



Volume 90 No. 5

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

July 9, 2025

The Woman Who Wouldn't Stay Quiet!



Celia Williamson, PhD, Professor, Author, Policy Influencer

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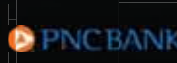
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The Cost of Neglect

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, Ph.D.
The Truth Contributor



Anyone who has ever struggled with poverty knows how extremely expensive it is to be poor.

- James Baldwin

Over this past Fourth of July weekend, as fireworks lit up Toledo's sky, gunfire did too.

Six men lost their lives, and several more were hospitalized in five separate incidents over just three days, exacerbating grief in neighborhoods already saturated with trauma.

Mayor Kapszukiewicz stated publicly, "These incidents are not connected, but together, they tell a heartbreaking story. It is a story of too many families grieving. A story of trauma that stretches far beyond the victims."

The mayor was spot-on concerning the grief. Yet he gets it completely wrong when he asserts the incidents are not connected.

This crisis is not new. It is part of a pattern. Since the FBI began tracking national crime statistics, more than 270,000 Black Americans have been victims of homicide—a toll greater than the entire population of Toledo or mid-sized cities like Akron, Dayton, Grand Rapids, Michigan or Richmond, Virginia—enough to erase any one of those cities from the map.

This "slow genocide" did not happen in a vacuum. It is the cumulative result of neglect, poverty, disinvestment and public policies that continue to treat entire communities, such as Junction, Lagrange/North Toledo, Old South End and East Toledo, as disposable.

One in four children in Toledo lives below the poverty line. Tens of thousands of Toledoans rely on Medicaid and SNAP, not as handouts but as lifelines. Yet Congress has passed a bill that was grotesquely obscene rather than "beautiful," slashing funding for both. The Ohio Legislature's budget compounded the damage by diverting resources away from mental health and prevention and funneling them instead into building more prison beds.

Conservative estimates indicate that Medicaid cuts alone will strip approximately \$150 million in annual federal matching funds, which are essential for keeping our local clinics, hospitals, and mental health providers operational. This money pays for addiction treatment, therapy for traumatized children and basic medical care that helps parents stay healthy enough to work. Without it, our region will lose around 1,200 jobs held by nurses, therapists, home health aides and social workers.

Hospitals will also be required to absorb an additional \$25–\$30 million per year in uncompensated care, which will push budgets to the breaking point and risk closures or elimination of essential services.

Food security will suffer just as deeply. SNAP cuts will erase approximately \$100 million a year in food purchasing power across Lucas County. Small grocers, corner stores and complementary businesses, already on thin margins, will see revenues drop. When customers can't afford groceries, these shops will close, taking with them the 150–200 retail jobs that sustain local families.

... continued on page 12

Community Calendar

July 19

State Rally Fundraiser Sponsored by Southern Missionary Baptist Church; BBQ Dinners and Bake Sale; 11:00 to 5:00; DONATION ACCEPTED—PRE-ORDER PLEASE
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July 20

NAACP Youth Council meeting: 3:00 pm @ Sanger Branch Library

July 26

Christmas In July: 12-4 pm UAW Local 12 Union Hall vendors & Food Trucks

August 2

Warren A.M.E. Church 2025 FREE Community Giveaway Event; 9 am - 4 pm; Come and enjoy a variety of activities including: FREE clothes, commodities, food baskets, music, games, fun and more

And Now ... The Pain Begins

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq
Guest Column

As expected, the supplicant GOP party voted along party lines to electroshock millions of middle and lower income class Americans with draconian tax cuts to their welfare and health safety.

Apart from a few moaners, like Senator Murkowski from Alaska, the holdouts quickly melted away with the hot political breath of Dear Leader breathing down their necks with the usual threats of their being primaried, or at the least being called, "nasty" on his television program, Fox News(?).

Unless you understand that the GOP members of the House are terrified of Trump threatening to turn his pit-bull base of MAGA voters on them if they fail to kiss his ring, the vote was not a surprise.

When you take into account the ages of the senior GOP party and the lip smacking benefits of pay, perks, health care, travel, tax write offs that they earn as House and Senate members, you will know why they always run to Trump when he says, "Here, kitty, kitty, kitty!"

They simply could not earn that type of income and living style in the private market...and they know it, so they bow to Trump, sear more of their conscience as they vote against their own constituents best interest!

Trump, who is seemingly visibly losing any credible thought patterns, could care less about the mid-terms, since he is for all intensive purposes, a onetime president who cannot run again.

Imagine the howling and weeping from MAGA land when those SNAP and Medicaid cuts hit the fan in their areas and they lose vital healthcare services or see a severe reduction in their ability to get food assistance via the SNAP program.

But yet. MAGA voted for these self inflicting wounds because the vaunted Project 2025 Project outlined the savage attacks on those two programs that have been serving Americans for decades.

Trump even promised (let's all laugh here) that he could not cut Medicaid. But of course, we now know what happened with that promise. My expectations will be that Trump will act oblivious to the egregious cuts that will plainly land square in the town halls of so many Americans but Trump will play it off as temporary pain for a long term gain.

As the late poet, Gil-Scott Heron said, this will be, "Winter In America!" A hungry and health-starved America will drive up the price of healthcare and subject innocent children to food deserts at their schools and after school programs, unless the cash strapped states revised their budgets to make up for the shortfalls.

I hope against hope that someone will do an in depth study as to why

... continued on page 12

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Kaptur Defends Ohio's Working Families, Seniors, Veterans, Votes No On "One Big Bonanza for Billionaires Bill"

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (OH-09) voted against H.R. 1, citing its severe impact on working families, seniors, veterans, and the regional economy of Northwest Ohio. The bill prioritizes tax breaks for the ultra-wealthy while enacting the most damaging cuts to health care, food assistance, and infrastructure investment in recent history. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has said that this legislation will add \$3.4 Trillion to the US Debt.



