

Volume 89 No. 3 *“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”* April 23, 2025



Taria Blanchard's Journey Back to TPS



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Ooops! Here We Go Again

By Larry Sykes

Guest Column

Lucas County Children Services has been around for over 150 years and serves an average of 11,250 children and 4500 families annually and conducts an average of 3,663 investigations per year! Very few, if any other, agencies can tout this history of longevity and success here in Toledo!

Community Calendar

April 27

NAACP Youth Council meeting: 3:00 pm at Sanger Branch Library; Election of Officers

May 3, May 10, May 17, May 31

The Toledo-Tanga Sister City Committee's Free Hybrid Drone Training program for students – 6th – 12th grades in Tanzania, Africa and Toledo. Learn how to fly, code and program drones. UT's Nitschke auditorium; 7:45 am - 11:30 am. Contact Norma King, Drone Academy Director at njking@bex.net, 419-536-4615 or Leslie Henriquez President, Toledo- Tanga Sister City Committee at LesHenriquez@aol.com 419-699-8686.

May 4, May 11, May 18, June 1

Shutting the Door on Forgiveness: Join us for an in-person adult Bible study workshop series designed for individuals facing challenges with forgiveness; Crusaders for Christ Church; 10 AM to 11 AM; register at event-brite.com!

May 31

A First Ladies' Affair: Registration deadline May 15. For more details, visit event-brite.com.

I have been involved with LCCS since the mid-1970s when the agency was located on River Road. After LCCS moved to downtown Toledo I continue to be involved with the agency and would volunteer to take kids to various events, ball games, the circus and picnics with the LCCS staff.

When I was president of the Toledo Urban Bankers, we would provide financial literacy training to the young men and women who were aging out of the system, and we would also assist them in finding work and housing.

Some years later I received a call from County commissioner Pete Gerken, asking me if I would be willing to serve on the board of LCCS as a favor to him.

I thought about it and finally I agreed to do it. I served 15 or more years until I felt it was time for me to step down, so I submitted my letter of resignation thanking the commissioner for the opportunity serve and moved on with my life.

During my time on the board, I found the staff to be very professional, very caring, very committed and very obligated to ensuring that the families that they represented and served received only the best service and resources they could provide to them!

If this wasn't the truth, I would not say it. There are two careers that one does not go into to make money, one is social work and the other is teaching, both professions have plenty of work but the workers are few! Only the committed go into these two professions.

During my time on the board, Dean Sparks was the director and when he decided to retire, the board wanted to do a national search and hire someone from outside of the agency, I was adamantly against it!

When you have qualified people already in the system, why not give them a chance? I believe in growing your own!

I mention this because, I know the LCCS agency in and out. The mission statement, financial status, staff positions, staff needs and the requirements to make it a better agency operationally.

That is why I was against hiring someone from outside to run the agency. It would take him or her a year to understand the way the agency operates,

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The Rule of Law Is up for Grabs

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

If you have been watching the news, Trump is flexing his executive muscles by intimating that if he had his druthers, he would export American "hardened" criminals to the notorious gulag that is in El Salvador.

Never mind that Trump and the president of El Salvador met this past week in the White House and the El Salvadoran president said, with a straight face, that he is unable to release Abrego Garcia from his country's jail. This is a country that he rules and runs with an iron fist but he is without any means to release a wrongfully imprisoned person!

This president belongs in the clown car along with Trump, both lying through their teeth that they are powerless to do anything about the mistake that America made in shipping this person to the El Salvador gulag.

Now remember, The United States and El Salvador have a contract, a paid contract by which El Salvador is willing to take in purported gang members of another country into their prison system. It makes you wonder, what department of our government authorized those monies and how do we pay a foreign government for prison services?

Now, being emboldened, Trump's puppets are now stating, again with a straight face that, after all, this prisoner was in fact properly shipped to the gulag which is a direct contradiction with the US Supreme Court which ordered the Trump administration to return the prisoner.

Because Trump is itching for a fight with the Supreme Court in order to test his moxie with the justices and to see who will not bend their judicial powers to him. What you have my dear reader is a constitutional crisis of the first degree. A monumental challenge to the rule of law being posited by a branch of government against another co-equal branch of government.

If and when the GOP Supreme Court judges stop clutching their pearls, they will realize that Trump is willing to spin the cylinder on the pistol with one bullet in the gun and see who blinks first.

Trump, the convicted felon, has no respect for the rule of law or the constitution. It is readily apparent that he has not even read it and much less is willing to honor and support its continued viability.

For Trump, attacking the federal judiciary is his boldest gambit to tell the courts, "You don't like it...well come and do something about it!"

Trump understands that the Supreme Court has no army to enforce its decrees other than to hold someone in contempt of court but for a person of Trump's corrupted sense of right and wrong, contempt means nothing for him or to him.

A person who can dodge two impeachments attempts (one directly attributable to the cowardice of Senator Mitch McConnell) and be elected as the first felon president in the history of the country, to him, a contempt finding is a walk in the park.

As Trump continues to flood the airwaves with executive orders ad nauseam, one fight that he is dying to pick with is one of the premier colleges in America, Harvard. Trump wants Harvard to give him practically unlimited access to the innards of its teaching curriculum including the exclusion of any D.E.I. policies and oversight over student admissions, among other areas of control.

In Trump bizzarro world of irrational thinking, if he can brow beat Harvard to capitulate, it could mean the end of academic autonomy, freedom of speech and assembly. Enough "premier" colleges have thrown in the towel and have agreed to his whipping boy changes, and everlasting shame on them!

And what happens when the Supreme Court rules against Trump and his sycophants and they need to enforce their rulings? Simple. You will have a crisis heretofore unknown in the history of jurisprudence in this country.

Who will enforce any discipline meted out by the highest court in the land? The court has no Army or Navy to fight the good fight. They have the U.S. Marshals who are controlled by the feckless Pam Bondi who would rather walk barefoot on glass shards than betray her fearless leader.

What you would have is an embarrassing standoff between Trump/MAGA and the highest court in the land trying to maintain a semblance of judicial integrity while a scoundrel like Trump would laugh in their collective faces.

Would the GOP in Congress then be emboldened to implement the 25th amendment which would allow for his removal? If they love liberty and the rule of law like they give lip service to they might, but don't count on it.

If the 25th amendment would not be implemented or if implemented but it



failed in its mission, all I can say is "Welcome to the newest member of the Banana Republics!"

And as for a possible third term that Trump boast about achieving, he then simply declares a national emergency six months before the 2028 election, stays in office and voila! King Trump reigns supreme!

Oh, how the mighty have fallen!

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com

Larry Sykes... continued from page 2

to learn the staff, to learn who's who in the community to get the support for levies, who are the foster parents and who runs the supporting agencies.

And that doesn't include negotiating a contract which might include re-locating a new director here which could cost the tax payers \$10-20,000.

It has been my experience that people who run agencies and live here have better support systems because they are out in the community, they are members of a church, they live in the neighborhood, you see them in the grocery stores, in the malls and they are affiliated with various organizations and clubs.

For example, look at how many presidents/CEOs the Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority board members have hired in the last 10 years. From 2016 to 2025 the board has hired five presidents/CEOs!

Like CARPETBAGGERS they come and they go, never establishing a relationship of any kind in the community, they don't purchase a home, they don't have kids in school, they are not members of a church, they have no organization affiliation and therefore they don't give back, they are here until the next opportunity comes calling.

This is unlike a Billie Swell Johnson, a Michael Bell, a Michael Ashford, a Doni Miller, a Jackie Martin, a Judy Ellis, a Jay Black, a Linda Ewing, a Deborah Barnett, a Lisa McDuffie, a Bobbi Harrison, a John Jones, a John Edwards, a Bobby Smith, a Romulus Durant, a Willie Perryman, a Brian Byrd, a Linnie Willis, a James Willis and Robin Reeves, who I and others went against the grain to ensure that she became the director of the Lucas County Children Services.

