

Volume 76 No. 8 "And Ye Shall Know The Truth..." February 8, 2023

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Milestones Government Honoree

Cecelia Adams, PhD, Former City Council Member

Scapegoat or "Escaped" Goat?

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

The Truth Contributor

Before being upset with someone, do first some background checks on them. Sometimes, people wounded in other battles may find you a handy scapegoat.

– **Bangambiki Habyarimana**



There is a rich and informative Biblical ritual where the high priest selected one goat for sacrifice and then symbolically laid the sins of the people upon another before safely releasing the latter to carry the community's transgressions away into the wilderness.

The released goat was known as the scapegoat and applies today to anyone who is blamed for a bad situation or outcome.

On the other hand, an "escaped" goat is a mishearing of a scapegoat. It refers to someone who, metaphorically, escapes from the confines of their pen and not someone others blame for their mistakes.

Which, then, is former Deputy Safety Director Angel Tucker?

Hired in February 2022 to help address Toledo's rising gun violence, Tucker was "tapped on the shoulder and told 'we're restructuring you out, let's pick up your stuff,' and unceremoniously escorted out of One Government Center" last week.

"There is no palace intrigue or behind-the-scenes drama," according to Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz. "We just decided to move in a different direction. The City of Toledo had never had a Deputy Safety Director before. We tried something new, and it just didn't work. We're moving on. No hard feelings. Angel's a great guy," the mayor explained.

Yet, ironically, Tucker's release occurred exactly one week after the Kapszukiewicz administration's contentious exchange with city council budget hawks led by Katie Moline and George Sarantou over the 2023 budget's structural deficit. Of chief concern to the Moline wing is a budget top-heavy in administration salaries.

Is there more here than meets the eye?

Kapszukiewicz denies that Tucker's release has anything to do with the budget debate and assured me that city council would approve the entire budget amount. However, other sources confirmed that the mayor said in a meeting, "look, I'm willing to throw some people overboard to trim this budget a little bit if you guys pass it." According to sources, the mayor included Angel Tucker's name as a possible sacrifice, along with Gretchen DeBacker. However, DeBacker will likely emerge receiving complete atonement, having been part of the mayor's campaign efforts since 2005.

When the mayor hired Tucker as Deputy Safety Director, Toledo had suffered record homicides. Gun violence and crime have risen yearly since former police chief Derrick Diggs left in 2015 to make Fort Myers, Florida, the third safest community in the United States.



Angel Tucker

Former Toledo mayor Carthy Finkbeiner and voters put the heat on Kapszukiewicz to address the rising crime. As a result, Wade, perhaps in a rush to address crime (without re-hiring Diggs), implemented one potential solution after another without obtaining tangible positive results. These strategies included hiring JoJuan Armour as program manager for Toledo's gun violence reduction initiative. Other approaches included contracting violence interrupters and hiring cabinet members, former fire chief Brian Byrd as Safety Director and Angel Tucker as Deputy Safety Director. Most recently, the administration has a proposal to contract with Louisville-based Cities United as a violence-reduction consultant.

These potential solutions were knee-jerk reactions that clearly occurred haphazardly or spontaneously. The City of Toledo needs strong, effective administrators and project managers. Yet, the administration also needs to learn what it is doing or what public safety should actually look like in Toledo.

As the administration prepares to hire a new police chief, whom the new leader will report to and how much money Kapszukiewicz will spend on public safety administration is still a question mark. Several council members want to be clear that the administration can justify employing and paying the high salaries associated with the Kapszukiewicz regime, which is overloaded with administrators.

For instance, "When the administration called to say some of the changes they were making to public safety in the beginning, I objected," says Councilwoman Tiffany Preston-Whitman. "I objected, even before I knew some of the people they would put in place. I'm like, we don't have a plan in place. You can't just bring people on and not have solid job duties or job descriptions."

Is this a situation of just another Black man kicked to the curb because they are expendable?

Tucker, who has advocated and served in the Black community for several years, has little support on City Council except for, perhaps, Councilwoman Vanice Williams. In addition, the Black community will likely be offended and angry about Tucker's dismissal for only about a week. Then, within a couple of weeks, no one will call out the administration for its harsh treatment of a Black man. So, the mayor doesn't expect any push-back from the Black community, which no longer hollers loudly or long.

So, is Tucker's dismissal a matter of incompetency and failure to live up to his heroic potential as Deputy Public Safety Director?

Not at all.

Tucker left the Oregon Police Department, leaving a year of retirement on the table and a reduced pension to work with the City of Toledo to do something he thought they believed in, only to be let go without warning. So, taking the job was, for him, a major sacrifice.

Instead, the mayor has set Angel Tucker free to take the blame for the Kapszukiewicz administration's bad public safety outcomes and cumbersome administrative budget into the wilderness.

Nevertheless, Tucker's escape from the City of Toledo's inexpedient crime reduction strategies also frees him from a caged, no-win situation that also appears toxic.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at drlperryman@enterofhopebaptist.org

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Nothing Here to Learn, People! Move On!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq
Guest Column

Question: What grievances does the Florida Governor, Ron DeSantis, have against allowing students to take an Advanced Placement (AP) course in African American studies?

Answer: Many! Lest anyone is fooled by the faux anger of the governor regarding his standing in the schoolhouse door, DeSantis is calculating coolly about using this AP course as a cultural war bridge to the White House.

Remember, AP courses are not required courses but merely electives a student can take and, if successful, earns credits as if the student took a college course in African American studies for example.

The brouhaha about this course is that it is a hostage tool that the governor is using to bludgeon his way into making higher education more into his image and thus burnish his credentials as a Trumpie lite candidate to the so called GOP base.

We are in the age of the GOP playing crass games of "cultural wars" (aka: race politics) like the teaching of CRT and shipping immigrants on planes to the house of the Vice President, Kamala Harris, so the GOP can "own" the libs...whatever that means.

Playing these cultural wars is old hat. Former President George H. W. Bush did the same with the racist commercials of Willie Horton (Google the history of that racial meme) by juxtaposing the image of a Black man with a wild unkempt Afro with thoughts of white women being in fear for the lives.

That racial ploy apparently worked back in the day against the liberal presidential Democratic candidate, Michael Dukakis of Massachusetts, who was touted as being soft on crime (aka: GOP dog whistle for coddling Black people).

Now, Ron DeSantis, with the assistance of a polarized country and the instant news feeds via the Internet, has been able to position himself as the champion of white grievance politics and thus curry the favor (and money!) of a GOP base that is being whipsawed between "those" people and "us" people.

