On October 17, 2012 Toledo Public Schools announced its ranking from the Ohio Department of Education. Martin Luther King Jr. Academy for Boys was one of five TPS schools given an excellent ranking. In one year alone MLK managed to jump two notches from continuous improvement to excellent. – Page 11
Political Religion

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, D.Min.
The Truth Contributor

We have in America a pandemic problem with black abortion, a dimension of black genocide, where 39 percent of all abortions take place in the African-American community although we are only 12 percent of the population. That’s a disproportionate model that abortion is taking place. But in some of the answers to that problem are not really offered from within the black community. So we are trying to impact not only culture, but the faith community to get engaged in this cultural war, and specifically in defense of life.

Sensing a chink in President Obama’s armor of black support due to his affirmatory stance on marriage equality, different historical and cultural interpretations developed from a different historical and cultural context that was both patriarchal and homophobic.

1) The primary theological question is “How does legislation or various other initiatives support the masses of poor, marginalized, and people of color?” Black church or community support should be withheld in all cases which do not bring tangible benefits to the marginalized many. Too often the black community has offered its support or entered into relationships which have been one-sided or provided individual rewards, rather than being mutually beneficial for the community at large.

2) Need for community dialog and an in-house town hall meeting. It is time for a community conversation that looks at biblical interpretations with fresh eyes and a contemporary ethic. The foundation of much discourse and theological debate has been upon interpretations developed from a different historical and cultural context that was both patriarchal and homophbic.

3) The “Sanctimoniousness of Survival” syndrome. A more healthy gender and sexual politics is one that helps women, children and poor persons not only survive but also thrive. In other words, it is not enough to protect the unborn without protecting the post-born or to have life without abundant life. System which supports the birth of a fetus at all costs but cuts Medicaid, education and other social services for post-birth children and simultaneously supports the wealthy and rich appears to be more faithless than devout.

4) The hypocrisy of “Selective Outrage.” The sham outrage and feigned claims of severe offensive- ness expressed by black and other clergy who have campaigned to oppose President Obama or threaten to sit out the election because of his gay marriage support are outlandish. The firearm industry, having experienced record sales under Obama’s watch, is thriving and yet there has been silence concerning the related plague of violence, the epidemic of young black death and other critical issues.

5) The endemic of nonsexual sinful behavior prevents our living sustainably.

Our society’s failure to provide adequate opportunity for gainful employment for all its members automatically assigns people to the living hell of poverty and destroys the community and is sinful.

Environmental hazards such as lead poisoning or industrial pollution from abandoned factories and gas stations disproportionately expose poor people to asthma, reproductive problems, cancer and other life-threatening illnesses. Failure to address this problem is also sinful.

Legislative policies which wink at drugs moving into the community while jobs are flowing out is sinful.

Will the church revive its role as an instrument of change and make sure that these issues are brought to the fore of the community’s agenda?

Of course, the church’s failure to practice what it preaches has for years sent mixed signals. Many churches have been willing to forget their traditional theology when same-gender lov- ing individuals sing or direct church choirs in a manner that adds numbers to the membership rolls.

As long as there are plentiful shouts of praise or numbers running around the sanctuary in frenzied re- sponse to their music or charisma, the policy is “don’t ask and you better not tell it.” You just “wink and keep it on the low, because that’s just the way it is.”

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, D.Min, at dperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org

The Sojourner’s Truth

Toledo’s Truthful African-American Owned and Operated Newspaper

Fletcher Word – Publisher and Editor
Becky McQueen – Business Manager
Artisha Lawson – Reporter
Candice Harrison – Reporter
Rev. D.L. Perryman – Columnist
Michael Hayes – Entertainment Critic
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Community Calendar

October 24-28
Phillips Temple CME Fall Revival: 419-245-4040

October 27
Breast Cancer Awareness Diva Day: YWCA; Sponsored by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; Chair massages, facials, make-up demos, light refreshments; Noon to 3 pm: 419-241-3238 ext. 224
Harvest Party: St. Stephen’s COGIC; 5 to 8 pm
Third Baptist (Holland): Youth and Young Adult Anniversary Musical: 5 pm
Braden United Methodist All Saints Day: 6 to 8 pm; Free games, prizes, food: 419-386-2700

October 28
Calvary MCC 83rd Anniversary: Service at 4 pm; Bishop Randall Parker
Center of Hope Community Baptist Church Women’s Day Celebration: Presented by Women of Worth and Bodacious Women of Center of Hope; 11:30 am; Speaker Rev. April Hearn of Detroit
Abundant Life Second Pastoral Anniversary: Min. Garland Files; 4 pm; Speaker Rev. Johnny Barringer of Christ Congregational MBC

October 31
Merry St. Vincent Medical Center/Northern Ohio Healthcare Supplier Diversity Event: Conference Center; 10 am to 2 pm

November 10
Bereavement Meeting Bethlehem Baptist Church: 2 to 3:30 pm: 567-249-7470

November 11
Bethesda Christian Center Cathedral Women’s Day: 11 am: 419-944-0984

November 18
Historic Third Baptist Fall Musical Showcase: 5 pm; Featuring Rebecca Eaddy, Clarence Smith Community Chorus, Alan Pennamon, United Voices of Detroit Youth

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Have you ever passed a group of youth just hanging around on a street corner and wondered, “Why aren’t they doing something?” Chances are there is little for them to do in their neighborhood. Many of our city parks do not even have basketball hoops and nets are even rarer.

