas likes to say about her candidacy, 'Who we are is what we bring to the court.'

The following is the conclusion of my two-part conversation with Judge Zayas about her life's journey, judicial reputation, and candidacy for Ohio's highest court.

Perryman: Let's talk about your work as a judge and what we might expect if we see you on the Ohio Supreme Court.

Zayas: One of the things I'm very passionate about in coming to the Supreme Court is the specialty dockets. Even within the juvenile court system, specialty dockets are very impactful and collaborative in working with the family and with services while providing accountability.

Perryman: Are there examples?

Zayas: In the adult system, you also have the mental health court, the



Judge Zayas with Students

veteran's court, and the drug court. There's also something called the second chance court, which is for people that are victims of trafficking. These are impactful courts because it's a partnership of services and accountability. Individuals must go through all the process steps, which dramatically decreases recidivism. As a result, people can change their lives and change their trajectories.

But I will tell you, and I think this will surprise you, even every metropolitan area in Ohio does not have all those specialty courts. However, if we want to impact crime, stability, and the economy, that is one of the ways that we can really do it significantly.

Perryman: What else are you passionate about?

Zayas: The other thing that I'm genuinely passionate about is a road map created 20 years ago on how to have a more fair judiciary in Ohio. I'm talking about this as much as possible to bring accountability and transparency to the Supreme Court, which is much needed.

... continued on page 3



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AT 6:00- 8:00PM

We Invite all Neighbors to join us in conversation.
This Month's Topics:

- The Development of the Northwest Corner of Detroit and Dorr for TUFCU's Community and Financial Resource Center
- The Junction Green Project and Signage
- Updates from Lincoln School and East London Square LLC

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FOR UPDATES

Perryman... continued from page 2

Twenty years ago, then-Chief Justice Moyer put together The Ohio Commission on Racial Fairness. This statewide bipartisan commission included judges, attorneys, and individuals. That report was released 20 years ago, and almost every recommendation there has been left untouched, undone. For example, have you heard of the sentencing database?

Perryman: I have.

Zayas: Let me tell you that the commission recommended implementing the sentencing database 20 years ago. So, we merely have to follow the roadmap that is already there. One of the other recommendations was to require every attorney and judge to complete bias training to renew their license. Now you know that doesn't happen.

Perryman: It's amazing that it has not yet happened after twenty years.

Zayas: I'll give you the third recommendation because these are the three that I'm most passionate about. The other request was that all criminal defense attorneys or would-be criminal defense attorneys undergo a free certification process provided by the Supreme Court.

Perryman: What type of training?

Zayas: They are training so that criminal defense attorneys understand search and seizure law and criminal procedure and how to present a jury trial.

Perryman: In other words, training to wipe out the incompetent legal representation a lot of criminal defendants receive.

Zayas: I'll let you use your words. That's further than I can go. However, I will tell you that my passion for that piece is born from my experience as an appellate judge and reading transcripts of what happened at the trial court.

Also, the Moyer report is not limited to recommendations. The Racial Fairness Implementation Task Force was a separate commission to identify which recommendations were doable in Ohio and provide an action plan for implementation. This commission presented criminal defense training as entirely doable. Yet, after 20 years, it remains undone.

Perryman: And if you're elected, will you ensure implementation?

Zayas: I am passionate about the sentencing database.

Perryman: I understand the database as a tool to collect all the sentencing data from all the judges in Ohio. Analysts can then identify disparate sentencing trends in certain rural or white areas. They can also determine whether a particular judge sentences a person of color to 'x' number of years or months as opposed to white.

Zayas: The new controversy is that some of the sitting justices question whether it should be accessible to the public or simply accessible to attorneys. I believe in accountability, so it should be accessible to the public.

I'm also passionate about having certification training and uniform training for any attorney who will do criminal defense work. In addition, I'm passionate about requiring bias training as part of the two-year continuing legal education.

Those three priorities come directly from the Report on Racial Fairness commissioned by the Supreme Court of Ohio. In addition, I'm passionate about expanding the specialty dockets that have been proven to help people get on their feet.

Perryman: Anything else you want to add?

Zayas: I do want to add something else. As you know, this is such an important election and as I said earlier, 'Who we are is what we bring to the court.'

My brothers and I should've been statistics. It's not even a joke; I've reflected on this because my brothers and I have taken these interesting paths.

My oldest brother is a police officer. He was a career police officer and was hit by a drunk driver while on duty. He survived miraculously. He has 9/11 lung disease, but he's very passionate. For decades he's been working on a program that brings community theatre to one of the toughest neighborhoods in the Bronx, New York.

My other two brothers are teachers, and for decades they have been passionate about the Boy Scouts, where they are troop leaders.

Then there's me, and I've realized that my brothers and I went through so many difficulties that we really don't want other people to go through unnecessary hardships.

Perryman: Why is the election so important for you, personally?

Zayas: For me, then, it's two-fold. First, it's not just me as a judge, which is so important because if you are doing your job, faithful to the law, and making sure everyone's treated equally, that is a profound impact. It's not the whole solution, but it profoundly impacts justice.

But I'm also very passionate about working with young people. So right after I became a judge, I created a program. I work with the Cincinnati Public Schools and also with law students. I call it Educating Tomorrow's Leaders, and I bring students to the court so that they can not only experience and watch what happens in the court of appeals, which is very similar to the Supreme Court, I take them behind the scenes where my own staff attorneys don't even have keys to enter.

They get to see where we meet before court. They come out through the same door that I go into court. They sit on the three chairs of the court of appeals and pretend they're running the court or whatever they want to do.

I had a moment right after I was elected when I realized that I could never have dreamt of this. I just wanted to get through high school, and then I wanted to get through college, and I felt like if I made it through college, I'd done it.

Then, I realized there are other kids out there that are like me, and they don't even actualize their full potential. They don't even see it in themselves.

