



Volume 85 No. 8      *"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."*      September 11, 2024



**Elevating The Real Estate Business!**

*Toledo Realists Hold Meet and Greet Social Event*



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Publication Date 03/24

# The Problem Solver

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

The Truth Contributor

*A genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a molder of consensus. – Martin Luther King, Jr.*



Count me among those who believe Matt Schroeder should be hired as The University of Toledo's (UT) permanent president, and the reason is simple.

UT has been adrift for too long, with short-term leadership transitions leading to a critical financial juncture. The university, like many others, is grappling with a crisis of declining enrollment and escalating expenses. These include faculty salaries, benefits, administration and infrastructure costs, all of which are driving up the cost of education.

UT needs a leader who can steer it through the complex financial landscape of higher education. State funding needs to keep pace with inflation, and federal funding is often earmarked for specific projects. This leaves universities increasingly reliant on tuition, adding to the financial burden on students. The fallout from the student debt crisis and the financial losses from reduced international enrollment due to COVID-19 further compound the issue.

UT is now at a crossroads and needs a leader who can chart a course for the future and provide long-term stability and a clear direction rather than choosing another short-term fix.

That leader is Matt Schroeder, who has shown that he understands the institution's challenges and is deeply vested in its long-term success.

Currently serving as interim president, Schroeder is not rooted in the typical academic profile, which makes him ideally suited to take the reins of leadership at UT. With his extensive experience at the University of Toledo Foundation and later as chief of staff under Presidents Gaber and Postel, Schroeder – a Toledo native – brings a nuanced understanding of UT's operations and culture. He has been described as a peacemaker and problem solver. Therefore, his strong finance background and pragmatic approach to university-community relations are just what the university needs.

For example, during Matt's tenure at the foundation, he was instrumental in bringing the first Children's Defense Fund Freedom School to Toledo, housing it at UT, and smoothing over conflicts between the university and community stakeholders. His collaborative and solution-oriented nature makes him the ideal candidate for permanent leadership, especially for an institution that must balance diverse interests with limited resources.

His genuine concern for people – students, faculty, and the broader community – also sets Matt Schroeder apart. While his predecessors viewed their tenure as a stepping stone to more prestigious opportunities, Schroeder has demonstrated a deep commitment to Toledo. His default style is one of personal engagement and compassion, often reaching out unsolicited to check on community members' well-being.

In addition to his people skills, Schroeder, perhaps more notably, brings valued strengths in financial management and organizational efficiency. Under his interim leadership, he has already calmed areas of tension within the university, particularly through his efforts to rebuild trust with the Greek community. The ability to navigate these complexities while creating and maintaining goodwill highlights his effective leadership style.

However, the next challenge Schroeder faces is the perceptions and concerns created by the decision to decentralize UT's DEI office during his interim leadership. UT's actions regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion have sparked intense backlash within the community, as highlighted in The Truth's August 8, 2024 edition in the article, "The Community Discusses the Decision at UT to Dissolve DEI Position." Many in the community remain outraged and are concerned that decentralizing DEI efforts could lead to a lack of accountability and visibility, ultimately diminishing the university's ability to address issues of equity and representation effectively.

These concerns are echoed in Eugene T. Parker III's article "What's Lost in Dismantling DEI Offices" in Inside Higher Ed. Parker argues that dismantling centralized DEI offices can weaken a university's coordinated efforts to promote diversity and inclusion. Parker maintains that a centralized DEI office ensures the cohesive strategy, strong leadership, and unified efforts across campus needed to advance equity and justice.

I am told that after Dr. Willie McKether left UT to pursue another position, the DEI department, under his successor, appointed under President Sharon Gaber, was ineffective at promoting its goals and failed to take meaningful action when needed.

UT understands that the decision "does not sit well with the Black com-

munity," whose perception is that UT basically "took the DEI head out along with other Black people in leadership positions." However, I am also told that the decision to decentralize DEI was more about budget considerations and the need to consolidate several areas throughout the university than anything else.

I see the problem as an opportunity for Schroeder to demonstrate that his leadership is not only financially prudent but also deeply committed to fostering an inclusive campus environment from the administration down to the students.

The bottom line is that Presidents Gaber and Postel's tenures were characterized by high costs and little lasting impact. They saw UT merely as a personal and professional launchpad for more elite positions. Matt Schroeder is a leader who can bring stability, financial intellect and a genuine commitment to the University of Toledo. He is homegrown. His deep ties to the university and connection to the Toledo community uniquely qualify him for the permanent presidency.

However, to fully earn this role, Schroeder must embrace the opportunity to strengthen UT's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. If so, he will showcase his leadership as independent, forward-thinking, and inclusive, paving the way for a more prosperous and equitable future for the University of Toledo.

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

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# State Rep. Elgin Rogers Heeds Advice to "Do Something"

By Fletcher Word  
The Truth Editor

During the Democratic National Convention in Chicago last month former First Lady Michelle Obama urged those in her audience to "do something."

"We put our heads down. We get to work. In America, we do something."

It's advice that Ohio state Rep. Elgin Rogers, who was in attendance that day in Chicago, has taken to heart. On Wednesday, September 4, he assembled a working group of about two dozen Democratic Party members at Michael's Café to lay out a plan to canvas and raise funds for the Party in this upcoming election.

"47 for 47 Northwest Ohioans for Harris & Walz" is the blueprint for Democratic success, according to Rogers. He asked attendees to answer a number of questions that will help guide the Party to success in this corner of the state: "Will you donate \$47?" "Will you commit to making sure two people exercise their right to vote on or before election day?" "Will you commit to volunteering one hour calling voters?" "Will you commit to volunteering one hour to help check voter's registration?" "Will you commit to being 1 of the 47 for 47 days?"

"We're looking at a season of miracles," said Rogers of the optimism he feels about the presidential election in Ohio. "We're not going to give up on Ohio. Ohio is more purple than red."

A number of elected officials and candidates were also in attendance. City

Council members Brittany Jones and Mac Driscoll, both newly appointed to their positions are running for election on the November ballot.

Dave Blyth is running for election to the State House District 44 seat. Ken Walz is running for judge on the Lucas County Court of Common Pleas.

State Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson was also in attendance.

The next meeting scheduled for the volunteers is on Wednesday, September 18 during which Rogers said a plan for canvassing neighborhoods will be unveiled.



Councilwoman Brittany Jones



Councilman Mac Driscoll

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# Dorr Street Historic District – We are One! By

By Robert Smith, Executive Director, African American Legacy Project

*Have a vision of excellence, a dream of success, and work like hell. – Dr. Samuel DuBois*

This past July, we – The African American Legacy Project [The AALP] - took a cross-section of our Toledo community to Columbus [OH] to visit the King Arts Complex and the King Lincoln Historic District. Our goal was to see how the Columbus community moved past being on life support to flourishing and positioning itself as a magnet for economic growth and development.



