



Volume 95 No. 6 "And Ye Shall Know The Truth..." June 3, 2026



Tracci K. Johnson, Executive Director, Monroe Street Neighborhood Center

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On Juneteenth, I'll Celebrate Black Music at Andrew Jackson's Plantation

The ground at the Hermitage is sacred and stained, and the music made by enslaved people and their progeny is what still feeds this country's hope.

By Ben Jealous

Guest Column

This Juneteenth I will stand at the Hermitage and help celebrate Black music. The Hermitage was Andrew Jackson's plantation, outside Nashville. I want to be honest about how strange that is.



I am descended from slaves and from the men who owned and abused them. The men who denied them their God-given right to freedom. My family was enslaved by the Blands of Virginia. Richard Bland was the famous one. He was a patriot before there was a country. He told the king and Parliament that a shackle chafes a man no matter how well you polish it. His young cousin Thomas Jefferson asked him to bring a bill to make it easier to free the enslaved. Bland did it. He was denounced as an enemy of his country. Then he went home and kept his thirty. He died still holding them.

That is my inheritance. My grandmother, Mamie Bland Todd, is the griot of our family. She carries two hundred years of it. Her great-grandfather Frederick was the only enslaved man named in his owner's will, and the will was written to protect him. The man who owned Frederick was his own brother. That is how close the blood runs.

Thomas Jefferson is my cousin. He wrote that all men are created equal. Robert E. Lee is my cousin too. He took up arms to keep my other ancestors in chains. I carry the blood of the man who argued for freedom and the blood of those he would not free. I resent his cruelty. I pray my children show his courage against the men who would be kings. That is the duality of this nation.

So I know something about awkward ground.

The Hermitage is beautiful. A thousand acres. A white mansion. Gardens. The tombs of the seventh president and his wife. It is also a graveyard. More than three hundred men, women, and children were enslaved there. Archaeologists are still finding their graves. The land was Native land first. He signed the Indian Removal Act. He set the Trail of Tears in motion. Settlers' bones are in that ground. The bones of the enslaved. The ground is sacred for what is buried in it. It is stained for the same reason.

And we are going to sing on it.

Jackson owned the people there. He fathered no children, white or Black. Betty cooked for him, as her mother had before her. Her son Alfred was born on that land and lived there longer than any man. After freedom came he stayed. They put "Faithful Servant" on his stone. But once a white man told him slavery had its comforts, and Alfred asked him, "How would you like to be a slave?" The man had no answer.

For a while that felt like trespass. Who brings a celebration into a wound? Black music was not made in spite of that ground. It was made on it. The field holler. The spiritual. The work song that timed a hoe. People who were called property made them, and the songs said they were not. "Follow the Drinking Gourd" was a map to freedom. They sang it where the men who owned them could hear.

Juneteenth is the right day for it. Freedom came late, two and a half years after it was declared, to people who had been free in the eyes of God the whole time. The day does not pretend the delay away. It celebrates anyway.

So I will go. I will stand where Jackson stood, and where the people he enslaved stood. I will not soften either truth. I will say their names if they let me.

We are more curious now than ever about how we are joined. I have a cousin who descends from the people who owned mine. We are kin. The country is like that.

Nothing feeds the American need for unity and hope like the music made by enslaved people and their children. It is the truest thing this country has made. And we are still singing it.

So this Juneteenth, on sacred and stained ground, we will sing. And we will remember the oldest truth Mamie Bland Todd ever taught me: our people were always free.

And — oddly, ironically, and even somewhat poetically — it happens to be the same lesson her own slaveholding forebear, Richard, helped teach both his young cousin Thomas and King George.

Freedom is inherent. It belongs to us from the beginning.

Ben Jealous is a professor of practice at the University of Pennsylvania and former president and CEO of the NAACP.

Community Calendar

June 4

Kwanzaa Park Neighbors Block Watch Meeting: The Padua Center; 6 to 7 pm; Guest speaker Idell Watson, founder of Widows Empowered Strengthened & I (WES & I)

June 8

Vacation Bible School: United Missionary Baptist Church: Reining in Your Purpose; Monday, June 8 - Friday, June 12; 5:30 - 7:30 pm; Free lite dinner nightly: 5:30 pm - 6 pm; Free Classes for all ages starting at pre-K thru Adult: Jeanese Hawkins Muhammad @ 419-699-2656

June 14

Third Baptist Church Community Celebration Sunday – Family & Friends Day: 11 am; Reception to follow

June 16

Toledo NAACP General Public and Membership meeting will be held at the Mott Branch Library; 5:00 PM

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NMLS 403044

Black Astronauts and Aerospace Pioneers Reflect on the Past and Future of Space Travel

Special to The Truth

In the wake of Artemis II's historic return from its mission around the moon, some of the nation's most accomplished Black astronauts, engineers and aerospace pioneers came together for an intergenerational conversation about perseverance, representation and the future of space exploration.

The discussion became a meditation on history, possibility and the cultural significance of who now gets to shape humanity's future beyond Earth. The April 10 landing marked the first crewed journey into deep space since Apollo 8 in 1968.

The mission also made history as the first to carry a woman, Christina Koch, a person of color, Victor Glover, and a non-U.S. citizen, Canadian Jeremy Hansen, around the moon, setting a new human deep-space distance record.

Mission commander Reid Wiseman led the groundbreaking crew, whose achievement signaled not only technological progress but a profound cultural shift. The online gathering was convened by Captain Willie Daniels (ret.), who has 48 years of association with United Airlines and founded SHADES OF BLUE, a nonprofit dedicated to introducing young people of color to aviation and aerospace careers.

The moment carried special meaning for Daniels because Artemis II pilot Victor Glover, Jr. was among SHADES OF BLUE'S earliest graduates. Moderated by Reginald Bullock, the conversation featured a cohort of aerospace trailblazers, including pioneering astronaut Ed Dwight; astronauts Winston Scott, Robert Curbeam, Joan Higginbotham, Jim Reilly, Leland Melvin, Charles Bolden, Frederick Gregory, Livingston Holder and Herbert Jefferson Jr., best known for his role as Lieutenant Boomer on the original *Battlestar Galactica* television series.

Together, they represented decades of progress, struggle, and excellence in American aerospace. Victor Glover Sr. started the conversation by recounting his son's early years. He recalled encouraging the younger Victor to pursue becoming a Navy pilot instead of a Navy SEAL—a pivotal decision that ultimately placed him on the path to NASA.

Even now, Glover said, the magnitude of his son's journey remains sur-

real, filled with pride, excitement and the nervous awe of watching history unfold through family.

"It's exciting, it's nerve-racking and it makes me quite anxious. But I'm enjoying every minute of it," Glover said.

