

# The Sojourner's Truth

www.thetruthinfo.com

Volume 95 No. 7

*“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”*

June 10, 2026



**Superior Made RV Resort**

**Grand Opening**  
June 12-13, 2026  
CALL ME! 567-457-4930



# We Can Do Better ... Part Two

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq  
Guest Column

Well, well...we have another incident in which two white Toledo Police Officers were caught with their race and cultural superiority pants down when they rudely addressed some minority teens in the Sylvan Street area.

The teens were not caught engaged in any reported criminal behavior and not even walking in the street but yet these two officers felt it was incumbent upon themselves to make sure these teens "knew their place."

In essence, the two rogue officers berated the teens and mocked their living conditions, to wit: being poor. In what crystal ball did they gaze to ascertain that information?

But, no crystal ball was needed in this situation. The mere existence of the teens and their assumed "poverty" location was enough to trigger these officers in falling back onto their both acquired/taught and internalized racist and cultural memes to denigrate them for simply who they are...nothing more.

Knowing nothing of the four teens about their character, history, background or economic status, the two culturally impaired white officers decided to inflict mental and emotional damage on the teens for simply being or simply existing.

These now seemingly irrelevant teens were immediately dispatched and assigned to society's dumpster as of being of no utilitarian value because as we all know, anyone supposedly living in poverty should be shunned.

And you wonder why many minority people distrust certain police officers who come into their neighborhoods with a nasty attitude and swagger and act out some of their mean impulses on helpless people.

Would these officers have uttered such nonsense to a group of poor looking white teenagers and told them to enjoy living in poverty? Doubt it.

Some of the proper critiques of this reprehensible conduct by these two officers were that they needed to be "retrained" in basic 101 civility to the people they are assigned to protect and serve.

Other comments were that this may not be a matter of simply retraining



with a video or 20 hours of lectures by notable sociologists or psychologists because these two officers need a "deep dive" in their persona and history that would allow them to speak such derogatory remarks and obviously believe that they would be free from a command rebuke.

For one thing that can be done right away is to take them off of community patrol and policing and after their "reorientation", place them in positions that preclude their vitriol from harming others.

It would be interesting to review the procedures by which the police academy inducts possible cadets as to their emotional and mental fitness to police a multi cultural society.

No, I am not going to hit the low hanging fruit of, "If they say these things in public places, can you imagine what they say about minorities among other officers or at their homes or places they hang out?"

Their demonstrated negative cultural and racial baggage is a clear hindrance to their decision making powers if they believe that a person who is in poverty is fair game for derogatory remarks and even subject to a lesser application of fairness and justice.

When certain people on the national scene utter racial remarks and wrongfully denigrate D.E.I. and try to spin the lie that being "woke" is an anathema, that virus can easily mutate down the "power chain" to police officers working in minority neighborhood settings.

If these two officers cannot be rehabilitated, they need to be counseled that further or future police work may not be their best career calling.

This unwarranted stoppage and comments is an excellent example of "micro abrasions" that people of color face during their daily lives and is vividly portrayed in the book entitled, "Weathering"...The extraordinary stress of ordinary life in an unjust society...by Arline T. Geronimus.

It is available at Amazon Books. A great read for the Chief of Police and his supervisors.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at [Lafe5x@gmail.com](mailto:Lafe5x@gmail.com)

## Statement from the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Toledo

The Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Toledo stands in prayer, compassion and solidarity with all those impacted by the mass shooting in our community this weekend.

Our hearts are with the victims, their families, witnesses, neighbors, first responders and all who have been directly or indirectly affected by this tragic act of violence. In moments like these, words are never enough, but silence is not an option.

As pastors, ministry leaders, churches and community organizations, we lift our arms in support of those who are hurting, grieving, afraid and searching for help. We also stand with our local community partners as they organize thoughtful and meaningful responses to meet the needs of individuals and families affected by this event.

We recognize and appreciate the efforts of local government, public safety officials, service providers and community-based organizations that are working to provide support, resources, and care for those impacted.

If you or someone you know has been affected by this tragedy and does not know where to turn, please reach out. We will do our part to help connect individuals and families to available local resources, support systems, and trusted community partners.

While we are praying, we also understand that prayer must move us to presence, compassion, advocacy and action. We are called to stand in the gap for our community, especially in turbulent times.

Toledo, we mourn together. We pray together. We serve together. And we remain committed to helping our community heal.

### Community Calendar

#### 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

#### Jul7 27-31

Warren AME Vacation Bible School: 5:45 to 7:15 pm; Dinner served from 5 to 5:30: 419-243-2237

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

#### DO YOU QUALIFY?

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

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



statebank  
YourStateBank.com

1900 Monroe Street, Suite 108  
Toledo, OH 43604  
419.508.0806

930 W. Market Street  
Lima, OH 45805  
419.228.3361



Program subject to change with or without notice. Other restrictions may apply. Please see lender for complete details. Subject to credit approval.

<sup>1</sup>Actual amount applied at closing.

<sup>2</sup>Property must be located within one of the following counties: Allen Ohio, Allen Indiana, Defiance, Delaware, Franklin, Hancock, Lucas, Madison, Union, Williams, or Wood.

<sup>3</sup>Borrower income must be below 80% of the area median income, or property must be located in a low- to moderate-income census tract, as updated annually by the FFIEC (Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council).

# Reconciling Jackson and Jackson

By Ben Jealous

Guest Column

The party of Andrew Jackson has spent a decade running from him. It should keep the two things he got right.

I was 14 the first time I raised my hand to volunteer. I was short for my age. I had a bad stutter. The campaign was Jesse Jackson's, in 1988. They made me a precinct captain anyway.

Thirty years later, I was my state's Democratic nominee for governor.

So I have been active in this party most of my life. Long enough to love it. Long enough to fight it from the inside. Long enough to know it is named for a man whose plantation I will visit this June-teenth.

Last week I wrote that I am going down to the Hermitage to help celebrate Black music. It was Andrew Jackson's plantation, outside Nashville. More than 300 men, women and children were enslaved there. The ground is sacred and it is stained. The man who made it was a proponent, and often an active participant, in nearly every vicious form of racism of his day.

For that reason the party he founded has spent the last decade distancing itself from him. Dinners renamed. I get it. As a former head of the NAACP, I will say it plainly: most of Andrew Jackson's legacy troubles me deeply.

And yet.

His is the third most-visited presidential plantation in America. Presidents made the trip. In less than fully honest years, they came to pay homage — to the man who founded a party to fight for working people.

He was wrong about almost everything that matters.