Imagine one of the banned books in Florida is a children's level story about Rosa Parks and her courage to stand her ground and not give up her bus seat to a white passenger.

Yes, even Rosa Parks can be demonized as being an agent of change that could inspire Black kids to not accept any subservient position in society as their destiny.

With DeSantis's grim determination to shoulder himself into the issues of higher education for purposes of political gain, Floridians are allowing a scheming politician to warp the very core of liberal education by demanding a curriculum that pledges solidarity to all things white.

The college board source that presented the AP course in African-American studies indicated that they will "revisit" the educational materials and see what is needed to make it acceptable to the Florida GOP led legislature.

The interpretation of that gibberish is: We will attempt to excise any offensive materials in the African-American studies AP course to insure that white snowflakes are not alarmed or are ashamed or embarrassed of what America did and is doing to people of color.

Topics such as red lining by banks in order to insure residential segregation, the cause of race riots in America, the laws that at one time prohibited Black voting, interracial marriages and laws that demanded school segregation will be lightly touched upon so as not to give White people knowledge of their regrettable history and not to generate feelings of being ashamed of their apartheid type conduct.

The narrow view by which Ron DeSantis wishes to desensitize and minimize true American History so as to make it palatable to an anxious White readership is the means by which he hopes he can assume the mantle of the protector of aberrant White history which has lied for centuries about its treatment of Indigenous People, Black people and those that are deemed different.

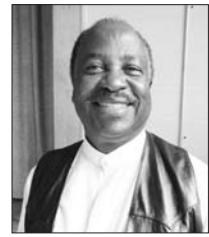
Of course, Ron DeSantis has no qualms with how White American history is being taught in Florida and he wants to keep it that way. Ron DeSantis has indicated that the study of African American History has no merit or historical value (or words to that effect) and he is counting on his fearful and ignorant (lack of knowledge) base to back him up...all the way to the White House if possible.

If does not hurt White politicians who use Black people as a soccer ball to kick back and forth as long as they have this ace card in their vest pocket: anxious and grievance filled White people who are willing to listen to the canards of race baiters who promise them that if they vote for them, they will keep the teeming and job grabbing Black hordes at bay.

Gerrymandering and voter suppression tactics are the first cousins of this sinister ploy; and so as long as the Ron DeSantis's of the US can use race as a dividing factor, they win.

They win only until citizens say no to such vile tactics and those who have a media bullhorn will tell everyone that Black American History is American History...warts and all.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com



Lafe Tolliver

NAACP Meetings

The Toledo NAACP Adult Branch General Membership Meeting

Tuesday February 14th at 7:00 PM

Jerusalem Baptist Church, 445 Dorr St. Toledo

Toledo NAACP Youth Council meeting third Sunday of each month
3:00 pm @ Sanger Branch Library
3030 Central Ave. Contact 419-244-7718

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“Let’s Talk About It”

By Fonda J. Royster, DV Resource Specialist, Family Court Services
Guest Column

Teen Dating Violence, also known as “TDV,” is an increasing public health crisis, especially in Lucas County. Talking around it or avoiding the topic does not eradicate its existence, nor does it decrease the number of youth being affected by it.

Statistics

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 1 in 3 teens in the U.S. is a victim of physical, social, emotional, and/or verbal abuse from a dating partner. 1 in 11 female high school students experience physical dating violence; 1 in 14 in males. 1 in 8 female high school students experience sexual dating violence; 1 in 26 in males.

Sexual minority groups are disproportionately affected by all forms of violence, as well as some racial/ethnic minority groups. Young adults in LGBTQ relationships worry that their partner will out them to their family and friends.

When unaddressed, teen violence has significant short-term and long-term effects on the survivors. This includes, but not limited to: symptoms of depression and/or anxiety, substance abuse, self-mutilation (cutting), and suicidal ideation/suicide attempts.

Technology adds fuel to the fire regarding TDV. The Center for Prevention of Abuse (CFPA) found that teens in abusive intimate relationships reported that their partner sends them texts/emails/etc. to engage in unwanted sex acts, which includes sending sexually explicit photos of themselves. Teens in abusive intimate relationships also reported that their partner tampered with their social networking accounts without permission and their partners read their text messages without consent.

HOW TO COUNTERATTACK TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

According to the CFPA, 80 percent of parents either don’t believe that TDV is an issue or don’t know anything about it. So it is im-

perative that caregivers, adolescents, teachers, medical professionals, and law enforcement are educated on how to identify the signs of teen dating abuse. These signs include: physical (hitting, kicking), verbal/emotional (name calling, threatening), sexual (rape, refusal to use contraception), financial monitoring spending, harassment at the workplace), digital (has passwords, pressure to send explicit messages), and stalking (showing up uninvited, tracking on social media platforms).



Fonda J. Royster

Moreover, preventative measures need to occur. An important measure is learning about health relationships. Healthy relationships involve:

- Trust between both partners.
- Open and honest communication between both partners.
- Setting appropriate boundaries in the relationship.
- Both partner have positive support individually and collectively.
- Both partners are able to utilize conflict resolution skills in a positive manner.
- Both partners encourage each other’s independence

The CFPA found that 50 percent of teens know about a peer experiencing dating abuse, but do not intervene. Adolescent bystanders need to confide in a trusted adult in their life. Speaking out saves lives.

The CDC found that only 30 percent of teens in violent relationships report the abuse. It is important that these teens are given access to tools that promote the teens’ emotional well-being and physical safety. “Love is Respect,” is a national dating abuse helpline that offers confidential support for teens, young adults, and their loved ones seeking help, resources, or information related to healthy relationships and dating abuse in the US. They are available by text (“LOVEIS” to 22522) or phone call (866.331.9474), or live chat online.

Locally, adolescents can go to the following:

- St. Vincent’s Emergency Room.
- St. Vincent Medical Center
- 2213 Cherry Street, Toledo, Ohio 43608
- Office: 419.251.3268

St. Vincent’s Emergency Room provides young people assistance with safety planning, bridging the gap to tell their parents, and referrals to Trauma Recovery Services (TRS) to assist with counseling to assist the teen, and so much more.

Conclusion

Adolescents, families, and communities need to understand that the relationships that adolescents have today can mold the relationships teens have in the future. Dating violence during adolescence is a precursor to domestic or intimate partner violence in adulthood. Therefore, as a society we have to SPEAK OUT against it and keep implementing strategies to fight against Dating Teen Violence.

Fonda J. Royster
Family Court Services
Lucas County Juvenile Court

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Cecelia Adams, PhD: 2023 YWCA Milestones Honoree for Government

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

The YWCA of Northwest Ohio has announced the 2023 Honorees for the YWCA Milestones: A Tribute to Women annual award. This year's honoree for Government is Cecelia Adams, PhD.

