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**28th Annual YWCA Milestones: A Tribute to Women**

*Seated: Erin Baker; Kendra Smith; Tina Butts; Cecilia Adams, PhD; Mary Sabin  
 Standing: Lauren Clarke; Lori Hauser; Ambrea Mikolajczyk; Kristi Hoffman; Amy Chang*

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# A More Excellent Choice

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

*One of the misconceptions is that we get to better solutions by fighting for our side better. That's not true. But [it is] really by listening to and valuing different perspectives that we find better solutions.*

– Wendy Smith



Gun violence became the leading cause of death among children and teens in the United States in 2020, surpassing car accidents, according to a report from the University of Michigan. Unfortunately, Toledo is no exception to the rising tide of violence and homicides nationwide.

So, hiring the next police chief would be a life-and-death decision made under extreme scrutiny Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz would have to make while “doing the people’s business.”

The pressure from The Blade and the police unions demanded hiring someone from inside the Toledo Police Department, thus maintaining the status quo. Former Toledo mayors Bell, Finkbeiner, and Owens, and members of the Coalition for Peaceful Toledo Neighborhoods, looking through rose-colored glasses and anchored in a cognitive bias of the past, emphasized a nostalgic return to the good-old-days to solve problems in today’s vastly different world.

The NAACP and other African American community organizations lobbied for change and the desire to approach the violence problem with fresh eyes, not jaded by the psychological blinders we clothe ourselves with to protect our egos.

How would the (thus far) lame-duck mayor respond to the clash of demands in such a high-stakes crisis?

After sitting in on the first round of interviews, I recommended David Taylor, a decorated African American safety professional who oversaw a District of Columbia police force that realized a record drop in homicides, down to a 40-year low.

Taylor gets it! His responses revealed his extensive experience and knowledge on the ground among our most challenged, underserved neighborhoods. Taylor also correctly observed that “residents are asking for a new strategy” and that there is insufficient “connectivity” between the community, residents, and law enforcement.

I found Taylor’s approaches to a new strategy insightful and compelling. He was equipped to immediately devote effort to the Toledo Po-

lice Department’s stifling morale problem. He also recognized, as I do, that crime is not just a law enforcement problem but requires the engagement of our social services community in building thriving neighborhoods.

Most of all, Taylor’s experience and strategy promised a new mindset to those looking for a change: “Neighborhood safety belongs to the whole community, not just the city government,” he stressed. I found Taylor’s approach sustainable to making long-term progress in the critical need to balance a focus on public safety and increasing violent crime while simultaneously investing in and addressing the root causes of violence, including implicit and structural bias in the criminal justice system.

Nevertheless, Mayor Kapszukiewicz hired Interim Chief Michael C. Troendle as the permanent Chief of the Toledo Police Department after “more feedback from more people and more anguish over the choice than any other decision” he has made as mayor.

Notably, Troendle was not the choice of the Toledo Police Patrolmen’s Association union either but has had a storied career and a sterling track record in developing and implementing Smart Policing Initiatives. He has also led TPD’s shift to Intelligence-led Policing, transforming the organization’s operations and how it addresses crime.

Troendle purports to be the architect and administrator of the late Chief Derrick Diggs’ innovative Smart-On-Crime model that decreased homicides and violent crime in Toledo each year of Diggs’ leadership. Diggs took the data-driven 21st-century policing model to Fort Meyers, Florida, where he turned around a failed police department that lacked discipline and was rife with corruption, favoritism and racial problems.

Under Diggs, Fort Myers experienced several straight years of reduced violent crime and lowered the crime rate to the lowest it’s ever been. However, Diggs’ greatest attribute in Toledo and Florida was his ability to strengthen police-community relations.

Kapszukiewicz spoke with Diggs two times after Kral’s retirement announcement. “I seriously considered [hiring Diggs as TPD chief], and there would have been no application process whatsoever. No national search. It was Diggs’ job if he wanted it. But then his illness got worse,” the mayor said.

More importantly, Troendle talked about looking up to Diggs as a role model and describing him as “the best Police Chief TPD has ever had” in interviews. Troendle is also the only candidate willing to move his residence inside the City of Toledo’s geographical boundaries.

It is also noteworthy that under Troendle, there have not been any homicides in Toledo in over two months, which is the most prolonged period between homicides since before the COVID pandemic.

In addition, the word on the street is that the police union is terrified and opposed Troendle’s hiring because they worry he would discipline their members more aggressively than under previous leadership.

Yet, in a decision that seemed to pit insiders against outsiders and the

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Chief Michael Troendle

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## Community Calendar

April 11

Toledo Branch NAACP General Membership Meeting; 7 pm; Every second Tuesday of the month; Jerusalem Baptist Church

# The Rule of Law ... Selective Amnesia?

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

Glorious and high sounding as it professes to be, the new shibboleth in American politics is to banter around in the news media the phrase, "The rule of law."

As has been said, ad nauseum, in the coverage of the pending charges against the former president: "no one is above the law!" or "America has no kings" or "We are a nation of laws, not of men."

In a democracy, those utterances reflect the principles of the Founding Fathers of America who enshrined into their time-honored writings the fact that each American should receive the equal benefit of the law, no matter their station in life, either humble or heroic or rich or powerful.

As we used to say, "even Steven" for everyone! Basically and supposedly meaning that if you steal, defraud, rob or cheat you can expect (or should expect) that if found out, you should expect to be held to the canons of law then in effect as to where the crime was committed and appropriate punishment thereafter.

But, somewhere along the historical lines of development from the time of 1619 to the present date, there was a departure, a rupture or a re-evaluation of those vaunted principles of equity and justice in America.

For in that departure of treating all people equal and fairly before the law, White America caught a bad case of dementia and through deliberate legal enactments and enforcements, those highly cherished principles of jurisprudence took a brutal butt kicking and the butts were Black Americans and their progeny.

The Founding Fathers and their descendants took it upon themselves to artfully and surreptitiously carve out exceptions to those principles and decided to reserve the rule of law for the benefit of White Americans and their progeny.

Then and even now, the rule of law is invoked to try to maintain the image that all should benefit from due process, freedom from arbitrary and capricious judicial conduct, and this includes the rich and powerful who may deem themselves as untouchables from the reach of the law.

Imagine if you could, the Founding Fathers having the courage of their bold statements to truly implement the statement that all mankind is created in the image of God and thus are valuable and are of infinite worth.

