



Volume 90 No. 7                      “And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”                      July 23, 2025



The 20th Annual African American Festival!

*In This Issue...*

African American Festival Prayer Breakfast  
Page 2

African American Festival Panel Discussion  
Page 9

African American Festival Concert  
Page 16

African American Festival Community Day  
Page 8

African American Festival Parade  
Page 10

The 20th Annual African American Festival • The 20th Annual African American Festival • The 20th Annual African American Festival

# The 20th African American Festival Opens with a Prayer Breakfast

By Fletcher Word  
The Truth Editor

The 20th African American Festival presented by the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union took place this past weekend with a flurry of activities on Friday and Saturday as this 20th event proved to be bigger and better than ever. The traditional events brought out larger and more enthusiastic crowds while first time events added a new array of interests and activities.

This year's schedule of activities included the usual Friday morning prayer breakfast and Saturday's parade and music fest. In addition, however, a community day and mental health & healthy relationships panel discussion were added to Friday's events.

The Friday morning prayer breakfast was held at Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church and about 250 guests listened to and prayed along with an array of prayers offered by local pastors or first ladies. Attendees also recognized the accomplishment of various honorees and enjoyed a sumptuous breakfast buffet presented by caterer Marla Oden.

The enthusiasm of the breakfast crowd was obvious from the start as Indiana Avenue MBC Pastor William Foster offered words of welcome, Bishop Pat McKinstry of the Worship Center presented an opening prayer and Minister Chris Byrd of the Worship Center thrilled the audience with a worship song.

Paster Chaz Boes of Compassion Toledo and First Lady Angela Savage of Lo-Salem Baptist Church offered prayers, respectively, for the city and leaders and for the churches before Ivana Butler of the Toledo Opera sang.

The highlight of the breakfast, as always, is the acknowledgement of the honorees and this year was no different. Indeed, this year's acknowledgement was perhaps the most special and dramatic in the 20-year history of the prayer breakfasts.

Several of the Cowell family were among the honorees, including grand-

... continued on page 7



Decorations by Symones of Detroit



Bishop Pat McKinstry



Honorees Councilman George Sarantou, Eduardo Adams, Eric Cowell



Suzette Cowell, Councilman John Hobbs, III; Commissioner Lisa Sobbecki

**EARNESTINE "STINE" KELLY**



*7/20/25 marks 10 years since you've been gone. We will always remember your passion for cooking and your generosity to those in need. Thank you for all the life lessons and spiritual support. We love you, although your gone, you will never be forgotten.*

Love your family

**3/7/25- 7/20/15**



# Temperature Check: Ohio's 2026 Gubernatorial Race



*We built a coalition of conscience, and we can do it again, and we can go forward, and help redeem the soul of America.*

- John Lewis

Audible whispers are beginning to circulate about former U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown stepping into the ring for the 2026 Ohio Gubernatorial race. Some insiders have also speculated that Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz is poised to join him as State Treasurer on a powerhouse statewide ticket.

The election is more than a year away, but it's not too early to ask: Are the voters ready for this matchup?

Brown, a frequent visitor and familiar face to Toledoans and the entire state of Ohio, has built a solid reputation over the past few decades, advocating for workers and middle-class families while serving in the Ohio Legislature, as Ohio Secretary of State, and as a U.S. Senator.

A potential Brown-Kapszukiewicz ticket makes sense, as it provides geographic balance in central/southeastern (metro Columbus), northeast (metro Cleveland), and Toledo/Lucas County (northwest Ohio) regions. The team's other assets include a working-class political DNA and a track record of delivering real projects – from Intel expansion to consumer banking protections.

More notably, there's growing dissatisfaction—even among conservative-leaning voters—over how far the Republican Party has drifted. In rural communities like Shelby County and Portage County, there are signs of fatigue. I am hearing that local leaders there say the extreme MAGA movement has hijacked their parties. So, while the voters there may still be conservative—fiscally and ideologically—they appear increasingly uncomfortable with the firebrand populism and racialized spectacle that some newer GOP figures have embraced.

"You think a guy like Vivek Ramaswamy is going to play in Shelby County?" one statewide political observer and consultant recently asked. The Trump-backed GOP gubernatorial candidate seems to strike a nerve, having been described as "A political marauder who talks the game about government cuts but has no concept of what government actually does or how to run it. He comes across as another candidate seeking a stepping-stone to a higher office. He doesn't know Ohio and doesn't have a plan for Ohio. And, of course, that's not good for Ohio. Let's get someone who has represented Ohio and delivered for Ohio, instead," a frustrated Republican reportedly lamented.

This kind of talk, which highlights frustration and discomfort in rural and suburban areas, has created an unusual opening for Sherrod Brown, the current director of the non-partisan Dignity of Work Institute, who may have calculated the potential to slip through the widening crack between the MAGA base and the sensible Republican core. With his long-standing ties across the state, and if Wade Kapszukiewicz joins the ticket, Brown would

... continued on page 12

# Ya! All of Dis Is True!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

At severe personal physical risk to myself and my family and after weeks of anguished reflection and contemplation, I have decided to release a copy of the transcript that I was provided by my sources in the White House regarding one of the un redacted phone calls with Trump and Putin.

As you may know, Putin and Trump have been exchanging surreptitious phone calls regarding the quagmire known as the Russian invasion of the sovereign country of Ukraine. The only means of obtaining such highly sensitive contraband was through the Ras-Blen Telephone Portal system.

For those not familiar with this highly covert recording system, it was developed during the Cold War but when it was supposedly replaced with more advanced digital systems, its "guts" were oddly left intact and it still functions without a trace by normal detection means.

I was an authorized user of that system when I was briefly employed with proper security clearances back in 1999, to both record and then clear all recordings on a weekly basis. When I left that job to come to Toledo, I just assumed that the system was deemed junk and was permanently disabled. Was I ever wrong!

My former colleagues were able to clandestinely re-route those calls through a system that literally scrambles thousands of calls with bogus calls in order to thwart unwanted ears but yet able to glean transcripts, at will, from conversations with heads of states and the White House.

When the transcripts of those Trump-Putin calls were dropped off at my office mail slot at a time I do not recall, I did a double take because the transcriptions involved could fit on a small thumb drive.

The mailer came to me camouflaged as a box of pretzels and I opened the enclosed flash drive at the library across the street from my office because I did not want my computer to be traced or infected with whatever virus the flash drive could have after all of this time. For the benefit of my readers, below is a redacted version of one of those telling calls:

**Trump:** Hey my friend, how is Moscow in the summertime!

**Putin:** We are used to the heat, what is it that you want Trump?

**Trump:** Say, I was thinking, I am getting a lot of flak for not supporting Ukraine and I need

To know when do you plan to stop and withdraw back to Russia?

**Putin (laughs):** Ha! Never. Mother Russia will take back all of her confiscated children that the West took from us.

**Trump:** Listen Putin, you gotta give me some cover. The press is killing me about the West letting this war continue with no end in sight.

**Putin:** The war will end when I say so. Nothing more...nothing less.

**Trump (long pause):** Listen big guy...your body bags are piling up! You need to declare a victory and move on!

**Putin (hearty laugh):** Ha! We have just began to fight. We will win and run you imperialists out of Ukraine, once and for all!