Transformational female leaders have been making waves and breaking barriers in government for a while now. These women possess the unique ability to motivate, guide and encourage their communities, leading by example with their passion, intelligence and unwavering determination. Through their actions and vision, they have challenged the status quo, defied gender biases and shattered the glass ceiling in public service for future generations of women.

The Northwest Ohio YWCA Milestones annual Government award recognizes women who have made significant contributions to public service while breaking barriers and paving the way for other women in male-dominated fields. This week we celebrate the contributions to this year's Government Honoree, Cecelia M. Adams, Ph.D.

With a background in biological sciences and chemistry, Adams began her career as a science teacher. "I shaped the next generation of scientists, engineers, and critical thinkers for 14 years," she shares.

A Toledo native and Scott High School graduate, Adams comes from a family legacy of education and leadership.

"My mother, Dr. Samantha P. Adams, was the first Black woman to pass the Ohio State Medical Board in her field," says Cecelia. "She was the only practicing Black Chiropractic Physician in Toledo at the time."

Cecelia Adams, who earned her degrees from The University of Toledo, had a long and very successful career with Toledo Public Schools prior to her service in public office, and although she was given many career opportunities outside of Toledo, she decided to stay in the Glass City.

"My mom told my siblings and I that it was an honor to live and serve in the City of Toledo," recalls Adams. "She would tell us to grow where we are planted."

If you're from Toledo, chances are you may remember when the now McTigue Elementary School was a junior high, housing only sixth, seventh and eighth grade students.

"McTigue was my first job in administration," adds Cecelia. "I was Assistant Principal for nine and a half years and I loved it."

At the time, Eugene Sanders, PhD, was the Toledo Public Schools Superintendent tasked with decentralizing the city schools and making each high school area its own learning community.

He appointed School Improvement Leaders for each high school learning community, each having its own Curriculum Specialist, explains Adams.

"The School Improvement Leaders were akin to area superintendents while the Curriculum Specialists made K-12 grade curriculum for each learning community."

Adams would soon become the Curriculum Specialist for Start High

School, and later become the School Improvement Leader for the entire area.

Named after Roy C. Start, two-time mayor of Toledo and founder of the West Toledo YMCA, Start High School is the largest comprehensive public high school in Toledo.

"It was quite the task breaking ground on the City's Building for Success Project while I was at Start," recalls Adams.

This building infrastructure improvement project was the largest in district history. The \$650 million project was part of a major push by the state to overhaul Ohio's schools. A TPS plan to renovate or rebuild 60 schools went before voters in 2002, and after an extensive campaign, voters approved a \$4.99-mill, 28-year levy.

"Scott High School, Waite High School, Harvard Elementary, and other historically significant buildings were renovated," explains Adams. "The rebuilding and renovations were a nice way of saying to the kids in the community that we care enough about them to make their learning environment an attractive one where they can get the same benefits as students in the most sophisticated school districts in our country."

When the School Improvement Offices closed, Adams was appointed to the School Board as Assistant Superintendent and would eventually retire as Assistant Superintendent of Advancement and Development in 2008.

"I got the call in 2011 to run for Toledo's School Board of Education," says Adams. "I didn't plan this journey but Mother always said there was a purpose for our family in Toledo. I thought that was pretty neat to get the chance to follow in my mother's footsteps as a school board member."

It had been 13 years since any new levy had passed to make improvements to city schools, bus services, or competitive salaries for city employees.

I poured my heart and soul into my work at the school board," says Adams. "But getting that levy passed while serving as President was truly a defining moment for me."

Shortly thereafter, came the unfortunate news of the passing of former first Black mayor, Jack Ford. "Mr. Ford was serving on the City Council at the time and several of my community peers suggested I put my name in for the open City Council seat," recalls Dr. Adams.

"There were 29 of us and we each had to give a two-minute presentation before the city council members. When we finished, they selected me right on the spot."

She immediately resigned her seat on the School Board, as no one is per-



Former City Councilwoman
Cecelia Adams, PhD

... continued on page 6

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Cecilia Adams, PhD... continued from page 5

mitted to serve on two governmental bodies at the same time, and began officially running her local campaign.

"That was 2015 when Mayor D. Michael Collins also passed away just weeks from Mr. Ford," recalls Adams.

With Collins' death, Council President Paula Hicks-Hudson was sworn in as acting Mayor until a new Mayor would be elected during the upcoming general election.

"I'll never forget, Hicks ran for Mayor and I ran for City Council. We both won and replaced two distinguished men in public office," says Adams.

"We had 145 city parks at the time I started in the City Council. We empowered the community to have a voice and a stake in the success of our parks through community collaboration."

Cecelia Adams played a crucial role in restoring the city parks while still helping residents on social issues such as education, healthcare and workforce development. Bringing a unique perspective and her extensive educator experience to the table, Adams was instrumental in creating a committee called Education, Recreation and Employment, which was erected to rebuild our city parks and to get our recreational facilities back in shape.

"This had never been done before," explains Adams. "At the time our city parks had a pittance of a budget. We had rundown basketball and tennis courts. The baseball fields were unlined and we struggled to even get the grass cut on such a small budget."

Adams fought for an independent department for Parks, Recreation and Education. It was unanimously approved with three separate divisions housing three Commissioners. "I was fortunate to get Mr. Fausnaugh to direct the three divisions before I ended my term in City Council."

Adams left office on January 3, 2022.

Joe Fausnaugh, the now Director of Parks, Recreation, and Youth Services, brings over 24 years of experience working with the City of Toledo's Metroparks.

"These new divisions are significantly impacting the health and well-being of our communities, particularly our low-income and marginalized popula-

tions," says Adams. "We are continuing to turn Toledo City parks into a point of pride for residents. I'm so proud of the work being done."

Transformational leadership is characterized by a focus on inspiring and motivating communities to achieve a common goal. Leaders like Cecilia Adams, PhD, create a vision for the future, communicate it effectively, and consistently build a culture that supports it. Thank you for also empowering and encouraging others to develop their own potential. You are a true role model that demonstrates the behaviors and values you expect from others.

When asked what receiving the YWCA Milestone Award for Government and Public Service means to her, Dr. Adams says, "It's an honor to be asked to serve the people in your community. There's nothing more important than keeping your promises, standing up and being counted on to get the job done when it's needed. My mother was selected as a 2011 Milestones Honoree for the Sciences so this means the world to me. I'm in awe and grateful to be honored among such a strong legacy of women role models."