If the rule of law was so precious, then why did not Black Americans receive every benefit of doubt including equal protection of the laws when White America lawlessness wreaked havoc on their lives and subjected them to harsh and unequal penalties, including lynchings, deaths, and theft of their property?

Too many judicial fiats by the United States Supreme Court, held that that the Black man had no rights that a White man had to respect (the Dred Scott decision), and that slavery received judicial approval.

The concept of the rule of law being preeminent in that its power was all

*Perryman... continued from page 2*

status quo against change, Kapszukiewicz creatively shifted an either/or choice to a both/and solution.

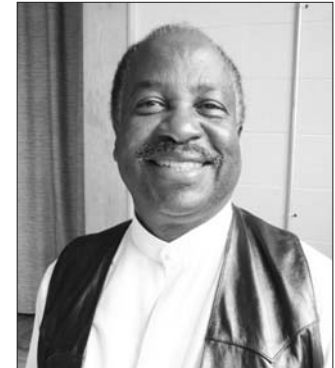
Even in a divided world of extreme political polarization, Chief Michael C. Troendle deserves to show us what he can do as Toledo's Chief of Police.

While the decision may not make everyone ecstatic, it is one all Toledoans can live with. Thus, Troendle's hiring is the superior selection among many remarkable candidates and several competing constituency demands.

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

powerful and ever present, was a joking nullity for Black Americans who constantly had to protest by their shed blood and loud voices that the rule of law was unevenly applied.

The concept of the rule of law is now being dusted off and is lavishly applied to show that Donald Trump is just a simple citizen as we all are, and he is not entitled to special treatment because of his former status or present power to influence millions of Americans who are seemingly willing to disregard that rule when it suits their purpose.



Lafe Tolliver

It makes you wonder that how could American society or its politicians not see straight and realize that for millions of Black Americans, the rule of law played favorites and when need be, it can be hushed up altogether.

When Black Americans were being denied basic voting rights, subjected to bank red lining, discrimination in public accommodations and hostile police aggressions, there was not much talk about how the rule of law was being prostituted in those cases.

The concept of the rule of law has a spotty and disgraceful history in terms of being a guiding and power beacon for both the courts and legislatures to follow because White America did not want to acknowledge their common humanity with Black Americans and much less afford them the basic civilities that they have enjoyed.

So, when you hear certain politicians wax about the soothing language of the rule of law being the polestar of American jurisprudence, just remember that institutions are no more than a reflection of the myriad personalities that control their mission statements and if those personalities disparage or devalue the rule of law, we all suffer for it.

But yet. When it is convenient to trot out that phrase as if somehow it has been in fair play all along and for everyone, you are being taken for a ride.

Don't believe the hype. Examine who is saying it and what it is being said about. Donald Trump deserves to be held accountable for his long sordid history of foul play but yet somehow the rule of law was not used to spank him long before now?

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

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# Give Us A Call!

By June Boyd  
Guest Editorial

The Coalition for Peaceful Neighborhoods, an organization consisting of

four former mayors, local ministers, grieving mothers and citizens interested in an end to the violence in our city.

This is not a political issue, it is about murder, and too many young people dying. As a member of the coalition, I applaud Mayor Wade Kap-szukiewicz and his "end to the violence" stance which includes violence interrupters in the neighborhoods. However, the lack of response to the coalition from the mayor and Toledo city council members is a mystery.

There is no time for positioning and suspicion and who is going to get the credit. This coalition is not about Carty Finkbeiner, Mike Bell, Paula Hicks-Hudson or Donna Owens. It is whether or not those concerned with what has happened to our city can come together with solutions.

Even though the shootings may have subsided, across this nation people are hurting and saddened with grief beyond belief relative to the violence, continued school shootings, too many guns and "who's next?"

Remember, there is power in numbers, and many people have realized the impact of what the coalition's mission is. Some of the most prominent ministers in our city have come forth with resolutions supporting the coalition and its agenda. That represents a large number of residents throughout this community. In addition, mayors from surrounding cities have offered support.

The real victory will come when the city of Toledo's administration will "give us a call" and unite in working together.



June Boyd

These problems go far beyond isolated shootings and murder. Solutions have been presented relative to parenting, mental health issues, block watch, neighborhood revitalization, stricter gun laws, quality education, more recreation and jobs for our youth and above all, support of our Toledo Police.

# CDC: Autism Diagnosis Among Black Children Increasing

By Associated Press

For the first time, autism is being diagnosed more frequently in Black and Hispanic children than in white kids in the U.S., the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Thursday.

Among all U.S. eight-year-olds, one in 36 had autism in 2020, the CDC estimated. That's up from one in 44 two years earlier.

But the rate rose faster for children of color than for white kids. The new estimates suggest that about three percent of Black, Hispanic and Asian or Pacific Islander children have an autism diagnosis, compared with about two percent of white kids.

That's a contrast to the past, when autism was most commonly diagnosed in white kids — usually in middle- or upper-income families with the means to go to autism specialists. As recently as 2010, white kids were deemed 30 percent more likely to be diagnosed with autism than Black children and 50 percent more likely than Hispanic children.

Experts attributed the change to improved screening and autism services for all kids, and to increased awareness and advocacy for Black and Hispanic families.

The increase is from "this rush to catch up," said David Mandell, a University of Pennsylvania psychiatry professor.

Still, it's not clear that Black and Hispanic children with autism are being helped as much as their white counterparts. A study published in January found that found Black and Hispanic kids had less access to autism services than white children during the 2017-2018 academic year.

Autism is a developmental disability caused by differences in the brain. There are many possible symptoms, many of which overlap with other diagnoses. They can include delays in language and learning, social and emotional withdrawal, and an unusual need for routine. Scientists believe genetics can play a factor, but there is no known biological reason why it would be more common in one racial or ethnic group than another.

For decades, the diagnosis was given only to kids with severe problems com-  
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# The YWCA 2023 Milestones Awards at the Glass City Center

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

The YWCA of Northwest Ohio recently hosted the 28th annual Milestones Awards Ceremony, honoring women who have made significant contributions in various fields and have served as role models for others. The ceremony featured 10 honorees from different industries, including education, government, business, arts, sciences, services, volunteerism and an inaugural woman on the rise category. Each honoree shared her inspiring story of success and determination, leaving a lasting impression on the audience.