Recreation programming is barely in existence, with the City struggling to provide even the simplest of summertime relief of swimming pools. Many did not even open, some have been replaced by splash pads.

Take a drive out to some of our suburban communities and look what they offer compared to the parks in our City, especially in our urban core. The disparity is apparent and is one of the reasons I am urging a yes vote on Issue 5, the Toledo Parks and Recreation levy.

The average homeowner will pay about $20 a year if Issue 5 passes. The revenue from this levy can only be used for recreation, it can’t be raid to cover other City expenses and it will also free up the money currently spent on recreation.

Last year Toledo spent about $900,000 on recreation, that’s $900,000 that could be spent for more police officers on the streets. That to me makes a yes vote on Issue 5 an easy one, better parks and recreational programming that has a guaranteed dedicated revenue stream, which is how most other communities fund their recreation programming, and it frees up general fund dollars for other uses.

As a youth advocate and program provider with strong partnerships in the community, I see first hand how our neighborhoods are losing their identities. I see the lack of community recreational support areas. I’m speaking of indoor shelter houses, and swimming pools, walking trails, manicured baseball diamonds, marked basketball courts with nets on the rim.

Question? How many churches, have to move church picnics to other parks outside of there neighborhoods do to lack of facility space.

Question? How many of our families had to hold family reunions in other neighborhood parks do to lack of shelter houses or restrooms in there community parks.

Question? How many summer day camps have to use outlining area parks for summer youth activities because the parks either have no recreation material or the grass is not cut.

Issue 5 is about quality for the citizens of Toledo, and our families, schools, churches, and community organizations can begin to lead the charge by building our communities with safe, clean, and updated parks and effective recreational activities.

I know times are tight in some households in our community. For me, this is a question of can we afford not to invest in our future, not just the future of our parks and recreation programs, but the future of our children. They deserve the same recreational opportunities we had and that the youth in the suburbs have.

The mission of the Toledo African American Chamber of Commerce (TAACC) is to advocate and promote the economic growth and development of African-American owned businesses by focusing on the development of business opportunities, business alliance and legislative advocacy.

We believe that many of the problems that plague our community can directly or indirectly be linked to a lack of economic resources. We also believe that when we have greater access to economic resources we become more independent and better able to determine our own destiny as a community. We have begun this process with the major publicly funded organizations in the county.

With this as a back drop we are hosting community forums with all of the levy sponsors who have issues on the November 2012 ballot (except the City of Toledo Parks Levy) and candidates for Lucas County Commissioner (except for candidate Jim Marshall).

The purpose of the forums is to hear the levy sponsors and candidates platforms, to explore ways they may be able to help our business community access public contracts in the same fashion they have assisted other groups, and to provide feedback to both the levy sponsors and candidates relative to issues that are important to TAACC Members and our constituents.

The common questions we asked all presenters are as follows:
1. Do you have a business inclusion policy that governs your procurement process?
2. What is your total annual goods and services budget?
3. Of this amount how much was spent with MBE’s (Minority Business Enterprises)?

While the TAACC is non-partisan group which does not endorse candidates or tax levies we want our members and constituents to have factual information so they can make an informed decision when they vote in the upcoming election.

While we don’t endorse candidates or levies, we do challenge our community to ask: (Continued on Page 4)
why should we continue to support any candidates or any tax levy if they don’t support our businesses economically?

We encourage our constituents to follow the lead of other successful communities. They hold both elected officials and tax levy sponsors accountable by not supporting them if they are not supporting those communities with the economic resources they control.

All presenters were advised that the results of the forums would be published in The Sojourner’s Truth and the Toledo Minority Communicator News weekly newspapers. They were also encouraged to do business with these TAACC members if they want to reach this audience. Listed below are the summaries of the forums we’ve held thus far and the schedule of the remaining forums:

Lucas County Commissioner Tina Skeldon Wozniak

Commissioner Skeldon Wozniak cited a long list of accomplishments to include:

Collaborated with the City of Toledo on waste collection and increased recycling;

developed a community problem gambling awareness campaign called Toledo Pledge;

collaborated with numerous agencies to establish Lucas County Ant-Bullying Hotline;

supported the Fatherhood Connections Program; collaborated with the Toledo Bar Association to create the 2nd Tuesday Records Expungement Program; expanded the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program; supported the 2012 Summer Youth Employment Program; helped to establish the Lucas County Land Bank (along with the other commissioners); built the Lucas County Arena setting a goal of 15 percent MBE participation; achieved a 13 percent MBE participation and co-chaired the Lucas County Foreclosure Task Force.

According to Skeldon Wozniak, 23.8 percent of the employees under direct control of the County Commissioners are African American.

Several of the community forum members expressed bewilderment as to why Commissioners Skeldon-Wozniak and Pete Gerken could not find former Toledo City Council President Wilma Brown part-time employment with Lucas County in spite of a direct appeal made by Brown to Skeldon-Wozniak and a direct request to Gerken by community leaders, especially since the commissioners found jobs for Peter Ujvagi, Lisa Sobecki and Kelia Cosme (others who currently have or have had elected offices).