Milestones: A Tribute to Women will be held at the Glass City Center Ballroom on Thursday March 30, 2023.

Proceeds from support for the awards will go toward 29,000 nearby women and families who are assisted by the YWCA for empowerment.



Cecelia Adams, PhD



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Pan African Flag... continued from page 16

ers, Tina Skeldon Wozniak and Lisa Sobeki and also by Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz. However, they also added their feelings that Toledo and Lucas County are doing far better than so many other parts of the nation in their emphasis on equity and inclusion.

"Many communities won't do this or say, 'we have a lot of work to do,'" said Skeldon Wozniak. "We recognize and know we have a lot of work to do, we have a strong, wonderfully diverse city."

"I am so proud to live in Lucas County and Toledo," said Sobeki. "But in Ohio, we can teach kids about Nazism but not about African American history. Take the next 28 days to learn something about African American history."

Sobeki then related what she had recently learned about the Pan African flag that will fly at Government Center during the month of February.

Red is for the blood that flowed during the time of slavery, she noted. Black represents the skin color and green stands for the fertility of the African culture.

Kapszukiewicz also voiced his concerns about the state of the nation.

"It's hard not to be frustrated by some of the forces at work," he said. "It's hard to have hope sometimes when you think of these things on a national level. What gives me hope is what happens locally. Here in Toledo we get it right more than we get it wrong. Every day in Toledo is a day to celebrate Black history ... Toledo is a special place."

Councilwoman Vanice Williams followed the speeches of the four White elected officials by expressing her eagerness to accept their willingness to work for the cause of equity and inclusion.

"I'm happy today," she said. "The word I think of is 'allyship.' As we stand here with our White allies, and they want to be made to feel uncomfortable, we accept that challenge ... I celebrate Black history every day because I see it every day."

Erika White, Communications Workers of America Local 4319, speaking on behalf of the Toledo Chapter NAACP, said the Pan-African flag represented "pride, unification and change making ... a symbol of a rich cultural history." White observed that the flag is "a unifying symbol ... introduced in the 1920s, it is still a symbol of American activism - a symbol of a rich cultural history."

CSRN co-founder Jodie Summers, activist, writer and spoken word artist, performed one of his pieces and asked in the refrain: "How much longer will we keep waiting for a handout to get a hand up?"

After noting that the CSRN was founded in 2014 in the wake of the news that the policeman who killed Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, would not be indicted, Washington Muhammad closed out the event by thanking "so many for raising the Pan African flag."

Coalition for Peaceful Toledo Neighborhoods Hosts Meeting at St. Martin de Porres

By Fletcher Word
The Truth Editor

Toledo's former mayors are mad as hell and they are not going to take it anymore!

Mad as hell about the wave of violence that has engulfed Toledo's neighborhoods over the past few years – 71 homicides in 2021 and 65 last year – and mad as hell that the current administration is ignoring their pleas to work with city leaders in order to help the community in its time of crisis.

Carty Finkbeiner, Mike Bell and Donna Owens, co-founders of the Coalition for Peaceful Toledo Neighborhoods, held a press conference on Saturday February 4 to address the issue of gun violence in the city and they expressed their outrage not only at what they feel is the lack of interest in the issue of violence on the part of the city leaders but also at the city's plan to hire an outside consulting firm to tell the City of Toledo what people with decades of leadership in this very community already know.

"I'm on the warpath," said former Mayor Donna Owens, after acknowledging that her message would not be well received at One Government Center. "I'm throwing down the gauntlet to Mayor [Wade] Kapszukiewicz and city council to take action ... kids are dying."

The Coalition met at St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church to announce a new collaboration with an existing organization, the Northwest Ohio Parents of Murdered Children, and a future town hall meeting on February 16 at Glenwood Lutheran Church.

Above all, the three mayors, Owens, Carty Finkbeiner and Mike Bell, took the city administration to task for its inaction on the issue of gun violence.

"We have to start coming together," said Bell. "We have to put some of these groups together. In the next 30 days, we will take what we have gathered and put it into a proposal before the mayor and city council."

The irony of the timing of the meeting this past weekend is that it took place in the wake of another senseless murder. The previous afternoon, Donald Hogan, age 15, was shot on Shasta Drive and died as a result. It was Toledo's fifth homicide of the year. Four of the five were youth.

The administration has announced plans to hire Cities United, a 12-year old organization that works with cities around the nation to reduce gun violence. Cities United was founded by a group of mayors and works with cities to find solutions and build strategies to reduce the number of homicides. The irony for the three former mayors is that Cities United held a conference in Baltimore, Maryland that Toledo city leaders attended. Baltimore is also one of the Cities United's clients, along with more than 130 other cities.

"Baltimore is one of the most crime-ridden cities in America and we're going to hire a firm out of Baltimore to solve our problem?" said Finkbeiner while mocking the \$150,000 price tag usually associated with Cities United's contract.

The mayors announced plans to open an office soon – located at 1416 Nebraska, in the Padua Center, and said that they will be unveiling their own plan to reduce violence at the February 16 meeting.

However they did not express much faith in the willingness of the mayor's office or those on City Council to listen to their recommendations

"It appears that when we are talking, trying to be everyone together, it's fallen on deaf ears," said Bell as he excoriated the administration for its willingness to spend \$150,000 to an outside firm "to tell us what we already know."

"None of the people in this coalition are asking the city for money," said Rev. Steve Swisher, pastor of Epworth United Methodist Church, and one of the founding members of the Coalition. "we're not asking the city for a dime but we are asking for awareness."




Mike Bell



Former Mayors Mike Bell, Carty Finkbeiner, Donna Owens





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TARTA and NAACP Celebrate Rosa Parks' Birthday

The Truth Staff

The Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority and the local NAACP celebrated the birthday of Rosa Parks on Saturday February 4 at the TARTA hub on Huron Street in front of the mural of the civil rights icon herself.

Speaking of the action Rosa Parks took on December 1, 1955, Rev. Willie Perryman, president of the Toledo Chapter NAACP said last week, "This single act of nonviolent resistance helped spark the Montgomery bus boycott, a 13-month struggle to desegregate city buses.

"We celebrate not only Rosa Parks for her stance for equality in public transportation but also because of the call now for equity and inclusion.

"We celebrate what would have been Rosa Parks' 110 birthday."

Perryman announced the second part of the morning's celebration, a ride on TARTA Bus number 5 to the African American Legacy Project and "the rich Black history of our community."

Laura Koprowski, president and CEO of TARTA, praised "the passion, the leadership" of the TARTA Board and partners, "in embracing a new day, a new look for TARTA, which means a new day for the community.