And yet, again.



He was right about two things.

Working people deserve a party that will fight for them. And they deserve a party with the courage to take on the financial powers that strip-mine families and would wreck the American dream itself.

Those two convictions are the only true spine this party has ever had. They carried it through Franklin Roosevelt. They carried it through Lyndon Johnson. Both men had real sins. Roosevelt put Japanese American families behind barbed wire. Johnson sank us into Vietnam. And on those two things — the worker, and the powers arrayed against the worker — they held the line. The country was stronger for it.

Jesse Jackson spent his life on a single idea. That working people of every color belong in one coalition. He called it the Rainbow Coalition, and the name was the argument.

That is Andrew's principle, finished. Andrew fought for the working man and drew the circle around white men only. Jesse drew it around all of us. One Jackson started the fight. The other widened it to everyone Andrew left out.

They came for Jesse in 1984, and again in 1988. They came for Bernie Sanders in 2016, and again in 2020. Each time the offense was the same: a candidate who would not choose between fighting for working people and fighting the powers that prey on them. Like a lot of Democratic economic populists since Johnson's day, I bear a few of those scars myself. It is never what happens to one candidate that matters. It is the pattern.

The pattern is a class of corporate consultants who hijacked the party of the working man and rented it back to the highest bidder. They poll-tested the conviction out of it. They taught it to fear its own base and court its own predators. They called this strategy. It was a sellout, and it lost.

We climbed the mountain on race — the work of generations, against fierce resistance, much of it our own. I gave my life to it. But somewhere on the way up, we let go of the ground we started from. Fighting for working people, and standing against the powers that prey on them, was not a plank. It was the cornerstone. Pull the cornerstone, and one day the house comes down. Rip the spine from a body, and it does not wait that long.

So where did the party lose its way? It strayed from the only two things the two Jacksons ever agreed on. That the American worker deserves a champion. That the greediest interests in this country deserve a foe.

That is the reconciliation I am after. Not of the men. The two Jacksons will never sit easy together, and they should not. It is the principles. Keep the two they shared. Finish the work the first one would not.

I will stand on that ground this Juneteenth. Sacred and stained. Named for a man I cannot celebrate, in a party I have not given up on.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**INFUSE NETWORK: Stream Free. Create Boldly**

## Kaptur Statement On Shooting At Toledo's Old West End Festival

On Saturday night, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (OH-09) released the following statement following a shooting and gun violence at Toledo's Old West End Festival:

"Our community is in pain tonight as a result of senseless gun violence in Toledo's storied Old West End community. Let me express our gratitude to the Toledo Police and Fire Departments and all first responders for once again proving their courage and utter devotion to duty.

"Praying now for victims and our Old West End community — one of the most joyous and celebrated events in our region will endure. It will take time and work to restore comfort, security, and trust.

"As this tragic set of events settles in for our resilient community, I will coordinate with local, state, and federal officials who can help our community get the answers it desperately needs. Please keep Northwest Ohio and Toledo in your prayers tonight, as we seek healing and calm."

# Gerald Rose Carries His Father's Torch Back to Toledo

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

Long before activist **Gerald Rose** led a national organization, he was a Toledo youth watching his father fight for justice.

He lives in Atlanta now and leads the **New Order National Human Rights Organization**, which he says has grown to 22 chapters across the country. Over the years, Gerald has appeared on national television, met with elected officials and built an organization focused on civil rights concerns, racial profiling, employment issues and community advocacy.

And when something happens in Toledo, people still call him.

And he still answers.

### A Legacy Rooted in Ohio

"Half my friends on social media are from Toledo," Rose says with a laugh. "I will never forget where I started from."

That connection is bringing New Order back into the city once again. Representatives from the organization are expected to meet with Toledo Police Chief Michael Troendle on June 12 to discuss concerns about the relationship between law enforcement and minority communities.

For Rose, the issue is personal.

He is the son of **Rev. Floyd Rose**, a longtime Toledo minister, acclaimed civil rights leader and former president of the local NAACP chapter whose influence can still be felt across the city. During his 36 years in Toledo, Floyd Rose became known for advocating for fairness, equity and opportunity, often serving as a bridge between community members and those in positions of power.

For Gerald Rose, those lessons were not learned from a textbook.

They were lived.

Growing up, he watched his father confront difficult issues and speak up for people who felt unheard. He also saw the personal cost that often came with that work.

"I witnessed our church and house being put on fire," Rose recalls. "Death threat calls came in daily."

Those experiences helped shape the path he would eventually follow.

Even today, there is emotion in his voice when he talks about his father.

As Gerald reflects on that legacy, he admits there is one thing that still troubles him.

Despite Floyd Rose's decades of service to Toledo, Gerald believes more should be done to preserve and honor his father's contributions. During his lifetime, he has helped champion civil rights causes, encouraged collaboration across communities and worked tirelessly on behalf of residents seeking justice and opportunity.

"We must remember our civil rights leaders," Rose emphasizes. "I feel it's my duty to keep my father's legacy alive."

The comment raises a broader question for the community: How do we ensure that local civil rights pioneers are remembered once the marches end and the headlines fade? For many who know Floyd Rose, preserving that history is about more than recognition. It is about making sure future genera-



Floyd and Gerald Rose



Gerald Rose leads the marchers to TPD headquarters



Gerald Rose represents his father honoree Rev. Floyd Rose

tions understand who helped build the bridges they now walk across.

One lesson from his father continues to guide him.

"He told me, 'Son, if you're in this business just to be seen, I would ask you to please choose a different path. But if you're in this business to be for the people first, then this is exactly where you belong.'"

Those words never left him.

"I'm not here for fame. I'm not here to be seen. I'm here for my people."

Over the last year, New Order has become involved in several local issues, including concerns involving police conduct and the treatment of children in schools. Rose pointed to a case involving allegations that a preschool child was forced outside without a coat during cold weather.

"When I come, I'm coming correctly," he asserts. "And I'm coming on business."

### Concern Over Police-Community Relations

Today, much of Gerald Rose's attention is focused on the relationship between police officers and minority communities.

... continued on page 12

# On Friday – Toledoans Honor National Gun Violence Awareness Day

By Fletcher Word  
The Truth Editor

June is National Gun Violence Awareness Month and the first Friday of the month (National Gun Violence Awareness Day) is the traditional kick off to the month.

In Toledo, residents held a commemoration at the Peace and Healing Commons on Friday, June 5, to recognize the day as one of “healing, hope and a commitment to building peace together,” said Councilwoman Erin Kramer, the organizer of this year’s ceremony. The various groups in attendance, said Kramer, plan to use the month to “Recommit ourselves to building a safer Toledo for everyone.”