It has been reported that these jobs were appointed without being publicly advertised, and they are all high-paying jobs. Skeldon Wozniak could not recall being asked for her assistance. As of the writing of this article Skeldon Wozniak has met with Brown and we are hopeful that a solution can be found similar to the appointments mentioned previously.

Listed below is the commissioner’s response to the three common questions asked of everyone:

1. The County Commissioners adopted and Inclusion Resolution stating that they want to be inclusive in their purchasing processes. The Resolution does not have any numeric goals associated with it.

2. Total County Commissioners Budget is $127MM.

3. Commissioner Skeldon Wozniak has not responded to the amount or percent of the Commissioners Budget being spent with MBE’s.

Lucas County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board (MHRSB)

Scott Sylak, director of MHRSB presented the following:

Twenty-five percent of MHRSB Trustees are African American

Fourteen percent of MHRSB Staff is African American

Thirty-five percent of the clients in treatment are African American

Twenty-four percent of the board-funded service provider network are African American

Eighteen percent of the board-funded service provider trustees are African American

Forty-one percent of the board-funded agencies have executive directors who are Minorities.

Sylak answered the three common questions as follows:

1. MHRSB does have an Inclusion Policy that governs their employment and procurement practices.

2. In fiscal year 2012 MHRSB controlled approximately $20MM in expenditures

3. Seventeen percent of these expenditures were made to MBE’s.

Lucas County Children Services Board (CSB)

Executive Director Dean Sparks presented the following statistical information in addition to all the services CSB provides:

Thirty-three percent of the 369 CSB Employees are African American

Fifty percent of the eight administrative employees are African American

The greatest concentration of African American employees is in the Services Division – 81 out of 214 total employees

Six of the 13 board members are African American

Thirty-six percent of the children on referral to CSB were African American in 2011

Sparks stated that “60.2 percent of the contract services is spent with minority owned businesses.”

Expenditures with minority owned media outlets was $27,948 in 2011 and $31,471 thus far in 2012

(Continued on Page 5)
The Sojourner’s Truth

October 24, 2012

Levy Community

(Continued from Page 4)

CSB currently has 550 Children in their custody
Sparks answered the 3 common questions as follows:
1. CSB incorporates inclusion in their competitive
   bidding policy which is currently being reviewed but the
   majority of their service providers don’t have MBE Certifi-
   cation available to them.
2. Total CSB expenditures in 2011 was $43.1MM
3. This information is not available because the major-
   ity of CSB Service Providers do not have MBE Certification
   available to them.

Imagination Station (Formerly COSI)
Lori Houser presented the following:

They are asking for a renewal that equates to approxi-
mately $1.5MM annually.
Imagination Station currently has 5000 Members.
Levy dollars make up 40 percent of their total annual
operating budget.
Approximately 25 percent of their total media spend is
spent with MBE’s.
Houser answered the three common questions as follows:
1. Does not have an inclusion policy that governs
   employment and procurement practices.
2. Total annual expenditures are approximately
   $1.3MM.
3. Does not know how much of this total is spent with
   MBE’s.

The remaining Community Forum Schedule is listed be-
low and is free and open to the Public. Please refer to our
website for more information www.toledoacc.com

10/23 County Commissioner Pete Gerken and County
Commissioner Candidate Kevin Haddad
10/25 Lucas County Public Library
10/30 Toledo Metro Parks

Rep. Fedor Applauds U.S. Supreme Court’s
Rejection of Husted Appeal

Special to The Truth

State Rep. Teresa Fedor (D- Toledo), ap-
plauded The U.S. Supreme Court’s decision to
reject Secretary of State Jon Husted’s appeal of
a lower court decision reinstating the final three
days of early voting.

State Rep. Teresa Fedor released the follow-
ing statement in response to The Supreme Court’s
rejection:

“This decision should reassure Ohio’s voters
that the courts are not interested in helping state
Republicans with their voter suppression agenda.
The highest court in the land has upheld early
voting on the final 3 days before the election
which will help us have a smooth election in
which every voter’s voice is heard. With this
decision, veteran voters, elderly voters, student
voters, minority voters, all voters will be wel-
comed back to the polls on the final 3 days before
the election.”

Issue 21 Will Protect the Metroparks

By Ora M. Bell
Guest Column

Issue 21 is important because it will protect one
of our community’s greatest assets - the Metroparks.

The Metroparks are quiet, safe places where families gather for reunions and church picnics.
They are also outdoor classrooms where children
go to summer camp, or to learn about the historic
canals, the Underground Railroad and our area’s
natural heritage. It is important to have places like
the Metroparks, where everyone is welcome to run,
wake, learn or just enjoy the beautiful surroundings.

Issue 21 will help keep our Metroparks clean,
safe and free for all of us. It will also help finish
several new parks. One of these parks is the
Middlegrounds on the downtown Toledo riverfront
under the Anthony Wayne Bridge. Only a few years
ago, this area was a dumpsite, but thanks to the
Metroparks it is being transformed from a negative
to a positive part of our city - something we can be
proud of.