A generational perspective was shared by Ed Dwight, who in 1961 was selected by President John F. Kennedy to become America's first Black astronaut. Though denied the chance to fly during NASA's early years, Dwight ultimately fulfilled that dream decades later aboard Blue Origin's New Shepard, becoming America's oldest astronaut at age 90.

Reflecting on Artemis II, he noted how dramatically both science and opportunity have evolved since the 1960s. "They got the right guy to do what I could have and would have done had I had the chance," Dwight said. "There's so much science that has transpired since I was involved, and there's so much more to observe now in the science of space."

Former NASA Administrator Charles Bolden, nomination by President Barack Obama and the first African American to lead the agency, reflected on his own path through the segregated South. He described how entry into the Naval Academy and later test pilot school once felt nearly impossible. His message to young people was clear: follow your passion, and when given leadership, take care of your people.

That theme of internal belief was reiterated in the reflections of astronaut Joan Higginbotham. As one of the few African American women to travel into space, she spoke candidly about repeatedly finding herself as "the only one" in classrooms, labs, and professional spaces. The greatest challenge, she said, was learning to know she belonged. Once she overcame that barrier, her journey became larger than personal success—it became a visible pathway for others.

"As one of the few African American women to travel to space, I'm deeply aware that my journey carries meaning beyond my own experience," Higginbotham said. "It speaks to visibility, to access, and to the importance of expanding what people believe is possible for themselves."

Leland Melvin's story added another layer of resilience. After losing his hearing in a training accident and being told he would never fly in space, he leaned on childhood lessons of persistence and the support of trusted advocates who refused to let him quit. That belief carried him through two missions and remains central to how he now thinks about legacy: ensuring young people can see themselves in the story of space.

What makes Artemis II feel different, several panelists agreed, is that the mission transcends science alone. Winston Scott described it as a cultural breakthrough—one in which audiences are no longer primarily focused on race, gender, or nationality, but on the crew's shared excellence and precision. In that sense, the mission represents not only a triumph of engineering but the visible erosion of long-standing social barriers.

Still, the group emphasized that symbolic breakthroughs must be followed by sustained action. Frederick Gregory, NASA's first Black acting administrator, stressed the importance of moving quickly into Artemis III and Artemis IV so public imagination and momentum are not lost. Continuous progress toward lunar rendezvous, docking operations, surface research, and eventual missions to Mars will determine whether Artemis II becomes a lasting legacy or a singular exception.

"I hope that we're able to follow this with a quick Artemis III to work on the rendezvous and dockings with Blue Origin and SpaceX," Gregory said. "And then Artemis IV to get us back on the moon again as the beginning of the first adventure in the journey to get to Mars and beyond."

Bolden expanded that responsibility is beyond NASA, it's calling on scientists, astronauts, and citizens alike to become advocates for space exploration. Sustained public enthusiasm must translate into congressional support and long-term funding if the promise of lunar permanence and Martian exploration is to be realized.

The cohort agreed that inspiration is the ultimate mission. Children need to see people who look like them talking about flying jets, designing rockets, and building future colonies beyond Earth. The most enduring legacy of Artemis II may not be the distance traveled, but the horizons expanded in the minds of the next generation.



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Monroe Street Neighborhood Center Continues Transforming Lives in Toledo

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

Some places feed more than hunger. They feed hope.

On any given Tuesday at the Monroe Street Neighborhood Center, neighbors quietly line up for food, clothing and support. Seniors laugh together during exercise classes. Children fill the halls with energy during summer programs. And somewhere in the middle of all of it is Tracci K. Johnson, helping hold the moving pieces together like the steady heartbeat of a busy home.



Tracci Johnson

As Executive Director she does not describe her work with flashy words. In fact, when asked what inspired her lifelong passion for helping others, her answer was simple.

"I think it's just always been a part of who I am."

That quiet statement says a lot.

For more than 27 years, Tracci Johnson has worked in education and community service, helping people grow into the best version of themselves. Her career has included leadership positions in higher education but, today, much of her focus centers on strengthening Toledo families through the Monroe Street Neighborhood Center.

And there is nothing "dull" about her days.

"I don't think I have typical days," Johnson says with a laugh. "Every day brings something different!"

Still, the Center runs with the rhythm of a well-loved neighborhood kitchen, always moving, always welcoming, always serving.

More Than a Food Pantry

Every Monday, volunteers prepare for the Center's weekly food pantry called The Bridge. By Tuesday, around 150 people come through the doors for resources and encouragement.

But this pantry works differently.

Instead of handing families a pre-packed box, people are allowed to choose their own items.

That small act matters more than many realize.

Choice restores dignity. It reminds people they still have control, even during difficult times.

"You get to go through the line and choose things," Johnson explains. She adds that, in her opinion, the Center has "one of the best food pantries in the city," though she admits with a laugh that she may be "a little biased."

"That ability to choose empowers people."

The Center also offers clothing, household items and connections to health-care services. For many families, it becomes more than a stop for groceries. It becomes a lifeline.

Like a bridge over rough water, the program helps people keep moving forward until steadier ground appears beneath their feet again.



Bluff Street's Tiny Houses



Terry Crosby, Tracci K. Johnson, Kimberly Fisher, Rev. Larry Clark

A Building Filled With Joy

During the summer months, the energy inside the building shifts.

Children's voices echo through the halls. Books open. Questions fly. Laughter spills from room to room.

That is the sound of Freedom School.

The six-week literacy-based summer camp serves students from kindergarten through eighth grade. Every morning, community leaders visit to read books and talk with students about their careers and life journeys.

Firefighters come. Teachers come. Nurses, lawyers, librarians and city leaders all take turns pouring into the children.

For many students, it is powerful to see successful adults who look like them standing at the front of the room.

"We want our students to see themselves as community leaders," Tracci says.

The program also fights something educators call the "summer slide," when students lose reading and learning progress during summer break.

At Freedom School, reading happens every single day.

But the program is not built around pressure. It is built around joy.

"The best part about it is the students love it," Johnson says. "The whole building is full of energy and joy."

That joy matters.

In a world where children often carry heavy stress far too early, spaces like Freedom School become small gardens in the middle of concrete, places where confidence, imagination and possibility can still grow.

Tiny Homes, Big Dreams

Just a few streets away, another dream is quietly rising from the ground.

Bluff Street Village began with a bold vision: create affordable housing while helping residents eventually become homeowners.

These tiny homes are not temporary shelters or prefabricated units dropped onto empty lots. They are fully built homes created through community support and donations.

Residents who live there pay rent, complete community service hours and attend workshops focused on budgeting and homeownership. After seven years, the homes become theirs.

No mortgage.

... continued on page 6

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Collingwood Green Living Opens – Phase IV of the Project

The Truth Staff

Toledo area elected officials, financial institution representatives and Lucas Metropolitan Housing staff celebrated the grand opening of a transformative \$29 million Collingwood Green



Living housing development on Thursday, May 28.