... continued on page 12

Community Calendar

October 30

Jerusalem Baptist Church Mass Choir: 5 om; Jerusalem Baptist Church; Homecoming Concert

November 5

Arts & Crafts Bazaar: Epworth United - Methodist Church; 9 am to 4 m; 67 vendors - books, candles, jewelry, pottery, among others

November 10

Toledo NAACP Vote: Noon to 8 PM; Vote for Executive Committee: The election of officers and at-large members of the Executive Committee will take place in person following social distancing guidelines, wearing a mask is required. Polls will open from 12:00 pm (Noon) - to 8:00 pm. To vote in the Toledo Branch NAACP election, one must be a member in good standing of the Toledo Branch NAACP 30 days prior to the election. A form of identification is required.

Relaunch
Opening

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Time 6:00 -9:00pm

contact: Nikolacolours
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Toledo Ohio

USDA Announces More Than \$71 Million to Support Underserved Communities

Special from the USDA

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced this week a more than \$71 million investment to help underserved communities. Funding is made possible through two key USDA programs: USDA's 2501 Program and the American Rescue Plan Technical Assistance Investment Program.

These investments are part of USDA's commitment to take aggressive action to advance equity for all, especially for farmers and producers in underserved communities.

"This is a major step in the right direction as the Biden-Harris Administration continues to ensure underserved groups can more fully access and participate in federal programs and services," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "We are committed to building a different USDA. One that is steadfast in our actions, mindset and culture around equality and justice for all. We need to not only envision a different future, but also build a path to make it possible."

The 2501 Program extends USDA's outreach to underserved communities by partnering with nonprofit and community-based organizations and higher education institutions to provide technical assistance and training. USDA's Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement (OPPE) administers the program.

This investment enables underserved and veteran farmers, ranchers, and foresters get needed resources to support a successful farming operation and increase profits. Under this investment, USDA is investing \$36.1 million in grants to 52 organizations across the country for outreach and technical assistance to underserved and veteran farmers, ranchers and foresters.

Grants are awarded to higher education institutions and nonprofit and community-based organizations to extend USDA's engagement efforts in underserved and veteran communities. Among the 2501 Program grantees, Alabama A&M University received a \$750,000 grant towards its mentoring programs that assist Alabama farmers in growing and sustaining their agricultural operations and bridging the gap for producers that lack access to land, capital, markets and government programs.

Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation received a \$543,296 grant to support their "Building Ready and Resilient Veteran Farms" with the purpose of fostering connections among beginning veteran farmers and service providers to create a supportive network that will enable veteran farmers to thrive.

University of Hawaii Systems received a \$743,667 grant to provide language-appropriate training on financial literacy, business planning, and conservation agriculture for immigrant farmers with limited English proficiency in Hawaii.

The 2501 Program, also called "Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program," has awarded 615 grants totaling \$194 million since 2010. The American Rescue Plan Technical Assistance Investment program is administered by USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

This program ensures equitable participation in the full range of USDA programs and services among underserved farmers, ranchers, forest landowners and operators through technical assistance projects and networks.

"These projects will deliver specialized technical support to underserved producer communities to benefit the launch, growth, resilience and success of their agricultural enterprises. The ARPTAI Program is one of many USDA efforts to foster equity and reduce barriers to access our programs and services," said Acting NIFA Director Dr. Dionne Toombs.

USDA-NIFA is slated to invest \$35.1 million in cooperative agreements to 13 universities and nonprofit organizations across the nation. Among the group of cooperators, the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley has been selected to receive \$3,487,564 to provide a range of enhanced technical assistance services, delivered by a strong partnership of organizations in Texas.

The Southwest Indian Agricultural Association, Inc., of Arizona has been selected to receive \$1,494,250 to partner with USDA to deliver targeted technical assistance and provide training focused on improving business management skills, promoting local food production, and increasing resiliency in Native American producer communities in the Southwest.

In the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit www.usda.gov. #

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Application Opens for Landmark City-Wide Roof Program

By *Tricia Hall*

The Truth Reporter

City of Toledo's Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) announced the launch of a new roof application program for Toledo owner-occupied homes. The announcement was made on October 12, 2022 in the central city – south Toledo neighborhood.

"This is exciting partnership with the City of Toledo, the federal Government, and a number of community partners to help residents with roof repair or replacement. This doesn't solve the whole problem but it is a step in the right direction and something worth celebrating," said Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz.

The three-year partnership between City of Toledo, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union (TUFCU), Maumee Valley Habitat for Humanity (MVHFH), Lucas County Landbank, Premier Bank and Huntington Bank will focus on low-to-moderate income residents. Initial conversations were sparked by the 2021 survey conducted by the Lucas County Land Bank which cited roofs as a major concern in Toledo.

"The roofing issue has been a real problem across our country because they are so expensive and one of the programs under my jurisdiction is the weatherization program that I hope will be linked to this roofing program. I'm so happy to be here today, just goes to show that within a civil society that we can pass legislation, appropriate the monies that comes down from the federal government and know that it actually gets here. You should be proud of our community, proud of our country today, and proud of all the partners that make this possible including Roz Clemens. Roz, you're a true gem to our community, you've done so much to understand what the federal government has and bring all of these assets home. Congratulations to all," said Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur.

The roofing project, called Roof Tops Program, anticipates assisting 650 residents through partnerships between government funding, corporate products and nonprofit work. \$2.6 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds, \$300,000 from Community Development Block Grant funds with private bank partners will be utilized and the City's DHCD will manage the project.

"This is indeed a wonderful day for the Department of Housing and Community Development and also the city. I want to thank my team, who have worked on designing this for the past eight months. This is a true partnership with the federal government and our private sector partners here in the city. We know that over 5,000 owner-occupied homes need roofs, and you can't just depend on federal dollars. We took a look at the need and funding that we had available to create this program to benefit low to moderate income residents. So that they have a fighting chance to have access to receive assistance to fix their roof," explained Rosalyn Clemens, City of Toledo Department of Community Development Director.