"This bill is callously cruel — an immoral transfer of wealth from the working class to the ultra-rich. It strips health care from 17 Million Americans, kills Millions of good-paying jobs, and adds Trillions to the national debt, all while handing tax breaks to Billionaires. I came to Washington to fight for Northwest Ohio — not to rubber-stamp the destruction of our hospitals, energy jobs, and food assistance," said Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (OH-09).

Unprecedented Cuts to Health Care

The bill strips health coverage from nearly 17 million Americans, including 216,000 residents of Ohio's 9th Congressional District. It cuts more than \$1 Trillion from Medicaid, Medicare, and the Affordable Care Act, placing children, seniors, and people with disabilities at heightened risk. The legislation also increases out-of-pocket costs for individuals earning as little as \$1,300 per month and could force vulnerable individuals out of long-term care facilities.

These provisions are expected to destabilize already struggling rural hospitals and increase reliance on emergency rooms — further burdening a fragile healthcare system and leaving Millions in medical debt.

Massive Reductions in Food Assistance

The bill reduces funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for our seniors, veterans, and children by \$186 Billion over 10 years, jeopardizing access for 316,000 Ohioans — nearly one in four residents. It also freezes benefit levels despite rising grocery costs, representing an estimated \$18 Million monthly loss to local grocers and food retailers.

The legislation imposes new administrative red tape that will disproportionately affect older adults, low-wage earners, and those with unstable employment.

Rollback of Clean Energy and Infrastructure Investment

The legislation repeals key clean energy tax credits and incentives that spurred over \$500 Billion in US investment and supported thousands of Ohio jobs. Households in the 9th District will likely see an average \$400 increase in annual electricity bills, while the elimination of energy efficiency and residential clean energy credits means the loss of over \$150 Million in tax relief to Ohioans in 2023 alone.

Construction labor and infrastructure development are also under threat, with an estimated 1.75 Million jobs and over 3 Billion work hours at risk nationwide — equivalent to \$148 Billion in lost wages and benefits.

A Misguided and Regressive Economic Strategy

This legislation comes at a time when the national debt — now over \$36 Trillion — is largely the result of previous tax cuts, costly wars, and financial crises. Rather than addressing the structural causes of debt, this bill adds \$3.4 Trillion to the debt, while slashing services that millions of Americans depend on, and shielding the wealthiest from fiscal responsibility.

Congresswoman Kaptur voted no to protect the people of Northwest Ohio from a bill that will deepen inequality, hollow out public services, and erode the dignity of working people across the country.

You can find Congresswoman Kaptur's remarks during final House Floor debate online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hZ40WuDW-4>. You can find video of Kaptur's opening statement online at <https://x.com/RepMarcyKaptur/status/1890143603403702378> and amendments offered on clean energy cuts at <https://x.com/RepMarcyKaptur/status/1890177725647798722>, and protecting taxpayer data at the Social Security Administration at <https://x.com/RepMarcyKaptur/status/1890208935082361046>, in the House Budget Committee markup by clicking the individual links. You can find a link to analysis of the legislation by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office by clicking <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2025-07/61537-hr1-Senate-passed-additional-info7-1-25.pdf>.



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Dear Editor:

I want to express my gratitude to Councilman Adam Martinez, citizen and South Toledo resident Bill Hoag, retired Plan Commission Director Tom Gibbons and his staff, and former city employee Toni Thomas for shining a light on the dark shadows hanging over the rezoning of 110 acres of valuable land in South Toledo.



Each of the above, using a combination of integrity and common sense, have publicly rejected a request, for the second time, to rezone 110 acres of agricultural land in South Toledo into a contaminated wetland, thereby making the land "useless for any other development." (The Blade, June 22, 2025). This site is a short distance from a charter school with a sizable number of school children, a residential neighborhood with a significant Afro-American population, and the University of Toledo Medical Center.

There are unanswered questions, obvious conflicts of interest and a clear disrespect for the City of Toledo's Zoning and Planning officials who have rejected this requested zone change twice. And where has Mayor Wade Kap-sukiewicz been the last four years while all this has been taking place? Nowhere to be found. However, the Mayor took the time to accept \$14,250 from the Stansley family, the owners of Rocky Ridge, LLC, the company conspiring to abuse this agricultural land and abuse the quality of life of families living close by. The only Councilman standing bravely against this

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he Woman Who Wouldn't Stay Quiet Celia Williamson Made Toledo a Local Voice for Justice

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In the early '90s, on her daily commute through north Toledo, **Celia Williamson, PhD** noticed the same men and women standing on the corners of Green Street. She didn't know their names, but she knew their faces. Some looked young. Too young. Some were visibly tired, thin or anxious. All of them seemed like they were waiting—for something, or someone.

Williamson had just begun her career as a social worker. She was working with kids and families at the *Friendly Center*, pouring everything she had into helping the community heal and grow. But each morning, as she passed Green Street, she felt a knot in her chest.

"I didn't understand what I was seeing at first," she recalls. "It made me uncomfortable. I didn't know how to help."

And that stuck with her. Not just because of what she saw, but because of how easily it was ignored.

One day, she stopped looking away and smiled.

Williamson had what she calls an epiphany—a light bulb moment. She remembered her faith, her purpose as a social worker and a promise she once made to help the vulnerable. That's when she realized something huge: these men and women weren't the problem. They were people in pain, needing help. So, she started waving. Then she rolled down her window and said hello.

And one day, she pulled over, got out, and stood beside them.

Just like that, a seed of trust was planted.

