



Volume 92 No. 6

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

November 19, 2025

At the Forefront of Toledo's Legislative Leadership



Vanice S. Williams, Toledo City Council President

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Voices Rising

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

The Truth Contributor

The next generation doesn't just want to vote — they want to see leaders who reflect their communities and their realities

- John Della Volpe



Brittany Jones' finish as one of the top two vote-getters in Toledo City Council's at-large election signals a shift — a generational, demographic, and political transformation underway not only in Lucas County but across the nation.

Jones' rise is part of a broader national trend. In Detroit, Mary Sheffield, age 38, became the city's first woman and first Black woman mayor, while Dorsey Appling and Sharon Owens made history as their cities' first Black mayors in Albany and Syracuse, New York, respectively.

And in rural Alabama, 26-year-old Ciara Smith was sworn in as the youngest and first Black mayor of Anniston, showing that this next-generation leadership is not limited to major urban centers.

From metropolitan neighborhoods to smaller cities, young Black women are stepping into power, reflecting their communities and reshaping local governance, and voters are loving it.

It's Not 2024 Anymore

Director of the Lucas County Board of Elections, Lavera Scott, offered insight into what this election revealed about voter behavior. "People are making more conscious decisions... After the last election, so many stayed home," she said. "But this year, campaigns communicated clearly: if you want your voice heard, you have to show up."

Our local results, which Scott discusses, are a microcosm of a national trend: an electorate that understands its voice matters and is determined to exercise it.

Amy Walter, columnist for the acclaimed Cook Political Report, noted that this voting cycle highlighted "snap-back" shifts not only in heavily minority communities but also in suburban areas and among voters Trump had targeted in 2024, including Hispanic populations and white women. The results indicate that these communities — motivated by both local concerns and dissatisfaction with the national political climate — were mobilizing decisively and making their voices heard.

A Top Vote-Getter With a Message

When I asked Jones what her first-place finish meant to her personally and to the African-American community, she didn't speak of triumph. She spoke of responsibility:

"It is truly an honor... It shows that the Black vote is just as important

and powerful. No demographic should be taken for granted — especially the Black vote, because we are vocal, influential, and capable of organizing. Personally, it means grit and faith will get you through."

Jones also wants to "keep the vibe alive," sees her win as a torch-passing moment for others:

"I hope this inspires young people, women, and people of color to get into politics — not just running but organizing and managing. We need to be at the table. I especially want to inspire mothers. Having children should not be a deterrent to a woman's career."

Policy Priorities That Reflect the Community

Yet, Jones' victory signals more than just representation; it reflects a commitment to addressing the everyday struggles of her constituents. In our post-election conversation, Jones discussed the importance of strengthening Toledo's food system infrastructure, describing access to healthy, affordable food as not only a public health priority but also a potential driver for economic development.

And she has made economic equity a central concern, ensuring that residents squeezed by rising costs and stagnant wages have a voice in city government. Thus, she is equally focused on homeownership, understanding the challenges of both affording and maintaining homes for working- and middle-class families.

These are the priorities that underscore her broader mission to make Toledo City government responsive to communities whose needs have too often been overlooked. In doing so, Jones embodies the spirit of the next generation of leaders — young, community-rooted, and determined to transform long-ignored needs into tangible, lasting policy change.

The Key Lesson

"Local elections are the most important — and EVERY vote counts,"

... continued on page 3



City Councilwoman Brittany Jones, PhD

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A Hand From the Grave Is Grabbing Trump

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

Don't you just love it when you watch horror flicks when the wrongdoer is either lying on the ground or sitting in a chair or lying in bed that, to his abject horror, he sees a disconnected hand grabbing him and trying to pull him to his grave.

After all, it is only poetic justice that the wrongdoer gets his just desserts at the hand of the person who did or may have had a part in his demise.

If you ever watched the eye movements of the late great movie actor, Vincent Price, he was the master of creating horrified facial expressions when he was caught in his acts of bedevilment.

Vincent Price could roll those eyes and curl his mouth so that you knew that he was about to meet his doom and nothing could save him.

In my humble opinion, we are about to witness Donald Trump transform before our very eyes into a reincarnation of Vincent Price, complete with rolling eyes and pursed lips because, the "gig is up!" regarding the stalking hand epitomized by the Epstein Files.

Jeffrey Epstein is crying out from his grave that Donald Trump should be implicated in both the Epstein Files and possibly his premature death at the hands of "persons unknown" although it is being termed a suicide...more on that later.

Oddly enough, it was Trump who only months earlier called for full transparency of the files until...he was notified by the DOJ head, Pam Bondi, that his name appeared in the files.

In a twinkling of an eye, Trump went from, "Release all of the files, to it's a hoax perpetuated by the Democrats!"

If that was not enough, he then slammed the hundreds of victims of Epstein and Maxwell as being in on the hoax! Imagine if you would, hundreds of women conspiring in unity for months and years to bring their charges of being victims in a pedophile ring.

Whenever Dear Leader gets caught with his MAGA shorts down, he utters the same old tried and true canards of "It's a hoax," or a "Conspiracy by the left wing Democrats!"

Trump knows that his low I.Q. base of loyal voters will, like a bunch of baying coon dogs, catch his scent (or his drift) and follow his red herrings.

Works every time...or does it now?

It appears that Trump and company tried to put the thumb screws to Laurie Boebert (House Rep. out of Colorado) to remove herself from the House vote that would send the Epstein vote to the GOP Senate. The pressure tactic did not work, so Trump is starting to sweat MAGA size droplets of angst at the thought that this Epstein File issue is far from over.

Even Speaker Mike Johnson cannot stop the bill from getting out of the House and causing more deserved pain for his Dear Leader.

With the House being called back into session, the GOP have had a pleasant five weeks vacation (fully paid of course) and now they face intense media scrutiny about what their take is on the Epstein Files bill being passed.

As more evidence slowly dribbles out or is leaked out about the antics of Trump and his then best bud, Jeffrey, cavorting with minors; with the procurer Ghislaine Maxwell sitting comfortably in a country club federal prison in Texas, it is only a matter of time before damning evidence is revealed about the true proclivities of Dear Leader.