The day originated in memory of **Hadiya Pendleton**, a 15-year-old Chicago student who was shot and killed on a playground just one week after performing in President Obama’s second inaugural parade in 2013. Friends and advocates began wearing orange, the color hunters wear to protect themselves and others, to honor her life.

The first official Wear Orange event took place on June 2, 2015, which would have been Hadiya’s 18th birthday. Today, National Gun Violence Awareness Day marks the start of Wear Orange Weekend, a nationwide series of events and activities.

Among the groups represented on the Peace and Healing Commons at the first Friday event in the effort to raise awareness of gun violence were: Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America; Sisters for Unity; the Multifaith Coalition to Reduce Gun Violence; Save Our Community, along with City Council President Vanice Williams and Councilman George Sarantou.

“I am a survivor,” said Sherin Henley of Moms Demand Action. Henley lost

her son when he was 20 years old and tried to prevent gun violence in his neighborhood.

“This is an epidemic,” said Henley of urban gun violence around the nation. “The point is to make a difference.”

Aviance Hill, one of the founders of Sisters for Unity, spoke of her organization’s work with survivors and the partnerships they have created around the city to ensure that there are services provided for survivors of gun violence.

“Nobody is coming to save us,” said Williams. “Not the feds and not the state. As a community this is a call to action for the whole community and we have to save ourselves.” Williams noted that the peak of homicides in 2021 was 70 for the city and now it has been cut in half, “but there is a long way to go.”

Rev. Meribah Mansfield, deacon at Trinity Episcopal Church, represented the Multifaith Coalition and spoke of the upcoming events in June, and the rest of the summer, that are designed to decrease gun violence. Those remaining events are:

- Unwanted Firearms Disposal on Saturday, June 13, at Monroe Street United Methodist Church (safe way to dispose of unwanted firearms in a secure, drive-through setting);

--Thursday, June 18, 5:30 p.m. Gun Violence Awareness panel at the downtown library, 325 N. Michigan St., featuring speakers about the impacts of gun violence and how to get involved to be a part of the solution. All are welcome.

--Thursday, July 2, 2:00-6:00 p.m. \*Cease Fire event at the Glass City Picnic Pavilion. This community barbeque is being planned by the City’s Save Our Community team to encourage no shots fired for 48 hours after the event. It is based on an event done in Baltimore, where shots decreased by 47% when they promoted the Cease Fire event.

-- June 16-August 5, 1:00-3:00 p.m. City pool barbecues \*will be sponsored by Save Our Community, with help from Ohio Moms Demand Action. To volunteer, contact Moms Demand Action Toledo Lead Donna Malone at donna.malone.oh@gmail.com. The pool barbecues are:

June 16th, 1pm - 3pm Willys Park  
July 8th, 1pm - 3pm Pickford Park  
July 10th, 1pm - 3pm Willys Park  
July 13th, 1pm to 3pm Wilson Park  
July 23rd, 1pm - 3pm Navarre Park  
July 28th, 1pm - 3pm Roosevelt Park  
August 5th, 1pm-3pm Jamie Farr

**The Truth Colours Gallery**  
ART & CRAFT  
**WORKSHOP**  
Painting, Crafting and Drawing!  
check out the Gallery studio  
STAY COOL  
LOVE LIFE  
7 East Bancroft St  
Franklin n Bancroft  
Facebook  
The Truth Colours Gallery  
nikolacolours  
347-286-9227



Aviance Hill



# But on Saturday – Gun Violence Upends Old West End Festival

*The Truth Staff*

The day after Toledoans gathered at the Peace & Healing Commons to commemorate National Gun Violence Awareness Day – Friday, June 5 – other Toledoans blatantly ignored such admonitions and used their guns to shoot 12 people who were trying to enjoy the first festival of the summer season.

The Old West End Festival, a 53-year-old celebration of



community, history and Victorian-era homes, began on Saturday with a parade showcasing music, vintage cars and, as always, a king and queen.

The festival ended at about 5:30 as gunshots rang out in the area of Delaware and Glenwood



and, as the damage showed later, 12 individual victims were struck. A number of victims were hit near the gazebo in the Agnes Reynolds Jackson Arboretum at Delaware and Robinwood.

The victims ranged in ages from 14 to 61 with the average age of the wounded being in the 20's. There were no fatalities but two of the victims were reported to be critically injured.

# And on Sunday – The City Prayed for the Victims

*By Fletcher Word*

*The Truth Editor*

Among the prayers offered for the victims ... and for the city of Toledo during Sunday's services and informal gatherings was a community prayer organized by Rev. Cedric Broack, pastor of Mt. Nebo Baptist Church.

Brock's community prayer, held at the corner of Delaware and Lawrence, close by the scene of the shootings, was attended by about 20 Toledoans, including, state Sen. Paula Hicks-Hudson, City Council President Vanice Williams and Councilwoman Erin Kramer.

"Toledo is not a bad place," Brock reminded those in attendance. "But right now, Toledo looks miserable in the eyesight of the world. We can be better ... now is a time for us to pull up."

Janice Carson, DMin, opened with a prayer asking God to keep the spirit of love within the city.

After the opening prayer, Bishop John Williams of River of Life Church offered his thoughts on the previous day's violence and the impact on the community.

"We're actually blessed to be in Toledo," said Williams. "This issue is not a Toledo issue. It's demonic warfare and spiritual warfare all over. The rise in gun violence is all over the country."

Expressing his concern about the fact that the festival could not continue after Saturday's outbreak of violence, Williams expressed his desire that the Old West End Festival should return "bigger and better and stronger next year."

Williams also noted that he was encouraged that "although 12 were shot, we didn't lose one life ... Toledo is not a cursed city."

Then all of the attendees had the opportunity to offer a prayer – they offered prayers of thanks for the overall goodness of Toledoans, prayers of recovery for the victims, prayers of concern for the families of those who had been injured.



**When facing serious illness, comfort comes from both the care you receive and where that care is provided.**

Not every hospice can provide the same level of care in every setting, but we can. For more than 40 years, we've cared for patients where they feel most at ease: at home, in care facilities, or in our freestanding Hospice Centers. Wherever care is provided, our focus remains the same - expert medical care paired with compassionate emotional and spiritual support.

As the area's first and only independent, not-for-profit hospice, no one is ever turned away due to complexity of care or inability to pay. While others may have limits, we're committed to being there...wherever and whenever families need us most.



