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# The Sojourner's Truth

Volume 79 No. 2

*"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."*

July 5, 2023

## Young Artists At Word - Unleashing Creativity



Natalie Gray, Arts Commission's Youth Services Manager

**STOKLEY**

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

**FREDDIE JACKSON**

**GINUWINE**

**THE ZAPP BAND**

SOUNDS BY  
DJ LYTE II ADD

PERFORMANCE BY  
DARRIUS COLEMAN

CONCERT PERFORMANCE BY  
HELLY WILLIAMS

**PROMENADE PARK  
TOLEDO, OHIO**

FRIDAY, JULY 14, 2023  
8 AM ET THE AFRICAN AMERICAN PRAYER BREAKFAST WILL BE AT THE TOLEDO MUSEUM OF ART CLASS 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

# Former Mayors Coalition Calls for Response from Toledo's Current Mayor

By *Tricia Hall*  
*The Truth Reporter*

Several dozen north Toledo residents gathered at the Ohio Theater on La-grange to discuss youth and gun violence on Monday, June 26. The group met with the Coalition for Peaceful Toledo Neighborhoods, which is comprised of former Toledo mayors Carty Finkbeiner, Mike Bell, Paula Hicks-Hudson and Donna Owens.

"We want to stay in touch with each other after this meeting. I've been to 13-14 different neighborhood meetings and this has the potential to be the best. There are so many good ideas here," shared Finkbeiner.

The discussion and comments shared by residents in attendance included concerns about family dynamics, youth interaction, respect between youth and adults and lifestyle choices.

"These youth today need to learn respect and it starts in the home," shared Ms. Brown, a long time north Toledo resident.

"It's law enforcement too. Officers won't come answer a call for two to three hours if there isn't a weapon. I was a single parent when I was raising my chil-



*Alfonso Narvaez addresses the audience*

dren, there's no excuse for single parents today, but parents raise children the way that they were raised. The youth don't have protection these days and there's nothing for the youth to do," shared Ms. Williams, a long time north Toledo resident.

"The question is how do we collectively get our youth out of negative situations," shared Alfonso Narvaez, a leader from One Village Council which is a community organization on the northside of Toledo.

The newly hired, City of Toledo Director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement Malcolm Cunningham was in attendance and shared words with the coalition and residents. "I know you are passionate about these concerns and I thank you for having me here tonight. I've read the 12-point plan and some other neighborhood plans. There are some points that are outside of the city's purview and the city may not be able to execute everything on every plan. There are a lot of plans out there. I'm willing to sit down with a working group to go through the 12-point plan," shared Cunningham.

Since the former mayors' coalition was formed, they have met with various neighborhood groups throughout Toledo and recently met with the Director of the Department of Public Safety Andy Wilson to request information and resources to address gang violence, which is a safety concern raised in several neighborhoods. The coalition shared these results from that meeting with the residents in attendance.

"There are grants available to support block watches and surveillance. We need to become a movement to wake up city hall. We have approached the Mayor and City Council but it fell on deaf ears. It's not about them but about our kids and families," shared former Mayor Donna Owens.

"When I was working with residents, an organizer was hired to connect residents to needs. It was done in Junction and the Eastside, it can be done here too. We need to begin to bring the state resources here to help our neighbors connect," said Paula Hicks-Hudson, former Toledo City Council president, former mayor and current Ohio State Senator.

"We have to hold people accountable. I remember how it was when I was a kid. We have been organizing these meetings for almost a solid year now. We're looking for immediate and a five-year impact for our neighborhoods," shared former Mayor Mike Bell.

In response to the mayor's office sending a representative and not the mayor, former Mayor Finkbeiner asked Cunningham to shared these words with the Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz. "The mayor needs to show up and show that he cares. He needs to come out of the One Government building and show his face. To the residents, if you care, you must speak up and hold people accountable from the top down at the schools, city, county, state, etc.

The coalition gathered comments and recommendations that will be shared with Mayor Kapszukiewicz and Toledo City Council members. The coalition plans to reconvene in four weeks and invites Toledo's mayor and the city council.



*Former Mayor, State Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson speaks - Former Mayors Carty Finkbeiner, Mike Bell and Donna Owens, seated*




*Carty Finkbeiner and Alfonso Narvaez*



*Former Mayors Finkbeiner, Owens and Bell announcing the community forum*


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Tanya, UTMC primary care patient


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# Affirmative Action Gets Guttled by High Court

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

Christmas came early for conservative White America when the Supreme Court voted 6-3 to ban colleges and professional schools from using race as a factor for admissions.

Yes, you heard me correctly. Now when qualified minority applicants apply to certain "prestigious" institutions, they will not have a chance to even the playing field by noting their ethnic background.

The ripple effect of this disastrous ruling will be felt for decades to come when higher education returns to its usual composition of practically an all-White student body ruling the roost and a few minority applicants squeezing in the door.

Sadly, in America, racial hostilities and racial belligerence against people of color in higher education have again received the stamp of judicial approval, even couched under legal gibberish that the high court used to cover their behinds.

From the seat of this author, White America has not found the moral will and sustained intent to rid itself of the stain of slavery from the year of 1619 to present date. Race is seemingly embedded in the corporate DNA of this country, even to the point of not allowing the playing field to be somewhat equaled by allowing minority students access to colleges and universities when they clearly show that race was a factor that KEPT them out of these places of higher education.

Of course, the decision does not mean that all minority students will be denied entry but it will mean that when all factors are considered for admissions, the issue of race and class will not be consulted as a factor for admission.

As you may know, certain colleges and universities due to their power, image, money or reputation are the gateways to certain career choices that are life transforming and being in such positions, the minority person would have a chance to wield considerable influences on policy and laws regarding their fellow citizens.

The 6-3 decision included a long concurring opinion by Uncle Tom Clarence Thomas who never misses a chance to kick Black people in the butt whenever the chance arises. And this malevolent act of Thomas is in spite of the fact that Thomas was a DIRECT beneficiary of Affirmative Action when he was admitted to Yale Law School.

Now, of course to cover his self-loathing decision, Thomas states that he felt upon his graduation from Yale Law that his degree was worthless because he gained entry by using Affirmative Action on his behalf.

Note: Did anyone see Thomas return his law degree to Yale? Didn't think so! To be sure, there will be celebrations by GOP Maga and others who will exult in this decision as being "fair."

But yet, as graphically described in the book, When Affirmative Action Was White by Ira Katznelson, White America has suckled at the breast of affirmative action for hundreds of years and to the economic exclusion of Black people.

The book describes the plethora of programs, including land grants given to White homesteaders, federal housing programs, bank lending policies, neighborhood restrictive covenants, police actions, hiring practices, military discrimination and others that solely benefited White Americans for hundreds of years.

All the above-mentioned programs were given to White Americans for their benefit and prosperity and nary did one Supreme Court decision balk at such unequal allocation of governmental largesse and fortune and tax breaks.

But yet. When an issue of minority students trying to gain access to certain higher education opportunities, White America goes ballistic and thinks the sky is falling because some DeMarcus or a Lakisha has the gall to want to sit next to them at Columbia, NYU, Berkeley or Harvard Law.

For some in White America, any seat that is occupied by a person of color in certain colleges and universities, is a seat that has been denied to a "qualified" Asian American or a White student.

Far too many White Americans see people of color who are in colleges and universities as not being qualified or deserving and believe that Affirmative Action has "cheated" their Suzy or Johnny out of a coveted seat of higher learning.

American higher education has always begrudgingly permitted Black

students' entry into their hallowed doors and, in the alternative, has seen such students as undeserving and without educational merit.