I enjoy the Metroparks and the beauty they bring
to our community, which is why I have agreed to
serve as co-chair of the Citizens For Metroparks
Campaign. Please join me in supporting Issue 21.

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November Ballot Features Host of Levies for Toledo Voters

Sojourner’s Truth Staff

Toledo voters have the opportunity to vote on seven ballot issues in this year’s general election, an unusually large number, primarily due to spending cuts in the State of Ohio budget that have forced local entities to increase funding requests.

Ballot Issue 5 is a request from the City of Toledo for an additional tax for the purpose of providing funding for parks and recreational facilities, programs and services. The levy request is for a rate of one mill for each dollar of valuation for a period of 10 years.

Issue 20 is a proposed additional tax levy for the Toledo Public Schools and is the largest request on the ballot. The levy has been placed on the ballot to raise a sum of $13,300,000 and to help close the district’s budget deficit.

The 4.9 mill request is for a 10-year period.

Issue 21 is also an additional tax and is being requested by Metroparks for the purpose of acquiring, operating, improving, conserving and protecting new and existing Metropark lands. The 0.9 mill levy is for 10 years.

Issue 23 is a renewal and increase for the Toledo Lucas County Public Library – the renewal is two mills and the increase is 0.9. Plagued by state funding reductions – as are the city and the public schools districts – the Library needs the funding to continue to operate without cutting services or products. It is a five-year request.

Issue 24 is a request by the Lucas County Mental Health and Recovery Services and is an additional tax in the amount of one mill. The funds will help MHRS continue its operations of mental health programs and alcohol and drug addiction programs. It is a 10-year request.

Issue 25 is a renewal and increase request by Lucas County Children Services. The renewal is one mill and the increase is 0.85 in order to continue the support of children services and the care and placement of children. The request is for five years.

Issue 26 is a renewal tax for the operation and maintenance of Imagination Station in the amount of 0.017 – the smallest request on the ballot.
Black Folks Vote Republican

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

Every election season I notice a particular group getting larger and larger: Black Republicans.

Not the country club membership having, six figure incomes, Herman Caine/Condoleezza Rice type of black Republicans.

I’m talking about the increasingly number of African Americans who are siding with the Republican Party simply because they feel it’s a sign of wealth to do so.

Just like those casual sports fans who wait until the championship game to front row, the Republican Party now has the admiration of the fair-weather black vote.

More about perception than actual political stances, when you speak with these people you find that they view the Republican Party not only as winners but also as high earners. They may not understand the theory of “trickle-down” economics, but they are willing victims of that sales pitch. Imagine the early teen aged, adolescent black boy… on his way to the corner store. He sees the dope boys, the runners and the weight holders.

He sees what kind of cars they drive, what kind of clothes they wear and he wants that life for himself. To some, it’s that simple.

No real position for or against the actual inner workings of the party, it’s just about being aligned with those who are getting the money.

Nikki Minaj is a multi-platinum rap artist and emerging superstar in the music game with millions and millions of fans world wide. On Lil Wayne’s mixtape this summer, she spit: “I’m a Republican, voting for Mitt Romney. You f**kin up the economy.”

It wasn’t an endorsement per se (as she later clarified after mounting pressure). Her taking it back is all well and good, but what about the legions of fans who were influenced by her initial message and the many urban music listeners who didn’t just defend her right to express the sentiment but also shared it?

Soon as I heard it, it reminded me of a line she spit on her first album where she mentioned keeping hand sanitizer on deck in case bums try to touch her.

Rap lyrics are rarely meant to be taken literal.

But art does imitate life.

Many black Americans feel placed in a box.

As if they are supposed to like rap music, support black issues and vote Democratic.

You don’t hear about it on the news very much but, trust me, there is a growing rebellion taking place that could actually make us a lot harder to predict.

We used to identify with the inner city as our home base.

It was a source of pride for some even as the actions of others created ruin, but still many successful black people held it down for the streets they came from.

Now, we’ve become so wealthy and removed many of us never mention where we came from… won’t even show our kids where we grew up.

Wealthy and removed also describes the perception many have of the Republican Party.

Removed from the facts also because studies show states that usually vote Republican are among the poorest in the country and Democratic presidents are actually the ones who spend less, decrease the deficit and create more jobs here at home.

The lies about Democrats don’t actually have factual numerical basis.

And when a blatant lie is told repeatedly to influence a mindset, it starts to become allegorical… it becomes myth.

No one feels compelled to fact check a myth because it’s believed at a gut level.

You can’t fight it with critical thinking or logic, because it is no longer a head game.

A myth feels better than reality to its followers.

Democratic Party members don’t think it’s a full 99 percent. A large number of people are starting to side with the Republicans and plutocrats, even though their policies don’t benefit them at all. So don’t fall for the myth that blacks back Obama, it’s far more complex than that.

A growing number of wannabes and future ballot/shot callers will be stepping up to that voting machine on November 6 and picking Mitt Romney as their guy.

In their attempt to get off one bandwagon, they are simply hopping on the other bandwagon going in the opposite direction.

But… we’re still gonna win anyway!

Peace.