[hospicenwo.org](http://hospicenwo.org)

EXPERIENCE MORE FROM THE MOST EXPERIENCED.

# African American Legacy Project Hosts First Tuesday Event – Submits Public Records Request

*The Truth Staff*

*The African American Legacy Project hosted the first First Tuesday of the summer season on Tuesday, June 2 and also released a statement regarding a public records request made to the City of Toledo:*

The African American Legacy Project has submitted a formal public records request under Ohio law to the City of Toledo seeking documentation related to the federal Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant and the proposed Cultural Trail project.

The request is intended to better understand how the project aligns with the RAISE program's stated purpose of expanding economic opportunity, improving community connectivity, and addressing the effects of historic disinvestment in target communities.

At the center of the request is a straightforward public question: how will the benefits of this federal infrastructure investment be realized within the communities most affected by decades of disinvestment?

The African American Legacy Project is utilizing the Dorr Street corridor as a key geographic reference point for this inquiry. Dorr Street has historically served as Toledo's African American business and cultural corridor and remains a relevant area for understanding how equity-focused infrastructure investments translate into community-level outcomes.

The request seeks documentation on project decision-making, community identification, and anticipated benefit evaluation under the RAISE framework, including how funding priorities were established, what alternatives were evaluated, and how project outcomes were defined, measured, and documented.

For generations, the Dorr Street Business District functioned as a center of African American economic and cultural life in Toledo. It supported Black entrepreneurship, employment, and community wealth-building

before experiencing long-term decline associated with structural economic changes and disinvestment. The organization is using this historical context to help frame questions about how current infrastructure investments are expected to generate measurable local benefit.

The central question guiding this inquiry remains: How will the benefits of the RAISE Grant be realized within the communities that have experienced the greatest levels of historical disinvestment?

The African American Legacy Project emphasizes that the records request is not intended to challenge the value of the Cultural Trail project, but to ensure transparency and public understanding of how federal resources are being allocated and how those decisions align with the equity goals of the RAISE program.

A spokesperson for the organization stated:

"The issue is not whether the Cultural Trail is worthwhile. The issue is whether a federal grant intended to address historic inequities and expand economic opportunity is expected to produce measurable benefits in the communities most affected by those inequities."

The organization remains committed to constructive engagement with public officials, stakeholders, and residents to ensure that public investments strengthen neighborhoods and contribute to equitable economic development across Toledo.

What is the RAISE Program?

RAISE (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity) is a federal grant program administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation designed to support infrastructure projects that improve mobility, safety, sustainability, and economic opportunity. A key component of the program is its emphasis on equity and benefits to historically underserved communities.

City of Toledo noted as a RAISE grant recipient in the 2022 FY RAISE award cycle (USDOT announcement) Why was this records request submitted? The African American Legacy Project submitted a public records request under Ohio law to documented for historically disinvested communities. What is being sought? The request seeks records related to: • Grant application materials better understand how RAISE-funded decisions were made and how anticipated benefits are • Equity and community impact analysis • Public engagement documentation • Economic benefit projections • Benefit-cost analysis • Planning studies and corridor maps • Evaluation of alternatives Page 2 of 7 Why Dorr Street?

The African American Legacy Project seeks to better understand:

- How were historically disadvantaged communities identified in the project planning
- How are anticipated benefits defined, measured, and documented?
- What level of direct investment is expected within affected neighborhoods?
- What alternatives were evaluated during project development?
- How does the project contribute to long-term revitalization of historically disinvested corridors such as Dorr Street?
- What documentation supports conclusions regarding expected community outcomes?

Is this an accusation? No. This is a public records request seeking documentation of how decisions were made and how benefits are defined. Does this oppose the Cultural Trail? No. This effort is focused on transparency and understanding of documented outcomes. What is being requested? Grant project. Why is Dorr Street referenced? Impacts. Records related to planning, evaluation, equity analysis, and benefit assessment for the RAISE It is a historically significant corridor relevant to understanding equity-based infrastructure



*Robert Smith, founder of the AALP addresses need for a public records request*

**PARADISE SHOES**  
MEN'S CLOTHES  
"Where You Can Dress to Impress"

<p><b>HATS - 15% OFF</b></p>	<p><b>LEISURE SUITS - 20% OFF</b></p>
<p><b>SHORT SETS - 20% OFF</b></p>	<p><b>SHOES - 15% OFF</b></p>

*This Father's Day, honor and dress the man of your life from Paradise Men's Clothing. Whether it be casual, social or dress. Paradise Men's Clothing can Dress to Impress that special Dad from head to toe. Follow the Road to Fashion at Paradise Shoes and Accessories.*

**4911 Dorr Street in the Library Plaza – 419-535-9568**

# 2nd Annual Mental Health Gala hosted at The Pinnacle

By Dawn Scotland  
The Truth Reporter

The second annual Mental Health Gala: Strength in Unity was held at the Pinnacle Saturday, May 30. The event, presented by Revitalized Behavioral Healthcare and Here's My Turning Point featured live music and entertainment and honored six Community Champions of Change.

The Strength in Unity Mental Health Gala was inspired by the vision of Keisha Taylor, Mental Health Gala coordinator and chief administrative officer of Revitalized Behavioral Healthcare (RBH), alongside the co-owners of RBH and Here's My Turning Point.

Together, they joined forces with other partners and advocates who share the same passion for breaking down the barriers and stigma surrounding mental health and substance use disorders within Lucas County.

"We're closing out Mental Health Awareness Month in a big way in Lucas County by showing that there is support, resources and strength in unity when we all come together for a purpose," shared Taylor, coordinator of the event.

She stated that last year the fundraising goal was \$25,000 this year the organization reached



Suzette Cowell, ThD; Rev. Timothy Pettaway; Tina Butts



Samantha Nance, Tina Butts, Keisha Taylor, Tiffany Depp and Alexis Means

almost \$40,000.

The host for the evening was Andrew Kinsley, WFTS Tampa, FL News Anchor and Mistress of Ceremonies Alexis Means, 13 ABC Action News. Remarks were given by Vanice Williams, Toledo City Council President, Tina Butts CEO of Here's My Turning Point and Lucas County Commissioner Pete Gerken.

The speaker for the evening was David Fleetwood of Local 500 who gave the Strength in ...continued on page 12



Mistress of Ceremonies Alexis Means of 13ABC Action News

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

TOLEDO URBAN Music Festival

SAVE THE DATE 07 | 18 | 2026

Huntington Center, 500 Jefferson Ave, Toledo, OH 43604

MIDNIGHT STAR ERIC BENÉT KEKE WYATT ZAPP BAND EJ JONES

# Peace, Love and Parenting

By June Boyd  
Guest Column

Saturday, June 6, 2026, the 53rd Annual Old West Festival became the wild, wild west. Most of us are scratching our heads and asking why?

