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"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

June 28, 2023



Billie Johnson  
Oil in Linen Portrait by Leslie Adams

**THE 18TH ANNUAL AFRICAN AMERICAN FESTIVAL PRESENTS**

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ARE FREE TO THE PUBLIC TO ATTEND

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# Tending Her Grandmother's Gardens

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

The Truth Contributor

*Our mothers and grandmothers ... moving to music not yet written.*

— Alice Walker



After 49 years of peerless leadership, The Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio's President/CEO, Billie Sewell-Johnson, will retire this week.

The visionary trailblazer faced numerous obstacles and challenges to establish and lead her agency, from an initial staff of four and a budget of \$200,000 annually to almost 200 staff in 10 counties and over \$36 million.

Notably, although seldom associated with leadership, the queenly matriarch of Toledo's Black leaders credits her forward-thinking grandmother's influence for the success of her extraordinary advocacy for the well-being, safety and independence of northwest Ohio's senior citizens.

Billie Sewell-Johnson personifies and models for future generations the crucial role of humble but creative and resilient grandmothers who found the strength to persevere through their challenging circumstances, as highlighted in Alice Walker's *In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens*.

Mrs. Johnson discussed her impressive career with me and described the importance of intergenerational mentorship in fostering emerging leaders' leadership qualities, aspirations, and trajectories.

Here is our conversation.

**Perryman:** I don't think I've seen a more celebrated farewell tour than the whirlwind you've been on. It is well-deserved.

**Johnson:** I'm overwhelmed, first of all. I'm a little embarrassed, but the outpouring of love has just been remarkable. I didn't know that most of these people were paying attention to the things we were doing.

**Perryman:** I first met you in 1985 through Jim Caldwell when we were both in 50 Men and Women. You were already an icon, and I was just starting out. Please describe your early influences.

**Johnson:** I was born in a small town called Glasgow, Kentucky, 78 years ago. It was 10,000 people, and it's not grown too much since that. But, to add to that, I was reared by my grandmother. In retrospect, that's where I developed my love for being with older adults because that's all I knew as I grew up in that small town, being with my grandmother and all her friends. I actually got to meet my great-great-grandmother. She babysat me while my grandmother worked. I also knew my great-grandfather, my great-great-grandmother's son.

As I look back on all of this, I've been around older people for a long time, and that's where my love first started because I couldn't believe that all these people loved me so much to care for me. I still find it amazing that so much love could emanate from grandparents, and that's why children relate so much to their grandparents because their grandparents provide unconditional love.

**Perryman:** How did you get involved with the Area Office on Aging?

**Johnson:** I started in 1971. The executive director Charlotte Shaeffer was a mentor but had the wisdom and the vision to employ me as a planner. In late 1973 she asked me to write a grant. I did that, and in 1974 the State of Ohio, the Ohio Commission on Aging, now called the Ohio Department on Aging, designated us as an area agency on aging.

It was not only the application or the grant that got us started. I actually worked with Pat Stranahan, J. Frank Troy, Elliott Miller and Chris Regis, who was with the United Way, the CEO at that time, to give us seed money to get started as an area office on aging. But clearly, this was only done because Charlotte Shaeffer gave me the opportunity.

**Perryman:** Please talk about your agency's mission.

**Johnson:** Our main goal and purpose is to help older adults, caregivers, and persons with disabilities live as independently as possible in their communities and their own homes. We try to avoid premature institutionalization, which is prematurely putting people in nursing homes unless they really need it.

We rely on a comprehensive, well-coordinated network of 180 different public and private contractors or service providers to assist us in helping older adults and their families. We don't do it all alone because families provide the vast majority of care to older citizens. Most family members and caregivers provide 85 percent of that care. They need a little assistance, which we provide.

**Perryman:** Please talk about the specific services you provide.

**Johnson:** Of course, it's our meals program, our grab-and-go meals program, transportation services, and we only provide medical transportation cause that's about as far as our money will go, but we provide that to older citizens who have to go to their medical appointments, to their dialysis or other treatment that they need.

Then we also have health assessments. We have a staff of registered nurses and licensed social workers who make home visits and provide direct care, setting up a care plan with the individual or family member.

**Perryman:** You have also expanded into housing?

**Johnson:** I have three subsidiary corporations that operate apartment complexes, one in Napoleon, Ohio, one in Defiance, Ohio, and one in North Baltimore. These are housing apartment complexes for low-income elders, so the rents are affordable. We also recently got approved for a 55-unit apart-

...continued on page 8



Billie Johnson

## The Soundtrack to Summer

In honor of our 50th anniversary, Greater Toledo Community Foundation is sponsoring the following concerts as a gift to our community. Here's to good vibes, great gigs and glorious summer nights.

SATURDAY  
JULY  
01

### The Commonheart

(Roots/Blues/Soul)

7:30pm • Glass City Metropark

THURSDAY  
JULY  
06

### Jazz in the Garden

(Toledo Jazz Orchestra)

6:30-8:30pm • Toledo Botanical Garden

SATURDAY  
JULY  
15

### The Grape Smugglers

(Contemporary Rock/Motown)

6:00-8:00pm • Ottawa Park

FRIDAY  
JULY  
21

### ProMedica Concert Series

with **Chris Janson** (Country)

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# Most Black People Live in States with the Highest Student Debt

*Mix the racial wealth gap with high costs of living and the burden of student loan debt feels heavier for Black people in some parts of the U.S.*

By Bria Overs

Word In Black Press

From coast to coast, Americans are closely watching and dreading the upcoming end to the federal student loan payment pause. Borrowers in some states, however, have more debt than others.

The top 10 states with the largest amount of student debt			
Rank	State	Total borrowers in state	Average loan debt per borrower
1	Maryland	864,700	\$42,543
2	Georgia	1,641,600	\$41,826
3	Delaware	137,300	\$39,238
4	Virginia	1,143,200	\$39,001
5	New York	2,579,600	\$38,668
6	Florida	2,646,400	\$38,653
7	Oregon	556,000	\$38,248
8	Illinois	1,713,900	\$37,869
9	California	4,021,200	\$37,783
10	Alabama	615,800	\$37,730

For Black people, the lasting effects of their debt depend on where they live which is often in those same states with higher debts owed per borrower.

The research, conducted by CreditDonkey, compared all 50 states using recent student debt data from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York to discover which states had the highest proportion of student debt per borrower. Credit: CreditDonkey

A new CreditDonkey analysis comparing all 50 U.S. states found the top 10 with the highest student debt per borrower. Those top states, in order, are Maryland, Georgia, Delaware, Virginia, New York, Florida, Oregon, Illinois, California, and Alabama.

Data from Pew Research Center adds another layer to this picture. At least eight of these states rank highly among those with the largest Black populations. Combined with the reality that Black students hold more student loan debt than any other racial or ethnic group, with a median of \$30,000 owed.

Saddled with such a large amount of debt, many attempt to find their footing in places with higher costs of living.

For example, over three million Black people call the New York City metro area home — the nation's largest Black population. Fortuna Admissions co-founder Caroline Diarte Edwards says places like this are hubs for career opportunities.