TOLEDO NAACP GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTICE

The Toledo NAACP Branch will have their General Membership Meeting Tuesday, November 13, 2011, 7 pm at Third Baptist Church located at 402 Pinewood Ave. If you would like to become a member of the branch please send your check or money order payable to the Toledo NAACP, P.O. Box 9388, Toledo, Ohio 43697.

Adult Memberships are $30 (includes a Crisis Magazine), Youth 20 and under is $10 without the Crisis, $15 with the Crisis.

For more information please call 419-407-6486 or email us at info@toledonaacp.com.
Toledo City Councilmen Vie for Lucas County Recorder’s Office

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner’s Truth Editor

Third-term Toledo City Councilmen, Democrat Phil Copeland and Republican George Sarantou, are locked in a competition to succeed Democrat Jeannine Perry as the Lucas County Recorder. Both Copeland and Sarantou are term-limited from running for an at-large position on Council. The Truth spoke with both candidates last week and posed the same questions to each about why he might be the better candidate and what he would expect to do in office should he win the November race.

Phil Copeland, Toledo City Councilman At Large

Toledo City Councilman Phil Copeland has been a member of City Council since January 2005 when he was appointed to replace Pete Gerken, who had been elected to the Lucas County board of Commissioners. Copeland, a native Toledoan, attended Gunckel Elementary, Robinson Junior High School and Scott High School, as well as the Drexel J. Thrash Training Center for Ohio Laborers. He began his career with Laborers Local 500 in 1966 and has since served on a variety of committees with the union. He was elected to secretary/treasurer of the union in 1985 and also currently serves as the union’s business manager.

Copeland is a member of the NAACP, TARTA, the Open Door Ministry, the Lagrange Development Corporation and a past member of the Lucas County Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services and the Toledo Board of Community Relations.

The Truth asked Copeland several questions about his aspirations for office

Can you explain to our readers just what the Lucas County Recorder’s Office does?

“They basically keep records for Lucas County. One of the most important things they do is for individual citizens with the purchase of a home – mortgages, liens, military discharges and so forth. If a person wants to buy a house and didn’t have all the information, they could go down to the Recorder’s Office and possibly save a lot of money.

“There they could find all records relating to the property. It’s a very important office – keeping the records for Lucas County.

What gifts, talents or experiences would you bring to the office?

“My most important gift is that of service and being a public servant. This [Laborers 500] is a $2 million business. I get all kinds of records — all have to be in order. Capital taxes, for example, have to be paid to [lots of entities]. I’ve been doing this for 30 years. This office wouldn’t be anything new to me.

“Keeping records straight and paying taxes is what I’ve been doing and have never had a problem — keeping records and paying bills.

What changes or improvements do you envision making to the operation of the office?

“My main thing is my credibility – I can’t tell you precisely because I don’t know exactly what they are doing. I don’t know if they need changes or not or if they need more efficient operation. So I’m not going in to change but to continue to run it efficiently.

What sort of improvements in hiring might be necessary to the office?

“I don’t know. People from the community came and asked me to run. I hadn’t really thought of it before that. As I said, my life is one of public service — when I was asked, I thought of it as another step in my life to be of service.

Will this be a full time job for you?

“It’s officially a part-time job at the Recorder’s Office but I’m planning on being a full-time recorder. I don’t know exactly when I will retire [from Laborer’s 500].
Republican George Sarantou, Toledo City Councilman At Large

October 24, 2012

The Sojourner's Truth

George Sarantou, Toledo City Councilman At Large

Republican George Sarantou is in his third term as an at-large member of Toledo City Council and is employed by Brennan Financial (New England Financial) as a representative. Sarantou markets investment and insurance products to businesses, individuals and families.

As an expert in financial issues, Sarantou has served as chairman of City Council’s Finance Committee for years. Sarantou, a graduate of DeVilbiss High School, earned his undergraduate degree from The Ohio State University.

Sarantou is a member of the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Government’s Transportation Council, the Downtown Toledo Improvement District Board of Directors, the Downtown Toledo Improvement District office as a major aspect of the operation of the office?

“Jeanine Perry has run a very efficient office, especially because of the cross training she has introduced to the staff. I would like to look into electronic filing and see if it would save money and bring more security. I want to continue to monitor the professionalism of the office – continue the cross training.

Many people who come into Government Center are intimidated, a well trained staff, providing good, friendly service, [can put them at ease]

I would like to form a business advisory council comprised of people from the City – from the banking community, from labor, of course, attorneys – to help me evaluate all the data and the role of the County recorder … are we doing as much as we can?

Jeanine Perry and [Lucas County Clerk of Courts] Bernie Quilter have started scanning and imaging operations for the backup of documents – that’s so important in the case of a disaster. I want to continue and maintain that.

What sort of improvements in hiring might be necessary for the office?

“The county Recorder’s Office has a number of employees who are members of labor unions – my style is to bring out the best in those employees. I would look at education, customer service and technological skills.

I want the recorder’s office to mirror the community in its diversity, and focus on team work, cross training and continuing education. I think it’s critically important to have a diversified workforce. You are term limited from running for re-election to Toledo City Council. Would you be running for the Recorder’s Office if you weren’t?