From listening to action

What began as a quiet decision to show up differently—to listen rather than look away—grew into a lifelong mission that would eventually gain national and global attention.

Dr. Celia Williamson is now a distinguished professor of Social Work at the University of Toledo and the executive director of the *Human Trafficking and Social Justice Initiative*. A widely respected researcher, advocate and speaker, she was named the 26th most influential social worker alive today for her pioneering work in combating domestic human trafficking and prostitution.

What Williamson would come to learn—through six months of standing, listening, and learning on the streets of Ohio—was that the people weren't simply there by choice or circumstance. Many had been abused or abandoned. Some had been pushed into the life by people they trusted. Others had started as teens—13, 14 years old—before they could understand what was happening to them.

"In 1993, there were no programs in Ohio for those involved in prostitution," she says. "There were no handbooks on how to help survivors. There were only assumptions, silence, and shame." But no one was asking, "What

do these women need?"

So Williamson asked them. And they told her.

She started with a car and compassion, handing out sandwiches, socks and dignity. She spoke in jails. She listened. She learned. Then she built Ohio's first direct-service anti-trafficking program—**Second Chance**.

No Annual, No Budget, No Applause

At first, no one in power understood what she was doing. But the women did. They started requesting Second Chance in court. Judges had never heard of it. But word was spreading.

And so was hope.

Williamson went after grant funding and won it. She trained herself, then trained others. In 2009, the FBI recognized her work with the Director's Community Leadership Award. By 2017, the program evolved into what is now known as **Safe Spaces** which stands for **Responding to Individual Survivors of Exploitation**.

But the work was never about titles. It was about trust.

And that trust kept growing.

The new name reflects a deeper truth Williamson had always known: that healing doesn't happen through punishment or pity. It happens when you meet people where they are, listen without judgment, and support their rise, one step at a time.

RISE continues the legacy of Second Chance by providing trauma-informed services to those impacted by sex trafficking, prostitution, sexual abuse and interpersonal violence. It offers advocacy, resources, case management and community—all the things that help someone not just survive, but rebuild.

Not Kidnapped, Coerced

Ask someone about trafficking and they'll probably mention kidnapping, strangers, vans. The Hollywood movie version.

Williamson has a different version.

"Trafficking is not about being snatched. It's about being manipulated," she explains. "It's not your wrists and ankles that are chained. It's your head and your heart."

Most survivors aren't abducted. They're tricked. Groomed. Controlled by someone who pretended to love them. A boyfriend. A friend. A family member. It's a slow erosion of self.

It doesn't just happen to girls. It happens to boys. It doesn't always look like sex. Sometimes, it looks like labor. Sometimes it looks like smiling

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Celia Williamson, PhD

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Celia Williamson...continued from page 5

through pain, pretending you're okay.

What makes trafficking so dangerous is how ordinary it can seem—until it's too late.

Why Toledo?

Toledo didn't become a national hub for anti-trafficking because it had the worst problem. It became the model because someone cared and refused to stay quiet.

In 2004, Williamson founded the **Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition**, pulling together everyone from churches and citizens to law enforcement and survivors.

That same year, she launched the **Human Trafficking and Social Justice Conference** at the University of Toledo. Today, it's the oldest and largest conference of its kind in the world, hosting attendees from over 60 countries and every U.S. state.

In 2005, Williamson traveled to Washington, D.C., where a national discussion on child sex trafficking was taking place. She was told there was only one seat at the table—hers. But she knew the stakes were too high for silence or solo efforts. She brought three colleagues with her anyway, guided by a core belief: progress comes from movement, not permission.

Out of 17 cities given an FBI human trafficking task force, **Toledo was the only small city chosen**. One year later, they discovered 20 trafficked children at a truck stop in Pennsylvania. All were from Toledo.

That's when the world realized: this woman, and this city, were not exaggerating.

A Scholar. A Strategist. A Voice.

Dr. Celia Williamson's work may have started on one block in north Toledo, but her influence now spans continents, policies, and generations.

She writes. She speaks. She teaches.

She created the **Emancipation Nation Podcast** and launched the **Emancipation Nation Network**, a global hub for people working to end trafficking—offering tools, webinars, job leads, and a way to connect.

She is also the president of the **Global Association of Human Trafficking Scholars**, a member of the **G100 Global Women Changing the World**, and is ranked among the top social workers globally for her leadership in advocacy, research, and systemic change.

Who's at Risk?

Anyone can be trafficked. But not everyone is equally vulnerable. Williamson names them clearly: Black girls. Black boys. Kids in foster care. Kids in poverty. LGBTQ+ youth. Children with disabilities. Those who run away. Those who fall through the cracks.

She warns against the "sprinkle method" of spreading resources evenly, saying, "That's not equity. That's institutionalized oppression."

"If women are more likely to get breast cancer, we give them more support than their male counterparts. It's Not 50/50. We give more where the need is greater. It should be no different here."

To address this, Dr. Williamson's team developed a simple screening tool anyone can use—parents, teachers, social workers. They also built a state-wide data portal with the Ohio Attorney General so that resources can be targeted by zip code, not guesswork.

This isn't just smart policy. It's survival strategy.

What About the Kids?

Every year, Williamson's conference used to host 400 high school students. But when COVID hit, they did something better—they made it virtual and permanent.



Williamson in a state-level meeting

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Warren Church celebrates the Women's Missionary Society

community

The Historic Warren AME Church celebrated its Woman's Missionary Society on Sunday, June 29, to acknowledge their legacy of "divinely called and anointed service," wrote Senior Pastor Brandon A. A. J. Davis.