Trump has ransacked the cupboard of public confidence one time too many on this highly volatile issue of pedophilia possibly touching both him and the uber powerful and rich.

It is disconcerting that any member of Congress would vote to prevent such information being made public or from being investigated, lest they be accused of protecting and harboring alleged pedophiles.

From the vigorous fight that Trump and his lackey cohorts are raging against this impending firestorm, one has to think what all their fuss is



about if Trump is innocent as he proclaims?

Simple. If it is proven beyond a reasonable doubt that Trump and others intentionally covered up this rotted and fetid smell of pedophilia in high places, heads will roll...and roll...and roll! And rightfully so!

The silently moving death hand of Epstein vis a vis his files, is reaching out to lay a claim of vengeance on those who have attempted to cut their losses and have him take full blame for unlawful sexual acts with the minors (now adults) who are still clamoring for a smidgen of justice.

As an aside, I do not believe that the full and unadorned story of Epstein's suicide(?) has been fully vented especially so when other inmates who were at one time in that same prison jail cell said that committing suicide in that cell would be impossible.

I further contend that once the full story of the Epstein Files is fully vented, America will be shocked and numbed by the names of the participants and the amount of money that was transferred, to and from, by complicit banks.

No, my friend...Trump is not draining the swamp as he promised because he is now the personification of the swamp: corruption, excess, fear mongering, disdain of the rules of law and a cult of personality wherein those around him are fawning sycophants, doing the master's bidding without question.

Any GOP member of Congress should be earmarked for being primaried by a Democrat opponent if he or she votes not to release the files!

If we want to continue to boast that we are a nation of laws and not of men, time will either tear that motto to shreds or it will redeem itself by pursuing all leads, both near and far, in coming to factual conclusions as what really happened to whom and by whom. No exceptions and no exemptions.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com

Perryman... continued from page 2

says Jones.

As polling expert John Della Volpe puts it, [This generation is] "the most diverse... generation in American history," one that brings more open-mindedness about race, gender, and sexuality into the political arena — not simply as an afterthought, but as a core part of its civic identity.

Indeed. November 2025 proved that every vote does count.

It also proved that a new generation of Black leadership — younger, female, intentional, and community-rooted — is ready to govern, both nationally and locally.

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America in Crisis: A Constitutional Inflection Point

A Presidency Being Rebuilt Around Personal Power

By Steven Flagg

Guest Column

In my life, America has faced many defining tests: the Vietnam War and its political upheaval, Watergate, the Arab Oil Embargo, the economic turmoil of the late 1970s, Iran-Contra, and the shock of 9/11. Yet none of those crises involved a president actively testing the limits of the constitutional order itself. Trump 2.0, just ten months into his second administration, may be the most critical challenge to the American Republic in modern times.

Donald Trump's second administration is historic not only because he is the first president since Grover Cleveland to return to office, but also because the sheer volume of alleged illegal and unconstitutional actions surrounding his government has no modern parallel. Earlier scandals such as Teapot Dome, Watergate and Iran-Contra were serious but episodic. With Trump 2.0, judges, scholars, and watchdogs increasingly see corruption not as an aberration but as a method of governance.

A central pattern is Trump's effort to turn ordinary presidential pow-



ers into personal tools of control. Constitutional scholar Peter Shane warns that Trump's approach reflects a dangerously expansive reading of presidential power.

Federal courts, including conservative-leaning panels, have already ruled several of Trump's major actions unlawful. These include his deployment of troops in Los Angeles and Portland, his attempt to deny birthright citizenship by executive order, his unlawful firing of inspectors general, and his expansion of fast-track deportations that violated due-process rights.

argue these actions reflect strong leadership, but courts have repeatedly ruled that they exceed presidential authority and undermine constitutional safeguards.

Trump's use of tariffs reinforces this same pattern. Instead of working with Congress, the branch that has constitutional authority over trade, Trump declared a national emergency and imposed sweeping tariffs on nearly all imports, including a 25 percent tariff on goods from nations importing Venezuelan oil.

Legal experts argue that these measures stretch or exceed the limits of statutory authority, and multiple federal courts have ruled that Trump overstepped his power by invoking emergency statutes to rewrite trade policy unilaterally. This mirrors his broader effort to bypass Congress wherever possible and make major national decisions by personal decree, including issuing over 200 executive orders in less than a year. As Harvard's Jack Goldsmith notes, Trump is "taking presidential power to alarming places," erasing longstanding boundaries on executive authority.

Another major theme is unprecedented self-enrichment. A Reuters investigation found that Trump-linked cryptocurrency ventures generated more than \$800 million for his family in the first half of 2025 alone. Much of this money came from foreign investors while Trump was shaping policies affecting those same markets.

Ethics experts say no president in American history has blended personal business interests and presidential power on anything close to this scale. The Brennan Center said, "President Trump has shown a willingness to use the immense powers of the presidency to advance personal interests." Watchdog groups warn that the presidency is being monetized in ways that undermine public trust and blur the line between national policy and personal financial gain.

Other actions reinforcing this pattern include:

- Using the Justice Department to pursue political rivals
- Weakening the civil service through "Schedule F"-style purges, the firing and replacing tens of thousands of career officials
- Pressuring intelligence agencies to alter national-security assessments
- Using federal funds for campaign-style events
- Deporting migrants to dangerous conditions abroad
- Increasing reliance on emergency powers with little or no legal basis

Warnings span the political spectrum. Historian Ruth Ben-Ghiat argues that Trump's administration is moving the United States toward authoritarian rule. Conservative former federal judge J. Michael Luttig has said Trump represents "the gravest threat to the Constitution since the Civil War." More than 80 civil-rights and legal organizations caution that the nation faces "unprecedented constitutional danger."

Every president tests the limits of power. What makes Trump's second administration uniquely dangerous is the systematic way these tests serve his personal interests whether financial, political, or legal. Past presidential scandals revolved around abuses of office. Trump's scandals revolve around himself: his money, his control, and his willingness to bend the government to his own purposes. This use of power for clear personal and political gain is what makes this moment not just abnormal, but profoundly dangerous for the constitutional system and order under which Americans have lived since 1788.