On what began as a fun day, my parish, St. Martin de Porres, proudly participated in the King Wamba parade. Seniors including myself rode in a van, waving to residents and passing candy to the children with smiling faces; a little rain, but the sun came out after the parade was over.

Little did we know, six hours later, that some gun men had ideas of violence and possibly killing someone.

According to news reports, 12 people were shot, two in critical condition in what was called a "shoot out" between two people. That travesty is only part of what is wrong. The bright-eyed children, the happy residents, so proud of the neighborhood, the vendors local and from out of town all had to shut down, for the safety of all involved.

The other part of this tragedy, a couple of days prior to the shooting, our determined city officials held a press conference acknowledging the lives lost to gun violence and committed to "stop the violence." What a disgrace. The city of Toledo has now joined the nationwide dilemma of negative publicity: gun violence. How do we end this cancer?

Let us begin with apprehending the perpetrators. They must be caught and punished to the full extent of the law. For someone to destroy an annual neighborhood festival, a chance for people to celebrate together, is reprehensible. I witnessed the happy faces of the children, the hard work the festival committee had made to make sure the guests would



enjoy, and above all the residents who proudly welcome so many into the community. This is the last straw.

There must be a solution to this senseless violence. Where are the guns coming from? And why so easy to acquire? What has happened today that would give someone an idea that this action is okay?

It is not, and the punishment should be as severe as the laws allow, to send a message to anyone else who feels it is okay to kill or maim. I have many times through group activity asked the administration to supply ring cameras on porches if the homeowner permits. It would be much easier to identify the bad guys.

In closing, our prayers to the victims for a speedy recovery, and a determination in spite of this heinous act, we as a community will not give up on peace, love and coming together. We must support our city leaders, law enforcement, ministers and families and anyone who can make a difference. We must stop the violence. We can become a community of PEACE, LOVE AND PARENTING.

### Mental Health Gala...continued from page 9

Unity Address.

Tiffany Whitman, EdD, chief Impact Officer for the City of Toledo presented awards to the 2026 Champions of Change recipients:

- Idell Watson (W.E.S., Inc.)
- Judge Nicole Khoury (Toledo Municipal Court)
- Deonte Moss, PhD, (Life Institute, LLC)
- La 'Shardae Scott, DSW, (S.C.O.T.T.)
- Ernest Banks (New Concepts)

Closing remarks were given by Keisha Taylor, Mental Health Gala coordinator and the evening concluded with music and networking.

To learn more about Revitalized Behavioral Healthcare visit: [rbh-care.com](http://rbh-care.com)

**DeFlame**  
CANDLES  
TOLEDO MADE  
SOY CANDLES  
INCENSE  
BODY OILS  
ROOM SPRAYS  
REED DIFFUSERS & MORE

*Crafted with premium fragrance and essential oil blends.*

**Now Located at  
3 E. Bancroft Street**

**DeFlame Candles**  
[deflamecandle.com](http://deflamecandle.com)  
419-973-3263

**optigo**  
**Glasses on the GO!**  
- or in the office

Personalized • Professional • Hassle-Free

- LICENSED PROFESSIONAL**  
Years of Experience You Can Trust
- ONE-ON-ONE**  
Eyewear Styling
- MOBILE & IN-OFFICE**  
Appointments
- PRESCRIPTION EYEGLASSES & Sunglasses**
- SEVERAL LENS STYLES, MATERIALS & TREATMENTS Available**
- CALL OR TEXT**  
419-754-0278

**NOW BOOKING APPOINTMENTS!**

- Mobile Services Available
- Flexible Scheduling
- Personalized Eyewear Recommendations
- Quality Frames

**SCAN ME!**

OptiGo™  
Vision Care Advancing | Elevate the Way You See the World

# Reentry Coalition Hosts "Going Home to Stay" Event at The TMA Glass Pavillion

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

On Wednesday, June 3, the Reentry Coalition of Northwest Ohio's hosted its "Going Home to Stay" event at the Toledo Museum of Art Glass Pavillion. The event, which is hosted every first Wednesday at various locations, connects men and women returning from incarceration to community resources to reduce recidivism.

Every year, thousands of people are released from federal and state prisons and return to their communities. More than 18,000 people were released in 2024 from Ohio penitentiaries. The work of the Reentry Coalition is simple: to make sure that when incarcerated individuals are released, they come home to stay.

The Lucas County Recidivism rate is 24 percent, well below Ohio (33 percent) and the United States (46 percent). An important part of Lucas County's success has been the Coalition's "First Wednesdays" program, a monthly resource event, typically hosted at the One Government Center, that includes social services, education, workforce development, Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Social Security Administration, the Lucas County Child Support Agency and more.

"People returning from incarceration face multiple barriers upon re-entering the community. Going Home to Stay provides a monthly 'one stop shop' that allows men and women returning from incarceration and their families to get connected to needed services and supports," said Karyn McConnell, the chair of the Reentry Coalition of Northwest Ohio.

Rhonda Sewell, director of Advocacy and External Affairs at TMA, noted that community is an important part of the core values at TMA.

"TMA makes its greatest impact when it collaborates with the community to help enrich their lives of the people who call Lucas County home. We are proud of our wide-ranging partnerships that reach deep into our community," Ms. Sewell said.

"We should all believe in second chances, we all have a right to dignity and quality of life, and programs like this, and through generous donors who help programs like this, we are able to make a change in our community," she stated Wednesday as she welcome attendees to the museum.

The next First Wednesday "Going Home to Stay" event will be held Wednesday, July 1st at One Government Center from 11am-1pm. The event is always free. To learn more call Chris Stewart, Reentry Coordinator at (419) 245-2925 or (419) 295-1348 if you have any questions. Additional information is found on the organization's website reentry419.com.



Attendees listen to speakers talk about available resources



Rhonda Sewell, Director of Advocacy and External Affairs at the Toledo Museum of Art



Attendees register for event

To learn more about The Toledo Museum of Art visit toledomuseum.org.

The Reentry Coalition of Northwest Ohio (RC-NWO) is a coalition of service agencies and individuals whose mission is to provide leadership, create partnerships, and promote shared accountability for successful community reentry with the goal of reducing recidivism and promoting public safety.

The Reentry Coalition of Northwest Ohio is sponsored by the Toledo/Lucas County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.