"Public transportation continues to play a critical role in expanding racial and social equity and expanding opportunities for all," said Koprowski.

Of Rosa Parks, Koprowski said "Her courage and convictions galvanized the push for civil rights and made a positive impact for generations to come."

Lucas County Commissioner Lisa Sobecki said: "So many have worked so hard to get public transportation to the most vulnerable in our community."

... continued on page 12



NAACP President Rev. Willie Perryman, TARTA CEO Laura Koprowski, Lucas County Commissioner Lisa Sobecki



Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union President Suzette Cowell with TARTA's special Rosa Parks bus



Student Dalliss Lothery speaks on what Rosa Parks means to her



Robert Smith - center - with informational pamphlet of Ella P. Stewart

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

Join The University of Toledo Medical Center Ryan White Program, College of Medicine and Life Sciences Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, The University of Toledo Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and keynote speaker Dr. Stella Safo in observance of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

Health Equity: Giving Everyone the Opportunity for Good Health

As a Black woman practicing medicine, Dr. Stella Safo knows firsthand that systemic inequities are baked into healthcare delivery. Safo is a Ghanaian-American board-certified HIV primary care physician and public health practitioner who has led teams dedicated to healthcare improvement in various settings.



Stella Safo, M.D., M.P.H.

February 9

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT BREAKFAST 8-9 A.M.

Glass City Center
Jefferson Room 104
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The community engagement breakfast is free, but registration is required.



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Sponsored by The Ann Wayson Locher Memorial Fund for HIV Care in partnership with The University of Toledo Medical Center Ryan White Program, College of Medicine and Life Sciences Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and The University of Toledo Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.



Street Renamed to Honor a Local Legend

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

City leaders, former employees, residents and current clients gathered on Saturday, February 4 to celebrate the renaming of Lincoln & Detroit to Henry Clark Way.

Since 1971, the corner of Lincoln & Detroit has been the home of Poor Clark's Barber & Beauty Shop. The establishment has offered more than barber and beauty services, it has also been a source of jobs for youth in the neighborhood and a community gathering place.

Toledo City Councilman John Hobbs III and City of Toledo Housing Commissioner Tiffanie McNair opened with greetings before unveiling the new street sign to warm applause. The organizers wanted to complete this process of renaming the street before Mr. Clark passed, but were excited to commemorate the occasion in his memory.

"He has given away more haircuts than he made money on. He is very deserving of this honor and I can't think of no better way to honor him then with this sign to honor his memory and his legacy," shared Councilman Hobbs III.

"I was given more than just a job, but an opportunity to grow in the life skills that I have today. It's about serving your community and your neighborhood. It is an honor to be here today to honor Mr. Clark," said Commissioner McNair.

Clark started his career in 1961 after working as an apprentice. His first shop was called, Clark's Barber Shop. In 1971, Clark moved his shop to its current location, 1723 N Detroit Ave. The establishment was renamed to Poor Clark's Barber & Beauty Shop. Clark spent 55 years cutting hair and impacting the lives of people who lived and worked in the community.

One program that was highlighted was his active participation in the Adopt a Haircut program, in which boys between the ages of kindergarten to 12th grade to read in exchange for a free haircut from Mr. Clark.

According to an article in this newspaper in 2008, youths between the ages kindergarten to 12 grade, could read out-loud in front of Mr. Clark and their



Housing Commissioner Tiffanie McNair and Councilman John Hobbs III



parents to receive a free haircut. The partnership was launched in August 2008 in collaboration with Mount Nebo Baptist Church, Mott Branch library in Toledo and Mr. Clark.

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Mott Branch Library and Patrons Celebrate Rosa Parks Day

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

Mott Branch Library, located in the heart of Dorr Street, celebrated the memory and birth of Rosa Parks on Saturday, February 4. Youth and their families were invited to participate in story time and complete hands on crafts.

Toledo Lucas County Public Library Youth Services Librarian, Andrea Sanford in collaboration with TARTA and Toledo NAACP organized the day-long festivities. Youth and their families enjoyed listening to the Jo S. Kittinger book, *The Ride to Civil Rights*, and creating their own interactive map that includes traffic signals and vehicles.

"The partners and I wanted to bring to life the how and why, which led to Rosa Parks sitting on the bus that day. I chose that book because Rosa truly started the civil rights movement," said Sanford.

Library patrons can visit the library's website for additional information about Rosa Parks, including her visit to Toledo.

"It's important that our kids continue to hear the story about Ms. Parks. Some of us lived through those moments in history while the youth today should understand why they have more rights today," said Shavon Johnson.

According to the Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation, Rosa Parks was arrested on December 1, 1955 for failing to give her seat to a white Montgomery citizen on the city bus, which at that time in history was illegal. The arrest of Ms. Parks, Claudette Colvin (Austin) and other Blacks sparked the Montgomery bus boycott.

According to History.com, the boycott lasted 381 days when the U.S. Su-

... continued on page 11



Jaylen with his favorite Rosa Parks book



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African American Studies Under Attack in Florida

By Lisa Intrabartola, Senior Public Relations Specialist
Rutgers University
Special to The Truth

The College Board has updated an Advanced Placement (A.P.) African American Studies course amid criticism from Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who, with the state board of education, banned it in state schools saying it violates a law he championed.

Rutgers professor Leslie Kay Jones recently found herself at the center of the controversy. Although her connection to the A.P. curriculum is tangential – her scholarship and expertise in Black Lives Matter was referenced as a potential resource for teachers who were reviewing the early design of the course – she was singled out in an infographic outlining Florida's reason for rejecting the course.

Leslie Kay Jones, PhD, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at Rutgers New Brunswick, specializing in social movements. She draws extensively on the fields of race and gender, critical race theory, and online social media in her study of collective mobilization. She teaches qualitative and computer assisted research methods, particularly digital ethnography and content analysis.

Lisa Intrabartola: What are the ramifications of the decision to prohibit teaching the course in Florida schools and how does it affect students inside and outside of the state?

Leslie Kay Jones: Not only is DeSantis testing out his legal standing for censoring African American studies in K-12 schools, but he is laying the groundwork to miscast African American scholars generally as unacademic, undemocratic and divisive sources of ideas about the social world. Floridians and people in other states following DeSantis's model should be aware that African American studies is the test case for using propaganda against different academic fields to bar specific groups from participating in the public market of ideas. The goal is to define even activism generally as immoral behavior (see the objection to Robin D.G. Kelley in the Florida Department of Education infographic [5]), even though the DeSantis administration is itself engaged in political activism.

Intrabartola: What does this mean for the future of African American studies across all grade levels?