The missionaries of Warren Church, consisting of 12 members of the congregation, are "small in numbers but mighty in service," noted President Debra Jelks since they offer assistance not only to members of the congregation to meet their spiritual and physical needs (food and supplies, for example) but also to the community at large. The Missionary Society members have adopted the Ella P. Stewart Academy for Girls, for example, as one of their pet projects.

Warren AME, the oldest African American church in Toledo, was founded in 1817 by escaping enslaved people heading north through Toledo and Cleveland on the underground railroad.

"The missionaries of Historic Warren have consistently been faithful and dedicated to our calling and ministry of service. Let us remain willing to serve and assist those in need," wrote Davis.

Warren AME has been providing services—physical and spiritual—to the community since its founding. Indeed in 1862, for example, the church opened a Sabbath school to provide former enslaved people with supplementary education.

The Sunday service opened with the Introit, a processional and the doxology, then the Call to Worship offered by Rosie Payne. After the morning prayer, presented by Shirley Jackson, the Choral Response followed and the Morning Scripture by Dominique Bradley.

The welcome and announcements, the Missionary Litany, the Altar Prayer and the introduction of the speaker were presented by Missionaries Katrina Cogdell, Joyce Powell-Miller, Darlene Williams and Debra Jelks, Missionaries president.



The Missionaries: (l. to r.) Shirley Jackson, Dominique Bradley, Katrina Cogdell, Margaret Huntley, Rev. Diane Travis, President Debra Jelks, Theo Simmons-Hampton, Rev. Darlene Williams, Joyce Powell-Miller, Rev. Royce Durden

Sunday's speaker was the Rev. Diane vonne Greer-Travis of Adrian, Michigan.

"Missionaries exemplify the finest of God's servants, showing compassion, grace and unwavering love amid life's daily challenges in our homes, communities and local churches," wrote Davis.

Following the Message, Rev. Darlene Williams offered the Invitation to Christian Discipleship and asked for the tithers and offerings.

The Women's Missionary Society officers are: Debra Jelks, president; Theo Simmons-Hampton, vice president; Darlene Sawyer, secretary; Rosie Payne, treasurer; Margaret Huntley, chaplain; Dominique Bradley YPD director.

INFINITE IMAGES: THE ART OF ALGORITHMS

JULY 12–NOVEMBER 30, 2025

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he uly 4th Weekend in the Vistula Community “Fun for All”

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Some great things have been happening, in recent years, along the Lagrange Street corridor in the Vistula community and at no time was that more apparent than this past July 4th weekend celebration as businesses brought residents together to celebrate Independence Day and the neighborhood's revitalization.

The community's holiday weekend began on Friday, July 4, as Bertha Mae's Kitchen, on Summit Street, at the end of Lagrange, opened at noon and offered free live entertainment to all who dropped by. Dorian Shannon with The Experience entertained visitors in the restaurant's front yard while the Bertha Mae's staff served hungry patrons their famous catfish and other items on the full menu.

Later that evening, just up the street, Toledo Spirits offered a 20 percent military discount to guests.

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Dorian and Shannon with The Experience



Debra Sue and a few of her Vistula neighbors





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On both days, the Josephine's Soul Food staff, at 906 Lagrange, were cooking up their extensive menu of soul-food favorites and monitoring the corner festivities across the street.

On Saturday afternoon, Debra Sue, executive director of Historic istula Community Awareness Connection (H CAC), and the driving force behind the Lagrange Street regeneration effort, hosted the community gathering at her business location at 1 Lagrange.

The afternoon event brought together street vendors, a kids' lemonade stand, a bouncy house and free hot dogs and chips for istula kids.

Debra Sue founded **lass it alent** (GCT 19), transforming the historic building at 1 Lagrange into a vibrant creative hub known affectionately as "**he ompound**." The space is like a mini-Motown, where artists gather to compose music, practice performances and learn about the music industry. The building also houses a beauty salon, a clothing boutique and a classroom for industry education.

The istula community is on the move thanks to the efforts of folks like Debra Sue – non profit community groups, business owners and concerned residents.



Pam and Nolan Hych of Bertha Mae's Kitchen



The lemonade stand entrepreneur



Bertha Mae customers relishing the live music

“

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Rob Pasker Takes Historic Step at Ohio Realist Conference

Installation of Rob Pasker as President of the Ohio Realist Association

The 2025 Ohio Realist Conference was a historic and high-impact gathering held June 7 at the Renaissance Columbus Downtown Hotel. Under the theme O-H-I-OWN: Elevate, Educate, Execute, this year's conference united real estate professionals, policymakers, and advocates across Ohio in the fight for equitable housing and Black homeownership.

At the center of the weekend's energy was the installation of Rob Pasker as President of the Ohio Realist Association (ORA) marking a milestone as the first President from Toledo in the organization's 73-year history. A respected broker, housing counselor, and community advocate, Pasker takes the helm with a bold agenda to Elevate the ORA B.A.S.E. Brand, Advocacy, Service, and Engagement.

"This moment is about more than me," Pasker said during his installation. "It's about putting Toledo on the map and proving that when we build together, we win together."

The conference also recognized the outstanding accomplishments of the Greater Toledo Realist Association (GTRA), which was awarded Local Board of the Year. Under the leadership of current President DeLisa Moore, GTRA has led the way in homebuyer education, community engagement, and elevating new leaders in real estate.

"This award belongs to every member who believed in our mission and showed up for our community," said Moore. "To be recognized on the state stage is a proud moment for Toledo and for GTRA."

The three-day conference, sponsored by PNC Bank, featured interactive workshops, industry panels, and networking opportunities that aligned with the NAREB mission of Democracy in Housing. Attendees came from across



Ohio and surrounding states to gain tools and strategies to increase homeownership, close the racial wealth gap, and strengthen the pipeline of Black professionals in real estate.