As the audience stepped into the luxurious grand ballroom of the newly remodeled Glass City Center, we were greeted by a symphony of sounds - the clinking of champagne glasses, the rustling of dresses and the melodic chatter of guests. The air was thick with the scent of fresh flowers, and the room was bathed in a golden glow, courtesy of the sun streaming in through the sparkling glass windows.

All around, the guests were decked out in their finest threads, with vibrant spring colors as far as the eye could see. The honorees, in particular, were a sight to behold - their ensembles fierce and fitting to each one's own personality.

As the honorees were seated on stage, I couldn't help but feel a sense of pride and accomplishment wash over the room. After all, it wasn't every day that the best-in-class women in Toledo are honored for their contributions to society, especially at an event as prestigious as the YWCA women's luncheon. The small business colleagues, family, and friends who had come in support, were all buzzing with excitement, their faces lit up with joy and admiration.

**Diane Larson of 13abc** news took to the stage, her voice ringing out loud and clear, punctuated by the occasional burst of applause and laughter from the audience. She introduced **Lisa McDuffie, president and CEO of YWCA of NE Ohio and 2011 Honoree -Woman of Distinction**. McDuffie spoke about the rewarding work the YWCA does for women in need and the importance of women supporting one another, of lifting each other up and celebrating each other's successes. And as I looked around the room, I realized that she was right - there was something truly special about this gathering of like-minded women and their colleagues, all dressed to impress and all here to honor each other's achievements.

**Amy Chang, Honoree for the Arts**, principal cello of the Toledo Symphony Orchestra and adjunct professor at the University of Toledo, stood ready to share her story.

As she began to speak, her passion for music was evident in every word she uttered. She spoke about the transformative power of music, and how it had helped her to connect with others and express her deepest emotions.

As a soloist who has performed in countries all around the world, including Taiwan, China, Japan, Canada, and the USA, Chang has a wealth of experience to draw from. But it is her work as an adjunct professor at the University of Toledo and her sought-after private studio lessons that truly showcase her commitment to passing on her knowledge and passion to the next generation of musicians.



Through her teaching, Amy instills in her students the understanding that playing music is not just a skill, but a non-verbal language that can express the full spectrum of emotions. She encourages them to be courageous and vulnerable, using their instruments to tell their own stories and connecting with others on a deeper level. As Amy finished her speech, the audience erupted into applause, a fitting tribute to a woman who had dedicated her life to the transformative power of music.

Next to the podium was **Ambrea Mikolajczyk, Honoree for Business**, businesswoman and owner of ARK Restoration and Construction. Dressed in a beautiful lilac suit, Mikolajczyk stepped up to the podium with a quiet confidence, ready to share her story with the audience.

Her journey had begun at the University of Toledo College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, where she had pursued a career in pharmaceutical sales. But after marrying her husband Kevin in 2005, the pair decided to invest in real estate, purchasing two fixer-uppers in West Toledo in 2007.

Through hard work and determination, Ambrea and Kevin learned about products and techniques from manufacturers, hiring contractors to do the work they couldn't handle themselves. And as their knowledge and skills grew, so did their real estate portfolio, which now comprises nearly 250 units valued at \$20 million.

But Mikolajczyk was quick to credit her team of 22 real estate and construction professionals for the success of ARK Restoration and Construction. Together, they have renovated several structures throughout northwest Ohio and helped numerous clients with their homes, businesses, and commercial builds.

And the recent announcement that ARK would be the co-developer of the Spitzer Arcade and Nicholas Buildings, a \$1.78M project that will preserve Toledo's important historic architecture, was a testament to the company's continued growth and success.

I couldn't help but feel a sense of overwhelming gratitude towards the people who had helped her get to where she was today filling the room as she tearfully thanked her parents for their love and sacrifice. Her kids, colleagues, family,

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and friends - they were all there in the audience, their faces beaming with pride and love.

I caught sight of her children, their eyes shining with wonder and admiration, and I felt a fierce surge of maternal love well up inside the mothers watching. Seeing Mikolajczyk's kids there, witnessing this moment of recognition for their mother's hard work and dedication, was a tender moment to remember. As Mikolajczyk finished her speech, the audience was filled with awe at her journey and accomplishments. She had shown that with hard work, determination, and a strong team, anyone could achieve their dreams and make a positive impact on their community.

As the awards ceremony continued, it was time for Mary Sabin to take the stage and share her story. **Mary Sabin, Honoree for Education**, is a skilled fundraiser and the vice president of Institutional Advancement at Lourdes University.

The room hushed as she approached the podium, and everyone held their breath in anticipation of what she might say.

Sabin began to speak, her voice shaking with emotion, as she recounted the harrowing experience of suffering a stroke just a year prior. She described the fear and confusion that had washed over her as she struggled to come to terms with what had happened to her body.

But then, Sabin spoke of the silver lining that had emerged from this dark cloud. She spoke of the outpouring of love and support she had received from her friends and family, and of the newfound appreciation she had for the value of true friendship.

As Sabin spoke, tears began to stream down the faces of many in the room. Her story of resilience and strength in the face of adversity touched a deep chord within each of us, reminding us of the fragility of life and the importance of cherishing the moments we have with our loved ones.

Sabin's words were a powerful reminder of the importance of balance in life - of taking care of ourselves and our relationships, even as we strive for success in our careers and other pursuits. And as she stepped away from the podium, embraced by the warm applause and admiration of the audience, it was clear that her message had touched the hearts of everyone in the room.

Next, **Cecelia M. Adams, PhD, Honoree for Government**, stood tall and lovely in red as she took to the podium to address the audience. Her dedication to serving the community for over 35 years is not only impressive, but also inspirational. Her journey began as a teacher in the Toledo Public School system and later transitioned to serving on the school board. She then made the leap to City Council where she continued to make a difference in the lives of young people.

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As she spoke, the audience listened in awe of her accomplishments. She shared her passion for advocating for youth, particularly in the development of the City's new department of Parks and Youth Services. Her commitment to securing funding for the Police Athletic League to build a new multipurpose field, and her sponsorship of a resolution declaring racism a public health crisis was truly admirable.

Adams' mother also received the YWCA award for Sciences in 2011, making it a family affair. **Romules Durant, EdD, superintendent of Toledo Public Schools**, expressed his gratitude for Adams' tireless efforts in education and government. The room was filled with a sense of pride and admiration for this remarkable woman.

As the afternoon went on it was time for **Lori Hauser, Honoree for Government**, to grace the podium. Lori Hauser has been the CEO and Executive Director of Imagination Station over 20 years. During her tenure, she has overseen the museum's transformation into a thriving community resource that has welcomed over 3 million visitors since opening.