Jones: In many ways, DeSantis is using an old playbook. Censorship of African American studies is a tried-and-true political strategy for limiting

Americans' ability to name and challenge politics of disenfranchisement. Just as the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. has been reduced in most educational programs to the repetition of a single speech that is often taught piecemeal and misrepresented, DeSantis hopes to dictate the limits of acceptable ideas emerging from political activism like the civil rights movement. Reducing allowable citations in African American studies will also have the effect of undercutting the rigor of the discipline, making it increasingly possible to assert that African American studies has no educational merit. Ultimately, we are looking at an effort to render the greater population historically ignorant and susceptible to indoctrination with ideologies of racial inferiority.



Leslie Kay Jones

Intrabartola: What do you think are the reasons behind Florida's rejection of the A.P. Course?

Jones: The purpose is to justify an increasing program of censorship targeted at the language and ideas we use to combat indoctrination into fascism. That is why the focus is on misrepresenting work that explains how social hierarchies work through the analysis of historical events.

Intrabartola: What was your reaction to being singled out by the Florida Department of Education?

Jones: As a graduate of the Florida public education system, I was happy to know that my work is viewed as useful in teaching students about racial inequality. As a junior scholar, I was flattered to have my work named among great scholars like Robin D.G. Kelley and bell hooks. I was disappointed that the Florida Department of Education chose to cite an "About Me" section from one of my social media pages rather than engaging with my rigorous academic work, but I understand that the purpose of the infographic was precisely to suggest that students would not be engaged in rigorous work when taking the A.P. African American Studies course.

Courtesy: Andrea Alexander, Rutgers Today

Mott Branch Library... continued from page 10

preme Court ruling in *Browder v. Gayle* that the segregated bus system illegal.

The Henry Ford museum is located in Michigan and is home to Montgomery bus #2857. The bus is believed to be the bus in which Rosa Parks was arrested. There is also another museum named in honor of Rosa Parks located

at Troy University, the site where Rosa was arrested prior to the Montgomery boycott.

Rosa Parks Day was first created and acknowledged by the Michigan State Legislature in 1998. In addition to Michigan, seven other states, Ohio, California, Missouri, Alabama, Oregon, Texas and Tennessee celebrate Rosa Parks Day on a statewide level. February 4 is designated as Rosa Parks Day, because she was born on February 4.



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Owens Community College Names Four Senior Leaders

Special to The Truth

Owens Community College has hired four senior leaders who will be responsible for continuing to ensure student success at the premier two-year college in northwest Ohio. The new employees are:

- * Dr. Blake Renner, Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs

- * Tasha Hussain Black, Executive Director of Strategic Marketing and Communications

- * Brad Wood, Dean of the Findlay Campus

- * Kelle Pack, Vice President of Institutional Advancement and Executive Director of the Owens Community College Foundation

"As we've worked to fill multiple leadership roles almost simultaneously, it's been so exciting for me to see how these people will work together, and what we are going to be able to do as a team and as an institution as we move forward," President Dr. Dione D. Somerville said. "We are bringing in people who have a proven ability to collaborate and a strong desire to build relationships within our organization and with the broader community. These individuals will integrate into our culture while aligning expectations from the ground up. They are here to build upon and expand on our past successes."

Dr. Blake Renner

Vice President, Enrollment Management and Student Affairs

A higher education leader, educator and researcher, Dr. Renner has focused his efforts on eliminating barriers and creating equitable learning environments to enable students to realize their academic potential. For the past 11 years at Franklin University, he has worked on expanding services and providing direct support for students both within and outside the classroom. As the Dean of Students, his primary responsibilities included student affairs, enrollment

management, policy and procedure development and student retention efforts.

His educational background includes a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Malone University, a master's degree in Counseling from West Virginia University, a master's degree in Secondary Education from West Virginia University, and a doctorate degree in Educational Leadership Studies from West Virginia University.

Tasha Hussain Black

Executive Director, Strategic Marketing and Communications

A high performing and innovating marketing executive with extensive connections to the community, Hussain Black possesses more than 25 years of marketing and communication experience. She spent 10 years as Vice President of Marketing at the Andersons, Inc., where she was a member of the executive leadership team responsible for \$1 billion in revenue, 100 locations and 1,000 employees. She also served in marketing and sales leadership roles at the United Way of Greater Toledo and Image Group.

A member of the board of directors at the Islamic Food Bank of Toledo and WGTE Public Media, Hussain Black has a bachelor's degree in English from Bowling Green State University and an MBA from the University of Toledo. She is an adjunct professor in the BGSU College of Business.

Brad Wood

Dean, Findlay Campus

Wood previously served as Chair of the Owens Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program in the Owens School of Nursing and Health Professions, where he worked the past seven years. He was a member of the Owens Findlay Task Force that was charged with making data-informed recommendations about academic programming changes on the campus, which included the successful implementation of the PTA program in Fall 2022.

A community college graduate, Wood earned his associate degree in PTA from St. Petersburg College. He graduated from Nova Southeastern University with his bachelor's in Health Science and master's in Teaching and Learning. He serves on the State of Ohio Physical Therapy Association advisory board and is national commissioner for CAPTE Commission of Accreditation for Physical Therapy Education and president of the Northwest Ohio Clinical Coordinator Consortium.

Kelle Pack

Vice President, Institutional Advancement and Executive Director of the Owens Community College Foundation

As a seasoned professional supporting strategic missions, Pack served as the President of McLaren St. Luke's Foundation in Maumee since 2016. Pack began her career in philanthropy with the University of Toledo in 1992 and held multiple positions with the University of Toledo, the Toledo Area Humane Society and St. Luke's Hospital. She graduated from the University of Toledo with a bachelor's degree in Communication.

She is an active member of the Rotary Club of Maumee and serves on the Board of Directors of the Maumee Chamber of Commerce. Other past board and committee experience include Healthy Lucas County, Connecting Kids to Meals, Anthony Wayne Education Foundation and the Toledo Area Planned Giving Council.

Owens Community College has served Northwest Ohio since 1965 as an accredited two-year, state-assisted institution of higher education with an open-access admission policy. With a commitment to providing small classes, personal attention and unmatched affordability, Owens serves the diverse academic needs of credit and non-credit students offering more than 70 academic programs, seamless transfer opportunities and short-term training with an emphasis on closing the workforce skills gap. For more information, please visit www.owens.edu <<http://www.owens.edu>>.

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TARTA... continued from page 8

Also part of the press conference were two local students who credited Rosa Parks with inspiring them in any number of ways. Christal Moreland, a junior at PENTA career center and a youth council president of the NAACP and Dalliss Lothery, a freshman at Rogers High School and a member of the youth council both spoke.