Robert Smith

The AALP has continued to elevate productive conversations and interactions that are meaningful to our entire community since its inception in 2004. Twenty years ago, our board of directors, a group of individuals who had experienced firsthand lots of life infractions so much so they wanted to do more than dream about a better and brighter future for subsequent generations. They saw a need to stimulate the community to instill a new vitality. This was a forward-thinking board and through its vision statement painted a clear direction for The AALP's work and role in the community.

This board knew we needed to document our history and simultaneously begin working toward changing what was happening to us right before our very souls. LaRouth Perry, PhD, wrote, our Vision Statement, the psalms of our collective experience:

*The African American Legacy Project (AALP) shall be the innovative multi-disciplinary epicenter, celebrating the triumph and spirit of the African-American experience. The African American Legacy Project exists to be a vehicle for raising the historical and present cognizance levels of African Americans in Northwest Ohio communities; be a motivator and promoter of community development; be a resource and repository for historic, current, and cultural inquiry; be an avenue for nurturing unity and the creative process.*

Toledo's African American community has had its challenges. Nationally, there are just too many references about the negative plight of Toledo's Black population. The truth, however, is Toledo's African American community has been on life support for a very long time. Long-term Toledoans have evidenced both the ascension and ... demise of our community. Quite frankly, taking a close look at the historical timeline that represents Toledo's Black community and business district one would realize, there came a time where you could see nothing but vastness – no buildings, no businesses, no houses, no people, no... sense of self.

Twenty years later new voices – the voices of third and fourth generations of African American Toledoans -are now also wondering how we can effectuate change. We should welcome these new voices and these new voices should understand the journeys of men and women who came before all of us. After all, we are one.

We all dream of new beginning and we are ready to work toward a new community reality. Yet if we want to look forward, it makes sense to take a look at some of the successes of Toledo's African American community. For instance, in 1943 the Belmont Neighborhood Saving Club was born.

A handful of neighbors bonded together and chose to collaborate on a mutual vision of stimulating economic and community development.

By 1948, the expanded group announced it was breaking ground on a \$100,000 community investment affectionately known as the Belmont Enterprise. That \$100,000 figure is probably greater than or equal to \$1.5 mil in today's dollars



Belmont Enterprise Ladies League circa 1950



Belmont Enterprise Men's Bowling Team

The Belmont Enterprise was a multi-use facility housing bowling lanes on its first level serving a population of African American bowlers who had been spurned by traditional houses. The second floor served as a skating rink for community kids and doubled as a multi-purpose room used for weddings, concerts and other events.

That \$100,000 investment - financed in part by the then First Federal Bank -translated into full and part time jobs while stimulating new growth and community investment while playing a vital role for community residents.

It is difficult to predict the number of jobs the Belmont created and/or the number of families it served. The story of the Belmont fits so perfectly with the discussion on rebuilding community. Both the Columbus story and the story of the Belmont is absolute proof that collectively we can begin to change our future, we can improve our "right now" by beginning to listen to each other.

The Columbus trip was a lot of things, but first and foremost... it was an exercise in humanity. Every person traveling with us saw firsthand that the dream of rebuilding, revitalization and reinvigorating our community is really possible. Everyone saw it and... what everyone saw was incredibly beautiful. We saw new construction, startup "mom and pops" and across from the cultural center is a relatively newly constructed Urban League building. Just about a quarter mile from the center, Ohio State University invested in the community by building a small hospital.

Across the country the revitalization of older, central-city neighborhoods shows how a cooperative effort between key stakeholders; neighborhood residents, organizations and groups can set the stages to promote and strengthen the economic well-being and quality of life. We understood that 20 years ago and set out to tell the stories of the men and women, families and businesses who lived worked and elevated an area rich with history, cultural significance and civic pride in this near downtown area called the Dorr Street Corridor.

The Columbus trip marked a serious effort by The AALP to reach out to every quadrant of our community and create platforms to allow us to sit at the table just find out how similar our dreams really are.

In the coming months, we will unveil a community campaign entitled, "We are One." The intent of the "We are One" campaign is meet the community where they are, understand what individuals and individual businesses are trying to accomplish and bring a wholistic approach to bringing life back into our com-

...continued on page 6

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Dorr Street... continued from page 5

munity. It is going to take a little work but, if we want a better tomorrow, we will work together to figure out today. We've even adopted a campaign anthem written and performed by Frankie Beverly and Maze. The song and our community campaign have the same title, "We are One!" It's a powerful song with a powerful message. Get a chance. Take a listen to the song. I'm nominating it for our community anthem.

They African American Legacy Project is working with the Toledo Plan Commission to assist this community in creating a district similar to Columbus.

Over the course of the next several months, we will continue to reach out to you - the community - and invite you to join us on our next adventure and/or event. We will reach out to you or... please feel free to call us at 419-720-4369 or email is at info@africanamericanlegacy.org.

Afterall... we really are one.



Dorr Street

## Community Calendar

### September 12

Jones Leadership Academy Open House: Accepting applications for grades 9-12 for the 2024-25 school year and grades 7-12 for the 2025-26 school year; 5 to 6pm

### September 14

Toledo Museum of Art Block Party: 3 to 7 pm; Live performances, interactive art-making, artistic demonstrations; Block party will extend over entire 37-acre grounds including Glass Pavilion, Edward Green Beau-Arts Building

### September 19

Toledo Early College Open House Event: 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., located at 2800 W. Bancroft St. The school is now enrolling students in grades 7-9 for the 2025-26 academic year

### October 6

Studio 32 Nine Pop Up Shop/ K'Jancee Boutique Sip & Shop: 4 to 7 pm; To be a vendor contact 419-535-1862

### October 20

Savanna's Soul Kitchen Steps Brunch: 2 to 4 pm; Harmony House Cafe: 419-740-4579 savannasoulkitchen@gmail.com

# Three Tips to Help Kids Stay on Top of Their Homework

Special to The Truth

When a new school year begins, most teachers don't wait long before they begin scheduling tests, and assigning loads of homework and reading assignments. Here are three tips for helping kids stay on top of all their coursework:

1. Focus on organization: One of the most valuable life skills a student can develop while in school is time management. Teach kids how to prioritize assignments with upcoming deadlines and those which are easy to knock off their to-do list. Encourage them to find an organizational tool, such as an academic planner or calendar, that works for them. Depending on their preferences and learning style, they may prefer to use app-based tools. The important thing is that they always know what is on their to-do list and when it must be completed by. If they are struggling, help them chunk their afternoon into segments so that they budget enough time for each of their tasks.