The application for the Roof Tops program opens today. Interested applicants must complete an application to determine eligibility by November 11.



Housing Commissioner Tiffanie McNair explains the application process



Rosalyn Clemens and Martha Castro, homeowner of the initial house to be re-roofed

ber 11. On November 18, 300 individuals who meet the qualifications will be selected through a lottery system to receive roof repair or replacement. Individuals who were not selected but applied will receive a referral to either TUFCU, Premier Bank or Huntington Bank.

"For people not selected, we are working on handing them over to our financial partners the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union, who will provide a matching grant loan product up to \$50,000 for folks at or below 60 percent of the area medium income. When that money runs out come January 1 our other banking partners will step in, Premier Bank and Huntington Bank. They have committed together a \$2 million dollar in a low-interest loan product that 80 percent of the households can receive funding to repair their roof. This is significant folks because we are leveraging public dollars and private sector dollars to maximize investments to address roofing in this city," explained Clemens.

"We're exciting to be a part of this program. We have a lot of need in our community," shared Suzette Cowell, CEO TUFCU.

The majority of the applicants will be assisted by MVHFH, a local nonprofit that has collaborated with Owens Corning and DHCD for years to repair homes, renovate homes and replace roofs. The partnership has resulted in 366 roof replacements. Within the Roof Tops program, MVHFH will serve the families that are between 0-60 percent of the city's medium income level.

"The campaign that Roz has put together for the housing program is great, and a great way to demonstrate that with local support from companies and nonprofits that we can make these dollars go even further and serve more families, which is what we always strive to do. The Roof Tops program gives us an opportunity to embrace the community and do some of these repairs and roof replacements that would be out of reach for most families that are lower in income but own their own homes," shared Mike McIntyre, MVHFH Executive Director.

Access the application (<https://toledo.oh.gov/residents/homeowners/rooftops-program>).

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The Sickle Cell Awareness Program

Special to The Truth

A Sickle Cell Awareness Zoom Collaboration Program was held on Sept 29 at 7:00 with special guest presenters LaShardae Scott, MSW, CHW, CHES, Sickle Cell Project Director for Region III and Dr. Crawford Shrunck, entitled "Sickle Cell Awareness- Because It Matters, Sickle Cell Does Not Discriminate and Has No Boundaries".

"Shine the Light on Sickle Cell:" The Sickle Cell warriors were Chelsea Parker, MSW, and Clifton R. Kirkman and Annie Ross- Womack – executive director of Oscha.

This virtual event was free and open to the public with question and answer segment and a panel discussion.

The members of this collaboration would like you to know that there are many health issues that the community faces and Sickle Cell is a major health problem.

September is Sickle Cell awareness month and what better way can we take time out to be with each of you and share health issues around sickle cell. Our collaborating club members are wearing maroon or red in honor of Sickle Cell month.

These organizations have collaborated for you to help you find ways to bring awareness on Sickle Cell, in hopes that you can also, learn about the health issues that anyone with sickle cell face and give you direction on where to get help, questions you should ask, signs, how to deal with sickle cell and so much more. During this time of Covid-19, we hope that this Zoom presentation can help bring awareness to you and reach out and touch the hearts of each one of you so you can understand what someone else is going through each day living with the disease. Please think about which person you may be.

- I am living with Sickle Cell
- I Care for Someone with Sickle Cell
- I have the Sickle Cell Trait
- I am a sickle Cell Advocate, warrior/ other

The members of our collaboration team all share a common need, and

that is to help others and to be of service to our communities. We consist of women from many Toledo Area organizations who work hard each day to bring awareness to our community, and the world in which we live.

This was a joint collaboration with NANBPWC, Inc- Toledo Club and Maumee Bay Club, Top Ladies of Distinction-Toledo Chapter, The National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa Sorority Inc.-Beta Gamma Chapter, YWCA of NW Ohio, Pathways for Success Leadership Academy and the Ohio Association of Beauticians, Inc. and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Zeta Xi Zeta Toledo, Ohio Chapter.

LA SHARDAE SCOTT MSW, CHW, CHES
SICKLE CELL PROJECT DIRECTOR REGION III

CHELSEA PARKER MSW
SICKLE CELL WARRIOR

ANNIE J ROSS WOMACK
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT OSCHA

CLIFTON R KIRKMAN II
SICKLE CELL WARRIOR AND FREELANCE WRITER

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Local Dems Urge Voters to Head for the New Early Voting Center

The Truth Staff

On the morning of Wednesday, October 12, a number of Democratic candidates gathered at the Lucas County Early Voting Center at 3737 W. Sylvania to urge voters to get out and get out early to cast their votes in this important midterm election year.

Joining the event's organizer, Lucas County Recorder Michael Ashford, chairman of the Lucas County Democratic Party, were: State Representative Lisa Sobecki, candidate for Lucas County Commissioner; Toledo City Councilwoman Michele Grim, candidate for Ohio State Representative, District 43; Erika White, candidate for state representative, District 42; Nancy Larson, candidate for state representative, District 41; Toledo Municipal Clerk of Court Vallie Bowman English, candidate for judge in the Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division; Judge Lori Olender of the Court of Common Pleas, candidate for re-election and Tom Puffenberger, candidate for the Court of Appeals, 6th District.

"This is a very important election," said Sobecki, as she led off and touched on the theme that virtually all the candidates would repeat in some fashion.

"We will end up with more freedom or less," said Larson, explaining why this election is considered to be so important. "Your life depends up voting today, voting tomorrow," echoed Grim."

Olender, as did all the candidates, wanted voters to note the difference in the early voting site location – from its downtown location when she



was first elected, to the 3737 W. Sylvania Avenue current location.