"The O-H-I-OWN theme speaks to empowerment through ownership," said Amber Lewis, NAREB Region VIII Vice President and Conference Chair. "This year's event delivered on every front - education, execution and energy."

With a powerful start to his presidency, Pasker is calling for continued unity and engagement across all seven Ohio local boards.

"This is our time," he said. "Let's elevate together and make sure the Realist brand is felt in every community across Ohio."

The Ohio Realist Association is the state chapter of the National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB), established in 1947 to ensure democracy in housing. ORA advocates for equitable housing, supports Black homeownership, and strengthens the presence of Black professionals in all areas of the real estate industry. Learn more at: www.OhioRealist.org Follow on Social Media: @OhioRealists #ElevateTheBase #OHIO



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Rob Pasker and DeLisa Moore



Eyesore No More: City of Toledo, Land Bank Host Important Demolition Event

Special to The Truth

Toledo City Council Members Vanice Williams, Cerssandra McPherson and Nick Komives and the Lucas County Land Bank President David Mann kicked off the demolition of a terrible eyesore in the Warren Sherman / Collingwood Springs neighborhood on Monday, July 7, at the corner of Ashland and Prescott near Bancroft Street.

The blighted commercial building at 2140 Ashland has been abandoned for over a decade. A prior building collapse has left a portion of the structure open and crumbling into the street. The property is unsafe for neighbors and is on the Fire Department's "Code Red" list.

Williams, McPherson and Komives spoke about impact of the blighted area on the neighborhood and how Toledo can continue to improve as such eyesores are eliminated.

Mann spoke of the steps landlords need to take when faced with such issues. Keep the property in good condition, pay the proper taxes, "or we will tear it down," Mann said.

Immediately following the comments, the demolition of the building began under the supervision of Advanced Demolition Services, Inc. The project is expected to cost \$78,000. It is being paid for by a State of Ohio demolition

grant and federal American Rescue Plan dollars from the City of Toledo.



Land Bank President David Mann (left), Councilmembers Vanice Williams, Cerssandra McPherson, Nick Komives hold press conference to explain demolition of building



THE 20TH ANNUAL AFRICAN AMERICAN FESTIVAL Presents Our **HONOREES**

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 Eduardo Adams	<p>"We extend our sincerest appreciation for their steadfast support and invite all to join us in acknowledging this outstanding achievement"</p>		 Alex Cowell

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In addition, economists estimate that declining SNAP and Medicaid spending will reduce local tax revenues by at least 10 million annually—money meant for schools, libraries and public safety. Altogether, these cuts will drain roughly 20 million annually from Lucas County's economy, leaving lasting impacts on our streets, classrooms and sense of security.

et, even more painful costs will show up in both classrooms and emergency rooms. When families lose access to healthcare and food security, children come to school hungry, angry, tense or anxious and unable to focus, if they show up at all. Research also links cuts to SNAP and Medicaid with higher rates of chronic absenteeism, discipline issues and special education placements. When schools can't meet these needs, suspensions rise—and students disengage and drop out of school, exacerbating the pipeline from classroom to juvenile detention to prison.

Neighborhoods, then, are forced to absorb the fallout. Studies show that when clinics close and social service jobs vanish, violent incidents rise by an average of 1 percent within two years. Communities with fewer behavioral health resources see increases of up to 2 percent in violent crime. Every dollar stripped from the safety net reappears in more police calls, more funerals, and more cycles of grief.

Seen through this lens, the violence over the July weekend was the predictable result of when public resources are stripped away until desperation fills the void.

So, Toledo families deserve more than thoughts and prayers. They deserve policies that respect their humanity—and recognize that cutting resources is the costliest mistake we can make.

Unless we invest the resources that these communities need, we will experience many more weekends like July. More young lives cut short. More families mourning on sidewalks. More teachers burned out trying to manage the fallout in classrooms. More money spent cleaning up preventable tragedies that could have been stopped for a fraction of the cost.

C n t t e n l d e r r y n t d r l e r r y n e n t e r e t i t r



BBQ FUNDRAISER 2025

ANNUAL SACRED STRINGS BBQ FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY JULY 19, 2025

TIME: 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

GETHSEMANE CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP CHURCH
4263 Hill Avenue Toledo, Ohio 43607

Rib Dinner	\$20.00
Chicken Dinner	\$18.00
Rib Sandwich	\$12.00
Chicken Sandwich	\$10.00
Polish Sausage	\$5.00
Soda/Water	\$2.00
Extra Side	\$5.00

ALL DINNERS COME WITH 2 SIDES
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****Prepaid orders available for pickup at 12:00pm**

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It's called **SO igh S hool Outrea h ro e t** It's a year-round platform for students to learn about dating violence, trafficking, and their rights. This year, students at St. Francis de sales High School are developing their own outreach project—whatever form it takes, it will be theirs.

"Nothing about us without us," she says. "That's how we keep our youth aware and safe."

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So, what can you do? ou don't have to be a social worker. ou don't have to be rich or famous. ou just have to care.

"Come to a meeting. Join a committee. Share your skills," Williamson said. "Even if you think you don't have any, you do. We'll help you find them."

ou can also listen to her podcast, Emancipation Nation, which has over 200 free episodes. Or check out the conference at www.traffickingconference.com.

And if you or someone you know is being trafficked or needs help, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at

Locally, survivors can call for help through the PATH program (Partners Against Trafficking of Humans). There's even a Survivor's Journey Group that meets weekly Mondays.

Final Word o e our Village

Williamson left us with one powerful reminder:

"In the Black community, we talk a lot about the village. We have to be that village. That means inviting in our most vulnerable—not judging them. Love them like we love our own."