Have no illusions about this draconian decision. It's intent and purpose and effect will be to drastically reduce the number of minority applicants getting into certain institutions on the grounds that such admissions are "replacing white people" in getting favorable jobs and positions of influence.

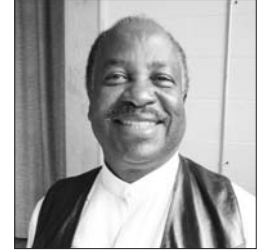
Can the affected institutions possibly craft other methods and means by which they can "legally" bypass this biased decision? Possibly, but when they attempt to do so, the unseen eyes of "white grievance" will be watching and waiting to pose other legal challenges to such attempts.

Unless you are able to comprehend that White America never had any true designs to share its economic and political goodies with its former slave population, you will miss the larger picture that's White America had and will continue to have an uneasy truce with Black America being part of America.

You would think that since White America has had hundreds of years of being on the receiving end of affirmative action that they could now play fairly in the sandbox with others, but no, power does not relinquish without a demand or a struggle.

With this outrageous decision, the declared "wisdom" of the all-white majority (including Uncle Tom Clarence Thomas who, by his voting record, considers himself an honorary white person), says to Black America and their aspiring college students, "If you are White... you are right, if you are Brown... stick around, but if you are Black, get back!"

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



Lafe Tolliver

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# IMA of Toledo and Vicinity

## Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Toledo and Vicinity

Michael C. Troendle  
Chief of Police, Toledo Police Dept.  
525 N. Erie Street  
Toledo, OH. 43604

Dear Chief Troendle,

On behalf our membership and Executive Officers, we would like to express our abject concerns regarding the discipline findings of two TPD officers, who were found to have violated the department's policy on demeanor and unnecessary use of physical techniques, although, we fully understand the collective bargaining aspects and HIPPA requirements relative to this disciplinary action we reserve the citizens' rights to disagree.

The purpose of this communication is of paramount importance to the faith leaders and elders of the African American community (at large) but we also issue a challenge to the leadership of the Toledo Police department, the elected members of Toledo City Council and the Mayor's administration.

After an extended investigation by our IMA civic committee and consultation with retired law enforcement career officers we have concluded that the corrective discipline for these officers is insufficient and one of the disciplined officers due to their current mental, emotional and psychological status presents a clear and present danger to that officer and the community for which they are sworn to protect and serve. Furthermore, we believe a reassignment to administrative duties will allow them to regain the trust of the department and the citizens they serve.

Finally, any recurrence of similar violations of TPD policies or the imposing of the discipline held in abeyance, should result in the permanent termination of these officers.

We await your timely response.

Sincerely, Dr. Cedric Brock, President  
Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Toledo & Vicinity

Senior Pastor Mt. Nebo Baptist Church, Toledo

# Biden-Harris Administration Announces Funding for Four Community-Led Infrastructure Projects in Ohio as Part of the Investing in America Agenda

This year, the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program funds more than \$2.2 billion for projects in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and two territories.

Last week, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg announced that the Biden-Harris Administration has awarded \$30,465,480 from the RAISE discretionary grant program to four different infrastructure projects across Ohio.

The RAISE grant program, expanded under the president's infrastructure law, supports communities of all sizes, with half of the FY2023 funding going to rural areas and the other half to urban areas. The grants are part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda that is growing the American economy from the bottom up and middle-out—from rebuilding our nation's infrastructure, to driving over \$470 billion in private sector manufacturing and clean energy investments in the United States, to creating good-paying jobs and building a clean-energy economy that will combat climate change and make our communities more resilient.

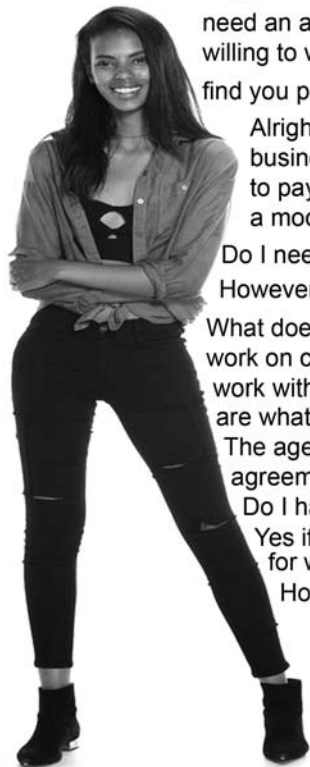
"Using the funds in President Biden's infrastructure law, we are helping communities in every state across the country realize their visions for new infrastructure projects," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. "This round of RAISE grants is helping create a new generation of good-paying jobs in rural and urban communities alike, with projects whose benefits will include improving safety, fighting climate change, advancing equity, strengthening our supply chain, and more."

This year's awarded projects will help more people get where they need to be quickly, affordably, and safely. From projects that will strengthen supply chains and reduce bottlenecks, to bridge replacements and road projects to make them safer and more efficient for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians, this year's awards will build and repair infrastructure that benefits Americans for future generations to come, while taking steps to reduce emissions from the transportation sector and support wealth creation and good-paying union jobs. Seventy percent of the grants are going to projects in regions defined as an Area of Persistent Poverty or a Historically Disadvantaged Community.

... continued on page 10

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you will get more information from your agency.....

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# Vice President Harris Reacts to Supreme Court Ruling

Statement by Vice President Harris on the Supreme Court's ruling in *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard* and *Students for Fair Admissions v. University of North Carolina*

"Today's Supreme Court decision in *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard* and *Students for Fair Admissions v. University of North Carolina* is a step backward for our nation. It rolls back long-established precedent and will make it more difficult for students from underrepresented backgrounds to have access to opportunities that will help them fulfill their full potential.

"It is well established that all students benefit when classrooms and campuses reflect the incredible diversity of our Nation. Colleges and universities provide opportunities for students to interact with Americans from all walks of life and learn from one another. By making our schools less

diverse, this ruling will harm the educational experience for all students.

"Our Nation's colleges and universities educate and train the next generation of American leaders. Students who sit in classrooms today will be the leaders of our government, military, private sector, and academic institutions tomorrow. Today's decision will impact our country for decades to come.

"In the wake of this decision, we must work with ever more urgency to make sure that all of our young people have an opportunity to thrive."



Vice President Kamala Harris

# National Fair Housing Reacts to Supreme Court Affirmative Action Ruling

Special to The Truth

Supreme Court Ruling Against Affirmative Action in College Admissions at Harvard and University of North Carolina Undermines Efforts to Create Diverse Student Bodies to Benefit the Nation

Last week, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Harvard and UNC's affirmative action plans violate the 14th Amendment's Equal Protection Clause. While the Court seemingly left existing precedent untouched, its decision calls into question the use of affirmative action in future college admissions. Nikitra Bailey, Executive Vice President of the National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA), issued the following statement condemning the Court for not outright upholding educational equity.

"Despite the course of nearly 50 years of precedent where race could be a factor in college admissions, the U.S. Supreme Court interjected new hurdles for students of color who have overcome structural barriers in pursuit of higher education. Today's rulings place additional burdens on Black, Latino, API, Native American, and other students of color to prove how systemic discrimination affects them and how their histories can benefit an institution of higher learning. The Court's decision is likely to result in denying all students the ability to benefit from diverse student bodies that enhance educational experiences.

"Our K-12 school systems, like our neighborhoods, remain extremely segregated despite the rich and broad diversity in the United States. All students should have access to high-opportunity schools, but where you live impacts your child's ability to attend a well-resourced school with expanded learning opportunities. Throughout the nation, school systems spend \$26 billion more in predominately White school districts than they do in school districts that are predominately Black, Latino, API, and Native American, and

the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the racial education gap.