"Judicial votes matter because judges are ruling every day on things that will affect your lives," noted Bowman English.

The early voting hours are as follows: October 12-14: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; October 17-21: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; October 24-28: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; October 29: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.; October 31: 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.; November 1-4: 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.; November 5: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.; November 6: 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.; November 7: 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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Tanya, UTM primary care patient

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For an Independent and Impartial Voice on your Ohio Supreme Court

VOTE FOR Judge Marilyn Zayas

for Ohio Supreme Court

Judge Marilyn Zayas

- Will represent all Ohioans equally, guided by the Law and Constitution
- Rated "Excellent," the highest rating from the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association
- Former IT Manager at Proctor and Gamble
- Built a law firm and for 20 years worked in the trenches advocating for clients from poor families to millionaires to refugees
- First and only Latina elected to any Ohio Court of Appeals
- Currently a Judge on the 1st District Court of Appeals and was a visiting Judge on the 2nd, 6th, 8th, and 10th District Court of Appeals and the Ohio Supreme Court

JudgeMarilynZayas.com

PAID FOR BY COMMUNITY FOR JUDGE MARILYN ZAYAS

Integrity • Impartiality • Independence

Land Bank Restores House on Upton

The Truth Staff

Demolition or Restoration?

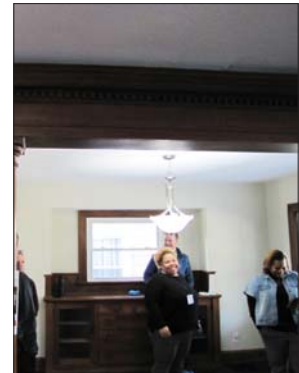
The Lucas County Land Bank's mission is to build neighborhoods and in the course of such work over the past dozen years, the Land Bank has targeted six RISE neighborhoods for investment. In the Clinton neighborhood, the house at 2110 Upton was chosen for renovation given the historic nature of the house and neighborhood and the potential for ongoing rehabilitation, says Land Bank President David Mann.

"We decided that the reclamation of this historic house was well worth the effort given the overall look of Upton Street.," said Mann.

The overall look of the house was an important part of that decision as well. The 100-year-old property, in spite of the neglect of recent years, still retains the solid beauty of the original woodwork, beams and columns, that was so prevalent in the 1920s.

The 1462 square foot, three-bedroom, one-bathroom, newly restored residence with basement and a spacious back yard will soon go on the market for \$74,900 – a good deal less than the cost of restoration, says Mann, but worth the investment because of the positive impact on the street and the neighborhood.

Created in 2010, the Land Bank's mission is to revitalize abandoned properties and to tackle chronic problems in the area neighborhoods. Through the first decade the Land Bank has chosen six RISE neighborhoods for investment, renovated 15 homes, overseen the construction or renovation of 740 homes and business properties by others, assisted 800 homeowners with preservation support, sold 2,500 side lots to neighbors, demolished 3,500 nuisance buildings and acquired 6,500 properties overall.



Weekends or Weekdays

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Fremantle The Price Is Right: ©/© FremantleMedia Netherlands B.V. 2022

The Head Full of Dreams Program

Special to The Truth

The following are notes from the Head Full of Dreams Program Brochure

"In an effort to encourage and inspire the Toledo Public Schools, Ella P. Stewart Academy for Girls' students to believe and activate their dreams, find and love their self worth, actively participate in school and enjoy the learning process, Diana Patton's RISE with Diane and the University of Toledo's Talented Aspiring Women Leaders (TAWL – mentors and mentees) is relaunching the Head Full of Dreams program (HFOD) at the academy with teacher Laura Hixon's fifth grade class.

"The HFOD program was founded by Diana Patton with Rise Advocates Academy while she was a board member at the now closed Polly Fox Academy, a school for pregnant and mothering teens. It was founded on the premise that when students are faced with significant adversity, trauma and hardship, like having a child as a teenager, they have a difficult time trying to concentrate in school. As a result, they often lose interest in school and they tend to forget about focusing on their dreams and, in most cases, do not dream at all.

"They often give up hope and drop out of school.

"The program was a huge success as it helped several Polly Fox students remain positive and hopeful and to stay in school.

"The same will hold true at the Ella P. Stewart Academy for Girls. In the 2022-2023 school years, our focus will be on the fifth-grade girls

"Students will attend a workshop where they will learn the value of having dreams and how to value the unique aspects of themselves. They will then be encouraged to think of what that means, specifically to them and to write that down and ask their teachers and parents to help them.

"Weeks later, the students will attend a photo shoot where they will be pampered with a modest hair and make-up session and they will be



encouraged to write down their dreams on a chalkboard. They then will hold the chalkboard and take a photo. The University of Toledo's TAWL students and their mentors will attend this photo shoot and they too will be encouraged to take photos with the students.

"The single photos of each student will then be placed in a prominent area of the school entitled "Head Full of Dreams Wall," where they will be asked to look at it daily and where other students will see it.

"Then each month the academy teachers will select an HFOD Student of the Month. That student will be featured on social media and appear on a local news outlet.

"At the end of the year, all fifth-grade students will be celebrated at the Head Full of Dreams Year-End Celebration."

On Thursday, October 13, Diana Patton and the University of Toledo's Talented Aspiring Women Leaders met with the fifth-grade girls at the Ella P. Stewart Academy for Girls for the photo shoot and make up session.

Also present and participating in the event were: Rhonda Kimmons, principal; Laura Hixon, fifth grade teacher; Kyndra Gaines, UT TAWL leader; Jedah McGee, photographer from Creadio; Parminder Banga, videographer and fitness expert; Raquia Mitchell ("Rocky"), makeup artist owner of "Beyond Cuties" (empowering girls 5-11 ... also of note a former Polly Fox Academy student; Abby Matz, former principal and Joni Pinsky, former Fostoria NAACP Director and Diana Patton's mother.