The new housing development will provide senior citizens with 75 affordable housing units and complete LMH's multiphase Collingwood Green community begun in 2011.

"Older adults can live in dignity with freedom and safety," said Alisha Gant, chair of the LMH board as she opened the dedication.

The drive to add Collingwood Green Living to Toledo's housing stock is part of an effort to increase affordable housing for all Americans, but most particularly for seniors who are especially challenged by the lack of such housing.

According to Rosalyn Clemens, director of the Toledo Department of Housing and Neighborhood Sustainability, Toledo has a shortage of about 10,000 affordable housing units. The city held a Fundraising and Housing Strategy meeting in 2021 to create plans to address the shortage and committed to directing funds to build 500 such units. With the completion of Collingwood Green Living, the city is about 60 percent towards accomplishing that goal, she said.

The city has relied thus far on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to invest in the housing market – funds that must be spent by December 2026.

"This is a historic day," said Lucas County Commissioner Pete Gerken who noted that more than half of the seniors in Lucas County spend upwards of 50 percent of their income on housing – the goal for a typical household is no more than 30 percent. Now, added Lisa Sobecki, chair of the Board of Lucas County Commissioner, seniors will be able "to live, play and retire with a high quality of living at an affordable price."

Collingwood Green Living is part of Phase IV of the overall Collingwood

Green project which has now completed nearly 300 units of housing. Phase I is a 65-unit mid-rise building which opened at Division Street and Belmont Avenue for senior 55 years and older in 2013. Phase II added 68 colorful town house units for families in 2015. Phase III, completed in 2020, added another 55 modern townhomes.

The neighborhood is designed to be sustainable, LEED-certified and features a green space (a central 20 acre site which includes a 7.5 acre park with community gardens and a gazebo); a community resource center and near the Collingwood Arts Center.

In addition to the city and county ARPA funds, Collingwood Green Living also received a \$5.9 Section 202 Capital Advance award from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Other contributions came from the National Church Residences and tax credits from the Ohio Housing Finance Agency.



Lucas County Commissioners Lisa Sobecki, Anita Lopez and Pte Gerken



Rosalyn Clemens



Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz

Monroe Street... continued from page 5

No crushing debt.

Just ownership.

Johnson spoke about the project with the kind of pride usually reserved for family.

"It feels personal to me," she says. "I care deeply about what this project means for people in our community."

Right now, seven homes have been completed. The goal is to eventually build 15.

To make that happen, the Center is asking 1,000 people to donate \$25 a month for four years, enough funding to complete the remaining homes.

When broken down, the number suddenly feels less impossible.

That is often how change works.

Not always through giant heroic acts, but through many ordinary people deciding to carry one small brick at a time.

Serving the Whole Community

The Monroe Street Neighborhood Center also offers senior wellness programs, including Tai Chi, cardio dance classes, Mahjong card game gatherings and monthly health conversations in partnership with healthcare professionals.

Johnson hopes to continue expanding programs for seniors while completing Bluff Street Village over the next several years.

But perhaps what makes the Center special is not just the services themselves. It is the spirit behind them.

Everything is built around connection.

People helping people.

Neighbors seeing neighbors.

A community refusing to let others struggle alone.

"It's everyday people like you and me that keep organizations like the Monroe Street Neighborhood Center going," Johnson emphasizes.

Sometimes hope does not arrive loudly.

Sometimes it looks like children reading books on a summer morning.

Sometimes it looks like seniors dancing in an exercise class.

Sometimes it looks like someone choosing their own groceries with dignity.

And sometimes, on a once-forgotten street in Toledo, hope looks like tiny houses overflowing with pride, peace and bright futures.

Learn more about the Monroe Street Neighborhood Center and its ongoing work in the community. To support its programs & help sustain services like food access, youth enrichment, & housing initiatives, donate here.

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Is a Voter ID Constitutional Amendment Necessary?

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Editor

The question Democratic lawmakers are raising in Columbus is – why do we need a constitutional amendment to enshrine voter identification requirements, when current laws already do that and are clearly working?

So asked state Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson and Rep. Erika White last week during a press conference on Wednesday, May 27 at the Lucas County Board of Elections.

Hicks-Hudson, who organized the event, noted that the General Assembly Republican effort to amend the constitution to require voter ID, “is part of a national tidal wave which I believe is an effort to affect the ability of citizens to vote.”

The Republicans, said Hicks-Hudson are presenting such an amendment as necessary, but the law requiring voter ID has been in effect already “and it works ... Ohio elections are secure.”

Hicks-Hudson noted that it is “a good thing that voters do get a chance to vote ... system works ... why do we need to have something different, why do we need to put this into the Constitution? Republicans want to make voting harder.”

White also spoke and emphasized the same point about election security already being in place. White observed that there are other issues Republican should be focused on.

“We should be focused on affordability not distractions ... constitutional amendments should be carefully considered,” she said, adding that this particular amendment presents no change to current law. “Our elections are already secure.”

One of the reasons for the press conference and the local Democratic officials’ outcry over the proposed constitutional amendment is the recent experience of long-time voter Robin Jones-Johnson.

Jones-Johnson has been voting in every election since she was 18 years old and has always been able to cast her ballot. During this year’s early primary elections, she was not so fortunate. She tried to cast her ballot but the election workers were not able to find her name on the registry rolls.

She asked them to try with just the second part of her hyphenated name, still no luck. Eventually she was told she need to cast a provisional ballot – the first time she was required to do so. Worried about whether her ballot would be counted, Jones-Johnson reached out to a variety of officials and agencies and her case eventually came to the attention of Hicks-Hudson’s office. And for the senator, Jones-Johnson’s predicament is an excellent example of how the system, as burdensome as it can already be to voters, is a perfect example of the fact that the system works. It works in making it

harder for people to vote, that is.

Why make it even harder?

Lucas County President of the Board of Commissioners Lisa Sobecki, a former state representative herself, added that: “There is a lot more work that needs to be done in Columbus – public school funding, jobs and family services, property taxes, real reform – those are three major things to have conversations about instead of rushing a constitutional amendment.”

However, whether such a constitutional amendment passes or not, there are still matters voters should be aware of as the general election approaches in the fall. Holly Monson, president of the Toledo League of Women Voters, also spoke at the press conference and said: “We want everyone to understand there have been some changes – the name and address on the ID must match what the voter rolls have.”



State Sen. Paula Hicks-Hudson speaks as Holly Monson, LWV, Robin Jones-Johnson, President Board of LC Commissioners Lisa Sobecki and Rep. Erika White listen



Robin Jones-Johnson speaks about her recent voting experience



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Tis the Season! The Graduation Season!