**Trump:** Listen, you got 50 days to stop the war or face the consequences and you will not like them!

**Putin:** Ooooh...I am trembling in my boots at a man that the world

... continued on page 12

## Community Calendar

### 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 – donations accepted – July 28-31 and August 1: 419-243-2237

### August 23

The Bible Way Church of Toledo, in partnership with Wider Circle, Early Morning Prayer, The Dr. Sam Show and The Voices of Legacy will host a Back-to-School Book Bag Giveaway; Noon to 2 pm

www.sacredstrings.com  
FOUNDERS - Del & Kelli Grace  
Preserving the time-honored Hawaiian Steel Guitar from an African American perspective!

VISIT US

NEW HOURS  
STARTING APRIL 2025  
Thursday: 10 AM - 3 PM  
Saturday: 10 AM - 3 PM  
(Except the last Saturday of each month)

2108 Collingwood Blvd. Toledo, OH 43620  
(Main Entrance on Floyd St.)

# Who's Next? When Immigration Policy Becomes a Purge

By Steven Flagg

Guest Column

Many of us saw this coming. All you had to do was believe Donald Trump—if not the man, then the message. During his most recent presidential run, he made immigration the centerpiece of his campaign.

Some dismissed it as bluster meant to drive a better trade deal or target dangerous criminals. But now, with ICE raids in schools, churches, meatpacking plants and Home Depots, and the federalization of the California National Guard, the results are clear: this is not targeted enforcement. It's mass punishment, especially if you live in a blue state.

Communities across the country—especially those with large immigrant populations—are living in fear. Parents are arrested at school drop-offs. Day laborers are seized outside home improvement stores. Churches are no longer sanctuaries. Families are torn apart, often leaving U.S.-citizen children behind to navigate the trauma and uncertainty alone.

Undocumented immigrants are being deported for what amounts to a Class B misdemeanor—a first-time illegal entry punishable by up to six months in jail and a \$250 fine. In reality, many of these individuals have lived in the U.S. for over a decade, working, paying taxes and raising children who are American citizens. They are our co workers, neighbors, small business owners, and students.

Yet the Trump administration is treating them like enemies of the



state. Even Dreamers—the 1.0 to 1.2 million undocumented immigrants brought here as children—remain in legal limbo. Only about 580,000 currently benefit from DACA protections due to court-imposed restrictions.

These young people are American in every way but legal status. Many speak only English, know no other country, and contribute significantly to our economy and communities. And still, the message from Trump's DHS is clear: no one is safe.

The numbers tell the story. As of 2022, there were an estimated 850,000 undocumented children and 4.4 million U.S.-born children living in mixed-status households. That's over six million children directly affected by immigration enforcement. So much for the GOP's professed family values.

Border enforcement is necessary, but what's unfolding isn't enforcement—it's escalation without accountability. Yet instead of policy solutions, we get political spectacle. At a June press conference in Los Angeles, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem declared: "We are staying here to liberate the city from the socialist and burdensome leadership that this governor and this mayor have placed on this country." Liberate? From whom?

Governor Gavin Newsom was re-elected in 2022 with 59.2 percent of the vote, and he defeated a recall effort the year prior with nearly 62 percent support. Mayor Karen Bass was elected the same year with 54.8 percent. This isn't tyranny, it's democracy.

Noem's language is more than rhetorical flourish; it's a signal. Trump's team appears determined to provoke a confrontation that could justify federal military intervention. The Insurrection Act, which Trump has long flirted with invoking, looms over these developments. Meanwhile, red-state protests in places like Atlanta and Austin are ignored, while blue-state cities face troop deployments and mass arrests.

Immigration enforcement has become a political weapon. The authoritarian drift was on full display when Senator Alex Padilla was handcuffed and dragged out of that same Los Angeles press event after questioning Secretary Noem's remarks.

"If it can happen to me in that setting," Padilla said afterward, "imagine what they're doing to people all around the country." This isn't hyperbole. This is what happens when dissent is treated as disorder.

Ironically, the president's own actions reveal the essential role undocumented immigrants play. In mid-June, his administration paused immigration raids on farms, food-processing plants, hotels and restaurants—sectors that depend heavily on immigrant workers. The rationale? These businesses are vital. Translation: Republican donors complained. When deportation threatens profits, ideology bows to convenience.

Indeed, undocumented immigrants contribute nearly \$90 billion in taxes each year, including over \$40 billion in payroll taxes that help fund Social Security and Medicare—benefits they're not even eligible to receive.

They are less likely to commit crimes than native-born Americans and represent nearly five percent of the U.S. workforce, filling jobs that citizens often won't. Despite the fearmongering, Americans are paying attention. In early June a Quinnipiac University poll showed only 43 percent of voters approve of Trump's immigration policy, which has had a double-digit drop since January, while 54 percent disapprove.

The country may support border enforcement, but it does not support xenophobic purges. Immigration reform requires compassion, pragmatism, and courage—not cruelty. Most undocumented immigrants are here for the same reasons our ancestors came: to work, to live in peace, to build something better for their children. Instead of militarizing their neighborhoods, we should be modernizing our immigration laws—offering paths to legal status for necessary workers and citizenship for those who've earned it.

Trump may claim a mandate, but his actions suggest something else entirely: fear, not policy, is driving the agenda. And fear, when unfettered, will run amok.

**The Future Of Television**

INFUSE

INFUSE NETWORK

Now Streaming Free On **Roku**

---

**Calling all filmmakers, actors, and creative minds!**  
**INFUSE NETWORK**, Your destination for fresh and captivating content is now streaming absolutely FREE on Roku device.

Dive into a world of unique movies, shows and stories waiting to be discovered.

**But that's not all!**  
**INFUSE NETWORK** is seeking talented individuals to join our growing family.

**.Content Creators:**  
 Do you have a story begging to be told? We'er looking for passionate filmmakers with original content to submit for consideration.

**.Models & Actors:**  
 Are you ready to shine on screen? We're seeking captivating models and actors to bring our commercials and television shows to life.

**Fuel your imagination and share your vision!**  
 For more information and submission guidelines.

Email us at [millenniummediagroup@gmail.com](mailto:millenniummediagroup@gmail.com)  
 Call 419.514.1284

INFUSE NETWORK: Stream Free. Create Boldly

# Local Backlash to Republican Legislators Drive to do Away with Property Taxes

By Fletcher Word  
The Truth Editor

Could Ohio become the first state to eliminate property taxes? It's a possibility that has a number of people in Lucas County deeply worried.

Lucas County Commissioners and State Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson brought together the leaders of a handful of area agencies on Friday, July 18 to discuss the drive by Republican legislators in Columbus to eliminate property taxes.

This week the Republicans are gathering to override Governor Mike DeWine's vetoes of several provisions in the latest state budget. His goal is to preserve those property taxes by way of strategically placed vetoes..

Area elected officials and agency leaders would like for the state legislators to consider the harm that such overrides could cause to the general population.

On July 1, 2025, Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine issued 67 line-item vetoes as he signed the state's \$60 billion, two-year operating budget overnight. Among those 67 vetoes are some affecting property taxes, vetoes on line items that would have:

- Allowed counties to reduce property taxes in school districts that carry over more than 40 percent of their budget from the previous year.
- Authorized county budget commissions to reduce millage on levies if they believe tax collections are excessive or unnecessary.
- Changed the calculation for what's known as the 20-mill floor, which guarantees a certain amount of money for schools.
- Eliminated certain types of tax levies.

Lucas County leaders and elected officials say the override of these vetoes would not provide substantial tax relief and would hurt citizens who depend upon public schools and other services.

At Friday's press conference, Lucas County Commissioner Lisa Sobecki opened the proceedings and introduced area leaders who were there to represent Toledo Public Schools, Lucas County Children Services, Lucas County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board and the Area Office on Aging of Northwest Ohio.