The next session at the school will be on October 27 with TAWL and the fifth graders to discuss the topic, "What Does Self Worth Mean?"

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Ohio Commission on Minority Health

Funding for this project was made possible (in part) by the Ohio State Opiate Response (SOR) -5H79T1083294-02 Grant from Health and Human Services and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the Commission on Minority Health.



TOM PUFFENBERGER
FOR 6TH DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS

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What to Do if Your Mortgage Application is Denied

Special to The Truth

If you dream of homeownership, having your mortgage application denied can be devastating. If this does happen to you, it's important to remember that you're not alone. Thirteen percent of all purchase mortgage applications -- a total of nearly 650,000 -- were denied in 2020, according to federal government data.

Before quickly reapplying for a loan, it's important to first understand the reasons your loan was denied. The lender is required to disclose that information to you within 30 days of its decision. You can also call your lender for further explanation. Having this knowledge will help you work toward building your eligibility for a mortgage.

In some instances, the situation involves a quick fix, such as providing missing or incomplete documentation. However, if the reasons cited for your application denial involve down payment cost, a low credit score, an adverse credit history or a high debt-to-income ratio, here are six steps you can take toward recovery:

1. Consult a Housing Counselor. Consider speaking to a community-based credit counselor or a HUD-certified housing counselor. They can help you create a plan to increase your savings, decrease your debt, improve your credit, access down payment assistance or take advantage of first-time homebuyer programs.
2. Improve Your Credit. In a 2022 Freddie Mac survey of consumers denied a mortgage application in the past four years, three in five cited debt or credit issues as reasons given for their initial denial. If this describes you, take time to improve your credit profile before applying for another loan. Good credit demonstrates responsible money management and gives you more purchasing power, opening doors to better loan terms and products. Visit creditsmart.freddie.mac.com to access Freddie Mac's CreditSmart suite of free financial education resources that can help you understand the fundamentals of credit and prepare you for homeownership.
3. Pay Down Debt. In the application process, lenders will look at your recurring monthly debts, such as car payments, student loans and credit card loans. By lowering or paying down monthly debts, you can build a positive credit history and lower your debt-to-income ratio. Not sure where to start? Tackle your debt with the highest interest rate first.
4. Obtain Gift Funds. If you're short on money for your down payment, you may be able to use gift funds from a family member to decrease the amount you need to borrow.
5. Find a Co-Signer. A co-signer applies for the loan with you, agreeing to take responsibility for the loan should you default. The co-signer's credit, income and debts will be evaluated to make sure they can assume payments if necessary. In addition to ensuring your co-signer has good credit, you should make sure they are aware of this responsibility and have sufficient income to cover the payment.
6. Look for a Lower-Cost Home. Remember, you should only borrow an amount you feel comfortable repaying. You may need to look for a lower-cost home than you're financially prepared to purchase and maintain.

For more information and additional resources, visit myhome.freddie.mac.com.

If your home loan application is denied, don't panic. There are ways to build your eligibility so that next time, your mortgage application is more likely to be approved.

Courtesy StatePoint

The "We Won't Black Down" Bus Tour Stops in Toledo

The Truth Staff

The organization known as Black Voters Matter made a stop in Toledo on its way to Cleveland on Wednesday October 12 amid a bus tour "to help build Black voting power ahead of midterms.

The bus tour -- which organizers are calling "We Won't Black Down" -- arrived in northwest Ohio less than four weeks before the upcoming general election on Tuesday, Nov. 8.

Two buses are touring the country organized the Black Voters Matter organization in their "Blackest Bus In America" movement and are making these stops with plans to mobilize Black voters and engage with policymakers, faith-based leaders, Black influencers and HBCU students.

"Upwards of 50 percent of Black communities have no idea there's a midterm election coming up. That's horrifying," said Barbara Arnwine, the president and founder of Transformative Justice Coalition. "We're out here pushing the word out that there is a midterm election and that you need to vote and don't let anybody suppress your vote. We're in Ohio!"

In Toledo, local leaders and elected officials joined the stop in the parking lot of Warren AME Church to hear the organizers speak about the importance of voting and to join in encouraging voters to get out and vote.

"It is so vital that we reach out to every person," said Rev. Willie Perryman of Jerusalem Baptist Church and president of the Toledo NAACP. "Let's get out the black vote because we won't black down."

The bus arrived in Ohio after a tour of Wisconsin and Michigan. After hitting northern Ohio cities, the bus headed to Pittsburgh.



Rev. Willie Perryman, State Rep. Lisa Sobecki and Tom Puffenberger



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Perryman... continued from page 3

So, when you have these opportunities to be an example, it's two-fold.

It's doing it with excellence, leaving that door open, and leaving a positive reputation. But, still, it's also about not forgetting where you come from and always remembering that other young people are going through their own hardships and not forgetting about that.

Perryman: Lastly, you talked earlier about your humble beginning in Washington Heights. How much does the In the Heights musical by



Judge Marilyn Zayas

Lin-Manuel Miranda reflect your experience?

Zayas: A community swimming pool is in one of the movie's biggest scenes. We used to go to that pool every week in the summer when I was a kid. There's a tower, lockers, and there's the kiddie pool. I know that pool like you can't believe it. The church I went to is in the movie, and the building I grew up in shows up at least three times.

Perryman: So, what did you think of the movie?

Zayas: I'm going to be honest with you. I really wanted to see the movie, but I was afraid that I would have one of those ugly emotional cries because those were difficult times for me, but that didn't happen. So, it wound up as a very joyous movie.

I had actually avoided going back to Washington Heights all my life. But nevertheless, last November, I decided to go back. I went up to the apartment I grew up in, and actually, it was like closing a circle of like this is where I grew up.