All of these individuals had close ties to this community and are, were,

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Grievances Against the King: Tariffs, Promises and Revenge!

By Steven Flagg

Guest Column

Donald Trump told America he was in love with tariffs.

In a June 2019 CNBC interview he said, "Tariffs are a beautiful thing when you're the piggy bank, when you have all the money."

"To me, the most beautiful word in the dictionary is tariff. It's my favorite word." He told us in a speech before the Economic Club of Chicago in October 2024.

And during a discussion with Joe Rogan in October 2024, Trump said, "To me, the most beautiful word... in the dictionary today and any day is the word 'tariff.' It's more beautiful than love."

Overwhelmingly economists, that ugly elite, dared to tell us what tariffs would do to the US and world economies.

16 Nobel Prize-winning economists in June 2024, signed an open letter warning that Trump's economic plans, particularly his proposed tariffs, could "reignite inflation" in the United States.

In an October 2024 Economist article, Paul Krugman warned that "What the tariffs would do is shrink our economy. They would cause us to sell less of the goods we currently export — that is, stuff we're relatively good at producing — and more stuff we aren't that good at producing. The effect would be to make the economy less efficient and poorer."

Still voters focused narrowly on the price of living and chose to believe that Trump was bluffing and would only use tariffs as a negotiating tool. Some tool; the damage done from stock market values to consumer confidence to inflation expectations just since "Liberation Day" will take months and likely years to undo even if tariffs are later withdrawn through negotiations.

The stock market lost the entire last year of market gains but has rebound-



ed, at least temporarily, when the mercurial Trump paused reciprocal tariffs except for China for 30, 60, 90 days but who really knows. When Trump took office the average tariff rate was 2.5 percent. With the added tariffs the rate will go to 25.3 percent and cost the average American family \$4,400/year.

Executive order 14257 establishing reciprocal tariffs, which is now on pause, would make the burden much worse. The Trump tariff policy lacks common sense, and is dumb, reckless, and destructive. Tariffs simply put are a blunt weapon of economic mass destruction.

The loss of wealth from Trump's tariffs is coming at the peak time for baby boomer retirements with an estimated 4.2 million retiring in 2025. Major losses in retirement accounts early in retirement can lead to some terrible future outcomes. Further, Trump's tariff policy amounts to a national sales tax on every product we import. It is a regressive tax that falls hardest on our poorest citizens who live from paycheck to paycheck.

So, while we watch the carnage, let us ask what happened to Trump's campaign promise to reduce the cost of living on day one? For those who just wanted to see lower food prices, an opportunity to own a home, get to the next paycheck, or pay for your daughter's dental work, it does not look like he heard your vote.

And while Trump has threatened tariffs since he was elected, we did not get any warning about the amount and extent of the tariffs. We saw no plan nor analysis regarding the return for our short-term pain. The way the reciprocal tariff levels are calculated makes little sense for so many reasons, from what constitutes a trade deficit to the formula used to determine the reciprocal tariff rate.

Donald Trump received 49.8 percent of the popular vote. Does that sound like a mandate to enact 111, and still counting, executive orders, fire thousands of federal workers without explaining why, eliminate foreign aid causing starvation and slowing a response to medical threats, blackmail legal firms through executive action that threatens their livelihood and ability to represent clients, dismantle long term alliances that have been successful at keeping the world safe for 80 years, deport individuals without due process, erase the past through actions disguised as dismantling of DEI, and now exact the largest tax increase in US history all without any action by Congress? Frenetic, thoughtless, dumb, dangerous, and without precedence.

Unilateral action is the province of dictators and kings. And while we are distracted with a mounting self-inflicted economic crisis of potentially catastrophic proportions created by America's wannabe king, the amateurs in charge of America's national security are still discussing top secret operation plans on Signal. Just saying.

Larry Sykes... continued from page 3

and have been very successful leaders in their long respective careers.

Due to the recent murder of Kei'Mani Latigue, allegedly by her father, the community has gone through a traumatic situation which has left them traumatized and rightly so! Because of the horrendous death of this 13-year-old innocent child, some members in the community have turned their hate to the LCCS as if it was the agency and staff's fault.

I truly understand the anger and frustration that the community has as a result of this lost, but to place all the fault at the feet of LCCS, which is a protector for children, is a major mistake! The reason I say this is that you have to understand how, when, who and where the crime is committed and why LCCS should not be blamed for what happens outside of the agency control.

It is my understanding that this was not a case that LCCS had taken on. If this is true that means this case was not assigned to a case worker there for it was never open and not an active case. An open case is when the family is assigned to a case worker who meets with the family on regular basis due to some allegation of abuse, neglect or other needs that the children or child are not getting.

If the case worker finds some reason that the home is no longer safe for the child, the case is then discussed, it with a team and supervisor. It is then and only then that the children or child are removed from the home and placed in foster care for their own safety.

...continued on page 6



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From Bulldog to Beacon: Taria Blanchard's Journey Back to TPS

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

Back in May 2002, *The Sojourner's Truth* featured a graduating senior who was turning heads and raising bars—**Taria Blanchard**. At Scott High School, she was class Salutatorian, had held a GPA over 4.0 since the seventh grade, led the student body, played multiple sports, and still found time to join clubs like Yearbook and Spanish.

"I was doing a lot back then," Blanchard laughs. "But I didn't see it like that at the time. I just wanted to do well—for myself, my family and my community."

Today, she's still making her community proud—as the **Director of Career and Technical Education (CTE)** for **Toledo Public Schools (TPS)**, overseeing the Business and Marketing Department. From running programs that give high school students real-life job skills to planning events like **NEXTSTEP**, Taria is shaping the future for the next generation—and doing it with heart.

The Bulldog Spirit

Blanchard grew up surrounded by motivation, structure, and support. "Go Bulldogs!" she cheers proudly, remembering her high school days. Her parents, Coach Pete (Herbert) and Vernice Blanchard, made sure she and her sister Torri were always focused on both books and ball.

"If you've ever been in our dining room, then you know—it's basically a trophy room," she smiles. "My parents worked full-time jobs, but raising us with purpose? That was their main job."

Coach Pete wasn't just cheering from the sidelines—he was coaching. He helped lead their teams and often volunteered in the schools. Miss Vernice? She was at every meeting, every classroom, every lunchroom. "She held every PTO office at some point," Taria says, grinning. "Teachers used to think she worked there!"

Her younger sister Torri also played basketball and has gone on to coach several girls' teams. And yes, Torri also worked at this very newspaper for a while too—The Sojourner's Truth has been a part of this family's journey for decades.

In that 2002 article, we wrote about Taria's big plans to attend Urbana University on a basketball scholarship. She had received multiple scholarships—from Delta Sigma Theta, Ben E. Williams Youth Services and the Board of Education—because when you shine like she did, doors fly open.

Guided by Greatness: Mentors Who Made a Difference

Even with a strong family behind her, Taria never walked this road alone. Along the way, she was surrounded by mentors who saw her light and helped it shine brighter.

"Tracy Knighten was my first real mentor," she says. "He would pick me up from school, take me to events, expose me to things I didn't even know were options."

Another name rolls off her tongue with deep respect: "Dr. Treva Jeffries-Martin. She's the reason I became an educator. I saw how she connected with students—how she demanded excellence but gave grace. I wanted to be like that."



Taria Blanchard

She smiles when she talks about Mr. David Manley: "He was just real with me. He taught me how to carry myself with confidence, how to walk into a room like I belong there."

