



Volume 94 No. 9

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

April 22, 2026

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Eric Williams' Legacy at Wayman D. Palmer YMCA

The Debt Black Men Owe

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

The Truth Contributor

Black women, young and old, are not protected nationally, statewide, locally. They're not protected.

- Vanice Williams



One word that Black men often reach for and are quick to use, it is "protector." We say it in church, in our homes and especially when we describe what a man is supposed to be. I have said it many times myself and meant it.

But as I watched a tearful Vanice Williams weep over a 15-year-old girl thrown to the ground on Austin Street — for not giving an officer her first name, for asking for her mother — I had to ask: protected by whom? Protected when?

When Councilwoman Williams said Black women are not protected, she was not only talking about the police. She was talking about everyone. And everyone includes us.

Tosha Woods told The Blade her daughter was defending her 18-year-old brother, who has mental health challenges, when the encounter began. A teenager protecting her brother — that is what officials call non-compliance. It is also exactly what Black women in our families and community have done for us, on our behalf, for as long as any of us has been alive.

The truth is that Black women have never waited for anyone to rescue them. They have been protecting themselves, each other, and frankly, us for centuries — without recognition or reciprocity, because complaint was a luxury the world did not extend to them. Vanice Williams did not need Black men to validate her grief. Tosha Woods did not need our permission to demand justice for her daughter.

So, this is not about saving Black women. They do not need saving. It is about something harder: stopping the ways we have added to their burden while calling ourselves their protectors.

Patricia Hill Collins named the controlling images historically imposed on Black women to justify their subordination that we, as Black men, too often absorbed — the loud woman who needs managing, the girl who is "grown." When we call a sister angry instead of right, when we see a daughter's fear as an attitude, we are doing the same interpretive work that the officer did on Austin Street. Less violently, perhaps. Yet, the same erasure.

Kimberlé Crenshaw and the African American Policy Forum's #SayHerName campaign documented the consequence: Black women are roughly seven percent of the U.S. population but about 20 percent of unarmed people killed by police. Their names do not lead our marches. We have

tended to march for our sons while the women beside us absorbed their grief in silence.

The mayor calls what happened on Austin Street "proactive policing." Williams watched the same footage and called it what it was. So did Tosha Woods. Our first task is to take Williams' and Woods' readings seriously.

Moreover, Williams said one thing four times at that press conference — each time slightly differently, as if reaching for a different person in the room: "We need you to work with us to save our babies and not beat our babies." I believe she was reaching for us, too. Not to lead. But, to finally show up beside her.

The young girl asked for her mother and got slammed to the ground and a knee on her neck. The least we can do is stop asking Black women to fight alone.

What Showing Up Beside Her Looks Like

Not rescuing but removing the weight.

- **Believe her account before you investigate it.** Examine the controlling images or Black female tropes you carry — the ones you didn't necessarily choose but absorbed anyway — and do that work in yourself. Show up to the press conferences, the city council meetings, and not just the protest. When a Black woman sounds an alarm, move toward it instead of running away from it or waiting for someone else to lead.

- **Say her name first — not also, not after — with the same urgency you say his.** That is what #SayHerName has been asking of us for a decade.

- **Teach your sons explicitly what it looks like to believe a girl who says something happened to her,** and to stand beside a woman being treated badly in public. Not chivalry. Solidarity.

- **Do not police Black women's bodies, choices, volume, or how visible they make themselves in the name of keeping them safe.** Telling Black women to shrink themselves for their own safety is a disrespectful demand that they hide who they are to survive.

None of this is heroic. That is the point. Partnership is ordinary, daily, and unglamorous but should become second nature. Black women have been doing it for all of us for generations.

The question now is whether we are finally ready to do it for them — not as saviors, but as partners overdue on a debt, we've ignored for too long.

Now that Williams has named the debt and asked for partnership, we must decide how we respond—whether we will be true partners instead of silent witnesses.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at drdlperryman@centerofhope-baptist.org



City Council President Vanice Williams

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Community Calendar

April 26

The Singles Ministry of the Refreshing Place will present Singles Day at the 11 o'clock service. Pastor Yvonne Drake from Mentor will be the guest speaker; Bishop Christopher Rowell is the Pastor

May 2

Warren AME Spring Tea: Bloom Where You Are Planted; 11:30 - 2:30 pm.
Speaker, First Lady Sabrina Prince - The Cross Church.
Vendor Tables Welcomed. Rsvp to: darlenesawyer2751@gmail.com

Vance to Pope: "Take A Hike!"

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

It's on! In this corner we have the lightweight wannabe presidential hopeful JD Vance, who is a recent convert to the Catholic faith, replete with his eyeliner and faux beard (sporting that uber liberal look!) and, in the other corner, his worthy opponent, Pope Leo, the Chicago born native who now calls Vatican City his home base.

JD Vance, a novice to the Catholic traditions and its ecclesiastical hierarchy, came out punching in the first round of this three round welter-weight tussle of privileged Yale frat boy versus a Chicago man of peace.

JD Vance, always trying to appease his handler, Donld Trump, looked nervous as he eyed the titular head of the Catholic Church, unsure or unable to how to throw his first punch.

His opponent, the Pope, serenely smiled at the new convert and stood with his hands showing the signs of peace to all.

Vance, now vainly trying to do a Mohammed Ali shuffle to confuse the pontiff, circled to his right and heard in his ear, his corner man, Trump, yelling, "hit him Vance...hit him!"

The Pope glanced at Trump, smiled and remained motionless.

In round two, Vance told the Pope to stick to matters of morality and stay out of politics and stop criticizing the war efforts of Trump. The Pope responded by saying that he is not in fear of Trump or his administration and he will continue to speak truth to power and do and say what the Gospels tells him to do.

At that statement, Vance swallows hard and seemingly forgets all of his catechism classes as to what it means to be a "good" Catholic who is supposed to follow the drum beats of a different master, Jesus the Christ.

Upon hearing this, Trump, Vance's foul mouth corner man, calls out that



the Pope is soft on crime and is a prisoner of the far-left lunatics. Never mind that in Vatican City, there is no crime to speak of but it makes for good theater to say it anyway!

In the third round, the Pope holds out his hand to the sweaty Vance who is still trying to figure out how do you smack down a Pope? In Vance's corner, his hyperbolic corner man Trump is telling the Pope to stay out of his wars and go somewhere and feed the poor...or something like that.

The Pope tells the deflated Vance that in matters of morality, war is a moral choice and the aggressors are to be chastised for visiting upon anyone such destruction unless it is a purely defensive war and not a war to fulfill one's personal ego.

At the end of the three rounds, the referee calls the Pope and Vance to the center of the world's stage and raises the hand of the Pope as the victor! Vance fumes and runs off the stage with his handler in hot pursuit calling him a coward!