Hauser shared that Imagination Station was able to pivot quickly during the pandemic and provide virtual content for the community. They were able to offer science-based virtual field trips and science kits to students learning from home.

Under Hauser's leadership, Imagination Station has become an integral part of the Toledo community, offering science-based education and programming for children and adults alike. She credits the museum's success to the dedicated staff and volunteers who share her passion for science education. As Hauser stepped down from the podium, the audience erupted into applause, inspired by her leadership and commitment to science education.

As the awards ceremony continued, it was time for **Tina Butts, Honoree for Social Services**, to take the stage and share her story. Tina Butts took the stage, radiating confidence and grace in spring coral. She began by sharing her personal journey of helping a family member with mental health difficulties and how it led her to become a beacon of hope for those struggling with similar issues. As the owner and CEO of Here's My Turning Point treatment center and T-Bonds, Butts has dedicated her life to helping individuals get back on track and regain control of their lives. Butt's sister Suzette Cowell and past 2019 Business Honoree, and Lucas County Board of Commissioner President, Pete Gerken, also congratulated "their" sister for her hard work and dedication. "Although Suzette is your real sister, I'm your brother-from-another-mother, -as you say, and I'm so proud of you," said Gerken smiling.

Butts' passion for making a difference in the community doesn't stop there. She also co-founded "The Movement," a group of grassroots advocates who are committed to empowering people by providing resources and support to help them overcome obstacles and achieve their goals. Through their efforts, they have helped many individuals in Toledo and beyond to remove barriers and create a more sustainable and productive life.

As Butts spoke, the audience was moved by her strength and determination to make a positive impact. Her words resonated with everyone, reminding them of the importance of compassion, resilience, and the power of community. The room burst with applause, as everyone honored this remarkable woman who dedicates her life to serving others.

The energy in the room was electric as **Kristi Hoffman, Honoree for Volunteerism**, took the stage to accept her award. As a trailblazing host and executive producer of the first PBS TV segment of its kind in the 90s, Kristi had already made a name for herself as a pioneer in the media industry. Today, she continues to inspire and inform as the host and producer of the compelling business and lifestyle TV show "Business/Life360 with Kristi K".

As Hoffman spoke at the podium, her passion for her work and her dedication to her craft were palpable. She shared stories of a powerful and inspiring experience, reminding us all of the importance of pursuing our passions and using our talents to make a difference in the world. Her commitment to excellence and her tireless work ethic are a testament to the power of perseverance and determination.

As she stepped away from the podium, Hoffman was met with applause and admiration from the audience. Her message of empowerment and self-belief had resonated deeply with everyone in the room, and it was clear that she had left a lasting impact on all of us.

Then it was time to honor the recipients of the new category - the honorees for Women on the Rise. The three honorees, **Erin Baker, Lauren Clarke, and Kendra Smith**, sat together in a video discussing what this inaugural and historic moment means to them.

As each woman took the microphone to share her story. The room was filled with the sound of cheers and applause from the audience. Erin Baker's alma mater, St. Ursula Academy, had brought over 10 students to attend, and they, along with her TLCPL colleagues, cheered wildly as she spoke about the challenges her family had faced and how they taught her to always persevere on her journey to success. Baker led a system-wide model of servant leadership

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YWCA 2023... continued from page 6

called, "The BIG IDEA," a program for library staff to build, improve and grow in areas of inclusion, diversity, equity and access.

Lauren Clarke was also met with thunderous applause from her colleagues at Owens Corning, who had come out in force to support their fellow coworker. Clarke is a strategic marketing leader for world-renowned Owens Corning. She is mindful of engaging the next generation of thought leaders, committed to sustainability and innovation.

She seamlessly executed cutting-edge marketing campaigns that are at the forefront of industry trends. Clarke's work translates into impact and the results of her efforts show in the company's growth and success. As she spoke about the importance of mentorship and the role it had played in her own success, Clarke's passion and dedication shone through, inspiring everyone in the room.

Kendra Smith, too, had a host of colleagues from Bon Secours Mercy Health who had come out to celebrate her achievements. As she spoke about the impact that her work is having on the community, it was clear that Smith's dedication to serving others is the driving force behind her success. Smith has led the charge in helping local health systems invest more than \$60M in social determinants of health initiatives and developed more than \$25M in affordable housing projects for those most in need.

As the three women stood together on stage, surrounded by their mentors and families, it was clear that they were representative of the countless young women watching from the audience, eager to follow in their footsteps, and one



The 2023 Milestones Honorees with Lisa McDuffie - center

day be on the rise themselves. Their stories of perseverance, dedication, and hard work were a testament to the power of determination and the importance of never giving up on your dreams.

As the ceremony drew to a close and the women each descended from the podium to the sounds of cheers and applause, it was clear that they had all left a lasting impact on the hearts and minds of everyone in attendance.

The YWCA of NW Ohio Milestones honorees represent the best of Toledo, Ohio. Through their dedication, resilience, and hard work, they have made significant contributions to their respective fields and to the community. Their stories inspire and motivate many to aim higher and strive for excellence. The YWCA Milestones event serves as a reminder that women can achieve great things and make a positive impact on the world.

CDC... continued from page 4

municating or socializing and those with unusual, repetitive behaviors. But around 30 years ago, the term became shorthand for a group of milder, related conditions known as "autism spectrum disorders."

There are no blood or biologic tests for it. It's diagnosed by making judgments about a child's behavior.

To estimate how common autism is, the CDC checks health and school records in 11 states and focuses on 8-year-olds, because most cases are diagnosed by that age. Other researchers have their own estimates, but experts say the CDC's estimate is the most rigorous and is considered the gold standard.

The overall autism rate has been rising for decades and it remains far more common among boys than girls. But the latest study also found, for the first time, that more than one percent of eight-year-old girls had been diagnosed with it.

A second CDC report issued Thursday looked at how common autism was in four-year-olds. That research is important because diagnoses are increasingly happening at younger ages, said Kelly Shaw, who oversees the CDC autism tracking project.

Black children with autism have historically been diagnosed at later ages than their white peers, said Rose Donohue, a psychiatrist at Washington University. But the study of four-year-olds likewise found that autism was less common in white kids in 2020 than it was among Black, Hispanic and Asian and Pacific Islander children.