And Ms. Kimberly Sams? "Ms. Sams reminded me that being smart wasn't something to hide. She celebrated my academic side and always pushed me higher."

She continues, "Earl Morris and the late Dennis Black were also important to me. Coach Earl believed in my leadership potential before I did. And Coach Black—he was the kind of leader who made you want to do right. I hope I make them all proud."

Family, Found and Given

Her extended family was just as essential. "Kim and Eric Ellis treated me like their own daughter Ashley, who was my best friend," she shares. "I used to sit in their basement grading papers! That was probably my first taste of teaching."

Then there's the Griffin and Jude families, who cheered her on like blood relatives. "You couldn't tell me I wasn't part of their families," she says, laughing.

"My Aunt Lutherine Poston—God rest her soul—got me my first car. Aunt Yvette and Uncle Wayne used to send me care packages in college with all the things I didn't know I needed. That love? That kind of love sticks with you."

As an adult, she says the Liddell-Smith family "wrapped me up in love, too. They embraced me when I was finding my footing and always lifted me up."

And then, there are "The Boys." "My cousins—but really, they're more like my brothers," she says with pride. "I have to shout them out because they've always had my back. And I've tried to be the blueprint for all my younger

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SAME Café Closing at Main Library

** The last day of operations for the donation-based, fair exchange nonprofit restaurant is April 23

SAME Café, a donation-based, fair exchange nonprofit restaurant located within Main Library since 2022, will be closing. The café's last day of operation in Toledo is Wednesday, April 23.

The decision to close the Toledo location was made by the Board of So All May Eat, Inc. due to the financial challenges that come with supporting two locations. The café closure is unrelated to the ongoing deliberations

happening at the state level about the Public Library Fund.

The Toledo Library is incredibly proud of what it and SAME accomplished during the past three years: strengthening community through healthy food access and creating a shared space for collaboration, openness and care. SAME Café has served hundreds of meals each week since it opened at Main Library in 2022.

So All May Eat, Inc. is a Federal 501(c)3 nonprofit organization located in Denver, Colo whose mission is creating community through healthy food access. The first SAME Café is also located in Denver, Colo.

Larry Sykes... continued from page 4

The following examples are incidents that happened to children in our community. Warning the following is graphic!

The following is a Lucas County Children Services Case.

1. In 1996, a young 14-year-old boy was placed in a foster home with an elderly couple. Unfortunately he would commit one of the most heinous crimes of that time by hitting Mrs. Jeanette Johnson in the head with a hatchet killing her instantly!

Unfortunately, the elderly couple were never told by LCCS, the court system, his psychologist or any agency that was involved in this child's life about the youth's past. This young man had many known personal problems, not being able to control his anger and, at times, could exhibit a violent behavior.

The family was not informed that Johnnie grew up in an abusive and chaotic family setting, and that he was neglected by both parents.

The father and mother were addictive to drugs and his father was convicted of rape and was a convicted pedophile. When Johnnie Jordan was placed in the Johnsons' home, he already had been in and out of 20 group and foster homes!

Unfortunately, this youth was a victim of the very system that was supposed to protect him from himself and others! Just think about it, this child had been placed 20 times in different settings and never given the professional help that he needed from the system he grew up in.

Johnnie Jordan was convicted of killing Mrs. Johnson and sentenced as an adult to life in prison which means he will be eligible for parole in 30 years which would be in 2026.

The Lucas County Children Services was not involved with follow-

ing cases until after they happened: WARNING THE FOLLOWING IS GRAPHIC.

2. A father sodomizes his six-month-old baby child.

3. A father shook his baby son to death because the child would not stop crying.

4. A 19-year-old male beat to death a 4-year-old child of the 24-year-old mother he was going with. The child was beaten because the perpetrator didn't like the child's father.

I know this to be true because I paid for the child's funeral, Dean Sparks the director of LCCS at the time told me the family had t-shirts with the child's picture on them but didn't have the means to bury the child.

5. In 2021, the Toledo Police were called to the Byrneport Apartments where they found Kevin Moore, 27, and charged him with murder for shooting three children of a female he was dating. He killed two of the boys and critically injured the third. The mother had left them with him while she ran errands.

The two boys killed were Ahmir Phillips and Gabriel Phillips. Ashtan Phillips survived the shooting and was hospitalized in stable condition with

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Taria Blanchard...continued from page 5

cousins, showing them what's possible when you stay focused and grounded."

Back Home and Leading the Way

Now, Taria is right where she's meant to be—back in Toledo, making an impact through education.

As Director of Career and Technical Education for TPS, she oversees hands-on programs that prepare students for real careers—healthcare, engineering, cybersecurity, construction, manufacturing, and more.

"We're helping kids graduate with a diploma and a plan," she says. "College is great—but it's not the only path. We're giving students real options and real-world skills."

She's also getting ready for NEXTSTEP, the district's major college and career event taking place October 14-16.

"Colleges, businesses—if you want to be part of something meaningful, email us at careertech@tps.org," she says. "Let's pour into these kids the way people poured into us."

The Next Chapter Starts Here

So what's next for Taria Blanchard? If her past is any clue, it's going to involve more students, more opportunities, and more of that magical mix of heart and hustle.

As some of her own mentors begin to retire, Taria takes a moment to send love their way.

"Thank you. Thank you for showing me how to lead, how to listen, how to love our kids through structure and support. I'm only here because of you."

Now, she's that mentor for hundreds of students across the city—living proof that investing in young people pays off in powerful ways.

Because the future doesn't build itself. But with leaders like Taria Blanchard, it's in very good hands.

Colleges, employers, and organizations ready to inspire the next generation can email: careertech@tps.org for more information.



Taria Blanchard then - 2002 - and now

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"Embracing the Future While Preserving the Past"

Issue 8 Will Help Metroparks Keep Trails Safe, Air Breathable and Water Clean

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Editor

"There are great things about our city and region," says Toledo Metroparks Chief External Relations Officer Matthew Killam. "Let's not focus on what we are not, let's focus on what we are."

What we are, adds Killam, is an area with "the best park system in the nation."

In order to maintain that status, to preserve the day-to-day operations that maintain that status – in Ohio's only "moving" dunes to the 35-room colonial home of an auto baron both of which lie within the 19 Metroparks and 190 miles of trails over a 12,000 acre park landscape – the system is asking area voters to say "YES" to the May 6 ballot Issue 8, a 10-year replacement levy that will cost the homeowner of \$100,000 house \$1.60 more a month.

The levy will provide funds for the ongoing operations that keep "the trails safe, the air breathable and the water clean," says Killam.

The services that Metroparks Toledo provides for area residents are indeed extensive – and for all generations. In addition to the wondrous physical attractions of nature, the Metroparks staff host a number of activities for families and children of all ages.

There are activities ranging from archery, to birding, to ice skating and skiing, among many others; there are spring and summer camps for youngsters that focus on a number of activities such as paddling and survival.

"Youngsters participate and get to have a love affair with nature. We get people outdoors and about 1,200 get to experience nature for free. We want the next generation to become educated and gain experience," says Killam of the goal of all these family activities.

It's money well spent, says Killam of the funds that the levy brings in, but the Toledo Metroparks does not rely merely on the largesse of local taxpayers. The system has brought in more than \$100 million in state and federal grants in the last 10 years.