In the post fight press room, the gaggle of reporters finds the Pope smiling and saying to anyone who would listen that the Jesus of the New Testament does not condone wars and does not favor or approve of military muscle threatening to wipe out an entire civilization due to the capricious whims of a person who sees himself as a king.

When a reporter asks the Pope about the rantings of Pete Hegseth using Old Testament words of preparing one's hands for war as a biblical justification for war, the Pope stated that under the new covenant which replaced the old covenant of laws, we are held to a standard of peace and mercy.

Vance, who is listening to the words of the Pope from a distance, realizes that his new found faith in the Catholic Church will usher in an overflowing platter of moral choices he will have to make in order to either appease Trump or to submit to the scriptures of the New Testament. Las Vegas is taking odds that Vance will bend the knee to Trump so as to appease him and the MAGA base.

Meanwhile, Trump is calling the fight a fix and wants a rematch because everybody knows that Vance won the fight and that the referee was a lunatic member of the Far Left with a low IQ.

In the meantime, in order to compensate for his irrational impulses to make war, Trump is now threatening to blockade the blockade already in place at the Strait of Hormuz.

Simply put Trump is flailing and looking for an exit whereby he can save face and maintain a veneer that he is still the most powerful person on the planet.

And what better way to do that than to post an AI generated picture on social media X that shows Trump is self portrayed as Jesus who is now a healer to all and he has achieved divinity status!

After all, when Paula White-Cain who is head of the office of "faith" in the White House told everyone (of course said in the presence of Trump) that if you say No to Trump, you are in fact saying No to God. Good of Paula...she loves that idol worship of Trump!

Can't get much better than that...a trumpian-god in the White House!

Contact Lafe Tolliver at lafe5x@gmail.com

TATERS!

DATES & TIMES
Friday, May 1, 2026
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City Council Members and Community Members Blast Police Takedown

The Truth Staff

Several days after a Toledo Police Department officer threw a 15-year-old girl to the ground – twice – during an arrest for walking in the street, Toledo City Council members held a press conference, along with a few concerned residents, to express their anger over the incident.

“A 15-year-old child was abused by a Toledo Policeman,” said City Council President Vanice Williams, opening the press conference. “If anyone else did what they did, they would be charged and put in jail.”

So began a press conference designed to express the ire of certain elected officials the morning after those same officials and certain city residents held a meeting with Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz and Police Chief Michael Troendle to discuss and analyze the situation and explore what action should be taken.

“I take issue with how Black women are treated across the country because I am one,” Williams continued. “That incident did not have to happen. I saw a grown man throw a young lady to the ground because she did not give her first name.”

The incident, which was captured on camera by onlookers, occurred when TPD officers stopped a group of Black teenagers who were walking in the street, a street which had no sidewalk. On film, one sees the officer take the 15-year-old girl to the ground. Twice. Even after she was handcuffed.

Williams said that as a Black woman who has faced so many challenges in her own life because she is Black, the racial aspects of the case are particularly troubling to her.

“I take issue with the racial inequality of this community,” she said. “I will protect Black women at all costs. I support the Toledo Police Department but I do not support bad behavior.”



City Council President Vanice Williams addresses the media

ment but I do not support bad behavior.”

Several other council members spoke at the press conference. Council members Nick Komives and Brittany Jones, PhD, both termed the action of the police officer as “unacceptable.”

The president of the Toledo Police Patrolman’s Association, Michael Haynes, later disagreed with the council members assessment of the situation. He defended the police officer’s actions. He said that taking a person to the ground “is a helpful tool that we use the ground in order to gain compliance in control.”

Haynes also defended the police officers’ use of profanity in the situation towards the teen and her mother. Profanity by police officers is “used appropriately as de-escalation,” he said.

Toledo Police Chief Troendle Mike Troendle also apparently confirmed the department’s reason for the use of profanity in a meeting with city council members and community representatives.

“The chief said that profanity was used to de-escalate the situation,” said Earl Murry, PhD, professor emeritus of the University of Toledo, who attended that meeting.

Meanwhile the officers on the scene have been moved to other parts of the city as police officials and the city administration seems loathe to punish them for that behavior.

Nevertheless, the uproar continues – the anger in the Toledo community continues.

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Where the Doors Stay Open: Eric Williams Legacy at Wayman D. Palmer YMCA

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

After decades of service, Williams leaves behind a transformed YMCA rooted in access and community trust

A Building Waiting to Breathe

Before the doors open each morning at the YMCA on E. Bancroft Street, a building sits quietly. The lights hum. The floors wait. And then, little by little, people walk in—and the place comes alive.

For nearly a decade, Eric Williams made sure that when people walked into the Wayman D. Palmer YMCA, they didn't just enter a building, they felt something. Warmth. Welcome. Possibility.

Now, after 31 years with the YMCA and nearly 11 years in Toledo, Williams is stepping into retirement. But the story he leaves behind is not just about time served. It is about transformation, slow, steady and deeply human.

From Childcare to Community

The Wayman D. Palmer YMCA, located in Toledo's historic Warren-Sherman neighborhood near the intersection of Bancroft and Franklin Streets, has long served as a deeply rooted hub for Black and multicultural life in the city.

When Williams first arrived in 2015, the building felt more like a locked toolbox than a working engine.

"It was basically a childcare center," he remembers.

More than 160 children filled the space daily, from early morning to late at night. Outside of that, the building sat still. There were no strong partnerships. No wide range of programs. No steady flow of community life moving in and out.

It was like a big house where only one room was being used.

For many leaders, that might feel overwhelming. For Williams, it felt like a challenge worth taking on, even if he admits he didn't fully know what he was walking into.

"If I had known everything going in," he says with a laugh, "it might have given me pause, but I'm glad I took the opportunity."

And then he got to work.

Listening Before Leading

Instead of rushing to change everything at once, Williams chose a different path. He stepped outside the building and into the community.

He went to meetings. A lot of meetings.

Churches. Nonprofits. Local leaders. Anyone connected to the heartbeat of the neighborhood.

"I just listened," he says.

Like someone learning the rhythm of a new song, he paid attention before trying to lead. He wanted to understand the people before trying to serve them.

Then, he opened the doors.

He invited the community in to use the space, to gather, and to meet.

Slowly, the building began to shift. It was no longer operating solely as a childcare center, but as a growing community space.

Partnerships That Brought Life Back

One of the first major partnerships came with Mercy Health, bringing programs focused on diabetes and chronic disease prevention. Then came Buckeye Health, helping connect even more resources and organizations.

What once felt empty began to fill with purpose.

But the biggest change happened on the inside.

Building a Culture of Belonging

When Williams arrived, the staff had gone two years without a steady executive leader. Over time, they had built their own way of doing things. Some of it worked. Some of it needed to change.