By Paul Hubbard

Guest Column

This is the season of high school graduations and the activities that go with it. As students, parents and families enjoy the accomplishment; it is also time to think about the next chapters of life. Graduates, this marks the completion of the first major chapter of your lives, you have worked hard, overcome challenges and reached an important milestone that deserves to be celebrated.

As you move forward, the next chapter will lead you towards college, skilled trades, military service, entrepreneurship or the work force. Each new opportunity ahead of you will help shape your future and open doors to new experiences and growth.

Another import chapter in life will be building meaningful relationships and creating a strong support system of family and life friends who will encourage and stand beside you through every season of life.

I also want to say that parents, families, teachers and mentors have given guidance and encouragement and have sacrificed to help you as graduates reach this point. Dr. Misha Stredrick, EdD, superintendent of Maritime Academy, reminds us that many of our high school graduates are first generation graduate students.

Kate Fineske, executive director of Museum of the Great, was the graduation speaker for Maritime this year and said to all students, "success is rarely linear, life is not a straight line; life is like water-you must navigate currents of change."

Fineske went on to say to all high school students don't let social media guide your life. Most people on social media are no smarter than you. Jim Rush of Thread PR firm said that Fineske spoke about some of her life's challenges as a way of saying to students that life is not perfect.

I cannot end this article without saying most high school graduates and high school seniors will be 18 or older. It is important to motivate them to vote. I heard Xernona Clayton (creator of the Trumpet awards) in Atlanta, and she talked about the need to vote.

Xernona Clayton's message about voting and treating people right will help graduates in their life journey.

She also mentioned that students should always do the right thing and treat people right. She said years ago Grady Hospital in Atlanta would only let Black women have babies in that hospital on Tuesdays and Thursdays so this is what voting is all about. She would also have an impact on the KKK by treating the Grand Dragon as a person and not someone to fear.

Stredrick said 24 seniors graduated. The class salutatorian was Fernanda Fernandez and the valedictorian was Dontae Osley.

Stredrick wants Toledo to know that Maritime Academy will offer careerpaths studies in culinary art, Arts, Business, College preparation, and Health Care.

A final message: graduates of all schools, continue pursuing your dreams with courage and determination. Believe in yourselves, work hard and never stop striving for excellence, because you absolutely have the ability to achieve great things in life. Parents, these life pointers are good for a family discussion with you school kids.

Paul L. Hubbard, MSW, Chair of Maritime Academy.BD



Kate Fineske, President
Maritime Museum



Misha Stredrick, EdD

Riding With Purpose: Dem Ryders Turn Passion Into Community Impact

By Michelle McCalister

Special to The Truth

For the members of Dem Ryders, riding is about more than enjoying the open road—it is also about giving back.

The Toledo-area Slingshot riding group recently donated essential items to Chery Street Mission Ministries to support individuals experiencing homelessness and hardship in the community. Donations included socks, men's and women's undergarments, underwear, bras, men's T-shirts, and coffee—items often in high demand at shelters.

The donation was made on May 31, 2026, as part of the group's commitment to serving the community and supporting local organizations that help vulnerable populations.

Dem Ryders is made up of individuals who share a love for Polaris Slingshots, three-wheeled open-air vehicles known for combining the feel of a motorcycle with the appearance of a sports car. While members value fellowship and the enjoyment of riding together, they also believe in using their shared passion to uplift and support the community through service.

Through this effort, Dem Ryders hopes to inspire other clubs and organizations to give back, reminding the community that meaningful impact often begins with simple acts of kindness.

For Dem Ryders, community service is not separate from the ride—it is part of the journey.



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Toledo Raises the Gay Pride Flag

The Truth Staff

For the ninth year, the Gay Pride flag was raised at One Government Center as city and county leaders praised this area's acceptance of diversity, the commitment residents have shown to love each other and the pledge to fight for the principles Toledoans believe in.

Pride, love and respect for each other was the message of the day as the area's elected officials reaffirmed their commitment to equality and diversity.

"We do this for one solid good reason, because Toledo is a welcoming place," said Toledo City Councilman Nick Komives as he opened the flag raising event. "It doesn't matter what your background is, we want you to thrive, we want you to live here, we want you to succeed."

Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz reinforced that theme as he spoke of the importance of love. "I don't know anyone who thinks that the problem with this world is that there is too much love," he said and then quoted the John Lennon/Beatles song, "All You Need Is Love."

"I'm proud of this community," said Lucas County Commissioner Pete Gerken as he spoke of the many years he has witnessed the area's commitment to equal rights and that commitment to continue fighting for equal rights should it become necessary.

"I stand here proudly with the members of our community - we're not going backwards, not



Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz expresses the significance of love



City Councilman Nick Komives opens the flag raising ceremony

backing down. We stand with each other and, if we have to, we are going to fight like hell," said Gerken.

That message was echoed by his fellow commissioners Lisa Sobocki and Anita Lopez, who not only expressed a willingness to stand by the gay community but also observed that it was a wonderful opportunity to be able to do so.

Two consequential amendments to the Ohio constitution will soon be voted on by the Ohio General Assembly. One is an equal rights amendment, the second is a right to marry amendment - in case the U.S. Supreme Court overturns the Obergefell decision which provided federal protection for same sex marriages.



Lucas County Commissioners Anita Lopez and Pete Gerken

Get tickets at 3053 Monroe St. Toledo, OH 43606 or TicketMaster.com Call 419.255.8876 for more info

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Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Month

By Patrice Powers-Barker, Ohio State Extension, Lucas County

The Truth Contributor

It's time to keep tending to the vegetable gardens and making trips to a local farmers market or farm stand. If you are looking for local fresh produce, in June, many of the foods available are lettuces and "baby" greens. You will be able to find a variety of types and colors of lettuces and baby leaves to eat fresh like kale, mustard and chard – no cooking needed for the baby greens. There will be other cooler weather produce like peas, fresh herbs, small onions, radishes and rhubarb. As the days get warmer, other produce will be available like cherry tomatoes and peppers.

Michigan State University Extension reminds us that fruits and vegetables can help with your overall health in many ways. They can help prevent certain diseases like cancer and diabetes. They can help with obesity and weight control. They can improve your skin, nails and hair. There are many other benefits to getting enough fruits and vegetables.

MSU Extension also challenges us to take a mini-inventory of our fruits and vegetables by tracking how many you eat for the next three days. Don't do anything different from what you normally would. Just note what, how much and when. Make it specific but make it easy on yourself – for instance, it could be as simple as 12 grapes at lunchtime or one cup of green beans at dinner.

Use your list from those three full days and see if you are eating the recommended number of fruits and vegetables. For a 2,000 calorie a day/eating pattern, adults are recommended to eat two cups of fruit a day and two and a half cups of vegetables a day. If your intake aligns with that, great! If you are not meeting that, do not be discouraged.

