The Sojourner's Truth

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NANBPWC Maumee Bay Club Supports Women



Maumee Bay Woman on the Move Cardio Line Dancers

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Different Boats



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

The Truth Contributor

Perhaps we should begin to think of racial solidarity as a luxury item.

– Eugene Robinson

Many candidates and issues asked for Black votes this fall, and some voters answered with a question: What's in it for me?

To a party that has long counted on those votes, the question sounds like disloyalty. To the voter waiting on an answer, the silence is the betrayal.

In my youth, I saw Black doctors sit in the same church pew as sanitation workers, and the world outside the church treated them all alike. It was fitting for us to speak in one unified voice. That is no longer the case.

Eugene Robinson named the result in his 2010 book, *Disintegration*: four Black Americas, a middle-class Mainstream, a small Transcendent elite, an Emergent group of mixed-race and recent immigrant Black Americans, and an Abandoned minority with less hope of escaping poverty than at any time since Reconstruction ended. He writes that "Black Americans at the top of the scale, with incomes of more than $100,000 a year, were most likely to cling to the more traditional view that 'blacks can still be thought of as a single race because they have so much in common.'"

One Boat

When everyone was in the same boat, loyalty cost nothing, because what was in it for me and what was in it for us were the same question. People paid for it. Adam Mahoney of Capital B reported from Opelousas, Louisiana, on Oct. 29 that more than 200 Black people were killed there in 1868 for organizing to vote. This spring the Supreme Court's ruling in Louisiana v. Callais weakened the Voting Rights Act, and Mahoney reports that at least three majority-Black congressional districts have been dismantled across the South since. Some now want to know what the ballot buys.

Different Boats

The answer depends on the boat. In Toledo, a Black household brings in about $33,912 a year, compared with $49,724 citywide. The city says its food contract with Al Peake & Sons is worth $150,000 of a $3 million Swayne Field development. Local Black growers such as Sonia Flunder-McNair of SONIA Organics and David Johnson of Johnson Produce Market were passed over, as I wrote in "Build Bridges, Not a Bypass."

A historian told Mahoney the divisions go back to land and complexion, long before integration. Pew's October survey found 70 percent of Black registered voters backing Democrats for the House and only seven percent backing Republicans, but one in six said they weren't sure.

In Michigan, a Senate seat that could decide control of the chamber turns in part on Black voters, whom CNN reported on October 20 are "pivotal to any Democratic victory."

Democrat Abdul El-Sayed, a progressive former public health official, beat Rep. Haley Stevens in the August primary by about a point, and Black voters around Detroit largely backed Stevens. Republican Mike Rogers opened a campaign office on Detroit's Livernois Avenue.

"It only takes this much of Detroit to defect. It only takes this much of Flint to defect," the Rev. Charles Williams II of Historic King Solomon Baptist Church said, holding his fingers an inch apart. Naura Evans, a Black Republican in Sterling Heights, told CNN that Democrats have taken Black voters for granted: "We're not just giving the vote away."

Then, on the Sunday before the election, the Associated Press reported that Stevens sat in a pew at Perfecting Church in Detroit beside Rogers and endorsed him, while El-Sayed worshipped at another church a few miles away.

Who Rows

Even after the votes are counted, some things won't change. Lucas County will still be $27 million short next year, and every department will still have been asked to cut 13 percent. The sheriff and the prosecutor are pushing back, citing legal claims on their money. The community funding line that paid for reentry, violence-intervention programs, and funded community grants is gone for next year. Small nonprofits that live and operate closest to the ground zero of poverty and pain are waiting to learn if they can absorb the loss and even survive.

Toledo can't afford to guess which boat a voter is in. Marcy Kaptur won her last race by 2,382 votes, in a district since redrawn about four points toward the Republicans, and Lucas County finished second to last in Ohio in turnout in 2024. Any candidate who wants those votes has to say out loud what the seat will make possible, and for whom.

Robinson says perhaps we should think of racial solidarity as a luxury item. In a city where the median Black household brings in $33,912, it is no luxury for anyone. Loyalty has to run both ways: a party that asks for the vote owes every voter an answer, no matter which boat they are in.

Many asked for Black votes this fall. Go to their meetings and make them say what they did with them.

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

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Community Calendar

November 17
Toledo NAACP election of officers and at-large members of the Executive Committee will be administered using our election voting platform. Voting from 3 pm to 7 pm.

November 26
Thanksgiving Day!

The Sojourner's Truth

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Could Trump's Execution Push Help End the Death Penalty?

By Ben Jealous

Guest Column



What if President Donald Trump and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth's push for more executions ends up helping America abolish the death penalty?

After this wild October, the question is not so far-fetched.

Hegseth wanted Americans to watch the firing-squad execution of Nidal Hasan, convicted of murdering 13 people at Fort Hood. But some of the sharpest objections came from conservatives.

North Carolina Republican Sen. Thom Tillis called streaming the execution "beyond disgusting," adding: "Public executions are what oppressive dictatorships like Iran and Afghanistan do." Utah Republican Sen. John Curtis warned, "A civilization erodes when it cultivates an appetite for executions as a form of entertainment."

A Washington Post-ABC News-Ipsos poll found 80% of Americans opposed the broadcast, including 64% of Republicans. Trump canceled the livestream on October 15. The execution itself remains scheduled.

That distinction matters. Opposing a spectacle is not the same as opposing capital punishment. But look at what else happened this year.

On October 20, Republican Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey commuted Toforest Johnson's death sentence to life without parole.

Johnson was convicted of murdering a sheriff's deputy. His conviction stands, but the local district attorney, former judges and others had questioned the evidence.

"I had concerns there was not enough direct evidence to carry out the most serious punishment, death," Ivey explained. She did not declare him innocent. She recognized that execution leaves no opportunity to correct a mistake.

Then there is Ohio Republican Gov. Mike DeWine. As a state senator in 1981, he voted to restore Ohio's death penalty. After decades as a prosecutor, attorney general, U.S. senator and governor, he called for its abolition in June.

"The moral justification I had," DeWine said, "no longer exists." He concluded the death penalty does not deter murder and described the toll that decades of appeals exact on victims' families. Ohio has not executed anyone since 2018. Bipartisan repeal legislation is pending, although legislative opposition remains.

Those are not identical positions. They do, however, raise questions conservatives have particular reasons to ask: How can we distrust government with ordinary powers yet trust it never to execute an innocent person? And what does justice require when punishment becomes a spectacle?

There is also a constitutional reason to pay attention.

Fifty years ago, in Gregg v. Georgia, the Supreme Court allowed executions to resume. But the Eighth Amendment still forbids cruel and unusual punishment. In Atkins v. Virginia, the Court prohibited executing people with intellectual disabilities. In Roper v. Simmons, it prohibited executing people for crimes committed before age 18.

Both rulings considered America's "evolving standards of decency," including the number of states rejecting those practices and the direction of change.

Today, 23 states have abolished the death penalty. Ten more retain it but have gone at least a decade without carrying out an execution. That is 33 states — two-thirds of the country — where executions have been abolished or absent for at least ten years.

Just three more abolition states would make a majority. That would not automatically make capital punishment unconstitutional. The Supreme Court has no simple 26-state rule. But the growing rarity of executions is evidence future justices would have to confront.

