The Sojourner's Truth

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The Ole Miss Fulton Chapel Protest Revisited!

Fulton Chapel Protester Linnie Willis (bottom left) with family: (L. to R.) Rev. James Willis, Sr; James Willis, Jr; Vontyna Smith, PhD (niece); Mary Liggins (sister)

In This Issue...

Progress Made, Priorities Ahead

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

The Truth Contributor

Progress is not inevitable. It's up to us to create it.

- Barack Obama

Since first joining the Toledo City Council in 2018, Nick Komives has distinguished himself by moving beyond routine administration and establishing a record as perhaps the most prolific architect of legislation in that body's history.

Raised in Genoa and rooted in Toledo, Komives has built a reputation for turning advocacy into action by crafting a steady stream of new ordinances that not only meet urgent needs but also strengthen Toledo's foundation for decades to come.

With his re-election bid underway, Komives sat down with me to reflect on his distinctive approach to public service, revisit the many legislative accomplishments that have defined his tenure, and share the priorities he hopes to carry forward into another term.

Perryman: You've served on city council since 2018. What accomplishments are you most proud of?

Komives: I would say that my main focus has been on water issues—whether eliminating lead pipes, addressing affordability or making improvements to our public infrastructure to increase energy efficiency—along with advancing work in the energy and natural gas sector to bring a new system online at our landfill, which will bolster our budget and make us more sustainable.

Perryman: What lessons have you learned during your tenure that you plan to carry into the next term if reelected?

Komives: One of the first lessons I learned is that change is difficult. Getting folks to understand why we are making various decisions is a challenge, and rightfully so. People should understand what their government is doing. Moving forward, I am committed to continuing to communicate more effectively and being more transparent to build greater trust with our residents.

Perryman: As you know, there has been an erosion of trust in our institutions. And here locally, Black and Brown residents often feel that the city government is distant or unresponsive. How have you worked to rebuild trust and ensure real representation for those communities?

Komives: I've been proud to work with the mothers of victims of gun violence on a march in the Junction neighborhood. I've been proud to work alongside The Junction Coalition and other community groups throughout this city to eradicate lead pipes and create affordable options for water. It all comes down to authenticity, showing up and letting them know that you actually care.

Perryman: What more can we do to invest in young people as a matter of preventing the cycles of violence taking place in specific Toledo neighborhoods?

Councilman Nick Komives

Komives: Unfortunately, in a state like Ohio, we're living under laws that make it extremely easy for people to get their hands on very deadly and violent weapons. You mix that with disinvestment in things like public education, and in neighborhoods that could desperately use public infrastructure improvements and job opportunities, and you wind up with a scenario where, in particular, our youngsters often feel like they don't have a whole lot of a future.

I have been really proud to support the additional funding that we utilized to create more after-school programs and summer programming for kids. We've been seeing the fruit of that labor, but this is a problem that won't be corrected overnight. It's not just about making sure that kids can go to a coding camp or to a football camp; it's about really feeling that we care about our kids. That is why my focus will continue to be on improving our neighborhoods, providing access to our residents and ensuring that people not only feel heard, but are heard.

Perryman: Connected to that, we see a lot of investment going on in areas such as downtown. What role do you see city council playing in ensuring that economic growth benefits every day Toledoans and not just the big developers?

Komives: The city has been making investments in downtown, but they are in things that are public goods, not just a tax break or a giveaway to a developer. We are investing in parks and public infrastructure, and those things will, in return, attract more development. That is also true in our neighborhoods all across the city. You will see that as we continue to invest in places like Swayne Field, the new housing we have invested in the

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Community Calendar

September 20
City of Zion, the Mount Zion Church Community Health Fair: 11 am to 3 pm; Free food, health and community resources, DJ and more

September 21
St. Paul MBC Women's Day: 10:45 am; "Hold On: Help Is on the Way;" Speaker is Rev. Regenia Harper, Past Grand Worthy Matron of Amaranth Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Stars: 419-246-2886

Toledo NAACP Youth Council meeting: 3:00 pm at Sanger Branch Library
R
ose of Calvary Flower Ministry 16th Anniversary; 4:00pm
Pastor Charles H. McBee, Family Baptist Church guest speaker.

September 28
Bible Way Toledo "Lunch After Church – Community Event;" 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM; Baskin-Robbins, 4015 Secor Rd: RSVP: Text (567) 698-8428

October 19
St. Paul A.M. E. Zion Church: Connectional Lay Sunday; 11am; Speaker Deborah Sims of St. Paul; Colors - black and gold; MASKS OPTIONAL

Chicago's Streets Still Moving to America's Historic Rhythms

By Ben Jealous

Guest Column

I started out this year, 2025, in Chicago, honored to give the Martin Luther King Day address at Reverend Jesse Jackson's big gathering. The timing was unforgettable.

As I stepped to the podium on the South Side, Donald Trump was taking the oath of office in Washington, D.C. His inaugural speech was a drumbeat for a new era of hostility toward immigrants and people of color.

Mine, at that very moment, was a call for Chicago's Black middle class to choose solidarity with recent immigrants in resisting such hatred and violence.

That juxtaposition has stayed with me, and it came back into focus when I returned to Chicago more recently. This city has always been a stage for America's great struggles. From the marchers for labor rights at Haymarket in the 1880s, to the rallies for civil rights in the 1960s, to the immigration raids and protests of this year, Chicago has a way of putting our unfinished business right in front of our eyes.

Walking its streets in 2025, I was reminded of the 1920s. Then, too, Chicago was alive with both promise and peril. Jazz poured from clubs in Bronzeville, poetry from the pens of the Harlem Renaissance, and industrial might from the stockyards.

But alongside all that creativity came the sting of exclusion — Prohibition raids, gangland violence, and the rise of a Ku Klux Klan that, for a time, had as many members in Indiana as in Mississippi.

A century later, the echoes are unmistakable. Today, Chicago is once again in the headlines as federal agents sweep through immigrant neighborhoods, as protests spill onto Lake Shore Drive, as tensions around race, belonging, and identity bubble to the surface.

And just as in the 1920s, the people in the streets are not simply "angry mobs" as the headlines often portray them. They are families fighting to be seen, communities demanding dignity, and young people refusing to inherit a broken status quo. This is part of a longer American rhythm. Our centuries often rhyme decade by decade.

The 1820s, for example, saw Andrew Jackson's populist movement rise to power. It promised more democracy for white men, but it also unleashed brutal racism. Jackson's appeal rested on dispossessing Native Americans through forced removal and fanning hostility toward Mexicans and free Black people.

That brand of populism was intoxicating for some, but devastating for others. A hundred years later, the 1920s played a similar tune: new cultural freedoms for some, paired with an immigration crackdown and a Klan resurgence.

And here we are, in the 2020s, facing our own battles over who truly belongs. It is tempting to despair — to think the cycle means we are trapped. But history shows something else. The "20s" are turbulent, but they force the country to face its contradictions. The "30s" bring reckonings, the "40s" wars of ideas and arms, the "50s" fresh anxieties, the

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The Illusion of Peace, Then and Now

By Steven Flagg

Guest Column

From Munich in 1938 to today's debate over Ukraine, appeasement offers not security, but a dangerous invitation to future war.

I first learned about Neville Chamberlain in high school history, the British Prime Minister who returned from Munich waving an agreement and declaring, "I believe it is peace for our time." It sounded noble in the textbook, but history quickly revealed the truth: within months Hitler seized the rest of Czechoslovakia, and within a year, Europe was at war. Peace had been an illusion, bought at the expense of another nation's sovereignty.

That lesson has stayed with me. When I hear talk of conceding land to aggressors today, my mind goes straight to Hitler, Munich, 1938.

The Sudetenland was not just a strip of borderland. It was home to three million ethnic Germans, and it was also Czechoslovakia's defensive shield. Hitler claimed the Germans there were persecuted, and German propaganda amplified those grievances into a supposed humanitarian crisis. Western leaders convinced themselves that handing it over would preserve peace. Instead, they had surrendered Czechoslovakia's modern defensive fortifications and left the country exposed to invasion.

Fast forward eighty-seven years, and Vladimir Putin is playing the same game in Ukraine's Donbas. Roughly 39 percent of the population there identified as Russian in the 2001 census, with Russian widely spoken in its cities. Putin insists these people face persecution, even alleging "genocide." There is no credible evidence for these claims, but they have provided a ready excuse for supporting separatists and then launching a full-scale invasion.

The pattern is identical: inflate grievances, stir unrest, and cloak territorial ambitions in the language of protecting the vulnerable.

For Ukraine, the Donbas is more than symbolic. It is home to key industry and, most importantly, defensive positions like the Kramatorsk–Sloviansk fortress belt. If ceded, Ukraine would lose not just territory, industrial capacity, and population but its best shield against invasion. The new border would be militarily brittle, with few natural obstacles between Russian forces and Ukraine's heartland.

At the Alaska summit this past August, President Trump suggested Ukraine cede the Donbas to Russia. Even raising the idea echoed Munich. Imagine being Ukrainian, hearing outsiders debate your nation's future without your consent. That sense of betrayal would cut as deeply as the concession itself.

Appeasement often feels tempting because it promises to postpone conflict. But history shows what it really does: it multiplies the cost later. Hitler learned in 1938 that the West lacked resolve. Putin is likely to draw the same conclusion if the Donbas were handed over as a bargaining chip.

Ceding the Donbas would not end Putin's war. It would give him a victory to trumpet as proof that aggression works. It would consolidate his control over eastern Ukraine, providing resources, manpower, and a staging ground for the next offensive. Far from freezing the conflict, it would thaw the path for another, larger war.

The lesson of Munich is not only that Hitler lied, though he did. It is that authoritarian expansion thrives when democracies doubt their own principles. In 1938, the democratic powers failed to stand firm for the sovereignty of a small democracy. The cost was World War II.

In 2025, we face a similar test. Ukraine's fight is not just about Donetsk or Luhansk. It is about whether borders in Europe can be redrawn by tanks, whether smaller nations have the right to exist free from the dictates of their larger neighbors, and whether we have learned anything from the last century's blood-soaked lessons.

If we choose the option of appeasement, we may buy the illusion of peace only to set the stage for a wider war that is unavoidable.

Perryman...continued from page 2

South end, and the development you see near Toledo Hospital. We didn't invest a lot of money in the Toledo Hospital development, but due to the influx of many apartments and hundreds of people, we will undoubtedly see further investment from the private sector.

So, we must keep investing in public infrastructure and goods that everyone shares, while also ensuring housing development is viable. Too often, projects stall because the numbers don't work, but without adequate housing, our residents simply have nowhere to live. So, we definitely have to strike that balance.

Perryman: Toledo has seen significant growth in entrepreneurship and small businesses since the COVID-19 pandemic and the gig economy expansion. What role should the city play in supporting this momentum, particularly for women and minority-owned businesses?

Komives: There will always be a significant focus on saving the Jeep plants and similar operations, as they contribute a substantial amount of tax revenue to support our city. And, although large employers remain vital to Toledo's economy, most of our businesses have fewer than 50 employees—and many fewer than 20. That's why city council has prioritized infrastructure improvements and grant programs such as façade upgrades and the White Box grant, which help small businesses modernize and grow.

We've also invested in shared spaces for food truck operators and other entrepreneurs. Many entrepreneurs operate food trucks and, for them, the struggle can be finding a place where they can prepare a large amount of their food, as you can't do that in a food truck. As we become more creative with these types of investments that can be shared among our residents, our entrepreneurs will continue to succeed.

Perryman: Most people think of the caretaker or procedural focus of the standard council member day-to-day governance model rather than legislating. What makes you stand out is that you have consistently brought relevant issues to the forefront and turned them into policies and laws. What will you pursue in the next four years that could actually change the direction of Toledo, given your prolific legislative history?

Komives: I take pride in the number of ordinances I've brought for-

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Brittany Jones: From Writer to Leader, A Journey of Service and Survival

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

Some stories begin subtly, scribbles on paper, a voice speaking from the page, a young woman leaning into the world with curiosity. For **Brittany D. Jones**, PhD, that beginning was here at The Sojourner's Truth. Back in 2008 and 2009, she wrote for our publication, diving into topics that mattered to the community. Many still remember her bold series on natural hair, where she didn't just write about hairstyles—she wrote about identity, confidence and survival.

Brittany's words carried a rhythm. She didn't just report facts; she painted pictures. She made people see themselves and each other with more dignity. At the time, she was just starting out, but even then, you could tell her work was building toward something greater.

Today, Jones sits on Toledo City Council as an At-Large Council Member, representing the very people she once wrote about. Her path from writer to scholar to public servant was never a straight line. Instead, it has been shaped by bends, storms, and seasons, yet every step carried her forward.

The Scholar Who Asked About Survival

Before she began writing for the paper, Jones earned her undergraduate degree from The Ohio State University and then went on to the University of Toledo, where she earned her PhD. Her studies were not abstract or distant. She focused on food, stress and survival—the stuff of everyday life.

Now, think about this for a moment: these are not partisan issues, they are human issues. Whether Democrat, Republican or somewhere in between, everyone knows what it feels like to worry about putting food on the table, to have stress keep you awake at night and what it means to fight, in your own way, just to make it through.

Jones' research gave her a front-row seat to the quiet battles people face. She looked at how survival is shaped not just by willpower but by systems: grocery stores that close early, bus routes that don't reach neighborhoods, schools that struggle to feed children healthy meals. She saw how survival is linked to dignity—and dignity, she believes, is what people need most to thrive.

"It's about listening," Jones explains. "Survival doesn't look the same for everyone, but the human need for dignity is universal."

Her words remind us of something easy to forget in today's noisy world: we are all human first.

A Council Seat and a Chance to Serve

On February 28, 2024, Jones was appointed to Toledo City Council. It was not a role she chased for the spotlight; it was a role she accepted because she felt called to serve.

She walked into those chambers carrying not just policy notes and campaign goals, but also memories of the people she grew up with—the neighbors who inspired her, and the readers who once wrote back to her as a young journalist.

Initially appointed as an At-Large Council Member, Jones was later elected by residents in November 2024 to fill-out the remainder of the unexpired term. Since then, Brittany has not been sitting still. She serves as the vice chair of the Housing & Community Development Committee, and she is also a member of the Parks, Education, Recreation, & Health Committee, the Regional Growth, Development, & Small Business Enterprise Committee, and the Zoning & Planning Committee.

During her time on council, Jones has prioritized improving neighborhood safety, bringing supportive resources to families and making city systems work better for everyday people. These are not glamorous victories, but they are the kind that change daily life. Streetlights that work. Parks that feel safe. Meetings where residents feel heard.

From Service to Leadership

Brittany Jones' career path has its foundation laid with both service and scholarship. At United Way of Greater Toledo, she first worked as a Survey & Evaluation Analyst in the Community Analytics Research Department, turning numbers into narratives that could guide better policies. Today, as Senior Director of Impact & Evaluation, she helps lead the charge in making sure every dollar, every initiative, every effort truly changes lives.

Beyond city hall and United Way, Dr. Jones is the founder of ***Growing Back To Your Roots***, a grassroots organization that builds community through targeting food injustice while restoring ecological stability via enhanced local food economies. She has taught future leaders at the University of Toledo, managed housing programs that rebuilt homes and renewed hope and conducted research spotlighting poverty and inequity.

Her resume is impressive, but her heart is what people remember.

Leadership That Crosses Lines

Jones often describes herself as a "bridge-builder," connecting people who might never sit at the same table—residents and researchers, policymakers and parents, dreamers and doers.

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City Councilwoman Brittany Jones, PhD

All for one and one for all - Councilwomen Jones and Cerssandra McPherson with Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz

A New Chapter for Toledo's Old South End: Broadway Street Reopens with Block Party

By Jefferson Díaz

The Truth Reporter

Broadway Street, the heart of Toledo's Old South End, officially reopened on Friday, September 5, after almost two years of construction, marking the end of a long and challenging chapter for residents and businesses along this corridor.

The City of Toledo celebrated the occasion with a block party that drew families, business owners and community leaders.

The party, held between Western Avenue and Crittenden Avenue, featured live music, a DJ, games for children and food giveaways. The first 150 attendees received free meals. Neighbors danced in the streets, children played freely and local businesses opened their doors to a renewed stream of visitors.

For many of them, the reopening represents both relief and opportunity. Jonathan Ruiz, co-owner of La Paloma, a local restaurant, said the construction had severely impacted foot traffic. "We're finally seeing people we haven't seen in a long time," he said.

Broadway reopening

Usevio "Chevo" Torres, longtime resident of Broadway Street, described the moment as historic for the neighborhood. "It's amazing that we've finally worked on our main street," he said.

Broadway has always been central to community life in the Old South End. For mayoral candidate, Roberto Torres, the remodeling of this street put in danger a lot of businesses, that, at some point "they threatened to leave."

Unexpected delays, including a major water line break, extended the timeline and tested the resilience of local businesses. In response, the city provided $170,000 in grants between 2024 and 2025 to help owners weather the financial strain.

For Sue Cuevas, president and CEO of the nonprofit Nueva Esperanza, the reopening symbolizes more than new pavement. "This isn't just about the end of construction," she said. "It's the beginning of a new era for our community. We're proud to be in the Old South End."

Theresa Gadus, Toledo City councilwoman, whose District 3 includes Broadway Street, said "this celebration is too important, it has been two long years since this project started." Gadus added, "now it's time to bring the community here and celebrate this re-opening helping the businesses."

Chicago's Streets...continued from page 3

"60s" bursts of reform. And the "70s"? Oddly enough, the "70s" tend to be the decades when the nation exhales and reimagines itself.

The 1770s gave us the American Revolution and the Declaration of Independence, proclaiming that all men are created equal and endowed with inalienable rights — life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The 1970s saw the end of the Vietnam War, the fall of Jim Crow, and the rise of new movements for women's rights, environmental protection, and inclusion. If the pattern holds, the 2070s could be the moment when our grandchildren inherit a democracy closer to the promise in our founding documents.

Each American century moves to a similar rhythm. The "20s" are always turbulent — testing our patience and our faith. But they also call forth courage, creativity and the determination to build something better.

As I tell my son, all the rising generations must do is make sure American democracy survives to the 2070s. After all, in America, the "70s" tend to be much better than the "20s."

Ben Jealous is professor of practice at the University of Pennsylvania and former national president and CEO of the NAACP. Trice Edney Communications

Artomatic 419 is Back! The Arts Commission's Beloved 3-Day Arts Event Returns After 10 Years

The Arts Commission is thrilled that, based on popular demand and years of requests by local artists, Artomatic 419 will return to Toledo for the first time since 2015!

This weekend, September 19-21, at the Erie Street Market. Entry is free and open to the public. Artwork, food, and drinks will be available for purchase.

This multi-day event provides indoor exhibition space to more than 100 visual artists, and also offers main stage and small stage performance areas for music, poetry, film, and other literary and performing artists.

Artomatic 419 celebrates the diversity of arts in Toledo in an accessible, inclusive format, builds community among artists, and increases awareness of, and appreciation for, the quality and breadth of Toledo arts.

The Artomatic 419 model brings together artists to co-create and execute this unique festival experience that numerous Toledo artists credit with getting their artistic careers off the ground.

Acclaimed local artist and Artomatic 419 Event Committee member, Amy Beeler said, "When I first participated and attended Artomatic 419, I found an inviting environment to share my work and connect with other artists in the area…The event and the atmosphere it creates are inspirational and lively, filled with the passion that each artist shares with their community. I am thrilled to be part of this event again and believe it will be another Artomatic 419 that we'll be talking about for years to come."

Event Schedule:

Friday, September 19 | 5pm - 9pm

Saturday, September 20 | 2pm - 10pm

Sunday, September 21 | 11am - 3pm

"The strength of Artomatic 419 is its diversity and the countless connections it builds between people, organizations, and audiences. Disparate creative folks work together to create an event, a show, with a cohesion that allows one to see a rendering of the local creative community. It allows artists and performers to get some reps in their chosen field of creativity and offers a showcase for their talents that is accessible to anyone who wants to attend.

It's a snapshot of the creative community at a moment in time. A convening of creative people who might not ordinarily meet, in a venue that would otherwise sit empty and unexplored. The sensibility of the community enlivens the space. Every person is invited, regardless of their level of expertise or years of experience, to contribute to making this event successful", said Kelly McGilvery, Artomatic 419 Event Committee.

Visit https://theartscommission.org/events/artomatic-419 for more details.

Kaptur Statement on Passing of Congresswoman Mary Rose Oakar

This week, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (OH-09) released the following statement upon the passing of Congresswoman Mary Rose Oakar (OH-20) who was the first Democratic woman elected to Congress from Ohio, serving 8 terms from 1977 to 1993.

"We were all blessed to know Mary Rose Oakar — a highly gifted, indefatigable extraordinary woman of deep faith. Mary Rose was elected to Congress from inside the working class of people. She exhibited raw courage, loyalty, perseverance, high learning, precious humor, and stellar insight into human nature. Her hearty laugh elevated people's spirits. She suffered no fools.

"She not only stood her ground but made her own ground — to serve senior citizens, housing, pay equity, and better health care for women, moving into the ranks of Democratic House leaders where she firmly stood as Vice Chair of the Democratic Caucus.

"As the first Arab American woman, and first Syrian-American and first Lebanese-American to serve in Congress, she dedicated endless hours and years to build new bridges toward peace in the Middle East, and understanding of its complexity for communities here at home.

"Mary Rose worked hard to promote an economy that serves everyone, across Northern Ohio, and throughout our nation. Her abilities sparkled as she brought joy, wit, keen insight, kindness, and dynamism to every occasion. I am grateful for her abiding friendship and counsel which she generously shared. She was one of a kind.

"Holding all of her family, friends, and her community in Cleveland in prayer. She truly loved them with all her heart and soul."

Mary Rose Oakar

Angels Among Us: Lisa Canales-Smith's 30-Year Promise of Love and Outreach

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

Nearly 30 years ago, Lisa Canales-Smith made a promise in the middle of a storm. Her newborn daughter, Angel Mia, was fighting for her life, and doctors warned there was little hope. At that moment, time slowed. Fear covered her like a blanket, but Lisa did the one thing she knew to do—pray. She refused to let fear win. Instead, she prayed and clung to her faith. "If you save her, God, I promise, I will spend the rest of my life giving back."

It was a promise made of love and raw faith.

Minutes later, her daughter, Angel Mia Canales, entered the world fighting for every breath. The doctors were skeptical she would survive. With no oxygen and a host of possible complications, the cards were stacked against her. Yet, Lisa knew differently. She knew she had witnessed a miracle.

Against all odds, Angel Mia survived—healthy, whole, and free of complications.

And Lisa fulfilled her promise.

From One Basket to Hundreds

That November, just weeks after bringing her baby home from the hospital, Lisa Canales-Smith began giving away food baskets to families in need. It began small, a few cans of food here, a turkey there. But what started as one family's offering grew into Angels Outreach, a nonprofit that has now served Toledo families for three decades.

"We've been serving

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University of Mississippi Unveils Plaque to Honor Black Student Protest

Special to The Truth

The University of Mississippi unveiled a plaque commemorating a 1970 campus protest by Black students at Fulton Chapel. A ceremony was held on Tuesday, Sept. 2, outside Fulton Chapel, where the plaque stands.

The plaque honors the Ole Miss 8, who, on Feb. 24, 1970, presented the Black Student Union's 27 demands at a peaceful protest against racial discrimination at the university. The students voiced their desires for "inclusivity on campus."

These eight students, along with several other Black students, were arrested and all eight were also "suspended from the university," and the other students were "placed on probation," reads the plaque.

The Ole Miss 8 finished their degrees elsewhere, but in 2020, UM offered a formal apology to the group and presented Linnie Liggins Willis with her diploma, which the university denied her in 1970 despite the fact that she had completed all her required hours.

Linnie Willis' Remarks for the Unveiling of the Historical Marker at Ole Miss

Good afternoon to everyone. It is truly a pleasure to be back here today. Many years ago I would not have said that but today it is truly a "pleasure."

Rev. James Willis and Linnie Willis admire the plaque

First, I would like to give thanks to the Almighty God, who made it possible for me to be here. There are many who could not be present because of various reasons. He blessed me with enough health and strength to return for this day and for that I give Him all the thanks and all the praise.

Thank You To: My Grandmother, My Mom (who is deceased), My Family, especially those who are here with me: my husband, my youngest son, my sister, my niece and my nephew. When I came back in 2020 my husband and I were traveling alone. I brought some backup today. Thanks also to Dr. Boyce, Dr. Wilkin and the staff who were/are members of The Black Power at Ole Miss Task force.

Let us quickly get into "my story."

I was nearing the completion of my freshman year at Tougaloo College when my

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Four members of the Ole Miss 8 - Donald Ray Cole, Linnie Willis, Henriese Roberts and Kenneth Mayfield

Four members of the Ole Miss 8 along with current Ole Miss students

Linnie Willis speaks at the commemoration

Angels Among Us...continued from page 8

nonstop for 30 years," Lisa says with pride. "Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter: we've never missed a season."

Picture it, a church fellowship hall filled wall-to-wall with food. Volunteers line up to pack baskets with care—hams, stuffing, pies, and more. Then, something even more amazing happens. Police officers, firefighters, state troopers, and sheriff's deputies join in, not with sirens and flashing lights, but with open arms and warm smiles.

"The civic leaders put the baskets in their cars and deliver them all over the city," Lisa explains. "It's special when families see police and firefighters outside of moments of crisis. They see them as neighbors bringing hope."

What started at Lisa's kitchen table has grown into a citywide tradition. Hundreds of families each holiday season now sit down to eat dinner that is delivered by heroes in uniform along with a message of love.

A Ministry in the checkout line

The outreach doesn't stop at the church. For Lisa and her husband, Rier Smith, the mission has spilled over into everyday life—even in grocery store checkout lines.

"We'll be in line with eight carts of food, and everyone asks, 'What are you doing?' " Lisa laughs. "That's my chance to tell my testimony and the story of how it all began."

Strangers have opened their hearts and pocketbooks time and again. Some fish into their wallets and pass Lisa cash. Some of the people Google Angels Outreach on the spot and give donations. Once, a young man handed Lisa his very last $5. She tried to stop him, but he wouldn't let her. "Please take it," he said. "God is asking me to bless you."

That small gesture had a big impact on Lisa. "I've watched that young man ever since and it was beautiful to see how God multiplied that in his life," she says softly.

"Another time, Lisa's standing in line at Kroger with enough food for 25 families, but had promised God she would feed 50. She didn't know how it would happen. Then, a woman she had just met stepped forward and paid for everything in Lisa's carts. Lisa went back and filled the other 25 baskets. Promise kept.

"It happens every time," Lisa says in reverence. "God always provides."

Growing Beyond the Holidays

Today, Angels Outreach does more than holiday baskets. The organization holds a huge December toy drive, giving toys to children via partner organizations. Volunteers also put together "Angel Boxes"— care packages containing socks, gloves, hand warmers, toothpaste, and shampoo — that are hand-delivered to people who are homeless.

"We meet people where they are," Lisa says. "No judgment. Just love."

Volunteers have been delivering hot meals to 75 disabled veterans in South Toledo every Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter, too. That makes for a long day, early morning basket packing, midday deliveries and the afternoon dinner service, but Lisa wouldn't trade it for anything.

"These men and women have sacrificed so much," she says. "Serving them is an honor."

A Daughter's Legacy

At the heart of Angels Outreach is still the little girl who wasn't supposed to survive. Today, Angel Mia is a firefighter with the 180th in Holland, Ohio. She's married to the love of her life, Mike, also a firefighter, and they're raising two young sons.

She's also on the Angels Outreach board, though Lisa tells her the organization is not a cross she must bear.

"This was my vow to God, not hers," Lisa says. "We all have a special assignment."

But, watching her daughter flourish has brought Lisa more joy than she ever imagined. "She's living her best life. And to believe there was a time when a doctor said he didn't know if she would live. God is good."

The Power of Faith and Community

Looking back, Lisa says she just doesn't know why her baby survived when so many others don't. "I can't give an answer to that, when I meet parents struggling with loss," she says softly. "But I do know prayer has power. I know that faith triggers miracles."

For Lisa, faith isn't complicated. "All God wants is two things, our faith and for us to be in relationship with Him," she says. "And the rest, He provides."

It is her belief that everyone has a role in bringing light to the world. It doesn't have to be big. Sometimes it's as small as smiling at a stranger.

"You never know," she observes. "Your smile could stop someone from giving up. Everything we do has a purpose."

Thirty Years of Angels

As Angels Outreach celebrates its 30th anniversary, Lisa reflects on the highs and lows—the sleepless nights wondering how they'd feed families, the strangers stepping in with miraculous provision, the long days packing food and praying over first responders.

Through it all, one truth stands tall: a promise kept can ripple through generations.

Lisa's promise to God in a hospital room three decades ago became a lifeline for thousands of families across Toledo. Her story is proof that faith can move mountains, prayer can spark miracles, and ordinary people can become everyday angels.

In Lisa's eyes, the work is far from done.

"We are never meant to leave this world without turning around to help the next person," she says. "That's why I'll keep serving as long as I can. I've learned the best way to honor a blessing is to turn it into one for someone else."

To learn more or to support Angels Outreach, visit angelsoutreachtoledo.org

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University of Mississippi... continued from page 9

grandmother (Ms. Linnie Mae) encouraged me to return home and enroll at Ole Miss. It was difficult to imagine leaving Tougaloo, a warm, welcoming and fun environment with folks who looked like me.

As I contemplated a possible transfer I asked myself what purpose would be served. After serious thought and soul-searching I decided that I could accomplish the following:

1. Continue with my dream to become the first in my family to receive a college degree;

2. Become the first African American from the Oxford community to graduate from Ole Miss;

3. Serve as a role model and recruit other African American students to attend Ole Miss;

4. Pursue graduate studies and become a professional contributing member of the Oxford community and ultimately the University.

With these goals in mind I returned home, enrolled at the University and moved into the dormitory on campus. After having enjoyed an exciting first

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Preparing Pre-Teens and Teens for the Classroom Includes Immunizations

Special to The Truth

Young people ages seven to 18 are busy checking off their back-to-school or college lists. Visiting their pediatrician or family doctor to get up to date on immunizations should be part of that list. Immunizations will prepare their immune systems to recognize and resist viruses that spread quickly once classes begin. These are viruses that can lead to health issues like infertility, muscle paralysis, brain damage, blindness, deafness and cancer.

The recommended immunization schedule approved by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) is based on ongoing review of the most recent scientific data and relies on two main factors: when the vaccine works best with your child's immune system, and when they need protection most.

"Seeing your pediatrician to catch up on vaccinations helps keep classmates, teachers and others in the school community healthy, too." says Rebekah Fenton, MD, FAAP, an adolescent medicine physician at a community health center in Chicago.

The AAP is sharing this information about recommended vaccines and the diseases they prevent:

Meningococcal Disease

At 11 or 12, your pre-teen should get their first dose of meningococcal vaccine to protect against meningococcal disease, a fast-acting disease that is life-threatening if not caught and treated within a few hours. Caused by bacteria that can infect the bloodstream, brain and spinal cord, anyone can get meningococcal disease. Among young people, it's most common in babies and 16-20-year-olds. Infections are spread through close contact like coughing or kissing, and lengthy contact in spaces like college dorms.

Meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY) vaccine protects against four bacterial strains, labeled A, C, W and Y.

Meningococcal B (MenB) vaccine protects against another bacterial strain and is recommended for kids with certain chronic health conditions that make them more vulnerable or anyone 16-18 whose pediatrician recommends it.

Meningococcal ABCWY (MenABCWY) combines protection from MenACWY and MenB. If both vaccines are recommended at the same visit, it can be used instead of separate injections.

Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis

At 11 or 12, pediatricians give the Tdap booster to protect against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough). It's a slightly different version of a vaccine your child received as a baby (DTaP), with lower doses of the diphtheria and pertussis vaccines. After this, they'll need additional boosters every 10 years.

Tetanus is caused by exposure to naturally occurring bacteria in soil or dust through a break in the skin. Tetanus produces a toxin that causes painful muscle contractions. Also known as lockjaw, it can cause neck and jaw muscles to lock, making it hard to open the mouth or swallow.

Diphtheria causes serious throat infection, breathing problems and heart failure. The vaccine is a lifesaver. Before it existed, diphtheria killed 1 of every 5 kids infected.

Pertussis can cause a cough that won't go away and sometimes vomiting or trouble breathing. The protection your teen got from their childhood vaccine starts to wear off around age 11, making the booster essential. Teens can easily spread the disease, including to infants, who are at even more risk.

Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

The HPV vaccine prevents genital warts and works well to protect against strains of the virus that cause more than 90 percent of six types of cancer, including cervical cancer, penile and anal cancers, and cancers of the mouth and throat. Vaccinating kids ages nine-12 allows them to build strong immunity against the virus before exposure. If they don't get the first dose until age 15, they'll need three doses.

Influenza

The flu is unpredictable and there is no way to know if your child will have mild illness and miss just a few days of school or if they will get seriously ill and need hospital care. But be wary. U.S. flu deaths in children broke records during the 2024-25 season, with at least 216 deaths. The AAP recommends flu shots annually for everyone 6 months and older to prevent severe illness.

COVID-19

Millions globally, including teenagers and children, have received the COVID-19 vaccine. If your child has never had this vaccine, their immune system won't be ready to recognize and resist the virus that can lead to long-term problems associated with COVID.

Behind on Other Vaccines?

Delaying vaccines leaves your child vulnerable to preventable diseases. The AAP vaccine schedule is designed to prepare their body to resist contagious diseases as early and fully as possible. This keeps them healthy and active, instead of missing out while they're sick.

Learn more about vaccines at www.HealthyChildren.org and catch up on those your child missed. Most vaccines can be given at the same time as others.

"Kids' and teens' bodies can handle multiple vaccines in a short time because their immune system is in constant learning mode. Vaccines help kids stay healthy by keeping them ahead of serious, preventable diseases," says Dr. Fenton.

Courtesy StatePoint

Perryman...continued from page 2

ward, especially those tackling housing rights and discrimination. That work has shown me how interconnected our challenges are. In the next term, I aim to continue exploring creative solutions—whether it's securing revenue to fund eviction defense or investing in infrastructure that will last for another generation.

One initiative I'm especially excited about is a convenience drop-off site for waste. It's a win on multiple fronts: curbing illegal dumping, beautifying neighborhoods, providing residents easier access to services and generating new revenue for the city during challenging budget times.

Perryman: Finally, how do you want the communities you serve to remember you whenever you decide to complete your tenure on Toledo City Council?

Komives: My legacy is the cultural shift we've created around sustainability. When I began my tenure, I was often the lone voice pushing for environmental initiatives. Today, the entire council embraces them, and the public has responded with strong support. You can see it in the use of services like food waste drop-off sites and in the way sustainability is now part of how we think as a city.

Toledo's identity has always been tied to the lake in our backyard, and refocusing on that relationship will only strengthen and enhance our future.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at drdlperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org

Brittany Jones...continued from page 5

"When we strip away the noise of politics, what's left is our responsibility to care for one another. Humanity is not red or blue—it is flesh and blood, breath and spirit. We cannot forget that."

She focuses on people over politics.

"At the end of the day, we all want the same things—safe neighborhoods, strong families, and opportunities for our children. My role is to help create pathways for that, no matter who you are or how you vote."

Her professional journey is as varied as it is impactful. From overseeing home reconstruction as Housing Programs Manager to fighting childhood hunger, every role she has held reflects a simple but profound belief: people matter.

The Heart of Humanity

In a world that often feels fractured, leaders like Brittany help us see that even broken pieces can reflect light. Her journey from writer to scholar to council member reminds us that service begins with small acts—an article, a question, a listening ear—and grows into something larger than yourself.

The current political landscape in our country is tender. Recent acts of violence have shaken communities across the nation. Regardless of party lines, harm done to anyone, no matter their beliefs, is harm to all of us.

Yet too often, we treat suffering as if it belongs on someone else's street or is someone else's problem. Jones' work in housing, food access and community development, shows us another way. She reminds us, "Compassion is not charity, it's architecture. It builds stronger blocks, stronger cities, stronger nations."

Lessons from Natural Hair

It may sound simple, but Brittany's early writing about natural hair still speaks volumes today. She wrote about the pride and challenges that come with wearing your hair the way it grows. She told stories that helped people feel seen.

That series was not just about hair. It was about freedom—the freedom to be yourself without shame. It was about survival in a society that sometimes asks you to hide. And it was about resilience, the quiet strength of saying, "This is who I am."

In many ways, these diverse lessons prepared Brittany Jones for public life. Leading with honesty. Showing up as yourself. Fighting for the dignity of others.

Why She Wants to Keep Serving

As Brittany seeks re-election, her focus is not on ideology. She talks about finishing the projects she started, about building systems that last, and about making sure no one feels forgotten in the city she loves.

She believes public service is about leaving a place better than you found it. Not perfect. Not finished. Just better.

When asked why she is running again, she says: "I'm running for re-election because I believe in building solutions that cross divides and actually make a difference in people's everyday lives."

Her words are calm, but they carry weight. Leadership, she shows, is not about being the loudest voice in the room, it's about being the most attentive listener.

A Call to Care

Brittany's story is about more than her. It is about us. About what happens when we remember that we are neighbors first, and voters second. About what happens when we care for each other not because we agree, but because we are human.

And her call to the community is one we should all hear: care for each other. Care enough to listen. Care enough to disagree without hate. Care enough to show up for one another when it matters most.

It is about holding each other up when the world tries to pull us down.

If there is one thing Dr. Brittany D. Jones wants us to know, it is this: we are all in this together. When we care, when we vote, when we act, we plant seeds for a stronger future. Every choice to show up, every decision to listen, every effort to help, builds a world worth passing on.

The 2025 General Election is set for Tuesday, November 4, 2025. Early voting begins Tuesday, October 7, 2025, and continues through Monday, November 3, 2025. Learn more about early voting in Ohio

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University of Mississippi... continued from page 10

year college experience at Tougaloo College, I was in for a rude awakening.

The separate, racist atmosphere that permeated the campus did not lend itself to a memorable college experience.

With the exception of a few liberal-minded professors, we only had each other to depend on and to communicate with. For me, one of those professors was Dr. John D. Crews, a professor in the English Department. It was only a few years ago that I learned that Dr. Crews wrote a letter to the University Administration on my behalf.

Fast forward to 1970. By this time we had organized the Black Student Union, which became our "Voice," and that "Voice" said "enough is enough." We must speak up and advocate for ourselves and more importantly we needed to bring our concerns to the attention of the University Administration. That "Voice" led to the development of 27 Demands and ultimately to the peaceful, peaceful protest at Fulton Chapel on February 25, 1970.

The memory of how we were treated that evening (transported to the county jail and to the prison at Parchman) and the sacrifices that were made to bring attention to the fact that we were a non-existing population on campus remain with many of us even today. Somehow our demands and our history were suppressed and buried.

At the culmination of the protest, I was identified by the administration as one of the 8 individuals who should be expelled from school. We became known as "The Ole Miss 8." I was deemed to be a "leader." Since that time I have purposely tried to lead in a lot of areas, however, at that time it was not true. I was a graduating senior and I completed all required coursework, however, I was not allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony, nor did I receive my diploma. I owe a debt of gratitude to at least three of my professors who advised me that if I completed all of my coursework, I could receive my degree. They further stated that I could still attend their classes and they would not ask me to leave.

Fifty years later, we were invited back to the University for the beginning of the University's attempt at Repair, Reconciliation and Relationship Building. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Garrett Felber, who discovered our history and who compelled the Administration to begin the process of righting the wrongs of the past and ensuring that the history of the Ole Miss 8/81 would become an integral part of the vast history of this University.

Thank you Dr. Felber for returning to share this incredible experience with us today.

In 2020 when I was trying to decide if I wanted to return for the 50-year recognition of the protest I received a phone call from Dr. Wilkin. It was a Sunday afternoon and the family was having dinner at our favorite Soul Food Restaurant. When I answered the call he identified himself and he promised that if I would return he would personally present my diploma. That promise had a profound impact on my decision to return.

As a follow up to our return to campus Dr. Boyce and Dr. Wilkin established The Black Power at Ole Miss Task Force to seek ways and opportunities to reconnect and acknowledge the positive contributions we made that resulted in meaningful change at the University. I was asked by Dr. Shawnboda Mead to participate with the Task Force with the thought that this could possibly assist me in reckoning with the tremendous hurt, anger and disappointment that had resonated in my spirit for 50 years. As with the Black Student Union, The Task Force identified "asks" from the University to aid in the reckoning and repair process.

I am pleased to report that eight full scholarships are now being awarded,

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History Matters by David McCullough, edited by Dorie McCullough Lawson and Michael Hill, foreword by Jon Meacham

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

c. 2025
Simon & Schuster
$27.00
169 pages

It all happens so fast.

Seems like 20 minutes after something occurs, another event takes its place; even this morning's news already has dust on it. It feels like a race you didn't enter, in a world where things happen in a blink – and yet, as you'll see in the new book ***History Matters*** **by David McCullough, edited by Dorie McCullough Lawson and Michael Hill,** even the least event means something.

Not long ago, Dorie McCullough Lawson, daughter of the late writer David McCullough, and Michael Hill, who was McCullough's research assistant for "almost forty years," began "going through DMcD's papers" and boxes of decades-old work. Critters had gotten into some of the boxes, but hadn't ruined anything; instead, it quickly became apparent that the Pulitzer Prize-winning Truman, which marked McCullough Lawson 's career helping her father, wasn't the only work to contain McCullough's curiosity and delight over historical surprises.

"Indifference to history isn't just ignorant, it's rude." McCullough was fond of saying. "It's a form of ingratitude."

Indeed, McCullough seemed to view history as a thing to appreciate, as one does a beautiful piece of art. He marveled over the actions of humans, the incredibleness of bridges and the joy of learning. Buildings fascinated him; he wrote often about architecture and, says his daughter, he particularly appreciated builders.

Luck, said McCullough, was a factor in American history, often "on a grand scale." Work is what has made us, and real people with real human flaws have moved us forward. We can't compare ourselves to those who've gone before us because we live in different times - which may explain why readers can struggle to understand history.

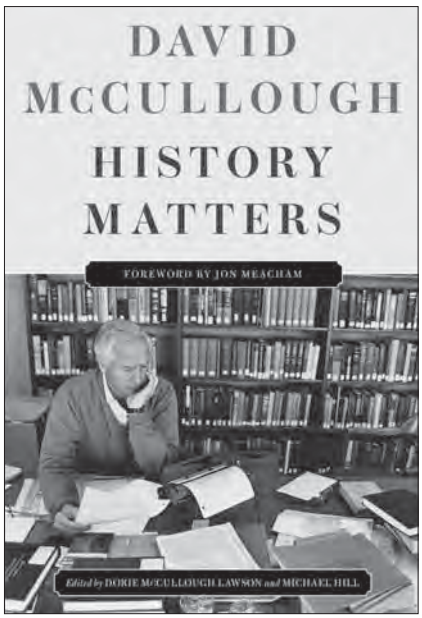
Sometimes, McCullough says, he struggled to understand it himself.

Still, we should never stop being, learning or learning about the past.

"There is no better way to understand who we are and why we are… and where we may be heading," he says, "than by reading history from the hands of good writers."

In the past few years, you've probably heard someone say that history repeats itself. The late author David McCullough may've been intrigued by that - and with that in mind, this reflective collection of his shorter works will please you, too.

Wisdom drips from each page of this book, wisdom compiled from six decades of research and writing that McCullough did, and his feelings for his subjects. He was, according to his editors here and by his own admission, the kind of person who threw himself headfirst into learning as much as he could about that which interested him, and anyone who ever read his work saw that. His delight in his subjects was infectious, and that's really very appealing for readers who love history.



History Matters doesn't contain the same kinds of writings that you may have come to expect from McCullough but as a collection of his thoughts and musings, it's a very nice complement to his larger, longer works. Read this short book. It's the kind you enjoy, then turn around and enjoy again fast.

University of Mississippi... continued from page 12

specifically recognizing the "Ole Miss 8." We are awaiting the completion of a commemorative walkway leading to Longstreet Hall, to include the names of the 8/81. Dr. Ralph Eubanks has been commissioned to compile the oral and written histories of those who are willing to participate.

I must acknowledge that the University, over the years, has made every effort to bring to fruition the 27 Demands that we presented in 1970. All of the students, not just African American are currently benefitting from a more diverse, inclusive student population.

Finally, it is with a great sense of pride that I stand here today awaiting the unveiling of the Mississippi Freedom Trail Marker, which will enshrine the history and collective impact of the OleMiss8/81 into the fabric of this institution in perpetuity.

At church on Sunday, someone sang "A Change Is Gonna Come" by Sam Cooke. At the Luncheon today that same song was playing in the background. I say to you today that "A Change Has Come."

After 55 years of denial and wandering aimlessly in the wilderness, today I embrace and acknowledge that I indeed have an Alma Mater and it is the University of Mississippi.

September 2, 2025

Lucas County Board of Elections

3737 West Sylvania Ave ★ Suite 121 ★ Toledo, Ohio 43623-4422
419-213-4001 ★ 419-213-4069 (fax)
www.lucascountyohiovotes.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact
LaVera Scott; Timothy Monaco
419-213-4001

Lucas County Board of Elections is in need of Election Workers

The Board of Elections is in need of Seasonal workers, Precinct Election Officials (PEOs), and Election Day workers, for the November 4, 2025, General Election.

Seasonal workers work assignments may begin on Monday, September 15, 2025, through Election Day, dependent upon work assignment. Starting pay is $15.65 an hour, increasing to $16.40 an hour after working 140 hours.

Precinct Election Officials (PEOs) begin Election Day at 5:30 a.m., continue through the close of polls at 7:30 p.m., and are released once all postelection duties are completed that evening. PEOs are paid $20 to attend a training class, $50 for Monday night set-up/training and $133 base pay for working Election Day, for a total of $203.

Election Day Work Schedule and hours worked are dependent upon job specifications. Shifts available are between two and 15 hours, and Election Day workers are paid between $15.00 and $21.00 per hour. Some jobs require mandatory training, which is paid at $20.00 to $25.00 per class. Examples of Election Day workers are rovers, riders, and hospital workers. Positions are also available within our tabula-tion area and within any of our seven county substations, where shifts generally begin at 7:30 p.m.
Qualifications: You must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age and a registered voter in Lucas County. You must not have been con-victed of a felony and you cannot be a candidate for an office in the election for which you would be working. You must have reliable transportation.

If you are interested in becoming a PEO, please contact:
Robert Royster at 419.213.2043 RJRoyster@lucascountyoh.gov or
Veronica Hill at 419.213.2034 Vrhill@lucascountyoh.gov

If you are interested in any Election Day positions, please contact:
Pamela Wilson at 419.213.2644 prwilson@lucascountyoh.gov or
Miesha Hughley 419.213.2045 mhughley@lucascountyoh.gov

For employment applications, go to Lucas County Board of Elections website:
https://www.lucascountyohiovotes.gov/job_postings/index.php

MINORITY WAY

CORNER OF BANCROFT & FRANKLIN

A OF BLACK OWNED BUSINESSES

optigo

By Twix N Between

Kristin Moncrief, the owner of Optigo by Twix 'N' Between, has opened a new shop in the Minority Way Plaza (corner of Bancroft and Franklin) in order to provide vision care in a setting anyone can find at any time of the day or week.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call or text 419-754-0278 or visit twixnbetween.com.

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The Truth Colours Gallery

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347-286-9227

We Care Home

Healthcare Agency

Gerald B. Aaron is a dedicated and compassionate Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) who has made significant strides in the healthcare industry. As the owner of **We Care Home Healthcare Agency LLC,** Gerald has been pivotal in delivering exceptional home healthcare services to individuals in need. His agency is renowned for its unwavering commitment to compassionate care, helping chronically ill, disabled, and injured individuals receive the support they need in the comfort of their own homes.

567-702-0329 – wecarehcc@hotmail.com

JEWEL REALTY

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GOLD STAR VETERANS LIFE ENRICHMENT SERVICES is a non-profit corporation and shall operate exclusively for educational and charitable purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future Federal tax code. Our mission is to provide support to our veteran community through various veteran assistant programs, volunteer help and donations. We are committed to assisting our veterans to rebuild their lives in thanks for preserving our right to live in freedom in the United States of America.

3.02 Non-Profit

GOLD STAR VETERANS LIFE ENRICHMENT SERVICES is designated as a non-profit corporation.

Public Bid Advertisement (Electronic Bidding)

State of Ohio Standard Forms and Documents

0016-26-006
SU Office of Student Engagement and Connections
The University of Toledo
Lucas County, OH

Bids Due: October 7, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. through the State's electronic bidding system at https://bidexpress.com

EDGE Participation Goal: 5.0% of contract of the contract sum with EDGE-certified business(es).

Domestic steel use is required per ORC 153.011.

Contract	Estimated Cost
Base Bid - General Contract	$447,435.00
Alternate 1	$1,000.00
Alternate 2	$5,000.00

And any proper combination submitted on electronic Bid Form

Pre-bid Meeting: September 23, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. – Main Campus, Plant Operations Building - Room 1000, The University of Toledo, 2925 East Rocket Drive, Toledo, OH 43606

Walk-Through: Immediately following Pre-Bid.

Bid Documents: Available electronically at https://bidexpress.com.

More Info: Buehrer Group Architecture & Engineering, Inc., Kent Buehrer, President, 419.893.9021, kent@buehrergroup.com

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
LEGAL SERVICES
RFP25-R002

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Legal Services in accordance with RFP25-R002.** Received in accordance with law until **October 2, 2025, at 3:00 PM EST.** For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.

LUCAS METROPOLITAN HOUSING

TARTA SEEKS FEEDBACK ON PROPOSED SERVICE CHANGES

The Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) will host 5 public events to gather community feedback on proposed service changes which – if approved – would take effect January 25, 2026.

Proposed service changes include:

- Service every 30 minutes for routes 3, 10, 20 and 31 between the hours of 6:30-9:30 a.m. and 2:30-5:30 p.m.
- The extension of Route 2 to Lourdes University
- The extension of both fixed route and TARTA Move paratransit service stop time (from 10:49 p.m. to 11:19 p.m.)
- A new route: 18, covering Alexis Road from Jackman Road to the Meijer on Alexis Road.
- The elimination of all route letters (i.e. 31H, 20F, 10L etc.). Branches of those routes would be covered by other schedule changes
- The elimination of routes 14 and 52. Other routes would be adjusted to cover the Route 14 area, and portions of Route 52 will be covered by Route 17, with TARTA Flex still providing service to that section of Secor Road
- Less frequent service on all routes after 6 p.m. Service every 90 minutes would begin at the 6 p.m. lineup for all routes.

The purpose of these events is to seek comment from the public and the business community on these proposals. These forums will focus on the Title VI equity analyses surrounding the service changes. Public meetings are scheduled for the following dates:

- In-person Open House at TARTA Transit Hub, 612 N. Huron Street, Toledo, **Monday, Sept. 29,** 10 a.m.-noon
- In-person Open House at TARTA Transit Hub, 612 N. Huron Street, Toledo, **Monday, Sept. 29,** 1-3 p.m.
- In-person meeting at Mott Branch of Toledo Lucas County Public Library, 1010 Dorr Street, Toledo, **Monday, Oct. 6,** 6-8 p.m.
- Virtual meeting, **Monday, Oct. 13**, 6-7 p.m. via Zoom
- Virtual meeting, **Wednesday, Oct. 15,** 10-11 a.m. via Zoom

A complete list of proposed changes will be posted at tarta.com/servicechange beginning **Monday, September 22**. For more information on any of these public meetings, visit tarta.com/community/events/public-meetings. Customers and others from the public interested in submitting questions or comments may do so by emailing them to servicechange@tarta.com.

DIGITAL MARKETING SPECIALIST

WGTE Public Media is seeking a Digital Marketing Specialist who is creative, organized, and passionate about connecting audiences with the mission of public media. In this role, you'll support marketing efforts for WGTE's TV, radio, and educational services, as well as development and outreach initiatives.

You'll help strengthen WGTE's digital presence across websites, podcasts, streaming platforms, the WGTE app, e-newsletters, and social media.

What You'll Do

• Write press releases, promotional content, and member communications
• Design and coordinate e-blasts, newsletters, and digital campaigns
• Manage and grow WGTE's social media presence through daily posts and promotions
• Update and maintain WGTE websites and online content
• Graphic Integration/Creation
• Support community outreach events through displays, materials, and public engagement
• Collaborate across departments to ensure consistent branding and messaging

What We're Looking For

• Bachelor's degree in marketing, communications, journalism, media production, or related field
• At least 2 years of relevant professional experience
• Strong writing, editing, and communication skills
• Experience with Adobe Creative Cloud, Canva, and Microsoft Office
• Experience with email marketing platforms (e.g., Constant Contact)
• Familiarity with AI tools such as ChatGPT
• Self-starter with excellent attention to detail and ability to manage multiple priorities
• Special event coverage and coordination, including occasional evening and weekend hours, as needed
• Familiarity with nonprofit fundraising or public media ethics a plus

Send your letter and résumé to employment@wgte.org or Human Resources, P.O. Box 30, Toledo, OH 43614.

INVITATION FOR BIDS
NEW SITE SANITARY SEWERS AT OAK GROVE ESTATES
IFB25-B011

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive bids for **New Site Sanitary Sewers at Oak Grove Estates in accordance with IFB25-B011**. Received in accordance with law until **October 8, 2025, at 3:00 PM ET.** For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.

LUCAS METROPOLITAN HOUSING

Summit Streetscape Public Input Session

By Emily R. Evans
The Truth Reporter

The City of Toledo, in partnership with Edge Group and Tetra Tech, invited residents to a public input session at 915 Summit Street on September 10, to review and share ideas for potential improvements to Summit Street in the Vistula neighborhood.

Community members were encouraged to stop by, learn about proposed streetscape changes and provide feedback. The session focused on enhancing pedestrian safety and creating inviting, vibrant spaces that will make Summit Street more enjoyable and accessible for residents and visitors.

This was an opportunity for neighbors to share their ideas and have a direct impact on the future of Summit Street according to the press release announcing the session.

The event was in an open space, business casual, and had multiple images of the Summit Street area blown up to create visuals of each proposed project. There were representatives from the city all around the room engaged in deep conversation about the projects. The room buzzed with excitement as ideas were shared and progress was acknowledged.

Brandon Sehlhorst, director of Economic Development for the City of Toledo, said: " the meeting is public to get the city's feedback and input about the streetscape project. It's focused on Toledo's oldest neighborhood, the Vistula area, from Cherry and Summit down to the I -280 bridge."

Selhorst noted that when the public sector invests in the public infrastructure, it attracts private sector investments. It has been proven to work many times through similar projects in other neighborhoods. His role is to drive the project by creating a plan, securing funding by obtaining federal and state support for each project.

This project is fairly new and still in the beginning stages and it's all about hearing from the city residents and what they want to see. As a result of the project, Toledoans should see new sidewalks that are expansive enough to fit outdoor cafes, decorative elements, improved streets, medians down Summit, improved lighting and street trees.

The new work plans' main objectives are to assist in giving people the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of traveling downtown and to decrease accidents. Past projects have shown this process works and has shown a decrease in vehicular fatalities and injuries. The goal is to slow down traffic, enhance esthetics, create better connectivity from the riverwalk to the neighborhood and to ultimately make the city's ambiance more attractive. Feedback received from the city residents will be heard and noted.

Selhorst would love for the city residents to get online and take the survey on the City of Toledo's website. Type in Summit Street and complete a quick survey to give personal input on what you would like to see and how funds should be used pertaining to this project.