The four-year-olds, however, were less likely to have been evaluated for autism than kids in the past. That was likely due to interruptions in child care and medical services during that first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, Shaw said.

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# Mosaic Family Zone Cuts Ribbon for Early Learning Center

*The Truth Staff*

"Eighty-two percent of kids in Toledo are not ready for kindergarten," said David Mosaic as kids and their parents from the Old South Toledo neighborhood prepared to cut the ribbon for the Mosaic Family Zone's Early Learning Center.

The Early Learning Center, which was fully licensed at the beginning of February, is designed to decrease that 82 percent figure and give kids in the Old South neighborhood the opportunity to be fully prepared for kindergarten when they reach age five.

Currently, said Kim Schulz, director of the Center, there are 20 kids enrolled – four infants, six toddlers and 10 preschoolers. The Center has a capacity of 50 and the staff is sorting through applications now.

"Only 25 percent of kids in this neighborhood can attend a quality preschool day care," said Kaiser. "We will double that capacity."

Mosaic had raised one million dollars in order to renovate the building at 860 Orchard Street, the former St. James School – all through private funds.

One of the principal fundraisers in this effort was the Historic South Initiative and Chris Amato, the president of the Initiative, was present for last week's ribbon cutting.

"A priority for us is education," said Amato before the ribbon cutting. "This is a resource and a catalyst to revive this area. We honestly believe that if we can reach kids that will revive the area."

"We know that offering high-quality, standards-based education and access to family supports is critical to revitalizing the Old South End. We are pleased to support the efforts of the Mosaic Family Zone to ensure that all children and families in the Old South End have access to opportunities that will help them thrive," said Amato prior to the event.

*... continued on page 10*



*Kim Schulz in the pre-school classroom*



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Mosaic Family Zone... continued from page 8

The Mosaic Early Learning Center has been under development for more than 18 months. The center will feature lower teacher to student ratios, parent education and a focus on Social Emotional Learning using the Conscious Discipline curriculum.

The Mosaic Family Zone opened the first phase of its education program, Baby University, 12 years ago and has graduated over 900 parents during that time. The three-step process includes reading to children every day, learning to discipline in productive ways, getting appropriate healthcare and healthy coping with family stress.

Kelly Kaiser, executive director of Baby University spoke of the efforts the Center will utilize to achieve and maintain quality including: lowering student to teacher ratios, paying better wages to attract the best teachers and

scholarships for families

"We know children born into low-income families start the first day of kindergarten about 60% behind middle class students on average across the United States," Kelly Kaiser said earlier in the week. "Our approach is to work with parents from the point of pregnancy forward to help them stabilize the family, follow best practices in preparing children for success and get them started on a 20+ year pipeline of family support centered on the students."

The Mosaic Family Zone exists to ensure every family in the Old South End has access to services which are both wholistic and longitudinal; providing everything a family needs over a 20-plus year continuum. The major focus is to beat poverty over a generation through education. Some examples include help with rent, utilities, one to one support for GED, child and teen mentoring.



David Kaiser and parents and students



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Join us for **The Fair Housing Summit** on the State of Fair Housing in Lucas & Wood Counties

**Friday, April 28, 2023**  
**9 - 11:30 a.m.**

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325 N. Michigan St. Toledo, OH 43604

Please RSVP at [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

For more info, please contact Logyn Taylor-Thompson at The Fair Housing Center 419-243-6163 ext. 133



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



# Get the Good Fat

By Patrice Powers-Barker, OSU Extension, Lucas County  
The Truth Contributor

Even though "fat" has a reputation for being unhealthy, there are both healthy and unhealthy options in our foods. The body needs dietary fat for:

- Storing energy
- Supporting cell growth and function
- Protecting organs
- Keeping warm
- Absorbing some nutrients and vitamins
- Fat also adds flavor and texture to food.

Not all fats are the same. Some healthy dietary fats are essential and help prevent some diseases. Other types of fat are not so healthy and increase the risk for disease. To figure out the details of what your body needs, talk to your health care provider or a registered dietitian nutritionist. Our health and wellness rely on many factors including the food we eat. The recommendations below are about dietary fat in food.

There are four main fats found in food: saturated fat, trans fats, monounsaturated fat and polyunsaturated fat. Saturated fat and trans fat are unhealthy and might be labeled "bad" while monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats are healthy and considered "good".

### Limit Unhealthy Fats

Saturated fat is typically found in animal products and tropical oils that are solid at room temperature. Some of those food products include: processed meats, poultry with skin, lard, dairy products like butter, cream, whole milk, cream sauces, oils from coconuts, palm fruits, or palm kernels, foods baked or fried using saturated fats.

Unfortunately, saturated fats can add up quickly in foods that com-

...continued on page 12



## A Mental Health Moment

# Do Men Feel Emotional After a Break-Up?

By Bernadette Joy Graham, MA, LPCC, CCHT, Licensed Mental Health Therapist

The Truth Contributor

Society has deemed women more emotional than men for centuries. It caused women to be blocked from participating in many fields of practice such as law, medicine, and certainly politics. Women have stood the test of time and have displayed their abilities in all fields regardless of the make-up of their uterus and hormone deficiencies as many men find as humorous.



By now women have proven their strong presence of intelligence, wisdom and the ability to carry and deliver a child and care for that child as they return to their professions as doctors, professors, politicians, lawyers and many more from which they were previously banned.

So, are women more emotional than men? I decided long ago not to practice or specialize in family, couples or marriage counseling. Not that I did not feel it was needed but personally families and relationships are a bit complicated, ok too complicated, because there is always more than one side to a story. In practice back in graduate school, it felt as if the therapist had to pick a side... "should I leave my husband, should I tell my wife I cheated, or my parents are fighting all the time and I feel responsible." Just after one role play in class, I thought long and hard about the effects of this aftermath on people's lives.

I specialize in individual counseling for those 13 and older yet I still get calls and emails asking for family or couples counseling. It is especially hard to say no to a client I have already been treating whom comes to a place in their life where they feel couples counseling would help and I refer, refer, refer. Why? Well first off it is not in my scope of practice and secondly, whether man or woman I always get asked the question do you think they still love me? Or the big one? "Why do men seem like they don't even care after you break-up?"

I answer none of these questions in session and I certainly will not answer them on this platform but, realistically, as a human being feelings are expressed as emotions and be it man or woman they will be expressed; now exactly how, I do not know. In theory, we see it in movies and even social media, the man just seems to disappear and move on with his life and the woman breaks into pieces, loses her mind, no her "damn" mind, and takes more time to recover than the man.