The cruelty, meanwhile, is impossible to dismiss. In September, Tennessee's attempt to execute Christa Pike by lethal injection failed. She survived, and Republican Gov. Bill Lee halted the state's remaining scheduled executions pending an independent review.

September also marked 15 years since Georgia executed Troy Davis. I stood outside that prison. Seven of nine key witnesses had recanted or changed their accounts. William Sessions, FBI director under Presidents Reagan and George H.W. Bush, urged Georgia to stop. It did not.

I helped lead Maryland's successful abolition campaign in 2013, making it the first state south of the Mason-Dixon Line to end capital punishment. I learned then that this cause can unite people who disagree on almost everything else: believers in redemption, skeptics of government, and people determined not to risk an irreversible injustice.

Virginia became the first former Confederate state to abolish the death penalty five years ago. More executions are taking place in some states now; today's Court may be unwilling to overturn the punishment. Hope should not be confused with certainty.

But this October brought something real: Republicans rejected an execution broadcast, one governor spared a man amid doubts, and another is asking his state to end executions altogether.

Those are not the same steps. They are steps in the same direction.

Maybe Trump and Hegseth have inadvertently done something abolitionists could not: made more Americans look squarely at what government killing means.

Fifty years after executions resumed, that may help us finally bring them to an end.

Ben Jealous is a professor of practice at the University of Pennsylvania and former national president and CEO of the NAACP. He also served as the founding director of Amnesty International USA's domestic human rights program.

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Housing is Key to Toledo's Future

By Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz

Guest Column

Housing is one of the most pressing issues facing our country today. As Housing Chair of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, I hear from mayors across the country who are confronting the same challenge: housing supply has struggled to keep pace with demand. That imbalance, combined with rising construction costs and high mortgage rates, is making housing less affordable for families and making it harder for communities to attract the people and workforce they need to grow.

This is not just a national issue. It directly affects Toledo's future. Our goal is to grow Toledo to 300,000 residents by 2045, and we cannot reach that goal without creating more places for people to live. We need housing options for young professionals buying their first homes, families looking for more space, seniors who want to downsize and workers considering a move to our city. We also need to make it easier for developers and investors to turn vacant and underutilized properties into homes that strengthen our neighborhoods.

That was the focus of our first BuildToledo Housing Development Summit today, where we brought together developers, builders, investors and community partners to discuss opportunities to expand housing across Toledo. We are working to reduce barriers, make the development process easier to navigate and put practical tools in place to help projects move forward. Our tax abatement programs, housing initiatives and pre-approved housing plans are all part of that effort.

Every neighborhood is different, and Toledo needs a range of housing options that reflect the needs of our communities. The City cannot do this alone. We need strong partnerships with the private sector, honest conversations about the challenges developers face and a shared commitment to turning opportunities into completed projects.

At the summit, I announced the formation of the Mayor's Blue Ribbon PRO Housing Advisory Committee. The committee will bring developers, builders and industry leaders together with me quarterly to discuss progress, identify obstacles and develop practical solutions. I want the people who understand the realities of building housing to have a direct voice in shaping our approach and helping us make progress.



Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz

Housing is fundamental to the future of Toledo. If we want to grow our population, strengthen our neighborhoods and create more opportunities for families, we have to make it possible to build more homes. We have the assets, the partners and the opportunity to make that happen. Now we need to keep working together to turn that opportunity into results.

Let's build homes. Let's build neighborhoods. Let's build Toledo.



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Two Photographs of Barack Obama — A Look Back, A Hope Forward Photographs and article by Virgilio Baker

A photograph does more than record a moment. It holds a feeling — and years later, it can give that feeling back to us.

That is why I chose these two photographs for this week's Photo/Model of the Week. I took both of them in Toledo, Ohio, four years apart, and together they tell one story: a nation hoping.

The First Photograph — SeaGate Convention Centre, October 13, 2008

This is Barack Obama before he was President — a candidate, photographed at the SeaGate Convention Centre in downtown Toledo (today the Glass City Center).

I caught him mid-speech, his hand right at his face as the words were coming out, the American flag filling the frame behind him. He was speaking of hope — hope for our nation and for our future, and that there was nothing we could not do if we did it together. Yes We Can.

That is why I gave this image its painted, poster-like treatment. The moment already felt larger than one speech. His name stretches across the top — OBAMA — but what the photograph is really holding is his message in mid-delivery: a candidate telling America that hope was not just a word, it was something we would do together.

As a photographer, that is the moment you wait for. Not a pose. The exact instant when the message is on the man's face — speaking, believing, calling a room to believe it with him.

The Second Photograph — Scott High School, Labor Day, September 3, 2012

Four years later I photographed him again, now President of the United States, speaking at Scott High School in Toledo ,

Why These Photographs, Why Now

This is being printed after the midterm elections. The campaign signs will come down, the arguments will quiet, and we will be left with the question every election leaves us: what kind of nation are we going to be now?

I look back at these photographs not to live in the past, but to remember a feeling — a time when Barack Obama made this nation feel that we had come to a point where we could finally become the nation the world has always believed in: the United States of America.

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A Faster Road to Opportunity: Rapid Bus Transit Could Change How Toledo Moves

Toledo's proposed Monroe-Oregon corridor could bring faster, more frequent service, better connections and new economic opportunities to the region.

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

For someone who depends on public transportation, a bus arriving 15 minutes late isn't just an inconvenience. It could mean missing a shift, arriving late to a doctor's appointment or spending another hour trying to get home.

Time matters. And for Toledo residents who depend on the bus to keep life moving, the future of public transportation could be looking a little brighter.

The Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) is moving forward with plans for **Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)**, a high-frequency transportation system designed to make getting around the city faster, more reliable and more convenient.

Deputy CEO Rick Bailey says one of the biggest differences riders will notice is how often the buses arrive.

"Typically it runs every 15 to 20 minutes," Bailey explains. "So you're really not having to worry about a schedule because you know the bus is going to come 15 minutes later."

That kind of consistency could make a meaningful difference for people whose days are already carefully scheduled around work, family and other responsibilities.

More Than Just Another Bus Route

Unlike conventional bus service, BRT combines elements of traditional buses with features commonly associated with rail systems. The proposed improvements include enhanced stations, level boarding platforms, off-board payment options, security cameras, better lighting and signs displaying real-time arrival information.

Some BRT systems also use dedicated bus lanes, allowing vehicles to bypass regular traffic. Fewer stops along the route can help reduce travel time, too.

The idea is simple: **Spend less time waiting and more time getting where you need to go.**

The project began taking shape in 2021, when TARTA conducted a comprehensive operational analysis to evaluate existing service and identify opportunities for improvement. Five local corridors were initially identified as potential candidates for high-frequency service.

In 2024, TARTA applied for an Ohio Department of Transportation grant to fund a planning study. Four corridors were ultimately evaluated, with the **Monroe-Oregon corridor scoring highest.**

Public input was also part of the process, helping inform the direction of the proposed project.

Connecting People to Opportunity

Transportation is often the invisible thread connecting people to opportunity. Without reliable transportation, even a good job or an important medical appointment can feel frustratingly out of reach.

Bailey believes BRT could improve access for residents living along the corridor and those connecting from other parts of TARTA's service area.



Several existing mainline routes already intersect Monroe Street, providing opportunities to connect riders with the new service.

The proposed operating hours would run from approximately **5 a.m. until midnight**, extending service beyond current operating hours.