2. Equip them with high-quality math tools: Math can be a frustrating subject for many students. To make learning simpler, equip them with tools that are incredibly easy to use. With Natural Textbook Display and an intuitive icon menu, the fx-9750GIII graphing calculator from Casio is a solid, affordable choice for quickly grasping new mathematical concepts. And because it features nearly 3,000 functions, including graph plotting, probability distribution, vector arithmetic and spreadsheets, students at all levels will find it an invaluable tool, particularly during test-taking season, as its exam mode makes it approved for the SAT, PSAT, ACT and AP tests. The fx-9750GIII is also capable of programming in CASIO Basic and MicroPython, and Python files are easily stored and transferred via USB to a computer.

3. Set boundaries: As a parent, it's essential that you support your child in their academic pursuits, however being too hands-on during homework time could lead them to rely on you to provide them with answers, not guidance. While this approach may mean they turn their assignments in on time, if they aren't absorbing the material themselves they could quickly fall behind in the classroom. Set clear boundaries about what your after-school role will be and stick to it. You can also foster your child's independence and confidence by helping them differentiate between reliable educational resources and misinformation.

With the right tools and habits, students can keep up with their assignments and make the most of their study time.

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# Remembering the Life of Theodore Bernard Henderson Culp January 24, 1940 – August 31, 2024

Theodore Bernard Henderson Culp, known fondly as “Pete”, was born on January 24, 1940, in Sharon, Pennsylvania, to the late Fred R. and Esther L. (Austin) Culp. He peacefully passed away on Saturday, August 31, 2024, at Hospice of Northwest Ohio, surrounded by loved ones.

Pete, the youngest of ten siblings, was raised by parents who held strong Christian values. As a child, Pete liked to play multiple sports, and he excelled in football and basketball. While attending high school in Sharon, he played a pivotal role in leading the school to state championships in both football and basketball. Pete’s athletic abilities also extended to helping Anderson College secure a major championship in 1958.

Pete later met and was married to Nancy Quarles. Two years later, Pete moved to Toledo Ohio where his brother was the senior pastor at First Church of God. From their union two handsome sons were born – William (Tony) and Alan.

After their union dissolved, Pete would later marry his current wife Linda Culp and raise his beautiful daughter Charnell and son Robert. Pete was a devoted father to all his children and loved them dearly. Pete worked hard and provided for his family by securing employment as an educator.

He would later blaze a trail in Social Justice because of the injustice he saw in his community.

From 1967-1969 Pete worked for the Economic Opportunity Planning Association (E.O.P.A.) Toledo, OH as Community Organizer. He promoted the involvement of residents in Block Watch and helped residents to become stakeholders in their neighborhoods.

In 1970, he became the Director of Model Cities Programs where he started the Food to Feed Students Program, initiated the Cordelia Martin Health Center and directed the funding and building of Washington Village, helping to reinvest in the Central City’s private homes. He worked in this capacity through 1975.

In 1976, Pete took on another bold move as the Commissioner of Renewal Operations where he oversaw a 10-million-dollar annual budget managing Economic Development, Operation of Relocation, the Real Estate Division and the Inspection Division.

Pete’s drive for excellence in helping the city of Toledo thrive landed him the position of Director of Planning and Development with the Economic Opportunity Planning Association (E.O.P.A.) where he initiated the Reentry Program for Ex-offenders (K.I.F.), the Fatherhood Initiative, increased the level of funding for the Anti-Poverty Initiative, and established Results Oriented Management Accountability (R.O.M.A.). Because of his extensive knowledge of government, his effective communication skills, his work ethic and ability to make unbiased decisions, Pete was awarded the Outstanding Service to Organization MNRA Award, The City of Toledo Award for work on the Planning Commission from Mayor Michael Bell and the Exceptional Leadership and Devoted Service Award from the Lucas County Port Authority.

As a highly regarded person in his community, Pete served on numerous boards, committees, and projects, including the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Lucas County Metropolitan Housing Authority, Toledo Lucas County Children Services, Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union, Fresh Attitude, Jim Jackson Foundation, African American Legacy Project, NAACP and the Lucas County Planning Commission.

Pete was known for his outspoken nature, compassionate spirit, and intellectual contributions as a civil servant. He was always ready to help and advocate for what he believed was just. Pete Culp was not just a community advocate, he also became a committed Christian who attended the First Church of God in Toledo, Ohio, where his brother, Bishop Robert A. Culp, served as his pastor for 62 years.

Active in the Men’s Ministry, Stewardship Board and Men’s Choir, Pete played a crucial role in supporting both young and senior members in overcoming challenges. His dedication to serving the community mirrored his commitment to helping those in need within the church. Pete’s remarkable ability to connect with individuals from all social classes, especially mothers with young sons and young daughters, was unparalleled.

He was cherished by both the community and the members of the church, leaving behind a powerful legacy. Pete, affectionately known as “PoPo”,



Bishop Robert Culp and Pete Culp



Taleah Woodard with grandfather Pete Culp

loved to have fun and had moves on the dance floor. He was a devoted father to his children and family, and anyone passing his home knew they

...continued on page 12

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# Social Hour with Toledo Realists

The Greater Toledo Realist Association (GTRA) held a First Friday Social Happy Hour at Toast and Tap on September 6, 2024.

Members and guests enjoyed appetizers, refreshments and meals in between laughter and conversations.

"The purpose of this event is to bring information about our organization to the community," began Faye Smith, GTRA membership chair.

The Greater Toledo Realist Association (GTFA) was re-established in 2019 with a mission to educate the community, advocate on behalf of our community, elevate the real estate businesses in the process, become a positive and dominant influence in the Ohio real estate market and represent a unified voice for African Americans and other underserved populations.

The membership is comprised of individuals interested in breaking down barriers in Black homeownership. For additional information about

the organization visit, <https://toledorealists.org/>

Toast and Tap, located at 413 Madison Avenue, is a new bar and restaurant in downtown Toledo. Kandara Whittington and Aundray Gray are the owners; the new establishment features Chef Jacqueline Smith.



Guests



Kitchen team



Rob Pasker, Daisy White, Shalonda Thurmond, Neaira Williams, Delise Simmons, Faye Smith, Toni Fletcher, Emory Whittington, Alma Fesh, Sena Mourad-Friedman, and Laura Longoria



Realtists and guests



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Attention Business Owners! The City of Toledo invites you to join them for their **Business & Supplier Empowerment Summit** on Thursday, September 19th from 1-4 at the Main Library. This is your chance to connect with industry leaders, learn about upcoming city projects, and discover resources to take your business to the next level. With hundreds of millions of dollars in infrastructure upgrades starting in 2025, the City of Toledo is offering unprecedented opportunities for local business owners. See you there!