There was a lot of pain here and many difficult times, but this is where I grew up, and I'm grateful that this is where I grew up because it gave me what I needed for what I'm doing. So, when I went back, I felt like God gave me exactly what I needed to be able to do this job now.

What I thought would be an ugly cry was like a loop closed when I was in that apartment where I grew up.

Perryman: Yes. Your roots provided not only the catalyst but also confirmation for doing your vital life's work.

Zayas: That's exactly right.

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

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Half American: The Epic Story of African Americans Fighting World War II at Home and Abroad by Matthew F. Delmont

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

Raise your hand.

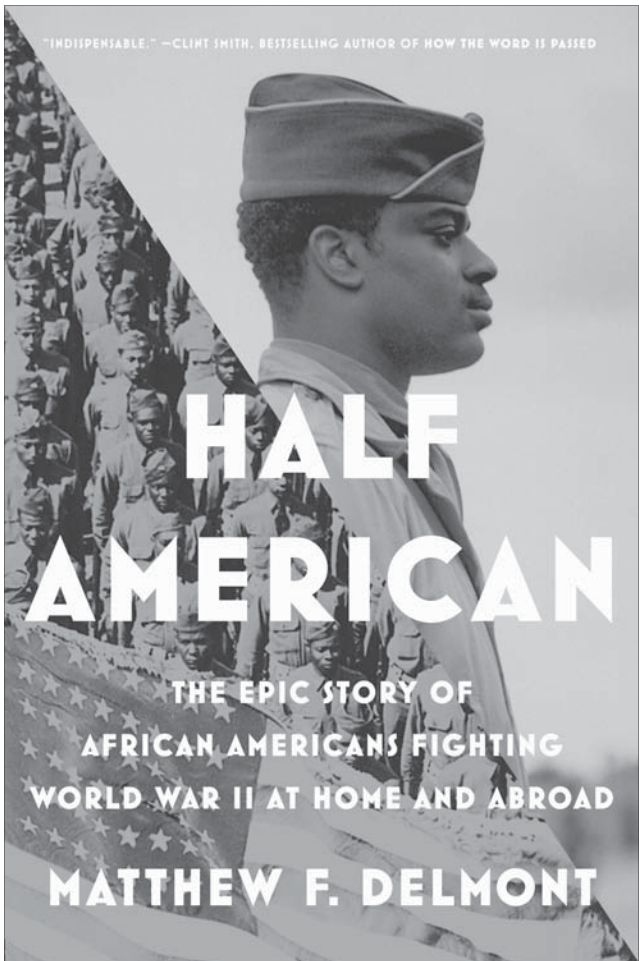
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\$30.00
400 pages

If something's going to get done around here, you're volunteering because things need to be different and you're ready and willing to make it happen. This starts with you because, well, who else? As in the new book *Half American* by Matthew F. Delmont, there'll be no more doing things halfway.

In the time before America entered World War II, Black Americans kept their eyes on what was happening overseas, particularly in Spain. The rise of fascism during the Spanish Civil War was of particular interest to them because "fascism was Jim Crow with a foreign accent." Eighty Black Americans even volunteered to fight against the Nationalists.

Their efforts caught the attention of writer Langston Hughes, who was hired by a Black-owned newspaper to follow the American soldiers, and report about it. While in Spain, he described the "realities of war," but he also noticed something that astounded him: "in this anti-fascist army," Hughes wrote, "Negroes and whites marched, trained, and fought together'."

Benjamin O. Davis graduated from West Point in 1936, and had his



sights set on a career in the military. Davis, says Delmont, "desperately wanted to be a pilot" but such opportunities weren't then available to a Black man, no matter what his accomplishments. Davis, and other Black U.S. soldiers had to battle racism within the ranks first.

Pullman union leader A. Philip Randolph organized a march on Washington for the rights of soldiers and home front workers. Thurgood Marshall, chief lawyer for the NAACP, became "energized" by his work for equality, particularly that of Black Americans who wanted to volunteer to "serve their country without being degraded by their countrymen."

But, says Delmont, that "was only half the fight. Victory would be incomplete unless it also uprooted white supremacy.... These dual war aims coalesced under a slogan that came to define the Black American experience during the war: Double V."

No matter how much you think you know a subject, there are always stories you're missing. On the topics of racism and war, *Half American* will tell you some tales.

This is one of those books that fills in the blanks on the things you missed in history class – or the things you were never told in the first place. The stories in here are stunning and quite moving, but also frustrating, even 90 years after the fact. It's like sitting at the VFW, listening to old war stories that were told in a whisper but that need shouting.

Author Matthew F. Delmont, who is a history professor at Dartmouth College, explains that his research and this story as a whole "has forced me to see the war with fresh eyes."

Readers, whether veterans or not, should agree.

Beware that this book can occasionally seem a bit academic – it's heavy with dates and site names, but the feeling passes quickly enough that armchair historians can still enjoy it greatly. If you need to know more about Black history in World War II, find *Half American* and raise your hand.

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LEGAL NOTICE TO BIDDERS TOLEDO LUCAS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BIRMINGHAM BRANCH LIBRARY WINDOW REPLACEMENT

Sealed proposals will be received at the main Toledo Lucas County Public Library, 325 N. Michigan St., Toledo, Ohio, 43604 (Dispatch Office addressed to the Fiscal Officer) until October 18, 2022, 12:00 P.M. to be opened immediately thereafter for furnishing the necessary labor, equipment, tools and materials for renovations involving the window replacement for Birmingham Branch Library.