Bailey also points to the corridor's economic significance. **Approximately 20 percent of Lucas County's jobs are located within the corridor,** making it an important area for both transportation and future development.

And the benefits may reach beyond the bus stop.

"If you can get a comparable trip time for people, it makes the decision to go car-free or down to a single-car household a lot easier," Bailey says.

For a family juggling rising expenses, reducing the need for a second vehicle could mean more money available for groceries, housing or simply catching up on bills.

An Investment in Toledo's Future

BRT could also serve as an economic development tool, encouraging businesses and investment along the route.

Bailey refers to **Cleveland's HealthLine** as an example of what can happen when transportation improvements become part of a larger development strategy. Since its launch in 2008, **the corridor has attracted nearly $9 billion in investment**, according to Bailey.

While he cautions against assuming Toledo will see the same level of investment, he notes that the industry generally points to a potential three-to-one return on investment.

Still, getting there will take patience.

Bailey estimates that projects of this scale often take seven to 10 years from completion of the locally preferred alternative (LPA) planning process to construction. The work involves extensive community outreach, planning and design, with coordination among the city, other jurisdictions and emergency service providers.

Realistically, he anticipates a potential launch in 2032 or 2033.

Dedicated lanes and traffic signal priority will also require careful consideration. Bailey emphasizes that signal priority is not a required feature of every BRT system and that its use will, for the most part, depend on regional decisions

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HOPE Toledo Sunday Celebrates Community Partners

Special to The Truth

HOPE Toledo held an evening of reflection and celebration of the agency's impact and investment on children's future on Sunday, October 25, at Declare Church.

This second annual HOPE Toledo Sunday brought together families, educators, childcare centers, faith leaders, business representatives, civic organizations and public officials, along with residents to celebrate the achievements in bringing high-quality early childhood education to families and children throughout the area.

Hope Toledo believes every child deserves the BEST start and for that start to be accessible, affordable and available.

John C. Jones is the president of HOPE (Helping Our Population Educate) Toledo. His deep commitment to servicing our community is at the heart of their mission to create and deliver a quality education ***From Cradle to Career*** for Toledo's youth.

The evening featured Stories of HOPE, which highlighted the experiences of families, scholars and educators; the State of Hope, which provided an update on the organization's progress and future priorities and Seeds of HOPE, which invited the community to join in and invest in the next generation.

This year, HOPE Toledo introduced its Beacon of HOPE Awards recognizing individuals and organizations whose leadership, service, and commitment have illuminated pathways of promise, excellence, generosity and legacy toward greater opportunity for children and families.

Chicks For Charity received the award for generosity. Through their grassroots efforts, they continue to support early care and education while seeding philanthropic growth for generations. Sylvania Children's Center received the award for excellence. This Gold Medal-rated, NAEYC-accredited childcare center is a model of consistency and educational excellence in the Birth to Five sector.





Alethea Easterly receives Beacon of HOPE Award from John Jones

While the awards for generosity and excellence were announced ahead of time and the recipients were fully prepared to accept and deliver a speech of gratitude, the Beacon of HOPE Award for "lifetime achievement" was the surprise announcement during the event.

The honoree for lifetime achievement was Alethea Easterly, founder and CEO of Quality Time Child Care.

On Monday, April 15, staff, supporters and funders joined CEO Alethea Easterly to cut the ribbon and

Easterly opened Quality Time Day Care in 1999 to serve pre-school children – ages three and a half years and up. Nine years later she opened Quality Time 2 for kids in the early Head Start age range. In 2024 the staff officially welcomed Quality Time 3 into the Quality Time Day Care family of child-care providers. QT3 serves school-aged pre-teens in before and after-school programs in addition to summer session programs.

"Every child in this region must have a strong start. They deserve it, and their families deserve the opportunity to access high-quality early childhood education and care," said Rev. John C. Jones, President and CEO of HOPE Toledo. "HOPE Toledo Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate how far we have come, acknowledge the work that remains, and remind ourselves that building a stronger future for our children is our collective responsibility."

Since its founding, HOPE Toledo has worked alongside early childhood education providers, community partners, and public and private supporters to strengthen opportunities for young learners and their families.

Rapid Bus Transit...continued from page 5

and the needs of motorists, pedestrians, cyclists and emergency responders.

Moving Toledo Forward

When Bailey imagines Toledo a decade from now, success means more than having a new transportation line on the map.

"I think 10 years from now, the line will expand regional connectivity and improve mobility for not only people who live along the corridor but also for people in our general service area," he adds.

That is an important distinction. A successful transportation system shouldn't simply move buses. It should open doors for the people who depend on them.

For Toledo, BRT is ultimately about making everyday life a little more accessible. It's about a worker having a dependable ride before the sun comes up, a senior reaching an appointment with less worry and a family having more choices about how it gets from one place to another.

Beyond the pavement and bus stations, the project represents an opportunity to strengthen Toledo's economic growth and quality of life. A more connected city is one where people can spend less time worrying about how they'll get somewhere and more time focusing on what awaits them when they arrive.

Toledo's journey toward that future won't happen overnight. But with thoughtful planning and community investment, the next generation of riders could inherit a city that's easier to navigate and a lot more connected.

For more information about Toledo's proposed Bus Rapid Transit project, including planning updates, project details and opportunities for community involvement, visit TARTA's website.

NANBPWC Maumee Bay Club Supports Women in More Ways Than One

By Dawn Scotland
The Truth Reporter

The NANBPWC Maumee Bay Club hosted "Supporting Women in More Ways Than One: Heart, Health and Breast Cancer Awareness Event" at Friendship Baptist Church Sunday, October 18, from noon to 4 p.m. The free event aimed to raise awareness of the disease, encourage early detection, promote heart health and celebrate the strength of women in the community during Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The day included breast cancer awareness and heart health education, the Mercy Health Mobile Mammography Unit, blood pressure, blood sugar and heart rate checks, bra fittings and bra giveaways, community health resources, vendors, line dancing by Women on the Move and the Just Roll With It! food truck. This is the third year the organization has hosted the event with over 200 bras to give away Sunday.

The Maumee Bay Club of NANBPWC, Inc. is a dynamic group of educators, business owners, corporate executives, and other professionally licensed women committed to improving the quality of life for the citizens of Lucas County. The Maumee Bay Club has a proven record of developing quality programming. Since 1983, their

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Maumee Bay Event Committee Members



Attendees receive health information



Maumee Bay Club Members



Kathy Kynard gets blood pressure checked



Unbounded Artists Honors the Black Creatives Preserving Toledo's Cultural Legacy

By Alexandria Leatherberry
The Truth Reporter

Unbounded Artists Development Community took over the Collingwood Community Center on October 10 with a gallery exhibition and celebration dinner for their fifth anniversary. The "Celebrating Black Artists" anniversary fundraiser, recognized the role of artistic expression in community and cultural preservation. Host Latisha Williams led the evening, reminding guests, "we share our art and stories so people can take the journey with us."

Amongst live performances from Sandra Rivers Gill, Yasu Davis, Summer Reign and Davion Williams the guest toured the journey of work from the Unbounded Artists members. President and Founder, Audrey Johnson-Gibbs, alongside State Rep. Erika White, honored several of those artists that have shared resiliently and lead passionately within the community.

The honorees included eight creatives whose work and contributions have helped preserve Black culture, strengthen community connections and advance artistic expression in Toledo.