"These organizations make Lucas County a great place to work, play and retire," said Sobecki decrying the effort on the part of state legislators to deprive the agencies and the citizens they serve of funding. "This will undermine public confidence in the democratic process."

View on Watch

Speaking first was Mona Al-Hayani of the Toledo Federation of Teachers. Al-Hayani spoke not only about the potential overrides but also about other challenges facing teachers and public education such as the possible dismantling of the State Teachers Retirement System and teachers' rights to collectively bargain.

"Public education is the cornerstone of a democratic society, and students, families and teachers are relying on these vetoes to maintain the integrity of learning and teaching," Al-Hayani said. "If we don't speak out now, we will never be able to."



LC Commissioner Lisa Sobecki opens press conference with local leaders



State Sen. Paula Hicks-Hudson addresses veto override issue

Jason Kucsma, Toledo Lucas County Public Library executive director, spoke of the value that libraries provide and the risks of reducing funding.

"Ohio is the gold standard for public libraries," said Kucsma as he commended DeWine's support for libraries. However, the future is uncertain, noted Kucsma, if the legislature decides to override the will of the voters.

...continued on page 6

*Join Us!*  
**Worship EXPERIENCE**  
Every Sundays at 5:30 p.m.  
Let's FELLOWSHIP together - Acts 2:42

**Dr. John W. Williams, Pastor**

Eastern Star Missionary Baptist Church  
2102 Mulberry Street, Toledo, Ohio 43608  
(419) 726-1180, FAX: (419) 726-6240  
E-mail: EasternStarMBC@aol.com  
Website: www.drjwilliams.org

## A Grant up to \$1,500 towards your Mortgage Closing Costs!<sup>1</sup>

**DO YOU QUALIFY?**

- Purchase of a primary residence located within State Bank's lending area<sup>2</sup>
- Must meet borrower or geography low- to moderate-income eligibility requirements<sup>3</sup>
- A signed purchase agreement must be presented to reserve funds

**State Bank CARE Grant funds are limited, so APPLY TODAY.**

statebank  
YourStateBank.com

1900 Monroe Street, Suite 108  
Toledo, OH 43604  
419.508.0806

930 W. Market Street  
Lima, OH 45805  
419.228.3361

**Member FDIC**  
**EQUAL HOUSING LENDER**  
NMLS 403044

Program subject to change with or without notice. Other restrictions may apply. Please see lender for complete details. Subject to credit approval.  
<sup>1</sup>Actual amount applied at closing.  
<sup>2</sup>Property must be located within one of the following counties: Allen Ohio, Allen Indiana, Defiance, Delaware, Franklin, Hancock, Lucas, Madison, Union, Williams, or Wood.  
<sup>3</sup>Borrower income must be below 80% of the area median income, or property must be located in a low- to moderate-income census tract, as updated annually by the FFIEC (Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council).

# Violence, Including Homicides, Among Young Black Males Aged 15-37

By Anthony Bouyer, PhD

Guest Column

Over the years I've written several op-eds on violence and homicides (Tears of The Village & What's Going On, Fifty-One Years Later) addressing Black men and particularly young Black men and the devastating effects violent acts have on families of both the individuals who commits violence and the victim, and the physiological effects on the community as a whole.

The framing of violence within the Black community, specifically "black-on-black" crime, as a public health concern, gained significant traction in the late 20th century, particularly during the 1980s and 1990s. While violence has always been a tragic reality for many communities, the shift towards viewing it through a public health lens, rather than solely as a criminal justice issue, emerged as a response to the escalating rates of violence and its devastating impact on Black communities.

According to (Dahlberg, L, PH.D & Mercy, J.A, PH. D: History of Violence as a Public Health Problem: AMA Journal of Ethics, 2009) (Violence is now clearly recognized as a public health problem, but just 30 years ago the words



Anthony Bouyer

"violence" and "health" were rarely used in the same sentence. Several important trends contributed to a growing recognition and acceptance that violence could be addressed from a public health perspective, including successful in preventing and treating many infectious diseases. Since 1965, homicide and suicide have consistently been among the top 15 leading causes of death in the United States. From 1985 to 1991 homicide rates among 15- to 19-year-old males increased 154 percent, a dramatic departure from rates of the previous 20 years for this age group. This increase was particularly acute among young African American males. These trends raised concerns and provoked calls for new solutions.)

Escalating violence and homicides among young Black males are complex issue with roots in systemic inequalities and social factors. While individual choices play a role, these choices are often shaped by the environment and circumstances in which young men are raised.

Several factors contribute to violence and homicide among young Black males, including (a) socioeconomic disparities (poverty, lack of economic opportunity, and limited access to quality education and healthcare create environments where violence can become a means of survival or a way to gain respect and resources. (b) exposure to violence, witnessing violence in their communities, experiencing violence themselves, or having friends and family involved in violence can normalize and perpetuate the cycle of violence. (c) gangs and criminal networks in some communities, gang involvement offers a sense of belonging, protection, and access to resources, but it also increases the likelihood of participation in violence. (d) mental health trauma, depression, and other mental health issues can contribute to violent behavior. Furthermore, the stigma surrounding mental health in some communities can prevent individuals from seeking help. (e) access to firearms, the easy availability of weapons, significantly increases the risk of violence, including homicides. (f) cultural norms, some cultural norms, particularly related to masculinity and conflict resolution, can contribute to a willingness to resort to violence. (g) historical and systemic racism, discrimination, and lack of opportunity due to historical and ongoing racism can create a sense of hopelessness and frustration that fuels violence.

Addressing the Issue from a comprehensive approach is needed, including (a) addressing socioeconomic disparities. Investing in education, job training, and economic development in underserved communities can create opportunities and reduce the desperation that can lead to violence. (b) intervention programs providing mentorship, conflict resolution training, and mental health services can help young people develop healthy coping mechanisms and build positive relationships. (c) community engagement, which involves engaging community members in developing solutions and promoting positive social norms, is crucial for long-term change. (d) implementing stricter gun laws, promoting safe storage of firearms, and addressing the underlying causes of gun violence are essential. (e) mental health support expanding access to affordable and culturally competent mental health services can help individuals address trauma and develop healthy coping mechanisms.

It's essential to recognize that violence is a public health issue, and addressing it requires a multi-faceted approach that tackles the root causes of violence while also providing support and resources to those affected and utilizing restorative justice that focuses on repairing the harm caused by crime, rather than simply punishing offenders. It emphasizes bringing together victims, offenders, and community members to address the consequences of wrongdoing and find ways to move forward. This approach prioritizes healing, accountability, and rebuilding relationships.

*Local Backlash...continued from page 5*

"If local taxpayers didn't want to support the library with their hard-earned dollars, they would vote 'no' on our issues," he said of the potential veto override that "allows the takeaway of funds already passed by the voters."

And those voters – kids and adults – "will suffer the brunt of such short-sighted actions," he added.

Scott Sylak, the executive director of the Lucas County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, also spoke of the need to uphold DeWine's vetoes of the provisions in the state's budget that would decrease or eliminate funding to the county's behavioral health system.