Affirmative action made higher education a viable pathway for students from intentionally disadvantaged communities expanding their future opportunities regardless of what zip code they grew up in. That pathway now has more hurdles to be jumped.

"In addition to attempting to level the playing field of past discriminatory educational policies, affirmative action also sought to increase diversity on campuses to benefit all students. In fact, 79 percent of Americans believe that diversity contributes to a better education for all students, which in turn benefits our nation.

"Today's ruling is disappointing as it turns the 14th Amendment on its head, but we must continue fighting to advance racial justice. We know that so called 'race-neutral' options are not the solution to centuries of race-conscious discrimination, and the 14th Amendment permits race-conscious remedies. Today, in fact, the Court stated nothing precludes the consideration of race in admissions as long as it is narrowly tailored to survive judicial scrutiny. We will continue partnering with other civil rights organizations to uplift communities of color and ensure that opportunities in education are open to all."

The National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA) is the country's only national civil rights organization dedicated solely to eliminating all forms of housing and lending discrimination and ensuring equal opportunities for all people. As the trade association for over 170 fair housing and justice-centered organizations and individuals throughout the U.S. and its territories, NFHA works to dismantle longstanding barriers to equity and build diverse, inclusive, well-resourced communities.

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<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).

# GM Toledo Propulsion Systems Reinforces Commitment to Toledo Community Through Nonprofit Grant Program

*Local facility provides \$100,000 in grants to seven area nonprofits*

*Special to The Truth*

General Motors recently completed the national grant distribution of its 2023 Community Impact Grants (CIG) Program to its recipients – totaling \$3 million in grants to 157 nonprofits across its U.S. manufacturing communities.

In Toledo, Ohio, this meant \$100,000 in grants to seven local nonprofits.

The CIG program is one example of how General Motors supports growth in local communities. Through this program, local manufacturing facilities collaborate with GM's corporate giving arm to identify nonprofits helping address local issues facing their community.

"The generosity of GM and our workforce in this community inspires me every day," said Tammy Golden, plant executive director at GM Toledo Propulsion Systems." GM has been in this community for more than 67 years and we see the positive impact these local organizations can have when they have the resources to do so. Whether it's an investment of time or money, we are committed to serving and growing with the greater Toledo community and all of the communities in which GM employees live and work."

The 2023 Toledo-area grant recipients include:

**University of Toledo Foundation** – University of Toledo College of Engineering will use grant funds to support two initiatives for underrepresented, minority students. The first is a collaboration with Upward Bound to provide 6 weeks of engineering instruction to high school students. The second is a collaboration with Toledo Excel to host a 2-week summer institute to help prepare incoming, URM freshman to enter col-

lege.

**NAACP** – grant funds will be used to support the NAACP's Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological, and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO), which is a year-long achievement program designed to recruit, stimulate, and encourage high academic and cultural achievement among African American high school students. Funds will help to cover expenses for students participating in the NAACP ACT-SO national competition.

The Nature Conservancy - The Nature Conservancy is part of the Green Ribbon Initiative, a shared vision of public and private organizations, landowners, and individuals working to preserve, enhance, and restore critical natural areas in the Oak Openings Region of Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan. Grant funds will be used to complete important repairs of stewardship equipment, purchase supplies for volunteer programming, and develop outreach materials that enable community engagement – all creating more safe, inclusive, and accessible places for people to enjoy nature.



*Toledo CIG group*

*... continued on page 12*

## ATTENTION VOTERS IN LUCAS COUNTY

### BE PREPARED TO VOTE IN THE AUGUST 8, 2023 SPECIAL ELECTION

TO VOTE, YOU MUST BE PROPERLY REGISTERED AND A RESIDENT OF LUCAS COUNTY

**JULY 10, 2023 AT 9:00 P.M. IS THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR THIS ELECTION**

To verify your registration status, register to vote, update your registration online or request an absentee ballot application, call our office at 419-213-4001 or visit our website at: [www.lucascountyohiovotes.gov](http://www.lucascountyohiovotes.gov)

**IN-PERSON ABSENTEE VOTING** – YOU MAY VOTE EARLY IN-PERSON **FOR ANY REASON** AT LUCAS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS EARLY VOTE CENTER at 3737 W. SYLVANIA AVE., ENTRANCE C (ENTRANCE AT BACK OF BUILDING) SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR IN-PERSON VOTING HOURS (BEGINS JULY 11<sup>TH</sup>)

**DEADLINE: YOUR WRITTEN REQUEST FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT MAILED TO YOU MUST BE RECEIVED AT THE LUCAS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS BY 8:30 p.m., TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2023.**

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:** IN ORDER FOR YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT TO BE COUNTED, you may hand deliver your absentee ballot to our office prior to Election Day, or by 7:30 p.m. on Election Day. You may also utilize the drop box located at 3737 W. Sylvania Avenue in the back of the parking lot. If mailed, the return envelope must be post-marked by the day before the election (August 7<sup>th</sup>) and received by the Board of Elections by the fourth day after the election.

#### **NOTICE TO ALL VOTERS – NEW ID LAWS**

Voters must bring identification to the polls in order to verify identity. Identification must include a current and valid Ohio driver's license, state ID card, interim ID form issued by the BMV, U.S. Passport or passport card, U.S. Military ID card, Ohio National Guard ID card, or a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs ID card.

**SEASONAL WORKERS ARE NEEDED FOR ABSENTEE-BY-MAIL DEPARTMENT, EARLY VOTE CENTER (EVC), AND WAREHOUSE - CALL 419-213-4001 FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**POLL WORKERS ARE NEEDED FOR UPCOMING ELECTIONS - CALL ROBERT AT 419-213-2043 OR VERONICA AT 419-213-2034, OR APPLY ONLINE AT: <https://lookup.boe.ohio.gov/vtrapp/lucas/pwapp.aspx>**

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Board Members: Chairman Fritz Schoen, Dawn Christen, Kurt Young, Donald Miller  
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Deputy Director Timothy J. Monaco

# Young Artists at Work: Unleashing Creativity, One Apprentice at a Time!

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

Picture this: a vibrant summer day filled with the exuberant energy of young artists, armed with paintbrushes, music notes, dance moves, and theatrical flair. Welcome to the magical world of Young Artists at Work (YAAW), where creative apprenticeships reign supreme unleashing the wildest dreams of artistic souls.

YAAW, the brainchild of creative enthusiasts, arrived on the scene in 1994, like a burst of confetti at a paint-splattering party. Since then, it has been offering teens 14-18 the chance to dive headfirst into a rainbow of artistic expressions while earning some much-needed moolah.

"Toledo's Arts Commission includes the Young Artists At Work (YAAW) program as well as Congresswoman Kaptur's 9th Congressional District Invitational High School Art Exhibition," says Natalie Gray, Youth Services Manager. "We also curate arts for several Lucas County criminal justice programs."

Imagine a canvas of possibilities, where young artists immerse themselves in a smorgasbord of creative fields. From splashing vibrant colors onto canvases to crafting murals that make hearts skip a beat, Young Artists at Work embrace it all. Whether you're a visual virtuoso, a dancing diva, a theatrical tornado, or a music maestro, YAAW has got your back.

"It's cool to understand at a young age that you can like your job," explains Gray. "It's an important foundation to work and profession when someone knows they can get paid or have a successful career doing fulfilling work they actually love."

These apprenticeships are no ordinary gigs, my creative compatriots. Instead, they're a gateway to unearthing your inner muse and sculpting it into tangible masterpieces. It's like being a wizard with a paintbrush, conjuring up captivating art that can transport observers to realms unknown. It's also a journey of self-discovery, where each creative work unravels a part of your artistic spirit.