Honoree Alecia Robinson, an artist known for Sister Art Productions, was recognized for her creative work and volunteer efforts expanding access to arts programming for youth and adults.

Brenda Singletary, with 45 years of professional experience, was celebrated for her longstanding history in mixed-media and sculptural painting.

Also recognized for more than 40 years as a multidisciplinary artist and teaching artist, Simone Rence Spruce. Spruce's achievements within her practice, arts education, exhibition curation and grant development were accompanied by her academic achievements earning her MFA in Visual Arts.

Honored for a lifetime of creative exploration, Alice Grace, an 84-year-old self-taught artist with work spanning painting, quilting, and other mediums. Odes Roberts Sr., founder of OROBS Fine Art Gallery, was recognized for preserving Black heritage and ancestral history through his Africa to America series and cultural entrepreneurship.

Imani Lateef, an award-winning graphic designer, earned recognition for Black storytelling through editorial design, comic art and his role in establishing Toledo's first Black Comic Book Festival in 2017.

Lon White, a longtime airbrush artist, was honored for decades of artistic craftsmanship and continued engagement with the East Toledo community.



Imani Lateef honored

Edward E. Parker was recognized for his lifelong contributions to visual art and arts education. Parker taught and worked in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District as the head of the art department at Audubon Jr. High for several years. He later taught at Cuyahoga Community College's West campus for 20 years as a professor of art and the department coordinator. Finally, Zaniel Williams was recognized as a rising artist that has displayed the early characteristics carried out by the long term artist in receiving mentorship and becoming multidisciplinary in mediums of modern and traditional forms.

The Unbounded Artists fifth anniversary fundraiser brought community members to celebrate Black creativity while supporting the organization's continued efforts to foster artistic growth and strengthen Toledo's creative community. "Our commitment to providing a supportive launching pad for diverse talents is stronger than ever," said Johnson-Gibbs.

The milestone highlights the organization's work to encourage artistic development through creative programming, workshops and classes that help community members build practical skills. Unbounded Artists Development Community encompasses multiple disciplines, including photography, painting, writing, dance and multimedia art, while providing opportunities for local creatives to showcase their talents and connect with others.



State Rep. Erika White and Audrey Johnson-Gibbs



Alice Grace (right) honored



Lon White receives his recognition









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The Truth HEALTH



Understanding Hyperpigmentation: It Does Not Have to be Permanent

By Dr. Hope Mitchell, MD
The Truth Contributor

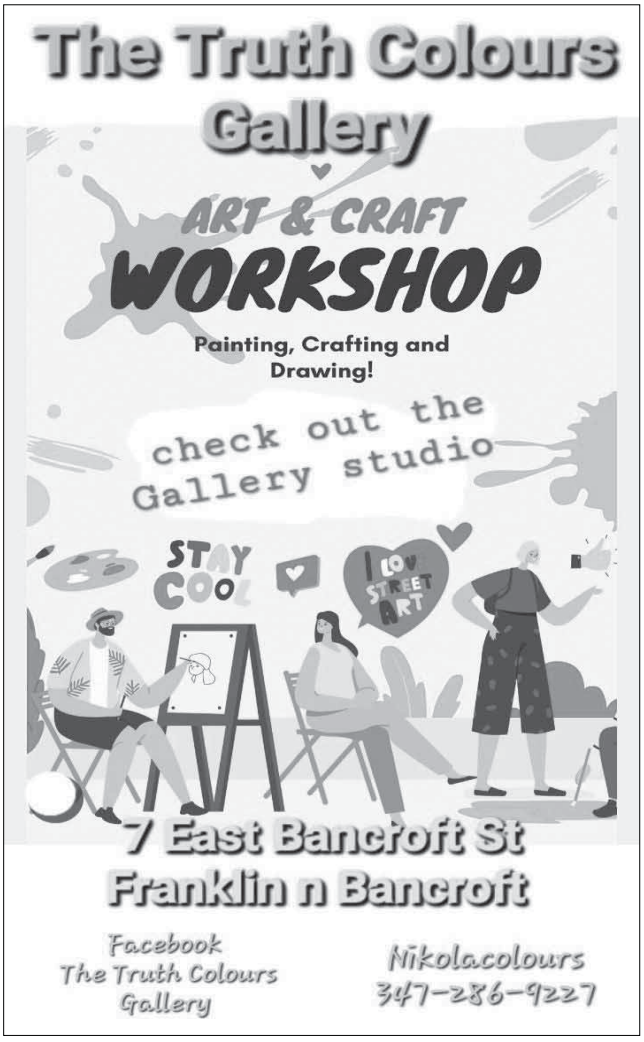


A Personal Invitation from Dr. Mitchell

Each month, I share practical information on the hair and skin concerns affecting adults and children in our community. This month, I invite you to join me in the office. taking that conversation beyond the page.

Join Dr. Hope Mitchell and Joycelyn Dumfeh, PA-C at Mitchell Dermatology in Perrysburg on Thursday, November 12, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. for a free dis-

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A Mental Health Moment

Veterans Needing Veterans

By Bernadette Joy Graham, Licensed Professional Clinical Therapist and Active-Duty Air Force Veteran

The Truth Contributor



When service members return to Toledo and Northwest Ohio, they often face a challenging transition to civilian life. For Black veterans, especially Black women, this process can be particularly isolating due to systemic barriers, a lack of culturally competent mental health providers and persistent stigma around behavioral health care. Our community must recognize that supporting returning veterans requires more than gratitude; it demands a sustained commitment to their mental and emotional well-being.

A major issue is the contrast between how we prepare service members for military life and how we prepare them for their return to civilian life. **The Department of Defense invests eight to 12 weeks in basic training** to transform civilians into soldiers, teaching them to manage stress, follow structure and work as a unit. However, there is little to no structured support for transitioning back to civilian life. Veterans are expected to quickly abandon the defense mechanisms that sustained them and reintegrate immediately. We dedicate months to preparing them for service but offer almost no guidance for their return.

This lack of transition support has contributed to a serious public health crisis in our community. The Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation (OSPF) reports that the veteran suicide rate in Ohio is about 80 percent higher than the general population. Nationally, thousands of veterans die by suicide each year, making it the fourth-leading cause of premature death among veterans.

This crisis is worsened by resource shortages and a significant gap in qualified providers. While the Toledo VA Clinic and the Toledo Vet Center offer important services, the broader civilian mental health system remains inadequate. Veterans often encounter long waitlists and administrative barriers.

Veterans benefit most from **licensed mental health professionals who are also veterans.** Clinicians without military experience may struggle to fully understand the psychological impact of service. For Black veterans, the challenge is greater, as fewer than five percent of psychologists are Black, making it difficult to find relatable, licensed peer therapists. Effective care occurs when veterans can engage with counselors who understand both military culture and the unique experiences of Black Americans, without needing to explain basic concepts.

Black veterans face additional challenges. Historical mistrust of medical institutions often leads families to seek support within their communities or rely solely on faith. While faith is important, it should be complemented by professional, culturally competent mental health services.

Fortunately, grassroots organizations like Task Force 20 advocate for veteran mental wellness through physical fitness, and registries like Star Behavioral Health Providers train civilian therapists in military culture. Locally, Black-owned and women-owned organizations like Evolve Mental Health and Wellness on Heatherdowns Boulevard are addressing trauma and PTSD directly.