To learn more Reentry Coalition of Northwest Ohio visit reentry419.com.

Established in 1901, the Toledo Museum of Art (TMA) is a beloved cultural institution in Toledo, Ohio, and a global leader in the museum field. Its renowned collection features over 25,000 works, ranging from antiquity to contemporary art, and has 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 the museum's galleries.

**DIXIE** Auto Leasing Toledo, OH

5880 N. Detroit  
**Month to Month Leasing**  
 419-476-8674

WE ARE A FULL SERVICE BUSINESS



Welcome Home to Sylvan Lakes Apartments!

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

**Sylvan Lakes**  
 Apartment Homes

4045 A Langston Place, Sylvania, Ohio 43560  
 P: 419-842-8480 E: investekmanagement.com

Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union

Local Lending  
 Lasting Relationships

Whatever your next step, we have a loan to help you get there.

From Vehicles and homes to education and personal expenses, our affordable lending options and local service make financing simple.

Community Loan (419) 235-8876  
 info@toledourbanfcu.com



*Gerald Rose...continued from page 5*

Recent incidents involving Toledo police officers have sparked public criticism and renewed conversations about accountability, trust and respect.

Rose believes repairing that relationship will take more than statements and press conferences.

"We have to have more town hall meetings," he says. "People need to know police are there to protect them, not come into neighborhoods and bully them."

He is careful not to paint every officer with the same brush.

"All police are not bad," Rose states. "We've got good ones. But the bad ones must be removed immediately."

For him, the issue comes down to fairness.

When residents see people treated differently for similar actions, trust begins to erode. It doesn't happen all at once. It happens little by little, like a crack spreading across a windshield. Before long, the damage reaches every corner.

Rose believes many people no longer hear the phrase "protect and serve" and automatically feel protected.

"It's very hopeless right now," he admits. "I don't know if we can heal these situations overnight. But we've got to start somewhere."

Part of that healing, he believes, requires officers to better understand the communities they serve.

"It's sad how these officers are not from our community, but they work in our community," he says, adding that too often residents feel like "strangers being judged by their surroundings rather than people being understood."

The upcoming meeting with police leadership is an opportunity, he says, to move beyond frustration and toward solutions.

"I move on facts, not emotions," Rose adds.

#### **Beyond Protests: The Mission of New Order**

That commitment to finding solutions has shaped New Order's work for more than three decades.

While many people associate civil rights organizations with protests and press conferences, Gerald says much of the organization's work happens quietly.

Members help distribute food, mentor young people and encourage individuals trying to rebuild their lives after incarceration, addiction or other setbacks.

Recently, Rose spoke at Georgia Works, a program that helps men transition back into society after prison.

"We told them, 'You made a mistake in life, but God can make a way,'" he shares. "'You've got to want it.'"

Hope, Rose says, is one of the most important tools a person can have.

He often avoids using labels for people facing hardship.

"I never say feed homeless people," he explains during the interview.

To Gerald, people are more than their circumstances.

His organization focuses on restoring dignity and helping individuals see possibilities they may no longer see for themselves.

The group also works on employment issues, human rights complaints, racial profiling cases and concerns involving schools and public institutions.

At its core, Rose says, New Order exists to serve people.

Recognition, Sacrifice and Staying the Course

The work has earned attention far beyond Toledo.

Rose says New Order was recognized by the State of Georgia, and his name appears on a Wall of Fame at a Nation of Islam mosque in Atlanta, despite the fact that he is not Muslim.

The recognition means a great deal to him.

"I asked, 'Why me?'" Rose recalls. "And they said, 'Why not?'"

Yet awards are not what he talks about most.

Instead, he speaks about the risks that often come with activism.

"My life has been threatened many times," he explains plainly.

For most people, that would be enough to step away.

For Rose, it became another reminder of what he watched his father endure.

"I've seen what my dad went through," he says. "The only one I fear is the man above."

That faith has helped sustain him through difficult moments.

It has also helped him continue pushing forward, even when the work feels overwhelming.

#### **Carrying the Torch Forward**

As New Order prepares for its June 12 meeting with Toledo police leadership, Rose says he is looking for answers, accountability and honest conversation.

He knows one meeting cannot repair years of mistrust.

Still, he believes dialogue matters.

He believes showing up matters.

Rose notes that concerns have also been raised about how officers communicate with young people, an issue previously addressed by Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz and City Council President Vanice Williams.

And he believes communities have responsibilities too.

"No one's going to save our children for us but us," he says affirmatively.

That message feels connected to the legacy he inherited.

The issues have changed. Technology has changed. The headlines have changed, but the underlying struggle persists.

The fight for dignity, fairness, and respect, however, remains.

And for Gerald Rose, that fight is still what calls him home.

*The upcoming June 12 meeting between the New Order National Human Rights Organization and Toledo police leadership is also expected to address broader community safety concerns, including the recent shooting incident during the Old West End Festival in the Historic Old West End neighborhood. Community members have expressed renewed concern about public safety at large-scale cultural events and the need for stronger coordination between law enforcement, organizers and residents to ensure gatherings remain safe for families and visitors. The meeting will take place at 525 North Erie St at 1 p.m.*

**LUCAS**  
METROPOLITAN  
HOUSING

#### SECOND PUBLIC NOTICE HCV Administrative Plan

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) has announced a proposed Significant Amendment to its Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Administrative Plan regarding the transition of Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) households to the HCV program in accordance with HUD guidance.

The proposed amendment has been available for public review since 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 [agerber@lucasmha.org](mailto:agerber@lucasmha.org).

A public hearing will be held on Wednesday, July 1, 2026, at 11:30 a.m.

Individuals requiring reasonable accommodations may contact LMH at (419) 259-9448 or [hcvpcsr@lucasmha.org](mailto:hcvpcsr@lucasmha.org).

# Books for Father's Day for Kids by Various Authors and Illustrators

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

Good old Dad.

He's there for you every day, playing with you, tucking you into bed, teaching you to do fun things, helping you. He and Grandpa, they're the greatest - and this month, it's time to read books about the Dads and Father-figures in your life...

c. 2026  
various publishers  
\$9.99 - \$18.99  
various page counts

Who's your best buddy? You'd probably say that your Papa is, and in *Dear Dad*, illustrated by Natalie Lundeen (Flamingo Books, \$9.99), you'll read a love letter to one youngster's father, a gator who is the little guy's "favorite dude."