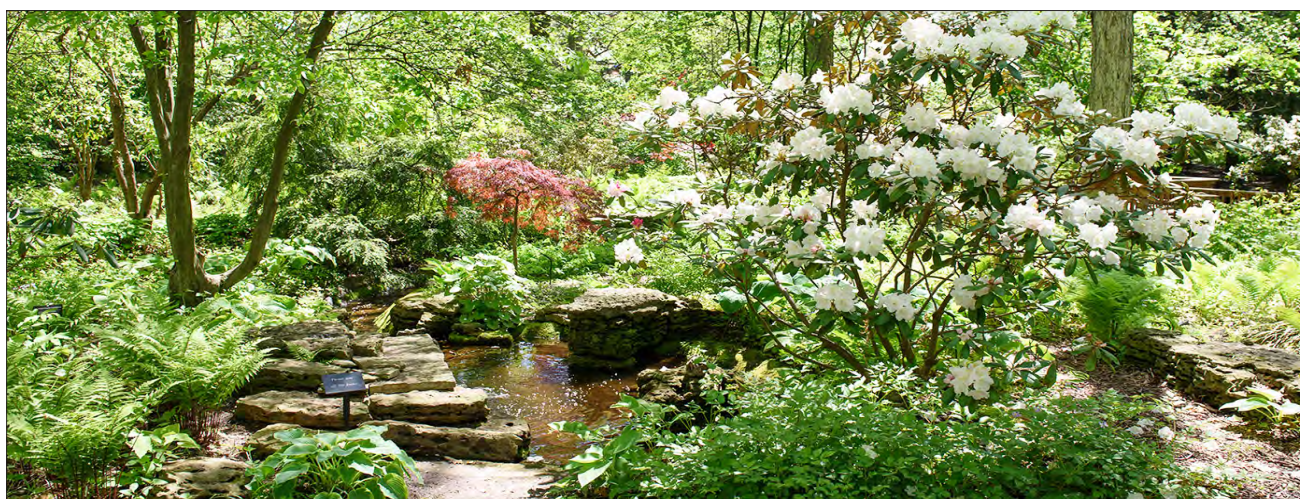
Metroparks also contributes to the economy, employing, for example, about 225 staff annually, including summer help. The agency has also brought in and expanded businesses such as the various enterprises within the Glass City Metropark.

The achievements of the Metroparks organization have been recognized nationally on numerous occasions. Most recently, the National Recreation and Park Association honored Metroparks with the "Innovation in Park Design Award" in 2024 for the creation of that same Glass City Metropark.

That's the honor Metroparks received for fulfilling their goals – making trails safe, the air breathable and the water clean, in addition to providing an entertaining, educational experience for so many.

It's an honor received for fulfilling the Metroparks mission statement which is "to conserve the region's natural resources by creating, developing, improving, protecting, and promoting clean, safe, and natural parks and open spaces for the benefit, enjoyment, education, and general welfare of the public."

"We are a conservation agency," says Killam. "We connect people to conservation."





INDEPENDENT NON COMMITTED

HAROLD HARRIS

★ **FOR MAYOR** ★

VOTE FOR HARRIS

STAND MY GROUND WON'T BACK DOWN

APRIL-MAY 6TH 2025 - YOUR VOTE MATTERS



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE (RETIRED) 1974-1994
VIETNAM ★ PEACE TIME ★ GULF WAR ★ ERA (VETERAN)
COMBAT ★ DISABLED AMERICAN (VETERAN) (DAV)

FIX ENGAGE TOLEDO / IT'S BROKE. BRING BACK BLOCK WATCH TO OUR NEIGHBORHOODS. CUT DOWN THE DEAD TREES IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS. CUT LOW HANGING BRANCHES OFF OUR TREES. WORK ON FIXING MORE ROADS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS.
YES, WE DO HAVE A PROBLEM... HOMICIDES, SHOOTINGS, GANGS AND DRUG DEALERS IN TOLEDO. I WANT TO BE A VOICE FOR THE PEOPLE.

1. I WON'T CHANGE THE CITY FLAG - WADE DID.
2. I WON'T CHANGE THE CITY CHARTER - WADE DID.
3. I WON'T TURN MY BACK ON FIRE FIGHTERS - WADE DID.
4. I WON'T REPAVE MY STREET WITH TAX PAYER DOLLARS - WADE DID.
5. I WON'T CHANGE YOUR WATER METER OR TURN OFF YOUR WATER - WADE DID.
6. DOWNTOWN TOLEDO LOST FREE PARKING AT LUNCHTIME - WADE SAID "PAY UP"

VOTE

40,677

IT'S TIME

TIME TO CLEAN UP OUR CITY... GIVE IT BACK TO THE PEOPLE.

GOD BLESS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND GOD BLESS TOLEDO.

WWW.HAROLDHARRISFORTOLEDO.COM

PAID FOR BY: HAROLD HARRIS

f

HAROLD HARRIS FOR TOLEDO



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less opportunities to grow. Don't miss out on making this summer one to remember at St. Francis de Sales School! "Be who you are and be that well."

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Celebrating Fair Housing Month; Growing Wary of Federal Disruptions

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Editor

Members of organizations focused on ensuring that every person has the opportunity to have access to safe and affordable gathered last week at the Lagrange Branch Public Library to celebrate the 1968 passage of the Fair Housing Act and April as Fair Housing Month.

The speakers at the commemoration included Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, long known for her interest in preserving and strengthening the intent of the legislation; George Thomas, CEO and general counsel of the local Fair Housing Center; Fair Housing Board Member Tony Totty, president of the UAW Local 14 and Julie Embree, director of the Toledo Lucas County Homelessness Board

Thomas noted that the Fair Housing Act, enacted on April 11, 1968, prohibits sexual harassment, racial discrimination in both housing opportunities and in lending practices, along with enabling the disabled to have access to housing.

However, Thomas also stated that such efforts are facing difficult times. There is a "housing crisis as prices escalate" and the new presidential administration – Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) and the Department of Urban Housing (HUD) have already tried to cancel two government grants the local FHC had. Both have been re-established, at least temporarily.

"This government wants to cancel civil rights by rolling back funds," said Thomas. "We've never seen anything like this before and these attempts to roll back civil rights."

The Fair Housing Act of 1968, said Kaptur, was part of a civil rights act. "But they didn't put any money into the pot," she added, describing in essence the difficulties faced by those trying to enforce the act over the years.

Kaptur unveiled a plan she believes could help strengthen the Toledo community's ability to live up to the spirit of the act. She called for "a consortium of people" working on similar housing issues to start with a small, but achievable goal.

She believes that if groups and agencies such as the Fair Husing Center, NeighborWorks, Habitat for Humanity, the Lucas County Land Bank and, perhaps, even Metroparks could gather, along with the 12 City Council members, and form a plan to resurrect a limited number of houses, perhaps 12, spread around the various council districts, that could start a revolution in creating affordable housing in Toledo.

"All of the well-intentioned people in one room, what can we do together," she suggested. "We are survivable, we have to have a different attitude in our region. Let's use common power and don't take no for an answer," she added.

Totty spoke of the significance of the Fair Housing Act and what its impact has been over the decades since the 1968 enactment of the act. Fair Housing fights against the problems of people facing housing issues," said Totty. The Fair Housing Act of 1968 is a part of Dr. [ML] King's legacy ... we need more money for Fair Housing – not less."

"There is a lot of disparity in our community," added Embree. "Our nation and our community are facing a housing crisis. We need to solidify our services ... we have to continue to advocate."



Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur speaks as (l to r) Julie Embree, Tony Totty and George Thomas await their turns

As the press conference drew to a close, the speakers expressed interest in pursuing Kaptur's idea of bringing together representatives of agencies that deal with housing to find a common way forward to creating more housing opportunities in the Toledo area.