Talking openly about behavioral health at our kitchen tables, in our barber shops and from our pulpits is helpful. Seeking therapy is not a sign of weakness; it is an act of profound courage and the ultimate strategy for survival.

To honor the sacrifices of Black service members in northwest Ohio, we must create a supportive community. This includes advocating for comprehensive civilian transition programs, encouraging veterans to become licensed clinical providers, and reinforcing the importance of mental health. They fought for freedom; now support veteran peace of mind. This Veterans Day, November 11, take a moment for mental health as a civilian, as a veteran, and as a clinician to remember that freedom is not free, nor is healthcare. Reflect on the cost of sacrifice, which numbers cannot measure.

To all my fellow Veterans, be well, and keep fighting for the care we all deserve.

Bernadette Joy Graham, is an LPCC and Veteran providing individual mental healthcare in the state of Ohio. You may find her profile and seek out information on obtaining an appointment on www.psychologytoday.com, Better Help and SonderMind online platforms.

Planning Delicious, Affordable Holiday Meals

By Patrice Powers-Barker, OSU Extension, Lucas County
The Truth Contributor

While many of us are aware of the higher cost of food and grocery items, it can still be surprising when the shopping bill is added up. With the end of the year celebrations and holidays around the corner, many people are concerned about food costs, particularly when there are more people gathered at the dinner table.

Being realistic about costs (even if we're not happy about them), can help with planning. The good news is that we can all take some steps to be intentional about meal plans, costs and decisions that best meet our financial realities as well as our hopes for a happy holiday gathering. Some of the following suggestions are from Nebraska Extension, Tips for Low-Cost Holiday Meals.

Get others involved. First, ask what foods on the menu are most important to people. Is there one dish or side that they would really miss if it were not on the holiday table? This can be one way to prioritize what foods and dishes to make and might indicate which ones can stay off the list of required dishes. Also, if others offer to bring something, take them up on it. Even if others don't think to offer, there is nothing wrong with asking everyone to bring something to add to large gatherings. That helps minimize the cost and time for everyone compared to asking one person or household to cover it. In addition to helping with food, others can help with the workload such as setting the table or helping with clean up.

Plan your menu carefully. Once you've divided some food and tasks with others, check what food and ingredients you already have and then make your shopping list. Check online and paper advertisements to price out the food items.

Compare Costs. A whole turkey is less expensive per serving than a turkey breast. Lean roast beef, pork loin and some types of fish, such as cod or flounder are lower cost options. Consider serving soup or a casserole that can extend your protein dollar. Compare the cost of frozen, fresh, or canned fruits and vegetables when deciding on recipes. Buy produce from local growers.

Prepare simple recipes. Sometimes serving dishes with less ingredients can be healthier as well as save time and money. For example, a recipe for Lemony Green Beans might be a tasty alternative for a green bean casserole and have fewer high-cost ingredients.

Shop Smart. Beware of store displays that are designed to tempt you to buy things you didn't plan on purchasing. Using unit pricing to help compare different brands and different sizes of products can help you save money. Only buy what you'll use. Even if the larger container is a better price per unit, if you won't use it all, it's not the best buy.

Make it from scratch and cook it ahead of time. Instead of purchasing some of the more expensive convenience items, many of your dishes can be prepared or partially prepared a day or two in advance like washing, chopping and prepping vegetables like onions and celery to use in side dishes like stuffing, fresh salads, etc.

Decide on drinks. Many drinks like pop, energy or sports drinks can be expensive and contain a lot of added sugar. Water is easy on the wallet and people typically will drink less of the other beverages if they can use water to quench their thirst.

Make more than one meal. Handle leftovers safely so that they can be used for meals in the days ahead. Leftovers should be stored within two hours of cooking. Divide leftovers into smaller portions and refrigerate in shallow covered containers so they cool quickly. Use refrigerated leftovers within 3 to 4 days or freeze for longer storage.

Don't forget food safety. The USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline is staffed by

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A Dose of Michelle

When You Leave the Doctor's Office Unheard; How to speak up, understand your care, and make sure your concerns are taken seriously

By Michelle McCaster, CRNA

Guest Column



Have you ever left a medical appointment thinking, "I didn't get to say what mattered?" Maybe you still have questions about a test result, a prescription or whether the clinician understood your pain. You deserve clear answers and a plan you understand.

Speaking up is not arguing. It is taking part in your care. Your clinician brings medical expertise; you bring essential knowledge of your symptoms, history, daily life, and goals. Good decisions need both.

Why this conversation matters

Patients' concerns deserve a respectful response, and the responsibility to listen belongs to healthcare professionals and systems too. A national study of emergency department visits from 1999 to 2020 found that White patients with pain-related visits were more likely than Black patients to receive an opioid prescription (40% versus 32%), even after adjustment for measured factors including pain severity. Another study found that about half of the White medical students and residents surveyed endorsed at least one false belief about biological differences between Black and White people; those who did rated a Black patient's pain lower in simulated cases. [1, 2]

A 2025 study of 28 Black patients at one Midwestern academic institution described dismissiveness, lack of empathy, and missing information. Its findings reflect a small group in one setting, not every patient or clinician. Together, these studies reinforce why pain should be assessed individually and concerns taken seriously. They do not explain any one patient's care, and an opioid is not the right treatment for everyone. [3]

Speak up with these five steps

1. Prepare for the visit. Write down your main concerns and put the most important first. Note when symptoms began, what changes them, and how they affect daily life. Bring a current list of medicines, supplements, and allergies. [4]

2. Ask until the plan makes sense. Try: "What do you think is causing this?" "What are my options, including the benefits and risks?" "What could happen if I wait?" If medical language is confusing, ask for a plain-language explanation.

3. Understand your medicines. Ask what each medicine is for, how and when to take it, what benefit to expect, and what side effects or interactions to watch for. Ask what to do if you miss a dose. Your pharmacist can help too. Do not stop a prescribed medicine suddenly without med-

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Hyperpigmentation...continued from page 10

cussion on Understanding Hyperpigmentation and Uneven Skin Tone.

To reserve your seat, call 419.872.HOPE (4673) or visit Mitchellderm.com

As a dermatologist, one of my most common encounters is patients with concerns about dark spots and uneven skin tone. If you've noticed patches of darker skin on your face, hands or body, you're likely dealing with hyperpigmentation—and you're not alone. The good news is that with the right combination of prevention, home care, and in-office treatments, hyperpigmentation is very treatable.

What Exactly Is Hyperpigmentation?

Hyperpigmentation is your skin's response to injury, inflammation, hormones, or sun exposure. When certain areas produce excess melanin, darker patches develop and can linger long after the initial trigger has resolved. In my practice, the most common types I see are post-inflammatory hyperpigmentation from acne or eczema, melasma related to hormonal and perimenopausal changes, and sun-induced dark spots that accumulate over time.

Why Dark Spots Form and Keep Returning

Sun exposure is the biggest driver of pigment. UV radiation stimulates pigment producing melanocytes to produce more melanin, deepening existing discoloration and creating new spots. Hormonal shifts, particularly during pregnancy or with menopause can also activate pigment pathways. Even minor skin trauma—picking at acne, harsh exfoliation, or poorly performed treatments—can leave lasting marks, especially in melanin-rich skin.

Prevention Is Non-Negotiable

Daily broad-spectrum sunscreen (SPF 30 or higher) is essential and should be reapplied throughout the day. Protective clothing, wide-brimmed hats, and seeking shade during peak UV hours help prevent relapse. Gentle skincare matters, too. Avoid aggressive scrubs and resist picking, which can prolong discoloration and make treatment less predictable.