"The big cities offer unmatched career opportunities, leading many Black Americans to take risks and move to them despite the high student loan debt and cost of living," Edwards says.

Indeed, paying rent on a market-rate apartment in a major city, on top of hefty student loan payments, is a sobering prospect.

*"High housing costs directly contribute to high levels of student loan debt. Inexpensive and safe housing is very difficult to find in the most expensive cities, leading many students to take out costly loans to cover their high living costs. This exacerbates the existing financial inequality between Black and white communities and prevents Black students from building stability and upward mobility."*

CAROLINE DIARTE EDWARDS, CO-FOUNDER OF FORTUNA ADMISSIONS

The analysis revealed that Maryland — which is 29.5 percent Black — has the highest average loan debt per borrower at \$42,543, with 864,000 total borrowers. Georgia — 31 percent Black — is in a close second with \$41,826 per borrower and 1.6 million total borrowers.

For those who borrow, this debt creeps into other aspects of their lives. But, it uniquely impacts Black people and communities — especially in the long term.

One of those long-term effects is the inability to become a homeowner. Homeownership is a gateway to generational wealth.

"Homeownership is more difficult to realize for student loan borrowers," Jennifer Ledwith, a Certified Financial Planner and the founder of Scholar Ready, tells Word In Black. Scholar Ready helps high school students prepare for the ACT and SAT exams, and assists with college admission and scholarship essays.

*"When potential homebuyers seek mortgages, lenders consider the borrower's debt-to-income ratio. The greater the amount of student loan debt, the higher the debt-to-income ratio, and the less that people can borrow."*

JENNIFER LEDWITH, CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER AND FOUNDER OF SCHOLAR READY

Student loan payments can be a large chunk of borrowers' budgets, making it difficult to save for a downpayment and other life experiences.

Ledwith says student debt also affects Black families' ability to invest academically in their children's education and communities.

"Student loan expenses prevent African American parents from having the discretionary income required to supplement their children's education," she says.

Full participation in the cultural and civic life of a community is tougher too, with student loan debt. Ledwith says that's because if money is going to student loan servicers, they have less for community organizations like schools, museums, hospitals, art organizations, and churches.

"For African-Americans' voices to be heard, they must participate," Ledwith says. "Often, participation requires a financial commitment that student loan payments make impossible."

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<sup>1</sup>Actual amount applied at closing.

<sup>2</sup>Property must be located within one of the following counties: Allen Ohio, Allen Indiana, Defiance, Delaware, Franklin, Hancock, Lucas, Madison, Union, Williams, or Wood.

<sup>3</sup>Borrower income must be below 80% of the area median income, or property must be located in a low- to moderate-income census tract, as updated annually by the FFIEC (Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council).

## Community Calendar

August 5

Warren A.M.E. Church Care Enough FREE Community Event; 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.; Come and enjoy a variety of activities including: FREE Clothes, Commodities, Food Baskets, Music, Games, Fun, and More.



# Join Us To Support The Barbershop Initiative

Dear Friends,

Over the past six years, ProMedica's Barbershop Initiative has experienced remarkable achievements as a direct result of the barbershops who have worked with us, including: Steve's Sport N Cuts, Groomed by Gaston, Fletcher's Hair Designs, Foster's Hair Concepts Unlimited, Groomed, TalMon, Victory, Tailored and Groomed, and DaShop.

Initially launched in 2017 by ProMedica as a health screening initiative, the program quickly evolved to encompass a broader directive through the relationships that ensued. The barbers have consistently told us what they and the community need, and together we have worked to meet the needs.

Through collaborations and relationship building, the barbers worked with talented community members and told their story, **Sons of Toledo** (<https://vimeo.com/657123403>). ProMedica produced **Brussel Sprouts** ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKHMS\\_ZP4zo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKHMS_ZP4zo)) a story about the many ways that change can take place.

The barbers, who meet with kids at pivotal moments throughout their lives, continue to nurture good self-image by participating in back-to-school programs, which include a free haircut the week before school begins.

They've hosted health screenings, received blood pressure cuffs, and increase health literacy through discussions on the importance of prostate cancer screenings, stroke awareness, nutrition and why we all need a primary care doctor. They are CPR certified, and AED trained. They've also been seen onstage at the Toledo Museum of Art wielding their many talents in ART of the CUT. In 2022, more than 26 barbers completed Mental Health First Aid training.



Steve's Sport N Cuts

Every dollar raised from Brews & Bros is reinvested directly into the communities where the barbershops are located. The support you give to the Barbershop Initiative ensures the work to continue.

Whether you're an old friend or a new fan, we invite you to join us on July 27 as a sponsor or guest at The Hollywood Casino Barstool Sportsbook from 5:30 – 7:30. During that time, we'll share some food, meet barbers in the program and network with other people who desire to participate in the change that we all hope for. Your interest and participation allow us to further fund the Barbershop Initiative.

Thank you for your interest in the Brews and Bros: Men's Health & Wellness at the Barbershop event, hosted by ProMedica. We extend a warm welcome to both newcomers and long-time contributors.

## Modeling is a career, it is not an activity.

If you are seriously thinking about getting into acting or modeling you are going to

need an agency that will be willing to work with you to find you paid assignments.

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Do I need to pay for photos? Yes, However not out-of-pocket....

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Do I have to sign with the agency? Yes if you want to be considered for work through the agency.

How much do I get paid?

You are paid 80% of what the assignment pays and the agency 20%. you will get more information from your agency.....

submit your photo to: [expressionsmodels@gmail.com](mailto:expressionsmodels@gmail.com)



151 N. Michigan St. Suite 316 Toledo, Oh [www.ximodels.com](http://www.ximodels.com)

All folks over 21 are invited! We hope to see you there and again – many thanks for your support over the last six years!

<https://give.promedica.org/event/brews-and-bros/e485116>

Sincerely,  
Robin Charney  
Co-founder of Men's Health & Wellness at the Barbershop  
ProMedica Community Liaison  
[Robin.charney@promedica.org](mailto:Robin.charney@promedica.org)

brent.rabie@promedica.org'. The ProMedica logo is at the bottom with the tagline 'RAISING AWARENESS OF MEN'S HEALTH'."/&gt;

# Comprehensive Infrastructure Improvements Coming to Junction and Uptown

The Truth Staff

The City of Toledo will receive a \$20 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) to modernize roadway and utility infrastructure in the Junction and Uptown neighborhoods, the City's Department of Economic Development announced this past week.

Obtained through the USDOT's highly competitive Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program, the award will support the \$52.9 million Connecting Toledo Neighborhoods to Opportunity (CTNO) project. CTNO aims to bring the neighborhoods' infrastructure back to a state of good repair and improve roadway safety, mobility, and neighborhood quality of life.

"This is the largest discretionary grant Toledo has ever received," said Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur during a press conference to announce the funding. "This is going to unite all the people who have worked so hard to connect the Junction neighborhood with downtown and will correct the division caused by the construction of I 75."