Copies of the bid and contract documents including instructions to bidders and specifications may be obtained, upon deposit of \$25.00 (twenty-five dollars) in cash or check for each set, from the office of Buehrer Group Architecture & Engineering, Inc.; 314 Conant Street, Maumee, Ohio 43537. Electronic documents are available at no cost. **NOTE: CASH DEPOSITS WILL NOT BE REFUNDED. If within ten (10) days after the opening of bids, documents are returned undamaged, deposits paid by check will be fully refunded.** The bid and contract documents shall be on file, for inspection, at the office of Buehrer Group Architecture & Engineering, Inc. 314 Conant Street, Maumee, OH 43537.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Guarantee and Contract Bond in the amount of 100% of the bid; or a certified check; cashier's check or letter of credit in the amount of 10% of the bid which will require a 100% Performance Bond upon award of the contract. All bids shall be submitted on forms of proposal supplied by the Architect. All bidders, by bidding, agree to pay wages not less than the minimum as determined by the State of Ohio, Department of Industrial Relations, and agree to comply with Executive Order No. 11246 of the President of the United States.

The Board of Trustees, Toledo Lucas County Public Library reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any irregularities in bidding. No Bidder may withdraw his or her bid for a period of sixty (60) days after bid opening.

A voluntary pre-bid meeting will be held at 11:00 am local time, on October 10, 2022, at Birmingham Branch Library, 203 Paine Ave, Toledo, OH 43605

By order of the Board of Trustees, Toledo Lucas County Public Library.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSALS TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY TOLEDO, OHIO

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Board of Directors that Sealed Bids will be received by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority for:
**Component 5: Liquid Transloading Facility
Mechanical and Electrical Work
Facility One
3518 St. Lawrence Dr.
Toledo, OH 43605**

This contract is for all labor, material, insurance, and equipment necessary for the Component 5: Liquid Transloading Facility – Mechanical and Electrical Work project located at Facility One, 3518 St. Lawrence Dr., Toledo, Ohio 43605, in accordance with the approved plans and specifications, to the Port Authority at One Maritime Plaza, Toledo, Ohio 43604.

The "Component 5: Liquid Transloading Facility – Mechanical and Electrical Work" project consists of: installation of a pipe and pumping system for receipt of product into the storage tank and loading of product from tank to trucks, rail cars and barges; installation of five pipe casings under the new rail spurs; installation of vapor control piping; installation of all power and electrical equipment, grounding, conduit, cable tray, communications cabinets, fiber optics, lighting, automation equipment throughout the facility (except for that in and around the Foam House in Components 4 & 6) as described in detailed scope.

GENERAL: There are two discreet project packages associated with the Liquid Transloading Facility:

- Components 4 & 6: Liquid Transloading Facility – Civil, Structural and Fire Suppression Site Work
- Component 5: Liquid Transloading Facility – Mechanical and Electrical Work

Be advised that Civil, Structural and Fire Suppression are to be bid together on one form and Mechanical and Electrical are to be bid together on one form. Bids for a single discipline will not be accepted.

This project is funded through a U.S. Dept. of Trans. Maritime Administration (MARAD) PIDP grant and an Ohio Maritime Assistance Program grant (MAP). The engineer's estimate for Component 5: Liquid Transloading Facility – Mechanical and Electrical Work based bid is approximately \$3,441,950.00. Bids that are in excess of 10% above the engineer's estimate would be considered non-responsive. This project may be awarded by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority at its sole discretion.

Sealed bids will be received at the Port Authority's administrative offices, 1st floor reception area at One Maritime Plaza, Toledo, OH 43604, until Tuesday, November 8, 2022, at 1:00 PM, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud via conference call. Conference call information will be shared in addendum no. 1.

Only qualified contractors are eligible to submit bids for this project. Contractor qualification status must be in force at the time of bidding, at the time of award, and through the life of the construction contract.

Plans, Specifications, Instructions to Proposers, and Forms of Proposal and Contract are on file and may be obtained by either (1) obtaining hard copies from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Road, Toledo, OH 43615, phone 419.385.5303, during normal business hours, or (2) ordering from Becker Impressions, via their website www.beckerplanroom.com at the cost of reproduction.

Please note there will be an on-site pre-bid meeting for this project for all prospective bidders on Wednesday, October 19, 2022, at 9:00 AM, with a site visit immediately following. Prospective bidders interested in attending should contact Tina Perkins (TPerkins@Toledoport.org) at Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority prior to Tuesday, October 18, 2022, at 10:00 AM. A maximum of two (2) individuals per bidder with valid identification and proper personal protective equipment (PPE) will be permitted to attend. Attendees should meet at the stone parking lot next to the main gate at George Hardy and St. Lawrence Dr. Attendance is suggested, but not mandatory.

Please submit all questions to the Port Authority, Tina Perkins at TPerkins@Toledoport.org by Wednesday, October 26, 2022, at 9:00 AM local time. Additional information can be found at www.toledoport.org

Thomas J. Winston
President and CEO
Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority

Rob Shorter Unveiled!

By Dawn Scotland
The Truth Reporter

The Truth Art Gallery held its opening reception for "The Richness of Pencils," a solo exhibit featuring new and ageless drawings by artist extraordinaire Robert Shorter. The exhibit features 16 vivid pieces that will be shown at the gallery at 1811 Adams St. from October 6– November 30.

Robert E. Shorter was born June 25, 1949 in Prospect, Tennessee. A longtime Toledoan, his family moved to Toledo, Ohio approximately 1958. Artist and illustrator, Robert E. Shorter started to show his gift of talent for drawing at an early age and began his formal art studies at The Toledo Museum of Art. He graduated from Toledo's Edward Drummond Libbey High School winning numerous state scholastic art awards and then later continued his studies at Bowling Green State University.

The artist stated that "I've always loved to draw and in the beginning I did quite a bit of oil paintings on canvas, but clean up and space were always an issue. I found over time that I was able to draw and achieve the results I wanted without the clean-up problems using color pencils."

He now "paints" with pencils. The precision of his craftsmanship matches the effects of paintings or photographs.

"I used to love painting but pencils just won me over...and I'm not disappointed.," he stated. "I'll leave the painting to the painters...I'm a drawer."