Williams understood that you cannot rebuild a culture overnight. It is like teaching a group of people to row in the same direction, you need patience and trust.

So he took his time.

He watched. He learned. Then he began to guide.

"I wanted our YMCA to feel like family," he notes.

Not just friendly, but connected. A place where people felt seen, valued, and part of something bigger.

That feeling became the foundation of everything.

More Than a Building

The vision for what the Wayman D. Palmer Y could become took a major step forward during Williams' tenure in September, 2023, when the City of Toledo and the YMCA of Greater Toledo broke ground on a new facility. Community leaders, partners and residents gathered in the Warren-Sherman district to mark this milestone rooted in history and forward move-

... continued on page 12



Eric Williams Wayman Y Executive Director

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Vivek Ramaswamy's Message to Working Families: Your Struggles Are Only a "Buzzword"

In a new interview with The New York Times, billionaire Vivek Ramaswamy called affordability a "buzzword" after he previously said the "perceived" rising cost of living was only in Ohioans' imaginations.

While costs skyrocket for working families, Vivek Ramaswamy is richer than ever, telling Ohioans costs aren't really going up, and calling them lazy. He said Medicaid and Medicare were mistakes and workers who are struggling should simply earn more money. One thing is clear: as Vivek Ramaswamy flies private 30,000 feet above Ohio, he has no clue what is happening on the ground.

"Vivek Ramaswamy's message to Ohio families who are struggling is that costs aren't actually rising and their concerns are nothing more than a 'buzzword,'" said Ohio Democratic Party spokeswoman Katie Seewer. "If Ramaswamy ever hopped off his private jet, he'd know working families are struggling. He'd also learn pretty quickly that Ohioans don't like him and see him for what he is: a con man who would raise their costs while making himself richer."

Here's what Ramaswamy says is just a buzzword:

* Cleveland.com: Ohio consumers' electric bills likely to jump again as demand outstrips supply of power

* Ohio Capital Journal: Ohio cities rank among the most medically expensive, analysis finds

* WTOL: Toledoans pinch pennies as grocery costs outstrip income growth

* Ohio Capital Journal: Ohio's economic future is hazy, but a recession might be looming, Fed survey indicates

* Columbus Dispatch: Cost of childcare in Ohio is skyrocketing. What can be done about it?

* NBC4: Ohio ranks among states with worst economies, study says

* Ohio Capital Journal: Cleveland Fed: Businesses report increasing prices, declining activity

Gov. DeWine says Ramaswamy Ad Claiming Acton Closed Polls in 2020 Is Inaccurate

* Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine denounced a gubernatorial campaign ad that claims Democratic candidate and former Ohio Health Director Amy Acton was responsible for postponing the 2020 primary election.

* "In government this happens all the time. Do you think a member of the president's cabinet would issue this kind of order without his approval?" DeWine said. "I told her to issue the health order. The decision was mine."

* The phone call included DeWine, then-Lt. Gov. and now-Sen. Jon Husted, LaRose, Acton, and both parties' chairs at the time: Jane Timken for the Ohio Republican Party and David Pepper for the Democrats. Pepper is running as Acton's lieutenant governor candidate. DeWine said all members of the phone call agreed closing the polls would be best due to fear of COVID.

* It is not the first time DeWine has contradicted fellow party members' claims that Acton was to blame for COVID-19 measures. Both DeWine and Husted told NBC4 in recent months that DeWine had final say in all decisions and they were no one else's.



Dr. Amy Acton

Rep. Grim Receives Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence Voice for Change Award

Special to The Truth

State Rep. Michele Grim (D-Toledo) last week was honored to receive the Voice for Change Award from the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence.

"I am deeply honored to receive the Voice for Change Award from the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence. Survivors deserve to live in a state where they feel supported, safe, and protected. I look forward to continuing our work together to protect and expand fundamental rights for survivors of sexual violence," said Rep. Grim.

The Voice for Change Award honors a legislator who is committed to advocating for sexual violence survivors across the state through impactful legislation.



State Rep. Michele

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Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hosts Annual Bowl for Kids' Sake Event

By Alexandria Leatherberry
The Truth Reporter

On Saturday, April 18, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Ohio hosted a sold-out annual Bowl for Kids' Sake fundraiser at Miracle Lanes. The event is the organization's largest peer-to-peer event supporting the youth mentor programs in Lucas and Wood counties.

The event was led by the organization's CEO, Marvin Whitfield, PhD, who said the initiatives that the fundraiser would be helping to support include Empowering Future Leaders group mentoring program, STEM Club and Youth Ambassador Club. These programs will also benefit from the executive order signed in 2025 for \$13.4 million federal welfare funds to support faith-based and community organizations across Ohio.

The executive order allocated Temporary Assistance for Needy Families money for fiscal years 2026 and 2027 through the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. The money supports organizations across the state that provide services such as mentorship programs, food assistance, workforce training, housing support and more.

The state funding supports the larger scale mentorship programs while the one-on-one mentoring activities rest solely on the fundraising activities of Big Brothers, Big Sisters.

"Unfortunately there are no state or federal dollars for traditional mentoring," said Whitfield. "They are investing in workforce development, leadership development and mental health mentorship, so it is our job to invest in our one-on-one mentoring"

Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz followed Whitfield by reminding guests of the historical significance Big Brothers, Big Sisters has in northwest Ohio which has made the bowling fundraiser more ceremonial.

"BBBS was founded in Ohio," said Kapszukiewicz. "If there's one thing we like to do in this part of the country it is to bowl," He shared his recollection of world record-breaking bowling achievements that have happened at Miracle Lanes. The mayor kicked off the ceremony by taking the first bowl down the lanes.

Board members and State Representative Elgin Rogers also shared words of reflection with attendees on the impact that the program has had. This impact has reached students beyond those enrolled in the program through leadership opportunities such as the Youth Ambassadors Club.



State Rep. Elgin Rogers; BBBS CEO Marvin Whitfield, PhD; BBBS Director of Development Thasia Awad; Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz



Youth Ambassador Club with Whitfield, Rogers and Kapszukiewicz

1500 children annually in several different mentoring and leadership programs. It is the agency's vision that every child who needs a mentor gets one. The organization focuses on four youth development areas: Life Skills, Leadership Development, Cultural Competence, and Career Development. For more information, please visit <http://www.bbbsnw.org/>.



Board Chair Marie Bush, PhD



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"I am glad to experience things I might not have gotten comfortable with on my own," said Youth Ambassador Vice President Madison Guy.

Bowl for Kids' Sake is an annual event benefiting Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Ohio to keep the agency's programming available for the hundreds of local children who need the help of a mentor relationship. The mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Ohio is to provide one-to-one mentoring relationships between qualified adults and children in order to help children develop into competent, confident and caring individuals.