2025 ST. FRANCIS DE SALES SUMMER CAMPS

FOR DETAILS & REGISTRATION VISIT [SFSKNIGHTS.ORG/CAMPS](https://sfsknights.org/camps)



BASEBALL CAMP

M—W | June 2—4 • 9:00am-Noon
Location: SFS Baseball Field - Kober Field
For those entering grades 3-9 (Boys)
\$60



BASKETBALL CAMPS

M—T | June 9—10 • 9:00am-10:30pm
Location: SFS Main Gym
For those entering grades 7-9 (Co-Ed)
\$30
M—T | June 9—10 • 11:00am-12:30pm
Location: SFS Main Gym
For those entering grades 3-6 (Co-Ed)
\$30



FOOTBALL CAMPS

M—T | June 9—10 • 9:00am-10:30am
Location: SFS Stadium - LaValley Field
For those entering grades 3-6 (Boys)
\$30
M—T | June 9—10 • 11:00am-12:30pm
Location: SFS Stadium - LaValley Field
For those entering grades 7-9 (Boys)
\$30



FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL COMBO CAMP

\$50
 GOLF CAMP
M—Th | June 9—12 • 9:00am-Noon
Location: McDivots Golf Center
For those entering grades 4-12 (Co-Ed)
\$125



CHEERLEADING CAMPS

T—W | June 17—18 • 6:00pm-8:00pm
Location: SFS Main Gym
For those entering grades PreK-5 (Girls)
\$30
Th—F | June 19—20 • 5:00pm-7:00pm
Location: SFS Main Gym
For those entering grades 6-8 (Girls)
\$30



SOCCER CAMPS

M—T | June 23—24 • 10:00am-Noon
Location: SFS Stadium - LaValley Field
For those entering grades 1-5 (Co-Ed)
\$60
Th—F | June 26—27 • 10:00am-Noon
Location: SFS Stadium - LaValley Field
For those entering grades 6-9 (Boys)
\$60



ROBOTICS CAMP

M—Th | June 23—26 • 9:00am-Noon
Location: SFS Science Lab
For those entering grades 4-8 (Co-Ed)
\$125



LACROSSE CAMPS

T—W | July 8—9 • 4:00pm-6:00pm
Location: SFS Stadium - LaValley Field
For those entering grades 1-8 (Boys)
For beginners - no experience necessary
\$50
Th—F | July 10—11 • 4:00pm-6:00pm
Location: SFS Stadium - LaValley Field
For those entering grades 1-8 (Boys)
For current lacrosse players with full gear
\$50



MUSICAL THEATER CAMP

M—W | August 4—6 • 9:00am-11:00am
Location: SFS Band Room
For those entering grades 5-8 (Co-Ed)
\$50



WRESTLING CAMP

T—W | August 5—6 • 9:00am-1:00pm
Location: SFS Auxiliary Gym
For those entering grades K-9 (Co-Ed)
\$60



Happy Heavenly Birthday!



Denise C. Jones –Arrival April 29, 1958; Deceased March 31, 2024

It’s been a whole year since our sister left us. It has been difficult not spending time and talking with her. The laughter and joy that she brought to us, still rings in our hearts.

We, the family of Denise Jones, would like to take the time to thank those who sent a card, made a phone a call, came to visit or assisted in way. We can never thank you enough for all you did to support our family. Your kindness, prayers, and thoughtfulness will never be forgotten. Thank you and we love you all.

Edwards-Foster, Riley, Shaheer, and Chandler families

Good Friday Service at Mt. Nebo Baptist Church

The Truth Staff

Religious leaders from around the city joined Rev. Cedric Brock and the congregation of Mt. Nebo Baptist Church for Good Friday service on April 18 at noon, during which the leaders spoke on the meaning of this most important time in the history of Christianity – the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Rev. Robert Birt, Pastor Alvin Dawson, Pastor Damon Horton, Pastor Marquisa Horton, Pastor Linette Harris Guilford, Bishop Darrell Sheares, Pastor Darran Overton, Pastor Brandon Davis, Rev. Michael Carter, and Pastor Chaz Boes were among those who joined Rev. Brock for this celebration of the Good Friday service.

Rev. Birt opened the remarks with an address on the words from Luke 23:34, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

After an offering from the Music Ministry, Paster Dawson spoke on the Luke 23:43 phrase: “You will be with me in paradise; followed by Pastor Marquisa Horton’s view of the John 19:26,27 words: “Woman, behold your son.”

The Music Ministry sang again before Pastor Overton spoke on Matthew 27:26 words “My God, My God, why have Thou forsaken me?”

“I thirst” – the words from John 19:28 were the inspiration for Bishop Shears address and after another presentation from the Music Ministry, Pastor Carter spoke on the word from John 19:30, “It is finished;” followed by the Pastor Davis’ thoughts on Luke 23:46 – “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”

Rev. Brock closed the Good Friday service with an invitation and the benediction.



Pastor Marquisa Horton preaches on the words of John 19 - 26,27 - Woman, behold Your son



A WILL IS NOT ALWAYS THE WAY

Getting Your Affairs in Order 2025

In Partnership with Area Office on Aging & Toledo Lucas County Public Library

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Saturday, April 5, 2025

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Program 10 a.m.-12 p.m. – Lunch Provided

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- Talking with Loved Ones

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Slam Dunk Strategies for Reducing Your Debt

Special to The Truth

Is mounting debt causing you stress? If so, you're not alone. Average consumer debt is on the rise in the United States.

To help you create a winning financial game plan, Experian is offering tried-and-true money management strategies, along with tips for taking advantage of new tools to reduce your spending.

Get a complete picture. Do a 360-degree assessment of how much you owe, tallying up any loans, credit cards or installment debts you might have. As part of this assessment, you can check your Experian credit report for free at www.Experian.com.

Review your budget. Doing so will help you hone in on how much money you can allocate to paying off debt and help you avoid impulse spending or indulging in extras that might set you back financially.

Choose a repayment strategy. Find a repayment strategy that works best for you and stick to it. This could mean prioritizing debt with the highest interest rate, the debt with the smallest balance, or the debt with the highest credit utilization. However you go about it, the important thing is to keep tabs on your progress and stay the course until your debt is paid off.

Keep it up. Continue to practice good financial habits, like regularly checking your credit report and credit score, spending within your means, and paying your bills on time to avoid taking on additional debt.

Use tech tools. Easy tools can help you cut out unnecessary spending. For example, the Experian app has a subscription cancellation feature that does the work of tracking and cancelling subscriptions for you. Experian data shows that consumers have about four subscriptions on average, totaling almost \$1,000 per year in potentially unused expenses. With over 200 subscriptions eligible for cancellation through the app in categories like streaming services, meal kits and entertainment, that could spell big savings. Access the tool as part of a paid Experian membership. To get started with Experian's subscription cancellation feature and other tools, download the

iOS or Android app or visit www.experian.com.

"It's easy for subscriptions to add up and become costly expenses. While tracking them down can be overwhelming, you don't have to do it alone," said Rod Griffin, senior director of Consumer Education and Advocacy for Experian.

In addition to the app, as well as other financial resources and tools available to help consumers reach their financial goals, Experian is active in initiatives to help with consumers' financial health. The company is relieving \$5 million of consumer debt among more than 5,000 families in Louisiana. Additionally, Experian is teaming up with Flau'jae Johnson, a junior guard for the Louisiana State University women's basketball team, to champion the program and financial empowerment. With 69% of college basketball fans holding debt and 49% saying they are stressed financially, according to an Experian survey, sports fans and all consumers can use extra support to manage their finances.

Reigning in spending and getting a handle on debt don't have to be insurmountable goals. By leaning on available resources, you can become the financial champion of your future.

Experian app subscription cancellation feature disclosure: Results will vary. Not all subscriptions are eligible, savings are not guaranteed, and some may not see savings. Experian members for whom Experian canceled at least one subscription averaged \$306 a year of anticipated savings. Available with eligible paid memberships and requires connecting payment account(s) to Experian account.

Debt relief initiative disclosure: Experian membership not required. ForgiveCo is settling one outstanding account in full for each beneficiary and not all accounts are the same size. Beneficiaries are randomly selected from the debt pool. For more information go to experian.com/relief or forgiveco.com.