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Vanice S. Williams: At the Forefront of Toledo's Legislative Leadership

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

Vanice S. Williams serves as president of the Toledo City Council, placing her at the forefront of the city's legislative leadership. She takes in all of Toledo's history, all that her mother quietly taught her, and the unrelenting drive to be satisfied by nothing less than her best everywhere she goes.

As an experienced leader who has worked in public service, education and in the community, Williams is playing a significant role in creating policies, leading the operational aspects of the city, and in making certain that the voices of city residents are reflected in the decisions made by the council.

This November's election was a groundbreaking historical moment for the Toledo City Council highlighting the growing influence of Black women in local government leadership. Vanice S. Williams' fellow council members, Cerssandra McPherson and Brittany Jones, PhD, emerged as the two top vote-recipients among the at-large seats, a milestone that reflects both their dedication and the trust of Toledo residents.

While Williams originally joined the council through an appointment in 2020, she is expected to be formally re-elected to that leadership role by the council members in January, solidifying her place at the helm alongside Jones and McPherson, making it the first time three Black women are leading the city's legislative body together.

The collective leadership of Williams, Jones, and McPherson represent a new era in the history of the city and a look toward the future.

"Our work speaks louder than words," shares Williams. "This event is more than symbolic. It represents a beacon of hope for young people everywhere, a reminder that leadership is achievable regardless of where someone begins."

McPherson, the top vote-getter of the at-large candidates, has expressed her desire to mentor the next wave of local politicians. Jones has continued to advocate for practical policy solutions that improve the quality of life for families in Toledo with her food security and zoning reform initiatives.

As City Council President, Williams is tasked with overseeing critical decisions, but her influence extends far beyond council chambers. Born and raised in the heart of Toledo, Williams grew up watching her mother navigate life with unshakable strength. "My mom taught me that showing up matters, even in the smallest ways," she says.

Williams' story begins in the Smith Park neighborhood, surrounded by the people and moments that taught her how to stand strong, stay humble and keep going. "I'm still a 'community kid' today," Williams says about being raised in the inner city. That world shaped everything she would later become—a place of cracked sidewalks, childhood scrapes, and the quiet, stubborn strength of families who refused to give up. Her mother, Sheila Patterson, was one of those families.

The 80s and 90s were tough years. The drug epidemic took over entire neighborhoods, leaving scars that would remain for generations to come. At 16, Vanice saw her first murder. She watched families unravel and communities struggle to hold on.



Toledo City Council President Vanice S. Williams

"To be honest, my siblings and I didn't know we were poor until someone told us. My mother kept our home clean no matter what; she always created a sense of normalcy, even while wrestling with addiction," Williams recalls, her voice soft but certain. "She showed me that you can survive—and even thrive—if you keep moving forward."

For Williams, survival wasn't enough. She wanted to break the cycles of poverty and help others reach a life beyond what the neighborhood provided. She wanted to teach and provide opportunities for young people who may feel stuck in their environment.

However, life kept throwing curveballs. College was far from affordable, so Williams joined the U.S. Army in 2001, only to be sent home 2 weeks later due to pregnancy.

"I was surprised, but I knew my baby was a part of my destiny. I decided to embrace the challenge, keep my dreams alive, and make sure my child and I both had a future full of possibility," says Williams.

Williams' journey through adulthood was a masterclass in perseverance. It was her desire to keep her faith, her family and her community close to her heart that helped drive her forward. As a young mother, she worked overnight shifts at Chrysler, and spent her days teaching at Lifeskills High School, a dropout-recovery program for students fighting for a second chance.

"I did this all while paying for school out of pocket," she recalls. "It wasn't easy but I'm proud to say I earned my bachelor's degree from Lourdes University at age 30."

As time passed, Williams' focus transitioned from survival to leadership.

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Leading Families Home Acquires Family House, Strengthening Services for Families Experiencing Homelessness

Leading Families Home has acquired Family House, combining two of the region's most established family service organizations to strengthen housing stability. The acquisition, supported by \$290,000 in funding from the City of Toledo, takes effect immediately.

Together, the organizations will create the largest nonprofit in the region dedicated exclusively to serving families in crisis, expanding capacity to serve more than 1,000 individuals each year through emergency shelter, transitional housing and permanent supportive services.

"The acquisition of these two organizations supports our strategic goal of reducing shelter administrative and operational costs in a climate of declining resources, said Rosalyn Clemens, director of the Toledo Department of Housing and Community Development. "By joining forces, these two shelters will achieve more efficient delivery of services to Toledo homeless families.

"We thank Mayor Kapszukiewicz and the Toledo City Council for supporting this vision. This acquisition allows us to provide a stronger, more coordinated response for families who need safe shelter and long-term

stability," said Jennifer Jacobs, executive director of Leading Families Home. "Both organizations share a deep commitment to compassion and community, and this step ensures that legacy continues for generations to come."

Founded in 1921 as Beach House Family Shelter, Leading Families Home has served families in Toledo for more than a century, helping them achieve safety, stability and independence through housing, behavioral health, and case management programs. Family House, established in 1985 by the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, has been a vital refuge for families across northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan, offering shelter and supportive resources with dignity and respect.

The acquisition will streamline administrative services and reduce operational redundancies, allowing Leading Families Home to direct more resources toward direct support and expanding programs for families in crisis.

"By coming together, we are preserving two strong legacies while expanding the impact for families who need us most," said Debra Sue Pearson, president of the board of Leading Families Home. "This is a powerful step forward for our community."

The city's funding will support the acquisition, facility updates and uninterrupted services through the winter months, ensuring continued stability for local families in need.

For more information about Leading Families Home and its programs, visit www.leadingfamilieshome.org



Debra Sue

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Assistance Available for Northwest Ohioans for Heating Costs Through The 2025/2026 HEAP Winter Crisis Program

Special to The Truth

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

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

To qualify for assistance, Ohioans must have a gross income at or below

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Vanice S. Williams... continued from page 5

In 2020, she opened a new childcare center that served the same community she grew up in. Shortly after, she was selected from 132 applicants to join Toledo City Council. Today, she serves as Council President, just one heartbeat away from the mayor's office, a position that carries immense responsibility and influence.