The agency provides services to more than

Art of the Scale Up – Creating Generational Wealth

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Editor

A major challenge for budding entrepreneurs, for those who are trying to start businesses with limited funds, is to cope with all of the demands in their lives – their full-time jobs, families, studies – and also perform the tasks necessary to achieve that start-up business success.

Ebony Carter, director of the Minority Business Assistance Center, realized several years ago that a program had to be created to help such entrepreneurs by acknowledging and addressing all those challenges in their lives. Such a program would still enable them to have the opportunities to assemble the blueprint for success in business.

“We were teaching the wrong way,” says Carter of those earlier efforts. What was needed was to look at the comprehensive picture of such students. “We had to [help them] separate the two budgets and help them transition without ignoring the fact [of those many tasks].”

So “The Art of Scale Up” was created, a program designed to help navigate the real challenges of growing an existing business. This program, says Carter, is a way for people to take into account all that is happening in their lives and still put together the numbers necessary to take a critical look at growing a business. “We ask people to implement it into their lives,” she adds.

The program started in connection with the Junction Coalition and then moved over to the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union. The results over the past several years have been gratifying, Carter notes.

The eight-week Art of Scale Up, a free program, just graduated its sixth cohort last Tuesday, April 14, with a ceremony for the 17 students who completed the course. That course, according to the MBAC flyer, is built “specifically for business owners who are ready to grow smarter, stronger and more profitably.”

The graduation ceremony, last week at the Toledo Urban Federal Credit

Union, Monroe Street branch, was an affirmation for graduates that they are ready to take their businesses to the next level, to make financial decisions that will position their enterprises for sustainable growth.

If you are interested in learning more about the Minority Business Assistance Center and the Art of Scale Up program, contact the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce at www.toledochamber.com.



Toledo Urban FCU's Suzette Cowell, ThD, and MBAC's Ebony Carter



Scale Up Graduates with MBAC and Toledo Urban staff

The Sound of Awakening

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featuring



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Dorcel Dowdell, President
Mercy Olson, Collaborative Pianist



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Realtists Week 2026 – A Fair Housing Fact or Fiction Day

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Editor

The Greater Toledo Realtist Association held the GTRA Realtist Week 2026 April 12 – 18 with a full range of activities – from worship, to service, to advocacy, to forums on different issues facing both realtists and the general homebuying public.

On Tuesday, April 14, Fair Housing Day at the Glass City Enrichment Center was a forum for area realtists that offered them an opportunity to gain some insight from the Fair Housing Authority on a number of issues realtists should be aware of, particularly when it comes to discrimination in the real estate market.

Representatives from the Toledo Fair Housing Center – George Thomas, CEO and general counsel; Cristina Rodriguez, Housing Conditions and Neighborhood Reinvestment attorney and Deborah Riley-Jackson, senior Fair Housing specialist – formed a panel to discuss and elaborate on the issues raised.

About 40 realtists and guests attended the event and, after a breakfast buffet, catered by Bridgette Floyd of Bridgette Be Cooking, Rhonda Witty facilitated a quiz on real estate and housing issues in which the entire room participated.

The quiz, about two dozen questions/statements assembled by GTRA President De’Lisa Moore based upon her research of housing legal issues.

“Today it’s about making it real,” said Moore. “We want to make sure everyone is educated.”

Whitty asked the four tables to vote and form a consensus on their opinion of the statements – whether or not a particular statement was “fact” or “fic-

... continued on page 12



George Thomas, Cristina Rodriguez, Deborah Riley Jackson



Rhonda Witty



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Realtists Week 2026: Political Advocacy Day

By Dawn Scotland
The Truth Reporter

The Greater Toledo Realist Association, in partnership with The Fair Housing Center, the Lucas County Chapter of the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus, and the Black Contractors Association of Toledo, hosted the Political Advocacy Day: Housing Talk on Thursday, April 16 at Kent Branch Library as a part of the GTRA's 2026 Realist Week.



City Councilmembers Vanice Williams and George Sarantou and Police Chief Michael Troendle

The free public event focused on housing and neighborhood stability, including affordability, housing conditions, tenant concerns, code enforcement, vacancy, landlord accountability, contractor participation and the impact of public safety on neighborhoods.

The town hall featured key public officials in a robust conversation engaging city, state, county and other local officials across sectors and political lines including Toledo City Council, the Office of the Lucas County Auditor, the Office of the Lucas County Recorder, the Office of the Lucas County Treasurer, the Lucas County Board of Commissioners, Toledo Public Schools, the Toledo Police Department, the Ohio House of Representatives, and the Ohio Senate.

"We wanted to talk to the people who make the decisions," said GTRA President De'Lisa Moore, "we wanted to bring them in the room to talk about [these important issues.] We just wanted answers. We have community members that we work with [in our professions] and we hear their issues firsthand everyday about rental issues, transient students and outside investors... Being able to have the different officials there to have these conversations is very important," she said.

Panelists for the event included:

- City Council President Vanice Williams
- City of Toledo Housing Program Manager Steven Powell
- Commissioner Lisa Sobeki
- Councilman George Sarantou
- Councilwoman Dr. Brittany Jones
- Lucas County Auditor Katie Moline
- Lucas County Recorder Michael Ashford
- Lucas County Treasurer Lindsey Webb
- State Representative Elgin Rogers
- State Representative Josh Williams
- State Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson
- Toledo Police Chief Michael Troendle



Representative Josh Williams and Representative Elgin Rogers



State Sen. Paula Hicks-Hudson, LC Commissioner Lisa Sobeki, LC Treasurer Lindsay Webb, LC Auditor Katie Moline



Attendees at the GTRA Political Advocacy Day

The event was hosted by Greater Toledo Realist Association Sergeant at Arms Blair Johnson and moderated by Chris Scott. The community was encouraged to submit questions that were presented to the panel of decision makers. The group received about 40 submissions online and more questions at the event.



Time keeper Rhonda Witty and moderator Chris Scott facilitate conversation

"We wanted to make sure it was a conversation," said Blair Johnson who spearheaded the event, "we set the tone that it wasn't a debate or a time to campaign. We wanted an environment that was both effective and comfortable. We received a lot of great feedback," he shared.

He emphasized the spirit of cooperation and collaboration in the room. "All of the elected officials that were there wanted to be there. They were asked and they didn't hesitate to say yes," he stated.

Questions presented to the panel included such questions as:

- Where does Toledo stand in terms of affordable housing relative to local wages?
- What programs and protections exist to keep seniors in their homes?
- What pathways actually exist currently to put people on the pathway to homeownership in Lucas County?
- How is the city addressing concerns that some neighborhoods feel overlooked when it comes to housing investment?
- How can Toledo bring its 14,000+ abandoned properties back into productive use through partnerships, redevelopment, and community based strategies instead of relying mainly on demolition?

Refreshments were provided by Frogtown Financial and Pay it Forward UToledo.