This is a quick, colorful, adorable, fast-to-read story that's full of love and appreciation for fathers, and it's not just for preschool kiddoes, ages three-to-five. If you're an adult, it would be a heart-felt, tear-jerker of a gift for your Dad or Grandpa, too.

For the child who loves doing things with Pop, then *Haircut Day with Dad* by Monica Mikai (Crown, \$18.99) is a book they'll want.

Yep, it's time: his hair has grown a little shaggy and a little boy needs a haircut. He and Dad want to look good, so they head to the barber shop to make sure they do. It's a day well-spent, too, and breakfast is first, because you can't have a haircut on an empty stomach.

At the barber shop, the usual barbers are working and Dad sees some of his friends. They "settle in and wait" for their turn. Barbers are like magicians, and the boy and his dad feel like kings with capes around their necks. Pretty soon, they're looking "fly," which is what you should do: fly out and find this adorable book just for boys ages five-to-eight.

Okay, but what if you don't have a dad? Or he's not the dad you want? Then *Just Right* by Torrey Maldonado, illustrated by Teresa Martinez (Nancy Paulsen Books, \$18.99) is exactly the book you want.

Toby is sad. He picked out a special pair of socks for his Dad as a gift, but his father kind of ignored him. The socks were just another pair of socks to him, and Ma said that wasn't right. Neither was a nearby playground that was forever under construction, or the broken glass on his neighborhood's sidewalks, or the dirt or the noise outside his door.

None of that is right, not at all.

But you know what was right? His mother's brother, his Uncle, who loves Toby so very obviously, and makes him feel special and exactly, a 100-percent right.

And that's what you'll think about this moving book: it's what you want

for your four-to-nine-year old, especially if there's no dad or grandfather in the picture this Father's Day.

If your child wants more books about Dad, Grandpa, Uncle or any other special man in their life, then head to your favorite library or bookstore and ask for help. The staff there will steer you toward the exact books you want for kids of any age and any situation, for birthday, Father's Day, or every day of the year.





**Leafguard**  
A Great Day Improvements Company

**20% off**  
Total Purchase\*

+

**\$0 Money Down**


+

**18 months**  
no interest\*\*

**We can only offer these special savings until 6/30/2026, so call today 844.893.6757**

## Lucas County Commissioners statement on Old West End Festival shooting

"We are heartbroken and hurting alongside our community in the aftermath of the senseless shooting at the Old West End Festival," the Lucas County Commissioners said in a joint statement. "Our thoughts are immediately with the victims, their families, and everyone who has been shaken by this tragedy on a day that was meant to be about celebration and joy. Many of our residents will live with the trauma of this act of violence forever, and we as a country are defined by what we do next to prevent gun violence. We are incredibly grateful for the heroic efforts of our first responders who acted quickly with courage and bravery. This incident does not define who we are as a community, and we must all join forces to root out violence in any form."



**SEGUNDO AVISO PÚBLICO**  
Plan Administrativo del HCV

La Vivienda Metropolitana de Lucas, conocido por su nombre en inglés como "Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH)" ha anunciado una propuesta de Enmienda Significativa a su Plan Administrativo del Programa de Vales de Elección de Vivienda (HCV), relacionada a la transición de los hogares Beneficiarios de Vales de Vivienda de Emergencia (EHV) hacia el programa HCV, de conformidad con la guía del HUD.

La enmienda propuesta ha estado disponible para su revisión pública desde el 18 de mayo de 2026 en el 424 Jackson St., Toledo, Ohio, así como en el sitio web de LMH. Se aceptarán comentarios por escrito durante el periodo de 45 días destinado a tal fin; dichos comentarios pueden enviarse a [agerber@lucasmha.org](mailto:agerber@lucasmha.org).

Se llevará a cabo una audiencia pública el miércoles 1 de julio de 2026 a las 11:30am.

Aquellas personas que requieran adaptaciones razonables pueden comunicarse con LMH llamando al (419) 259- 9448 o enviando un correo electrónico a [hcvpcsr@lucasmha.org](mailto:hcvpcsr@lucasmha.org).

# Owens Aspire Program Honors 29 Adult Learners, Chipping Away at a Statewide Gap

Special to The Truth

When new students enter the Owens Aspire College and Career Readiness program, they're greeted with three simple but powerful words.

"Welcome future graduates."

Roughly 592,000 Ohioans ages 25 and older do not have a high school diploma, according to the most recent U.S. Census Bureau data. On May 21, that number dipped as the Aspire program celebrated 29 graduates who received their high school equivalency diploma in the 2025-26 academic year with a graduation ceremony in Veterans Hall.



Aspire Graduation

"It's always exciting to chip away at the number of people who do not have their high school equivalencies and just see the faces of everybody when they really realized that they've done it," said Heath Huber, director of the Owens Aspire program. "The act of walking across the stage to receive your credential is definitely one that they will remember for a long time."

Two graduates spoke during the graduation, Tasha Smith from the Findlay-area Campus and Marquelle Scott from the Toledo-area Campus.

During her speech, Smith said the support from the Owens Aspire staff helped her complete her GED in March. Smith is working toward her Chemical Dependency Counselor Assistant license before starting on her associate degree this fall.

"The thing about the Owens Aspire staff is, they don't go away just because you obtained your GED," Smith said. "They are family, so we are kind of stuck with them. The support, the love, the excitement for your growth and achievements are never ending. I am very grateful for this. It gives me hope, hope for a better future."

The celebration included a processional with "Pomp and Circumstance" playing, and all graduates got to keep their caps and tassels thanks to a donation from the Owens Community College Foundation.

The night also celebrated about 30 participants in the Work Advance Program in the last school year, which is a partnership with Raise the Bar Hancock County and the Habitat for Humanity Financial Opportunity Center.

They also recognized four students from the English for Speakers of Other Languages classes who had writing samples selected for the Ohio Literacy Resource Center's annual "Beginnings" publication.

Huber pointed out how adult education differs from traditional K-12 education because of the variables and obstacles most adult learners face. That also makes what these students accomplish so much more valuable.

"We're so proud of our students. Every year it seems there's more challenges thrown in everybody's way to finish. There are more obstacles, there are more people against us to complete. But they still saw it through. They worked hard, they committed to their success and they got it. So we're very, very proud of each and every one of them," Huber said.

Students from the Owens Broadcast Technology program recorded videos of student stories after the graduation which will be edited and published as well.

Huber also recognized Dee Dolsey, curriculum and staff support person for the Owens Aspire program, as the Ohio Association for Adult and Continuing Education regional Adult Educator of the Year, and Rayvina Munn as the regional Outstanding Adult Learner of the Year.

Owens Community College has served north-west Ohio since 1965 as an accredited two-year, state-assisted institution of higher education with an open-door admission policy. Through intentional, adaptive and empowering education, Owens offers more than 160 academic programs to be the first choice for students, employers and the community. As a conduit to changing lives for the better, Owens creates pathways for success. For more information, visit [www.owens.edu](http://www.owens.edu).

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.

**The Sojourner's Truth**  
**A MOMENT OF TRUTH**  
**THE LOCAL THREAD**

WGTE Public Media

الإعلان العام للثمن  
الخطة الإدارية لبرنامج قسائم اختيار السكن (IHCV)

أعلنت هيئة الإسكان الحضرية في أوكلاند (LMH) عن اقتراح تعديل جوهري على الخطة الإدارية لبرنامج قسائم اختيار السكن (IHCV)، وذلك فيما يتعلق بانتقال الأسر المستفيدة من قسائم الإسكان المتأخرة (EHV) إلى برنامج قسائم اختيار السكن (IHCV)، وفقاً لتوجيهات وزارة الإسكان والتنمية الحضرية الأمريكية (HUD).

وقد أُنشئت التعديلات المقترحة للمراجعة العامة منذ 18 مايو/أيار 2026 في مقر الهيئة الكائن في 424 شارع جاكسون، توليدو، أوهايو، وكذلك على الموقع الإلكتروني لهيئة الإسكان الحضرية (LMH) في أوكلاند.

سندم حول التعليقات الخلية خلال فترة التعليق العامة البالغة 45 يوماً، ويمكن إرسالها إلى البريد الإلكتروني [ngerber@lucasmhla.org](mailto:ngerber@lucasmhla.org)

تستعد جلسة استماع عامة يوم الأربعاء، 1 يوليو 2026، في الساعة 11:30 صباحاً.

يمكن للأفراد الذين يحتاجون إلى تسهيلات أو ترتيبات معقولة بسبب الإعاقة أو أي احتياجات خاصة التواصل مع هيئة (LMH) على الرقم: (419) 259-9444 أو عبر البريد الإلكتروني: [ngerber@lucasmhla.org](mailto:ngerber@lucasmhla.org)



### 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
	<b>Total Section 5307 funded items</b>	<b>\$8,057,182</b>	<b>\$11,121,478</b>
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](mailto: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](mailto:employment@wgte.org) or Human Resources, P.O. Box 30, Toledo, OH 43614.



### 第二次公告 住房选择券 (HCV) 管理计划

卢卡斯都会区住房管理局 (LMH) 依据美国住房和城市发展部 (HUD) 相关指导文件, 发布住房选择券 (HCV) 管理计划重大修订草案, 内容涉及紧急住房券 (EHV) 住户转入 HCV 项目相关事宜。

修订草案自 2026 年 5 月 18 日起, 可在俄亥俄州托莱多市杰克逊街 424 号办公地点及 LMH 官网向公众开放查阅。意见征集为 45 天, 期间受理书面意见, 投递邮箱: [agerber@lucasmha.org](mailto:agerber@lucasmha.org)。

公开听证会将于 2026 年 7 月 1 日星期三上午 11:30 举行。

需合理便利安排的人员可致电 (419) 259-9448 或发邮件至 [hcvpcsr@lucasmha.org](mailto:hcvpcsr@lucasmha.org) 联系 LMH。

### 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](mailto:sjester@toledo.urban.net)

# Breaking the Glass Networking Event

*The Truth Staff*

The Breaking the Glass Networking Event was held on Thursday evening, June 4, at Club Evolution, and dozens of minority business owners were given the opportunity to network, to introduce themselves to other business owners they might not have previous known and to celebrate the accomplishments of some notable individuals.

The event, hosted by contractor Blair Johnson, was first held in 2018 but had lapsed during the pandemic. The revival of the event proved to be exciting, and informative, for the attendees.

Johnson opened the evening by handing out sheets filled with questions in the form of bingo cards. Those in attendance were encouraged to speak with others in the room and gain the answers to questions on the bingo sheet such as: find someone who started a business; find someone in a different industry than you; find someone who works with youth; find someone who works in media or marketing.

As Johnson described the evening, "it is an opportunity to connect my peers to my peers."

Then came the introduction of the evening's honorees.

The City Leaders' Award went to Councilwoman Brittany Jones, PhD; the Breaking Barriers' Award went to La'Shardae Scott, EdD; the Highlighted Entrepreneurs were: Cecil Holston, II, LMSW; Neaira Williams; Manuel Mathis, Jr.

Holston is a licensed social worker and a DJ. Holston became a social worker in 2010 and a licensed therapist in 2017. He specializes in working with children and dealing with their trauma, depression, grief and anxiety. He has founded an agency called empowering Minds which works with a variety of agencies and organizations.

Williams is a realtor (a member of Toledo Realtists), the director with Unison Health's Respite Program that helps children with behavioral health issues. She is also an author with two best-selling books on amazon.com. "I want to help our community build more generational wealth," she said of the opportunities in home-ownership.

Mathis, founder, director, CEO at Navigating The Algorithm, launched his IT business in 2019 when he was laid off from his job. A very young entrepreneur, Mathis helps other businesses document their journeys.

"I feel I'm making a difference," said Councilwoman Jones. "Call me, reach out. I am looking forward to bringing about a lot of changes ... with your guidance and help and prayer ad protection."

Scott, DSW, CEO/president of the Scott Center for Observation, Treatment and Transition and the Sickle Cell Director for the Neighborhood Health Sickle Cell Project of Northwest Ohio, is the mother of four young sons, two of whom suffer from sickle cell disease. Originally a secondary education teacher, Scott became a social worker, earned a doctorate, in fact, in order to establish an organization, the first in the state of Ohio, to help those with the sickle cell disease.

Toni Battle Gaines, one of the co-founders of the Black Wall Street Community Development (The Juice 97.3; The Truth; Pursuit magazine, KpK Unlimited), a group that also works with Black business owners, also spoke, emphasizing the need for collaboration and cooperation between minority businesses and groups.

The evening ended with a raffle and more informal networking.

The Breaking the Glass events will continue on a periodic basis. For information contact 567-218-1498 or BreakingTheGlass@gmail.com.



*Blair Johnson, left, and honorees - Councilwoman Brittany Jones, PhD; La'Shardae Scott, EdD; Neaira Williams; Manuel Mathis*



*State Rep. Josh Williams, Neaira Williams, De'Lisa Moore, Faye Smith-Naseer*



*State Sen. Paula Hicks-Hudson*