A few years ago the Center for Disease Control (CDC) found that only one in 10 adults are getting enough fruits and vegetables. Look at what you are eating and then make a plan to increase your fruit and vegetable intake one small step at a time. After a few weeks or by the end of the month do another mini inventory to see if you have increased your fruits and vegetables.

- Make a goal to buy more fruits and vegetables.
- If it helps you eat more fruits and vegetables, but the prepackaged convenience sizes
- Prepacked convenience sizes can often cost more. If you are stretching the food dollar, pack your own fruit or vegetables in snack size servings, such as a handful of cut up carrots or baby carrots, washed snap peas, or cubed watermelon and store in an airtight container or bag.
- Prepare a tray or plate of fresh fruit and/or vegetables and leave it in the refrigerator, so you have a healthy snack easily available each day
- You don't have to love all types of fruits and vegetables but the more you try and enjoy them, the more options you have.
- Add extra fruit to dishes such as yogurt, salads, cereal, ice cream and other desserts.
- Add extra vegetables in dishes such as soups, pies, wraps and sandwiches.

Guess where there's a new fruit and vegetable garden? It's the Eleanor Roosevelt Fruit and Vegetable Garden at 6001 S. Stony Island Ave. Chicago, Illinois, at the new Obama Presidential Center which opens on June 19. While there is a fee for tickets to tour the museum, the campus is open daily, free of charge, for all to enjoy.

The following information is from the www.obama.org website: The garden is named in honor of Eleanor Roosevelt, who "planted a victory garden during World War II as a symbol to encourage families to grow their own food in support of the war effort." Decades later, Michelle Obama planted a Kitchen Garden on the South Lawn at the White House as a way to spark, "a national conversation about the food we eat and how to create healthier lives for families." This garden in Chicago continues the work and "this honoree naming will forever link the legacies of two groundbreaking First Ladies."

If a trip to Chicago isn't on your calendar yet, make sure to take advantage of the healthy community opportunities in Northwest Ohio. Get out to the parks, visit the Toledo Botanical Garden (that's where the OSU Extension, Lucas County office is located), and shop at your favorite farmers market or farm stand. A few free opportunities this summer:

- Wits Workout (brain workout, not physical activity) free class for seniors, the second Tuesday of the month from 2-3pm at the Oregon Branch Library. (Tuesday, June 9, July, 14, and August 11).
- Families interested in a free Technology Toolkit? It's a set of "tools" to help make plans and entertain the family without extra time on the screens. Sign up here (and pick up at Toledo Botanical Garden). You will need an email and be willing to complete a short online survey in a few weeks: go.osu.edu/screenkit
- Lucas County Limitless Livestock Show! A FREE Show for Individuals with Disabilities, including physical, hearing, and visual, for ages nine and up! This show will be Thursday, July 16, beginning at 1 pm at the Lucas County Fair Grounds. Participants and Mentors who want to register, go here: go.osu.edu/limitless26 (deadline to register June 12)

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A Smarter Approach to Acne

By Dr. Hope Mitchell, MD
The Truth Contributor

If you have ever felt overwhelmed standing in the skincare aisle trying to figure out what actually works for acne, you are not alone. Between social media trends and products promising overnight results, many people end up frustrated and still breaking out.



As a board-certified dermatologist, I want people to understand that acne is a medical condition, not a reflection of poor hygiene or "bad skin." And for many patients, especially those with deeper skin tones, acne can leave behind dark marks and discoloration that remain long after the breakout itself improves.

One of the biggest mistakes I see is people trying to completely dry their acne out. If your skin feels tight, irritated or starts burning and peeling, that does not mean your products are working better. In many cases, overusing harsh scrubs, acids and drying treatments can damage the skin barrier and increase inflammation.

Your skin needs balance, not harsh treatment.

A smarter approach to acne often starts with simplifying your routine. Gentle cleansing twice daily, using noncomedogenic products, moisturizing regularly, and wearing sunscreen every day can make a noticeable difference over time. Constantly changing products often creates more irritation and confusion.

Ingredients like salicylic acid, benzoyl peroxide, and retinoids can also be very effective when used correctly.

I also remind patients that acne is not the same for everyone. Hormones, stress, genetics, medications, diet, and skincare habits can all play a role. Some people struggle with clogged pores and blackheads, while others experience painful cystic acne or lingering discoloration after breakouts heal.

For many patients with deeper skin tones, those dark marks, known as post-inflammatory hyperpigmentation, can sometimes become more frustrating than the acne itself. This is one reason why early treatment matters. Picking at blemishes or experimenting with aggressive home treatments can increase the risk of long-term discoloration and scarring.

Social media has also created unrealistic expectations around skin. Filters and heavily edited images often leave people comparing themselves to skin that is simply not real. Real skin has texture, pores, and occasional breakouts.

I also encourage patients to pay attention to lifestyle habits that affect the skin. Stress, sleep, hydration, and daily habits can all affect inflammation and acne flare ups.

Most importantly, do not lose hope if over the counter products have not worked for you. There are more treatment options available today than ever before, including prescription medications, chemical peels, laser treatments, and therapies designed specifically for acne and discoloration in skin of color.

Acne treatment takes time, and improvement rarely happens overnight. With the right treatment plan and consistency, most acne can be managed very successfully.

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Healthy Skin Begins with HOPE!

A Mental Health Moment

Depression in Black Youth: Why Summer Connection Matters for a Healthier Future

By Bernadette Joy Graham
The Truth Contributor

As the end of the school year is finally here, many families view summer as a season to relax and enjoy free time. For some Black youth and adolescents, however, summer brings increased feelings of isolation, depression, anxiety and disconnection.



Without the structured routine of school, access to supportive adults, enrichment programs, and peer interactions, many young people experience emotional distress in solitude. Depression among Black youth is increasing and needs to be addressed immediately. Although depression afflicts youth of every ethnicity, Black youth have additional barriers that prevent them from seeking support for their emotional pain. This includes exposure to community violence, racism, economic strain on families, pressure of social media, stress associated with academics and historical trauma experienced by previous generations. Mental health stigma within many Black communities can also make it difficult for young people to obtain the support they need.

Parents and caregivers must recognize that depression in adolescents will sometimes manifest differently than sadness. Common indicators include increased irritability, withdrawal from social interaction, sleep disturbances, changes in appetite, decreased grades, decreased enjoyment in previously enjoyed activities, an increased likelihood of engaging in high-risk behavior, feeling hopeless and discussing death/suicide. Indicators must not be overlooked.

Summer represents an ideal opportunity for Black youth to become actively involved, socially connected, and engaged. Positive social connections, physical activity, meaningful engagement, and supportive adult relationships have repeatedly been found to protect youth from developing depression and experiencing other mental health issues.