The GTRA is planning to host this event again in the future. To learn more about the organization visit their website at toledorealtists.org or their social media pages @ToledoRealist.

The GTRA hosts a general body meeting at Tolhouse every third Tuesday at 6 p.m.



Asia Nail, The Truth Reporter



Ricky Tyus of Tyus Tours and Travel



Stacey Fowler, Publisher, Pursuit Magazine



Alexandria Leatherberry, The Truth Reporter

A Moment of Truth will explore some of the issues that are so critical in the lives of the residents of Toledo's African American community. The Sojourner's Truth has spent a quarter of a century speaking with and listening to those in our community who make a such a difference in our lives.

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The Sojourner's Truth

A MOMENT OF TRUTH

THE LOCAL THREAD

wgte Public Media

The Realists Week 2026: WIRE/MIRE Real Estate Forum

The Truth Staff

On Friday, April 17, the realists held a real estate forum – an Investor Blueprint – to discuss matters of “real deals, real strategies and real ownership.” The overriding question of the day was “what is a good deal?”

Greater Toledo Realist Association President De’Lisa Moore and the event organizers assembled a panel of realtors and investors to examine issues.

The panelists included: Dean Davis and Kimberly Dixon, realtists; David Evanoff, loan officer; Kathryn Tucker, manager real estate development for Historic South Initiatives; Shane Ouimet, mortgage consultant, Sarah Allan, LISC deputy director; Nate and Alicia Lawson, real estate investors.

As on Fair Housing Day, Moore had comprised a series of questions for the occasion – the occasion this time was to uncover “real deals and real strategies.” Moore also served as the moderator for the day.

One question, for example: *There is a property listed: an eight-unit building listed at \$575,000; current rents average \$1,000 but nearby renovated units average \$1,150; estimated gross scheduled rent will be \$36,000 and \$18,000 annual operating expenses; seller will carry 10 percent down at 5.25 percent for three years.*

That’s the property description – buy it or pass? And in reaching that de-

cision is it a: a) strong buy; b) a maybe, but only if the inspection is clean; c) walk away?

The decision of the panel, with agreement from the onlookers was “b” in this case as they examined the numbers.

Friday was another important learning day for the attendees and the fifth of six days of learning and service to the community. The GTRA Realist Week 2026 wrapped up on Saturday with a National Community Impact Day at Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church.

Established in 2019, GTRA represents a unified voice for African Americans and other underserved populations, brokers, agents, affiliates and the clients they serve. GTRA’s mantra is “Democracy in Housing!”



Central State University Announces Dr. Frederic Bertley as 2026 Commencement

Special to The Truth

Central State University, Ohio’s only public HBCU and an 1890 Land-Grant institution, proudly announces that Dr. Frederic Bertley, president and CEO of the Center of Science and Industry (COSI) and CEO of the National Veterans Memorial and Museum (NVMM), will serve as the keynote speaker for the University’s 2026 Commencement Ceremony.

The ceremony will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 16, 2026, at William Patrick McPherson Memorial Stadium on Central State’s campus.

Dr. Bertley is a globally recognized, civic-minded leader, strategist, innovator, scientist, educator and communicator whose work spans science literacy, STEM workforce development and public engagement. As the fifth president and CEO of COSI, he has led transformative efforts to expand access to science education and reimagine how communities engage with STEM learning locally, nationally and around the world.

“Dr. Bertley embodies the spirit of innovation, leadership and service that we instill in our students,” said Central State University President Dr. Morakinyo A.O. Kuti. “His global impact in science, education and community engagement makes him an inspiring voice for the Class of 2026 graduates as they prepare to lead and serve in an ever-evolving world.”

At COSI, Dr. Bertley has elevated the museum experience while extending its reach far beyond Central Ohio. His initiatives include the COSI Science Festival, The Color of Science™ and EiPIC™ programs, as well as the widely recognized COSI Connects STEM Kit Learning Lunchboxes.

He also co-created and hosted the PBS-affiliated television program “QED with Dr. B” and developed the animated digital series “Dr. B in 3.” In addition to his role at COSI, Dr. Bertley currently serves as CEO of the National Veterans Memorial and Museum, where he is guiding the institution through a transformational phase.

His leadership focuses on strategic planning, expanding programming, strengthening operational efficiency and increasing the museum’s national impact, while honoring the lives and service of veterans and their families.

Dr. Bertley’s academic background reflects his deep commitment to science and research. He earned a bachelor’s degree in physiology, mathematics and the history of science, as well as a doctorate in immunology, from McGill University. He completed postdoctoral research at Harvard Medical School and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he contributed to the development of DNA vaccines for HIV/AIDS. His global health and education work spans multiple continents, including initiatives in Haiti, Sudan and the Canadian Arctic, along with STEM education programs in Barbados, Dominica, Egypt, England, India, Italy, Japan, Malta, Paraguay, Senegal and the United Arab Emirates.

A sought-after speaker, Dr. Bertley has presented at distinguished institutions including the United Nations, the White House, the National Academy of Sciences and NASA, and has contributed thought leadership to major media outlets, including Fast Company.

Central State University’s 2026 Commencement Ceremony will celebrate the achievements of its graduating class and mark a significant milestone as students transition into leadership roles across industries and communities. For more information about commencement, visit: www.centralstate.edu/commencement.



Frederic Bertley, PhD

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Glass City Gems...continued from page 16

WilliAnn Moore
Dr. Tia Daniels
Ambrea Mikolajczyk
Linda Ransey (Posthumous)

Presented by Ignite Hope NJ and The Virtuous Women's Network Global, the afternoon highlighted local Black-owned businesses and presented nearly \$4000 in scholarships to local organizations including Mom's House, Isaiah 1:17 House and the Finnegan Family Autism Center to support their missions.


The organization also announced the launch of the June Boyd Legacy Scholarship, celebrating her decades of public service to the community. The \$1000 scholarship was awarded to City Council President Vanice Williams signifying a continuation of that legacy of service.

She is a graduate of Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio, where she was crowned Miss Central State University (2002–2003) and is a 1999 honors graduate of Jesup W. Scott High School. Lacey is the founder of SLE Global Enterprises.

Ignite Hope A NJ Nonprofit is a global organization dedicated to charitable, educational, and humanitarian outreach that transforms lives and strengthens communities around the world. Through comprehensive programming and global initiatives, the organization provides autism family advocacy and support; women's development and leadership training; outreach to women in crisis or transition; mentorship and scholarships for college-aged women; mental health support for veteran women and military spouses; international missions through Ignite Hope Global Mission Teams; and community outreach initiatives through the creative arts. ONE Mission: Reach - Respond - Restore.