Treatment Options That Work

Topical regimen and therapy is the foundation of any pigment-correcting plan. Ingredients like vitamin C, vitamin A, hydroquinone (when appropriate), amongst many others, in serums, lotions or creams can help fade discoloration and prevent new spots by interrupting melanin production and speeding skin turnover. Consistency is key, and results build over time.

For more persistent hyperpigmentation, in-office treatments can accelerate improvement when chosen and performed carefully for your skin tone and condition. At Mitchell Dermatology, customized chemical peels are a go-to option. Superficial and medium-depth peels help lift excess pigment from the upper layers of skin, improve texture, and boost radiance when performed in a series with proper pre- and post-treatment care. For select patients, laser and light-based treatments can further target stubborn pigment and sun damage. These procedures require expert assessment to

... continued on page 13

A Dose of Michelle...continued from page 11

ical guidance; some need to be reduced gradually. [5, 6]

4. Bring support or seek another opinion. A trusted person can listen and take notes; you can also ask to speak with the clinician privately. A second opinion may help with major surgery, an uncertain diagnosis, a high-risk treatment, or symptoms without a clear explanation. Ask how to get your records and whether your insurance requires a referral.

5. Leave with a follow-up plan. Repeat the plan in your own words. Confirm who will share test results, when to follow up, and which symptoms need urgent attention. If promised results or calls do not arrive, follow up; no news does not always mean good news.



Words you can use when you feel dismissed

"I'm still concerned because this is affecting my daily life. What possibilities have we considered, and what is our next step?" You can also ask, "Could you document my concern and the plan we agreed on?" If you still do not feel heard, consider another provider or a second opinion.

Your questions matter. Speak honestly, ask for explanations, bring support when helpful, and follow up. You should not have to prove you are stoic to deserve careful attention.

About the author

Michelle McCaster, CRNA, has more than 30 years of clinical experience and has practiced nurse anesthesia since 2010. She is Anti-Basileus of the Xi Eta Eta Chapter of Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Inc. Her professional affiliations also include AANA, OSANA, Diversity in Nurse Anesthesia, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

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This article provides general education and is not a substitute for advice from your own licensed healthcare professional.

Planning Holiday Meals...continued from page 11

food safety specialists who can answer questions about safely handling meat, poultry, and egg products. The hotline is available Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern Time and is even open on Thanksgiving Day from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Eastern Time. Contact the hotline at 1-888-MPHotline (1-888-674-6854) or email MPHotline@usda.gov.

Enjoy the food and the time together. While food and nourishment is an important part of holiday gatherings and celebrations, eating is not the only thing to do together. Enjoy the food but also enjoy the company by planning for activities like watching favorite movies, sports games, taking a short walk, playing card games, listing gratitude at Thanksgiving and favorite highlights of 2026 during winter and New Year's gatherings.

Jesse Jackson: The Last Interview and Other Conversations with an introduction by Al Sharpton

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

c. 2026
Melville House Publishing
$20.99
175 pages

Business as usual.

Nothing new here. Same old, same old. Yeah, sometimes, the status quo is good: an even-keel feels safe, even relaxing, smooth as glass. Ten again, there's no forward movement on a calm river. You need a little shaking-up, as in the new book ***Jesse Jackson: The Last Interview with an introduction*** **by Al Sharpton**, or nothing ever changes.

Even as a young man, Jesse Jackson was "a force of nature."

He was a speaker at a young age, and could command crowds with his voice alone. He built Operation Breadbasket for Dr. Martin Luther King and the Southern Christian Leadership Conerence, to organize funds and volunteers. Later, he took Operation PUSH to Chicago, and held rallies on Saturday mornings to mobilize the Black community there. He was a mentor, a man of God, and he was willing to take on any injustice he saw.

He was also an in-demand interviewee in the years after Dr. King's assassination.

In November 1969, he spoke to Arthur Kretchmer for *Playboy* magazine. He said then that there was a "war" between Black America and white America, and that this country seemed to be under a "police state" for Black men. He spoke against the elimination of Black studies in colleges and universities, and he railed against a governmental "lack of understanding" of problems facing Black businesses.

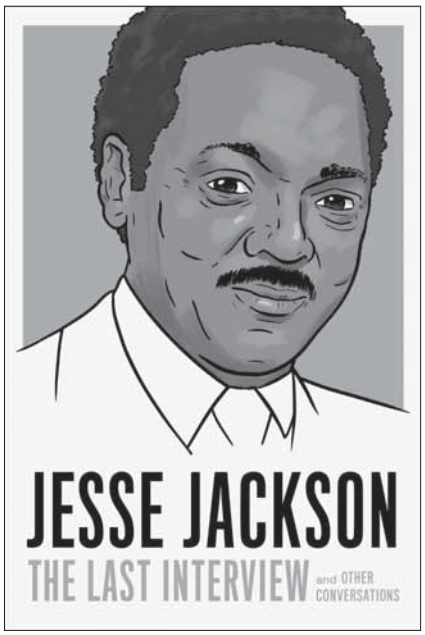
"The perverted idea of manhood coming from the barrel of a gun," Jackson said, "is what keeps people from understanding nonviolence."

In an interview with Tony Brown and Diahann Carroll for Black Journal in January 1975, Jackson blamed America's economic woes on "the superrich not being taxes properly" and the "monopolies" created by it.

In 1983, he told Ronald Smothers of The New York Times that "the Justice Department is not committed to justice." In 1989's Eyes on the Prize II, he talked about the real possibility that we "will have an African American as nominee of a party, indeed, as president of the United States of America…"

Do all these things sound familiar, like they were torn from the headlines just yesterday? That deja vu feeling will hit again and again as you read *Jesse Jackson: The Last Interview.*

It helps, for further clarification and framing, to refer to the introduction by the Reverend Al Sharpton. There, Sharpton writes about the day he met Jackson, and the many times their lives and work intersected. He underscores the importance of Jackson's activism and his work for Civil Rights over the years – and that's where this book becomes amazing.



Jackson's words, as gathered here, make him seem like a man with a crystal ball, peering at the problems of the future, to offer guidelines for them. Readers may be astounded that the old saw is correct: the more things change, the more they stay the same.

This slender collection may make you look for more of Jackson's interviews, so hone your search skills and get to work. In the meantime, *Jesse Jackson: The Last Interview* is a most unusual book.

Hyperpigmentation...continued from page 12

minimize the risk of post-inflammatory hyperpigmentation and to ensure safe, effective outcomes across all Fitzpatrick skin types.

Setting Realistic Expectations

Hyperpigmentation takes time to fade. Most topical regimens need at least eight to 12 weeks before visible improvement, and deeper pigment may take several months. In-office treatments can speed results, but they work best as part of a comprehensive plan that includes sun protection and a tailored home routine. Without consistent UV protection, even the most advanced treatments will struggle to deliver lasting results.

When to See a Dermatologist

If discoloration is widespread, worsening, or not responding to treatment, a professional evaluation can clarify the diagnosis and guide a safer, more effective plan. With a personalized approach that combines prevention, proven topicals, and targeted in-office procedures like chemical peels and laser treatments, achieving a brighter, more even complexion is absolutely within reach.