In an article published on psychnet.com, the author suggest that men really feel more pain than women. His evidence is posed from a team

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Licensed Professional  
Clinical Counselor  
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*Mental Health Moment...continued from page 11*

of researchers at the University of British Columbia whom conducted a study examining the ways men dealt with mental health at the end of a relationship. "The study included 47 men, 26 of them had separated or divorced and 33 were single during the study." The subjects' partners had initiated about half of the breakups.

The results showed that men did not do well emotionally due to breakups. As part of the study, the men filled out a depression tool that screens for depression. More than half showed mild to moderate depression, and of those subjects, about half stated they had experienced thoughts of suicide in the prior two weeks. "This is concerning because, according to the study's authors, divorced men are eight times more likely to die by suicide than divorced women."

Society does not give men the same space as women to express depressed emotions. As women, we can cry at will in the grocery store, have a girls night out, and eat ice cream with friends for a healing process. Behaviors that men are unable to carry out due to the expectations of their manhood. Instead, men may be seen to have a series of meaningless flings, further harm themselves by frequenting bars and drinking alcohol as they live on the male privilege that "everyone must have seen it was her not me who was wrong."

Ladies, if this is what you have been wondering, remember, this is just one study, but take a look for yourself at other studies and social media. Many of my male clients have expressed very distressing feelings and depression during and after a break-up. Regardless of whom feels what more than the next, suicide is never the answer. All of us have heard supposedly helpful thoughts from friends and family such as, "don't worry there's someone else better waiting for you," or "you deserve better," and lastly, "there are a lot of others out there whom would appreciate you better." Take a mental health moment and think about a past or current heartbreak."

We have all been there at least once and honestly once is enough, anymore can be devastating. If you are having difficulty with how you are feeling due to a break-up, seek some professional help (both men and women). Not saying that your good meaning friends and family are wrong but pain is pain and matters of the heart are just that .....of the heart, not the gender of the beating and hurting heart.

As April is Minority Health Month, utilize this time to discover or re-discover the disposition of your health, be it physical, mental, emotional or even spiritual. The gaps and sometimes lack of quality of care for minorities still exist but more programs and funding are being increased and will continue to increase while minorities utilize those services. Minorities have suffered from broken hearts not just in the ethereal sense but physically by increased heart disease and much more that take our lives at an increasing rate. While every month should focus on minority health care, it is up to us to fill those gaps and participate in care that is needed and offered so we can raise the bar in ensuring the world must acknowledge we have just as much to offer if not more to breed more success in our children, neighborhoods, education and the workplace but we must be healthy to do so.

Bernadette Graham is a Licensed Professional Mental Health Counselor, and Certified Grief Recovery Specialist. She is also a Certified Clinical Hypnotherapist. Provide feedback or reach out at graham.berna-

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*Get The Good Fat...continued from page 11*

bine ingredients. In U.S. diets, the most common sources of saturated fats are sandwiches, burgers, tacos and burritos — foods that usually combine meat and dairy products. Baked goods with butter, full-fat ice cream and other desserts are also common sources of saturated fats.

For a heart-healthy diet, you want to eat as little trans fat as possible. Read the nutrition label and the ingredients list on food labels. Look for words like hydrogenated oil or partially hydrogenated oil. Avoid foods that where a liquid oil is listed first on the ingredients list. Sources of trans fats include: processed foods like crackers, chips, and baked goods with hydrogenated oil or partially hydrogenated oil, margarines, shortening, and some fast food items such as French fries.

**The Good Fats**

Unsaturated fats are often liquid at room temperature (like vegetable oil). They are found in vegetable oils, fish, nuts, and some vegetables. There are two main types of unsaturated fat: monounsaturated fat and polyunsaturated fat. Omega-3 and Omega-6 fatty acids are two types of polyunsaturated fat that are also linked with improved heart health. A few foods and beverages are fortified with omega-3s. The nutrients have been added to eggs, milk, or soy drinks. This is often noted on the package label.

**Healthy Food Choices**

Fortunately, there are many options of foods with healthy fat that can be used instead of the previous list of foods that are high in saturated fat or trans fat. The foods that have healthy fats include: avocado, nuts like almonds, cashews, pecans, peanuts, and walnuts, peanut butter, sunflower seeds, ground flaxseeds, chia seeds, oily fish (salmon, sardines, herring, mackerel, tuna), and Canola oil, Safflower Oil, Olive oil and olives.

**Recommendations on healthy food choices**

- A nutritious eating plan doesn't mean cutting out all fat, just focus on healthier varieties. Begin with small changes.
- Substitute olive or canola oil instead of butter, margarine or shortening when cooking.
- Sprinkle a few nuts, sunflower seeds, chia seeds, or ground flaxseed on a salad, yogurt or cereal.
- Use those same seeds as ingredients in homemade baked goods such as muffins.
- Substitute a small handful of nuts for chips or other fried snacks.
- Enjoy an avocado in a salad, salsa or sandwich,

Connect with OSU Extension, Lucas County. These free, community lessons are not specific to food and nutrition but might be of interest if you have a goal to declutter the kitchen or to grow a few vegetables this year. No experience necessary. Calendar at [lucas.osu.edu](http://lucas.osu.edu)

- Friday, April 7, 12-1pm, **From Plant to Plate II**, at ProMedica Ebeid Institute, 1806 Madison Ave
- Tuesday, April 11, 6:30-7:30pm, **Clutter Free Living** at Mott Library
- Monday, April 24, 7-8pm, **Clutter Free Living** at West Toledo Library
- Monday, May 1, 1-2pm, **Clutter Free Living** at Sylvania Library
- Friday, May 5, 12-1pm, **From Plant to Plate III**, at ProMedica Ebeid Institute, 1806 Madison Ave
- Friday June 2, 12-1pm, **From Plant to Plate IV**, at ProMedica Ebeid Institute, 1806 Madison Ave

Eating foods with fats can be part of a healthier diet. Pay attention to the types of fats and also eat the recommended serving sizes. All fats, even the healthy ones are high in calories. Choosing healthy dietary fat options are recommended by the American Diabetes Association, American Dietetic Association, and the American Heart Association.

# CLASSIFIEDS

April 5, 2023

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## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ADMINISTRATOR

WGTE Public Media, Toledo, Ohio, a community licensed public TV and radio broadcaster, seeks a full-time Information Technology Administrator.

The Information Technology Administrator reports to the Director of Engineering Services and serves as a key staff member of that department with principal responsibility for the implementation, organization, and troubleshooting of the network, hardware, and underlying communications protocols and other functional areas by providing technical and organizational support for departmental networks, servers, printers, phone system, and application resources. The Information Technology Administrator provides direct and proactive support in network hardware and server operating systems and software operations.

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

WGTE Public Media provides a competitive salary and excellent benefits and is committed to attracting and retaining a diverse staff that honors your experience, perspective, and unique identity. Together, the team at WGTE strives to create and maintain working and learning environments that are inclusive, equitable, and welcoming. EOE/ADA

Send your letter and résumé to: Human Resources, P.O. Box 30, Toledo, OH 43614, or at [mailto:employment@wgte.org]employment@wgte.org. EOE/ADA

## ABUNDANT LIFE OF PERRYSBURG ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Abundant Life of Perrysburg is accepting applications for its subsidized apartment communities. Abundant Life #1 offers independent living for senior citizens 62 years of age or older and individuals 55 or older with a physical impairment. Abundant Life #2 is a supportive living complex for people 62 and older. To apply individuals must meet the age and annual income requirement of no more than \$27,250.00 for one person or \$31,150.00 for two people.

We are located in the Three Meadows subdivision near the Manor of Perrysburg. Our garden style apartments offer an open floor plan one bedroom, secured buildings with private patios and individually controlled heat and air conditioning.

We have a bus that transports all resident to area grocery stores and monthly outings. We offer exercise, worship services and variety of opportunities for our active and not so active seniors. Please call (419)874-4371 to find out more about our fabulous communities and our availability for apartments. You may also visit us on the web at [abundantlifeperrysburg.org](http://abundantlifeperrysburg.org).

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## LEGAL NOTICE TO BIDDERS TOLEDO LUCAS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY MAUMEE BRANCH LIBRARY WATER CHILLER 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 April 25, 12:00 P.M. to be opened immediately thereafter for furnishing the necessary labor, equipment, tools and materials for the water chiller replacement for Maumee 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 April 17, 2023, at Maumee Branch Library, 501 River Road, Maumee, OH 43537

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

## LEGAL NOTICE TO BIDDERS TOLEDO LUCAS COUNTY MAIN LIBRARY MAIN LIBRARY ACCESS CONTROL REPLACEMENT PROJECT

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed proposals will be received at the main Toledo Lucas County Public Main Library, 325 N. Michigan, Toledo, Ohio 43604 (Dispatch Office addressed to the Fiscal Officer) until **Tuesday May 2, 2023** 12pm to be opened immediately thereafter for furnishing the necessary labor, equipment tools and materials for replacement of the access control system and door hardware.

Copies of the bid and contract documents including instructions to bidders and specifications may be obtained at **Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Rd., Toledo, Ohio 43615, 419-385-5303**.

Bidding Documents also may be examined at Ohio plan rooms and similar locations/services and online at [orders@beckerimpressions.com](mailto:orders@beckerimpressions.com).

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 Engineer. 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 pre-bid conference/walk through will be held at **10:00 a.m. on April 11, 2023** at the **Toledo Lucas County Main Library 325 N. Michigan St., Toledo, Ohio 43604**. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is highly encouraged but is not mandatory.

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

# CLASSIFIEDS

April 5, 2023

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## SALES

WGTE Public Media has an exciting opportunity for an energetic and enthusiastic media sales representative. Candidate will build and maintain profitable relationships to secure corporate and non-profit financial support for our radio and television programs and digital content. Previous sales experience required; media sales preferred.

WGTE Public Media provides a competitive salary and excellent benefits and is committed to attracting and retaining a diverse staff that honors your experience, perspective, and unique identity. Together, the team at WGTE strives to create and maintain working and learning environments that are inclusive, equitable, and welcoming.

Send your letter and résumé to: Human Resources, P.O. Box 30, Toledo, OH 43614, or at [employment@wgte.org](mailto:employment@wgte.org). EOE/ADA

## PARK TECHNICIAN 2

"Metroparks Toledo is looking for a qualified individual for Park Technician 2 at Blue Creek Metropark. High School Diploma or equivalent. Moderate level experience in general turf, grounds and building maintenance. \$16.62/hr. Full-time with benefits. Go to [www.MetroparksToledo.com/careers](http://www.MetroparksToledo.com/careers) to review job description and apply. Applicants must submit an online application and resume. EOE"

## CITY OF MAUMEE, OHIO EXAMINATION FOR POLICE OFFICER

The Maumee Civil Service Commission announces an open non-competitive examination for the position of lateral & entry-level police officer for the City of Maumee, Ohio. Purpose of this examination is to establish an eligibility list for police officer.

**REQUIREMENTS:** Applicants shall be at least 21 years at the time of appointment (applicants who are currently (20) should apply) and less than 45 years of age on June 5, 2023, must be a citizen of the United States, have an associate degree or equivalent from an accredited college or university. The minimum equivalent is 90 quarter hours or 60 semester hours. The City of Maumee Police Division requires each candidate to obtain Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy certificate. Candidates who are not OPOTA certified will be given consideration to negotiate employment terms, such as wages.

**EXAM:** Full testing services for the position of police officer is through National Testing Network, Inc., at a cost of \$55.00 to each candidate. To fill out an application and schedule a test, go to [www.nationaltestingnetwork.com](http://www.nationaltestingnetwork.com), select Law Enforcement and sign up for the City of Maumee Police Division. Exam must be taken by Wednesday, May 31, 2023.

**SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:** A City of Maumee employment application and copies of: OPOTA Certification if applicable, College Transcripts, Birth Certificate and Driver's License must be delivered in person or by mail/email to: City of Maumee, Civil Service Commission, 400 Conant Street, Maumee, OH 43537, [hr@maumee.org](mailto:hr@maumee.org). Application and documentation must be received by June 5, 2023.

**Salary and benefits:** The current annual salary for Police Officer is \$62,860 - \$79,976 (wages and vacation maybe negotiable for lateral transfers. In addition to wages the City of Maumee offers a comprehensive benefits package to include OP&F pension, paid leave, and health care benefits to include vision and dental.

For a complete notice and/or to obtain a City of Maumee employment application, go to: [www.maumee.org](http://www.maumee.org).