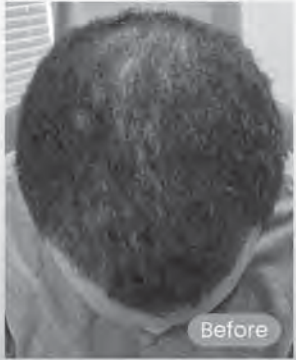

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YMCA...continued from page 5

ment.

Originally established in 1978, the Wayman Palmer YMCA has long stood alongside Inez Nash Park as a cornerstone of community life. Under Williams' leadership, that legacy was not only preserved but reimagined into a modern, welcoming space designed to support the health of the whole person—spirit, mind, and body. The new development includes a family-friendly pool, an 8,000-square-foot gym with NCAA-quality wood flooring, an expanded fitness center, and an outdoor splash pad. Beyond the building itself, the Y continues to grow as a hub for opportunity, offering afterschool programs, youth and adult sports, grab-and-go meals, and dedicated support for at-risk youth and families.

Today, this YMCA stands as a 50,000-square-foot community hub on E. Bancroft Street. But for Williams, the true success is not in the building, it is in what happens inside it.

It is the food pantry that helps families in need.

It is the partnerships that connect people to mental health support and health screenings.

It is the open-door mindset: no one is turned away because of money.

"We're going to find a way to get you a membership," Williams emphasizes.

A Mission Made Personal

That belief is rooted in his own life.

At one point, Williams found himself raising six children as a single father during a difficult chapter. He lost much, but the YMCA stood beside him.

"If it wasn't for the Y, I don't know," he recalls. "They really took care of me."

That experience shaped how he saw his role, not as a job, but as a responsibility.

The Y, to him, is like a bridge. It connects people to what they need, whether that is safety, support, or a second chance.

Lessons from the Journey

That same mindset guided his earlier work with the YMCA in Pittsburgh, where he helped lead a gang prevention program during a period of high crime. The initiative reached young people directly, building trust and offering them a different path forward.

"You have to be honest," he adds. "And you have to keep your word."

Those simple rules became the backbone of his leadership.

He also made it a point to invest in people. Williams worked to mentor staff at every level, making sure they had the tools to grow, not just in their jobs, but in their lives.

... continued on page 13

Realists...continued from page 9

tion." As such, a number of the questions divided opinion among the group, leading to intense discussions and in-depth explanations from the Fair Housing panelists about the issue at hand.

A few of the questions:

"A landlord can ask where you are from originally during a rental application?" Fact or fiction, the group was asked?

The four tables all agreed that the answer was "fiction." They were right. As the answer explained and the panel elaborated, asking about origin can raise national origin discrimination concerns and is unnecessary for screening.

"A landlord can refuse a tenant because they have children? Fact or fiction?"

Fiction is the correct answer because familial status is a protected class.

"A seller can reject an offer because they do not want 'those people' in the neighborhood?"

Fact or fiction?

Fiction. Rejecting an offer based on protected class bias, or acting on it, is illegal and agents cannot participate or facilitate it.

"A housing policy can violate fair housing law even if there was no intention to discriminate."

Fact or fiction?

Fact. Policies with a discriminatory effect can violate the Fair Housing Act even without discriminatory intent.

These were four of the more than three dozen issues the Fair Housing Center panel and the room in general addressed in an effort to ensure the members of the Greater Toledo Realists Association gained a better understanding of Fair Housing Act principles.

The Fair Housing Day was but part of a week of activities, starting with a Sunday Day of Worship at Canaan Manifested Word Church and culminating with a National Community Impact Day on Saturday, April 18 at Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church

Arsenio by Arsenio Hall with Alan Eisenstock

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

So what do you think? No doubt, you have an opinion on the subject at hand. You have something to say, a POV, a side you'll take or a stand to make. You have thoughts, info to gather, intel to share. Talk-talk-talk, maybe it's a calling. Maybe, as in the new memoir, *Arsenio by Arsenio Hall with Alan Eisenstock*, it's livin' the dream.

Back when he was small, everyone assumed that little Arsenio Hall would grow up to be a preacher like his Daddy. Sunday mornings, Hall says, were spent listening to his father, learning the power of words spoken properly. Being a preacher seemed like a good calling, until Hall's parents split and his world changed.

While he was temporarily living with his grandmother, a cousin brought home a book on magic and Hall was hooked. He became obsessed, practicing easy sleight-of-hand tricks until they were second-nature and sneaking out of the house to spend after-school afternoons in a magic shop. By the time he was a teenager, he was performing for spending money and had appeared on local Cleveland television.

But magic wasn't everything. The feeling that he got when he made people laugh – the idea that he could get paid for being funny – Hall needed more of that. He started adding humor to his magic shows until he realized that being a comedian was an actual job, and magic faded into his background.

Back when he was in grade school, Hall used to sneak out of his bedroom at night to watch *The Tonight Show* with Johnny Carson. In his basement, he practiced doing interviews just like Carson. He didn't want to be like Carson, he wanted to be Carson.

And so Hall moved to Chicago and started snagging gigs at comedy shows. He met up-and-coming comics and established funny men who gave him advice, sympathy and contacts, which helped him move up in the system, make money and land movie roles.

Then Paramount came calling but Hall didn't get another movie offer. He got his own talk show...

Like so many Hollywood biographies, *Arsenio* is loaded – positively loaded – with name-dropping. Normally: ugh. But the thing here is, you won't mind. Author Arsenio Hall (with Alan Eisenstock) tells this story in such an appealing, wide-eyed way that you'll be too busy enjoying to care about dropped names.

c. 2026
Black Privilege
Publishing / Atria
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324 pages



Arsenio author,
courtesy Kareem
Black

comedy, hip-hop, or entertainment in general. Read *Arsenio*. It's a book you'll tell everyone about.

YMCA...continued from page 12

"A building doesn't matter if the people inside aren't ready to serve," he says thoughtfully.

Thinking Bigger

He pushed others to dream bigger, too. Through efforts like the African-American Resource Network and diversity initiatives, he helped create space for more voices and more leadership.

"Don't think small," he always says. "Think beyond where you are."

A trip to South Africa deepened that belief even more. There, Williams saw international YMCA programs run with very few resources, but with powerful commitment. Volunteers served for years. Children facing homelessness still showed up with joy and energy.

"It changed how I see everything," he says.

Seeing It Through

Coming back home, he carried that perspective with him, like a reminder in his pocket. No matter how hard things got, he knew what was possible.

And things did get hard.

There were long days. Tough decisions. Moments where progress felt slow. Times when leadership meant standing firm, even when it was uncomfortable.

But Williams stayed the course.

"I committed. I was going to see it through," he says with quiet certainty.

Leaving the Door Open

Now, as he prepares to step away, he does so with deep pride.

No big spotlight. No long goodbye tour.

Just a final day, and a building full of life.

When asked how he wants to be remembered, his answer is simple:

"As someone who was connected to the community," he says, pausing. "Someone who wanted people to have access."