But hold onto your berets, because YAAW doesn't stop at just fueling artistic fires. Oh no,

... continued on page 8



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Young Artists... continued from page 7

they sprinkle a touch of practical magic, too. Picture this: you're brushing strokes of vibrant colors onto a canvas, and suddenly you find yourself effortlessly coordinating with fellow painters.

"Apprentices not only learn art skills, they learn job skills as well," shares Gray. "Our artists also learn professionalism, financial literacy, and the overall continuous development of their work ethic."

It's like a symphony of creativity, where teamwork and collaboration take center stage. YAAW teaches you the art of time management, the dance of communication, and the problem-solving chaos. These are the secret ingredients that transform artistic passions into long-standing professional careers.

Now, let's talk about the sweet cherry on top of this artistic extravaganza: the green stuff. That's right, my friends, YAAW pays apprentices for their artistic prowess! Who said being an artist couldn't put money in your pocket? With Young Artists at Work, you can earn some dough while you waltz through the realm of creativity. It's like being paid to play, with your artwork becoming currency for your dreams.

"The Young Artists At Work will be selling their artwork at our Art Loop event July 22nd 2pm-6pm," Gray adds. "Make sure to stop by Handmade Toledo in Uptown on Adams St. between 17th and 19th Street to see the art gallery and support budding local artists."



But it's not just about the money, my fellow artistic adventurers. It's also about embracing responsibility, blooming into a young professional, and forging a path to financial independence. YAAW nurtures not just young artists' creative genius, but their work ethic too. It's like a gentle nudge, urging creatives to spread their wings and soar to new artistic heights.

"I've been with the Arts Commission for five years now and it's been a pleasure to watch someone start as a shy 14-year old and see them transform into a confident young artist prepared for the future," says Gray.

In the world of YAAW, every day is an adventure, filled with laughter, shared moments of artistic genius, and the occasional paint mishap. Imagine the sight of a group of young artists, with smudg-



... continued on page 9

## REFINERY PROCESS OPERATOR

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**Toledo Refining Company LLC has an exciting opportunity for Refinery Process Operators.**



A Refinery Process Operator is responsible for: Ensuring safe work practices; making thorough rounds to maintain process equipment in all weather conditions; climbing ladders, tanks and towers up to 250 ft.; taking samples/ readings of various process streams; maintaining good communication throughout the shift; providing proper shift relief regarding key process unit and equipment information.

Compensation & Schedule	Competitive Benefits Package	Required Qualifications
Starting Pay Rate \$35.13 per hour	Medical, Dental, Vision	Must be at least 18 years old
Pay increases every 6 months during the apprenticeship program		
12 hour Rotating Shifts	401k Match	HS Diploma or Equivalent
	Pension	Legally authorized to work in the US without restrictions
	Paid Parental Leave	Must have a current driver's license
	Much More!	



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## JOURNEYMAN ELECTRICIAN

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**Toledo Refining Company LLC has an exciting opportunity for: Journeyman Electricians**

A Journeyman Electrician is responsible for completing assignments relative to the inspection, repair, installation, and maintenance of refinery electrical equipment. Work will be performed inside the maintenance shop as well as outside in all weather conditions. Journeyman Electricians will be expected to perform tasks in other incidental craft areas as assigned.



Compensation & Schedule	Competitive Benefits Package	Required Qualifications*
Starting Pay Rate \$46.18 per hour	Medical, Dental, Vision	Must be at least 18 years old
After Completion of 12-Month Probationary Period Pay Rate \$50.52 per hour		
8-hour Shifts M-F	401k Match	HS Diploma or Equivalent
	Pension	Legally authorized to work in the US without restrictions
	Paid Parental Leave	Must have a current driver's license
	Much More!	

\*For consideration, candidates must have completed a state approved Electrician apprenticeship program with no less than 4 years work experience OR have equivalent work experience of no less than 8 years as a Journeyman Electrician.

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Young Artists... continued from page 8

es of color on their faces, laughing together as they bring their imagination to life. It's a symphony of laughter and creativity, a harmonious blend of youthful energy and artistic brilliance.

"We are very grateful to have some generous funding partners in the City of Toledo and Department of Neighborhoods," says Gray. "The University of Toledo, Parks & Recreation, Lucas County Jobs & Family Services, local banks and foundations —all of our partners truly help to make our programs dynamic in nature."

Oh, and let's not forget the pièce de résistance: the positive impact on Toledo's neighborhoods and the ripple effect on the artistic landscape. YAAW alumni are the creative heroes who paint murals, compose symphonies, choreograph dances, and breathe life into the artistic fabric of their respective communities. They become the vibrant brushstrokes that transform gray walls into canvases of wonder.

"It's been quite the honor to now see second generation alumni of Young Artists at Work supporting their children's active involvement in our program," shares Gray. "We also have an upcoming Alumni Art Exhibition featuring YAAW Alums art from 1994-2021."

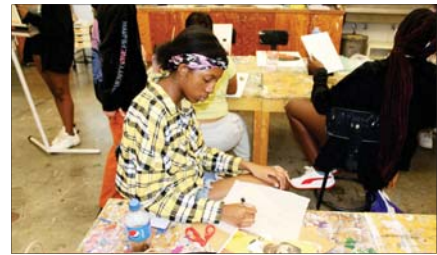
The upcoming Alumni Art Exhibition & Sale will be Thursday July 27 from 5-7 p.m. at the University of Toledo's Center of Visual Arts where the Young Artists at Work art studios are currently housed.

So, my artistic comrades, brace yourself for a plethora of vibrant artwork spanning three decades and lots of fun!



If you're an artist 14-18 years of age, consider nurturing your professional growth, by unleashing your creative potential like a whirlwind with YAAW. It's a journey where you'll discover the true power of your artistic voice, and where you'll forge lifelong friendships with fellow creatives who understand the magic that flows through your fingertips and resonates in your heart.

"The 55 art apprentices we have are split up into four teams, each assigned a different project," explains Gray.

The Lucas County Shared Services Department Building will adorn an impressive art installation



... continued on page 12

## INSTRUMENT MECHANIC

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Toledo Refining Company LLC has an exciting opportunity for:  
**Maintenance Instrument Mechanics**


Instrument Mechanics will complete assignments relative to the inspection, repair, installation, and maintenance of refinery equipment. Work will be performed inside the maintenance shop as well as outside in all weather conditions.

Compensation & Schedule	Competitive Benefits Package	Required Qualifications*
Starting Pay Rate \$46.18 per hour	Medical, Dental, Vision	Must be at least 18 years old
After Completion of 12-Month Probationary Period Pay Rate \$50.52 per hour		
8-hour Shifts M-F	401k Match	HS Diploma or Equivalent
	Pension	Legally authorized to work in the US without restrictions
	Paid Parental Leave	Must have a current driver's license
	<b>Much More!</b>	

\*For consideration, candidates must have completed a 2-year Technical Degree in Process Control OR have equivalent work experience of no less than 4 years as an Instrument Mechanic.





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## JOURNEYMAN PIPEFITTER

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Toledo Refining Company LLC has an exciting opportunity for:  
**Journeyman Pipefitters**


A Journeyman Maintenance Pipefitter is responsible for completing assignments relative to the inspection, repair, installation, and maintenance of piping within the refinery. Work will be performed inside the maintenance shop as well as outside in all weather conditions.