“The number one reason I'm running is because the incumbent is retiring. I felt I want the recorder’s office to mirror the community in its diversity, and focus on team work, cross training and continuing education. I think it’s critically important to have a diversified workforce.

But I have loved being on City Council – the good days have so outweighed the bad ones.

Will this be a full time job for you?

“Over the last 11 years I have had a 98 percent attendance at City Council – for all meetings. My opponent is woefully behind in that aspect. Council is a part-time job but a lot of it is full time.

“I will be at the Recorder’s Office every day because it’s my obligation to make sure the job is done properly.

“I will be scaling back at [my office] and as a self-employed person, I can control that.

“I’m a hard-working guy used to wearing a lot of hats.”

I'm at wearing a lot of hats.”

The number one reason I'm running is because the incumbent is retiring. I felt
MLK Academy for Boys Achieves Historic High, School District Dips

By Folasade Oladokun
Sojourner’s Truth Reporter

For the first time ever, a Toledo inner city school has moved into the excellent category on the State of Ohio Department of Education’s annual report card.

On October 17, 2012 Toledo Public Schools announced its ranking from the Ohio Department of Education. Martin Luther King Jr. Academy for Boys was one of five TPS schools given an excellent ranking. In one year alone MLK managed to jump two notches from continuous improvement to excellent.

“In an era of low performance, we have done it!,” said Principal Willie Ward. Toledo Early College High School, Elmhurst Elementary, Grove Patterson Academy and Toledo Technology Academy were also ranked excellent.

For the district as a whole, the report card results for the 2011-12 academic year were not so positive. For the first time since 2006-07, TPS lost its continuous improvement rating and fell to academic watch, the equivalent of a “D” grade.

Although the Toledo Public Schools district itself dropped to academic watch, officials are positive that the success of Martin Luther King Jr Academy for boys indicates that the district is improving.

Superintendent Jerome Pecko, Ed.D conceded that the district’s rating is disappointing however remains adamant that the district is not failing based on student performance. The districts drop in rank is attributed to the third year in a row in which value added components—particularly the measurement of how student performance has grown from year to year—were not met. Officials also speculated that the drop in performance was affected by the district’s inability to “scrub” data from habitually truant students as has been the practice in the past around the state. That practice has recently been the subject of a state investigation.

“Martin Luther King Jr Academy for boys indicates that the district is not failing based on student performance. The districts drop in rank is attributed to the district also known as “King Pride” in which students are expected to live up to the school’s mission statement but also, and most importantly, the hard work of the students. “You can be raised in the ghetto but the ghetto does not have to be raised in you,” said Larry Sikes, school board member. Statistically, central city schools in lower income neighborhoods do not perform as well as schools in higher income area’s due to economic and social issues.

The single-gender academy concept is in its 10th year of operation. The boys’ academy began with the old Lincoln Elementary on Detroit and eventually moved into temporary quarters for several years on Collingwood before the move into MLK Elementary – now MLK Academy for Boys. Before the move into MLK on Dorr Street, the boys academy was on the verge of being shut down, plagued as it was by low enrollment.

In addition to the schools that were ranked excellent a number of schools have moved up in rank. Burroughs Elementary is now ranked effective, Ella P. Stewart Academy for Girls and McTigue Elementary have progressed to the rank of OPEN HOUSE - Sunday, October 28, 2012
The Toledo Women’s Club
3829 Woodley Road (Off Sylvania Ave.)
From 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Come Shop: Lulu Avenue Jewelry (a new company)
Designer Fashions: bags, shoes, hats, health and wellness products and fund-raising activities.
Door prizes and more!
Call: 419.472.4648 or 419.537.0021 for more info.
Hosted by The Charleston House
4055 Monroe Street, Toledo, OH

(Continued on Page 11)
**Robinson Elementary School K-8 Parents are Schooled on Bullying**

*Special to The Truth*

Robinson Elementary School will hold its monthly Parent Power Hour, Thursday, October 25th at 8:30 am. Parents will be able to attend the first half hour of their student’s class, and then have a class of their own on bullying.

Mr. Antonio Davis, Counselor at Robinson Elementary School will provide parents information on bullying, how to recognize it, how to address it, and how Toledo Public Schools handles both the perpetrator and the victim.

All Robinson Elementary School parents and guardians are encouraged to attend.

*If additional information is needed, contact Robinson Elementary School at 419-671-4200.*

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**MLK Academy for Boys**

(Continued from Page 10)

continuous improvement, and Scott High School has moved up to academic watch.

Of the 23,900 students attending Toledo public school, 27.6 percent were performing at the advanced accelerated level, 35.2 percent were rated proficient, 23.5 percent were performing at a basic level and 16.3 percent students were pronounced limited.

Based on points given, TPS received an 81.8 performance index score, down from 83.1 in the previous year. Pecko plans on continuing current transformational initiatives, improving the districts value added performance, and reaching a PI score of 90 or above with an effective rating by 2015.
In light of federal and state budget cuts, the Toledo Public Schools District is being mandated to do more with less support than ever before. All indications are that TPS is making a good faith effort to change its practices as well as educational priorities.

Through teacher leadership and student advocacy, the district is looking to enhance and replicate reforms that work and abandon those which do not.