"Rosa Parks was an inspiration to me because of her bravery," said Lothery.

... continued on page 13

Hands by Torrey Maldonado

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

Hey, pick that up, would you?

You don't want to leave a mess; that's just rude and disrespectful. Get your hands dirty, clean up after yourself, pick up your things and put them away. Those are lessons you learned almost as soon as you could walk. Put your things up, pick up your fists, and in the new book **Hands** by **Torrey Maldonado**, make an impact.

At 12 years old, Trev carries a lot on his shoulders.

Ever since his stepfather was jailed for hitting Trev's mother, Trev's been the man of the house and he feels responsible for protecting his older sisters and his mother, who "shielded" him from the family's problems. The other thing Trev carries is a lot of anger.

He used to think highly of his stepfather but after that one night? Not anymore. He hates now when people say he looks like that guy because Trev knows he favors his real dad, who died five years ago. He knows that his father would've never hit his mother.

The posters in his bedroom give Trev an idea. He could be like Creed. Like Tyson. Like Ali or Mayweather, so he and his best friend, P, start working out near their home before they take things to a gymnasium where some of the guys in the neighborhood practice boxing. When they ask to train with a guy who seems to know what he's doing, Trev and P are told "no."

Turns out the trainer knew Trev's uncle way back, and Uncle Lou made his friends promise not to let Trev do anything dumb.

Stay in school, the trainer said. Do good.

And there's that word, "promise." Trev's teacher says he's got some. His mother knows he has it, too. People tell him that they promise him this or that, but Trev knows promises break. He feels like a fidget-spinner, never going anywhere, spinning in place until the right kind of promise comes along...

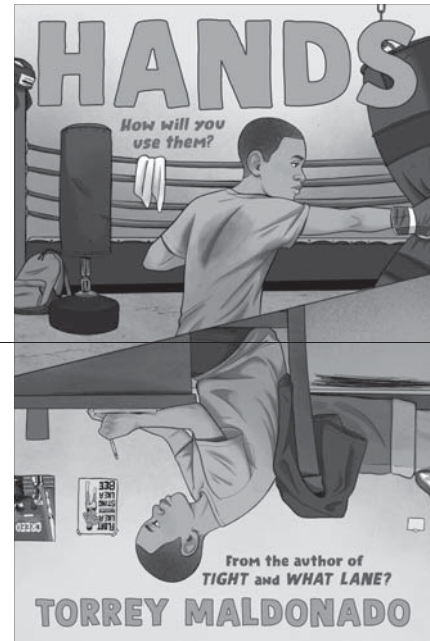
Many hands, they say, makes light work. Give someone a hand and they

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Nancy Paulsen Books
\$16.99
138 pages

appreciate your support or your help. In this *Hands*, though, despite a somewhat misleading cover, your youngster will learn about the importance of family – not just the one you get at birth but also the one that gets created along the way.

But that's not all: the subtler, softer lesson for your boy is one of self-control, a message that author Torrey Maldonado doesn't make much fuss about. It's just part of the story, a small part that, in retrospect, feels like a heartbeat. The lesson's there but, absent all preachiness or ill-placed nagging, it's possible that your young reader might learn about self-discipline and misplaced responsibility without any awareness that he's done so. That makes this an easy book for a parent to say yes to, and for a kid to enjoy.

There's absolutely no reason that a pugilistic girl can't read *Hands*, but it's really meant for boys ages 9-to-14. If yours wants a good, decent story, then yeah, pick this up.



TARTA... continued from page 12

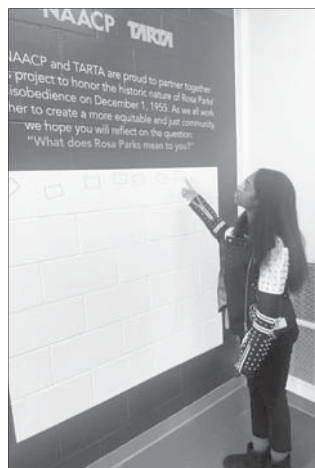
After the commemoration at the TARTA hub, the group climbed aboard a number 5 bus and headed over to the African American Legacy Project to speak more on the subject of Rosa Parks' accomplishments and to view memorabilia about Toledo's own African American heroes.

"We had our own Rosa Parks in Ella P. Stewart," said AALP founder and CEO Robert Smith.

Stewart was one of the first female African American pharmacists in America. Ella and William Stewart opened Stewart's Pharmacy, located at the corner of Indiana and City Park Avenues (566 Indiana Avenue), in July 1922, and operated it until 1945, when they sold the business. The pharmacy was located in Toledo's Pinewood district, where some two thirds of the city's African Americans lived by the end of the 1920s, the pharmacy became a popular neighborhood gathering place.

By the 1930s Stewart became a leading member of community groups in Toledo, including the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) and the Enterprise Charity Club, a social-service organization run by African-American women.

From 1944 to 1948 she served as president of the Ohio Association of Colored Women; and from 1948 to 1952, as president of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs (NACWC). As leader of the NACWC, Stewart spoke out against segregation, discrimination, and racist stereotypes.



In 1961 she became a member of the Toledo Board of Community Relations, which worked to improve race relations in the city, and to ensure enforcement of civil-rights legislation.

Stewart's civic activities eventually took on an international dimension: in 1952 she was appointed as an American delegate to the International Conference of Women of the World, held in Athens, Greece. She subsequently spent time during the 1950s touring as a goodwill ambassador for the United States; in 1954 one such U.S. State Department tour took her zand Sri Lanka.

In 1963 she was appointed to the United States commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

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Hands by Torrey Maldonado

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The Truth Contributor

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TARTA... continued from page 12