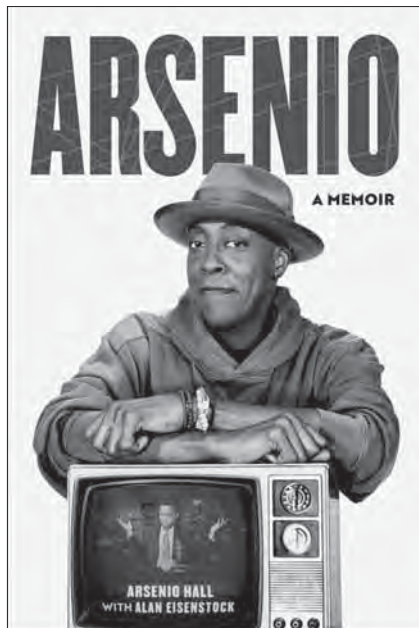
Because in the end, that is what he built.

Not just programs. Not just partnerships.

But access.

A door left open for others to walk through.

The community extends heartfelt thanks to Eric Williams for more than three decades of service, leadership, and unwavering commitment to uplifting others. Learn more about the legacy he helped shape at the Wayman D. Palmer YMCA here.



Another thing: what you saw on TV and what you see in movies are pretty much what you can expect in Hall's book. It's authentic; readers will find stories that are thorny and squirmy, but also a bit star-struck. He's not afraid to tell readers about being someone's fan. He's also willing to tell the truth about his career, his personal life, and the end of his talk show, and he plain-talks about the increasingly bad sides of the entertainment industry, so buckle up.

This is a book for Hollywood-watchers, fans of Arsenio Hall, of course, but also for anyone who loves

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NAREB Announces Affordable Homeownership Bus Tour to Help Close the Gap in Black Homeownership

Special to The Truth

The National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB) today announced the launch of its Affordable Homeownership Bus Tour, a major national initiative bringing housing affordability solutions directly to communities.

Under the leadership of NAREB President Ashley Thomas III, the tour unites housing experts, local leaders, lenders, and real estate professionals to help individuals and families achieve and sustain homeownership.

Homeownership is a powerful path to wealth creation and economic stability. However, the Black homeownership rate is currently at 44.2 percent, significantly lower than the 75.1 percent enjoyed by White families. Only 33 percent of Black millennials own homes, a stark contrast to the 65 percent homeownership rate of their White counterparts.

Additionally, NAREB's 2025 State of Housing in Black America (SHIBA) report reveals that Black women face unprecedented challenges in their pursuit of homeownership. Recognizing the urgency of this moment, Thomas created the Affordable Homeownership Bus Tour to address the growing gap between housing affordability and homeownership opportunity.

The multi-city trip to Philadelphia, PA, Baltimore, MD, Detroit, MI, Gary, IN, Kansas City, MO, Memphis, TN, Little Rock, AK, and Tulsa, OK is part of NAREB's national strategy to Close the Gap in Black homeownership. The initiative aims to deliver substantive education to communities, elevate data-driven conversations about affordability, connect residents to real-time homeownership opportunities, and build partnerships that support long-term housing solutions.

"Our mission is clear, and more urgent than ever," said Thomas. "We are committed to transforming the wealth landscape for historically underserved communities, one home at a time. By providing education, practical tools, and access to strategic partnerships, we are equipping families to create and sustain generational wealth through real estate. This journey is not one we can take alone. We invite our partners to join us, block by block, city by city, on the frontlines of meaningful, lasting change. Together, we are Closing the Gap and turning opportunity into ownership



and ownership into legacy."

The tour, jointly presented by NAREB and the African American Mayors Association (AMMA), represents a national call to action that unites many public and private sector partners and brings together a broad coalition, including local real estate boards, financial institutions, housing agencies, elected leaders, and faith-based organizations.

Emphasizing the importance of this collaboration, Phyllis Dickerson, the AMMA CEO, said, "This partnership reflects our shared commitment to expanding access, creating opportunity, and strengthening pathways to homeownership." The tour is supported by many additional partners, including Alpha Phi Alpha, Delta Theta Sigma, Sigma Zeta, the NAACP, the National Council of Negro Women, and the Urban League. Key NAREB affiliates, including the NAREB Investment Division - Housing Counseling Agency and the Women's Council of NAREB, are also central to the effort.

The eight cities chosen for the tour were selected based on localized housing data that reveals stark disparities in mortgage originations for Black residents. In Philadelphia, Black residents make up an estimated 39 percent of the population, but accounted for only 28 percent of mortgage originations in 2024. In Baltimore, which has a 57 percent Black population, only 45 percent of originations went to Black buyers. Detroit features an 81 percent Black population, yet Black residents accounted for just 63 percent of originations. In Gary, Black residents represent 79 percent of the population but only 64 percent of originations. Kansas City has a 24 percent Black population who have only 13 percent of their originations. Memphis has a 61 percent Black population but just 41 percent of originations. In Little Rock, Black residents make up 39 percent of the population but received 24 percent of the originations. In Tulsa, Black residents comprise 14 percent of the city's population but account for eight percent of mortgage originations.

To address these local challenges directly, the Affordable Homeownership Bus Tour will visit the eight cities in eight days with events in each location. The journey begins on April 25 in Philadelphia, PA, before moving to Baltimore, MD on April 26. The tour arrives in Detroit, MI, on April 27, followed by Gary, IN, on April 28. On April 29, the tour stops in Kansas City, MO, before heading to Memphis, TN, on April 30. The final two stops will take place in Little Rock, AK, on May 1, and Tulsa, OK, on May 2.

Each stop on the tour will feature comprehensive programming that equips attendees with the knowledge and tools needed to navigate today's housing market. The "Renting vs. Owning: Building a Better Future" session will explore the true costs of renting versus buying, breaking down the financial and lifestyle benefits of homeownership.

The "From Housing to Homeownership" segment will show attendees how Section 8 housing certificates can serve as a pathway to homeownership, outlining steps to turn rental assistance into real ownership. Another critical session, "Heirs Property Rights," will teach participants how to secure property rights and prevent the loss of family-owned homes, ensuring wealth and legacy remain in the family for generations. Attendees can also participate in a "Town Hall: Affordable Solutions," joining city officials and community leaders to discuss actionable solutions to increase housing affordability and expand access to lending programs. The "Development for the People" session will assist NAREB developers nationwide in partnering with cities to create community-focused developments that deliver affordable housing opportunities.

At its core, the Affordable Homeownership Bus Tour is about action and access. Attendees will leave with tangible resources, connections to trusted housing professionals, and a clearer route toward homeownership. For many communities, these events will serve as a critical entry point into programs that can help families move from renters to owners and begin building lasting generational wealth.