It is my observation that the community recognizes the changes the district has made and the priority that has been placed on the need for quality education and academic success. I would ask that the Toledo community join with the district as well as numerous businesses, organizations and unions including the Toledo Federation of Teachers and vote YES on Issue 20.

A Yes vote will create strong schools, a strong community and a strong future for the citizens of our community.

Why Vote for the TPS levy?

By Don Yates, President
Toledo Association of Administrative Personnel

Voters want to know why they should increase their taxes and spend more money on Toledo schools. Given the recent financial struggles in Toledo and TPS’ sometimes rocky relationships with its communities, it is an especially relevant question.

So what is the case for more money? Financially, the state continues to add mandated programs and demands on the district though they do not provide the funds to support them. TPS continues to struggle and private schools resulting in an even greater reduction in state tax dollars.

On the positive side, TPS has embarked on a historic transformation plan and has done so with great passion. Through this plan, the district has right-sized itself and converted elementary and junior high schools into K-8 neighborhood schools improving parent/school relationships and reducing the need for expensive busing. TPS has made great strides to engage its community in partnerships in ways unheard of in the past (most notably with the United Way and their Community School Hub partnerships). TPS has increased its use of new technology in the classroom and has created new initiatives affording students greater access to higher level academic courses through state-of-the-art distance learning labs and is increasing student access to other technologies.

Special education has been totally reformed bringing more inclusionary services to students with disabilities and greater access to the general education curriculum. And, there is more to boast about, such as the award-winning Toledo Technology Academy and Toledo Early College High School, as well as the many career technology opportunities available for TPS students (i.e. graphic design and printing, information technology, accounting, computing, etc.).

TPS’ levy literature promises to further transform the district by adding thematic high schools (i.e. Bowsher Performing Arts, Waite International School, etc.), expanding opportunities for non-traditional high school students to earn credits toward graduation, developing a gifted and talented program, improving on-line grade books for parent/teacher communication, and developing, in conjunction with several community agencies, a district-wide positive behavior/discipline program. It speaks of good schools protecting home values and resale values. And, finally, the literature proclaims that good schools contribute to the overall financial health of a community.

The employees of TPS have stepped up to help during these difficult financial times. The budget deficit has resulted in the loss of many jobs and has increased the workload of many teachers, via larger class sizes, and administrators, via extra tasks previously done by others in jobs that no longer exist.

(Continued on Page 13)
Why Vote for the TPS levy?

(Continued from Page 12)

There have been cuts in some areas so deep that they jeopardize promising and popular programs (i.e. Early High School Options, breakfast-for-all program, athletics, etc.).

The employees of TPS have gone years without raises and have agreed to cuts in pay for the last three years. They have increased their contribution to health care costs.

Some TPS jobs, especially in the principal ranks, already suffer from pay so low, that other districts are luring away some of our most talented administrators with better pay. Many of our employees, teachers as well as administrators, are over worked and often feel underappreciated.

However, even with the difficult challenges of the last several years, there has been a lot of positive energy and enthusiasm from teachers and administrators during the past year’s transformation of the district. Even with the added burdens and pressures of more work with less pay, most have remained positive and even excited about transforming outdated practices, creating new programs, and reinventing the district.

In the past, TPS often operated in a vacuum, doing things as it saw fit. There was little competition for enrolling students and little incentive to involve the community beyond traditional roles (i.e. parent/teacher organizations, booster clubs, etc.).

Times have changed and with a new world economy, higher standards for student achievement and educator accountability, stiff competition for students, and ever-increasing demands for schools to do more, TPS can no longer do it alone. TPS must reach out to the community to be effective, and they are.

TPS has begun the journey to reconnect with the community and reestablish trust. TPS is listening. It is reaching out to parents, students, and agencies and it is improving its transparency with its finances (check out the TPS website: http://www.tps.org/treasurers-division/treasurers-division.html).

TPS is holding employees accountable for their performance (50 percent of the new teacher/principal evaluation is based on student performance!).

TPS facilities are adding new technology, such as the distance learning labs, and for the first time in recent history, the TPS teacher union (TFT) and administrator union (TAAF) have joined together to engage the community in what author Jamie Vollmer (http://www.jamievollmer.com/video.html) calls the “Great Conversation.”

The Great Conversation is the call for schools to reach out to their communities for school/community relationships of trust, understanding, permission, and support. TPS has begun that process and while its transformation plan is a work in progress, the district needs the money and has done enough to deserve a vote YES the levy.
Ms. Lady Lincoln Coming to the Maumee Indoor

Ms. Lady Lincoln is one of many stage plays written by local playwright Naomi Person-Brown. Ms. Lady Lincoln will be performed Friday, October 26, at the Maumee Indoor Theater, corner of Conant Street and Anthony Wayne Trail.

Tickets can be purchased at the door for $10.00. Curtain time is 7:00 pm.

Right to left: Teala Fontesca, Greggory Hunt, Sr.; Patricia Jackson; Naomi Brown-Person; Gladys Legre and Sherrie Whittington.