Compensation & Schedule	Competitive Benefits Package	Required Qualifications*
Starting Pay Rate \$46.18 per hour	Medical, Dental, Vision	Must be at least 18 years old
After Completion of 12-Month Probationary Period Pay Rate \$50.52 per hour		
8-hour Shifts M-F	401k Match	HS Diploma or Equivalent
After Completion of 12-Month Probationary Period Pay Rate \$50.52 per hour	Pension	Legally authorized to work in the US without restrictions
	Paid Parental Leave	Must have a current driver's license
	<b>Much More!</b>	

\*For consideration, candidates must have completed a state approved Pipefitter apprenticeship program with no less than 4 years work experience OR have equivalent work experience of no less than 8 years as a Journeyman Pipefitter.



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# Use the Grill for All Your Foods

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

Although meat and poultry are the most common foods to cook on the grill, the grill can be used for all types of meals. If you've already got the grill heated up for your favorite recipes, try some new ones this month. Believe or not, the following recipes all got a "thumbs up" from a panel of youth and adults a couple years ago when we sampled a variety of unusual grilling recipes as part of a WeGrill program.

**Grilled Caesar Salad for Two** – Ingredients: 1 romaine lettuce hearts, 2 Tablespoons Caesar dressing, 2 Tablespoons shredded Parmesan cheese and a dozen croutons. Other items include cooking spray and foil.

Grilled Caesar Salad for Two – Directions: 1. Heat grill to medium to medium-high heat. 2. Cut romaine heart in half. 3. Coat romaine halves with

cooking spray, lightly on all sides. 4. Grill on foil until warm and wilted. 5. Place one half on a plate and drizzle with half of the Caesar dressing, shredded Parmesan, and croutons. 6. Repeat with the second half.

**Grilled Chicken Parmesan (2 servings)** – Ingredients: 2 chicken breasts, cubed, 2 Tablespoons pasta sauce, 4 Tablespoons shredded Parmesan cheese, Italian seasoning to taste. Other items include cooking spray and foil.

Grilled Chicken Parmesan – Directions: 1. Heat grill to medium high heat. 2. Place foil on grill and spray with cooking spray. 3. Place chicken cubes on foil, season with Italian seasoning and turn to cook evenly. 4. Once chicken is cooked with an internal temperature of 165 degrees, pour pasta sauce over

...continued on page 11

## Biden-Harris... continued from page 4

Like last year, demand for RAISE funding was higher than available funds. This year, DOT received \$15 billion in requests for the \$2.26 billion available. Today's awardees in Ohio include:

\*\$2,275,000 for the Cincinnati Westwood Northern Boulevard Corridor Plan project. Funds for this project will be used to study and develop conceptual design alternatives for safety improvements to the Westwood Northern Boulevard Corridor. The project aims to protect non-motorized travelers and communities from safety risks by reducing fatalities and serious injuries to bring them below the state-wide average. Through infrastructure redesign and incorporation of pedestrian and bicycle accommodations, the project expects to reduce exposure to air and noise pollution and improve system-wide connectivity providing access to daily destinations.

\$5,250,000 for the East Main Street Corridor Improvements project. Funds for this project will be used to reconstruct East Main Street from a five-lane road into a four-lane road that includes a landscaped center median, sidewalks, a multi-use trail, two roundabouts, and bus pullouts. The project will improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists by adding a buffered multi-use path, improved lighting, high-visibility mid-block crosswalks, and pedestrian refuge islands. The project will also implement traffic calming measures and improve traffic flow. The addition of a separated path for pedestrians and improved transit options combine to provide better access to jobs, shopping, medical facilities, and Kent State

University.

\$20,000,000 for the Connecting Toledo Neighborhoods to Opportunity project. Funds for this project will be used to help make infrastructure improvements that benefit Toledo's residents and visitors by adding a protected sidewalk to the Dorr Street overpass of Interstate 75, as well as add a new 10-foot multi-use path that will extend nearly a mile into the Junction neighborhood. It will also make approximately 4.4 miles of enhancements including ADA-compliant sidewalks, on-street protected bike lanes, LED lighting, trees and landscaping, seating, bike shelters, and a public transit mobility hub. The project will create user-friendly active transportation access to jobs, retail, healthcare, and area resources.

\$2,940,480 for the Leveraging Infrastructure for Transportation (LIFT) project. Funds for this project will be used to complete engineering and final design for the reconstruction of WRTA's Federal Station transit hub into a mixed-use transit-oriented facility that includes a sheltered passenger terminal, parking garage, electric vehicle charging stations, and amenities. The redesign of the station will provide a gateway into downtown Youngstown and improve safety by reducing conflict points between pedestrians and buses by separating rider boarding areas from the pathways bus use to enter and exit the facility. The inclusion of an electric bus charging station will facilitate the transition to using zero emissions buses.

RAISE discretionary grants help project sponsors at the State and local levels, including municipalities, Tribal governments, counties, and others complete critical freight and passenger transportation infrastructure proj-

...continued on page 13

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A Mental Health Moment

# Mental Health & Happiness

By Bernadette Joy Graham, MA, LPCC, CCHt, Licensed Mental Health Therapist  
The Truth Contributor

We all want to be happy. I am rather confident that no one has ever communicated to me that they just want to be sad. Listening to a child's laughter or watching them at play having a great time often brings a smile to our faces because it takes us back to when we were children. We remembered how it felt to laugh and play and smile, maybe even secretly wishing we could go back to those times.

In a recent online article titled "What is Happiness, defining happiness and how to be happier," breaks down happiness for us adults, some of whom have forgotten how to smile, laugh or just have a good time in an adult manner. We have become consumed with bills to pay, toxic relationships, employment and many other things that fall under adulthood that as a child we did not have to consider let alone know about.

I receive many calls to my offices or hear a client say in session "I just want to be happy." Happiness is not a place or a thing. To the contrary, some individuals seem to have just been born happy. Nothing gets them down; they always have positive conversation and it feels good to spend time around them.

An article about happiness which you may find at <https://www.verywellmind.com/what-is-happiness-4869755> begins by defining happiness. Many times, just not knowing the definition of happiness is our first mistake. We say we want to be happy but we don't know truly what that entails.

Some will say, when I get married, I will be happy, when I get that new car, I will be happy, when I graduate, I will be happy or even, when I get divorced, I will be happy. While those situations and things are subject to provide us a level happiness, regrettably that happy feeling does not last forever. There will always be things, people, experiences, and more that we will always want to fill that happiness void.

Happiness is simply our outlook on life and how we roll with what we have. I always thought I would be happy if I had a mother but then I saw others who had a mother and they did not seem to be happy as I thought, they complained, they distanced themselves some even put their own mothers down.

As the article proceeds, it defines the two categories of happiness, types of happiness and how to cultivate happiness. Some of the things to cultivate happiness in your life such as reframe negative thoughts for example if you are always thinking that you won't get the job for which you hope, reframe

that to I will get the job that I want or one comparable or better. Also, enjoy the moment, we don't always get to see friends and family except during holidays, weddings or funerals. This is a holiday month, even better it is a summer holiday, 4th of July when most gather with great food, some travel long distances just to visit, while the moment won't last forever, enjoy the time we have because the next event may be a funeral and those are not happy moments.

The article ends with the importance of happiness and that is where mental health meets this feeling. Over my 20 plus years of a career in counseling, most confuse unhappiness or sadness with depression. Depression is a diagnosable mental health disorder while sadness and unhappiness are not. They may play a role in the symptoms of criteria for depression if one concludes they have been unhappy their whole lives and have tried everything to improve their happiness but a misdiagnosis can cause grave damage.

Take a mental health moment and reflect upon the current state of your overall happiness in your life. If you have the opportunity to read the article you will gain much insight, it will help to answer many questions you may have about happiness and provide you ways to increase the happiness already in your life. Of course, if you feel you have read and done everything you can and still do not see any happiness on the horizon, please do not hesitate to make a visit to a mental health provider.