There are many ways for families to ensure their Black youth are actively engaged and socially connected throughout the summer. Families can engage their youth in local community programs/summer camps, church-sponsored events, volunteer opportunities, sports leagues, mentorship programs and youth leadership development opportunities. Participation in family game nights, walking around neighborhoods, gardening, artistic expression, reading programs and having family meals together can foster emotional bonding/stable environments.

Mentors are especially beneficial in assisting youth on their journey to adulthood. Connecting positively with an adult who can encourage, guide, or represent them can make a great difference in how they feel about themselves and better communicate and express their needs. Witnessing confident Black professionals, entrepreneurs, teachers, artists, and community leaders give young people visions of possible paths that lie ahead for them.

Additionally, physical engagement in activities should be encouraged. Studies indi-

...continued on page 13

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Toledo Library Summer Read Challenge Begins June

The Toledo Lucas County Public Library's annual Summer Read challenge begins June 1. Readers of all ages are invited to read throughout the summer and earn prizes along the way.

Participants who read for 30 days between June 1 and Aug. 1 will be eligible for prizes including:

- * A tote bag for adults and a football flinger for kids upon sign-up
- * An inflatable animal friend as a midway prize for kids and teens
- * A book to keep from the Library's special selection for kids and teens and a mug for adults upon completion

All participants who complete the challenge will be entered into grand prize drawings for Nintendo Switch Lites, tablets, portable speakers, Beats earbuds, gift cards and more.

Summer Read is designed to encourage reading for pleasure and help readers of all ages maintain strong reading habits during the summer months.

June 1–Aug. 1, 2026

Register:

Community members can sign up for Summer Read in one of three ways:

- * In person at any Toledo Library location
- * Online at [toledolibrary.org/summer](https://www.toledolibrary.org/summer) (https://www.toledolibrary.org/summer/?utm_source=Toledo+Lucas+County+Public+Library&utm_campaign=e3b8bd2b07-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2026_05_27_07_32&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e3b8bd2b07-159157749)
- * Through the Beanstack app, available on Google Play and the Apple App Store

Participants who register in person will receive their sign-up prize immediately. Those who register online or through Beanstack may pick up their sign-up prize at any Toledo Library location.

Significance:

Summer Read encourages reading for enjoyment while helping children, teens and adults strengthen literacy skills and maintain strong reading habits during the summer months. The challenge is designed to spark curiosity, support lifelong learning and make reading a fun, self-directed activity for the whole community.

Website: [toledolibrary.org/summer](https://www.toledolibrary.org/summer) (https://www.toledolibrary.org/summer/?utm_source=Toledo+Lucas+County+Public+Library&utm_campaign=e3b8bd2b07-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2026_05_27_07_32&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e3b8bd2b07-159157749)

Sponsors: Summer Read is supported in part by The Library Legacy Foundation, Friends of the Library and Directions Credit Union.

What's Happening This Week

Monday, June 1

City Golf Courses Open (<https://www.toledocitygolf.com/>)

Your City, Your Golf Courses!

Ottawa Park, 2315 Walden Pond Dr. (419) 472-2059

Detwiler Park, 4001 N Summit St. (419) 726-9353

Collins Park, 624 Reineck Dr. (419) 691-3374

3 Public Courses, 45 Combined Holes, This is Toledo City Golf!

Roller Rink Open (<https://ottawaparkrink.com/>)

Get On the Rink This Summer at Ottawa Park!

2015 Parkside Drive

From youth and adult drop-in hockey to affordable public roller skating sessions, there are plenty of opportunities to stay active, sharpen your skills, and have fun all summer long. Grab your skates or rent some and join us at the rink!

Explore More Pass (<https://explore.toledo.oh.gov/checkout/1063/city-of-toledo-oh/4881/explore-toledo>)

This mobile exclusive passport is a collection of curated parks, special events and more for you to explore this year in Toledo.

Tuesday, June 2

Pools Open (<https://toledo.oh.gov/residents/parks/pools>)

The City of Toledo offers public pools and splash pads for residents. Admission is \$1 for children 12 and under and \$2 for ages 13 and older. Check the link for locations near you and hours.

Thursday, June 4

Let's Get Moving: Evening Walk (<https://toledo.oh.gov/events/lets-get-moving-evening-walks/2026-6-4>)

Joe E Brown, 150 W Oakland, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Movie Night in the Park (<https://toledo.oh.gov/events/movie-night-in-the-park/2026-6-4>)

Nelson Grace Park

Watch Goat, rated PG.

Come early and play eSports gaming, provided by Party on a Truck.

Free weekly movie nights in different city parks across the city. Bring lawn chairs or blankets and enjoy a movie under the stars. Movies begin at dusk.

Friday, June 5

Party in the Park (<https://visittoledo.org/events/major-events-festivals/party-in-the-park>), Promenade Park, 400 Water St. 6 - 10 p.m.

Featuring E 5 C 4 P 3: THE JOURNEY TRIBUTE WITH KALL ME KENDRA

Saturday, June 6

... continued on page 13

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Something We Said: Richard Pryor, A Notorious Word, and Me by Elizabeth Stordeur Pryor

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

c. 2026
Simon & Schuster
\$29.00
304 pages



Something We Said
author courtesy
Isabella Dellolio
Photography

Sticks and stones may break my bones. You know the rest of that childhood rhyme, and you know it's not true: words have meaning, and they can cut like a knife. And yet, though sticks and stones and words are weapons, as in the new memoir, *Something We Said* by Elizabeth Stordeur Pryor, they can also hold people together.

The college lecture was supposed to have been about the 1850 Fugitive Slave Act.

It was supposed to have been a lively discourse and discussion but without intention, it quickly veered sideways. When a white student quoted a movie line featuring the "n-word," the room went quiet and Professor Elizabeth Stordeur Pryor panicked.

She'd grown up hearing that word, and seeing it, and she'd experienced the painful feelings attached to it. She knew who wrote that movie line. It was her father, Richard Pryor.

In her first few years, Pryor spent most of her time in a white world, hearing her mother's tales of her larger-than-life father, and trying to grasp meaning in her father's albums, peppered as they were with a word that was off-limits to her.

When she was six, she met her father for the first time. She began to visit him regularly.

It was fun at her Dad's house; though he was sometimes moody, he taught her to fish and play dominoes. She became close with her siblings, fearful of her great-grandmother, and confused about a word that her father's uncles threw around like a beach ball. It was a forbidden word at her mother's house, but her father used it. Differently. Often.

The word hurt. She knew first-hand that it did.