Courtesy StatePoint

Toledo Opera to Hold Children's Chorus Auditions for Carmen

Toledo Opera is seeking boys and girls ages 9-14 with unchanged voices to sing in the children's chorus of Carmen (August - October 2024 commitment) on Saturday, May 17, 2025 from 10:00 A.M., on Sunday, May 18,

2025 from 3:00 P.M. until 6:00 P.M.. Auditions will be held at Toledo Opera Offices, 425 Jefferson Ave., Suite 601.

Rehearsals will take place on Sundays from 4:00 pm to 4:45 pm at the Toledo Opera Offices. To schedule an audition, please email James Norman at jnorman@toledoopera.org.

Bizet's sizzling epic of dark passion, Carmen, tells the story of a fierce woman who lives life on her own terms – and the men who can't let her go. Don José, a soldier drawn into her orbit, abandons everything for Carmen's love, only to find himself consumed by jealousy when her attentions shift to the dashing bullfighter, Escamillo. With its twisting tale of romance, deceit,

and disaster set to magnetic melodies, Bizet's masterpiece, Carmen, has become one of the world's most celebrated operas. Featuring some of the most popular music to ever grace the opera stage, Carmen brings every aspect of Bizet's thrilling tale to life, from its tantalizing beginning to its devastating climax. Under the baton of Adam Turner (Toledo Opera's Il Trovatore and Roméo & Juliet), Toledo Opera's vibrant original production is not to be missed.

Carmen stars mezzo-soprano Taylor Raven as Carmen, tenor Brendan Boyle (Toledo Opera's Tosca and Ragtime) as Don José, and baritone Joshua Jeremiah (Toledo Opera's Ragtime)

For more information regarding auditions, visit <https://www.toledoopera.org/performances/auditions-2025-2026/>. For more information about the 2025-26 season, visit toledoopera.org. For media access, please contact Rachael Cammarn at rcammarn@toledoopera.org.

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Larry Sykes... continued from page 6

a shattered jaw. Their two-year-old sister was not harmed. Kevin Moore, the shooter, would later undergo mental competency evaluation.

6. In 2012, five members of a family in Toledo died of carbon monoxide what Police believed to be a murder suicide.

The victims identified as 54-year-old Sandy Ford and her son, 32-year-old Andy Ford, her grandchildren 10-year-old Paige Hayes, six-year-old Logan Hayes and five-year-old Madelyn Hayes.

The grandmother Sandy was upset because her daughter Sandy and her husband Chris were trying to regain custody of the children.

The grandmother felt it was better to commit suicide and filicide than to give the children up, so she locked the garage door, put a hose in the car window that was connected to the car exhaust and died with the motor running.

7. In 2024 the Toledo Police were called to a home in west Toledo three times by concerned neighbors; they called in June, July and August. In June the TPD found the three children to be dirty, naked, hungry and emaciated, but it wasn't until the third call in August, that the TPD went there and finally called LCCS which took immediate action to protect the children by removing them from the home.

8. In 2016, a father and son allegedly kept a 13-year-old girl shackled in their basement for a year. Timothy Ciboro, 53, and Esten Ciboro, 27, are the girl's stepfather and stepbrother.

The 13-year old and her siblings were left with the two men when their mother left and went to Las Vegas. The 13-year-old girl said that she was forced to go to the bathroom in a bucket, while chained to a pole, for wetting the bed. Both men were arrested and went to trial for abuse and neglect.

One of the problems in trying to identify children who are being abused or need help, is that when the children are home schooled, which these children were, such identification is hampered.

If they were in public schools and the teacher saw or thought that there was abuse going on, teachers have a duty to report what they believe may be happening to a child.

9. In 2025 two people were arrested in Toledo and charged after allegedly keeping their five children, ages one to six in, "uninhabitable" living

conditions; trash, feces, garbage and dirty diapers were found throughout the home.

Joseph Pfaffa, 37 and Tiffany Douglas, 35, parents of the children were taken into custody for neglect and abuse. The children were transferred to the Lucas County Children Services.

10. Two gang members convicted of killing a one-year-old girl and seriously injuring her sister, were sentence to spend 40 years to life in prison.

Keshawn Jennings, 21, and Antwaine Jones, 19, were convicted of several counts of murder, attempted murder, aggravated murder and four felonious assaults for firing 16 shots into a Moody Manor apartment.

Killed was Keondra Hooks, who suffered a single gunshot to the head. Her two-year-old sister, Leondra Hooks, was seriously wounded after being shot in the chest.

The girls were sleeping on the floor of the apartment they lived in when the shots were fired. The men were looking for a rival gang member when they shot into the wrong apartment.

When we look at these situations, we have to look at where they happen! IN THE COMMUNITY! and not at LCCS, so how can we fault LCCS for something they had no control over. Most of the crime happens in the community we live in, therefore it is a community problem and not just an agency problem.

When we look at the crimes that happen in the community and ask why, well, there are a number of reasons that contribute and here are a few of the major reasons!

Fathers absent from the home and their children's lives; single mothers fighting to raise their boys the best way they can; there is no longer a village to help; boys dropping out of school because they can't read and are a grade or two behind.

Dropping out of school leads to unemployment, leads to gang affiliation, leads to committing crime in the streets and eventually leads to incarceration!

So now, all of the violence and family problems that happen in the community are being brought to the doors of LCCS as a last means of correcting this mess which is preposterous!

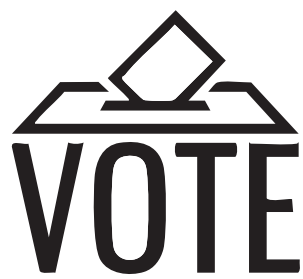
It also amazes me, the turnout by the community AFTER a situation happens! I ask the question, how many people do you personally know who are in an abusive relationship, or are gang members? Yet you refuse to say anything that might prevent an escalation to violence that may lead to one's death, because it's not your business!

Yet, when you are with the crowd protesting and demonstrating and someone yells, let's crucify him; you are the first to yell, I got three nails! We tend to praise our clowns and crucify our leaders.

You can't keep snakes in your back yard and expect them to only bite the neighbors; it is easy to take notice of a situation, but it's taking action that's hard and that's what counts.

The old adage, if you see something, say something, would help tremendously to deter the crime and abuse going on in our community and city. If you are one of those that believe snitches get stitches, then maybe you should stop blaming the victim, in this case Lucas Count Children Services!

UNAPOLOGETIC!



Ohio's Primary and Special Election:
Tuesday, May 6, 2025

Deadline to register
or update your voter registration:
Monday, April 7, 2025

If you believe you are already registered in Ohio,
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to make sure the information is correct and/or
that you have not been removed from the active registration list.

To check the status of your voter registration:

1. Visit: VoteOhio.gov
2. Scroll down the webpage
(to the middle of the page)
3. Go to "REGISTER TO VOTE"
4. Select "Check Your Registration"

VIDEO: **Online Voter Registration in Ohio**
(Instructions) https://youtu.be/jPIU_HlzLVO



Check Your Registration



Online Registration Form

**To register to vote or update
your voter registration information, visit:**

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<https://olvr.ohiosos.gov/>
Click: "Let's Get Started" button
and then click the "Continue" button
- **Paper Voter Registration Form:**
https://www.ohiosos.gov/globalassets/elections/forms/vr_form_04-2015.pdf

Fill out the online or paper voter registration form:

- If you have never registered to vote.
- If you are registered, but have changed your first or last name.
- If you are registered, but have changed your address.
- If you registered in the past, and voted, but do not see your information in the active voter registration list. In this case, you need to re-register.

After registering, you will receive a mailed notice from the Lucas County Board of Elections regarding where you vote (your polling location).

For more information, call: Lucas County Board of Elections at **(419) 213-4001**
or the Ohio Secretary of State at **(877) 868-3874**

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The World is Your Office: How Work from Anywhere Boosts Talent, Productivity, and Innovation by Prithwiraj Choudhury

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

Twenty-seven steps.

That's how long your commute is now: you roll out of bed and stroll down the hall at whatever time you like, wearing what you want. Next month may be different, you haven't decided yet because it won't matter. As in *The World is Your Office* by Prithwiraj Choudhury, you left the nine-to-five grind somewhere in a concrete building years ago.

You don't have to think hard to remember the beginning of the pandemic, and what it was like to quickly commandeer a corner of your bedroom to be your new workspace. That was then, this is now, and you're not eager to see the whole return-to-office thing return as the default.

So what if it didn't?

Says Choudhury, there's another way to work that's a "win-win-win" for everyone: Work from Anywhere (WFA), which frees up workers to do their jobs from literally any location with an internet connection.

Companies of any size can implement WFA practices, he says, and benefits are many.

For workers, WFA allows flexibility, quality of life and monetary savings. Commutes would be limited or eliminated, work attire restrictions would be nonexistent and flexibility for family or personal pursuits would be built-in.

c. 2025
Harvard Business Review
\$32.00
208 pages

Communities would benefit by keeping talented citizens in their midst. Employers would no longer have any need for a formal workplace, which would eliminate mortgage or rent and the cost of office supplies. WFA also offers the opportunity to hire the best employees, no matter where they live.

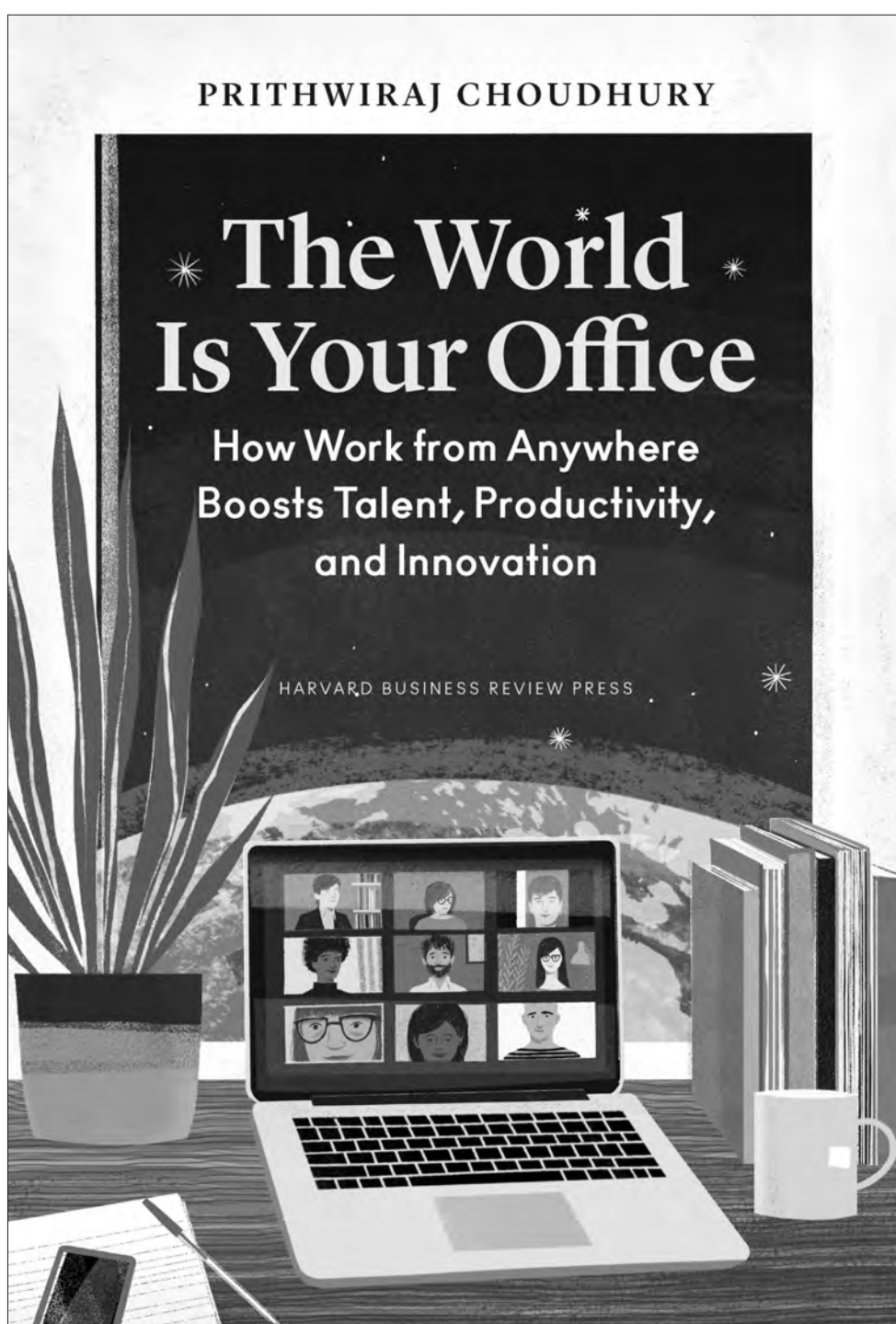
Of course, there are disadvantages to WFA, but Choudhury assures readers that the benefits far outweigh the problems. Communication is key to making this work, and he suggests several ideas to keep it efficient.

Set up a virtual storehouse for employees to find instructions, meeting transcripts, handbooks, memos, and other information they may need. Hold virtual water-cooler sessions at random. Give established employees a chance to e-mentor new hires. Utilize digital twin technology and asynchronous communication. Offer your employees yearly offsite retreats. Do it now, says Choudhury, and you may be at an advantage over the competition.

Does this all sound like a work-from-home model? Author Prithwiraj Choudhury assures his readers that it's not. For employers who are willing to make adjustments – ones that may have been needed for years anyway – WFA might actually be better.

That's intriguing, and so are the benefits and solutions that Choudhury lays out in *The World Is Your Office*. Readers will be especially interested in the thought that, with technological advances appearing seemingly every day, this new method of working may be possible in almost any industry. Using medicine and assembly lines as examples, Choudhury points out that robotics and talented, properly-trained employees can already accomplish many micro tasks remotely. The technology will only get better.

This is a great book for CEOs, business owners, and employees who are able to bend the ear of an influential C-suiter. If saving money, job satisfaction, and exciting new technology are things you need now, *The World Is Your Office* is a valid and welcome next step.



NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR DESIGN PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

To be publicly announced April 15, 2025 and advertised on April 22, 2025

The Toledo Lucas County Public Library is accepting qualifications from design professionals to provide services for its Holland Branch and New Whitehouse Branch phased Project. Interested firms may request an RFQ from Nick Hamilton, Project Coordinator, at Nick.Hamilton@toledolibrary.org. Qualifications will be accepted until **12:00 p.m.** local time, **May 13, 2025**.

LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Section 5101:2-25-03 of the Ohio Administrative Code, Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services (LCDJFS) will hold a public hearing prior to the submission of the County's final 2026 Title XX County Profile to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services for incorporation in the Comprehensive Title XX Social Services Plan for the State of Ohio.

PURPOSE:

To highlight pertinent data and information regarding identified social services problems, needs, resources, and gaps in service along with recommendations to the proposed 2026 county profile.

To elicit public comment, suggestions, and recommendations relative to the County's proposed 2026 county profile.

DATE: April 30, 2025 **TIME:** 10:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.

LOCATION: LCDJFS, 3737 West Sylvania Ave, Toledo OH 43623
Toledo Room, 1st floor

Entities wishing to have their points of view captured in the County's submission to the State must submit proposals (not to exceed two pages) to Lucas_Contracts@jfs.ohio.gov by 4 P.M. on April 25, 2025. If individuals would like to present their proposals in person at the hearing as well, they must indicate that at the bottom of their proposal. This should include the speaker's name and contact information. Those wishing to speak must register upon arrival at LCDJFS on the 30th and all efforts will be made to accommodate everyone who would like to speak. If time constraints don't allow for that to happen, individuals will still have their written proposals reviewed and included in the LCDJFS summary report to the State.

SEEKING MBE/WBE SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS

On behalf of Developer Pivotal Housing Partners, West Chester Ohio, General Contractor Ruscilli Construction Co. LLC 5815 Wall Street Dublin, Ohio 43017 is building a new build 20-unit townhouse affordable housing apartment project called The Grand at 1157 Grand Ave., Toledo Ohio 43614 and a new build 50 unit 4 story affordable housing apartment project called The Glen at 3440 Glendale Ave., Toledo, Ohio 43614. Ruscilli is requesting interested MBE/WBE subcontractors/suppliers and Section 3 Businesses or Section 3 individuals to contact Sylvester Gould at Gould Development Company LLC, Nitschke Technology Complex, 1510 N. Westwood Ave., Suite 205 B, Toledo, Ohio 43606 for potential project opportunities at 419 -787-7837.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH), located in Toledo, OH is seeking experienced applicants for the following position(s): Clerical Specialist, Inspector, Maintenance Team Lead. For complete details, visit <https://www.lucasmha.org> and click on Careers. Deadline: 05-04-25. These are Section 3 covered positions. HUD recipients are encouraged to apply and are to indicate on the application if you are a LMHA Public Housing client or Housing Choice Voucher Program participant. Persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply. NO PHONE CALLS. Equal employment opportunity shall be afforded to all qualified persons without regard to age, race, color, religion, religious creed, gender, military status, ancestry, disability, handicap, sexual orientation, genetic information or national origin.



Call to place your ad:

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TOLEDO OPERA TO HOLD AUDITIONS FOR NEW CHORISTERS IN CARMEN AND THE ELIXIR OF LOVE

Toledo, OH— Toledo Opera is holding auditions for chorus positions for the 2025-26 season. The 2025-26 season will feature: Bizet's *Carmen* (August - October 2025 commitment) and Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love* (November 2025 - February 2026 commitment). Auditions are scheduled to take place on Saturday, May 17, 2025 from 10:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M., and on Sunday, May 18, 2025 from 3:00 P.M. until 6:00 P.M. Those interested in auditioning should prepare one or two selections which best demonstrate their vocal range and abilities. For the adult chorus, one selection in either Italian or French is preferred. A pianist will be provided. Toledo Opera is seeking the following singers: all voice types for a SATB chorus.

Carmen by Georges Bizet

October 10 & 12, 2025

Valentine Theatre

Mixed voices: soprano, alto, tenor, baritone, bass. Music rehearsals begin on July 27 and run weekly on Sundays. Staging rehearsals will begin September 22 and typically run Monday through Friday in the evenings and on Saturdays and Sundays in the afternoons/evenings.

The Elixir of Love by Gaetano Donizetti

February 13 & 15, 2026

Valentine Theatre

Mixed voices: soprano, alto, tenor, baritone, bass. Music rehearsals begin on November 9 and run weekly on Sundays. Staging rehearsals will begin on January 26 and typically run Monday through Friday in the evenings and on Saturdays and Sundays in the afternoons/evenings.

For more information regarding auditions, visit <https://www.toledoopera.org/performances/auditions-2025-2026/>. To schedule an audition, please email James Norman at jnorman@toledoopera.org. For more information about the 2025-26 season, visit toledoopera.org. For media access, please contact Rachael Cammarn at rcammarn@toledoopera.org.

The IMA Pastors Show Support for the Metroparks Levy Issue

During their last meeting, the pastors and ministers of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance voiced their approval of and support for Issue 8 – the May 6 primary ballot issue that is a replacement levy for Toledo Metroparks. The replacement levy will cost the owner of the \$100,000 house and extra \$1.60 per month for the pleasure of having a park system of safe trails, breathable air and clean water, along with numerous outdoor activities for youngsters and adults alike.



Gamma Phi Delta... continued from page 16

After lunch, Charles Green was the keynote speaker. Green, a long-time Toledo resident, Scott High School graduate, who earned a bachelor’s in criminal justice from Jackson State University, has worked with the Zepf Center for the past six years as an Integrated Care Specialist, a Shelter Residential Specialist and a SUD/Mental Health Case Manager. For the past two years he has been serving as the manager of the only youth shelter for homeless youth in northwest Ohio – Safety Net, which is what his address focused on.

After Green’s remarks, Joyce Lewis-Johnston, chair of the Community Luncheon presented the donations and closing remarks were offered by Streeter.

Streeter spoke with The Truth about the purpose of the Regional Conference. “It’s a business conference,” she explained. “We want to engage all generations for one good – to show strength and love in the lives of others while being about business.”

On Friday the general session reconvened during the morning as the business of the day – financial records, vendors’ reports, election results and the installation of newly elected officers were held.

A VIP Awards Luncheon was held at 3 p.m. with the colors being pastel butterfly and pearls.

Gamma Phi Delta, a historically African American service sorority for businesswomen, professionals and students was founded in 1943 at the Lewis College of Business. The Beta Phi Chapter was chartered on May 1, 1999. The sorority is an affiliate of the National Council of Negro Women.

Gamma Phi Delta Sorority, Inc, fosters a sisterhood supporting women in career and vocational endeavors, emphasizing lifelong relationships, personal growth and positive impact within communities.



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Gamma Phi Delta Sorority, Inc's 64th Northern Region Conference: "We Are One!"

The Truth Staff

The 64th Northern Region Conference of the Gamma Phi Delta Sorority, Inc, was held in Toledo at the Glass City Center, April 17 – 19, as hundreds of sorority members gathered "to continue to build upon a rich legacy of sisterhood, service and academic excellence," wrote Karen Streeter, Northern Regional Director, shortly before the conference.

The local chapter, Beta Phi, was the host for the Northern Region Conference – the Northern Region consists of chapters in Ohio, Michigan and West Virginia.

The theme of this year's conference was "We Are One," which reminded those present "of the continuous need to fight for unity in all aspects of our organization, communities and families, while advancing the 'Gamma Way' vision," said Streeter.

The three-day event began in the afternoon of Thursday, April 17, with registration, Bendor set-up and a meet and greet for first timers.

The program began in earnest on Friday morning with a general session in the morning – seating of the delegates, acceptance of the agenda, reading of orders, committee recognition, among other parliamentary necessities.

The highlight of the afternoon was the community luncheon which started at 2:30 p.m. Along with the sorority pink and blue colors, attendees were adorned in sneakers and pearls for luncheon. Rise, Reflect and Move Forward Pearls of Wisdom, were the catchwords for the luncheon.

Michelle McCaster, co-chair of the Community Luncheon served as the mistress of ceremony for the luncheon. A welcome was offered by Sherry Collins, a performance followed by the National Youth Talent Show Winners with a poem – "I Am Black and Beautiful." The blessing of food was presented by Louise Parker and lunch was served.

... continued on page 15



The Community Luncheon Head Table: (l to r): Michelle McCaster, Karen Streeter, Charles Green, Joyce Lewis-Johnston, Kartessa Bell, Sherry Collins, Louise Parker



*Karen D. Streeter, PhD,
Northern Regional Director*

Kentucky Derby Packages



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