Happiness is not a 24/7 space we spend our life. It comes and goes and we do have more control over our happiness than we think. One technique is to think about your own childhood when you had no responsibilities like a mortgage, or car payments, insurance. Going back to happy memories will always bring some feelings of happiness. Life can be harsh, whenever you can enjoy just five minutes of real happiness don't pass it up. Happy 4th of July to all my readers and especially to my fellow veterans.

**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.bernadette@gmail.com](mailto:graham.bernadette@gmail.com) For appointment information please call 419.409.4929 Available for team building, employee empowerment in motivation and better understanding mental health in the work place. Accepting new clients ages 13 and older.**

*Use The Grill... continued from page 10*

chicken. 5. Top with Parmesan cheese and cook until pasta sauce is hot, and cheese is melted.

**Grilled Pineapple (8 servings)** – Ingredients: 1 fresh pineapple, ½ cup honey, 1 Tablespoon cinnamon (or more to your taste).

Grilled Pineapple – Directions: 1. Cook ½ cup honey with 1 Tablespoon cinnamon on stovetop at medium-low heat until honey is runny. 2. Preheat grill to medium heat. 3. Cut both ends off the pineapple and cut off the outside skin of the pineapple. 4. Cut pineapple into spears/wedges or into circular slices. 5. Brush pineapple pieces with Honey and Cinnamon sauce. 6. Grill pineapple on each side for 4-5 minutes until pineapple is tender.

**Vegetables on the Grill** – most vegetables cook best on a medium or medium-high heat. On a gas grill this is about 400 to 425 degrees. On a charcoal grill, you should be able to hold your hand above the coals for 4-5 seconds before removing it. Try some corn or onions this month!

By cooking sweet corn cobs directly on the grill, the kernels will lightly blacken, and it will bring out the sweet corn flavor. Turn the cobs frequently, over medium heat for about 4 -5 minutes.

Large, sweet onions like Vidalia or red onions taste great on the grill. Peel them, cut them into ½ inch slices, toss them in olive or vegetable oil and cook

over medium-high grill for 2-3 minutes, turn them and then grill for another 2-3 minutes before they're done.

As a friendly reminder, the four basic food safety guidelines are:

- Clean - Wash hands and surfaces often.
- Separate - Don't cross-contaminate. Keep raw meat and poultry apart from cooked foods. Bring a clean plate or container to the grill to put the cooked food into.
- Cook - Use a food thermometer to be sure meat and poultry are safely cooked.
- Chill - Refrigerate or freeze any food that you will not be eating right away.

If you have any questions about food safety, the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline is open year-round Monday through Friday 10am – 6pm (just not on Federal Holidays), 1-888-674-6854.

Do you have questions about home food preservation like canning, drying or freezing? Join OSU Extension, Lucas County on Wednesday, July 19th, 1:00 – 2:00 pm at Locke Branch Library for *Basic Home Food Preservation: Deciding What's Best For You*. Patrice can be reached at [powers-barker.1@osu.edu](mailto:powers-barker.1@osu.edu) or 419-574-0983. This is a free overview of home food preservation. Learn basic food safety principles for home food preservation. Compare different ways to preserve food such as freezing, drying and canning. Know where to access current information for successful home food preservation.



**Bernadette Joy Graham, LPCC, LLC**  
Licensed Professional  
Clinical Counselor  
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*Young Artists... continued from page 8*

from group 1 artists. This building houses the offices of the county's Job & Family Services, Child Support Enforcement Agency, OhioMeansJobs and Planning and Development. "So many Toledoans will see these artist's inspirational work here," Gray says.

Group 2 and 3 artists will be painting murals on 2 buildings overlooking Chessie Circle Trail.

Strader Tire & Oil on West Sylvania Avenue is one of those buildings. Strader has been in business for a jaw-dropping 75+ years and are the visionaries behind a popular bike trail. Named for the railroad that once used the nearby corridor, the now Chessie Circle Trail Bike/Pedestrian Bridge was repurposed into a bike trail where cyclists, walkers and runners alike can enjoy exercising.

Recently the Strader Team thought, "Hey, let's make this trail an art-lover's dreamland!" So coming this summer, as you pedal, walk, or run your heart out, prepare to be dazzled by some seriously uplifting YAAW apprentice art along the way.

One mural will be placed on the side of Strader Tire & Oil and the other mural on the old Drum Depot Building now owned by and housing the popular Beirut Lebanese restaurant.

"It's really neat because people on the trail will get to see 2 YAAW art projects in progress this July," notes Gray.

It's like a fitness adventure with a side of artistic inspiration!

Lastly, group 4 artists are working with Toledo GROWs on an art installation in honor of their dearly departed bee-keeper, Horice.

"Partnering with Toledo GROWs this summer is allowing the artists to learn about ecosystems, how honey is made and the life cycle of pollinators," says Gray.

Community gardens are like magical portals that sprinkle goodness into our lives. Toledo GROW, housed on three acres of farmland, serves as home base for services provided to 130+ community gardens throughout Toledo and surrounding areas.

While creating, YAAW artists will also learn the importance of abandoned spaces being transformed into vibrant gardens where folks from all walks of life gather, dig in the dirt, and make lasting connections.

Gardens, like art, bring us back to our roots, reminding us of the beauty of nature and life. Plus, gardens offer us delicious and budget-friendly food that nourishes both our bodies and souls.

"It's exciting for our artists to collaborate and create beauty in the very same green spaces that help our local communities thrive," says Gray.

But it's not just about creating masterpieces; it's about the stories behind them. YAAW is a gateway to self-expression, where art becomes a reflection of our unique experiences and perspectives. It's a chance to tell our stories in vivid hues. Each stroke, each step, each project is an opportunity to leave a lasting impression, while connecting with people on profound levels and evoking emotions that transcend words.

And let's not forget the magical mentors who guide these young artists along their creative odyssey. They are the sages of artistic wisdom, the guiding stars that ignite the spark within. "Every summer I hire a skilled group of educators for the apprentices," Natalie explains.

With their tutelage, young creatives refine their techniques, push their boundaries, and learn to embrace the unexpected twists and turns of the artistic journey.

Every summer, a fresh group of hand-selected educators share their own tales of triumphs and failures, reminding the artists that mistakes are simply brushstrokes in the masterpiece of their artistic evolution.

But amid the laughter, camaraderie, and artistic brilliance, there's an unspoken truth that echoes through the halls of YAAW: art has the power to change lives. Creators fueled by passion and nurtured by the Young Artists at Work program, have the potential to touch hearts, provoke thought, and inspire generations to come. Thank you for being beacons of light, illuminating Toledo with artistic talent and for leaving an indelible mark on the creative tapestry of humanity.

Follow YAAW's artistic journey on social media and at: [TheArtsCommission.org](http://TheArtsCommission.org)

*GM Toledo... continued from page 6*

**Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments** – grant funds will be used to support the Student Watershed Watch, which is an annual environmental science program for teachers and students in grades 5-12. Funds will enable purchase supplies and equipment and cover staff time to support training for teachers, water quality sampling, and a Student Summit, where students can present the data they collected and interact with local environmental professionals.

**Toledo Science Center** – Imagination Station – through the support of grant funds, Imagination Station will continue to drive its mobile making and tinkering lab into the most under-resourced areas of our community. Toledo Tinkers broadens access to STEAM programming for youth and parents through Maker Clubs and Tinkering Takeovers where we increase exposure to and excitement about engineering design using a combination of STEAM mentors, tools, and equipment. Project activities advance workplace skills needed to pursue available well-paying careers.