The LCMHRBSB funds 23 agencies, 17 residences along with 1,000 employees who provide services to 30,000 residents. The removal of replacement

... continued on page 12

**The Truth Colours  
Gallery**

**ART & CRAFT  
WORKSHOP**

Painting, Crafting and  
Drawing!

check out the  
Gallery studio

STAY  
COOL

I LOVE  
STREET  
ART

**7 East Bancroft St  
Franklin n Bancroft**

Facebook  
The Truth Colours  
Gallery

Nikolacolours  
347-286-9227

20th African American Festival...continued from page 2

children Alex and Erika Cowell, along with Suzette's son Eric Cowell, a TUFUCU loan officer, who is the longest serving employee with the credit union.

Some longstanding friends and members of the credit union were also honored: Eduardo Adams; Dale Barnhill, Sr.; John Marcus Chapman; Alethea Easterly; Reginald Fletcher; Deana Marie Gardner. And community members were given their flowers: Deana Marie Gardner, Rev. Perry Harris, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, Eddy Mabrey, Vincent Sample, Councilman George Sarantou and Harvey Savage, Jr.

The highlight of the acknowledgement of the honorees came at the end as Suzette Cowell spoke of the credit union's quest to open a second branch and acquire the building on Monroe Street that had previously been a Fifth Third branch. The Fifth Third Corp had decided to close the branch and abandon the building, recalled Cowell. However, they still demanded that TUFUCU pay \$300,000 for the site.



Councilwoman Vanice Williams



Honoree Patrick Trompeter



Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz



Suzette Cowell

With the help of honorees, Councilwoman Vanice Williams and Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, a solution was found. The mayor found a donor, an individual who was willing to donate the funds for the credit union's expansion into a predominantly African American neighborhood that would have been left without a financial institution.

"I have the donor who wants to give the money to the credit union," Williams recalled the mayor saying to her. That donor was businessman Patrick Trompeter who was in the habit of "allowing himself to be a vessel of God for so many people in this community," said Williams of the Good Samaritan.

Trompeter, an entrepreneur based in Toledo, is the founder and chairman of Erie Home, one of the nation's leading home improvement companies. Through the Trompeter Family Foundation, he supports a wide range of causes, including education, healthcare, senior services and youth development.

Kapszukiewicz expounded on Trompeter's history of largesse to the Toledo community.

"This community will never know all of the things he has supported because he always wants to do so anonymously," said the mayor. "He never wants to be honored ... there are million-dollar donations spread around this community [from him]. I'm glad for once he has allowed us to recognize him."

Kapszukiewicz also explained the humble start to life that Trompeter experienced. Born in Cork, Ireland, he was abandoned as an infant and left with nuns at an orphanage, eventually adopted by an American family.

A standing ovation and a cheering crowd welcomed Trompeter to the podium where, modestly enough, he deflected the praise he had received. He told the audience that he was more impressed with what had been accomplished by those in attendance than by his own achievements.

After the tribute to the honorees, breakfast was served. The morning concluded with prayers for TUFUCU by board member Ray Wood; a prayer for youth by Pastor Roger Carson of the Worship Center; a prayer for families by Milton Williams of Hope Christian Church, a prayer for the festival by Elder Alisa Key of People's Baptist church and the closing prayer by Sister Maxine Young of the Sisters of Notre Dame.

*freedom to succeed*

**THE MARITIME WAY:**

- Safe & Supportive Environment
- Career Tech programs
- After school tutoring
- Counseling support

**THE MARITIME ACADEMY OF TOLEDO** | *freedom to succeed*

803 Water Street • Toledo, OH 43604

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 522  
TOLEDO, OH

Call or log on today to schedule your personal tour!  
www.maritimeacademy.us  
419-244-9999

**Is your child struggling with traditional schools?**

Discover a fresh new start at the tuition free Maritime Academy of Toledo!

Located right on the water in Downtown Toledo, we're a tuition-free community school serving grades 6 through 12. Have your child set sail on a new educational adventure—hands-on learning, small class sizes, and a vibrant waterfront campus.

Call or log on today to schedule your personal tour! Visit [www.maritimeacademy.us](http://www.maritimeacademy.us) or call 419-244-9999. Maritime Academy of Toledo—where education makes waves!

**THE MARITIME ACADEMY OF TOLEDO** | *freedom to succeed*

# Community Day at the African American Festival

*The Truth Staff*

This year several new features were added to this 20th annual African American Festival. Starting at noon on Friday, July 18, a few hours after the Prayer Breakfast at Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist had ended, a Community Day commenced in the parking lot of the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union's Monroe Street Branch.

Food trucks, vendors, a bouncy house for the kids and a live band for the adults brought in hundreds of neighborhood residents to enjoy the daytime party.

Most impressively, perhaps, was that the credit union handed out free food tickets for the food trucks. The community day lasted until 3 p.m.



*Enjoy a Summer of Independence!*

**AGES 6-19 RIDE  
TARTA FOR FREE  
ALL SUMMER.**

▶▶ Get your Youth Summer Blast Pass at [TARTA.com/blast](https://TARTA.com/blast).



# Healthy Relationships Were Discussed at the GHDT Worship Center

By Jefferson Diaz  
The Truth Reporter

As part of the 20th Annual African American Festival and sponsored by the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union, a panel on healthy relationships was held on Friday, July 19, at the GHDT Worship Center in Toledo.

The women on the panel were: Sheula Eason, CEO and founder of Elevate People Solutions; Debora Banks, LSW, COO of Joan Marie; Sabrina Harris, CFO, Lancaster County; La' Shardae Scott, PhD, CEO of the SCOTT Center for Observation Treatment and Transition; Ashley Benson, PhD, VP Student Affairs Lourdes University; Roslyn Clemons, director Housing and Community Development, City of Toledo.

The male panelists were: Mike Armour, community advocate, Willie, McKether, PhD, UT; Cecil Holston, One Person at a Time; Craig Burny, Vintage Lifestyle; Michael Day, Jr, House of Day; Terry Crosby, Taylor Automotive; Anthony Amison, Redeemed Fitness.

The panelists were led by Valerie Simmons-Walston, EdD, and Jim Snodgrass, who began the discussion by asking what were the essential elements of a healthy relationship and how one should choose a partner to share their life with.

"The first thing we must have is communication. Without communication, everything falls apart," said Holston, who added that all relationships should have a space where "each person can retreat and have time alone to reflect on their decisions."



Jim Snodgrass and Valerie Simmons-Walston, EdD, lead the panel discussion on mental health

The debate grew increasingly intense when the obligations within a marriage and how both men and women should fulfill them came up.

"Each person in a relationship should seek the other's growth. Our partners should be an essential part of our success," commented Benson.

"Support should be mutual. Both men and women need a relationship where each partner can establish a safe space," said Scott.

The discussion led to a lot of common ground among those present regarding what a healthy relationship should look like.

"I think there's also a generational gap that needs to be taken into account. Couples in the past were more focused on traditional roles within a marriage than couples today," commented McKether.

The conversation lasted two hours, ending with Simmons and Walston urging those present to reflect the lessons learned from the evening in each of their relationships, saying it was important to "find moments like this, moments of connection, where we can talk and move forward with our partners."



The panelists



The panelists

“

YOUR CHILD'S  
**HEALTH** MATTERS.  
THE LEAD ORDINANCE  
IS HERE TO  
**PROTECT** IT.



**Gloria Smith, R.N.**  
Lead Case Manager  
Toledo-Lucas County Health Department

**LeadSafe**  
TOLEDO

**TOL**  
City of Toledo

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

# Celebrating Legacy: The 20th Annual African American Fest Parade Marches On Dorr Street

By Alexandria Leatherberry  
The Truth Reporter

Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union kicked off the 20th Annual African American Fest with its traditional "Prayer in the Parking Lot" and vibrant kickoff parade Saturday Morning at its Dorr Street location.

The annual event draws hundreds of participants to celebrate African American heritage and community pride. This year, the parade featured a procession over an hour long that included displays from community leaders, performers, businesses, and social clubs that strolled the once thriving Toledo "Black downtown."

During the 1950s and 1960s Dorr Street housed more than 70 Black-owned businesses, establishing itself as the epicenter of the city's African American commerce and culture. Residents recall a bustling avenue of grocery stores, barbershops, theaters, churches and law offices where doctors, judges and entrepreneurs lived and worked in close-knit proximity.

The Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union branch stands as a reminder of Dorr Street history by maintaining services accessible to the residents in the 43607 area. The credit union has grown by launching a second location at 3053 Monroe Street, just three minutes drive from the original main branch.

The credit union's festival is an underscore of CEO Suzette Cowell's commitment to honoring the Dorr Street legacy. Cowell received the Louise McCarren Herring Movement Advancement Award in 2023 for outstanding contributions to the credit union movement. The recognition followed

a \$125,000 award in 2021 to support its mission of offering affordable financial services, educational opportunities, and community reinvestment.

Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union demonstrates local, socially-minded banking by offering financial services tailored to underserved neighborhoods. The credit union preserves the legacy of a once-thriving Black business corridor and restores its spirit through financial empowerment, cultural celebration, and community investment. The Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union stands as a testament to the past and an example for the future.



*For Women By Women*

**Getting Your Affairs in Order**

In Partnership with

**N-SYNC LLC** **Sandy Seniors**

**Join us for a Workshop on How to be Ready for Life Changes**  
**Wednesday, August 20, 2025 at the Fire Pit Grill**  
 7723 Airport Hwy, Holland, OH 43528  
 Check in 5:30 p.m. • Program 6-7:30 p.m.  
 Light Refreshments will be served.

**Mistress of Ceremony – Alexis Means**

**Presenters & Break-Out Sessions:**  
 Rev. Barbie Harrison  
 Clara Petty  
 Deborah Barnett  
 Charlon Dewberry - Attorney  
 Sara Ross - Insurance Agent  
 Anita Madison - Legal Shield  
 Danielle L. Thomas - House of Day  
 Nichole Rodriguez - Fifth Third Bank  
 Sue Rowe - Social Security Administration / Medicare-Medicaid

**Limited Seating, Registration Required**



<https://form.jotform.com/251589003247053>

For more info or questions, please contact Deborah Barnett 419-297-4232

This session contains information and content supplied by third parties for informational purposes only. This does not constitute or imply endorsement by the library, event organizers or sponsors.



# LMH Is Bringing New Affordable Housing to Toledo

**Applications are being accepted to lease at Park Apartments, Toledo's new \$15 million affordable housing community serving young adults at risk of homelessness**

*Prospective residents are encouraged to sign up now to potentially be eligible to move into the completely rebuilt iconic former Park Hotel when the 45-unit building opens in September*

*Special to The Truth*

Some fortunate few of the approximately 4,000 young adults who are at risk of or are experiencing homelessness in Lucas County may soon receive the opportunity of a lifetime.

Beginning today, applications and referrals are being accepted for eligible young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 for affordable housing at what is anticipated to be the highly sought-after Park Apartments, located on a half-acre site at 410 and 414 Wade St. and 201 Knapp St. in south Toledo, which is slated to open in September.

The \$15 million, 45-unit apartment building that is replacing the long-vacant and dilapidated former Park Hotel represents a historic and innovative move by Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) and its nonprofit affiliate, Lucas Housing Services Corp. (LHSC), to bring affordable housing stability to the lives of young people who are currently homeless or who are struggling to survive by living in shelters or sleeping in cars.

"We're transforming one of Toledo's former landmarks into a beautiful new structure that will offer a comprehensive list of social service programs to help young adults as they enter an important phase of their lives that will have a major and meaningful impact on their long-term future," said LMH President and CEO Senghor Manns.

**What Makes Park Apartments Unique**

Park Apartments is the first housing investment collaboration among LMH, LHSC and the nonprofit Community Housing Network (CHN), one of Ohio's largest and longest-standing providers of permanent supportive housing. CHN has expertise in developing housing for vulnerable populations, including transitional-age youth.

As many as 2,252 students experienced homelessness in the 2022-2023 school year in Lucas County, with approximately 1,700 youth enrolled in Toledo Public Schools, according to the most recent Toledo-Lucas County Homelessness Board data.

Of those 2,252 students, 66.6 percent were African American, 18.3 percent were white and 12.2 percent were multiple races. By gender, roughly 48 percent were female and 52 percent were male. The age breakdown for Lucas County youth experiencing homelessness is 0-5: 22.58 percent; 5-12: 40.19 percent; 13-17: 22.96 percent; and 18-24: 12.28 percent.

An estimated 2.5 million youth nationally per year experience homelessness. Along with losing their home, community, friends and routines, as well as their sense of stability and safety, many homeless youth are also victims of trauma. While trying to survive on the streets, youth are exposed to countless dangers, with an increased likelihood of substance abuse, early parenthood, impulsivity, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and vulnerability to being trafficked.

"The new Park Apartments will stand as a cornerstone for our most vulnerable young adults. This is more than just housing — it's a chance to build stability, hope and a brighter future for youth who deserve every opportunity to thrive," said Toledo-Lucas County Homelessness Board Executive Director Julie Embree.

Local staff from the nonprofit health care provider Harbor are teaming with LMH to provide a broad range of support services for Park Apartments residents. Supports will include trauma-informed case management, employment assistance and job training, and life skills training, along with connections to behavioral/mental health supports, education services, child care and food and transportation assistance.

**Who Is Eligible?**

Applications for Park Apartments will be managed by the Continuum of Care coordinated by the Toledo-Lucas County Homelessness Board.

Eligible applicants are those who:

Are homeless or at risk of homelessness (e.g., have a court-ordered eviction notice)

AND

Have a household member with a physical or mental health impairment(s) impacting housing stability

Priority is given to applicants who meet eligibility and are:

Chronically homeless

Experiencing domestic violence

Aging out of foster care

Interested applicants can visit <https://www.endinghomelessness Toledo.org/park-apartments> to view required documents and complete a request for application. Questions can be sent to [submissions@tlchb.org](mailto:submissions@tlchb.org).

**Estimated Timelines**

The application process generally moves from referral to move-in readiness within several weeks.

LMH officials estimate the average tenant stay will be 12 to 24 months, though that could vary depending on tenants' individual needs. Tenants will have access to an array of social services, including employment assistance, transportation to work and help ensuring a stable transition to adulthood.

**Collaboration Is Key**

Wal-Mart, through its upper management in Michigan and in collaboration with its teams at Wal-Mart's Central Avenue and Glendale stores in Toledo, has generously agreed to assemble approximately 75 Move-In Kits for Park Apartments residents.

These kits will include essentials like a bed-in-a-bag, towels, bath and laundry accessories, cleaning supplies and more, helping ensure a smooth and dignified transition for the new tenants.

Funding partners that have teamed with LMH and CHN in the Park Apartments project include Huntington National Bank, Columbus, Ohio; Premier Bank, Youngstown, Ohio; Ohio Housing Finance Agency; the City of Toledo; the Board of Lucas County Commissioners; and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati.

Additional partners that support Park Apartments include the Toledo Community Foundation, John Henry Eldridge Foundation, ADD MORE? Yes if they exist

**New and Improved**

Park Apartments will include 41 one-bedroom apartments and four two-bedroom apartments, all fully furnished. Common-area amenities will include a community room with an attached kitchen, a fitness space, laundry facilities and ample storage.