Shorter's current preferred medium for his work is Prismacolor pencils using Strathmore premium drawing paper or illustration board. "The goal was to make everything look rich -which it does... I didn't lose any of the color from switching from painting to drawing. I can do anything I could do with painting," he expressed.

Over the years, Shorter has painted and drawn portraits for professional football players, created numerous sports drawings of other various professional athletes and of local high school and college athletes. He is very particular about his craftsmanship.

"I'll never sell anything I don't like... If I don't like it, you'll never see it." "It's my passion", stated Shorter, "I love drawing... It's who I am. I would do this whether anyone saw it or not. I would be happy..." he said of the excitement of seeing his drawings. "They make me happy."

Shorter has been absent from the typical art scene such as art clubs and art shows, but has consistently created numerous drawings over the years through commissioned work. He said that he enjoys working out of a small studio in his home and has never given up his passion for or stopped drawing. Most recently, in 2016, Robert was licensed by The Ohio State University to sell his artwork in retail stores.

His work has been featured in 20 North Gallery American Gallery, Truth Gal-

lery, Collingwood Arts Center, Paul Sullivan Architects (Art Walk), 2015 Roots of Diversity Art Exhibit, Kent Branch Toledo Public Library - Black History Month Feb 2017, American Frame and Sanger Branch Toledo Public Library.

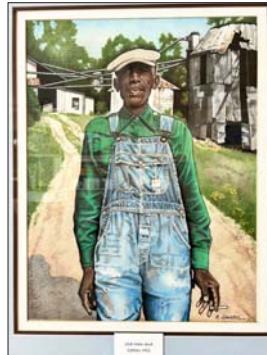
The artist's works will be featured now until Nov 30 at the Truth Art Gallery (1811 Adams St.). The gallery is open 11-6 Wednesday - Saturday, Monday and Tuesday by appointment and admission is free.



Next Man Up



Family Reunion



Old Man and Cotton Mill



Rob Shorter with Libbey schoolmates Willie Loper, Jim Shorter, Bill Haynes and Tony Smart



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Family ReOUnion: The Ohio University Black Alumni Reunion

By Siraaj Woods

Special to The Truth

“That’s A Awful Lot Of Black Alumni”, was the common phrase used on September 17, 2022, as all roads led to Ohio University for The Family ReOUnion. The Family ReOUnion is a signature event of the university’s Black Alumni Reunion (BAR) that takes place every three years.

Ohio University celebrated the largest Black alumni gathering ever this year, as over 2,000 alumni and friends walked across the infamous Athens bricks for the festivities. With this being the first BAR since the pandemic, there had been a noticeable gap between recent alumni and current students due to the protective measures that were put in place by the university to halt the spread of the virus.

An unforeseen consequence of that gap was the loss of connection that many alumni had experienced from not being able to visit the campus for a prolonged period. The Family ReOUnion served as a bridge to help bring current students and alumni closer together post-pandemic by providing them with fun events that all of their friends and family could enjoy.

The first event of the day was the 2022 Kappa Vs. Alpha Basketball Game (KVAB), pitting brothers of Kappa Alpha Psi (Kappa) against the brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha (Alpha). Competitive banter was exchanged on both sides as the Kappas jumped out to a sizeable lead early in the first half.

Given the overwhelming stakes on the line, it was fitting that the two teams traded blows in the fourth quarter. As tough shots, thunderous dunks, and stout defense was played by the Alphas, they were able to come roaring back to trim the lead to one possession late in the final seconds. This hotly contested battle for campus supremacy came down to the last shot as the Alphas missed two potential go-ahead shots at the buzzer, allowing for the Kappas to win a close contest 55-53.



The KVAB championship trophy was presented to Kappas following their narrow victory. After members of the media panel voted, The KVAB MVP was awarded to a member of the Kappas for being the game’s top participant. Proceeds raised during the game were pledged to be donated to the Blackburn-Spencer Scholarship to support students who require financial aid for their education.

After the game, the focus was shifted to The Family ReOUnion Day Party at Jackie O’s Brewpub. This dynamic new event was unlike any other that had been seen at BAR. Custom drink menus were displayed with liquor named after iconic locations around OHIO’s campus giving the attendees a great feeling of nostalgia that could only be obtained at The Family ReOUnion.

The sold-out event was packed with a combination of alumni and current students. Music was flowing through the air keeping the participants immersed by the entire experience provided by DJ Beez, a well-known OHIO alumnus. Laughter and good cheer were exchanged as classmates from new to old generations reminisced about their collegiate experiences.

The Family ReOUnion was a sea of creme and forest green as “That’s A Awful Lot Of Black Alumni” T-Shirts were primarily worn for the occasion. A small pop-up shop was set up inside of the event to allow for easy access to the most sought-after item of the entire weekend.

The creme garment with forest green lettering perfectly captured the heart of being an Ohio Black college alumni. These shirts were designed by Siraaj Woods Creatives, LLC, a digital marketing agency that helps small businesses improve their presence online.

The Family ReOUnion series of events was hosted by R&R Entertainment, a social gathering promotion platform that aims to provide its participants with some well-deserved rest and relaxation.

Black Bobcats both past and present were able to connect and network while enjoying a truly remarkable series of events that brought so many people back together who hadn’t seen each other in many years. The atmosphere during these events can only be equated to a family reunion. The entirety of the events can be summed up in one very simple phrase, “That’s A Awful Lot Of Black Alumni.”



EARLY VOTING HAS A NEW HOME!

It’s that time again. Lucas County Board of Elections in-person early voting has begun. And this year, there’s a new place to cast your ballot. Our Early Voting Center has moved to 3737 W. Sylvania Ave., just across the street from the Franklin Park Mall. Every vote matters. So join us now through November 7th, and let your voice be heard.

For more information and directions to the Center, visit LucasCountyOhioVotes.gov

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