And in the village that is Toledo, it turns out a lot of healing begins with a little hope, a lot of heart, and the courage to say hello.

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State Senator Paula Hicks Hudson and former school board member Deb Barnett were in attendance and they both said that today's youth have to stop being guided by social media but look for positive life guiding information to guide them.

Hicks Hudson and Barnett said parents also need to be more involved in their children's decision making for goals and objectives. Especially planning for their kid's future.

Rev. Bill Davis, former pastor of Braden Methodist Church, was also present. Rev. Davis said one of the problems of getting youth involved in church activities today is that parents wait too late in their children's lives to introduce them to religious activities.

Rev Bill Davis said children need to be involved in church activities around four or five years old and not when they become teenagers. Helen Cooks, PhD, who was UT Upward Bound coordinator and City Councilman John Hobbs, who is an UT alumnus, spoke about how often Black UT students had to take the "High Road" in racial situations at UT.

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billionaires and millionaires and corporations need any tax breaks.

When is enough money enough? After your second 00 -cruise liner boat, what else is on your wish list?

What type of mindset is focused on gutting SNAP programs and energy credits and denying basic healthcare simply because the GOP wants to serve their god, mammon?

It is a depraved and corrupt mindset that is reckless and cruel but yet they applauded themselves when the bill passed

Who said it best? "If you do this unto the least of these, you have done it also unto me."

For those members in Congress who profess a passing knowledge of the scriptures, they would recognize that statement coming from the mouth of Jesus the Christ.

But for many of those Congressmen and their punitive actions, they would rather serve the dictates of the whore god of mammon than of the god that they profess to worship. Go figure.

C n t t e l l i e r t t l l i e r n

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One hand over the other.

That's how you climbed to where you are now. One rung at a time, hand over hand until you reach the intended goal. es, sometimes you went backward before you ascended again or you had to move sideways past a barrier. And sometimes, as in the new memoir, et e e hart, you got a hand up.

His mother refused to talk about it.

When little Jonathan Capehart inquired about his father, who died just months after Capehart was born, he was met with a look that told him not to ask again. He didn't learn the truth until he was well out of childhood: his father had left Capehart's mother long before Capehart's birth, and though the man visited afterward, "he didn't stay long."

The loss stung but things turned out well anyhow. Capehart had many father figures throughout his life, paternal relatives who kept him in the family loop, and his maternal grandpa who played a big part of Capehart's upbringing. oung Capehart spend his summers in Severn, North Carolina, playing, visiting, gathering lessons and wisdom from his mother's parents and aunts. In Severn, extended family was everywhere, and it's where many of Capehart's best childhood memories spring.

He also has many cherished memories of his mother, and books. He was always a reader, and schoolmates recognized it. They also "knew I was a little funny'," he muses because, at ten years old, he knew he was gay. His mother had had to teach him the hard truths in "how to be Black in white spaces" but college friends gave him safety for "self-discovery."

Also at the tender age of 10, Capehart became fascinated with electronic media, and decided that he wanted to work at NBC, later interning at the

c. 2025
Grand Central
\$30.00
272 pages

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Today show for two summers. At 19, he met a mentor who demanded excellence, and who shaped Capehart's career.

Twelve years later, that same mentor offered Capehart his own MSNBC show

As memoirs go, et ere is a solid okay.

It's not earth-shattering, nor is it wildly fascinating. It's not exciting or heart-wrenching or even all that emotional, but it's not terrible, either. Overall, it's smack-center, a " " on a one-to-ten scale, and there we are.

Moving from his middle-class childhood in which he vaguely understood the racism present in his mother's hometown, to a wildly successful career in media and the mentors who helped him get where he is, author Jonathan Capehart shares his story with a casual tone that's calm and matter-of-fact. Readers get a nice look at the workings of journalism and what it's like to win a Pulitzer Prize, but if you're expecting the kind of excitement you want in a deadline-racing newsroom, it's not here instead, Capehart writes in a decidedly unruffled manner that's really pretty tame.

Still, Capehart fans will absolutely want to read this memoir for its thoughtfulness and its satisfactory ending. Not a fan? Then et ere could be a long climb.

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sad and scurrilous project is Adam Martinez, for which he will be treated like an outcast by some Councilmen. Adam, the citizens of Toledo respect your courage.

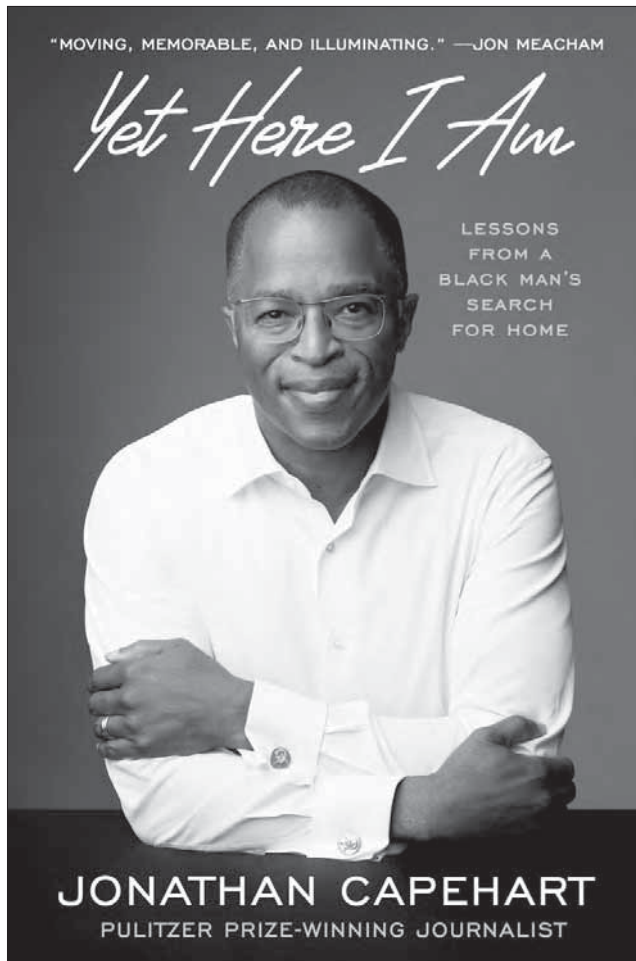
Former Toledo Public Utilities Director Ed Moore left the City in 202 and immediately went to work for Rocky Ridge, LLC, using knowledge he had gained working for the City to help his private sector employer (Rocky Ridge, LLC) make millions of dollars off this valuable 110 acres. By doing so, Mr. Moore has violated both the state of Ohio and City of Toledo ethical codes.