There will be on-site parking for both vehicles and bicycles, and it will feature sustainable design components. The site is situated within an established mixed-use portion of south Toledo and is located on a bus line. The complex will also feature sustainable design in multiple ways, such as Energy Star-qualified lighting components, windows and appliances; low-flow plumbing fixtures; high-efficiency and appropriately sized HVAC equipment; fresh-air ventilation; use of low volatile organic compound products; and construction to address durability.

The Park Hotel was built in 1909 and featured more than 100 rooms, a bar and a restaurant. It catered to passengers from the adjacent train station at the

... continued on page 12

**DIXIE** Auto Leasing Toledo, OH  
5880 N. Detroit  
**Month to Month Leasing**  
419-476-8674  
WE ARE A FULL SERVICE BUSINESS



Bernadette Joy Graham, LPCC, LLC  
Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor  
419.409.4929  
Mental Health...Get Your Mind Right  
[www.bjgrahamcounseling.com](http://www.bjgrahamcounseling.com)  
2525 W. Bancroft  
Toledo, OH 43606  
[graham.bernadette@gmail.com](mailto:graham.bernadette@gmail.com)



Welcome Home to Sylvania Lakes Apartments!

Our elegant apartments feature spacious bedrooms with ample storage, high ceilings and breath-taking views! Stop in today to see our beautifully landscaped grounds, resort-like swimming pool and clubhouse with its fully-equipped fitness center. Located just west of King road off of Sylvania Ave.

**Sylvan Lakes**  
Apartment Homes

4045 A Langston Place, Sylvania, Ohio 43560  
P: 419-842-8460 E: [investekmanagement.com](mailto:investekmanagement.com)



*Local Backlash...continued from page 6*

levies and allowing county budget commissions “to override the decisions by the voting public” would be dangerous to all involved, said Sylak. “Governor DeWine got this right,” he said of the governor’s vetoes.

“What are you thinking down there?” asked Lucas County Commissioner Pete Gerken. “We have a great community here and we have great resources here. Somebody tell me the wisdom of a political strategy that says, ‘Hey, let’s attack every one of these things in a local community from Columbus. Isn’t that the way to be popular and win votes?’”

“It amazes me that a party that for years stood on the sense: ‘We need local control ... big government bad.’ [This] has turned into the biggest and baddest government that we’ve seen in my lifetime,” Gerken added.

State Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson wrapped up the press conference by explaining the thinking of Republican in Columbus – their desire to cut taxes – and explaining why the knee jerk reaction to DeWine’s vetoes could be so disadvantageous to Ohioans.

“There’s a lot of policy in that budget but not a lot of humanity and compassion,” she said.

Hicks-Hudson said there “should be smart, common sense property tax relief,” that could be achieved by better communication, cleaning up the language of such policies and working to make valuation practices more consistent.

*LMH...continued from page 11*

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Plaza, as well as visitors to south Toledo. The hotel closed in 2001, with the bar and restaurant closing soon after, according to Toledo-Lucas County Planning Commission documents.

A structural engineer deemed the old Park Hotel property to be unsafe for occupancy and that reconstruction of the entire building was required, officials said. The engineer determined the building was at serious risk of partial or complete collapse at any time.

Prior to the 2023 demolition of Park Hotel, LMH implemented a community outreach plan that involved significant public review of the project. LMH staff also met regularly with elected officials, government leaders and community advocates representing Toledo and Lucas County to keep them updated on the project and ensure they were aware of any relevant public feedback LMH received.

THE SOCIAL BUTTERFLY PRESENTS  
THE 11TH ANNUAL  
**MOTOWN**  
DINNER & DANCE CRUISE  
FUNDRAISER FOR NEW LEAF GROUP, INC.  
FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 2025

CRUISE \$85  
BUS \$40

THE DETROIT PRINCESS RIVERBOAT CRUISE  
131 Atwater St | Detroit, MI 48226  
Boarding Begins at 6:00 PM Downtown Detroit, MI  
Cruise from 7:00pm - 9:30pm  
PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT "NEW LEAF GROUP, INC."  
TICKET LOCATION: Jack's Men's Wear 3414 Dorr St. Toledo, OH  
FOR CHARTER BUS INFORMATION & TICKETS  
CONTACT: Donnetta M. Carter at (419) 367-9765

THANKS TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS:  
TAYLOR AUTOMOTIVE FAMILY  
TRUTH  
SOCIAL

*Perryman...continued from page 3*

have not only a seasoned partner in urban governance but also geographic balance and a strong local record to back him.

However, Brown’s success in the gubernatorial battle with billionaire “outsider” Vivek Ramaswamy may ultimately hinge on the effective backing of two African American state legislators—Representative Elgin Rogers and Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson. Rogers represents both urban Toledo and sizeable parts of its surrounding suburban and rural edges and is seen by many as a bridge-builder. Hicks-Hudson, a former mayor of Toledo herself, has spent her legislative years pushing for clean water, social services and criminal justice reform. Neither is flashy, but both are deeply respected in both red and blue areas and well-positioned to shape voter sentiment in an election where turnout could tip the scales.

Should Rogers and Hicks-Hudson jump into the fray and support Brown early and forcefully, they could become the architects of a winning coalition that spans across race, class, and political identity. Their endorsements would carry the weight of authenticity, particularly in a Black and working-class Toledo community that feels increasingly disillusioned by both parties. They could also help moderate voters feel less like they’re making a partisan gamble and more like they’re choosing a stable future over ideological chaos.

For certain, Ohio’s political landscape has always been a barometer for the country, and once again it’s beginning to shift. The good news is that as the winds of change begin to blow, leaders like Brown, Rogers, Hicks-Hudson, and Kapszukiewicz may find not only a viable ticket but a revitalized electorate ready for something new and real.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at [drdperryman@centerofhope-baptist.org](mailto:drdperryman@centerofhope-baptist.org)

*Tolliver...continued from page 3*

leaders are laughing at for your bungling of everything you touch. Spare me the details!

**Trump:** (sound of slight whimpering). Putin, don’t mess around with me or I will put a hundred percent tariff on all of your exported goods.

**Putin:** Go ahead. Our foreign markets are strong and so is their need for Russian oil. That is why your papers call you the TACO president! You whiff and waffle and perform for your MAGA base who could not find Ukraine on a map!

**Trump:** (long pause). Listen Vlad, I need you to show me some respect and withdraw your troops or I will....

**Putin** (interrupting) Or you will what?

**Trump:** I will have my CIA release to the public the details of your assassination attempts on world leaders.

**Putin** (laughing hysterically). You release details on forged documents? Go ahead. Be my guest. Just remember that I have in my secret vault, video films of you on your last trips to my country before you became president; with some pretty interesting takes of you with KGB female agents at the Branovich Hotel...remember those wild times? Boy, you were a wild and crazy guy as your Steve Martin comedian likes to say!

**Trump:** (loud coughing sounds, clearing his throat). Listen, we need not go that far. Let’s be reasonable and talk.

**Putin:** Sure. This is what you will do. At the end of this 50-day PR campaign, you will find reasons to extend the time for another fifty days. Am I quite clear, comrade Trump?

**Trump:** Ok...Ok...It is a deal! Just don’t release those tapes. If you do, the GOP will take a drubbing in the midterms and then you will be sorry because the GOP is and was your only hope of not bombing Moscow into shreds!