Register today by scanning the QR code or visit [toledo.oh.gov/business-summit](https://toledo.oh.gov/business-summit)



# TPS Now Offers Free Breakfast and Lunch to All Students

The Truth Staff

Due to changes by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce to the qualifications for students to receive free and reduced priced meals, Toledo Public Schools now offers free breakfast and lunch to all K-12 students in the district.

This school year, a handful of TPS schools, including Bowsher and Start high schools, were able to add free breakfast and lunch program for all their students ensuring that the entire TPS student body now have the same free meal privileges.

During a visit to Bowsher High School at lunchtime, Carrie Kolodziejczyk, TPS senior director of Food Service and Child Nutrition, described the changes and benefits for the student body.

There have always been eligibility requirements, she noted, for students to receive free meals. Prior to 2024, income eligibility held sway and if the majority of students in a particular school were income-eligible for free meals, the entire school was therefore eligible.

At the start of 2024, the Department of Education and Workforce changed the eligibility requirements and held that qualifiers for Medicaid were eligible for free meals. The majority of families in the Toledo district qualified for Medicaid and that means that every student now qualifies.

According to Kolodziejczyk, TPS could not start the program last year in the middle of the academic year, they had to wait until the start of the school year.

Bowsher has a student body of around 800 and now approximately 450 students avail themselves of a menu that, for lunch, includes a choice of one of four entrees or some precooked stored items if the daily offerings do not entice them. They can also select four side items, including a salad bar.



The entrée items change daily, said Bowsher cafeteria supervisor Linda Tandler. This past Thursday selections were barbecued chicken sandwiches, Vito's pizza, spicy chicken tenders or plain chicken tenders.

The cafeteria is prepared for alternative requests such as vegetarian, ...continued on page 15



## Your Child's Learning Ability May Be Affected By **LEAD POISONING**

[toledoleadsafe.com](http://toledoleadsafe.com)



# City's Inaugural Virtual Neighborhood Discussion

By Dawn Scotland  
The Truth Reporter

The City's Department of Housing and Community Development hosted its inaugural virtual Neighborhood Discussion via zoom August 27. The quarterly series aims to keep residents informed and engaged about the city's services and departments.

The discussion was moderated by Neighborhood Navigator LuCynthia Jones. The guests for first session were Jennifer Jaqua, commissioner, Engage Toledo; Jim Molnar, director, Department of Inspection - Division of Code Compliance; along with Code Compliance inspectors.

Residents were informed on how the city processes resident concerns via Engage Toledo and Code Compliance. Viewers were encouraged to ask questions and voice their concerns. Those present posted comments and questions in the chat to be addressed by the city.

Important Information about City Services:

Engage Toledo

Engage Toledo is a 24/7 customer service provider for all city service requests and issues.

**Engage by phone**

Call Engage Toledo 24/7 at 419-936-2020. Please use the phone number to report issues requiring immediate attention, such as a water or sewer emergency, or anything pertaining to public safety. Please call 911 for police/fire assistance, crimes in progress, or life-threatening emergencies.

**Engage by email**

Email Engage Toledo 24/7 at [engagetoledo@toledo.oh.gov](mailto:engagetoledo@toledo.oh.gov). The department can respond to emails within 24 hours.

**Engage on your mobile device**

Engage Toledo can also receive issues reported through an app for your iOS or Android device.

The application works best when you are at the location of the problem you'd like to report, and includes an option to upload a photo to help staff quickly find the issue. The more details you provide, the more easily we can work to resolve the concern.

**Engage with the online portal**



LuCynthia Jones

You can request a service immediately using the online portal. (source: [toledo.oh.gov](http://toledo.oh.gov).)

To learn more visit: [toledo.oh.gov/engage-toledo](http://toledo.oh.gov/engage-toledo)

Code Compliance

The Code Compliance Departments responds to complaints, eliminates nuisance, and enforces health and safety regulations as it pertains to property maintenance and zoning codes in the City of Toledo.

The removal of blight in our community helps stabilize property values and eliminate crime, sustaining the viability of our neighborhoods. The department's proactive approach to property maintenance means you'll see code enforcement workers out in neighborhoods, at community events, and working at neighborhood clean-up events.

(source: [toledo.oh.gov](http://toledo.oh.gov).)

To learn more about Code Compliance and view the Toledo Municipal Code visit: [toledo.oh.gov/departments/building-and-code-compliance/code-compliance](http://toledo.oh.gov/departments/building-and-code-compliance/code-compliance)

The discussion can be viewed on [toledo.oh.gov/events/neighborhood-discussion](http://toledo.oh.gov/events/neighborhood-discussion) or on the City of Toledo Youtube page.

## Ben Tankard to Visit Toledo to Celebrate Black Kings

By Dawn Scotland  
The Truth Reporter

Rob "RC" Louis interviewed Stellar Award Winner Ben Tankard Thursday, September 5 virtually via zoom in anticipation of his upcoming visit to Toledo, Ohio. The acclaimed jazz and gospel musician will be performing at The Celebration of Black Kings event Thursday, September 12 at the Toledo Club.



Ben Tankard

Ben Tankard is a former professional basketball player, an American gospel/jazz keyboardist, a producer, a songwriter and an author.

Tankard dropped out of college after one year to play minor-league professional basketball in Canada. He was invited to an NBA camp where he suffered an injury and was cut. Tankard rebounded from his basketball injury to become a bestselling gospel and jazz musician and has recently been inducted into the Gospel Music Stellar Hall of Fame. He is also a mo-

... continued on page 13

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# Former Chief Justice O'Connor Joins League to Register Voters at UT

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

Former Ohio Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor joined the League of Women Voters Lucas County at the University of Toledo in the Lancelot Thompson Student Union on September 4 to register voters and advocate for Issue 1 to end gerrymandering in Ohio.

The Toledo League of Women Voters- Lucas County is an active chapter dedicated to promoting informed and active participation in government. The League hosts this event at the University of Toledo as well as others to engage students and community members in the democratic process by registering them to vote.

The League of Woman Voters has 45 voter registration events scheduled throughout the city from now until Election Day.

Citizens Not Politicians is a grassroots, nonpartisan coalition of Republican, Democratic and Independent Ohio voters and includes nearly 100 organizations, businesses, and thought leaders across Ohio supporting a constitutional amendment that will end gerrymandering in the state.

Former Chief Justice O'Connor, a Republican, emphasized the harmful reality of gerrymandering and the importance of supporting Issue 1 on the November 5th ballot.

"Gerrymandering allows politicians to manipulate district lines to secure their own power, effectively choosing their voters instead of being chosen by them. This practice skews representation, fosters political extremism, and erodes trust in our government," she stated earlier that day.

"State Issue 1 is our opportunity to end the rigged system that has entrenched politicians in power at the expense of the people they are supposed to serve. This amendment will restore fairness, accountability, and trust in our democratic process," she said.

O'Connor highlighted the importance of voting to change the challenges we see in our current government and in society. "Voter registration is the

foundation of our democracy. It ensures that every voice is heard and every vote truly counts," O'Connor continued. "Young people, in particular, hold the key to shaping the future of our state. The decisions we make today will impact the Ohio they inherit tomorrow."

"I want to thank the League of Women Voters for their tireless work in registering voters and for their unwavering support of State Issue 1. Their efforts in gathering over half a million signatures to qualify this amendment for the November ballot are a testament to their dedication to fair representation and democracy," O'Connor remarked.

The Citizens Not Politicians Amendment aims to:

- Create the 15-member Ohio Citizens Redistricting Commission composed of Republican, Democratic, and independent citizens representing the state's diverse geography and demographics.
- Ban current or former politicians, political party officials, and lobbyists from serving on the commission.
- Require the creation of fair and impartial districts, prohibiting any drawing of voting districts that discriminate against or favor any political party or individual politician.
- Operate under an open and independent process.

For more information, visit [www.citizensnotpoliticians.org](http://www.citizensnotpoliticians.org).

To learn more about The League of Women Voters- Lucas County visit [www.lwvtoledo-lucascounty.org](http://www.lwvtoledo-lucascounty.org).



Nancy Gurney informs University of Toledo student about registering to vote at the Student Union



Retired Chief of Justice Mareen O'Conner helps LWV-TLC register voters and inform students about Issue 1



Volunteer Jan Scherger helps register UT student to vote



Volunteer Jan Scherger and League of Women Voters member Nancy Gurney in the University of Toledo Student Union

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Jack Ford... continued from page 16

his message and his administration's accomplishments had not registered with the city's voters but he voiced no regrets about those accomplishments.

"Our biggest challenge was to make the city a little more entrepreneurial in how it handles its budget ... how the money comes in, how the money goes out," the mayor replied when asked about how well four short years had gone.

"We invested in a tow lot which will bring in millions; we cut some longstanding practices such as unquestioned sick leave abuse; we tackled health care for the uninsured and there are now a little over 7,500 who are in CareNet or who have been placed into other existing programs; we tried to change things with respect to the longstanding insider network that tended to preclude a level playing field for minorities in city contracts; we listened to the citizens who indicated they wanted civility on the 22nd floor and we attempted to do that and, finally, we made great strides in working with the disabled community - curb repair, housing, ordinance on visibility, the first wheelchair accessible playground in northwest Ohio; we repaired more roads than any other mayor has and built more new homes as well."

What he didn't mention initially was his very early decision to get a smoking ban passed, without dissent, through City Council - the first such ban for a major Ohio city. It was a decision that, frankly, cut into revenues for some city businesses such as restaurants and bars. It was such an unpopular decision in so many quarters that it made his 2005 reelection loss a virtual certainty.

But Mayor Jack Ford never expressed any regret over the decision. "I would definitely do it again," he said then. "I believe there will be people alive in 25 years that otherwise wouldn't be."

He may have paid a political price for that courage of conviction but Toledo's smoking ban provided an example and cleared the path for other elected officials in Columbus and, later, in Lansing, MI to do the right thing and implement state-wide smoking bans.

And with that, Ford exited the political scene and attended his retirement party later in the week. Except, of course, he didn't quite retire from the political scene, did he?

I got a call a couple of months after Jack left office and had moved on to other things such as teaching. He asked me if he could join The Truth as a political columnist. I thought long and hard about that, perhaps for as long as a millisecond, before saying "yeah, sure, absolutely, you betcha!"

For years, before he ran again for office, Jack handled the chores of dispensing invaluable political insight and wisdom to The Truth's readers. He wrote about local, state and national politics from the viewpoint of an insider and, clearly, he was always an insider whether in or out of office.

"Tough times are ahead for the Midwest states of Michigan and Ohio," wrote Jack in February 2007, a year and a half before the economy bottomed out. "The economic heart of these two industrial giants is being ripped out by global forces which cannot be ignored ..."

Then Jack jumped back into politics with a flourish, running for the Toledo Board of Education, then City Council and even considering a run for state representative as an independent. His health struggles in recent years did not diminish his enthusiasm for playing a leadership role in this town and for pushing forward his favorite policy initiatives.

In the years to come, Jack's legacy as a visionary trend-setter may or may not always be celebrated as much as his gruffness and obstinacy will be. But make no mistake, he was indeed blessed with the ability to see things as they should be. Along with Carty, well before either one became mayor, he revamped the city's management and introduced the strong mayor concept and the city council structure as we know it today. When in the mayor's office, along with the smoking ban, he brought CareNet into existence in order to insure the uninsured. That's a policy that would later be adopted nationwide, of course.

Jack was always a relevant force and an important voice in his adopted home town - no matter which office he held and even when he was out of office. There aren't enough buildings and streets in this town to name after him.

Theodore Bernard... continued from page 7

were always present in his life.

Theodore Bernard Henderson Culp, known fondly as "Pete" was preceded in death by his parents, Fred, and Esther (Austin) Culp and eight of his nine siblings. He leaves to cherish his memory his loving wife Linda Culp, brother Bishop Robert (Maggie)Culp of Toledo, OH, sons William "Tony" Culp of Toledo, OH, Stanton "Alan" (Brigette) Culp of Columbus, OH, Robert (Felicia) Bethany of Toledo, OH, daughter Charnell Bethany of New Orleans, LA, granddaughter Taleah (Dontea) Woodard of Toledo, OH, and a multitude of grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, Godchildren, and other loved ones.

Visitation will be at First Church of God on Friday September 13th, 6-8 p.m. Services will be at First Church of God on Saturday September 14th, family hour 10-11a.m. and funeral beginning at 11a.m., Bishop Robert A. Culp eulogizing.



**Run Discrimination Out of Town**

The Fair Housing Center is thrilled to announce the launch of our second annual "Run Discrimination Out of Town" walkathon/runathon. This event is not just a run but a significant step towards creating inclusive communities that enhance opportunities for all. We invite individuals to join us at this event, where your participation will be a powerful tool in our fight against discrimination and in promoting social justice.

The event will take place on September 28, 2024, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Side Cut Metropark. Registration is only \$20 per participant and is now live! We encourage you to secure your spot as soon as possible. Each person who registers will receive an event water bottle (while supplies last).

Why support fair housing? Housing plays a fundamental role in our overall success in life. Supporting fair housing is crucial to stabilizing our neighborhoods, fostering diversity, and improving life outcomes. The money you raise will go directly to help further the mission of The Fair Housing Center. By participating in Run Discrimination Out of Town, you will align yourself with a cause promoting social justice, equality, and fairness for all.

Scan the QR code to register online or visit <https://weblink.donorperfect.com/rdot2024>



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# What to Wear and Why: Your Guilt-Free Guide to Sustainable Fashion by Tiffanie Darke

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

c. 2024  
Broadleaf Books  
\$27.99  
262 pages

You don't have a thing to wear. Although, Fact One: your closet is bulging. Fact Two: your dresser drawers are so full, you can barely shut them. Fact Three: you obviously won't go nekkid but your wardrobe needs a boost. First, though, read the new book *What to Wear and Why* by Tiffanie Darke and stop before you shop.

So what are you wearing? Right now, take a good look, and then think about where you got it. How long have you had it? Where was it made? Those are important things to know, says Darke, because fashion has gotten out of hand.

The average closet has "around 150 items" in it, and most of those shirts, skirts, pants, and shorts will be worn just seven to 10 times before they're thrown away. "Americans," she says, "buy an average fifty-two items of clothes a year..." and most are inexpensive and inexpensively made. This is bad for the consumer, it's bad for workers in other countries, and it's bad for the environment.

In times past, clothing was made of organic materials, mostly linen, flax, and silk for the wealthy and wool for everyone else. "The Industrial Revolution changed everything" by allowing cheaper manufacturing and in the 1940s, everything changed again when synthetic fabric became available. Problem is, synthetic textiles leach plastics into the air, earth, and water, and there's no safe way to recycle them – which means that tons of discarded clothing ends up in landfills, "secondhand markets," or in a pile in a desert overseas.

So what can you do about this issue?

Shop your own closet before you buy and keep only a small number of

basic essentials. Don't purchase more than five new items of clothing per year – and when you do, buy quality items or thrift what you need and resell what you don't want anymore. Consider renting. Learn the art of repair and forget about "fashion."

Instead, "Take inspiration from what is around" and "... develop your own style."

You're looking nice today, maybe because you put a lot of thought to what goes on your body. Now read *What to Wear and Why* and think about what goes in your closet.

Wanting to do better won't be difficult after you've read some of the frightening statistics author Tiffanie Darke offers – stats that will resonate, and all but the most indifferent person will ask themselves if they really need four black tees. It helps that this is an easy book to understand and embrace, especially if you're concerned with the environment and your wallet. The hard part will be actually following through with so much advice. Still, what Darke advocates is empowering and, let's admit it, a fun challenge that will make you feel better about how you look and what you grab each morning.

Fashionistas will find something to think about in this book. The financially-challenged and new style-makers will find the right track here. *What to Wear and Why* is a book you'll want to button up.

## Ben Tankard... continued from page 11

tivational speaker for the NBA, suit designer (big and tall), pastor, record label president, aircraft pilot/owner, and reality television actor.

Tankard's success is based on principles of faith and wisdom, which he shares in his bestselling books and articles and through public appearances. He and his wife, Jewel, live near Nashville, Tennessee, with their children.

On Thursday, September 12 at 5 p.m. at the Toledo Club, Juneteenth NY Toledo will host their signature event, "The Celebration of Black Kings". Inspired by the Kwanzaa principles, the organization will honor 28 influential male leaders who have significantly impacted the Toledo community through their personal and professional endeavors.

**This year's honorees are:** Lee Williams, Joseph Peterson, Tracy Knighten, Milt McIntyre, Truman Claytor, Willie Knighten, John Preston, Clarence Smith Jr., Elgin Rogers, Wakeso Peterson, Randall Parker, Rev. Cedric Brock, Judge Ian English, John Glover, Edward Cook, Judge Myron Duhart, Dr. Calvin Burney Jr., Emilio Ramirez, Josh Williams, Larry Jones, James Gant, Maurice Morris, Ronald Rice, Richard Jackson, Roy Hodge, Victor Coleman, Lesean Shaw, Anthony Atkins and Shawn Mahone.

For more information or to purchase tickets visit [toledo.juneteenthny-worldwide.com/black-kings](http://toledo.juneteenthny-worldwide.com/black-kings).



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# CLASSIFIEDS

### INVITATION FOR BIDS SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES AMP 131 COMMUNITIES IFB24-B013

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive bids for Snow Removal Services for AMP 131 Communities in accordance with IFB24-B013. Received in accordance with law until September 24, 2024, at 3:00 PM ET. For documents: [www.lucasmha.org](http://www.lucasmha.org); 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259- 9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



### TOLEDO LEGAL AID SOCIETY

**Assistant Public Defender and TLAS Fellowship Program** positions in Lucas County, Ohio. See <https://www.nlada.org/node/77206> for more detailed descriptions and requirements for the attorney positions. See <https://www.nlada.org/node/77211> for more detailed descriptions and requirements for the TLAS Fellowship Program. Email cover letter & resume by September 27, 2024 to [ToledoLegalAidSociety@yahoo.com](mailto:ToledoLegalAidSociety@yahoo.com)

### INVITATION FOR BIDS SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES AMP 121 COMMUNITIES IFB24-B011

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive bids for Snow Removal Services for AMP 121 Communities in accordance with IFB24-B011. Received in accordance with law until September 24, 2024, at 3:00 PM ET. For documents: [www.lucasmha.org](http://www.lucasmha.org); 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259- 9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



### INVITATION FOR BIDS SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES AMP 122 COMMUNITIES IFB24-B012

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive bids for Snow Removal Services for AMP 122 Communities in accordance with IFB24-B012. Received in accordance with law until September 24, 2024, at 3:00 PM ET. For documents: [www.lucasmha.org](http://www.lucasmha.org); 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259- 9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



### TOLEDO LIBRARY HOSTS JOB FAIR

The Toledo Library is once again excited to partner with Ohio Means Jobs Lucas County to host a job fair (<https://events.toledolibrary.org/event/10649897>), bringing employers and job seekers together in one place! Meet with recruiters from a variety of companies and organizations at Main Library on (F) Sept. 20 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Whether you're exploring new career paths or seeking advancement in your current field, this event is your gateway to success. The job fair will take place in the Main Library Atrium, where attendees will have the opportunity to meet with representatives from a variety of local businesses, non-profits, government agencies, and more.

#### Companies Attending:

- \* Betco Corporation
- \* Chick-fil-A
- \* City of Toledo
- \* Directions Credit Union
- \* The Honey Baked Ham Company
- \* Imagination Station Toledo
- \* Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
- \* Kroger
- \* Lucas County Child Support Services
- \* Lucas County Children Services
- \* Maumee Assembly and Stamping
- \* McAlear Group
- \* Midwest Tape I hoopla
- \* Northwest Ohio Behavioral Healthcare
- \* Ohio Department of Transportation
- \* O-I Glass, Inc.
- \* Otterbein Sunset House
- \* Securitas
- \* Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA)
- \* Toledo Lucas County Public Library
- \* Toledo Museum of Art
- \* Toledo Public Schools
- \* Unison Health
- \* United Parcel Service (UPS)
- \* The University of Toledo
- \* US Army
- \* Velocity, A Managed Solutions Company
- \* WIS International
- \* Zepf Center

\*Employer list may change since time of listing.

Before the event, ensure you are ready to make a lasting impression. Attend one of our free Resume Workshops, hosted by OMJLC and receive online job searching tips, resume and cover letter writing help, and more.

Resume Workshops: (<https://www.toledolibrary.org/search-page?dropdownoption=Programs&q=One%20Stop%20Resume%20Shop>)  
(Tu) Sept. 17 | 5-6 p.m. | Main Library  
(W) Sept. 18 | 5-6 p.m. | Main Library

For more details or assistance, visit (<https://www.toledolibrary.org/locations/main-library>) or call the Computers and Media Department at Main Library 419.259.5200. We're here to support you on your journey to success!

## UNDERSTANDING ISSUE 1 ON THE BALLOT IN NOVEMBER 2024

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 2024 6:30 - 8 P.M.  
MAUMEE BRANCH OF THE TOLEDO/LUCAS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Topic: Throughout the winter, spring and summer of 2024 Ohioans worked to place a state constitutional amendment on the ballot in November 2024. Successfully collecting the required signatures, the amendment will appear as a statewide issue on the November 5th election.

Known as Issue 1, it is intended to end gerrymandering in Ohio, the practice of drawing political district boundaries in ways that benefit one party over another, by barring elected officials from the process.

Speaker: Elisabeth Warner, the Communication Coordinator for the League of Women Voters of Ohio, will present information that will clarify the ballot language on Issue 1 that was adopted by a

2 to vote of the Ohio Ballot Board on August 16th. Materials will be available for all attending to further distribute to help educate the public on the meaning of a yes or no vote.

This presentation is a part of the League's General Membership meeting. This is a free event, and public is encouraged to attend.

To join or learn more, visit [www.lwvtoledo-lucascounty.org](http://www.lwvtoledo-lucascounty.org)

Our League was founded in 1921.

The League of Women Voters of Toledo-Lucas County is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit voter education and advocacy organization.

Contributions made to LWV-TLC are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

No goods or services were provided to you in consideration for your contribution.

## Norman Andrew Bell

Norman Andrew was born on October 4, 1932 in Baton Rouge. Son of Major Bell and Ernestine (Thomas) Lee. He earned a bachelor of science at Southern University in Baton Rouge in 1956 before moving to Toledo with his wife Ora.

Norman and Ora raised four boys: Michael P. (who became the Toledo's fire chief and mayor), Keith M., Norman A., Shawn F.

Norman joined Supreme Liberty Life Insurance Company and, a year later, became a deputy recorder with Lucas County Court before joining the City of Toledo as a deputy bailiff in 1959.

Bell stayed with the City of Toledo. He became a conservation technician, a finance assistance manager, a chief equal employment officer, an executive director of the Board of Community Relations before joining the City's Community Development department in 1974. Bell has been listed as a noteworthy municipal administrator by Marquis Who's Who.

He earned a master's of Education from the University of Toledo in 1976 and later, in 1988, did post graduate work at UT.

In addition to his municipal contributions, he has been a longstanding community leader. Norman Bell has been involved with a number of community associations over the years.

He has served on the board directors for Northwest Ohio Food Bank, Toledo, since 1988; the Neighborhood Improvement Association, Toledo, since 1988; the board of directors for Warren Sherman Development Corporation, Toledo; board of directors for Toledo Sister Cities.

He has been a member of National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (Second vice president since 1988, plaque 1979); American Civil Liberties Union (board directors Toledo chapter since 1988); American Society Personnel Administrators; Southern University Alumni Association; University of Toledo Alumni Association; Omega Psi Phi (Citizen of Year 1986, Silver certified, district area representative 1986).

Bell was also a founding board member The African American Legacy Project (2004).



## John M. Rudley

*PhD, President Emeritus and Distinguished Professor of Business*

John M. Rudley, PhD, served as the 11th president of Texas Southern University (TSU), one of the largest public historically black college and universities (HBCU) in the nation, which is located in Houston, Texas, the fourth largest metropolitan region in the country. Currently entering its 88th year, Texas Southern was designated as a "special purpose institution of higher education for urban programming" by the Sixty-third Texas Legislature in 1973.

During Rudley's nearly eight-year tenure as President of Texas Southern University, he instituted substantive and far-reaching changes via administrative, academic, student and outreach initiatives. Rudley has overseen an increased Moody's Bond Ratings for Texas Southern by three points; the creation of a singular collaboration with the Dynamo Soccer Team to partner in the newly opened \$83 million BBVA Compass Stadium at a total cost of \$1.5 million; administrative changes that led to clean financial audits for the years 2008-2014; and the launching of the University's first Management Institute to prepare mid-level employees for future management positions.

Prior to joining Texas Southern University, Rudley served as Interim Chancellor of the University of Houston System and Interim President of the University of Houston, Texas' premier public metropolitan research and teaching institution. He also served six years at that institution as vice chancellor/vice president for administration and finance.

Rudley has held numerous leadership positions in higher education, including vice chancellor for Business and Finance at the Tennessee Board of Regents, the sixth largest system of post secondary education in the nation. As Vice Chancellor, he promoted the effective and efficient financial operation of 46 postsecondary institutions consisting of 6 universities, 14 community colleges and 26 vocational-technology centers that served 185,500 students with a consolidated annual budget of \$1.4 billion.

He also served with distinction at the highest level of education in the nation when he served as Special Assistant to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education, Secretary Lamar Alexander, in responding to the requirements of the Chief Financial Officer Act of 1990. Recommendations for organizational changes were developed, including the creation of an accounting and financial management services division and the completion of the first auditable financial report (in conjunction with the General Accounting Office) for the U.S. Department of Education, as well as plans for the consolidation of the Budget Formulation, Budget Execution and the Financial Management Services of the Department.

Earlier in his career, Rudley held administration and finance related positions in both Tennessee and Texas. He acquired his public accounting experience from Coopers and Lybrand in Los Angeles and Seattle.

Rudley is a licensed Certified Public Accountant. He received his Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of Toledo. He received his M. Ed in Administration and Supervision and his Ed. D in Administration from Tennessee State University.



## Marsha Bonhart

Marsha Bonhart is a veteran of radio and television news, stemming from her days working in Toledo, Ohio, Dayton and Los Angeles. Retired as the director of media and public relations for Dayton Public Schools, she handles PR and media for local clients.

Marsha Bonhart was born in Toledo, Ohio. She graduated from Scott High School in 1969 and earned a degree in journalism from Ohio University. She started her career working in local television and radio stations in Toledo, Ohio and then moved Dayton, Ohio about 150 miles south in 1980 making it her new home.

In Dayton, Ohio she started as a weekend anchor and then quickly moved further down the path as a co-anchor (where she told the news during the week with another anchor). She then moved to Los Angeles, California where she was a health reporter and weekend anchor.

In 1988, Marsha returned to Dayton and worked at WDTN. She was an anchor and health reporter at the Dayton news station telling local stories for 27 years! She was often one of the few, or only black female anchors on screen giving a voice to those who may not always be represented.

Marsha received many awards and honors for her work as a journalist. She won the Ohio Public Images Award in 1993 and 2004 for producing stories about people with developmental disabilities. She was selected as one of the Dayton Daily News' Ten Top Women in 2003 and has earned the YWCA Award for Personal Achievement and Community Involvement as well as "Top 15 Friends" award from Artemis Center for Alternatives to Domestic Violence. Her work was also nominated for an Emmy! An 'Emmy Award' honors the highest excellence in television.

In 2015 Marsha became the assistant vice president of public relations and programs at Wilberforce University, an HBCU (or "historically black college"), in Ohio. After serving there she became the director of development at Dayton Contemporary Dance Company and then the director of public relations and media for Dayton Public Schools. Bonhart worked in many roles in the community and Dayton area using her gift to help tell stories!

Bonhart has been retired since 2020. She has two sons. She now serves as a Media and public relations consultant where she helps people achieve their goals.

Marsha started as a journalist in Toledo, Ohio and her career as a black female journalist lasted for almost 40 years! Marsha created paths that we all can follow – because she did – so can we!



### *TPS... continued from page 9*

offering meal options last Thursday such as the salad bar and a non-meat pizza entrée.

Approximately 150 students avail themselves of the free breakfast at the school noted both Tandler and Kolodziejczyk. "Science tells us that high school students are not hungry early in the morning like younger [students]," said Kolodziejczyk, explaining the discrepancy in the meal counts.

In addition to Bowsher and Start high schools, other schools which are offering all students free breakfast and lunch starting this academic year are Elmhurst, Beverly and Grove Patterson elementary schools and magnet schools such as Toledo Technology Academy, Toledo Early College High School, the Aviation Center and the Natural Science Technology Center.

### *Derrick R. Clay... continued from page 16*

awards for his work, including being named one of Ebony Magazine's 30 Young Leaders of the Future.

Derrick's commitment to excellence and passion for public service stem from his early days as student body president at the University of Akron. Nationally, he is a respected figure in the political arena, frequently sought after for his insights and analysis as a regular commentator on various political television programs.

Beyond his professional achievements, Derrick is a devoted family man and an avid golfer. He enjoys traveling, music and fashion.

# The African American Legacy Project's 20th Anniversary Legends Luncheon

The African American Legacy Project, under the guidance of founder and executive director Robert Smith will be celebrating its 20th anniversary with a Legends Celebration the weekend of October 11-12.

This year the AALP will be honoring six Toledo legends – Norman A. Bell Sr; Derrick R. Clay; Marsha Bonhart; John Rudley, PhD; David

Delano Carter and John Marshall “Jack” Ford.

On Friday night, October 11, there will be a Hospitality Reception at 5:30 p.m. at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Toledo. On Saturday, October 12, there will be a Legends Luncheon at 1:00 p.m. at The Pinacle in Maumee.

## David Delano Carter

David Carter was a native of Newton, Georgia born in 1927. He was a musician and music educator with a long history of providing music education and music direction. He acquired a certificate from Bowling Green State University to teach music in the Toledo Public School System while also earning his Master of Education degree from the University of Toledo in 1974.

As an educator David Carter taught various subjects at Robinson Junior High School, Parkland Junior High School and Blessed Sacrament school.

Carter served as director of choral music at Scott High School in 1962. During his direction his Scott choirs improved the performance each year at the annual May Festival, performances of the Christmas and Easter portions of Handel's Messiah taking top honors in the Ohio Choral music competitions.

In 1975, his Start High School Royal Choir represented the United States in a 23-day concert tour of Poland.

Carter also served in ministry directed choirs at Phillips Temple CME Church, Third Baptist Church, All Saints Episcopal Church, and St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. Other endeavors included organizing the Afro-American Youth Choir and participating in the Kenneth Holland Chorus. He was a founding member of the Toledo Opera Chorus and directed the Mary Manse College choir, bass cantorial soloist at The Temple Shomer Emmunium, and bass soloist and section leader at St. Michael's in the Hills for over 40 years.

His longest legacy has been the David Carter Symphonic Choir founded in 1985, first organized as the Scott High School Alumni Choir. This choir performed with the Toledo Symphony and Perrysburg Symphony Orchestras, Toledo Symphony Chorale and the Toledo Opera Chorus. Most notably, the choir commissioned and performed, MAKEDA Queen of Sheba.

David Carter's family who shared his legacy upon his death in 2008 is his wife Isabelle, daughters Deborah and Shari and his grandchildren Connie and Phillip.

## Derrick R. Clay

Visionary Leader.

Business Advocate.

Government Relations Expert.

Derrick R. Clay is a respected statewide business leader, experienced lobbyist, political strategist and community advocate with a strong background in government relations and economic development. He has worked with local, state, and federal leaders throughout the country to address legislative and regulatory concerns for clients in various industries.

His expertise lies in assisting clients with legislative and regulatory matters, leveraging his deep understanding of the political landscape to achieve their objectives. He has counseled several corporations and organizations such as Google, AT&T, Sherwin Williams and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, showcasing his versatility and business acumen. Derrick has also been involved in several high-profile development projects in Central Ohio. Additionally, he has served and led several high-profile boards in the Columbus region, further solidifying his commitment to the community.

Before joining Shumaker Advisors, Derrick served as chief executive officer of New Visions Group, a government relations and lobbying firm. His leadership and strategic guidance were instrumental in the firm's growth and success eventually leading to its acquisition by Shumaker Advisors.

Throughout his career, Derrick has held leadership positions in both the public and private sectors. He served as Midwest Political Director for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and Ohio State Director for the Gore Lieberman Presidential Campaign. He has received numerous

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## Jack Ford

By Fletcher Word

March 25, 2015

The first time I had the opportunity to sit down and have a lengthy, one-on-one conversation with Jack Ford was in early 2002, several weeks after his inauguration as the City of Toledo's first African-American mayor. The meeting was set up at his request, possibly because I was the only person in the media who had endorsed his bid for the position of Toledo's chief executive.

We met in his office on Martin Luther King Day, a day on which the city was officially closed for business and the mayor was one of the only city employees at work. We spoke for about an hour on how he expected to handle business as he led the city for the next four years.

A little less than four years later, we sat down again in that office as we conducted his only exit interview in the wake of his re-election loss to Carty Finkbeiner. He was clearly upset that he had lost that election, losing elections didn't happen often for Jack Ford. He was upset that

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