The City of Maumee is an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

## POSITION AVAILABLE BILINGUAL OUTREACH WORKERS (TOLEDO AND DAYTON)



Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE), a non-profit law firm, is hiring bilingual outreach workers to help the attorneys and staff in both the Dayton and Toledo offices to extend legal services to agricultural workers and their families throughout Ohio.

Please visit ABLE's website at <https://www.ablelaw.org/careers-with-able/> to review full details for the position and apply.

*ABLE is an Equal Opportunity Employer and places a high value on diversity in our workplace, including diversity in race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, and physical ability. Applicants requiring accommodation for the interview/application process should contact the Recruitment Coordinator at [able-jobs@freelawyers.org](mailto:able-jobs@freelawyers.org).*

## PUBLIC BID ADVERTISEMENT (ELECTRONIC BIDDING) STATE OF OHIO STANDARD FORMS AND DOCUMENTS

Project # 1080-23-303  
West Mall Hardscape Improvements  
The University of Toledo  
Lucas County

**Bids Due:** 2:00pm, 4/18/2023; through the State's electronic bidding system at: <https://bidexpress.com>

**EDGE Participation Goal/Diverse Supplier Goal:** 15.0% of contract  
**Domestic steel use is required per ORC 153.011.**

**Contract** ..... **Estimated Cost**  
**General Contract** ..... **\$1,100,000.00**

**Pre-bid Meeting:** 4/4/2023, 10:00am – Plant Operations Building – Room 1000, The University of Toledo, 2925 East Rocket Drive, Toledo, OH 43606

**Walkthrough:** A walkthrough of the project site is scheduled for 4/4/2023, immediately following Pre-bid.

**Walkthrough Location:** Plant Operations Building

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

**More Info:** Project contact: The Collaborative Inc, Dave Serra, 419-242-7405, Ext 220, [dserra@tc.design](mailto:dserra@tc.design)

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FIRE PUMP REPLACEMENT AT DORRELL MANOR IFB23-B003

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Fire Pump Replacement at Dorrell Manor in accordance with IFB23-B003**. Received in accordance with law until **April 13, 2023 at 3:00 PM ET**. For documents: [www.lucasmha.org](http://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.



## NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY WHITE BOX GRANT & FACADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT

The City of Toledo, Department of Economic Development, is accepting applications from April 3 - May 3, 2023.

For guidelines and application, visit [toledo.oh.gov/business/vibrancy-initiative](http://toledo.oh.gov/business/vibrancy-initiative).

Assets Toledo... continued from page 16

The 68th graduation class included: Salimah Allen, Brenda Aranda, Christopher Barringer, Taylor Bates, Aiyona Brownlee, Richone Brown, Cheronne Curry, Fontella Fortune, Kenya Franklin, Christian Hair, Alasia Harris, Whitney Jones, Shaquell Marshall, Melody McKelvin, Tracy McNeal, Antwan Oxner, Lailanai Tompkins, Eric Thompson, Alondria Wright and Eddie Mae Wyatt.

According to Holden, Assets Toledo has graduated 3,900 individual and 89 percent of those individuals remain in business. Each graduating class must complete 13 weeks of coursework which incorporate presentations from industry professionals and access to resources. Assets Toledo has served the Toledo community for decades and provides business and entrepreneurship training in collaboration with partners and funders.

The list of partners includes: Bob Anderson of The Leadership Circle; Bob Bobek of Gilmore, Jason & Mahler, LTD; Linda Fayerweather of Toledo Lucas County Public Library; Kelvin Friesen and Marc Fruth of Saunder Manufacturing, Marcus Goodwin of House of Emmanuel, John Monaghan of VZN, Devon Gordon of Digital Guidance Professionals LLC, Ebony Carter of Small Business Development Center, Felicia Sanchez of KeyBank and Jerricka Brown of The Brown Agency. Funders include: Small Business Administration, St. Vincent/Mercy Hospitals, The Anderson's Foundation, Key Bank Foundation, Jumpstart Inc, Edward & Mildred Roth Family Foundation, Art Tatum Zone, Pathway, LISC and several individual contributors.

The Assets Toledo Board of Directors are: Steve Elzinga of Erie Orchards & Cider Mills; Moni Featchurs of Premiere Screening LLC; Jason Ridley the branch manager at Key Bank; Brent Ringenberg of Hass-Door Company; Cheryl Tyler Folsom, a retired union representative; Lurnetta Baylis and John Harris the CEO of Black Kettle Bar-B-Que; Assets Advisors: Judge Myron Duhart of Sixth District Court of Appeals and Marcus Goodwin of House of Emmanuel.



Assets graduates - Taylor Bates, Salimah Allen, Tracy McNeal and Fontella Fortune



Assets graduates - Whitney Jones, Melody McKelvin, and Eddie Mae Wyatt



Guest Speaker Sonia Flunder-McNair of SONIA Organics, LLC



Assets graduates - Christopher Barringer, Alondria Wright, Whitney Jones and Eric Thompson

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# Assets Toledo 68th Graduation Class Holds Ceremony

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

Assets Toledo welcomed family, friends, alumni and the community to celebrate the 68th graduation class on Friday, March 31, 2023. The occasion was held at Toledo Mennonite Church on Nebraska Avenue. Olivia Holden, Assets Toledo executive director, opened the occasion with an official welcome, the Assets prayer was recited and comments from Moni Featchurs, board member, were shared.

"I am so excited to see each of you. Thank you to each of the graduate's families for sharing your loved one with me and allowing us to learn from each other," said Holden,

The graduation included Sonia Flunder-McNair, CEO and founder of SONIA Organics, LLC as the guest speaker. Flunder-McNair shared tips on how to remain in business.

"It's important to incorporate wellness into your lifestyle. You must work with blinders on because your path and your life ministry are yours. Always keep the community first. Remember to have a big support system and don't over work yourself," McNair told the graduates.

Immediately following the speaker, each graduate was introduced by Holden, received a certificate with a gift and gave a personal testimony about the program.

"I saw the flyers several times and even though I worked 10 hours every day, I needed to take the time and invest in myself," sai Melody McKelvin.

"I am an active member in my community and I'm here to make a change. I feel the need for change. I see the crime and know a change must be made. I want to help the young men and women in my community," said Antwan Oxner.



Assets graduate Antwan Oxner and Assets Toledo Executive Director Olivia Holden



Moni Featchurs, Assets Toledo Board of Directors; Oliva Holden, Assets Toledo Executive Director; and Cheryl Folsom, Assets Toledo Board of Directors

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