**Putin:** Ha...very funny Mr. Trump. I think the only shreds that you will see if you do not follow my orders is for you to be the laughingstock of the whole world if they get to see hours of

those “interesting and scandalous tapes.” We got eleven hours of your stellar performances with my lovely and shapely KGB agents!

**Trump** (very, very long pause): You are a nasty man!

**Putin:** Oh? Those tapes prove who is nasty! Well, I got to go. Nice talking with you Trump and when you are out of office, come to Moscow and build your Trump Towers Moscow!

Click!

**Trump:** Hello...hello, is anybody there?

P.S. News just in: Someone just set up a chicken coop on the roof of the White House indicating that the chickens are coming home to roost since Trump is now admitting to his wacko MAGA base that he will disown them if they buy into the Epstein conspiracy! How rich is that from a guy who lived and breathed conspiracies to win the White House!

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

# Joy Goddess: A'Leila Walker and the Harlem Renaissance by A'Lelia Bundles

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

Mama said.

Mama said to be nice to others. Stand up for yourself, she said. You can do whatever you put your mind to. Stay out of trouble. Take care of yourself and those you love. Mama said a lot of things that shaped your life, and in the new book *Joy Goddess* by A'Lelia Bundles, Mama left a huge legacy.

c. 2025  
Scribner  
\$29.99  
364 pages

She remembered a time before, and a time after.

In the before, Lelia Walker and her mother had little-to-nothing. Lelia's father had died when she was very young, and it was up to her mother, Sarah, to put food on the table and a roof over their heads with her hard work. There was simply no room for extras.

In the after – after Sarah had become Madame C.J. Walker, head of a beauty empire that catered to Black women – there was money, mansions, and a certain kind of fame. There was still hard work, too, but Lelia embraced it because she was proud of her mother's acumen – maybe more so, in fact, after Madame made young Lelia a “full partner” with the responsibility to run some of the farther-flung accounts.

It was true that mother and daughter didn't always see eye-to-eye. Because she'd worked away from Madame for years, Lelia felt emboldened to speak her mind but Madame often shut her down. Lelia wanted to choose her own husband, but Madame let her feelings about the beau be known.

They argued fiercely, then acted like there was never any problem. They loved one another, says Bundles, but they were “fire and ice.”

Lelia, Bundles says, sought her mother's opinion on all matters, but she didn't often heed her mother's words. Madame didn't like that but as the years passed, she gave more and more of the business up, confident that Lelia (later, A'Lelia) would take care of things – and she was, overseas, as her mother's health began to fail...



Joy Goddess author, courtesy Jimell Greene

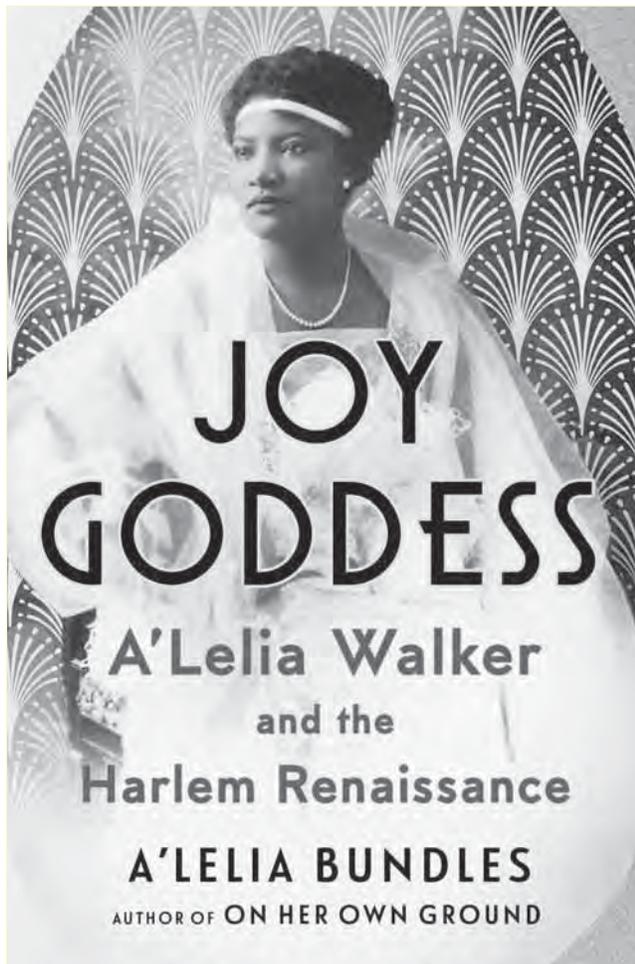
Filled with lush word-painted images of opulence and wealth and a sometimes-reverential tone,

*Joy Goddess* is a biography that covers a lot of territory: because author A'Lelia Bundles is A'Lelia Walker's great-granddaughter, it's part family history, as well as Black history. It's a business biography, too, in a large way. And it's a love story, pure and simple, one that will appeal to any headstrong mother-daughter pair.

It's that last part that features most strongly and builds to break hearts, even though readers are never unaware of what's to come. Bundles is honest about how the Walker women changed surrounding lives – Madame had “adopted” a daughter with mixed outcome – and how their beauty empire positively affected Black business and culture for decades but she seems to push racism aside somewhat in the telling here. Instead, Madame and A'Lelia's accomplishments and the world they lived in take front-and-center, and you'll appreciate that.

This is a book for readers who want a wide-reaching biography with hints of inspiration. It'll make a great book club book or mother-and-daughter tale to share. Read *Joy Goddess*.

Mama would approve.



**Musty Basement? WE CAN HELP!**

- Basement Waterproofing
- Indoor Air Quality
- Foundation Repair
- Crawl Space Service

BEFORE      AFTER

**\$750 OFF**  
Plus FREE Home Air Quality Test (\$399 value)

**ERIEHOME™**

CALL TODAY TO SCHEDULE YOUR FREE ESTIMATE  
**1-888-501-2812**

New orders only. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Erie Construction Mid-West, Inc. ("Erie"). Offer terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in your area. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS text message, email, pre-recorded messages by Erie or its affiliates and service providers using automated technologies notwithstanding if you are on a DO NOT CALL list or register. Please review our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on [homeservicescompliance.com](http://homeservicescompliance.com). All rights reserved.

### 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](mailto:employment@wgte.org) or mail to: Human Resources, P.O. Box 30, Toledo, OH 43614.

### OFFICE SPACE FOR LEASE

A first-floor 1,100 square-foot office suite, close to downtown in a revitalized Warren Sherman area, is available. The space is in a large office building with an enclosed parking lot. HVAC included. The space includes a waiting area, 3 separate rooms for individual offices and a storage space as well as access to a backyard. It's ready to occupy, no remodeling necessary. The neighboring area is flourishing due to recent construction of a large community center. Call 419-509-0492 for more information.

### 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](mailto: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

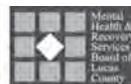
Associate or bachelor's degree in a health, behavioral health, business, or financial field; five years of claims processing experience. Demonstrated knowledge of claims, Ohio Medicaid coding regarding Behavioral Health, plus familiarity with the national standard 837 Professional and 835 Remittance 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://tinurl.com/5cpd285x>

Equal Opportunity Employer



### 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
- Valid driver's license with acceptable driving record

Please visit our website at [www.lucasdd.org](http://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.

20th Annual African American Festival...continued from page 16

touched the whole crowd with their artistry.