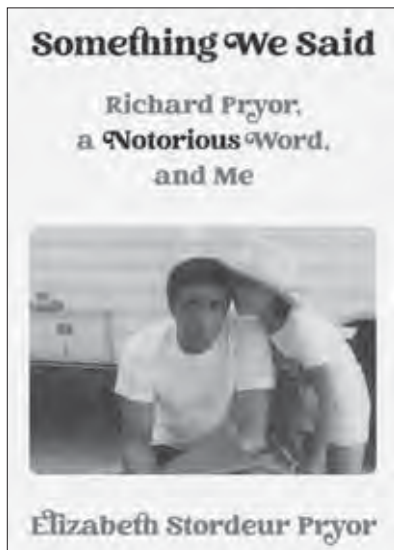
"The word became a degrading slur that shackled all Black people together into a single, inescapable tribe," she says.

So why was it okay if certain people said it?

Knowing that, in the years since Richard Pryor's accident and his death from multiple sclerosis, he's become somewhat of a legend is a very satisfying thing, isn't it? So is reading about him, especially from the viewpoint of one of his seven children. But his is not the only story you get inside *Something We Said*.

Wrapped around the life of Richard Pryor is the life of a word that straddles a line between danger and provocation, a word that author Elizabeth Stordeur Pryor refuses to say or even print. As she tells readers about her father and her loving-but-difficult relationship with him, she warily circles that word, as if it might bite. You may cringe, but she weighs it carefully, helping readers see it as a chameleon before always bringing us back to her father, his work, and his life before and after her and that word.

It's a push-pull balance that holds readers fast and keeps them there. It's perfect for fans of this genre, or Richard Pryor, or of language – and it's going to make you think. If you want a good memoir this week, one that may send you to your old album collection, *Something We Said* is rock-solid.



What's Happening...continued from page 12

Ottawa Park Concert Series (<https://toledo.oh.gov/events/ottawa-park-concert-series-12/2026-6-6>)

Ottawa Park Amphitheater, 2205 Kenwood Blvd.

6 p.m. | 8 p.m. Featuring Distant Cousinz

Discover local talent every Saturday from June through August! Shows start at 6 p.m. at the Ottawa Park Amphitheater.

More to Explore

Summer Programs (<https://toledo.oh.gov/summer>)

Many programs begin the first week of June! Register now.

Pickleball Clinics (<https://toledo.oh.gov/summer/pickleball-clinics>)

Limited spots will fill up fast! Each two-week session is \$20. Must be 18 or older to register.

Kayak at Cullen Park (<https://toledo.oh.gov/residents/parks/kayaking>)

Self-serve rental lockers are stocked with equipment for your kayak adventure!

Golf Muni Courses (<https://www.toledocitygolf.com/>)

Schedule your tee time at one of our three public courses.

Mental Health Moment...continued from page 11

cate exercise improves mood, reduces depressive symptoms, increases self-confidence and enhances overall emotional well-being. Organized sports, dancing, bicycling/swimming or simply enjoying outdoor time support overall mental wellness.

Lastly, parents/caregivers must establish a safe environment for open conversations regarding youth emotional experiences. Instead of discouraging youth from expressing emotions with comments like "you're strong," or "get over it," adults should encourage youth to share how they are emotionally feeling. Being non-judgmental while listening can be incredibly empowering.

Why is this so important? Youth's emotional well-being directly impacts their ability to succeed academically, become successful in the workplace, form healthy relationships, and live a good quality of life. If left untreated, depression can lead to poor academic performance, drug/alcohol abuse, entanglement with the juvenile justice system, chronic health problems and long-term mental illness issues as an adult. When youth feel supported and connected to opportunities for personal growth, they tend to develop resilience, confidence, leadership qualities and a clear sense of purpose.

Take a mental health moment....Our Black children represent both our present responsibility — AND OUR FUTURE. Make it an intention to connect youth with activities, programs, or routines this summer to build healthier families, stronger communities and brighter futures for generations to come.

If you believe a young person may be dealing with depression, please contact a licensed mental health professional, a school counselor, a pediatrician or a trusted community resource — early intervention can drastically alter the course of a young person's life.

If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis, please call 988 or go to the nearest emergency room.

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Toledo Museum of Art to Host Juneteenth Celebration

“Inspiring Change, Creating Beauty” offers something for everyone

The Toledo Museum of Art (TMA) is proud to announce that its annual Juneteenth celebration, titled “Inspiring Change, Creating Beauty,” will be held Thursday, June 19, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. This year’s event will be held in the education center and on the grounds outside the Plough Entrance to the museum.

Visitors will be able to create art, hear music written and performed by African American musicians, and meet community artists James “dirtykics” Dickerson and Brenda Singletary. When hunger strikes, there will be local food trucks.

TMA’s community partners for this event are the Toledo African American Bureau of Commerce, the Ohio Minority Business Assistance Center and BESN Community.

The full schedule of events is as follows:

Family Center Activities, 11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Education Hallway
 Outreach Activities, 11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Picnic table area outside of the Plough Entrance

Food Trucks, 11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Plough Entrance Roundabout
 Community Artist: Meet the Artist - James “dirtykics” Dickerson, 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m., Education Hallway

Eboné Waweru Featuring Bradley Baker and Nate Leonard Live Performance, 11:30 a.m.–12:10 p.m., Outside of the Plough Entrance

Community Partners, 12:00–4:00 p.m., Picnic table area outside of the Plough Entrance

Sensory Friendly Area, 12:00–3:00 p.m., TMA Library (Located in the Center For Visual Arts)

Community Artist: Meet the Artist - Brenda Singletary, 1:00–3:00 p.m., Education Hallway

Eboné Waweru Featuring Bradley Baker and Nate Leonard Live Performance, 1:30–2:10 p.m., Outside of the Plough Entrance

The event is free to all. Registration is required for the Family Center activities and can be done at the Museum website.

“Over the years, this has become one of the most popular events we host at TMA,” said Grace Toth, Emma Leah Bippus Director of Education at the Toledo Museum of Art. “We are proud to offer vibrant programming like this to the community and everyone at TMA looks forward to seeing everyone to celebrate freedom and the hope it brings.”

For more information, call 419-255-8000 or visit toledomuseum.org/events.

Twice named the nation’s Best Art Museum in the USA TODAY 10Best Readers’ Choice Awards, the Toledo Museum of Art (TMA) is a beloved cultural institution in Toledo, Ohio, and a global leader in the museum field. Established in 1901, its renowned collection features over 25,000 works, ranging from antiquity to contemporary art, and includes one of the finest collections of glass in the world. Situated on a 40-acre campus, TMA integrates art into people’s lives through its world-class collection, engaging exhibitions, robust educational programs, and community outreach.

Admission and parking to TMA are always free, welcoming everyone to explore its galleries. The museum is open on Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. It is closed on Monday, Tuesday, and select holidays. TMA is located at 2445 Monroe St., just one block off I-75, with exit signs posted for easy access. For more information, call 419-255-8000 or visit toledomuseum.org.

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.