Cast members not available: Tone, CC, dancers – India Turner and Shahanih Person
Marketing Manager

United Way of Greater Toledo is currently seeking an individual to act as a Marketing Manager. This position is responsible for managing a highly effective, fast paced, customer service focused marketing and communication department. Responsible for developing and implementing strategic marketing, communication and public relations plans as well as overseeing brand management. Additional responsibilities include:

- Supervise and develop marketing and communications staff.
- Develop documented processes for annual marketing and communication projects.
- Increase quality and yield of media relationship coverage, and outreach.
- Position United Way as a resource for media on trends and issues.
- Develop year around, targeted public relations, and media plans to promote United Way.
- Responsible for writing, editing, messaging, as well as consistency in all materials, including letters, talking points, newsletters, brochures, etc.
- Write and edit speeches and articles using the prescribed style and format.
- Present information to cross-functional teams, senior executives, boards of directors and public groups.

Applicants must possess:

- Bachelor’s degree in Public Relations, Marketing, Communications or related field.
- Minimum of four years’ experience in Public Relations, Communications, and/or Marketing.
- Minimum of two years’ experience in management of personnel, budgets.

Qualified candidates should submit a cover letter with salary requirements along with a resume to: karri.anthony@unitedwaytoledo.org – subject: MKTG

Visit us at www.unitedwaytoledo.org/employment-and-internships

We encourage a diverse & inclusive work environment.

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**Notice to Bidders:** Inquiry # FY13-38, (Project # 5006-13-1751) for HSC Steam Plant Boiler No. 6 for the University of Toledo Health Science Campus. Sealed bids for this project must be clearly marked with the project number on all inner and outer envelopes and/or shipping containers. Bids must be addressed and delivered to the University of Toledo, Main Campus, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 13, 2012. Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 2:00 p.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000. Copies of Plans, Specifications, and Bid Forms may be obtained from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Rd., Toledo, Ohio 43615. Call 419-385-5303 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of $80.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Bob Taeuber of Fosdick & Hilter, Inc. at 513-241-5640. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, November 6, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in Health Education Building Room 227, at the University of Toledo, Health Science Campus, 3000 Arlington Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43614. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 10%

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**Journeyman/Stationary Steam Engineer/Building Operator – The University of Toledo**

UT offers an excellent salary and benefit package, which includes the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System with employer contribution, medical coverage, paid sick and vacation time, tuition to UT is waived for employees and their eligible spouses and dependents and 10 paid holidays.

**HVAC Journeyman/Refrigeration Mechanic Journeyman – Job 13635**

This position is responsible for daily maintenance and repair of campus HVAC and refrigeration equipment including related preventive maintenance. Requirements include high school diploma or GED. Must have valid certification from USDOL/Ohio Apprenticeship Council registered program apprenticeship program (HVAC/Refrigeration Mechanic Journeyman Card). Maintains valid driver’s license and must be insurable under the UT’s driving policies.

**Stationary Steam Engineer/ Journeyman/Building Operator – Job 11206**

This position performs skilled HVAC/R, heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration, plumbing, electrical, painting, grounds keeping and maintenance repair of assigned buildings. Also operates boilers and automation system, and performs preventive maintenance on all building systems and components. Requirements include a Stationary Steam Engineers license with twelve (12) months training and/or experience in HVAC/R, electrical, plumbing under supervision of journeyman trade worker or equivalent, OR four year journeyman certification from a USDOL/Ohio Apprenticeship Council registered apprenticeship program. Electric, plumbing, HVAC/R, or related trade journeyman preferred. Maintains valid driver’s license and must be insurable under UT’s driving policies.

For a complete listing of our openings and qualifications, or to apply, please proceed to our website at https://jobs.utoledo.edu.

We ask that applications and required documents be submitted electronically. Review of applications will begin immediately. UT and UTMRC are EO/AA employers and educators M/F/D/V

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**MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP**

Warren AME Church, Toledo is looking for a full-time Minister of Music, who can play by ear and read music, can work with children and adults. Must have: a passion for worship, can teach vocals, and relate to all genres of music. Send Resume to natiejackson@Parker.com

**Attention Seniors:**

House(s) For Rent.
Two Bedroom
One level just renovated.
Call (419) 708-2340

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**Request for Proposals**

Training Services for Public Housing & Housing Choice Voucher Programs

RFP # 12-R022

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) will receive proposals for Training Svcs.-Public Housing & Housing Choice Voucher Programs. Received in accordance with law until Tues., Oct. 23, 2012, 3PM ET. For Documents: www.lucasmha.org, 419-259-9448 (TRS: Dial 711) or 435 Nebraska Ave., Toledo, OH 43604. Proposers required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. Sec. 3 Compliance Applicable.

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**Notice to Bidders:** Inquiry # FY13-36, (Project # 5017-12-1724) for Interprofessional Immersive Simulation Center Phase II – Bid Pack 2 Building Envelope for the University of Toledo Health Science Campus. Sealed bids for this project must be clearly marked with the project number on all inner and outer envelopes and/or shipping containers.

Bids must be addressed and delivered to the University of Toledo, Main Campus, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 30, 2012. Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 2:05 p.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1100. Copies of Plans, Specifications, and Bid Forms may be obtained from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Rd., Toledo, Ohio 43615. Call 419-385-5303 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of $125.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Jennifer Fuller of BHD Architect, