



Volume 86 No. 4                      *“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”*                      October 16, 2024

**New Educational, Recreational and Residential Opportunities!**



*Romules Durant, EdD, Superintendent of Toledo Public Schools*

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# Forecasting the Toledo Branch NAACP's Future

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

The Truth Contributor



- Eleanor Holmes Norton

*An insignificant right becomes important when it's assailed.*

According to conversations in trusted circles, current Toledo Branch NAACP president, Reverend Willie L. Perryman, Jr., plans to step down before the end of the year.

Perryman, installed in 2021, poured his heart into leading the storied chapter through challenging times, even while managing health issues, the demands of family and extensive pastoral responsibilities at Jerusalem Baptist Church. His decision to step back reflects a pearl of wisdom, prioritizing personal well-being, the needs of his wife and shepherding his spiritual flock. Fortunately, the ultra-busy pastor's voice and presence will remain active on the NAACP's executive board, so his insights will continue to shape the organization's future.

Yet, the leadership transition offers a timely opportunity for renewal, particularly as the NAACP faces immense pressure to redefine its mission and relevance. Darlene Sweeney-Newbern is the likely successor. She brings a wealth of related experience from her work with the Ohio Civil Rights Commission and the National Fair Housing Training Academy. She is well-suited to guide the organization through complex civil rights challenges and foster essential new alliances.

However, remaining impactful in today's political environment will require more than a change in leadership. The NAACP must also embrace

a bolder, more inclusive vision that aligns with the heightened political threats of our present political context, such as Project 2025 – a conservative policy agenda and blueprint developed by the Heritage Foundation for the next Republican administration.

Project 2025's ultra-conservative aim is to reshape the political landscape by undoing hard-won civil rights advances and protections, scaling back social safety net programs, and dismantling the Department of Education and other key federal agencies. So, the Toledo Branch NAACP must rise to the challenge by adopting strategies that meet the urgency of the times.

While the Branch's annual Freedom Fund Dinner has been a bright spot - well-organized and effective in raising necessary funds, the Toledo NAACP must tighten its internal operations. To avoid potential sanctions from NAACP National Headquarters in Baltimore, the Branch must bring its operations into full compliance with national bylaws and guidelines. In addition, fiscal responsibilities and obligations must be met on time, and greater active participation must be encouraged at general meetings to develop a more engaged membership. These problems have become chronic and existed well before Perryman's tenure began.

Yet, the Branch's most pressing challenge lies in shedding any lingering hesitation tied to "respectability politics" and fully embracing the more inclusive, intersectional activism approach that defines many Black-led contemporary movements. For effective present-day movements, the template involves successfully mobilizing younger generations and marginalized communities by addressing the intersections of race, class, gender, and sexual orientation – an approach the Toledo NAACP must also adopt to remain relevant.

Look for the shift to be more than symbolic change. With Sweeney-Newbern likely to take the helm and Calvin Brown poised as a potential first vice president, the Toledo Branch will potentially align itself with the radical energy of other successful movements and pivot toward more direct action and advocacy.

So, I expect a strategic overhaul for the organization that invites grassroots participation, welcomes diverse voices, and addresses systemic oppression head-on.

Without this transformation, the NAACP risks becoming like other once-prominent organizations—alive in name only but diminished to a relic of the past.

Reverend Perryman's departure represents a "job well done!" and marks the end of a significant era defined by his sacrificial and servant-hearted leadership. At the same time, it also opens the door for new leadership to take the organization in a bold direction.

... continued on page 4

# A Letter To Younger Black Men...From President Obama

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

ANN (All Negro News Network) "When it is news about Negroes, hear it first at ANNN!"

Lafe Tolliver, Reporter.

My fellow Black men in America. I am posting this letter to you since I am hearing very disturbing polling news that a not insignificant number of you under the age of 50, are considering voting for Donald Trump to return to the White House!



I was in utter disbelief and shock to hear such news and when I sought out the source of this disquieting information, I determined at that time that I owed it to Vice President Kamala Harris to assist her in her campaign of making sure Trump never returns as Commander-In-Chief.

My frustration at hearing such grim poll news only informed me that we, the older generation, your forebears, have not done a successful job of transmitting to you the factual record that Trump is antagonistic to your well-being and he makes no bones about casting people of color in the most deplorable light.

Rarely can we point to a time so fraught with political peril and physical danger than that of Donald Trump having the reins of power complete with a bevy of sycophantic cult-followers who are lockstep with him in making sure that you are hamstrung at every angle in upward mobility or being afforded justice and fair play.

This letter should not be seen as a scare tactic but as a sober warning that Trump has shown and is continuing to show his true racist character when he takes so many opportunities to lambast people of color.

He has even taken up the cudgel along with JD Vance of advancing the outrageous lie that Haitians who are on a temporary protected status in the City of Springfield, Ohio are eating cats and dogs!

Trump would hoodwink you in believing that his slogan of Make America Great Again includes you at the table as an equal and valuable member sharing in the meal of freedom and economic security.

Not so, by a long shot. Trump's first inclination is to depreciate you and your family and to assail you for being vermin and sons and daughters of Black b\*tches! He knows nothing of Black history and does not care to learn or understand American history and Jim Crow and the slave trade and systemic racism that still exist in America.

Under a second Trump presidency, your plight would remain "your" plight and to expect Trump to ameliorate it, is fantasy thinking. Make America Great Again is a slogan for an orchestrated campaign to nullify your voting rights and to remind you of your place in society; and that being a second-class citizen.

His vocal disdain for Black women is pernicious, almost palatable regard-

ing Kamala Harris and especially so since she verbally "emasculated" him during their only debate.

Don't be conned! Donald Trump is not your buddy! He has contempt for you and will say and do those things to make you believe that he is your champion. Ask the Central Park Five brothers. They will tell you of Trump's desire to have them all executed and when the evidence finally exonerated them, Trump offered no apology for his hateful tirade apology, just silence.



President Barack Obama

Your fight is not just against Trump because he is only an avatar of the base of MAGA voters who has deposited in him their bitterness, grievances and feelings of powerlessness that Trump has channeled for them; and for which they are so profoundly grateful that they are willing to forego any critical examination of his policies or rhetoric just for their joy of "sticking it to the system."

In closing, don't be duped by a charlatan who has no inner moral compass but treats people only as rungs on a ladder by which to achieve his goals, not yours.

If you have not registered to vote, do so now before it is too late and if you are registered, make sure you know what documents you must have in order to vote at your proper voting precinct.

Make America Great Again refers to a time that your parents and grandparents were of no importance and were expendable when so needed. Honor your family tree ancestors and their struggles by voting against a child-man who hungers for power only for himself.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com

Note: the above letter is an imaginary letter from Obama.

## Community Calendar

**October 17**

Lucas County Commissioners Candidate Debate: 5 to 8 pm; Main Branch Library

**October 20**

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

St. Paul AME Church: Connectional Lay Sunday; 11 am; Speaker Isom Sims of St. Paul; Colors – black and gold; Masks recommended

Toledo NAACP Youth Council Meeting: Sanger Branch Library; 3 pm

**October 23**

Poetry, Prompts & Pens: Workshop for older adults ready to write poetry; West Toledo Library; 11 am to 12:30 pm: 419-259-5290

**October 27**

Calvary Missionary Baptist Church 95th Church Anniversary: 4 pm; Guest speaker Pastor Melvin Barnes of Greater Faith Fellowship Church

**October 28**

Councilman John Hobbs III Town Hall Meeting: Resurrection Baptist Church; 6 pm; With Romules Durant, EdD, TPS Superintendent and Keith Dawson, TPS Consultant

**November 12**

Toledo NAACP Voting: 4 to 8 pm via Election Buddy

Toledo NAACP General Membership meeting: Jerusalem Baptist Church; 7 pm

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# The Plastics Inside of You Right Now

By Ben Jealous

Guest Column

If you are reading this indoors, there is a good chance there are hundreds of invisible plastic particles floating around in the room you are in. There is also a good chance you may be breathing some of them in.

And we are not just breathing in plastic pollution. We are eating it and drinking it. To add insult to injury, much of that plastic pollution came from items like plastic water bottles that consumers thought would be recycled.

The world's largest producer of plastic polymers for single-use plastics is ExxonMobil. Right now, Attorney General Rob Bonta of California of California, along with the Sierra Club and other environmental groups, is suing ExxonMobil for their years-long campaign of deception about the recyclability of plastic products.

In discussing the suit, Attorney General Bonta told a story of a 14-year old who "was just distraught over the fact that all of the plastic items that she carefully selected to make sure they have the chasing arrows on it and then make sure that after she used it, she placed it thoughtfully and diligently in the blue container for recycling – that 95 percent of the time, that item was not recycled."

The world produces about 430 million tons of plastic each year. Much of that is single-use plastic that ends up in the environment. About 22 million pounds of plastic enter the Great Lakes alone each year, with half of it going into Lake Michigan. And the plastic-contaminated water from lakes, rivers, and streams ends up in our drinking water and our oceans. Globally, about 12 million tons of plastic enter our oceans each year. That is a garbage truck worth of plastic every minute.

Plastics do not decompose. They just break down into smaller and



smaller pieces of plastic, down to tiny particles called microplastics and nanoplastics.

As a result, microplastics are everywhere and in everything. The plastic bags and bottles that find their way into landfills and waterways eventually become microplastics. Microplastics are also tiny enough to be airborne.

Dr. Sherri A. Mason is a leader in plastic pollution research who has called attention to freshwater contamination from microplastics. She has pointed out, "Because we find plastic pollution within fresh water throughout the planet, it's not surprising that we find it in our tap water. In 2017 we examined 159 samples of tap water collected from 14 different countries. Eighty-eight percent of these samples showed evidence of microplastic contamination, with an average of 5.5 particles per liter. Almost all (98 percent) of these particles were microfibers, which suggests that air is the primary source of contamination."

Plastics get into our waterways in a variety of ways – "microbeads" in shampoos and laundry detergents, small pellets used in pre-production manufacturing known as "nurdles," and more ways. Nurdles are a major source of the microplastic contamination in the Great Lakes because many manufacturing facilities in the region use them. All that plastic then enters the food chain. One way is that it breaks down into tiny plastic grains that are mistaken as algae and microplankton by fish.

Over the past four years studies have found microplastics in human placentas, breast milk, and liver. More recent research over the past year has now found them in people's lungs, testicles and brains.

The studies that found microplastics present in testicles found them in every single sample analyzed. Scientists think it could be linked to downward trends in sperm counts and fertility.

The microplastics found in human brains were found in the olfactory bulb, suggesting they could be getting inhaled through the nose. Phoebe Stapleton, a professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology at Rutgers University, told CNN, "I really do think that plastics are going to be in every place in the body that we look. This is just more evidence."

We know plastic contamination is toxic. Plastic is made from petrochemicals that, in addition to reproductive health issues, can cause cancer, endocrine disruption, neurological disorders, immune disorders, and more.

As our awareness of plastic contamination in every facet of our lives and part of our bodies grows, let us remember Big Oil produces petrochemicals behind plastics. So add that to the list of ways – in addition to pollution, climate change, and the megastorms the climate crisis produces – the fossil fuel industry is taking a disastrous toll on our health. The lawsuit to hold ExxonMobil accountable is a good start in addressing the problem, but we also need to address the microplastic contamination that is already so prevalent. And we need to change and reduce our use of plastics.

*Ben Jealous is the Executive Director of the Sierra Club, former president and CEO of the NAACP and a Professor of Practice at the University of Pennsylvania.*

**Perryman...continued from page 2**

In any event, Sweeney-Newbern has a crucial opportunity to reinvigorate the NAACP's mission by moving beyond the limits of its "middle-class only" tradition and embracing a bold, forward-thinking agenda of modern activism that confronts the evolving threats to civil rights.

Indeed, the future demands a redefined Toledo NAACP that is fearless, inclusive, and relentless in the pursuit of justice – one capable of building alliances across race, gender, and class, and ready to resist policies that threaten hard-won civil rights.

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

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# TPS Superintendent Durant Unveils Scott Park Campus Plans

By Dawn Scotland  
The Truth Reporter

Romules Durant, EdD, unveiled Toledo Public Schools' plans to revitalize the Scott Park Campus into a new 288,000 square foot development at the Toledo Rotary Luncheon Monday, October 14, at the Glass City Center. The plan will include educational opportunities for students seventh-12 grade, and will also include educational, recreational and residential facilities in partnership with area universities.

Durant highlighted Toledo Public Schools' robust and innovative programming that is attracting students from outside the district, including the Pre-Medical & Health Science Academy, Aerospace and Natural Science Academy, Toledo Early College, and Toledo Technology Academy of Engineering that have achieved national recognition.

The school district is aiming to expand and continue that vision with the Scott Park Campus. The former Comtech facility was once owned by the University of Toledo. "The entire campus has opportunities for collaboration," he stated.

Durant outlined the three-prong approach for the innovative campus: Educational, Recreational and Residential.

The campus will include three new magnet high schools that will allow students to matriculate from seventh grade to bachelor's degree. "All that is going to happen through collective collaboration," he continued. The project includes partnerships with Owens Community College and the University of Toledo both of which signed a letter of intent with TPS for the project in February of this year.

"We have [these partners] all at the table having conversations about what does a certification program look like? What does a two-year associate degree look like? What does a four-year degree look like? ...all seamlessly on the campus as well as migration from the main campus," stated Durant on Monday.

The three new magnet schools will include:

1. College of Business Academy
2. College of Education and Social Services Academy – (training teachers, school counselors and fire fighters etc.)
3. Construction and Architectural Academy

The goal is to expand in creating more successful planning across all industries for Toledo Public School students.

The \$100 million project will include a fitness center, dining hall, recreational athletic dome, administrative suites, outdoor and indoor construction training facilities, three academies, child care center, ministry office, residential facilities and fishing pond, among other amenities. The campus will also be a part of a two-park system that is connected to Ottawa Park via the bike trail.

"We're going to have an interchange of ages all within this campus," shared Durant.

Staff and educators will be able to live on the campus. "We want teachers to live on the campus they work, we want police officers to live on the campus they work, we want professors to live on the campus they work... and we are creating the opportunities for them to do just that," he said.

An \$84 million annual return to the community is anticipated from the project via the new opportunities and work being done at Scott Park. It will bring an estimated 3,000 jobs to the campus.

Celebrating its 175th anniversary, Toledo Public Schools serves more than 20,000 students in Toledo, Ohio. The district has 58 school facilities, including six comprehensive high schools and 42 elementary schools: four elementary STEM academies, six elementary level magnet schools and six high school level magnet schools. These schools offer students a specialized curriculum that focuses on the interests of the students. Its mission: to provide innovative educational opportunities that ensure each student is prepared for their future. Its vision: to empower each and every student to lead and live a purpose-driven life. (Source: Toledo Public Schools)

Issue 19 is on the ballot November 5. If approved the levy would help fund the proposed Scott Park Renovations.

Issue 19 supports:

- authorizing the school district to issue up to \$99 million in bonds, with revenue going to fund improving school district buildings and sites, and requiring an estimated property tax levy of \$71 per \$100,000 in assessed value; and
- levying an additional property tax of \$133 for each \$100,000 in appraised value for five years.

To learn more about Toledo Public Schools visit [TPS.org](http://TPS.org).



Toledo Public Schools Young Men of Excellence served as greeters

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# Erika White Hosts Clean Water Town Hall Meeting

Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

Erika White, Ohio House Representative candidate, hosted two Clean Water Town Hall Meetings on Thursday, October 10, 2024. The first was held at Heatherdowns Library and the second was held at Maumee Indoor Theater.

Residents filled both locations to hear from three passionate speakers who are advocating clean and affordable water. Emily Kelly, of Ohio Environmental Council Action (OEC) Fund PAC, Margo Puffenberger, a Maumee city councilmember, and White answered questions and shared solutions to begin conversations.

"I have spent some time talking to people, this is a serious concern that impacts both Maumee and Toledo," said White. "There must be more resources, we must have funding to help people because food and water are important."

"The OEC supports candidates for office. We build political power in Ohio and focus on environmental protection and Ohio communities," said Kelly.

The Town Hall discussed Lake Erie Algal blooms and the negative impacts. "Algae was responsible for the 2014 water crisis and we don't want to see another emergency," added Kelly. "If large toxic problems happen again, it could cause affordability issues when systems need an upgrade."



Erika White

The Town Hall also discussed solutions. "We need to incorporate front-end solutions by incorporating farming management best practices around phosphorus," Kelly continued.

"Solutions that address the treatment is causing rates to increase, solutions need to focus on management."

Erika White is endorsed by OEC Action Fund PAC and plans to hold additional town halls in the future on this and other subject critical to the residents of northwest Ohio.

White is a candidate for Ohio House of Representatives District 41. District 41 includes Holland, South Toledo and parts of Maumee.



Erika White, Margo, Puffenberger, Emily Kelly

## The Area Office On Aging Is Now Assisting Northwest Ohioans With Heating Costs Through the 2024/2025 HEAP Winter Crisis Program

The Area Office on Aging of Northwestern and the Ohio Inc Ohio Department of Development want to remind older Ohioans that assistance is available to help with their home energy bills during the winter months.

The Winter Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) helps assist low-income households or those that have a disconnection notice, have been shut off, are trying to establish new service on their electric bill, require air conditioning, or those with an elderly household member (60 years or older) who can provide physician documentation that cooling assistance is needed for their health. Qualifying medical conditions can include lung disease, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, asthma, and others.

To qualify for assistance, Ohioans must have a gross income at or below 175 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a household of up to seven members and 60 percent of State Median Income for a household of eight or more members to pay their heating bills. Applied directly to the customer's utility or bulk fuel bill, the benefit can help manage heating costs.

To apply for the program, clients are required to schedule an appointment.

When applying, individuals need to have copies of the following documents:

- Most recent utility bills.
- A list of all household members (including birth dates and Social Security numbers).
- Proof of income for the past 30 days for all household members (12 months for certain income types).
- Proof of U.S. citizenship or legal residency for all household members.
- Proof of disability (if applicable).

Older Ohioans can reach out to us, the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio Inc, at 419-382-0624 for help with assembling the required documents and completing their HEAP application.

They may also visit [www.energyhelp.ohio.gov](http://www.energyhelp.ohio.gov) to apply online or to download a copy of the application.

HEAP benefits are applied to an individual's energy bill after Jan. 1.


Applications for the Winter HEAP program must be received by May 31, 2025.

To be connected to your local Energy Assistance Provider, call (800) 282-0880 (hearing impaired clients may dial 711 for assistance) or visit [www.energyhelp.ohio.gov](http://www.energyhelp.ohio.gov).

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# Reinvest Toledo Voter Education Empowerment Campaign

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

Reinvest Toledo filled the historic Collingwood Arts Center for four weeks in September 2024 and October 2024 to empower and educator voters from low turnout zip codes.

“My job is to make sure that the door is open,” said Amelia Gibbon, Reinvest Toledo executive director. “Yes, voting is important, but conversations are also important.”

The show featured a new weekly host, an original documentary, spoken artists and vocalists that expressed emotions about voter-related topics, closed nightly with a discussion panel. The show was titled ‘Reinvest Toledo presents Power Tour Unlock Your Vote.’

Once the audience entered the room, walls of visual art welcomed them to the live performance area. “We organized a call for visual artists. There

...continued on page 8



Spoken word artist and Power Tour cast member, Joe Sparks



LuCynthia Jones and Anthony Shaw



Crystal Taylor, Petee Talley and Laure Hammond (community conversation panelist)



discussion panel, Crystal Taylor, Petee Talley, Kara Jennings and Laure Hammon

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Reinvest Toledo... continued from page 7

are protest posters from Toledo's youth and even voter turnout statistics," said Shardae Moss, artistic director. "Voting is our superpower."

The Power Tour organized four shows. On September 22 host Montrice Terry, facilitated a discussion about bridging the age gap. The panel included: Joe Sparks, Jocelyn Prater, Charlotte Lawson, Maddie Cooper, LaToya Williams and Manuel Mathis. On September 28 host Lexi Hayman-Staples facilitated a discussion on how voting impacts the queer community. The panel included: Rory McLin, Steve Reamey, Savanna Lutchey and Taren Lutchey.

On October 6, host Morgan Harper led a discussion on how current events can impact voting. That panel included: Councilwoman Brittany Jones, PhD.; Matthew Smith, Jr.; Coleena Ali; Sommer Clayborne and Chris Matthews. And on October 12, host Rob Pasker facilitated a discussion on how voting can improve neighborhoods. The panel included: Kara Jennings, JD.; Petee Talley; Crystal Taylor and Laure Hammond.

"Make sure we lean in this election because our vote matters. Sometimes we need to know what's on the ballot to motivate voters," shared Talley during the October 12 discussion.

"If you lack equitable access to food, housing, education, etc., that's your reason to vote," added Taylor.

Power Tour team includes: Amelia Gibbon; Shardae Moss; DJ Super-Nathan, music; Demetria Caldwell, KJ Cooper, Maddie Cooper, Hannah Depp, Saniya Marsenburg, Trayvon Marsenburg, Shai Tucker, Nicholas Stewart, Sandra Rivers-Gill, Jodie Summers. Visual artists are: Andre Matthews, show photographer, Sandra Gill, Jodie Summers and Joe Sparks. Spoken Word artists: LaToya Williams and LaMarsheo Martin. Documentary production team Lead Max Pros and documentary composer Zaniel Williams.

Power Tour Community Partners are: League of Women Voters, Un-Bounded and Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated Iota Theta Sigma Chapter of Toledo.

Power Tour was funded by the Greater Toledo Community Foundation's Equity & Access Initiative.



Audience



Shardae Moss, artistic director and nephew Jaxson Oxner



Spoken word artist and Power Tour cast member, Sandra Rivers-Gill



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# The Third Annual Art Tatum Porchfest

By Dawn Scotland  
The Truth Reporter

The Art Tatum Zone held its third annual Art Tatum Porchfest Sunday, October 6 celebrating the renowned jazz artist and Toledo native Art Tatum at his historic home on 1123 City Park Ave. The event featured live jazz music, vendors and food trucks.

"Porchfest is an annual celebration that we put on just to celebrate the legacy and birthday of Art Tatum who was born right here in the junction neighborhood," stated Christine Sweeney, executive director of the Art Tatum Zone. "It's just a time for community to come together to celebrate someone who came right here from our streets and then became world-wide," she continued.

The event featured glass blowing demonstrations from The Toledo Museum of Art and activities for children. Mike Williams on Sax and NJ Trio, a jazz trio, provided entertainment for the afternoon of festivities.

The Art Tatum home is currently being restored, according to Ms. Swee-

ny. The back porch, roof and wood siding are next, followed by the restoration of the interior.

The Art Tatum Zone is a neighborhood revitalization company transforming Toledo's Junction neighborhood through place-based cradle-to-career opportunities. By empowering individuals from early childhood to adulthood through programs in education, job readiness, health, and leadership, the Art Tatum Zone is working to create a new model for vibrant, sustainable communities. (source: [www.arttatumzone.org/](http://www.arttatumzone.org/))

World-renowned jazz pianist, Art Tatum, grew up in the Junction Neighborhood and overcame numerous obstacles to achieve remarkable success. His family, represented by his last living niece, Lucille Johnson, approached the leaders of The Art Tatum Zone and asked them to use his story and childhood home to inspire the community's children and families to dream big and work hard.

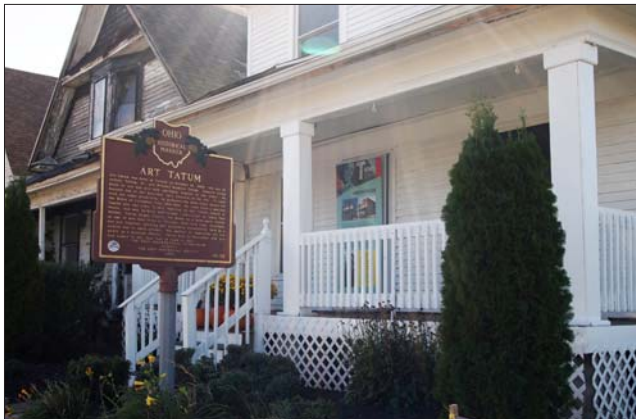
Through the restoration of his home and the construction of the Inspiration Center, the ATZ team is honoring this legacy and fulfilling her request. (source: [www.arttatumzone.org/](http://www.arttatumzone.org/)). Art Tatum was born in Toledo, Ohio and would be celebrating his 115th birthday, October 13.

The organization hosts the event annually every first Sunday in October with plans to continue next year.

To learn more about the Art Tatum Zone and the work that they are doing in the community visit [ArtTatumZone.org](http://ArtTatumZone.org).



Calvin Sweeney, President of the Art Tatum Zone



Childhood home of Art Tatum located at 1123 City Park



Mike Williams on Sax



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*African American Legacy... continued from page 16*

Gore Lieberman Presidential Campaign. He has received numerous awards for his work, including being named one of Ebony Magazine's 30 Young Leaders of the Future.

John M. Rudley, PhD, a native of Benton Harbor, Michigan arrived in the mid 1960s on a basketball scholarship at the University of Toledo and became an outstanding point guard on the team.

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.

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.

Rudley 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.

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.

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.

Bonhart was born in Toledo, Ohio. She graduated from Scott High School in 1969 and attended 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

... continued on page 13

*Community Enrichment Dinner... continued from page 15*

richment Red Tail Pioneer Award recipient. That honor is bestowed upon an individual by CED for making a positive impact in "underserved communities." TTEC offers educational services and vocational training for vocational occupations and careers.

"As the Tuskegee Airmen Red Tails fought with courage and conviction, this award symbolizes those same attributes in business," said Kristie Knighten, CEO of KpK Unlimited Custom Apparel and CGI Black Wall Street Toledo member.

This year's award recipients will be announced at the 2024 Community Enrichment Dinner scheduled to take place on Saturday, Nov. 2, at 6 p.m., at the Veterans Memorial Civic and Convention Center in Lima. Dinner attendees will be treated with the presentation Black Angels Over Tuskegee, which is a play that depicts "the collective struggle of the first African-American aviators in the United States Army Air Forces as they overcame Jim Crow-era injustices with intelligence, patriotism and brotherhood."

"We are very excited to partner for the first time with our friends here in Toledo to bring the Tuskegee Experience to the 2024 Community Enrichment Dinner," O'Neal stated. "This story shows how passionate people can join forces to achieve their dreams."

The dinner will present a special announcement about the building of a new structure in Lima, OH. The structure will be constructed by Toledo architecture firm Engage Studio Architects.

Tickets for the dinner range from \$90-\$110 and can be purchased online at [cedlima.com](http://cedlima.com), or the Veterans Memorial Civic and Convention Center box office at (419) 224-5222. Tables of eight and sponsorships are available.

To learn more the CED and to purchase tickets visit [www.cedlima.com](http://www.cedlima.com).

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# VP Kamala Harris Unveils Extensive Agenda for Black Men, Promises Wealth-Building and Opportunity

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

@StacyBrownMedia

Special to The Truth

Vice President Kamala Harris has unveiled an extensive agenda designed to dismantle systemic barriers and foster new opportunities for Black men across America. The agenda, announced on October 14, spotlights wealth-building, health equity, criminal justice reform, and expanded education and job training access. Her plan follows recent controversial remarks by former President Barack Obama, who addressed concerns about voter turnout among Black men and stressed the importance of participating in the election.

Obama's comments in Pittsburgh were roundly criticized as scapegoating Black men, though he emphasized the high stakes of the 2024 election, noting that some African American males might hesitate to vote. He suggested that part of the reluctance could stem from discomfort with the idea of a woman president. Harris's plan aims to address the specific needs of Black men, with initiatives focused on financial empowerment, healthcare, and education.

## Forgivable Loans and Wealth Creation

Harris's economic plan centers on wealth-building and supporting Black entrepreneurship. Her administration would provide one million forgivable loans, each up to \$20,000, to help Black men and others who have faced significant barriers to starting a business. By partnering with community banks and mission-driven lenders, Harris aims to make capital accessible to Black entrepreneurs looking to launch or expand businesses in fields ranging from technology to landscaping and beyond.

Additionally, Harris has proposed a significant expansion of the Small Business Startup Tax Deduction, increasing it from \$5,000 to \$50,000, which would allow Black entrepreneurs to offset startup costs. She also plans to boost access to venture capital, low-interest loans, and incubators specifically for Black-owned businesses. Recognizing that Black entrepreneurs are frequently denied credit, Harris's plan includes reforms to expand affordable banking services and crack down on hidden fees that inhibit wealth accumulation in Black communities.

## Pathways to High-Demand Jobs and Expanded Education Access

Harris's agenda promotes education, training, and mentorship programs to equip Black men with the skills needed to succeed in high-demand fields. Her plan emphasizes registered apprenticeships and credentialing programs, which would provide hands-on training for jobs in sectors like cybersecurity, renewable energy, and healthcare. She also seeks to eliminate unnecessary college degree requirements for 500,000 federal jobs, making these roles more accessible to Black men who may not have pursued higher education.

To increase the representation of Black male teachers—a crucial role model for young Black students—Harris said she plans to invest in teacher training programs through the Department of Education. By collaborating with HB-CUs and MSIs, the Democratic presidential nominee hopes to build a pipeline for Black male educators, addressing the severe underrepresentation in this profession, where only 1% of teachers are Black men. Research has shown that Black students benefit academically and socially when they have Black male teachers, yet structural barriers have prevented many from entering the field. Harris also supports the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program to attract and retain Black male teachers, ensuring they have a pathway to long-term careers in education.

## Financial Protections in the Digital Economy

Harris's plan includes protections for Black men who invest in cryptocurrency and other digital assets, acknowledging that over 20% of Black Americans have owned these assets. Among her goals is establishing a regulatory

framework to safeguard digital investments, ensuring that Black men are protected as they participate in the burgeoning digital economy. The framework would set standards to protect investors from fraud and provide educational resources on digital asset management.

## Health Equity and Addressing Medical Debt

Health equity remains a cornerstone of Harris's agenda. She has introduced a National Health Equity Initiative focused on Black men, which would address high rates of chronic diseases like diabetes, prostate cancer, and sickle cell disease. Harris proposes capping insulin costs at \$35 per month and limiting out-of-pocket expenses on prescription drugs to \$2,000 annually. Additionally, she said she would expand funding for sickle cell research and build a national database to improve prevention and treatment.

To tackle the burden of medical debt, which disproportionately affects Black men, Harris proposes removing medical debt from credit reports and working with states to relieve outstanding medical debt. The effort would help Black men access better credit, opening doors for homeownership and business financing.

## Criminal Justice Reform and Economic Opportunities in Legal Cannabis

The vice president also has committed to legalizing recreational marijuana at the federal level, which she argues will reduce incarceration rates for Black men and create economic opportunities in the emerging cannabis industry. By working with Congress to ensure the safe cultivation, distribution, and possession of marijuana, Harris would remove longstanding barriers that have disproportionately impacted Black men. Her plan would establish pathways for Black men to access licenses and jobs in the legal cannabis sector, providing a chance to build wealth in a market that has historically excluded them.

## Affordable Housing, Homeownership, and Financial Literacy

Harris further proposes building three million affordable housing units during her first term to address the housing crisis. She would offer up to \$25,000 in down payment assistance for first-time homebuyers, aiming to triple the number of new Black homeowners annually by the end of her term. The initiative would specifically target those who have been unable to buy homes due to a lack of generational wealth, which disproportionately affects Black families.

Still, another facet of her plan would tackle racial bias in home appraisals, a pervasive issue that often results in undervalued properties in majority-Black neighborhoods. Her proposal would mandate training and accountability measures for appraisers to ensure that Black homeowners receive fair property valuations, helping to close the racial wealth gap.

## Community Events and Outreach



VP Harris at the Economic Club of Pittsburgh - @kamalaharris on Instagram

...continued on page 12

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# Supporting the Success of Black Women Entrepreneurs

*Special to The Truth*

Black/African American women-owned businesses make significant contributions to the economy and are key to driving small business growth.

In fact, according to the Wells Fargo 2024 Impact of Women-Owned Businesses Report, between 2019 and 2023, Black/African American women-owned businesses saw average revenues increase 32.7 percent, compared to 12.1 percent for all women-owned businesses. In spite of this impressive growth, systemic disparities in funding and mentorship opportunities persist. Fortunately, new programs are addressing these gaps.

### Funding Opportunities

Financing is central to any business venture, but research shows that women of color receive less than 0.2 percent of venture-capital funding. With about 61 percent of Black women entrepreneurs self-funding their businesses, they exhibit higher levels of debt, facing an unfair disadvantage from the start.

New bank and philanthropic programs are helping Black women identify capital opportunities to build sustainable small businesses. In addition to traditional lending, working with Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) and Minority Depository Institutions (MDIs) can create an ecosystem of support that provides additional avenues to accessing capital. These institutions specifically work with underserved entrepreneurs, including those in low-to-moderate income areas and minority populations.

Supporting these organizations and their mission was at the heart of the creation of initiatives like Wells Fargo's Open for Business Fund, an industry-leading effort that has donated roughly \$420 million to nonprofits serv-

ing small businesses; the Small Business Resource Navigator, an online portal connecting small business owners to potential financing options and technical assistance through CDFIs; the Capital Pathways Workbook, a free resource that helps entrepreneurs map their capital needs to business goals and objectives; and a Wells Fargo-backed \$70 million fund in partnership with Hello Alice to improve access to credit and capital for underserved entrepreneurs.

These programs are helping to dismantle financial barriers and build an environment where Black/African American women-owned businesses can scale, grow and build for the future.

### Harnessing Mentorship

Beyond funding, the success and sustainable growth of a small business relies on guidance and community support. That's why it's so important to invest in education and mentorship programs specifically designed for Black/African American women entrepreneurs. This level of support is at the heart of Milestone Circles, a mentoring program for women entrepreneurs offered by the Nasdaq Entrepreneurial Center and funded by the Wells Fargo Foundation. The majority of participants (86 percent) have been Black, African American and/or Afro-Caribbean, and have learned skills to improve their business alongside fellow entrepreneurs.

As Black/African American women continue taking the lead in business ownership, the banking and business community can take steps to support their momentum, paving the way for their sustained growth and helping make generational wealth an attainable goal for all.

*Courtesy StatePoint*

### Harris... continued from page 11

As part of her outreach to Black men, the Harris-Walz campaign is launching several community-centered events. The "Black Men Huddle Up" initiative will feature NFL and NCAA watch parties in battleground states, where Black men can discuss the upcoming election and its implications for their communities. In addition, the campaign will host a series of Economic Freedom Talks, with notable Black entrepreneurs discussing strategies for business growth and financial independence. Harris's team is ramping up its Shop Talk series, Brother to Brother canvass events, and launching new testimonial ads to reach Black voters in states like Pennsylvania, Georgia, and Michigan.

### In Stark Contrast to Trump's Agenda

Harris's proposals directly counter Donald Trump's Project 2025, which she argues would dismantle progress for Black communities. Trump's plan includes:

- Reinstating stop-and-frisk practices.

- Cutting funding for urban education.
- Eliminating critical programs like Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security, which many Black families rely on.

Harris's agenda seeks to offer Black men a comprehensive path to economic stability and success, positioning her as the candidate dedicated to addressing their unique challenges.

Harris's detailed plan appears to offer Black men a vision of leadership, opportunity, and economic empowerment, which she argues is essential for the future of Black communities. She believes investing in education, health, and wealth-building would help address systemic inequities and build a path to prosperity for Black men nationwide.

"Donald Trump could care less about equipping hardworking Americans with the tools needed to get ahead," campaign co-chair Cedric Richmond stated. "While Vice President Harris is promising to equip Black men with the tools needed to pursue our dreams and aspirations, Donald Trump is promising Black men in America a national nightmare."



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# X-Ray by Nicole Lobdell

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

Is it broken?

Doesn’t look like it, but it sure does hurt. You can’t bend it, can’t bear to touch it, and it’s swelling and turning a little red. Maybe you should see a doctor. As in the new book *X-Ray* by Nicole Lobdell, your injury may need some looking into.

c. 2024  
Bloomsbury  
Academic  
\$14.95  
121 pages

It was a late fall day, nearly 129 years ago when it happened. German physicist Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen was messing around with equipment in his laboratory when he noticed an unexpected fluorescence on a screen across the room. His curiosity piqued, he placed a few random objects between a Crookes tube and the screen and was astounded to see “shadow-like images” on the screen. Six weeks later, on December 22, 1885, he asked his wife, Anna Bertha, to place her hand in the in-between, and her skeletal fingers appeared.

And from there on, says Lobdell, “no one was safe from the X-ray’s gaze.”

Early in the last century, hobbyists made their own X-ray machines at home, and hospitals made them “the cutting edge of medical technology.” Historians wanted them, courtrooms were happy X-rays existed, and hundreds of women were trained to operate the machines in field hospitals.

“If Instagram had been around, Lobdell says, “it would have been full of skeletal hands.”

But even then, around Marie Curie’s time, some called attention to the dangers of X-rays. Thomas Edison complained of vision problems after experimenting with his X-ray machine, and too much exposure caused burns and cancerous sores in others.

Over time, the fact became obvious that X-rays were not completely safe at all times, but they were fun, movies and songs were made about them, and they helped sell shoes! People loved imagining that superheroes had “X-ray eyes.”

Today, we know the dangers of overexposure, and physicians strive to avoid that situation with their patients. Still, as the first X-ray emoji proves, we haven’t lost our fascination...

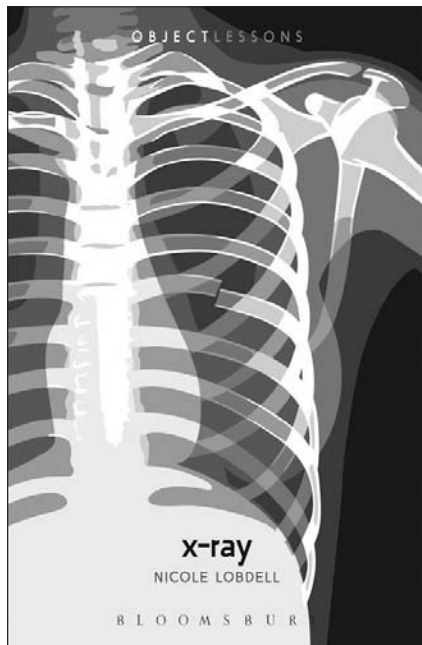
What, you might think, could you *possibly* learn from a skinny little book like *X-ray*?

A lot, as it turns out.

Author Nicole Lobdell packs a ton of information inside just over 100 pages, ranging from a surprisingly exciting account of a lazy afternoon’s Eureka! to battlefields and modern ICUs. Along the way, we sit in Edwardian parlors with folks who play with radiation, we meet those who regret having done so, and we learn one rather embarrassing use for X-rays.

If that sounds very not-so-stuffy to you, you’re right. The info Lobdell shares is told, insider-like, with just enough fluff to remain entertaining, but not so much that this book gets silly. Nope, it’s the real deal, with authentic history and facts in bite-size, succinctly-told, easy-to-understand chapters that will appeal to science lovers – but that won’t scare away anyone who just wants a quick, fun book to enjoy.

You don’t have to have a PhD to read this book. You’ll only need a desire for an interesting slice of Americana to want *X-ray*. Pick it up soon. You’ll truly enjoy looking through it.



## African American Legacy... continued from page 10

was a health reporter and weekend anchor.

In 1988, Bonhart 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.

Bonhart 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.

Norman Bell was born 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.

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

Ford, a native of Springfield, Ohio, earned an undergraduate degree from The Ohio State University, which he attended on a football scholarship, and a master’s in public administration and a law degree from the University of Toledo.

He stayed in Toledo and taught at UT for more than two decades and later at Bowling Green State University and at Owens Community College. During his work in social services he founded two substance abuse clinics – SASI and Adelante.

Entering politics in the early 1990s, Ford was elected to Toledo City Council, the Ohio House of Representatives where he has Democratic Party leader during the last three of his seven years. He was elected mayor of the City of Toledo and, later, became a member of the Toledo Board of Education and a member of City Council again.

His legacy includes originating lead abatement policies, a smoking ban in public places, medication education for the elderly, among others.



## POSITION AVAILABLE TENANT ADVOCATE

Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE), a non-profit regional law firm with a long history of representing people living on low incomes in Ohio in achieving equal justice and opportunity, seeks a Tenant Advocate supporting the Housing and Community Economic Development practice group's access to counsel project providing tenant representation in eviction actions. This position will be based out of ABLE's Dayton office.

### About ABLE

Advocates for Basic Legal Equality (ABLE) is a nonprofit law firm established over 50 years ago to ensure that the most vulnerable people in our communities have the same access to justice as people and companies that can afford to retain an attorney. ABLE and its partner law firm, Legal Aid of Western Ohio (LAWO), are the only law firms available for comprehensive legal representation in non-criminal matters for more than 425,000 people living, working, and raising their families in poverty in Northwest and West Central Ohio. ABLE advocates for – and with – financially disadvantaged individuals and communities to effectuate just and equitable policy changes that address the structural causes of poverty and to protect their right to fairness and justice in the legal system.

### The Opportunity

The Tenant Advocate will:

- **Support Legal Representation:** Assist attorneys and clients in the legal process by facilitating communication, collecting factual information and documentation, and advocating for client needs.

- **Client Access to Services:** Ensure clients have access to ABLE services by engaging with them, facilitating referrals, and coordinating with external organizations.

- **Crisis Prevention and Resolution:** Provide immediate crisis prevention and resolution strategies to address client emergencies.

- **Community Outreach:** Conduct outreach presentations to client groups and partner organizations to raise awareness of ABLE services and promote community engagement.

- **Relationship Building with Service Providers:** Develop and maintain relationships with service providers to facilitate effective referrals to and from ABLE and other community organizations.

- **Professional Development Coordination:** Coordinate and facilitate staff training on topics such as poverty, working with vulnerable populations, and cultural competency to enhance service delivery.

- **Supervision of Social Work Students:** Provide supervision and mentorship to social work students during their field placements at ABLE, ensuring they gain practical experience.

- **Collaboration with Legal Advocates:** Collaborate effectively with legal advocates and other professionals to meet the needs of vulnerable populations, including those with no income, limited English proficiency, and mental health consumers.

- **Client Advocacy and Equal Justice Commitment:** Uphold the principle of equal justice by treating clients, staff, and the public with dignity and respect, while maintaining strict confidentiality regarding sensitive matters.

- **Program Policies and Procedures:** Implement ABLE policies and procedures effectively and ensure that program guidelines are followed to meet the organization's goals.

- **Cultural Competency:** Demonstrate an appreciation for diverse cultures and communities by working equitably with clients and colleagues from varied backgrounds.

- **Independence and Team Work:** Work effectively with a team consisting of a staff attorney, paralegal, community organizer and administrative assistant to stabilize housing for clients and support community driven housing initiatives.

### The successful candidate must have the following skills and experience:

1. Bachelor's degree in social work or commensurate experience required; Master's Degree preferred.
2. 0-3 years of experience in social work preferred
3. Ability to work both independently and as part of a team, with a high level of initiative and creativity in problem-solving.
4. Experience working with limited income clients and knowledge of local social services is required.
5. Must possess excellent organizational, interpersonal, and communication skills, with the ability to handle and prioritize multiple tasks and deadlines.
6. Computer proficiency in MS Office applications is necessary.
7. Spanish language skills are preferred.
8. Must hold a valid driver's license, auto insurance, and be willing to travel throughout the service area.

### Compensation, Benefits, and Work Location

ABLE is committed to providing an equitable work environment, including a commitment to pay equity. The starting annual salary range for this position is \$50,600-\$68,400 depending on experience. Comprehensive fringe benefits, including health insurance, supplemental language compensation, annual leave, and paid parental leave.

**To Apply:** Please visit <https://www.ablelaw.org/careers-with-able> to submit your application. Position will remain open until filled.

**ABLE is an Equal Opportunity Employer and places a high value on diversity in our workplace, including diversity in race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, and physical ability. We strive to create an environment welcoming to all individuals and we encourage applications from individuals traditionally underrepresented in the legal profession. Applicants requiring accommodation for the interview/application process should contact the recruitment coordinator at [hrteam@ablelaw.org](mailto:hrteam@ablelaw.org).**

## MANAGER OF SENIOR SERVICES

Neighborhood Health Association (NHA) is dedicated to enhancing the lives of seniors in our community. We are committed to fostering a supportive environment that promotes health, well-being, and social connection for individuals aged 55 and over. As the Manager of Senior Services, you will play a pivotal role in developing and implementing multi-service programs tailored to the medical, cultural and social services needs of our seniors (age 55 and over) throughout the organization. You will serve as a key liaison collaborating with community stakeholders and representing NHA at planning meeting with the Area Office on Aging and other relevant organizations, and make recommendations for the implementation and expansion of programming to the Executive Management Team.

### Key Responsibilities:

- **Program Development:** Identify the evolving needs of seniors through demographic analysis and market research, including focus groups. Propose new programs and enhancements to existing services to address barriers faced by our seniors.

- **Stakeholder Collaboration:** Build and maintain partnerships with community organizations to ensure comprehensive support for our senior population.

- **Budget Management:** Prepare and manage the departmental operating budget, ensuring timely reporting and adherence to financial constraints.

- **Project Management:** Lead projects with a focus on delivering measurable outcomes, utilizing key data for continuous quality improvement initiatives.

### Job Qualifications:

- Minimum of **2 years of management experience** in a leadership role serving seniors..

- Relevant training in **gerontology, recreation**, or a related field, or relevant experience in developing and implementing senior-focused programs.

- Oversee the daily operations and fiscal management for two Senior Center locations, including preparing and managing the departmental budget and the timely submission of required reports.

- Proven ability in **budget preparation and management**, along with experience in project management.

- Flexibility to adapt work hours as needed to support senior programs, typically following a Monday to Friday schedule.

- A genuine passion for serving seniors and enhancing their quality of life.

- Demonstrate a strong commitment to understanding and respecting the diverse cultural, religious, and ethnic backgrounds of our seniors in a community health environment.

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## INVITATION FOR BIDS BOILER REPLACEMENT AT PORT LAWRENCE HOMES IFB24-B014

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive bids for **Boiler Replacement at Port Lawrence Homes in accordance with IFB24-B014**. Received in accordance with law until **October 31, 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.



# Upcoming Community Enrichment Dinner in Lima Announced

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

CGI Black Wall Street Toledo and the Lima-based 2024 Community Enrichment Dinner (CED) held a news conference on Wednesday, Oct. 9, at 1 p.m., at the Ternion Training and Education Center (TTEC), 5212 Hill Avenue, announcing their upcoming 2024 Community Enrichment Dinner that will feature a performance of the award-winning play, Black Angels Over Tuskegee.

Chair and Founder of the Community Enrichment Dinner, Jerome O'Neal, said that CED, now in its 13th year, is currently the largest sit-down dinner in Northwest Ohio. The annual event hosts an esteemed list of attendees every year with an array of awards given to numerous businesses that have made an impact in the community.

This year, the dinner is expanding further including partnerships in the tricity area of Toledo, Lima and Findlay, Ohio.

"We have relationships from Toledo to Findlay that are going to be exposed to the dinner this year," stated O'Neal. "There is going to be a lot of synergy and relationship back and forth."

The Toledo Black Wall Street Community Development, as well as the Engage Studio Architects, also Toledo based, will be partnering with the CED for this year's event.

TTEC Executive Director Stephanie Boutte is the inaugural Community Enrichment Dinner Chair. *... continued on page 10*



Erin Curly, president of Engaged Studio Architects



TTEC Executive Director Stephanie Boutte



Toni Battle-Gaines of Toledo Black Wall Street Community Development



CED Chairman Jerome O'Neal



Join us for the Cordelia Martin Health Center  
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 Coordinated by Tastefully Two Event Planning  
**WHEN:** Saturday, Oct. 26 | 1 - 4 pm  
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**RAIN LOCATION:** Jones Leadership Academy for Business, Gym  
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**Food, Activities for the Kids, and a Trunk Or Treat**

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# African American Legacy Project's 20th Anniversary Celebration

Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

Community leaders, officials and neighborhood organizations gathered to celebrate six individuals and a community organization that were honored. Friday's hospitality reception launched the celebration, that concluded with the annual Saturday legends luncheon.

The celebration honored: John Rudley, PhD, Norman Bell, Marsha Bonhart, Derrick Clay, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Toledo Chapter and two posthumous honors to David Carter and Jack Ford.

"Twenty years is a blessing," began Robert Smith, African American Legacy founder and executive director. "We have embraced and shared our history and rebuilt the community."

Friday's reception served as an official welcome to the 2024 honorees that would receive a personalized Kente cloth during Saturday's luncheon. The honorees lined up as a designee escorted them from the rear of the room to the front. Two individuals read the bios of each honoree as the honoree's designee bestowed the personalized Kente cloth.

"I feel honored that our sorority and chapter was inducted into the hall of fame," said Ambershaun Byrd, Delta Sigma Theta Toledo Chapter president. "We will continue our legacy of service which began with Beta Lambda Chapter. I'm excited, as the chapter president, to continue our focus on community service and social action through voter education and voter registration. We also plan to continue our focus on awarding scholarships. I am proud to be apart of this dynamic sisterhood of women who have served as trailblazers in our community."

"I am still humbled by this experience," began Marsha Bonhart. "This is my home. Yes, I have lived in different cities, but I am proud and surprised by this honor."

The 2024 honorees: musical legend, David Delano Carter; business advocate legend, Derrick Clay; Toledo's first black mayor legend, Jack Ford; professor of business legend, John Rudley, PhD; mass communications legend, Marsha Bonhart and civic engagement legend, Norman Bell.

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 masters of Education degree from the University of Toledo in 1974.

As an educator 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. Under

his direction, Scott choirs improved their performance each year at the annual May Festival, with 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.

His most profound 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.

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.

Throughout his career, Clay 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

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David Carter honored by his daughter, Deborah Crater Carlisle and his grandson, Philip Carlisle



Marsha Bonhart honored by her son



Derrick Clay and Jessica Ford (Jack Ford's daughter)



Delta Sigma Theta honored



John Rudley honored by his fraternity brother



Jessica Ford and Norman Bell



Rev. Willie Perryman, Former Mayor Carty Finkbeiner, Rev. Ben Green and First Lady Gladys Green



Kristian Brown and Marsha Bonhart



Sons Keith and Michael Bell honor father, Norman Bell



Robert Smith, Jessica Ford, John Rudley

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