Join us now on WGTE 91 FM on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. as our hosts - Asia Nail, Stacy Fowler, Ricky Tyus and Alexandria Leatherberry - hold conversations with community members and examine how all of us can learn and benefit from those who are blazing paths for us in a number of critical areas such as community activism, business, health and travel.

Asia Nail, The Truth Reporter
 Ricky Tyus, of Tyus Tours and Travel
 Stacy Fowler, Publisher, Punah Magazine
 Alexandria Leatherberry, The Truth Reporter



The Sojourner's Truth

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2026 Program of Projects

Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority

5307 FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2026

Federal Fiscal Year	Activity	Fed Share	Total Budget
5307 FY26	Vehicle Replacement	\$1,057,182	\$1,321,478
5307 FY26	Operating Assistance	\$1,400,000	\$2,800,000
5307 FY26	Preventive Maintenance	\$5,600,000	\$7,000,000
	Total Section 5307 funded items	\$8,057,182	\$11,121,478
5339A FY26	Rehabilitation and Renovation	\$711,647	\$889,559

Written public comments on the proposed Program of Projects will be accepted by the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority until the close of business on **May 29, 2026**. TARTA will consider all comments received and may provide additional opportunities for public input, including a public meeting or hearing, if warranted.

Comments can be submitted via mail to: Chief Executive Officer, TARTA, 1127 W Central Ave., Toledo, OH 43610.

Alternatively, you can email your comments with the subject line "Program of Projects" to info@tarta.com.

This program will become final and will be submitted to the Federal Transit Administration on completion of the public participation process unless amended by the action of the Board of Trustees of the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority.

Laura Koprowski, CEO

CUSTODIAN / MAINTENANCE

WGTE Public Media is seeking a full-time Custodian/Maintenance team member to support day-to-day operations by maintaining a clean and safe facility. This role is responsible for routine custodial services, mail processing, general building maintenance, and minor repairs.

The ideal candidate has prior custodial and maintenance experience. A valid driver's license is required. Send your letter and résumé to employment@wgte.org or Human Resources, P.O. Box 30, Toledo, OH 43614.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) announces a proposed Significant Amendment to its Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Administrative Plan regarding the transition of households assisted under the Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) program to the regular HCV program as EHV funding phases down in accordance with guidance from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The proposed amendment will be available for public review beginning **May 18, 2026**, at 424 Jackson St., Toledo, Ohio, and on LMH's website. Written comments will be accepted during the 45-day comment period and may be submitted to Amy Gerber at agerber@lucasmha.org or mailed to the address above.

Individuals requiring reasonable accommodations or auxiliary aids to participate in the review process may contact LMH at (419) 259-9448 or hcvops@lucasmha.org.

MORTGAGE LOAN ASSISTANT

Position Summary:

The Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union is seeking a Mortgage Loan Assistant. The Mortgage Lending Assistant supports the loan officer in processing mortgage applications, ensuring smooth transactions, and providing excellent customer service throughout the loan process.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

- Support Mortgage Loan Officer by gathering and verifying necessary financial documentation, including proof of income, credit reports, and property and title evaluations
- Act as a liaison between members, real estate agents, and escrow companies, updating all parties on the status of loan applications and ensuring a smooth transaction
- Handle administrative tasks such as answering phone calls, scheduling appointments and maintaining organized loan files and documentation
- Help complete loan applications and submit them to underwriting for approval, ensuring all applications are thorough and accurate
- Stay updated on industry regulations and best practices to ensure compliance throughout the loan process

Minimum Qualifications:

- A high school diploma or equivalent
- At least one (1) year of Mortgage Loan Processing, Underwriting, Origination experience with desired, but not required
- Strong attention to detail and excellent organizational abilities to manage multiple loan applications efficiently
- Ability to communicate complex financial information clearly and effectively to members
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office products to include Word, Excel, and Outlook

Skills, Abilities & Expectations:

- Ability to work in a fast-paced team environment, manage multiple tasks, and prioritize work
- Ability to apply general accounting knowledge processes (debits, credits, balancing)
- Assuring customer service is top priority whether internally or externally, treating members and employees professionally, with courtesy and respect
- Detail oriented and organized with excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Stay abreast of regulatory requirements and complete annual compliance training applicable to the position

Contact Susan Jester at the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union: 419-255-8876 – sjester@toledo.urban.net

The Fogg, Williamson, Weddle, Mason Family Reunion

The Truth Staff

The Fogg, Williamson, Weddle, Mason Family Reunion was held the weekend of May 22-24 in Toledo and family members from as far away as California journeyed to the Glass City to participate in the 40th opportunity to honor the journey, to remember the sacrifice and to celebrate the legacy.

The theme of this year's reunion was "Boots on the Ground."

Rebecca McDonald Fogg from Virginia, is one of the earliest ancestors of note – back in the 1800's. She had five children, one of whom was William Henry Fogg who would eventually settle in Tennessee. William's son, Luther, had a daughter named Beatrice, and the reunions began with Beatrice. Eighty years ago!

That's right, 80 years ago, Beatrice Fogg, who would marry a Williamson and have children with him, and later a Weddle, producing more children, started the grand events. The first gathering was held at Mt. Pleasant CME Church in Milan Tennessee.

She beseeched her offspring, and her offspring's offspring, to keep the gatherings going, says her granddaughter Elaine Vonner, who is primarily responsible for doing exactly that. The 40 events, which began in Tennessee, have been held in a



The Fogg, Williamson, Weddle, Mason family

variety of locations – from Ohio, where much of the family now resides, to California.

The clan gathered this year for a fish fry at Elain's house on Friday, a picnic on Saturday at Swan Creek Metropark and the buffet dinner on Sunday, also at Swan Creek, to reminisce, entertain and reconnect.

On Sunday DJ entertained with music, some singing kept the family involved after dinner and matriarch Doris Evelyn (Beatrice's daughter) was recognized for her leadership over the years.

After that, a little dancing – boots on the ground!



Doris Evelyn - seated right - and family

Lake Erie West
REGIONAL COUNCIL

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Air quality.

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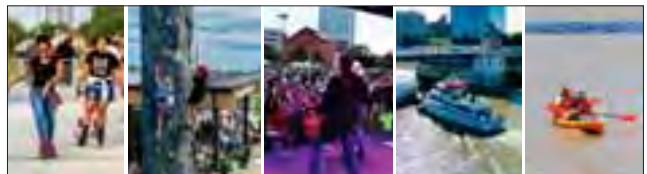
www.lakeeriewest.org/air



Elaine Vonner and sons



Sally Griffin



Metroparks Toledo Celebrates
WATERSHED WEEKEND
JUNE 11-14 | GLASS CITY RIVERWALK

Watershed Weekend is a four-day celebration marking the grand opening of the newest areas of Glass City Riverwalk and the project's halfway point.

Be a Part of the Progress
MetroparksToledo.com/watershed-weekend