Toledo is hurting for jobs and housing These 110 acres are a perfect area for both. When this Adams Township land was added to the City of Toledo, many projected significant additional wealth to city coffers. The proper development of this valuable piece of real estate can launch a renaissance in South Toledo and protect the quality of life for those living in this neighborhood.

Carty Finkbeiner

Former three-term mayor

City of Toledo



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POSITION SUMMARY

WGTE Public Media seeks a visionary, mission-driven President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to lead the organization into its next chapter of service and innovation. Reporting to the Board of Trustees, the CEO is responsible for advancing WGTE's mission by guiding all aspects of the organization, including strategy, content, operations, fundraising, technology, and community engagement.

About WGTE Public Media

WGTE Public Media is a non-profit, multi-platform public media organization serving northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan. Based in Toledo, WGTE provides high-quality, educational, cultural, and informational programming through its public television (PBS), public radio (NPR), and online services.

Key Responsibilities

- * Lead the development and execution of strategic initiatives that serve diverse audiences across platforms.
- * Oversee all departments, ensuring a collaborative, inclusive, and innovative organizational culture.
- * Build strong relationships with staff, board, donors, partners, and the broader community.
- * Serve as the chief spokesperson and advocate for WGTE at the local, state, and national levels.
- * Direct fundraising strategies, including membership, underwriting, grants, and major gifts.
- * Ensure fiscal responsibility, regulatory compliance, and operational excellence.
- * Champion digital transformation and technological innovation to grow WGTE's reach and impact.
- * Deepen WGTE's public service role through educational outreach and community-centered initiatives.

Qualifications

Required:

- * Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.
- * Proven experience in executive leadership, strategic planning, and financial oversight.
- * Excellent communication, relationship-building, and team leadership skills.

Preferred:

- * Advanced degree in public administration, nonprofit leadership, media management, or related field.
- * Experience in public media, education, or digital content strategy.
- * Successful track record in fundraising and public advocacy.

Location

Located in Northwest Ohio within the western Lake Erie basin. The city is home to institutions that draw regional, national, and international visitors, including the Toledo Zoo-voted #1 in the nation-the nationally award-winning Toledo/Lucas County Metroparks System, the award-winning and globally recognized Toledo Museum of Art, and the Toledo Lucas County Public Library, a recipient of the National Medal for Museum and Library Service. Cultural highlights include the Toledo Symphony, Toledo Ballet, and Toledo Opera. With top-ranked schools, several local universities, and easy access to Ann Arbor, Detroit, and Chicago, Toledo is an exceptional place to live, work, and grow.

How to Apply

Please submit a cover letter and résumé to employment@wgte.org or mail to: Human Resources, P.O. Box 30, Toledo, OH 43614.

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT RISK

The Toledo Lucas County Public Library is requesting statements of qualifications pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 9.33, et seq., from firms to provide construction manager at risk services for its Holland Branch Project. Questions may be directed to, and Requests for Qualifications may be obtained by written request from Nick Hamilton, Project Coordinator, at Nick.Hamilton@toledolibrary.org. Qualifications will be accepted until 12:00 p.m. local time, August 8, 2025.

POSITION AVAILABLE: SENIOR ATTORNEY – AGRICULTURAL WORKER AND IMMIGRANT RIGHTS PRACTICE GROUP

Advocates for Basic Legal Equality (ABLE) seeks a Senior Attorney to join its AIR Practice Group to provide legal representation, community outreach, and systemic advocacy for low-income immigrants and agricultural workers. The position is based in Toledo with hybrid work possible.

Requirements: Licensed to practice law in Ohio or eligible for admission by motion/temporary certification. Minimum 5 years of litigation, policy advocacy, or community legal experience. Experience in immigration law, including USCIS and removal defense. Strong leadership, communication, and interpersonal skills. Spanish proficiency preferred.

Salary and Benefits: Annual salary ranges from \$81,000 to \$108,202, with comprehensive benefits including health insurance, loan repayment assistance, and paid leave.

To Apply: Submit applications via ABLE's Careers Page <<https://www.ablelaw.org/careers-with-able>>. Position open until filled.

Equal Opportunity Employer: ABLE values diversity and encourages applicants from underrepresented backgrounds. For accommodations, contact hrtteam@ablelaw.org.

Lucas County Board of Mental Health and Recovery is now accepting applications for the following position:

Manager, Benefits & Claims

SUMMARY

The Manager of Benefits and Claims will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of client enrollment and claims services on the Board's Claims Processing Software. The Manager will serve as the point of contact with provider agency billing and intake departments regarding these processes and support accounting functions as assigned. The position will support the development and implementation of business rules related to the Board's Claims Processing Software and provides accounting support for payroll and accounts payable functions.

EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE

Associate or bachelor's degree in a health, behavioral health, business, or financial field; five years of claims processing experience. Demonstrated knowledge of claims, Ohio Medicaid coding regarding Behavioral Health, plus familiarity with the national standard 837 Professional and 835 Remittance forms and 270/271 Medicaid eligibility inquiry and response files. Working knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel. The ability to work without the direct supervision of others and to report results in a timely and accurate manner. Excellent written, oral, and analytical skills required.

Starting Salary \$54,000, salary dependent on experience.

For detailed position description and to apply please visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/5cpd285x>

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ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE AND INCLUSION MANAGER

Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities is now hiring, and offers competitive compensation and a comprehensive benefits package. We are currently recruiting for the following positions:

- Organizational Culture and Inclusion Manager
- Requirements Bachelor degree in HR, BA, SS or related
- Two years fostering positive workplace
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Please visit our website at www.lucasdd.org for additional details and to apply. All candidates must submit a resume and cover letter along with an employment application via the online application process. We are an equal opportunity employer. If in need of ADA accommodations, contact us directly at 419-380-4033.

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Twelve fortunate youngsters were able to take part in this summer's vision Camp hosted by Kristin Moncrief of OptiGo By TwixnBetween and the City of Toledo. The vision Camp, a six-day experience spread over two weeks, took place from June 2 to July at The Truth Colours Gallery located in the Minority Way building at the corner of Bancroft and Franklin.

The young campers spent their time learning about a variety of subjects and disciplines as described by the .I.S.I.O.N. acronym versatility, inspiration, specific, innovation, obtainable, noteworthy.

The adults leading the sessions, along with Moncrief, were Jodie Summers, Amber Phillips and Kenga Jackson, in addition to visiting instructors. These leaders took the youth on a tour of subjects that included music, robotics, H, art, among others, and also encouraged practices to heighten their experiences such as affirmations and journaling.

On the final day, the students, along with their families, were treated to a barbecue feast catered by KDs Barbecue.

"When your vision and Mission align, magic happens — and this week was proof

The kids tapped into their creativity, discovered their strengths, and built bonds that will hopefully last beyond the summer," said Moncrief.



EVERY HERO NEEDS A TEAM

VIDEO WATCH PARTY & VOLUNTEER LAUNCH
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The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program trains compassionate community members to represent the best interests of abused children.

harmful trades, Scholarship to inspiring culinary entrepreneur has one order

special to the community

In a world where passion, perseverance and purpose intersect, skilled trades like the culinary arts remain powerful tools for both personal empowerment and community uplift. Recognizing the importance of nurturing such talent, the Toledo Chapter of Charms, Inc. proudly awarded its 1,000 vocational and technical scholarship to Chawone Ardery—a passionate culinary student at Owens Community College.

For Ardery, this scholarship is more than financial assistance—it's a lifeline that lightens the burden of self-funded education and fuels her dream of building a lasting legacy through food. With every class, every assignment and every recipe, she is investing in both her craft and her community.

A true servant leader at heart, Ardery is the founder of Savanna's Soul Kitchen, a culinary venture named after her beloved daughter. What began as selling home-cooked dinners and participating in pop-up shops has blossomed into a thriving catering business and a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Her work doesn't stop at entrepreneurship—Savanna's Soul Kitchen offers free meals during major holidays and provides canned and dry goods year-round to families in need. Ms. Ardery's journey is a testament to how passion for cooking can be transformed into purpose-driven community service.

"This scholarship is a blessing," said Ardery. "Balancing school, running a business and giving back to the community isn't always easy—but this support means I can focus more on refining my skills and expanding the mission of Savanna's Soul Kitchen without worrying so much about the financial strain."

Charms, Inc., a national organization founded in 1972, is committed to civic engagement, cultural enrichment, and education. The Toledo Chapter, in particular, has long championed the importance of vocational and technical training as a pathway to success. Their scholarship program was

created to support individuals like Ardery—those who not only strive for personal growth but also pour back into the communities they serve.

Clara Petty, president of the Toledo Chapter of Charms, Inc., shared her admiration for this year's recipient. "Ms. Ardery's dedication to her craft and her unwavering commitment to her community perfectly align with the values of Charms, Inc. We are honored to support her journey and look forward to seeing her continued impact through both her culinary excellence and charitable efforts."

Felicia Roberts-Dunston, Scholarship chairman, added, "Our scholarship is about more than financial support—it's about believing in someone's potential. Ms. Ardery embodies the spirit of resilience and service. Supporting her is an investment in both a bright future and a better community."

As Ardery continues to stir hope into every dish she creates, she stands as a shining example of what's possible when talent meets opportunity—and when service is rooted in love.

To learn more about the scholarship program and The Toledo Chapter of Charms, Inc., please contact: toledocharmsscholarship@gmail.com.



Wanda King, Felicia Dunston,
Chawone Ardery, Clara Petty

he Da is graduation reception

community and family celebration

special to the community

Vince and Pathy Davis hosted a graduation reception for their son Jullian Davis who graduated this year from Ottawa Hills High School. The reception was held at the Davis's Ottawa Hills home. Earlier in the day (Sunday) Jullian was honored at Braden Methodist church for being an outstanding student at Ottawa High School.

About 50 guests enjoyed Vince Davis's grilled chicken, hamburgers and brats. Pathy Davis handled the kitchen with mac and cheese, old-fashioned tasting green beans, watermelon, plus chocolate cake.

The top shelf open bar didn't get much use because of the 100-degree temperature. Jullian will attend the University of Toledo and major in psychology. Pathy, Jullian's mother, said it's a blessing to have children and see them graduate from high school. Vince Davis, Jullian's father, is a State Farm Insurance franchise business owner.



... continued on page 1



Vince and Pathy Davis
and family

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SAFETY TIPS

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