Vanice S. Williams' leadership philosophy is based upon observation, understanding, and consistency. She believes in supporting the "nuts and bolts" of the city – the employees, the transportation system and other vital functions – so the basic operations of the city run efficiently. Williams isn't just a leader on paper, she's a hands-on presence in the city, bringing stability, organization, and inspiration to everyone she meets.

"I take a proactive approach to leadership: support the people, provide consistent service, and let your work speak for itself," she says.

As far as Williams is concerned, her greatest accomplishment has been revitalizing the city's parks and youth program. While many communities around the country tend to cut funding for parks and recreation centers early in budget reductions, Williams has made a conscious effort to prioritize funding for these areas. "Youth engagement is vital," she says. "The next generation will lead this city into the future."

Williams also views problems as opportunities, whether it's addressing issues related to guns, promoting community-based initiatives, or expanding access to education.

"My faith serves as the guiding principle in my life," adds the council president. Much of her success, she believes, is due to prayer, discipline and having faith in God's timing. One scripture that is her daily inspiration is found in Chronicles 4:10 – a prayer to increase our territory and influence. Many of the values her mother instilled in her continue to guide her decisions today. As she navigates the pressures associated with public office, she remains focused on the foundation that brought her here: hard work, faith, and community.

"I've never told her, but I always sign my name with the 'S.' It's for my mom, Sheila. Everything she taught me—strength, grace, resilience,



Toledo City Council President Vanice Williams

love—it all travels with me in that single letter. Every time I sign Vanice S. Williams, I want her to know that I'm carrying her lessons, her courage and her heart into every room, every decision, every challenge."

For children growing up in neighborhoods like Smith Park, Vanice offers this simple yet powerful message: "Where you are today does not dictate where you will be tomorrow. Adjust your mindset, seek mentorship, and persevere."

Her story is more than a journey—it's proof. Proof that where you start doesn't define where you finish. From city sidewalks and childhood scrapes to council chambers and city-wide influence, Vanice S. Williams carries the quiet power of a mother's love, the stubborn strength of a community that refuses to give up, and the faith that keeps her moving forward. In her hands, one life's lessons ripple outward, shaping families, neighborhoods, and the entire city.

Explore Toledo City Council here



Getting Your Affairs in Order 2026

The **Getting Your Affairs In Order** program was created to provide estate planning information in plain English. It was offered to inspire interest in many different aspects for individuals and their families. As we have shared "A Will is not always the way". We offered topics by industry experts on life-changing situations that you and your family could be better prepared for as life continues.

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As we end 2025 and prepare for 2026 here are a few things to think about:

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5. Dates for 2026 Getting Your Affairs In Order workshops will be out in January 2026.

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Reflection of Life -- James Randal Wilson, Jr. --- July 14, 1951 – October 28, 2025

The Truth Staff

James Randal Wilson, Jr., son of Dorothy and James Wilson, Sr. was born on July 14, 1951, in Toledo, Ohio. While in high school, eminent domain policies of the City of Toledo pushed families, including the Wilsons, out of a cherished downtown Toledo neighborhood. The policies planted the seed for the civic engagement that appeared in James' adulthood.

James earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Evansville, where he didn't just study—he built lifelong friendships and found his voice. He was instrumental in establishing the Black Student Union. His passion for entertainment blossomed there, culminating in a groundbreaking radio program that became the first African American-focused broadcast in southern Indiana. Through it, he brought touring artists to town, enriching the lives of Black students and community members alike.

His lifelong love for IndyCar and NASCAR racing was launched during his time in Indiana. He regularly attended the Indy500 and NASCAR Brickyard races in Indianapolis. During racing season, on Saturdays he watched the qualifying races and on Sundays, the race itself—always rooting for his favorite teams.

After graduation, James launched his career at General Electric as a management trainee in manufacturing, quickly distinguishing himself as a top performer. But his heart had long been drawn to sales and marketing—a spark ignited in middle school—and followed it through roles at Toledo Scales, Polaroid, and Johnson & Johnson, each step a climb toward greater impact.

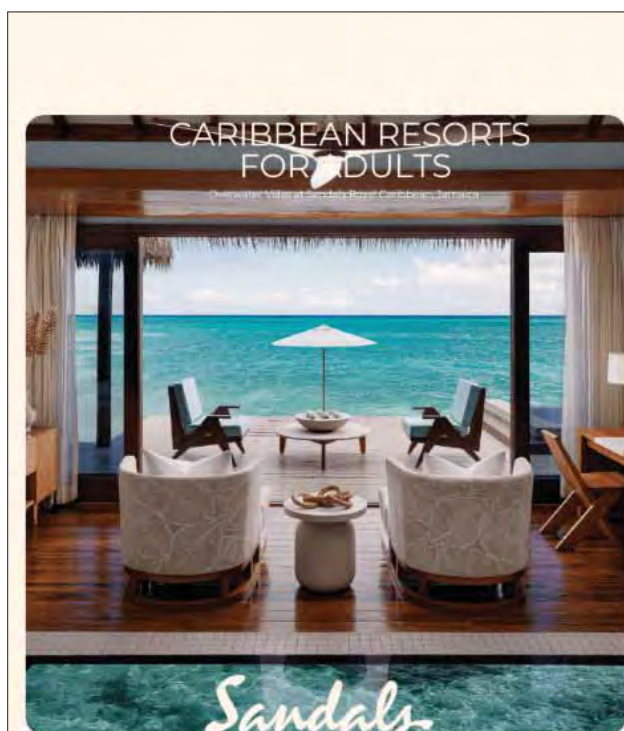
The expansion of firms in the telecommunications industry in the mid 1980s opened new doors. James joined MCI, then moved into leadership roles at smaller firms. It was during this chapter in the Washington, D. C. area that he met Cynthia—the woman who would become his wife, partner, and best

friend. Together, they built a life rich in love and purpose.

James was a family man whose joy for life was most evident when around loved ones. Known for hosting unforgettable gatherings complete with magicians, live bands, and catered feasts—he brought laughter and connection to every occasion. A self-proclaimed grill master, James took pride in his collection of grills, smokers, and spits, always ready to serve up a meal and a memory. The parties gave him a venue to celebrate the academic achievements of his wife, son, and daughter—always their biggest cheerleader.

KMC Telecom brought the Wilsons—James, Cynthia, son Jared, and daughter Jasmine—to Fayette-

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Buffalo Soldiers Organize Food for Veterans

Special to The Truth

A number of veterans in the Toledo area were thanked for their service on Tuesday, November 11, Veterans Day, as the Toledo Buffalo Soldiers partnered with restaurants and volunteers to see that around 200 of the Armed Forces heroes had a satisfying meal on that day.

Each year The Toledo Buffalo Soldiers partner with local restaurants to provide meals for those veterans who are shut-ins or at rehab/senior facilities and can't take advantage of special meal offers at those restaurants.

Hundreds of veterans find themselves in this situation each year and over 300 are served lunch or dinner meals by the Buffalo Soldiers. The yearly mission began at approximately 11 a.m. on Tuesday morning at Herman's 507 St Clair and continued throughout the day until all meals were all delivered.

The Buffalo Soldiers were assisted by volunteers from the University of Toledo's Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. among others.

This year these restaurants have agreed to provide meals: Bob Evans, Ye Olde Durty Bird, Original Pancake, Spaghetti Warehouse, El Tipico, Michaels Bar and Grill, Tony Packo's, Dino's, Off The Rails Food Trolley, and Ohio Living Swan Creek. In addition, all meals come with good old American Apple Pie supplied by Toledo Memorial Park.

Annette Mack was at Herman's to arrange logistics for the day.



Yaser Awale, Caleb Lee, Lucretia Stewart, Stephen White



State Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson



Cheri Montgomery and Annette Mack



Earl Mack



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The Rosa Parks Scholarship Foundation Gala

By Paul L. Hubbard, Board Chair of Maritime Academy

Guest Column

The 45th annual Rosa Parks Scholarship Foundation Gala was held on November 1 at the Henry Ford Museum in Detroit with 350 guests in attendance. The Henry Ford contains the bus that Rosa Parks refused to sit in the back on for people to tour

The Scholarship Foundation members include Rosa Parks' children, relatives and friends. The Foundation is funded by the Detroit News and Huntington Bank. The master of ceremonies for the evening was Huel Perkins, retired award-winning broadcaster for Fox Channel 2 News in Detroit. Perkins has also hosted the well-known debate show "Let it Rip", which I have been a guest on a few times.

The Speaker was Courtney B. Vance, the award-winning actor from Detroit. Vance movies include "Hamburger Hill", "The Preacher's Wife", "Adventures of Huck Finn," "The Hunt for Red October," among many others. Vance is married to Angela Bassett.

The Gala was also used to recognize the life and Legacy of Luther "Bad Man" Keith. Keith wrote for the Detroit News, and he was also a blues singer. He has been to Toledo to sing at Murphys from time to time.

Courtney Vance spoke for about 10 minutes on two topics. His first topic was "why did this country get in the shape it's in now." The factors are not new, said Vance, but are a good reminder of things that Black people should not forget. We let the Supreme Court get loaded with conservatives who have



Ruselda Johnson, Paul Hubbard, Dorothy Cocrot, Gala Chair



Paul Hubbard and Courtney Vance

rubber stamped President Trump's questionable political moves. Black folks didn't vote in the percentages that we have had in recent decades.

I personally feel that the people promoting the food problem should have also used the platform to remind people to vote. Every vote counts in today's world. Forty-eight percent of Latinos voted for Trump, for example, and not for Harris. Most Middle Easterners didn't vote or voted for Trump. Most white women didn't vote for Kamala Harris. Voters overall did not pay much attention to Plan 2025 which is one of our biggest problems. Changing the voting maps over the past few years is also a factor.

Courtney Vance's second topic was "How do we as a race and a country get out of the situation that we are in now?" Black folks need to vote in large percentages in all elections, said Vance. Every election affects some part of our lives. We need to support and elect Black folks and hold them accountable. We also need to hold Democrats more accountable to us.

Vance added that we need to continue to protest, march and write letters. Black folks need to work on both sides of the political isle. Black folks need to support education in every phase that we can because education of young people is our future. We need to insist that Black history remains in our different educational systems. We need to promote Mental Health in all phases. Black churches need to promote Civil Rights.

Black folks have been in bad situations before and with God's help we have survived.

Rev. Freddie Hayes closed the evening by adding that "Boots on the Ground is God walking us through the Fiery Furnace and fans in the air is God providing us Air Condition while in the fiery Furnace."

Paul. L Hubbard MSW , Board Chairman of Maritime Academy.

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Assistance...continued from page 6

175% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a household of up to seven members and 60% of State Median Income for a household of eight or more members to pay their heating bills. Applied directly to the customer's utility or bulk fuel bill, the benefit can help manage heating costs.

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

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

- * Most recent utility bills.
- * A list of all household members (including birth dates and Social Security numbers).
- * Proof of income for the past 30 days for all household members (12 months for certain income types).

... continued on page 13

The Toledo Museum of Art Announces Major Reinstallation Project

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Editor

The Toledo Museum of Art will be closing a number of galleries in December in order to undertake some major renovations to the facility's infrastructure – HVAC, electrical and plumbing – as well as a total reinstallation of the way its art is presented to visitors. The reinstallation will be complete in 2027.

The following galleries will be closed and the art currently contained in them will go off view for the duration of the project – the Great Gallery; Galleries 22-27 (featuring Dutch and French Baroque and Rococo paintings and sculptures; Galleries 32-33, featuring European art; Gallery 34 featuring selections from the jewelry collection.

The project is the first comprehensive gallery reinstallation in over 40 years and, in addition to the infrastructure rehabilitation, will be designed to re-imagine the visitor's experience.

Adam Levine, the Edward Drummond and Florence Scott Libbey director of the Toledo Museum of Art, held a town hall on Sunday, November 16, to explain why the reinstallation was necessary and what the experience will be for visitors after the project is complete.

First of all, the HVAC, electrical and plumbing systems must be upgraded – they have been in place for more than 40 years without substantial upgrade and are not expected to last more than a few more years.

"Our heating and cooling system is at the end of its usefulness," said Levine. "And every gallery was going to have to be closed by 2027 anyway."

Now that those systems must be upgraded (to the tune, said Levine, of \$23 million), the museum has a unique opportunity to re-imagine the galleries in a way that will alter a visitor's current experience to one that makes more sense in today's world.

The new experience, said Levine, will be "a history of the world chronologically" so one can "understand what was happening simultaneously in different cultures."

This means that a visitor will enter the museum and view what was happening in the ancient world and where it was happening during the same time periods in Europe, in Asia, in Africa, for example. Today's museum, as do virtually all museums, segregate presentations by country or continent and by types of art – even if a collection of ancient Egyptian sculptures and hieroglyphics leads one directly into the impressionistic world of 19th century France.

"Our mission is to integrate art into the lives of people," said Levine. "A

chronological installation allows us to tell a true history of the way relate to time. It will show how the world has always been connected."

The reinstallation of the galleries in chronological order is virtually revolutionary, as Levine explained. No other museum in the United States offers such a view of art to visitors and, in fact, only one in the world currently does – the Louvre Abu Dhabi.

Such a reinstallation will be enormously expensive, no doubt, however, private philanthropy will provide the total costs for the project, Levine said.

He also noted that the plans for the project have not been completed in a vacuum with the input of only a select few. Although by now, the Museum is far enough into the project that the plans are virtually complete, it has been a lengthy process and 1,000 Toledoans were consulted, he said.

The galleries to be renovated will close on December 15. The following areas of the Museum will remain open – the Glass Pavilion; Classic Court, Wolfe Gallery and Galleries 1, 4, 6, 7, 15, 16, 18, 19, 35; TMA Café, TMA Store and Library; the Family Center and Education Wing, all entrances, elevators and restrooms and the daily glassblowing demonstrations.



Adam Levine explains changes coming to TMA



Toledo Museum of Art

Reflection of Life...continued from page 8

ville, North Carolina, where James served as City Director. When industry shifts prompted change, he embraced entrepreneurship, purchasing a Minuteman Press franchise. For nearly a decade, he poured his energy into the business before returning to two familiar passions, civic engagement and the arts.

He generously gave his time and resources to organizations such as United Way, Urban Ministry, the Fayetteville Regional Airport Commission, Fayetteville State University Foundation Board, and 100 Black Men. One of his proudest contributions was establishing a community garden at Urban Ministry where children learned how to cultivate the earth, a legacy that continues today.

A role in Dream Girls at Cape Fear Regional Theater reignited his pas-

sion for performance. He graced stages at Fayetteville State University and Gilbert Theater, lent his voice to narration, and helped produce and act in streaming projects like Elle Rose and Underground Queen. His creativity touched many arenas.

On October 28, 2025, James transitioned from this world, leaving behind a legacy of love, laughter, and light. He is survived by his beloved wife, Dr. Cynthia Gibbs Wilson; son, Dr. Jared R. Wilson (Nicole); daughter, Jasmine Ramona Wilson; sister, Pamela R. Wilson; and niece, Charlisa Blackshear (Justin). He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Jennifer R. Wilson.

James' legacy lives on in the hearts of his extended family, his cherished friends from every chapter of life, and the countless lives he touched through his work, art, and his spirit. His presence will be deeply missed-but never forgotten.

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Chefs Share Their Secret Ingredients for the Holiday Season

Special to The Truth

Every family has at least one perfect dish featuring a secret ingredient or special cooking technique, and it's these twists on tradition that make all the difference.

That's why this holiday season, the McCormick brand is partnering with famed bakery Milk Bar and award-winning founder and CEO, Christina Tosi to inspire home cooks by sharing their best-kept baking secrets. Through their collaboration, they're creating an exclusive, limited-time McCormick x Milk Bar Eggnog English Toffee Cookie available at select Milk Bar locations starting 11/28. A fresh take on timeless holiday flavor inspired by the comfort and creaminess of eggnog and the buttery crunch of English toffee, this golden cookie features hints of McCormick cinnamon and nutmeg and the rich flavor of vanilla extract, complemented with a layer of icing topped with English Toffee Finishing Sugar. Here, they're sharing the recipe for fans to make at home:

Prep Time: 20 minutes

Cook Time: 12 minutes

Makes 18 cookies.

Cookie Ingredients:

2 cups all-purpose flour

1/3 cup instant vanilla pudding mix

1 teaspoon McCormick Ground Cinnamon

3/4 teaspoon kosher salt

3/4 teaspoon baking powder

1/2 teaspoon baking soda

1/4 teaspoon McCormick Ground Nutmeg

2 sticks unsalted butter, softened

3/4 cup granulated sugar

1/4 cup light brown sugar, packed

1 whole egg

1 egg yolk

1 1/2 teaspoons McCormick Pure Vanilla Extract

1/3 cup McCormick English Toffee Finishing Sugar

Icing Ingredients:

1 cup confectioner's sugar

1 tablespoon milk

Directions:

For the cookies, preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Line two large baking sheets with parchment; set aside. Mix flour, pudding mix, cinnamon, salt, baking powder, baking soda and nutmeg in medium bowl; set aside.

Beat butter and sugars in large bowl with electric mixer on medium-high speed 2 to 3 minutes or until light and fluffy. Add egg, egg yolk and vanilla; beat 2 to 3 minutes longer or until well blended, scraping sides of bowl, as needed.

Gradually add flour mixture, beating on low speed just until dough comes together, up to 1 minute. Stir in English Toffee Finishing Sugar, mixing just until combined. Scoop dough in 1/3-cup portions onto prepared baking sheets, placing about 2 inches apart.

Bake 15 to 20 minutes until cookies have spread and edges are golden brown. Cool on pans 1 minute. Transfer to wire racks to cool at least 10 minutes.

For the icing, whisk confectioners' sugar and milk in small bowl until smooth (add additional milk or confectioners' sugar, 1 tablespoon at a time, to reach desired consistency). Spread icing on cooled cookies and sprinkle with additional English Toffee Finishing Sugar. Let stand 5 minutes to allow icing to set.

Recipe Hints: To spice things up, substitute 1 teaspoon McCormick Rum Extract and 1/2 teaspoon McCormick Pure Vanilla Extract in place of just vanilla. For a little extra crunch, substitute turbinado sugar or sugar in the raw in place of light brown sugar. No vanilla pudding mix? No problem! Add an additional 1/4 cup flour in place of the pudding mix.

More baking secrets and inspiration can be found by visiting www.mccormick.com/thecookieconfidential.

And as you prepare all the other festive treats of the season, remember that details matter. Be it flour, sugar or flavorings, don't skimp on the good stuff, and don't be afraid to give everything from desserts to cocktails and mocktails that unexpected edge with secret ingredients like brown butter and peppermint extract.

Courtesy StatePoint

ANNUAL MEETING
Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union Members

Join us for the upcoming Annual Meeting! Stay informed and have your voice heard in your financial institution.

Monday, November 24, 2025
11:00 am, Mott Branch Library
1010 Dorr St., Toledo, OH 43607

www.ToledoUrban.net 419-255-8876

Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union
Building Better Futures

Black Arms to Hold You Up: A History of Black Resistance by Ben Passmore

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

This week, you plan on acting up.

In a good way, of course. You'll make a cardboard sign and march with others for your beliefs. You'll shout and dance, walk and make noise. You'll get into "good trouble" and yes, you might get arrested for it. You do what you need to do to make politicians and others know how you feel and that you mean business. As in the new book, **Black Arms to Hold You Up** by Ben Passmore, you have history at your back.

There was violence just down the street when Ben's father showed up on his doorstep with two bags of books. He hadn't been much of a father, so when he started pushing Ben to pay attention to history, Ben wasn't having any of it.

They argued. Ben's father hit him in the head with a book – and the next thing he knew, Ben was standing on a street corner somewhere, and there were policemen; nearby was a man named Robert Charles, and the year was 1900. Ben was about to witness a deadly gunfight over Jim Crow laws, Black Code, "Christian Black identity," and inequality in New Orleans.

He ran for safety and landed at the foot of a stage, where activist Marcus Garvey was giving a speech at a Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) rally. Ben ran, and found himself in a church, at Emmett Till's funeral. He sat in a movie theater and learned about Robert E. Williams, a man whom "both the whites and the NAACP made... out to be an angry and violent brute." Ben received a new name to reflect the Republic of New Afrika, and he hid upstairs in a house in Philadelphia, as MOVE fought with police in 1985.

The journey was wild and terrifying, and his eyes were opened. Yes, he wanted liberation, but it could kill him. So could just walking around his neighborhood.

Were these things inevitable? He wondered - until his father told him what "Black liberation is really about."

Your young adult needs to know their history. You might need the same.

c. 2025
Pantheon
\$22.00
223 pages

And you both might find it inside *Black Arms to Hold You Up*, but there are a few things you need to know first, before you pick it up.

Deeply researched, very thought-provoking, and including a bibliography for more information, this book hits a lot of major points in Black history, many of which today's schoolbooks don't tell. Author Ben Passmore proves that Black activism didn't just start during the Civil Rights Movement, or five years ago, or last year. Such reminders make this book relevant.

Just know this: violence literally colors every page of this book. It's relentless. It's loud and shocking, with illustrations tinted blood-red throughout, which will properly and righteously shock anyone who's unaware.

That may trigger a sensitive reader, but it may wake up folks ages 16-to-adults, too. Just be mindful and know who's doing the reading. Having *Black Arms to Hold You Up* around might be a good action.

Assistance...continued from page 10

* Proof of U.S. citizenship or legal residency for all household members.

* Proof of disability (if applicable).

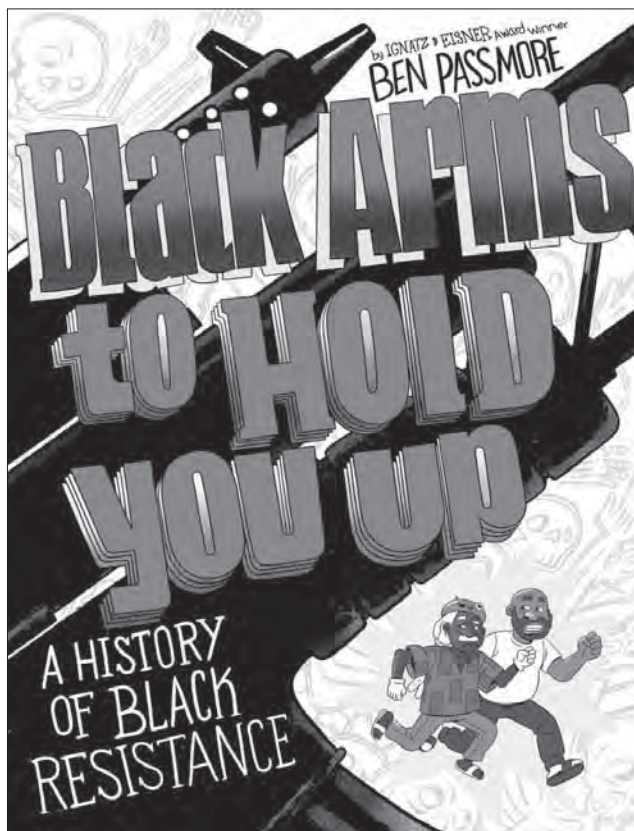
Older Ohioans can reach out to us, the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio Inc, at 419-382-0624 for help with assembling the required documents and completing their HEAP application.

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Applications for the Winter HEAP program must be received by May 31, 2026.