**Learning Club of Toledo** – grant funds will be used to support curriculum, classroom supplies and motivational incentives for 6 Core LEARNING CLUB® programs serving approximately 180 students at risk students grades 1-12. LEARNING CLUB® has helped thousands of students achieve academic success since opening in 1992.

**Big Brothers / Big Sisters of Northwest Ohio** – grant funds will support Empowering Future Leaders (EFL), a new Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Ohio (BBSNWO) program focusing on four primary youth development areas: life skills, leadership development, cultural competence, and career development. EFL is a compilation of programs offered by BBSNWO, which have documented positive outcomes. The funds provided covered program supplies ranging from art, crafts STEM kits, and program supplies that impacted over 140 youths.

Since 2019, GM has granted more than \$13 million to nonprofits in its facility communities, and \$325,000 to the Toledo region through the Community Impact Grants program.

General Motors (NYSE:GM) is a global company focused on advancing an all-electric future that is inclusive and accessible to all. At the heart of this strategy is the Ultium battery platform, which will power everything from mass-market to high-performance vehicles. General Motors, its subsidiaries and its joint venture entities sell vehicles under the Chevrolet, Buick, GMC, Cadillac, Baojun and Wuling brands. More information on the company and its subsidiaries, including OnStar, a global leader in vehicle safety and security services, can be found at <https://www.gm.com>.

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# Black Folk: The Roots of the Black Working Class by Blair LM Kelley

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

At least you won't have to move.

You keep telling yourself that, ever since the boss decided to downsize this year, workplace and all: a reduced staff and work-from-home options means a smaller office and big change, which is fine with you. In the new book **Black Folk** by Blair LM Kelley, your ancestors never had it this good.

c.2023  
Liveright  
\$30.00  
338 pages

In the years immediately following Emancipation, former slaves were shut out of nearly every job other than domestic and sharecropping and they "still faced circumstances almost as degrading as those of slavery." Hoping for better lives, Black workers first headed from farm to big city, in the hope of landing good jobs.

"My work as a historian has always begun with the stories of my ancestors," says Kelley and she opens this book with an angry man, his son, and the story of Henry, who was "born in bondage" and ultimately became a blacksmith. Kelley admits that she doesn't know much about Henry's earliest life but in adulthood, he became a voter and "he was part of a community" – something that Kelly "found time and again" had given "Black folks [a] sense of self."

Like many Black women in the 1920s, Sarah Hill was a washerwoman hired to launder white folks' clothes. It was an honorable job, one of the few available to Black women, but while it didn't pay well, it paid enough for Sarah to put a little money aside. It allowed her some control over her own life then.

Callie House helped washerwomen organize. Cottrell Dellums belonged to an organization of Black Porters. As a young teenager, Minnie Savage

was "near the front of a grand exodus north" when she snuck away from her parents home. To her great irritation, Minnie could only find domestic work in Philadelphia. And after moving north, Hartford Boykin landed a job but his past kept returning to him.

"From his mother, Hartford learned that Black freedom was precarious." Remember how totally dry your high school history books were? Yeah, this is nothing like those. *Black Folk* lets readers get to actually know people who lived a century ago or more. It's like being carefully handed a living, breathing story to hold.

In using her own family tree as a launching point, author Blair LM Kelley lends detail to tales she's heard all her life and knows well. This is no small thing: it assures readers that there's authenticity inside every anecdote, that they're not told with guesswork but with real first-hand knowledge. Alongside that, Kelley uses her experience as a historian to show how her ancestors represent most of the Black working class between roughly 1865 and 1940, and how their journeys were like so many others in the Great Migration.

On this, readers will be happy that both men and women stand tall here. This is one of those books that's meant to savor, to explore and enjoy. For historians and anyone who had a Great Migration ancestor, reading *Black Folk* is a good move.

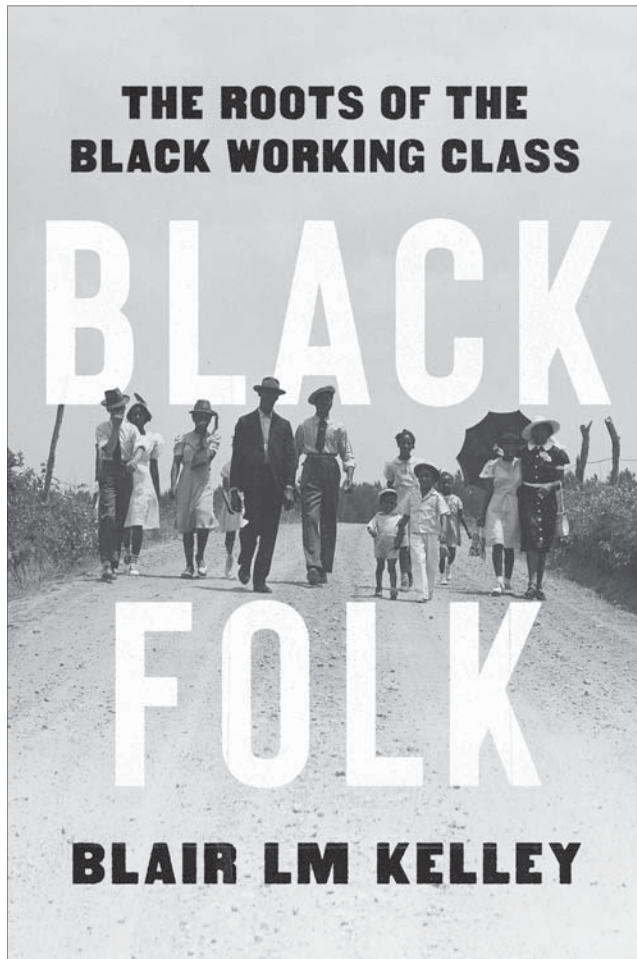
*Biden-Harris... continued from page 10*

ects that they may not have had the funding to carry out prior to passage of President Biden's infrastructure law. The eligibility requirements of RAISE allow project sponsors to obtain funding for projects that are harder to support through other U.S. DOT grant programs.

The RAISE program is one of several ways communities can secure funding for projects under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's competitive grant programs. This week, the Federal Transit Administration announced nearly \$1.7 billion in funding through the agency's, which puts more zero-emission and low-emission buses on the road while supporting workforce training on new vehicle technologies.

The Department also published the 2023 Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Program [3]: a three-in-one grant opportunity for communities interested in funding made available through the National Infrastructure Project Assistance (Mega) discretionary grant program, the Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program (Rural), and the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) program.

For more information on the RAISE program: <https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants>



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# CLASSIFIEDS

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July 5, 2023

## LIBBEY 50TH REUNION

Libbey High School Class of 1973 are celebrating our 50th Class Reunion on Labor Day Weekend. The event will be held Friday, September 1st and Saturday, September 2nd.

Please contact Cassandra Day-Moore for tickets at 419.450.7227. Tickets are \$50 single and \$75 couple.

## PUBLIC BID ADVERTISEMENT

Sealed proposals for furnishing all labor, materials, and equipment necessary for the 2023 Kent Branch, Reynolds Corners Branch and Sanger Brach Parking Lot Reconstructions will be received by the Fiscal Officer, Toledo-Lucas County Public Library until 12:00 noon (Toledo Time) on July 18, 2023 at the Security Office of the Main Library Building, 325 N. Michigan Street, Toledo, Ohio, attention: David Scanlan. The bids will be publicly opened and read immediately thereafter. Proposals received after this time will be returned to the bidder unopened.

General scope of work consists of asphalt pavement removal and reconstruction, catch basin reconstruction, dumpster pad and enclosure construction and concrete curb and walk reconstruction.

Electronic copies of the bid and contract documents can be obtained at Lewandowski Engineers, 234 North Erie Street, Toledo, Ohio 43604, phone 419-255-4111, at a non-refundable cost of \$20 per set, plus shipping, if requested. All requests for information must be received no later than 12:00 noon on July 12, 2023.