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Judge Khoury's License Clinic at Toledo Urban

The Truth Staff

For Taishayla Tatum, the opportunity to reclaim her driver's license is an opportunity to live a life with fewer worries than she currently experiences. Tatum came to the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union on Wednesday, September 30, to sit down with Toledo Municipal Court Judge Nicole Khoury to see if she could rid herself of those concerns.

Judge **Khoury** has made driver's license restoration one of her signature missions. Through her courtroom and a growing partnership with **Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union** (TUFCU), she is helping people untangle legal obstacles that have kept them stuck for years, opening doors to employment, stability and a fresh start.

The clinics held at Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union are intentionally designed to meet people where they are. Instead of asking residents to walk into a courthouse they may fear, Khoury brings the court into a familiar community setting alongside her public defender and the court's license intervention specialist.

"We want people to have a space where they feel safe to come in and walk in through doors," she says.

Judge Khoury and her staff hold driver's license restoration clinics about once a month at Toledo Urban.

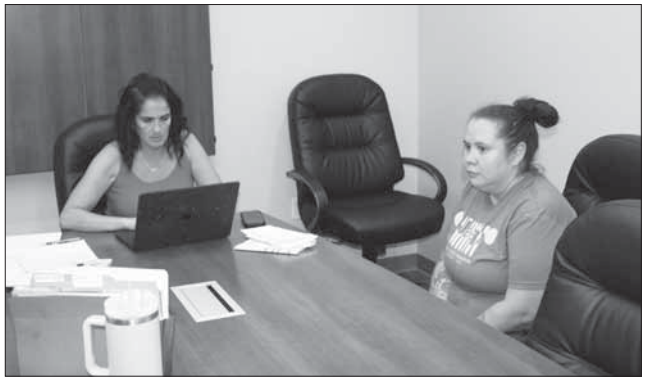
Participants leave with honest answers and a clearer understanding of what comes next. While the court can't make every legal issue disappear, Khoury and her team help where possible, work through court fines and payment plans, and map out the next steps toward getting a license back.

Tatum lost her license because of an automobile accident eight months ago and the ensuing insurance issues. She is a pharmacist tech at the University of Toledo Medical Center, so she has had a challenge getting to work in recent months. After her session with Judge Khoury, she was able to go online to get a form SR22 to reinstate her car insurance and then her driver's license, eliminating months of worry.



Judge Nicole Khoury

The next opportunity to see Judge Khouey at Toledo Urban is December 1. Call 419-255-8876 or email info@toledourban.net for more information.



Judge Khoury works with Abeni Pallitta



NANBPWC... continued from page 7

efforts have focused on educational excellence, supporting entrepreneurial opportunities, issues affecting youth and young adults, and economic empowerment for all citizens.

The Maumee Bay Club exists to promote the interests of business and professional women, to provide charitable activities to enrich the community, and to provide engaging programming to address the needs of youth and young adults in the community. The Maumee Bay Club's signature program is the HBCU College Tour. For more than 20 years the organization has taken a select group of Toledo Area High School students to visit Historically Black Colleges and Universities all over the country. (source: www.maumeebayclub.org)

The next upcoming event hosted by the Maumee Bay Club will be "Entrepreneurship: Let Your Present Income Build Your Future" on Wednesday, November 11 at 11:30 a.m. at the Local 12 UAW Hall on 2300 Ashland Ave.



Stephanie Dixon shops for free bras



Maumee Bay Club members with free bras to giveaway

To learn more visit their website www.maumeebayclub.org or social media pages @MaumeeBayClub

The National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. founded in 1935, emerged as a national non-profit organization in light of the need to promote and protect the interests of women business owners and professionals; to serve as a bridge for young people seeking to enter business and the professions; to improve the quality of life in the local and global communities; and to foster good fellowship. (source: nanbpwc.org)

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSALS TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY TOLEDO, OHIO

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Electronic Bids will be received by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority for all labor, material, insurance, and equipment necessary for the Remedial Action for Lower Maumee River Sway Bridge within the Maumee Area of Concern, in Toledo, Ohio 43604, in accordance with the approved plans and specifications, for the Port Authority at One Maritime Plaza, Toledo, Ohio 43604.

The project "Remedial Action for Lower Maumee River Sway Bridge within the Maumee Area of Concern" project is funded through a US Environmental Protection Agency grant. The work includes mobilization and site support services; implementation of erosion, turbidity, and sediment resuspension controls; and installation and monitoring of specialized instrumentation to protect existing structures during construction. The Contractor will perform mechanical dredging, transportation, and disposal of approximately 124,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment and embedded debris. Dredged materials will be disposed of at the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority (TLCPA) Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) and an approved commercial landfill, as applicable. The Work also includes hydraulic offloading, water management, and debris separation and disposal operations at the TLCPA CDF; removal and disposal of shipwrecks and other submerged debris; and installation of temporary steel sheet piling to support shoreline stability during dredging, followed by in situ abandonment of designated sheet piling. Bathymetric surveys and post dredging verification sampling will be performed to document remedial performance. The Contractor will conduct residual dredging and place amended residual covers, as required, and will place engineered subaqueous backfill materials where necessary to restore slope stability. The Work concludes with demobilization and site restoration.

Optional Work only as directed by TLCPA may include may include placement of an organoclay layer to isolate non-aqueous phase liquid (NAPL) materials; structural inspection diving services; NAPL sheen mitigation within the CDF cell; CDF cell drawdown activities; and additional quantities of sediment and debris removal, transportation, and disposal beyond the base contract quantities.

This project may be awarded by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority at its sole discretion. The total engineer's estimate for the base bid and approved optional work is approximately $22,612,100.00. Bids will be received through Bid Express, an online electronic bidding system, until Tuesday, December 8, 2026, at 10:00 AM, (local time), at which time all bids will be opened through the Bid Express website.

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

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

Please note that there will be a pre-bid meeting for this project for all prospective bidders on Thursday, November 12, 2026, at 10:00 AM, local time. This meeting will be held in-person at the Port Authority's administrative offices at One Maritime Plaza, 2nd floor conference room, Toledo, OH or on-line viz Zoom Video Conference. Prospective Bidders interested in joining in the online-pre-bid meeting should contact Tina Perkins (TPerkins@Toledoport.org) at Toledo Lucas County Port Authority prior to Wednesday, November 11, 2026, at 4:00 PM, local time, to be included in the meeting invitation. This meeting invitation will include a link to the video conference as well as separate call-in numbers to join either by video or by phone. Attendance is suggested, but not mandatory. A site visit has been scheduled immediately following for those who are interested.

Please submit all questions through the Bid Express service by Thursday, November 19, 2026, at 10:00 AM local time. Questions submitted after the deadline will not receive a response. Additional information can be found at https://www.toledoport.org/public-notices

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

AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING DIRECTOR

The Padua Center is seeking an After School Tutoring Director, the Nia Program. The successful applicant will have experience in an educational field as either a teacher or classroom aide. The main responsibilities of the Director are to provide tutoring and educational enrichment to about 15 elementary school children from 2:30-5:30 Monday through Thursday, beginning September 8, 2026 and will continue until the end of the school year. Volunteer helpers are available. Transportation and meals are managed by other employees. Pay range is $17-$20 an hour. Approximately 12 hours a week.