The grant, along with the funds supplied by the city, will create a pedestrian friendly suite of infrastructure improvements that will extend from the Jefferson Center in the Uptown area to the Mott Branch Library on Dorr Street.

Thirty-eight city blocks will receive improvements including the installation of new water and sanitary utilities, road construction and resurfacing, pedestrian and bicycle facilities and streetscapes. The project includes plans for the creation of a new Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) Mobility Hub and the construction of a three-quarters of a mile multi-use path on Dorr Street in the Junction neighborhood.

"People don't live in cities, they live in neighborhoods," said Kaptur explaining what the infrastructure improvements will mean for residents.

"This would not have happened with Congresswoman Kaptur and President Biden," said Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz whose Department of Economic Development strove to attain the grant event after failing during the first round of applications. "You just need to know who made it happen."

Explaining the application had initially been made in 2021 without success, the mayor noted that the team sat down with the U.S. Department of Transportation representative to learn how to improve their request so that the city can seamlessly re-connect major parts of the neighborhoods.

"The Interstate Highways of the 60s did a lot of good, but they did divide neighborhoods," added Kapszukiewicz. "This is an example of everyone working together to lift up neighbors."

The U.S. Department of Transportation RAISE Discretionary Grant Program is shelling out \$1.5 billion to help communities around the country carry out such programs as the one Toledo has proposed.

In Toledo approximately 6.5 lane miles of roadway will be resurfaced. That will have a direct effect on the 47 percent of roads in the project area that are rated in poor condition or worse. Over 1,000 trees will be planted and a protected bike lane on 17th from Adams to Washington Street will



Alicia Smith speaks as Kendra Smith, TARTA VP Board; Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur and Councilwomen Carrie Hartman, Vanice Williams and Cersandra McPherson look on



Junction Coalition staff and partners

connect directly to the Dorr Street path providing a dedicated bike lane from UpTown to Junction.

"Hard work has been done to tear down systems of inequality and to connect neighborhoods to opportunity," said Toledo City Councilwoman Vanice Williams who represents District 4 where most of the infrastructure improvements will take place.

Williams thanked the Biden administration for "seeing the need for equality in neighborhoods and the city," while noting that "as long as I have lived here, I haven't seen this much investment in this neighborhood ... you have to get excited by this."

Equally excited was Alicia Smith, director of the Junction Coalition, who has been such an advocate and an activist in bringing awareness of the need to invest in that neighborhood.

"This is an opportunity to connect us back to justice, back to life, back to pride," said Smith.

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# Everything You Need to Know About Student Loans

*Special to The Truth*

More American families are borrowing for college. At the same time, merit aid and the use of personal income and savings is falling.

That's according to an annual College Ave Student Loans survey of college students at four-year universities, conducted with Barnes & Noble College Insights. The survey also found college affordability is top-of-mind for the majority of students (57%). Despite financial concerns, 81% of students report that a college degree is crucial for their future.

"The mix of methods that families use to pay for college has shifted, however one thing remains consistent: students and families value the investment in higher education," says Angela Colatrigano, chief marketing officer of College Ave.

To borrow smart for college this fall, consider these tips and insights:

## Exhaust All Options

Before turning to private student loans, first exhaust other sources of financial aid. Complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid to be considered for grants, scholarships, work-study programs and federal student loans. If your selected school is one of the 400 institutions that requires the CSS profile, submit that too to qualify for institutional aid. Finally, search for private scholarships offered by companies and non-profit organizations. One easy one to apply for is the College Ave \$1,000 monthly scholarship sweepstakes.

If you do need to borrow, turn to federal student loans in the student's name first, which generally offer the lowest rates and come with additional benefits. They don't depend on credit scores, and offer longer deferments and forbearances, income-driven repayment plans and student loan forgiveness.

## Private Student Loans

Federal student loans have annual and aggregate loan limits. If you find

yourself needing to borrow parent or private loans to cover remaining costs, consider these factors:

- **Costs:** Compare costs of different loans by looking at the actual interest rate you'll be charged, not the lowest advertised rate. Understand the difference between variable and fixed interest rates, and be aware of any fees and available discounts, such as those offered for using autopay.

- **Cosigners:** A creditworthy cosigner doesn't just increase the odds of loan approval, even if the student can qualify on their own, cosigning may yield a lower interest rate, reducing the overall cost of the loan.

- **Total Debt:** Borrow only what you need. With private loans, you can usually borrow up to the total cost of attendance. However, borrowing less than the maximum can help you save over time. A simple rule of thumb you can use to determine how much student loan debt you can afford: If total student loan debt at graduation, including federal and private loans, is less than the student's annual starting salary, you can likely repay the loans in 10 years or less.

- **Repayment:** Look for repayment flexibility to match your needs. For example, College Ave Student Loans offers five-, eight-, 10- and 15-year repayment options, along with the choice of deferring payments until after graduation or beginning payments right away. No matter what option you select, understand the terms.

For more resources, including an online student loan calculator, and to learn more about paying for college, visit [CollegeAve.com](https://CollegeAve.com).

Private loans for college can play an important role in financing your education. By researching your financial aid options, applying for scholarships and comparing private student loan options, you can minimize college costs, so you can better manage your finances after you graduate.

*Courtesy StatePoint*

## WE'RE MOVING!

The Truth Newspaper and The Truth Colours Gallery are moving! We are leaving our building on Adams Street after almost 16 years and moving to our new building on the corner of Bancroft and Franklin! 7 East Bancroft is the address.



Stay tuned for our Grand Opening – Our Grand Re-opening!! Within a couple of weeks.



Any questions? 419-243-0007 or email us at [thetruthtoledo.com](mailto:thetruthtoledo.com)

# Billie Johnson's Retirement Gala

By Paul Hubbard, MSW, President Comfort Adult Care Services

Special to The Truth

The Glass City Event Center Ballroom was the site for 500 invited guests to celebrate Billie Johnson's retirement on June 22, 2023. Guests were from Toledo area as well as all over the state of Ohio and neighboring states. Ron Taylor President and CEO of Detroit Area Agency on Aging and Billie Johnson mentee was in attendance.

Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz was one of the first speakers and announced Toledo will rename Garden Lake Blvd, Billy Johnson Way, the first street to be named after a female, African American Woman.

Former Mayor Carty Finkbeiner gave Johnson a University of Michigan football signed by Coach Jim Harbaugh and all of the speakers praised Johnson for bringing care giving, food, health care, and recreational programs to senior citizens.

Johnson has been president of the Toledo Area Office on Aging for more than 49 years and has guided the organization's growth from a mere four employees when she started to its current level of 185 employees and more than 2,000 volunteers

All the speakers noted Johnson has always been positive no matter how difficult the situation was. They also said Johnson never took no for an answer; she never gave up.

The speakers were both Democrats and Republicans because Johnson

was able to work with both sides of the political aisle. Johnson has been highly respected by everyone and will be missed. I understand she may stay around as a consultant on some programs and work to bring the national PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) program to the Toledo area.

Justin Moor, Johnson's communications director, will serve as interim president and CEO, as a national search is conducted to find a successor.



Board Chairman Bill Harris welcomes the guests



Billie Johnson and family



Billie Johnson and board members



Area Office on Aging Interim Ceo and Billie Johnson unveil the new portrait that will hang in the AOOA offices



Luncheon attendees - John Jones, Bishop Robert Culp, Jason Daniels



Johnson's daughter Rhona Sewell with Rev. Le Roy Williams and Bishop Robert Culp



Ron Taylor, Theresa M. Gabriel and Sylvester Gould

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This program is made possible by Grant Number: 5H79T0B2294-02 from SAMHSA. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the author and do not necessarily represent the official views of SAMHSA.



*Perryman... continued from page 2*

ment complex on our campus, a Section 8 apartment complex. Over time, it will yield us about \$11 million in tax credits. The other thing about our housing corporations that we've started is that we were smart enough not to try to provide day-to-day management, so I subcontracted with a company out of Columbus, Ohio, called National Church Residences, for the day-to-day management of the three facilities.

**Perryman:** You're the largest agency run by a Black woman in this area. What is that experience like, and what challenges have you faced?

**Johnson:** As an African American female, first of all, I'm honored and blessed that I've been able to develop this program and provide the leadership and the creativity, but it took a lot of people around me who helped, guided, and directed me. I made many mistakes on the way, but people forgave me, and I learned from my mistakes. I try to teach other African American females and males as well as non-African-American females. I try to mentor them. I try to teach them how to become leaders in their community, how to progress, and not get hung up with a lot of what they don't have but look at what they do have and use those talents and tools, and qualities as I did to create a vision about how I wanted to help older adults and their family caregivers in the community.

I'm disturbed that we don't have more young leaders; we certainly have a lot of qualified females and males in the African American community, so I would like to see more.

Doni Miller, and a number of the other African American females who lead agencies, and I talk all the time and try to find ways to give back to our community but also elevate the people in our community so that we have mentees who will be trained by us and will follow us and step in our shoes as we leave. I feel very strongly that we must give back.

**Perryman:** What were some of your challenges during these 49 years, and what did you learn from them that you can pass on to another generation of young leaders?

**Johnson:** One of the challenges I had in expanding into the other nine counties and developing services and programs there is I approached many counties with no African Americans in them and didn't want anybody com-

ing from Toledo telling them how to develop services and programs. My biggest challenge was just to get their attention.

The lessons I learned from that are persistence and tenacity. You can't give up on yourself, especially when you think your goals are good and honorable and you are trying to do the right thing. So, to new young leaders, you're going to fail. You're going to have challenges. Still, the key is you never give up, and you always believe in yourself, and when you know and think that you can't do it alone, you reach out and get somebody else to help you. I guarantee

you all kinds of folks are waiting to help. You have to reach out and ask for help, which so many of us don't do.

**Perryman:** Someone said that leadership and vision go hand in hand. Talk about your ability to develop and communicate a clear vision for your organization and get others to follow.

**Johnson:** Well, you first have to have a plan, and your strategy and vision have to go hand in hand. My creativity doesn't come from me alone. I've

*... continued on page 10*



*Billie Johnson's daughter Rhonda Sewell - center - and granddaughters, Sarah and Savannah Sewell-Conley*



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# Toledo Lady Golfers at Browns Mill Women's 2023 Golf Tournament

By Deborah Barnett, Lisa Holden, LaVonda Johnson, Terri Sutton, Phyllis Wadley  
Special to The Truth

Litchfield Country Club and Resort was the place to be for women golfers of all ability levels and golf goals. On June 9 – 11, Browns Mill Women's Golf Association (BMWGA) hosted the 23rd annual Women's Only Golf Tournament in Myrtle Beach, SC. Over 170 women from 17 states were represented for two days of golf, fun and fellowship. The BMWGA Women's Only Tournament is a two-day 36-Hole Stroke Play Tournament played in accordance with the 2023 USGA Rules of Golf.

The organizers take great pride in making the event enjoyable for all golfers. There are three options to play in: Competitive with nine flight groupings based on handicap, Non-Competitive, and the Sassy Seniors groupings. Vendors support the tournament and donations are made to award prizes and generous cash awards in each flight and grouping.

Many women have attended for years and some since its inception. This year, Toledo had quite the representation with veteran attendees, Deborah Barnett, Terri Sutton and Phyllis Wadley. First time Toledo attendees were LaVonda Johnson and Lisa Holden. Lisa and LaVonda agreed, "In a sport and hobby where we are rarely seen or represented, it was almost spiritual in nature to be among so many of our beautiful sisters that have a love and passion for the game of golf like we do." Returning BMWGA golfer Terri Sutton noted, "There's a whirlwind of sisterhood at the tournament that I embraced."

Some of the golfers traveling to BMWGA Tournament via airplane, landed at the Myrtle Beach airport from different cities around the same time, greeted each other as family and longtime friends. The happiness shown on our faces signal the special bond we have as Black women golfers, an impressive experience you will always want to repeat each year. Thanks to Debbie Barnett, the Black female golfers here in Toledo will continue to be a part of this event.

Saturday evening, at the dinner and awards ceremony, BMWGA honored the women 80 years and older with a rose and special recognition for their seniority, contributions, and continued love of the game of golf.

If you are a woman who loves golf, check out BMWGA for an unforgettable opportunity to connect and bond with women from all over the country, of all skill levels, interests, and backgrounds. As first-time attendees, LaVonda and Lisa cannot wait until next year!

Browns Mills Women's Golf Tournament has been one of the greatest experiences of my life as a golfer. When my friend Jeanne told me about this



Terri Sutton, Lisa Holden, Phyllis Wadley, LaVonda Johnson, Deborah Barnett



Deborah Barnett and Lisa Holden

tournament, I said, ladies let us go and the rest is history.

Our first tournament was in June of 2013. A group of Toledo girlfriends traveled to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina to play golf, shop, and fellowship. That experience has kept us going back for 10 years. We reunited with old friends and met new friends. I was sitting at a table with a group of women from Atlanta and when I said I was from Toledo, a lady said my husband is from Toledo. We have exchanged contact information and promised to stay in touch.

I will end with this hashtag.....#mine (May It Never End)



Deborah Barnett, Terri Sutton, Lisa Holden, LaVonda Johnson



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**GIMUWINE THE ZAPP BAND**

Friday, July 14, 2023  
8 AM ET the African American Prayer Breakfast will be at the Toledo Museum of Art Glass Pavilion, 2445 Monroe St.

Saturday, July 15, 2023  
The African American Festival Parade will be at 10 AM to 12 PM ET on the corner of Dorr St. & Detroit Ave.

The Community Day will be at Nelson Grace Park, 1001 N Detroit Ave. from 12 PM to 3 PM ET

The African American Parade and Community Day are FREE to the public to attend

The African American Festival and Concert will be at Promenade Park, 400 Water St., the Gates will Open at 3 PM ET

Tickets are \$45/Person General Admission prior to the Festival Increasing to \$50/Person the Day of the Festival

V.I.P. Tickets are \$65/Person prior to the Festival Increasing to \$70/Person the Day of the Festival

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**JULY 14 AND 15, 2023**

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*Perryman... continued from page 8*

been guided in the past, and I ask for guidance, vision and wisdom each day of my life. Once you ask for that assistance from a higher power and find yourself, you must be still long enough to receive it. Then you must be smart enough to develop a plan for how you'll get there and then wise enough to know who you need to tap to surround yourself with who can help you pursue your vision and your mission. I've always been blessed that I've been able to surround myself with some very creative people. I know what I don't know, and I know that I need to have people who are smarter than me, who are sometimes wiser than I am. Still, I've managed to tap into those resources and those individuals.

I've been very gifted in knowing the kind of talent I need to bring together, and then I try to treat people right and treat my employees right so that they will stay and want to stay here.

**Perryman:** I hear persistence. I hear putting together a team with ability. I also hear humility because a lot of leaders cannot hire others with more talent or work along with people with talent in different areas. Who instilled those qualities in you?

**Johnson:** My grandmother and her friends just passed on so much wisdom. They were very humble people. They were people that didn't have much but never complained, and I learned so many things. My grandmother probably only had an eighth-grade education. Still, she's the smartest woman I have ever met, the most gracious and the most giving individual. And then my mother was also an individual who just gave. They weren't flashy women, but they were strong Black women, and they passed a lot of that strength, tenacity, persistence and all those wonderful qualities that you just mentioned onto me and my brother. I ensure that their memory and legacy prevail in everything I do.

I see the good in people even though others may not. I have always tried to make sure that I never try to fire people, my employees. That's the easiest thing you can do. However, developing and helping individuals grow and understand, and being patient with them is difficult. As an administrator and as a leader, those are the qualities that should prevail.

You must also allow an opportunity for your employees or others, to have

their own say and give them the respect that's needed so that they will follow you. When you do that, you can prevail as a leader. Hopefully, it's not just a short-term leader. It will persist for a long time.

**Perryman:** What are your hobbies?

**Johnson:** I try to have some work-life balance, but I don't have much. My reading and raising my grandchildren and being there for them the way my grandmother was for me. I get the greatest joy out of that.

My daughter had a lot of challenges in raising her twins because they were so sick when they were born that we almost lost them. For the first three years of life, we didn't know if they would stay here with us or not and I'm so happy to say that I put a lot of energy into that. So, I spent a great deal of time just making sure that my family was whole. I gave my daughter as much assistance as possible so that she could raise two phenomenal young women.

I'm pleased to say that after their troubled beginnings, their medical challenges until they really started school, both girls have graduated from college.

They are at the beginning of pursuing their own lives and careers, but it was through the grace of God that He kept them alive and allowed me and my daughter to pass on some of the qualities that we both have to them. I think they're going to be phenomenal when they reach their peak, much more significant than anything I've ever done or anything my daughter has ever done.

**Perryman:** Finally, the family seems to be the center of what defines your career.

**Johnson:** Families and black families, in particular, are so underestimated. People who look in from the outside don't realize how important our family and church structures are to our progress and success. As I grew up, I had the love of those grandmothers and their friends who supported me. Now, I have a wonderful group of 100 Sisters in Toledo who support and encourage me whenever I'm troubled, or they're troubled; we're there for one another. So, the family goes beyond just the mother, father, daughter, sister, or brother. I see this entire Toledo community as my family.

So, I leave you with this: We are not finished. We have so much to do for older adults. There are so many challenges ahead of us in the area of Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, age discrimination, and resources that we need to help people live quality lives. So, we must inspire young people to move into this career and field of aging to continue advocating for better living for older adults.

It's so imperative that we stay forward. We must continue to provide food, shelter, resources, transportation, healthcare, and all the areas that need our focus and attention. I'm just very humbled by all of it because I know that you don't do anything in life by yourself.

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

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11:00AM - 3:00PM**

For more information contact Dr. Marjorie Holt at 419.320.8571 (cell)  
or 419.255.444 (office)




"Portrait of Billie Johnson," oil on linen, 30 X 25 inches, painted by local artist Leslie Adams, will hang in lobby of the Area Office on Aging



# The Arts Commission's Young Artists at Work (YAAW) Program Announces 29th Season

The Arts Commission is proud to announce the Young Artists at Work (YAAW) program is returning for the 29th season. The 2023 program is returning with exciting new projects and exhibition opportunities that engage creative youths from the greater Toledo area. This year the YAAW program welcomes 55 apprentices and eight teaching staff.

Throughout the six-week program, the staff and apprentices will manage and execute four significant projects and conclude the program with an art sale. The projects range from murals to educational installations. Details follow.

**Toledo GROWS** - Toledo GROWS, located at 827 Oneida St. in Toledo, has invited a team of apprentices to enhance spaces on their property with artwork. The organization leads a grassroots effort dedicated to the continued growth and success of community-based gardens in the City of Toledo and the surrounding area. Toledo GROWS has been a community partner with The Arts Commission on numerous projects in the past.

**Drum Depot Mural** - Apprentices will work to design and execute a mural on the former Drum Depot building, located at 4100 Monroe St., Toledo. Before starting the project, the apprentice team executing this project will meet with stakeholders to determine themes and develop design elements. The artists will present ideas, get feedback, and then create a mural that will face the Chessie Circle Trail.

**Lucas County Shared Services** - Apprentices will work to design and execute a project for the Lucas County Shared Services building, located at 3737 W. Sylvania Ave. in Toledo. The organization is a longtime partner with Young Artists at Work. One team will meet with stakeholders at Lucas County Shared Services to discuss themes and preferences. The artists will present ideas, get feedback, and develop the final project.

**Signal Box Wraps** - In partnership with Art in Public Places, YAAW apprentices will work together to design Signal Box Wraps for the Collingwood Avenue corridor. Starting in 2021, The Arts Commission's Art in Public Places program sought artists to create "Flora and Fauna" themed artwork to be applied as vinyl wraps on signal boxes around the City of Toledo. These innocuous metal boxes provide an organic opportunity to implement moments of artistic discovery.

**Shrader Tire & Oil Mural** - A team of apprentices will work to design and execute a mural on the Shrader Tire & Oil building, located at 2045 W. Sylvania Ave, Toledo. Shrader Tire & Oil has been a part of our community for 75 years. The team of apprentices will meet with stakeholders to discuss themes and will work with the business to create a design that reflects their vision. The artists will present ideas, get feedback, and then create a mural on their building, facing the Chessie Circle Trail.

**End of Season Art Sale & Remarks** Join the Young Artists at Work staff and apprentices for an art sale and closing ceremony on Saturday, July 22, from 2:00PM - 6:00PM as part of the Summer Spectacular Art Loop in UpTown Toledo. The sale, and remarks, will be at Handmade Toledo, 1717 Adams Street. All of the proceeds from the art sale go back to the YAAW program. Remarks from this summer's participants are scheduled to begin at 2PM.

The Arts Commission has presented the award-winning Young Artists at Work (YAAW) program since 1994. Student apprentices between the ages of 14 and 18 are selected in a competitive process for six weeks of employment as working artists, with the objective of providing an intensive arts experience to foster artistic self-expression and a quality work ethic. The program encourages exploration, refinement, cross-cultural sharing, and the exchange of ideas.

## Celebrate Fourth of July with City of Toledo's Fireworks in the 419

The City of Toledo will host the annual Fireworks in the 419 show this Saturday, July 1 at 10 p.m. The fireworks will coincide with a day filled with more special events for Toledoans to enjoy:

1. The first-ever Italian Bowl to be held on American soil will be held at the University of Toledo's Glass Bowl. The game begins at 3 p.m. with tailgating happening all day.

2. Toledo native and professional heavyweight boxer Jared Anderson will take on Chris Martin in his first professional fight in his hometown. The fight begins at 6 p.m. and will be televised live on ESPN.

Food trucks will begin lining up on Summit St. at 4 p.m. to serve visitors near Promenade Park. The food trucks selected for the event are:

- Fat Boyz by Al & Zoe
- BD's Lemonade King
- El Padrino Street Tacos
- Duce's Dawgs
- Tatros Concessions
- Deet's BBQ
- Island Soul

There is great viewing from both sides of the river at Promenade, Glass City, and International Parks. Residents are encouraged to park on the side

of downtown closest to their home or next destination after the fireworks to prevent cross-traffic through downtown or over the bridge.

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Bridge will be closed to vehicles at approximately 9:00 p.m. It will remain closed until traffic has cleared the area after the fireworks. Barricades will be placed at key intersections on both sides of the river near the bridge to prevent access to this area. Pedestrians will be permitted on the King Bridge. The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Bridge will open to boat traffic after pedestrians clear the area. The King Bridge will open to vehicular traffic after the boat traffic clears under the bridge and pedestrians clear the area. Designated traffic signals at key exit locations will be put on a flashing mode to facilitate outbound traffic movement.

Summit Street between Washington and Cherry will be closed to vehicular traffic at approximately 9:00 p.m. in the inbound directions into downtown. This will require eastbound Jackson Boulevard, eastbound Adams Street and eastbound Jefferson Avenue to be closed at St. Clair Street. Summit Street will be reopened to vehicles after the pedestrian and vehicular traffic clears the area after the fireworks. Eastbound Jackson, Adams, and Jefferson will reopen at St. Clair at this time also.

Front Street between East Broadway and Main will be closed to vehicular traffic at approximately 9:45 p.m.



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## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL COMMERCIAL INSURANCE BROKER FOR PREFERRED PROPERTIES

Preferred Properties is seeking written proposals from a brokerage firm and representative broker(s) to provide insurance broker services that include risk exposure analysis, as well as general insurance advisory services.

P2 currently maintains the following insurance policies and coverage:

- Business Personal Property
- Inland Marine
- General Liability Coverage
- Automobile
- Umbrella
- Director & Officers Liability
- Cyber Liability
- Crime

Deadline for Submittal is July 28, 2023 @ 12pm EST. A full timeline and more information can be found at our website, [www.preferred-properties.org](http://www.preferred-properties.org), or contact Rachel Grup at 419.244.9609 x307, or [rgrup@preferred-properties.org](mailto:rgrup@preferred-properties.org)

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL LAWNCARE SERVICES 2024 FOR PREFERRED PROPERTIES

Preferred Properties is seeking written proposals from qualified, licensed, and bonded entities to provide professional lawn care services for their properties; a total of 69 sites including multi-family housing and single-family homes.

Contractors will submit proposals to enter into a one-year contractual agreement with P2 with an option made by P2 to extend the contract for two subsequent, one-year agreements.

Deadline for Submittal is July 28, 2023 @ 1pm EST. The full RFP and timeline can be found at our website, [www.preferred-properties.org](http://www.preferred-properties.org), or contact Rachel Grup at 419.244.9609 x307, or [rgrup@preferred-properties.org](mailto:rgrup@preferred-properties.org).

## 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 July 11, 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 June 27, 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.

## TEEN ADVOCATE/FACILITATOR

(2) Full-time position for school-based youth development program for middle and high school youth in TPS. Responsibilities: Delivery of pregnancy prevention programming using creative teaching, lesson planning/reporting, working with girls, boys, and their families; provide after-school programming and transportation. All encouraged to apply. A minimum of an Associate's degree in Education, Social Work, Psychology, or related field, required. Experience working with diverse populations required. Applicants must be at least 21 years old with a good driving record. Full-benefits available. Hourly rate: \$19.00

Email resume to [admin@ywcanwo.org](mailto:admin@ywcanwo.org)

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL CAPITAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR PREFERRED PROPERTIES

Preferred Properties, Inc is seeking proposals for Capital Needs Assessments of its properties. The Provider for these assessments must possess valid and current licenses and necessary certifications as listed in the Statement of Work of the full RFP and as regulated by all applicable state, county and/or local laws and ordinances.

The Provider must have prior training and experience in evaluating site & building systems, health & safety conditions, physical & structural conditions, environmental concerns, and other funding to cover the anticipated costs. Have complete knowledge of current standards, details and critical dimensioning related to total accessibility for a family and/or senior residential property, as defined by the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), United Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS) as well as local jurisdictional codes & requirements related to the specific properties.

Deadline for Submission is July 28, 2023 @ 2pm EST. More information can be found at our website, [www.preferred-properties.org](http://www.preferred-properties.org), or contact Rachel Grup at 419.244.9609 x307, or [rgrup@preferred-properties.org](mailto:rgrup@preferred-properties.org)

Email resume to [admin@ywcanwo.org](mailto:admin@ywcanwo.org)



## PROJECTS SPECIALIST

The Lucas County Land Bank is a non-profit organization working to build and strengthen our community's neighborhoods. Since our founding 13 years ago, the Land Bank and its energetic staff have renovated ~1000 abandoned properties, demolished thousands of blighted buildings, and improved quality of life & increased property values throughout our community.

We are seeking a talented individual to join our diverse and energetic team as a Projects Specialist. The Projects Specialist is a professional who provides support to the Land Bank's property planning & acquisition, demolition, development, and disposition projects with high attention to detail. The most attractive candidate will have training or experience in real estate transactions, paralegal services, or community development work.

Salary range of \$53,500 - \$63,500, with excellent benefits including affordable health, dental, vision, and prescription drug coverage, a retirement plan with generous employer match, and robust paid time off. The position will remain open until filled.

Join the movement to rebuild our neighborhoods!

To apply, visit <https://lucascountylandbank.org/>

The Lucas County Land Bank is an equal-opportunity employer.



# CLASSIFIEDS

June 28, 2023

Page 13

## Public Bid Advertisement (Electronic Bidding)

State of Ohio Standard Forms and Documents

Project # 1130-23-315  
BAS Upgrades Phase 4  
The University of Toledo  
Lucas County

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

EDGE Participation Goal/Supplier Diversity Goal: 5% of contract sum with EDGE-certified business(es) AND additional 10% EDGE-certified OR Diverse Supplier vendors including MBE, WBE, VBE, BSVI, SDVOB, and LGBTBE.

Domestic steel use is required per ORC 153.011.

### Contract

### Estimated

General Contract .....	\$592,600.00
Alternates Total .....	\$130,000.00

Pre-bid Meeting: At 10:00am Wednesday, July 05, 2023 – Plant Operations Building – Room 1000, The University of Toledo, 2925 East Rocket Drive, Toledo, OH 43606

Walk-through: A walkthrough of the project site is scheduled for Wednesday, July 05, 2023, immediately following Pre-bid.

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

More Info: Submit questions electronically at: <https://bidexpress.com>

Project contact: Osborn Engineering, Mark Miller, 614-556-4272, ext. 15008, [mmiller@osborn-eng.com](mailto:mmiller@osborn-eng.com)

Position Name: **Operations Director**

Location: Wayman D Palmer YMCA

Position Type: Full-Time

Pay: \$46,000-\$50,000 annually

We are seeking an Operations Director who is responsible for administering the day-to-day operations of the Wayman Palmer Branch including membership, marketing, programs, facilities, and staff development, while providing support to the Branch Executive Director with financial development, community relations and collaborations with community organizations.

This candidate should be a high-energy, dedicated, well-organized, self-starter with proven successful experience with staff supervision, fundraising, volunteer and community relations, board and volunteer development, and financial management. Opportunity for advancement will exist for success in this role.

Candidates should possess a Bachelor's Degree in human services, social services, business, or equivalent degree. Three years or more experience in a management role with direct supervision of multiple staff. A self-starter with initiative to work independently. Must have the capacity to develop strong, positive relationships with branch volunteers, business and civic leaders and give dynamic leadership to board staff and community.

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

Resumes with Cover Letter should be submitted electronically to Jason Trame, District Vice President at [jtrame@ymcatoledo.org](mailto:jtrame@ymcatoledo.org).

Minority candidates encouraged to apply

## Public Bid Advertisement (Electronic Bidding)

State of Ohio Standard Forms and Documents

Project # 1130-23-316  
Elevator Safety Repairs/Replacements Phase 4  
The University of Toledo  
Lucas County

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

EDGE Participation Goal/Supplier Diversity Goal: 5% of contract sum with EDGE-certified business(es) AND additional 10% EDGE-certified OR Diverse Supplier vendors including MBE, WBE, VBE, BSVI, SDVOB, and LGBTBE.

Domestic steel use is required per ORC 153.011.

### Contract

### Estimated

General Contract – GH .....	\$703,000.00
General Contract – UMC .....	\$505,000.00
General Contract – SU .....	\$268,000.00
General Contract – HEB .....	\$261,000.00

Pre-bid Meeting: At 1:00pm Wednesday, July 05, 2023 – Plant Operations Building – Room 1000, The University of Toledo, 2925 East Rocket Drive, Toledo, OH 43606

Walk-through: A walkthrough of the project site is scheduled for Wednesday, July 05, 2023, immediately following Pre-bid.

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

More Info: Submit questions electronically at: <https://bidexpress.com>

Project contact: Buehrer Group Architecture & Engineering, Kent Buehrer, 419-893-9021  
[mmiller@osborn-eng.com](mailto:mmiller@osborn-eng.com)

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL HVAC SERVICES FOR PREFERRED PROPERTIES

Preferred Properties is seeking written proposals to provide HVAC MAINTENANCE and SERVICE to properties it owns and manages; a total of 69 sites including multi-family housing and single-family homes.

Deadline for Submittal is July 28, 2023 @ 11am EST. The full RFP and timeline can be found at our website, [www.preferred-properties.org](http://www.preferred-properties.org), or contact Rachel Grup at 419.244.9609 x307, or [rgrup@preferred-properties.org](mailto:rgrup@preferred-properties.org).

Call to place your ad:  
419-243-0007  
[www.TheTruthToledo.com](http://www.TheTruthToledo.com)

# The Talk by Darrin Bell

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

Someone who was older than you taught you to tie your shoes.

An elder showed you around a kitchen, a car, a workplace, a classroom, and the inside of a library. A lot of what you know has thoughtfully come from someone with years – which might make you wonder, as in the new book, *The Talk by Darrin Bell*, why weren't you taught the most important lessons of all?

It was 1981 and little Darrin Bell wanted nothing more than a squirt gun. It seemed like everyone had a squirt gun, but the one Darrin's mother bought him was lime green, not black like a real gun. She tried to tell him why his was green, but he didn't understand. He only knew that his mother must never find out that a policeman took his squirt gun away.

Once he was old enough, Darrin attended a school where he was one of a small handful of biracial students. White kids teased him because his dad was Black. Black kids teased him because his mom was white. He wanted to know what to do so he asked his father, who was good at knowing all the answers but this was one time when Dad had nothing. He could only say that "a White boy's words never made me run for my life."

Soon afterward, Darrin's dad left the family home and Darrin's mom became super-protective. She made a scene many times over racism, in and out of school. Still, Darrin learned to get by, he found a tribe, found a girlfriend, and learned what it felt like to stand up for himself. As an adult, his comic strip and political cartoons were picked up by national and local newspapers and news outlets. He won a Pulitzer Prize for his work, and he started a family.

But on a sunny afternoon, as his son helped him with some gardening tools, Bell saw the past, and he saw the future. He saw that it was time for people to stop lying...

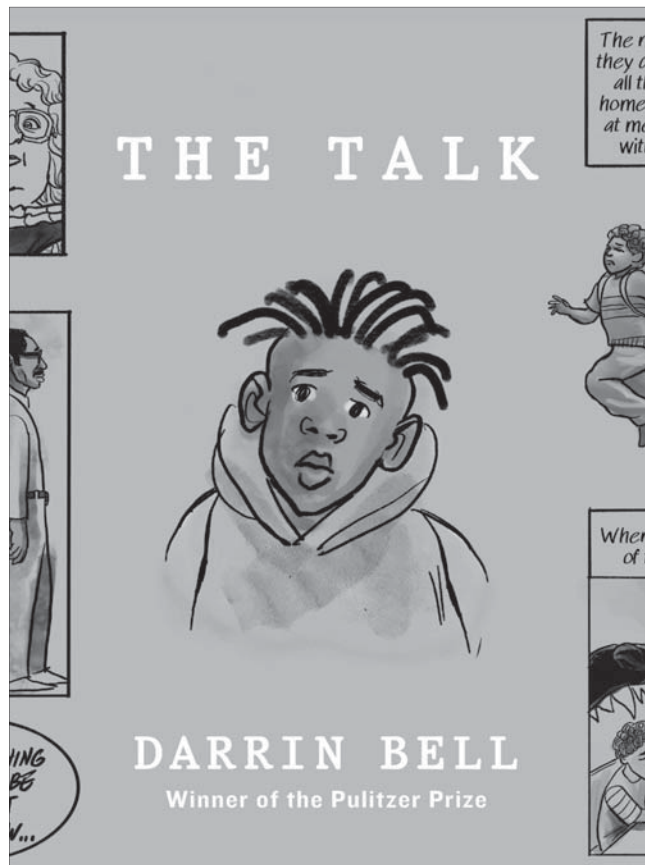
Looking for a good biography with a bit of edge? Here: hovering over

c.2023  
Henry Holt and Company  
\$29.99  
352 pages

every panel of artwork and action inside *The Talk*, there's a threat. It starts at the beginning and never lets up.

Author Darrin Bell doesn't voice that threat until several pages into his story, but it's there and readers won't be able to ignore it. Racism is subtle in the opening pages of his book, and it taints the innocence of play. From there, the threat increases and readers are made to squirm as Bell grows up through his art; we see his charming awkwardness and his maturing – but still, that threat. By the end, we know how Bell perceives it, too, which is one of the more powerful ways of ending a book that you'll ever see.

This story is great for readers, especially male readers ages 16 to 30, but also for parents of any young Black child, not just boys. Give *The Talk* to an older kid. Give it to an elder.



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*Juneteenth Celebration... continued from page 16*

"The mission of Toledo Alliance of Black School Educators is why we are here. We are here to support our babies and we welcome you to support us in that mission," shared Chanell Phenix, TABSE president.

This Juneteenth celebration entitled, The Celebration of Black Kings, honored seven groups of Black men who represent one of the seven Kwanzaa principles. The men were called up as a collective group, given their plaques and provided an opportunity to speak. The 33 honorees were:

- Collective: Terry Crosby; Romules Durant, EdD; David Bush; Chief Brian Byrd and Councilman John Hobbs III.
- Economics: Calvin Brown; Michael Day, Sr; Keary Sarabia; Robert Smith; Larry Sykes and John Tooson.
- Unity: Leroy Bates, Jay Black, Darrell Dorn, Johnny Hutton and Dennis Hopson.
- Purpose: Douglas Jones, Keith Miller, Lamar Smith, Reggie Williams and David Young.
- Determination: Ernie Banks; Washington Muhammad; Cernel Smith,



*Live band - Lisa Hightower*



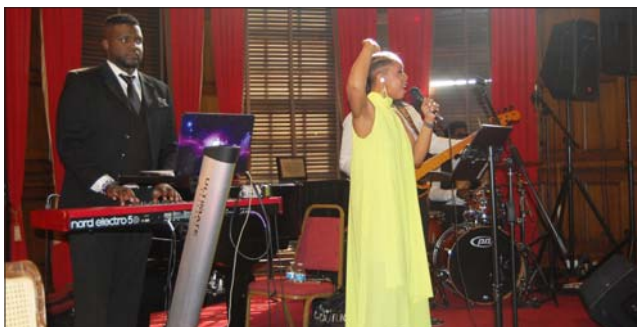
*Reggie and Wenona Williams*



*Sammy Spann, PhD, and Councilman John Hobbs, III*



*Romules Durant, EdD, and Councilman John Hobbs*



*Tracee Perryman*

EdD; Sammy Spann, PhD, and Nathaniel Young.

- Creativity: Michael Day, Jr, Rahwae Shuman and David Fleetwood
- Faith: Rev. Damon Horton; Rev. John C Jones; Rev. D.L. Perryman, PhD, and Rev. Jerry Boose.

"Tonight, we celebrate Kings. Fathers matter. Men matter, because you make a difference. Each of these men represent a different sector but it's about how we are bringing our talents to serve the people at the table," shared Romules Durant.

"I'm honored to be called a Black King. We are somebody, we built libraries, we are doctors and we built the pyramids. We were here before Columbus. We are somebody. I'm honored and want to honor those great men who have come before me, who mentored me and us because God commands preachers and pastors to strive for better as we tell people the good news," shared Rev. Perryman.

"It's an honor to be here among these great men. We need to continue to come together to educate and encourage these young kids," shared Dennis Hopson.

"Thank you for this award, thank you for acknowledging what I do and what we do every day. We work block by block, one neighborhood to another neighborhood, one at a time. It's a honor to be honored with these men, so thank you. I am determined to make a change and to be the change. I will be a part of that change until the day I die," shared Ernie Banks.

Lisa "Thee Oracle" Hightower delivered a live performance that closed out the program.

Program sponsors: Juneteenth NYC, TPS and Community RE Investment Coalition Englewood SW.

According to the event history page, the celebration was funded in part by a grant from the Greater Toledo Community Foundation to proactively address concerns raised by communities that are still disproportionately impacted by inequity and lack of access in the greater Toledo area. St. Martin De Porres Parish was awarded a grant to launch a resident-driven leadership training program and job readiness program for the Englewood neighborhood in collaboration with Community Reinvestment Coalition Englewood SW and Robinson Elementary.



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(went to the park, visited grandma, played a game, or shopped at the store?)

Do you remember the book we read? Do you remember that show we watched? This story reminds me of that because \_\_\_\_\_.

This story is about \_\_\_\_\_. What do you know about \_\_\_\_\_? What do you think we might read about?

*Asking children to recall what they already know will help them recognize words as they read.*

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# Juneteenth Celebration Honors Black Kings

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

Toledo residents had several opportunities to celebrate Juneteenth through the weekend, but the Celebration of Black Kings was held on the official day of Juneteenth, Monday, June 19, 2023. The sophisticated black-tie event, at the Toledo Club in downtown Toledo, began at 5:00 p.m. and concluded by 9:00 p.m.

Guests experienced a red-carpet reception starting at 5:00 p.m. featuring Dr. P. Guests and honorees enjoyed live music in a jazz lounge atmosphere. The space offered a buffet style spread connecting the two rooms before transitioning to the ceremony room which began at 6:30 p.m.

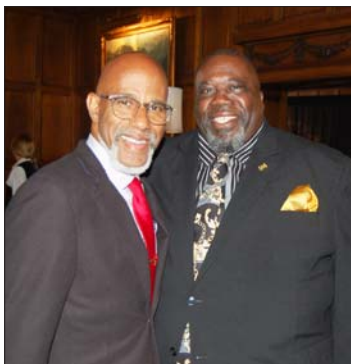
Larry Jones served as the master of ceremony and officially welcomed all guests and honorees. "Welcome to the King's court ard. We are setting the King's table because it's about the Kings tonight. We're here to celebrate these Kings and the Kwanzaa principles as we honor these men who have labored."

The program opened with a traditional Kwanzaa celebration libation, in which ancestors were acknowledged and elders were honored. The ceremony was led by Diane Gordon and Donald Lynn; Katrina Barnhill performed a soulful rendition of the Black National Anthem on the saxophone; Aman Hicks, a Robinson Elementary student, recited a poem entitled 'I am somebody' and Toledo Alliance of Black School Educators (TABSE) presented scholarships to two local high school students.

...continued on page 15



David Young and Nathaniel Young



Brian Byrd and David Young



Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, and daughter Tracee Perryman, PhD



Collective Black Kings of Kwanzaa - John Hobbs III, Chief Brian Byrd, David Bush, Terry Crosby and Romules Durant, Edd



Faith Black Kings of Kwanzaa - Rev. Damon Horton, Rev. Jerry Boose, Rev. John Jones (son) and Rev. DL Perryman, PhD

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