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

## 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 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).

## 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 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)

## 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).

# TARTA Starts at ZERO – Good News for the Planet

Special to The Truth

The Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) is starting at ZERO and is thrilled about it.

In conjunction with several other transit agencies in Ohio, TARTA applied for and received a Low-No grant for zero emission buses and training to drive and work on those electric vehicles from the Federal Transit Administration.

The Ohio Department of Transportation will put the \$26 million grant to work through their ZERO (Zero Emission Ready Ohio) program, which will oversee the delivery of electric vehicles to the state's transit agencies in the next few years.

So what does this mean for TARTA?

TARTA applied for and was awarded \$9 million from the grant, which will fund the delivery of eight electric vehicles and six electric chargers, scheduled to arrive in June of 2026. The grant also funds installation of the chargers, and perhaps most importantly the development of a training program for operators and mechanics working with electric vehicles.

"I believe in a zero-emission future for TARTA," said TARTA CEO Laura Koprowski at a press conference to announce the grant. "When you combine this grant with other recent developments, including a partnership with TMACOG to bring another electric bus and two more electric paratransit vehicles soon to arrive at TARPS, we are well on our way to making that future a reality."

The press conference took place Friday, June 30. TARTA's CEO was joined by U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur, TMACOG President Sandy Spang, and TARTA Board of Trustees member Rev. Willie Perryman.

"Bringing a zero-emission bus fleet to our region will improve quality of life for Toledoans and our neighbors in the region," said Congresswoman Kaptur through a statement. "It means less noise and exhaust in our communities, more efficient transit operations, and good-paying jobs for our electrical and utility workers.

"This funding and the improvements it will enable are a tremendous step in the right direction. It is rewarding when the work we do in Washington brings rewards back home."

The training program developed with these funds will be the first such training curriculum for these vehicles developed in the region and will be designed to make it easier to replicate the training as Ohio's transit systems acquire more zero emission vehicles in the near future.

"The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is getting resources to Ohio communi-

ties to improve transportation and support Ohio workers," said U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown through a statement. "We fought to secure this investment to create jobs and to connect people with jobs, saving them time and money."

TARTA has secured closed to \$25 million in grant funds in the last 12 months alone.



Rep. Kaptur speaks with TARTA employees



TMACOG President Sandy Spang; TARTA Board Member Rev. Willie Perryman; TARTA CEO Laura Koprowski; U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur

# IMA Donates to a Worthy Cause

The Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance (IMA) donated \$1,000 to assist The Movement in carrying on its uplifting work in the community. Rev Cedric Brock, pastor of Mt. Nebo Baptist Church, and Rev. Otis Gordon, pastor of Warren AME, presented the check to The Movement's Celeste Smith at Warren AME on June 22.

Ironically most of the members of The Movement, particularly Tina Butts, the organization's director, could not attend the donation event because they were busy helping residents of Point Place who were trying to recover from the tornado that had wreaked such havoc in the area.



Rev. Otis Gordon, left, and Rev. Cedric Brock, right, present check to The Movement representative Celeste Smith

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# Mom's House Celebrates 30 Years of Success in Helping Young Mothers

By Angie Hayes

The Truth Reporter

Mom's House of Toledo hosted a celebration on June 27 at The Summit to recognize the positive impact Mom's House has made to the community over the years. The 30 year of life celebration acknowledged and recognized the successful achievements of the participants, including graduates, staff and the community support.

Mom's House is a non-profit organization, located on Franklin Street, that offers programs to help single mothers to complete educational growth. The celebration event was an opportunity to observe the success of the participants who have completed their educational process and provide positivity to the community.

The beginning of the celebration began with an opportunity to enjoy a dinner that was created by a graduate of Mom's House who completed her educational process. The next phase of the event was recognition and awareness of the service, growth and details of the impact of Mom's House. Over 30 years, Mom's House has provided significant support to those individuals with needs.

Mistress of ceremony Rosalyn Whickum offered much information to the audience. "Welcome the Mom's House 30th Year celebration. We are celebrating 30 years ... but not just 30 years of anything ... 30 years of cycle breaking," said Whickum. "And it's only right that we do this in true Mom's House fashion and break the cycle. We have learned, we have developed, stable and thrive and give back to our community! Head Chef at Summit.... Jordan Star is a graduate of Mom's House. She prepared all food for the event. We have entrepreneurs, we have bankers, we have chefs, we have pharmacists, we have team leaders, estheticians, cosmetologists, educators, from early college; from early childhood to the college level. Nurses, journalists and hundreds more working right here in the city of Toledo! With the help of Mom's House and all of

YOU, we are really sustainable and a generational chance to Toledo."

Christina Rodriguez is the executive director and has successfully fulfilled that role for the last 16 years! Rodriguez provided details and specific information that demonstrated the successful impact Mom's House has had in the community.

"I told Rosalyn to introduce herself and I told her to brag about herself. This is a different type of vibe; this is an accomplishment and didn't she do a phenomenal job at our organization?" said Rodriguez of Whickum. "Seriously, she just touched the tip of the iceberg with her accomplishments and also all of the young ladies that are here, it just makes our heart so warm to know that they are thriving right here in our community. I get the privilege of saying 'Thank You to the people who actually helped us and helped everyone of them to get to the place they are. I want to make sure that everyone here sees who the people are, that are the backbone of Mom's House. First our Founder, Miss Nancy. And her husband and his son. Attorneys and some of the dad mentors, these guys could literally save lives. The board of directors who volunteer their time. Thank you for trusting us, and trusting me, and supporting us with all of our amazing decisions. We appreciate you. To our partners, our donors, our supporters, our friends: you don't get to 30 years without a village and that is where our village is. It takes a village to raise a child and it takes a village to help us do the work that we do every single day. The Toledo community has been so good to us! We get to see the most generous people every day: helps us, encourages us to change lives. The people who are on the front line, the people who are doing the work the best. In my opinion it's the Mom's House Team."

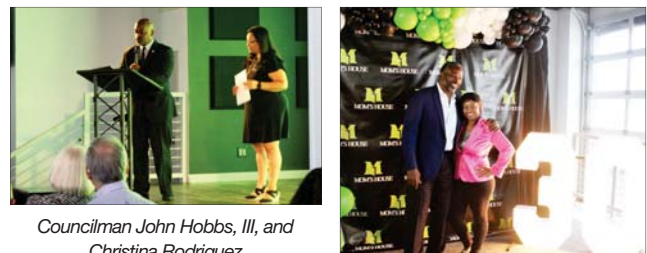
The next part of the celebration was a video of the growth, a Mom's House Watch Party. "You get to see the beginning and end and go on the journey with the girls," said Ken Rusk on the video, about the video. The video explored the successful development of Dacorsha Sutton, who was a young mother and is now a doctor. She completed her educational process and is active in the community. Her future is full of potential and successful outcomes.

"What we do makes a difference in their lives," said Paige on the video about the benefits of Mom's House. The video showed the successful growth that Dacorsha Sutton experienced. "Dacorsha's story is just one of the many success stories of our organization, and it is just the beginning. As we continue supporting single parents in their pursuit of education and success, we can't wait to see all we accomplish in the next 30 years and beyond," said Rodriguez.

If you are interested in donating for the mission of Mom's House, text "Mom's House" to 345345 or call 419-241-5554. Donations will support the successful outcomes of Mom's House. More information is available at [MomsHouseToledo.org](http://MomsHouseToledo.org).



Graduates Mom's House



Councilman John Hobbs, III, and Christina Rodriguez