Please submit resume to thepaduacenter@gmail.com
For more information call: The Padua Center, 419 241 6465

OFFICE SPACES FOR RENT

Several to choose from in the heart of the Warren Sherman area – corner of Franklin and Bancroft and close to the Wayman Palmer YMCA. Contact 419-509-0492 for more information

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FULL UNIT TURN, TURNKEY MAKE-READY, AND COMPREHENSIVE UNIT READINESS SERVICES RFP26-R004

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Full Unit Turn, Turnkey Make-Ready, and Comprehensive Unit Readiness Services in accordance with RFP26-R004.** Received in accordance with law until **October 19, 2026, at 3:00 PM EST.** For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.

LUCAS METROPOLITAN HOUSING

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RESIDENTIAL UNIT TRADE, MAKE-READY, AND BUNDLED CORRECTIVE SERVICES RFP26-R005

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Residential Unit Trade, Make-Ready, and Bundled Corrective Services in accordance with RFP26-R005.** Received in accordance with law until **October 19, 2026, at 3:00 PM EST.** For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.

LUCAS METROPOLITAN HOUSING

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES – ALL AMPS COMMUNITIES AND SCATTERED SITES RFP26-R007

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Snow Removal Services – All AMPs Communities and Scattered Sites in accordance with RFP26-R007.** Received in accordance with law until **October 16, 2026, at 3:00 PM EST**. For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9452 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.

LUCAS METROPOLITAN HOUSING

The Toledo NAACP Annual Freedom Fund Banquet

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

The Toledo Chapter of The NAACP hosted its 111th Annual Freedom Fund Banquet Saturday, October 24, at the Premier Banquet Hall. Over 350 people attended the sold-out event that honored five distinguished community leaders and featured a keynote address by journalist Roland Martin, CEO of Black Star Network.

The Freedom Fund Banquet is the signature event of the Toledo NAACP. The unforgettable evening celebrates freedom, justice, progress and the power of the community. Every year, the evening joins together community leaders, advocates, supporters and friends of the NAACP to celebrate the work being done to advance civil rights and create a stronger Toledo.

The Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Valerie Simmons Walston, ThD. The invocation was provided by Bishop Pat McKinstry, DMin, Worship Center Church, with the Black National Anthem (Lift Every Voice and Sing) performed by Khali Moore (National ACT-SO Participant). Welcome and acknowledgments from Simmons Walston were followed by the recognition of dignitaries by Toledo Branch President Darlene Sweeney-Newbern.

Following dinner, Sweeney-Newbern presented awards to five distinguished leaders in the community:

Candice Harrison - ***Trailblazer Award***

Candice L. Harrison, M.A., is a nationally recognized inclusion, community impact and corporate social responsibility leader who serves as director of Inclusion & Community Impact at SSOE Group, a globally ranked architecture and engineering firm. In this role, she leads enterprise-wide strategies focused on inclusion, employee engagement, community impact, philanthropy and employee resource groups, helping align business success with meaningful social impact. She currently serves as president of the Rotary Club of Toledo, where she is the first African American to hold this role.

Evelyn Wilson- ***Senior Engagement and Community Impact Award***

Since retiring in 2013, Wilson has embraced life with a commitment to staying healthy, active and independent. She enjoys encouraging others to get up and get moving to exercise, dance, laugh and fellowship with others. Today, her group, known as "Women on The Move Cardio Line Dancers," has grown to 150 members. An average of 65 to 80 participants come out to dance every Wednesday at the Wayman Palmer YMCA. And, as the name promises, they move! The group also raises funds and makes donations to the Wayman Palmer YMCA and supports breast cancer awareness.

Kathryn Tucker- ***Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Award***

Kathryn M. Tucker, J.D. currently serves as an adjunct professor of business law and American civics where she teaches students that democracy depends on citizens who know their rights and accept their responsibility to defend them. She is a builder who has founded two companies. With her husband, she co-founded Toledo's Share Winery, a wine manufacturing and hospitality company in downtown, Toledo and an investment in the city's economic and cultural future. She is also the founder and principal executive of The Fractional Firm, which provides executive leadership to organizations working through growth and change.

Davion Williams - ***The NAACP Emerging Youth Civil Rights Leader Award***

Davion Williams is a passionate community organizer and poet. He endeavors to raise the awareness of his community through advocacy and art. He became a member of Alpha Phi Alpha in 2022; in 2023, Williams became a nationally recognized orator after winning the National Belford V. Lawson Oratorical Competition at Alpha Phi Alpha's 97th General Convention. The University of Toledo awarded Davion with the Dean's Essay Prize for a short story he wrote about the consequences of sexual abuse of Black boys. During his senior year, he reactivated UT's NAACP chapter and later served as President of the Toledo NAACP Youth Council. Williams graduated from the University of Toledo with a double major in Law and Social Thought and English in 2024. His other community work includes co-chairing the Toledo NAACP's Legal Redress Committee, serving as the Ohio State Coordinator for Black Youth Vote the youth division of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, and serving as the Election Protection Coordinator for Ohio Unity Coalition.

Deborah Barnett - ***Legacy Builder and Empowerment Award***

Deborah Barnett is a recognized community leader, certified life and business coach, speaker, consultant, and connector with more than 30 years of experience in community development and banking. Known for her ability to bring together people, businesses and resources, she has built a career around creating meaningful relationships, strengthening organizations, and turning ideas into action.

Through her consulting company, N-SYNC, LLC, Barnett has collaborated with organizations and agencies throughout the Toledo community, including the City of Toledo Department of Neighborhoods, Toledo Public Schools, ProMedica, the University of Toledo, the Area Office on Aging, Lucas County Children Services, the Toledo African American Chamber of Commerce, faith-based organizations and community coalitions.



Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur and Roland Martin



Kandice Saulsberry, Rev. Perry Harris III, Past Toledo NAACP President Theresa Gabriel



Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz and keynote speaker Rolan Martin



Mistress of Ceremonies Valerie Simmons-Walston



Roland Martin



Toledo NAACP President Darlene Sweeney-Newbern



Toledo Buffalo Soldiers President Earl Mack and Past Toledo NAACP President Ray Wood



State Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson, for Mayor Carty Finkbeiner and State Representative Erika White

Khali Moore performed another uplifting selection and Judge Myron C. Duhart, Sixth District Court of Appeals, introduced keynote speaker Roland Martin.

Martin urged all those present to "go harder." He emphasized the importance of the Black community to unify both before, during and after the election and to go beyond status quo to achieve the success that we desire as a people. Martin outlined current issues in our community and the political landscape, highlighting the many battles that we are fighting for in the midst of years of progress being rolled back in our modern times. His full speech can be viewed on his social media platforms (Black Star Network).

Closing remarks , the acknowledgment of sponsors, committee members and volunteers were given by Sweeny Newbern with a closing benediction from Pastor Roger D. Carson, Jr. of Gracepoint Church.

The NAACP Toledo Branch Officers include Darlene Sweeney-Newbern - president; Calvin W. Brown - 1st vice president; Monita Mungo, PhD - 2nd vice president; WilliAnn Moore - 3rd vice president; Doris Roberts – treasurer; Valerie Murphy – secretary; Kandice Saulsberry - assistant secretary and Willie Hall - sergeant-at-arms.

The Freedom Fund Committee this year was Event Chairperson Calvin W. Brown and Event Co-Chairperson Verna Chears. To learn more about the Toledo Branch NAACP visit their website naacptoledo.org or social media pages @ NAACPTOLEDO.