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CLASSIFIEDS

November 19, 2025

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Electronic proposals will be received by the Board of County Commissioners of Lucas County, Ohio, by the Purchasing Department, One Government Center, Suite 480, Toledo, Ohio 43604-1247 until 3:00 P.M. (local time), December 1st, 2025 and opened immediately thereafter for **#2176- Request for Qualifications- Non-Emergency Medicaid & Title Transportation Services**, for the Lucas County Job and Family Services Department, according to specifications available for examination, or download the proposal by going to the site, <http://www.co.lucas.oh.us/bids.asp>. Suppliers interested in doing business with Lucas County must register in the Supplier Portal.

To access the Lucas County Oracle Supplier Portal, please visit: https://cieb-fa.us6.oraclecloud.com/fscmUI/faces/NegotiationAbstracts?_afrcBuild=300000007278812&_afrcSite=15ps8su3-1&_afrcLoop=7126760101772357&_afrcWindowMode=0&_afrcWindowId=avudlsmca&_afrcFS=16&_afrcMT=screen&_afrcMCW=1920&_afrcMFH=932&_afrcMFDW=1920&_afrcMFDH=1080&_afrcMFC=8&_afrcMFCI=0&_afrcMFM=0&_afrcMFR=96&_afrcMFG=0&_afrcMFS=0&_afrcMFO=0

Prior to 3:00 P.M. (local time), December 1st, 2025, each proposal shall contain the full name of each person submitting the proposal and the name of every person or company interested in same.

The right is reserved to reject any and all bids.

By order of the Board of County Commissioners, Lucas County, Ohio:

Lisa A. Sobacki – President
Pete Gerken – Commissioner
Anita Lopez – Commissioner

Bid #2176 – Non-Emergency Medicaid & Title Transportation Service- Request for Qualifications
Publish: November 9th, 2025

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS UNIFORMS RFP25-R003

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Uniforms in accordance with RFP25-R003**. Received in accordance with law until **November 25, 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.



INVITATION FOR BIDS PAINT & PAINT SUPPLIES IFB25-B013

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive bids for **Paint & Paint Supplies in accordance with IFB25-B013**. Received in accordance with law until **November 20, 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.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ELEVATOR MAINTENANCE SERVICES RFP25-R004

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Elevator Maintenance Services in accordance with RFP25-R003**. Received in accordance with law until **November 25, 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.



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority (PARTA) – in partnership with the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) and several other public transit providers – requests bids for:

DIESEL FUEL & GASOLINE

Detailed specifications are available by contacting Ashley Forbes, Procurement Manager, at 330-678-7745, ext. 110, or by emailing: aforbes@partaonline.org.

All bids must be submitted in accordance with requirements set forth in the IFB and must be received in the administrative offices of PARTA on or before **Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at 10 a.m.** A public bid opening will follow.

The Contractor shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin, or handicap. All bidders are certifying that they are not on the Comptroller General's list of ineligible contractors by signing the bid form page. Proposals from individuals/entities that are presently disbarred, suspended, or proposed for debarment by the State of Ohio or the federal government will be disqualified.

The Agencies reserve the right to reject any and/or all bids, to re-advertise for bids, to waive any informality in any bid and to determine the most responsive bid by its own criteria, as described within the specification.

The Agencies further advise prospective bidders that all bids must be filed on the forms provided by PARTA and that all bids must be clearly marked on the lower left side of the outermost envelope with the words, ATTN: IFB #2026 FUEL.

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[419-855-2299] [info@thptoledo.org]"

YWCA of Northwest Toledo Completes Phase 1 of Building Renovation

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Editor

The YWCA of Northwest Toledo's building on Jefferson has just undergone a major renovation. Phase 1 of the multimillion-dollar project has just been completed. Phase 1 is underway.

For years now, decades even, the building has presented staff and the residents with a multitude of problems, said Lisa McDuffie, CEO, during last week's open house and Phase 1 celebration. McDuffie, who has been with the YWCA for 30 years, spent most of those 30 years dealing with the numerous problems presented by a facility built during the 1950s.

The roof, she said, had been patched so many times, contractors said there were no places left to patch. The electricity was so bad that it was nearly impossible to heat the facility properly in the winter and just as difficult to cool it in the summer heat. The plumbing, said McDuffie, was "delicate" and would frequently shut down.

"Repairs were astronomical," said McDuffie. "We were throwing money out of the window, money that could be used for programming."

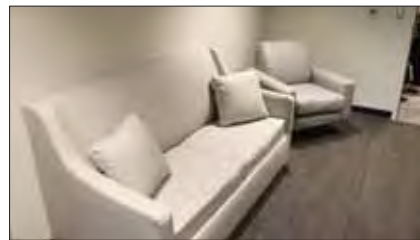
Beyond that, the living quarters set aside for women and their children desperately in need of shelter were "little cinderblock rooms [like those on] a cell block," McDuffie recalled.

All that has now changed. A change that began several years ago when McDuffie received a call from a representative of MacKenzie Scott, philan-



The ribbon cutting

thropist and early contributor to Amazon. The caller said that the YWCA of Northwest Ohio had been awarded a grant, without restrictions, of \$2 million. Four thousand non-profits had initially been examined for such grants, that number narrowed to 2,000 and eventually 384 were awarded.



That got the ball rolling. ProMedica and Owens Corning each came through with seven figure donations. The state of Ohio, City of Toledo and the Lucas County Commissioners all were able to use American Rescue Plan dollars to aid the renovation.

Not that all went smoothly, what was originally forecast as a \$12 million project ballooned to more than \$17 million during the pandemic. But due to the diligence of the four campaign chairs of the development project (Sara Jane DeHoff, Rita Mansour, Cynthia Thompson, Lori Johnston) the plans came together and the fundraising continued.

And it came together quickly because the ARP government entity dollars had to be spent in a hurry. Now the first floor is complete; the second floor's 11 new resident living spaces for the Domestic Violence Shelter, staff offices and children's play area are also complete.

There has also been asbestos remediation; mechanical, plumbing, electrical and HVAC systems overhaul and a bedrock foundation installation in the former swimming pool area.

Phase 2 will include a library, computer room and training center on the second floor and third floor renovation that will mirror the development on the second floor.

All in all a remarkable achievement and a testament to the ability of community leaders working together for such a necessary cause.



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that creates together.
toledomuseum.org/classes

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