Chester Jermaine known worldwide as "Lyfe" Jennings is an American R&B and soul singer-songwriter, record producer, and instrumentalist. Lyfe was Born June 3 1978 in Toledo Ohio. Happy Belated Birthday to Lyfe.!!!

He plays the guitar, bass, and piano which he integrates into his music. Lyfe is known for songs such as "Stick up Kid," " Must Be Nice," "S.E.X.," "Hypothetically," "CRY," "Made up My Mind" and many more beautiful songs that he shared with the world and we, myself included, have played countless times growing up.

Zapp (also known as the Zapp Band, Zapp & Roger) is an American funk band that emerged from Dayton, Ohio, in 1977. Particularly influential in the electro-subgenre of funk, Zapp were known for their trademark use of the talk-box effect. The original line-up consisted of four Troutman brothers—frontman Roger, Larry, Lester and Terry—first cousin, Sherman Fleetwood—and non-Troutman family members Bobby Glover, Gregory Jackson, Jerome Derrickson, Eddie Barber, Jannetta Boyce and Shirley Murdock. Zapp also worked closely with George Clinton and Bootsy Collins of Parliament-Funkadelic during its early stages, their support being a factor in the group gaining a record deal with Warner Bros. Records in 1979.

Zapp had an amazing performance filled with beautiful lit up outfits, Afro wigs, skating, dancing, flipping, comedic gestures, laughs, memories, tears of those gone too soon, and just an overall unforgettable performance that has to be seen in person to really describe.

This performance was my personal favorite since I grew up Listening to this band as a child with my father. The voice box was his favorite and he learned the technique from this band. The art coming from this band was enough to take you back to the 90's when when life was simple, hard and just beginning for a lot of us.

Zapp was the last but not least band. They interacted with the crowd , gave away drumsticks and a special autographed souvenir to one beautiful lady in the crowd signed by the entire band. They sang songs known worldwide such as "Computer Love," "Doo Wah Ditty," "I Can Make You Dance," "I Want to Be Your man," "Chocolate City" and many other classics we all grew up listening to.

Toledo folks were left with an amazing sense of pride just knowing some the soulful artists who performed were born in Toledo and decided to come back to share their voice with us once more.

This event set a new goal for each festival that will follow. It was a perfect night and everyone had an amazing time. I'm sure I can speak for all of us when I say we can't wait to see the line up for next year and run this event back for years to come.

Thank you, Toledo Urban, for making this possible.



TUFCU's COO Angela Cattlidge and CEO Suzette Cowell



The Zapp Band

**EVERY HERO NEEDS A TEAM**

**VIDEO WATCH PARTY & VOLUNTEER LAUNCH**  
 SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 2025  
 2:00 - 3:15 P.M.  
 SANGER BRANCH LIBRARY  
 3030 CENTRAL AVE., TOLEDO, OH 43606

**SCAN TO REGISTER**

- Be the first to see our inspiring short videos
- Hear powerful testimonies from current volunteers
- Enjoy refreshments, photo ops, and community connection
- Learn how you can join the team and make a difference

YOU CAN ALSO RSVP BY VISITING CASAKIDS.NET OR CALLING 419-213-6753

The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program trains compassionate community members to represent the best interests of abused children.

# The 20th Annual African American Music Festival

By Emily R. Evans  
The Truth Reporter

The highly anticipated 20th annual African American Music Fest took place at the Huntington Center on Saturday, July 19, 2025. The doors opened at 2:00 p.m. to a beautiful venue with numerous vendors, security to ensure everyone's safety as well as the artists and a room spacious enough to seat the whole city comfortably.

Everyone made it to their seats to witness an amazing event where artists: Musiq Soulchild, Lyfe Jennings, The Zapp Band, Troop, Pokey Bear, Grammy winner Le'Andria Johnson, the Walls Group and more would grace the stage with their presence, instruments and voices, sharing unmatched energy as well as talent. The MC's for the night kept everyone well entertained and abreast of everything that was happening for the night.

The Walls Group started the night out. Artists from Toledo played instruments with an unmatched level of experience and expertise. This is an amazing group of men that we have grown up with in Toledo who we have had the pleasure and privilege to personally see grow as men, mentors, fathers and brothers to each other.

They are truly men to look up to. They exhibit strength, loyalty, generosity and genuine respect for each other and anyone they work with. They are available for booking and can be reached on Facebook at Wall Music. They play so many instruments between them and have beautiful voices as well. Any venue would be lucky to have this band grace their stage. Toledo loves you and appreciates you Wall Music!!!

Le'Andria Delores Johnson is an American gospel singer. She was the season three winner of the BET gospel singing competition show Sunday Best. Johnson's Sunday Best coronation song, "I Shall Leap into My Destiny," co-written by Johnson, entered the Billboard Gospel chart at number one. Le'Andria sang "Never Would Have Made It" and "Better Days" among a few other soulful songs. The crowd all stood on their feet and rejoiced as she sang with all of her heart and came very humble and shared

a real vibe with Toledo.

Born Wardell Brown in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Pokey Bear is a blues/southern soul musician known for his soulful sound and unique style. He started his career in rap before transitioning to other genres, incorporating elements of blues, jazz and funk into his music.

Pokey Bear has released several singles and EPs, including "Bump Bump Bump" (2025), "Take Dat" (2024) and "Lit" (2024) (Google). Pokey Bear had an epic performance full of life, style and an amazing and unforgettable voice. His outfit was shiny and as unique as his voice.

Troop is an American R&B/soul group from Pasadena, California. The group has had three number-one singles and 10 top-10 singles on the Billboard R&B Singles chart. Singers: Allen McNeil, Steve Russell, Reggie Warren, John Harreld, Rodney Benford. All artists signed to record labels: Atlantic Records, MNRK Music Group, Bust It Records, Warrior Records. They have also completed five albums, which include three certified gold and one certified platinum album.

They have written songs we all love such as: "My Heart" and "All I Do Is Think of You," which they performed at the festival.

Taalib Hassan Johnson, better known by his stage name Musiq Soulchild, is an American singer-songwriter. His music blends R&B, funk, blues, jazz and gospel influences fused with hip hop. He signed with Def Soul to release his debut studio album, Aijuswanaseing. Musiq has serenaded the world with hits such as "Love," "Half Crazy," "The Girl Next Door," "Just Friends" and "Don't Change," for years. He sang so beautifully, hitting each note flawlessly and had two beautiful background singers and dancers who had angelic voices as well. They were coordinated perfectly and

...continued on page 15

**STAY AIR AWARE!**  
*IT'S Easy Breezy*

**WHEN IT'S HOT AND SUNNY, AIR POLLUTION LIKE GROUND-LEVEL OZONE CAN IMPACT YOUR HEALTH**

**OZONE HAZARDS**  
Ground-level ozone can irritate your throat and lungs, making it difficult to breathe. It can also increase your risk for infections and aggravate asthma and other lung conditions.

**VULNERABLE GROUPS**  
Older adults, young children, and people with heart and lung conditions may experience symptoms sooner, but even healthy people can be impacted without symptoms.

**SAFETY TIPS**  
Protect your health when ozone levels are unhealthy by reducing time outdoors, planning physical activity for the morning or evening, and substituting a less intense activity.

GET THE OZONE FORECAST, CHECK CURRENT CONDITIONS, AND LEARN ABOUT AIR QUALITY:  
[WWW.TMACOG.ORG/AIR](http://WWW.TMACOG.ORG/AIR)

TMACOG



Le'Andria Johnson



Musiq Soulchild



Lyfe Jennings