The National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB) is a premier network of Black real estate professionals. Founded in 1947, NAREB is dedicated to promoting democracy in housing and closing the wealth gap by empowering communities through education, advocacy, and sustainable homeownership pathways.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Electronic Bids will be received by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority for all labor, material, insurance, and equipment necessary for the St. Lawrence Drive Pavement Reconstruction project at Facility One, 3518 St. Lawrence Dr., Toledo, Ohio 43605, in accordance with the approved plans and specifications, for the Port Authority at One Maritime Plaza, Toledo, Ohio 43604.

This project involves milling, resurfacing, and partial full depth reconstruction of St Lawrence Drive from the southwest end gated access to the terminus at the northeast end. The project also includes replacement of curb and gutter, sanitary sewer, 2 rail crossings, and installation of 2 new catch basins and storm sewer.

The engineer's estimate for the base bid and alternate 1 is approximately \$1,755,400. Bids that are in excess of 20% above the engineer's estimate would be considered non-responsive. This project may be awarded by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority at its sole discretion.

Bids will be received through Bid Express, an online electronic bidding system until Wednesday, May 6, 2026, at 10:00 AM, at which time all bids will be opened through the Bid Express website.

The plans and bid proposal documents are available through Bid Express at: <https://www.bidexpress.com/businesses/66075/home>. Bidders new to the electronic bidding system must first register on the Bid Express website (www.bidexpress.com). Registration is Free. It can take up to five (5) business days to process a Digital ID and it is highly recommended that a Digital ID be enabled 48 hours in advance of submitting an electronic bid. Bidders must plan accordingly. For additional guidance regarding electronic bidding, bidders must contact Bid Express directly. Each bidder shall be responsible for submitting its electronic bid before the bid deadline.

Proposals must be submitted on the form(s) included in Bid Express and shall be accompanied by a certified check or an acceptable Proposal Bond with satisfactory surety specifying the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority as the obligee, in the sum of not less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount.

Please note that there will be a pre-bid meeting for this project for all prospective bidders on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at 10:00 AM, at the Port Authority's administrative offices at One Maritime Plaza, 2nd floor conference room, Toledo, OH 43604. Attendance is suggested, but not mandatory. Please submit all questions through the Bid Express service by Monday, April 27, 2026, at 10:00 AM local time. Questions submitted after the deadline will not receive a response. Additional information can be found at www.toledoport.org/projects/public-notice/

Thomas J. Winston
President and CEO
Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority

BROADCAST ENGINEER

WGTE Public Media is seeking a full-time Broadcast Engineer. This role is responsible for maintaining and supporting the technical infrastructure for the organization's television and radio broadcast operations, ensuring reliable performance and compliance with FCC and industry standards. Responsibilities include maintaining broadcast, studio, and production equipment; troubleshooting signal impairments and system issues; assisting with system upgrades and integration; and collaborating with engineering, IT, and other departments to support daily operations and long-term technical projects. The ideal candidate is a strong problem-solver who can work both independently and collaboratively in a fast-paced technical environment while communicating complex technical information clearly.

An associate degree, technical certification, or equivalent experience in electronics, broadcast engineering, information technology, or a related field is required, along with at least three years of experience in broadcast engineering or technical operations. Working knowledge of RF transmission, audio and video systems, electronics, and IP networks is required. Experience with broadcast automation systems, video servers, encoders, or STL/TSL systems and familiarity with CAD software or technical schematics are preferred. Occasional field work at transmitter sites or remote productions may be required, along with the ability to lift equipment and work in elevated or confined spaces.

How to Apply

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

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 43604-2247 until 3:00 P.M. (local time), May 22, 2026, and opened immediately thereafter for **#2180 TANF Program Services to Youth and Families** for the Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services, according to specifications available for examination, or download the proposal by going to the site, <https://co.lucas.oh.us/3322/Bid-Opportunities> 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://eieb.fa.us6.oraclecloud.com/fscmUI/faces/NegotiationAbstracts?prcBuId=300000007278812&_adf.ctrlstate=l5ps8sau3_1&_afLoop=7126760101772357&_afWindowMode=0&_afWindowId=avudlxmca&_afFS=16&_afMT=screen&_afMFW=1920&_afMFH=932&_afMFDW=1920&_afMFDH=1080&_afMFC=8&_afMFCI=0&_afMFM=0&_afMFR=96&_afMFG=0&_afMFS=0&_afMFO=0

Prior to 3:00 P.M. (local time), May 22, 2026, 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. Sobecki – President
Pete Gerken – Commissioner
Anita Lopez- Commissioner

Bid # 2180 - TANF Program Services to Youth and Families

DIRECTOR OF SUMMER CAMPS

The Padua Center is seeking a Director of Summer Camps. The Director is primarily responsible for the overall development of and implementation of the Padua Summer Programs. The general outline of the six weeks of camp is awaiting a creative director to complete the plans. The director will supervise the various volunteers, work with the Padua Staff in arranging particulars of the camps and executing a successful Summer Recreation and Learning experience for 25 to 30 elementary school age youth. This is a seven-week summer employment at 35 hours a week. The ideal candidate will have a bachelor degree and some educational experience. The Padua Center is an EOE. For more information contact The Padua Center. Please submit resume by April 15, 2026 to The Padua Center at thepaduacenter@gmail.com. 419 241 6465

The Glass City Gems Women's Empowerment Brunch & Awards Inaugural Event

By Dawn Scotland
The Truth Reporter

The Glass City Gems Women's Empowerment Brunch & Awards was held Saturday, April 11, at The Summit to celebrate the impact and legacy of local women leaders. The event- hosted by Toledo native Scharita Barry Lacey - featured a panel, giveaways, awards ceremony and live entertainment.

Scharita Barry Lacey, recipient of the 2025 Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award presented by President Joseph R. Biden, brought together individuals across government, business, education and nonprofit leadership Saturday morning.

"She is here to celebrate the city," stated Tammy Green, Executive Administration Lead of SLG Global (NJ) "she loves to empower women...and she decided to come home to Toledo and empower the women that shaped her and molded her into whom she is today."

Lacey has hosted the event across the country for many years in places such as Houston and Atlanta and has now brought that same energy to the Glass City.

The theme for Toledo's inaugural Glass City Gem's Empowerment Bruch and Awards was *Every Woman is a Gem. Every Story Deserves Honor.*

Inaugural awardees included:

- Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur
- Council President Vanice Williams
- Avie Dixon
- Former Councilwoman June Boyd
- Henrietta Savage Armstrong
- Doris Greer

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The announcement of the June Boyd Legacy Scholarship



Lacey presents awards to Ohio Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur



Scharita Barry Lacey presents flowers to June Boyd



Toledo City Council President Vanice Williams receives the first June Boyd Legacy Scholarship



Panelists at the Glass City Gems Brunch

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