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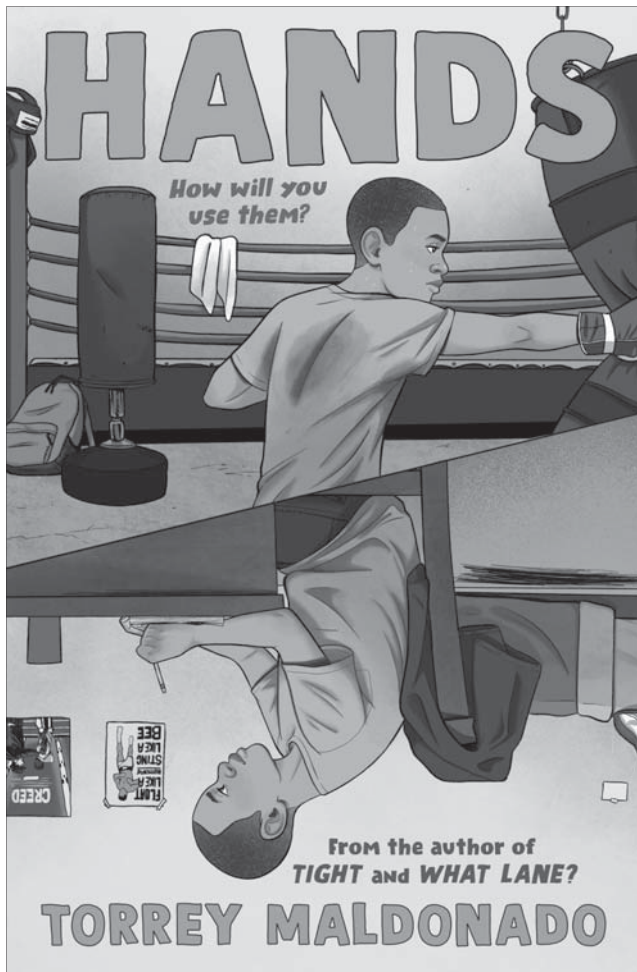
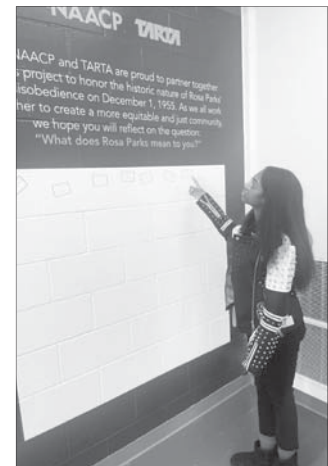
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We want YOU to join our team! Toledo Lucas County Public Library (TLCPL), a public library that inspires lifelong learning and provides universal access to a broad range of information, ideas, and entertainment, is seeking candidates to fill Custodian positions. Please visit Employment Opportunities I Toledo Lucas County Public Library ([toledolibrary.org/jobs](https://www.toledolibrary.org/jobs)) to review the full details and to apply.

SHERIFF MICHAEL NAVARRE LUCAS COUNTY

*****PRESS RELEASE*****

Press Release Information

February 3, 2023

Citizen Police Academy

The Lucas County Sheriff's Office is implementing its first Citizen Police Academy. The goal of the academy is to provide transparency in how we train our officers and to develop lasting relationships within the community in which we serve. Classes will run from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM for ten consecutive weeks, beginning on Wednesday, March 1, 2023. Eight classes will take place at the Springfield Township Hall, two will be held in downtown Toledo.

There is no fee associated with attending the academy, but class size will be limited. Anyone interested in attending can download an application via the Lucas County Sheriff's Office webpage, www.lucascountysheriff.org, under the Employment Opportunities tab. The deadline for completed applications is Friday, February 17, 2023. Questions regarding the Citizen Police Academy can be forwarded to Community Service Deputy. Aalea Robertson at 419-461-7877 or via email at arobertson@co.lucas.oh.us.

INVITATION FOR BIDS LEAD HAZARD ELIMINATION IFB#23-B002

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive bids for **Lead Hazard Elimination in accordance with IFB#23-B002**. Received in accordance with law until **February 21, 2023 at 3:00 PM ET**. For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ABATEMENT SERVICES RFP#23-R002

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS TARTA CENTRAL CAMPUS BUS WASHING SYSTEM PROJECT

The Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) seeks bids from qualified contractors to provide a 2-bay bus washing system for its Central Avenue campus, 1127 W. Central Avenue, in Toledo, Ohio. The scope of work for this project includes but is not limited to demolition and removal of old systems and installation of two (2) brush type bus washing systems. For a complete scope of work, visit tarta.com/news-alerts/tarta-business/open-procurements.

TARTA has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal for this project of 11.65%.

Sealed bids must be received by TARTA on or before February 15, 2023 at 2 p.m., via sealed envelope or email. Mailed bid packages should be clearly marked with the bidder's full name, address and telephone number and "TARTA BUS WASH PROJECT," and sent to:

Sophie Giviyan-Kermani, Chief Financial Officer
Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority
1127 W. Central Avenue
PO Box 792
Toledo, OH 43697-0792

Email submissions should be marked with the same information and sent to sgiviyan@tarta.com.

TARTA officially distributes bidding documents from the Purchasing Department. Copies from any other source are not considered official copies. Only those vendors who obtain bidding documents from the Purchasing Department are guaranteed to receive addendum information if such information is issued.

Questions about this project should be directed to John E. Jones, Director of Maintenance, jojones@tarta.com or phone 419-245-5234.

Call to place your ad:

419-243-0007

www.TheTruthToledo.com

Pan African Flag Raised at One Government Center

The Truth Staff

For the sixth year, the Pan African flag has been hoisted over One Government Center to commemorate Black History Month. The flag raising took place on February 1 in frigid temperatures but the speeches acknowledging the month and the flag took place in the relative comfort of the Lucas County Commissioners' chambers.

"We still have battles; we are fighting but it's important that we stay connected," said Crystal Harris Darnell, the Lucas County director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, as she started the round of commemorative addresses.

Washington Muhammad, a founder of the Community Solidarity Response Network, introduced Rahwae Shuman, an educator connected to CSRN, to speak of the guiding principles of Kwanzaa such as unity, self determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith.

"We still haven't found our solution to the 'Negro problem,'" said Shuman. "We need unity in our families, we need self determination as we see a government in Florida telling us how to tell our story." Shuman challenged the Black community to "get education, we should go from being the least educated people in America, to the most educated in this year."

Rev. Willie Perryman, president of the Toledo Chapter NAACP, offered a prayer calling for "truth, justice, balance, equity, harmony and inclusion."

Tracee Perryman, PhD, director of the Center of Hope Family Services, sang a rousing rendition of the Black National Anthem.

Then Lucas County Commissioner Pete Gerken introduced the painful subject of the backwards steps that have occurred in parts of the nations with respect to equity and inclusion.

"I come to this not so much in a position of celebration as much as in a position of anger," said Gerken. "The Klan mentality has risen in certain state legislatures in the South." Noting, in particular, the recent responses to the teaching of African American history, Gerken said: "We can't teach history – the high points and the low points." Gerken said it's all right for White people to feel uncomfortable about things that have happened in this nation's history.

"It's time for a little disturbance," he added.

Gerken's points were amplified by his fellow Lucas County Commission-

... continued on page 6



Crystal Harris Darnell opens the BHM celebration



Ready to raise the flag



Rahwae Shuman speaks of Kwanzaa principles

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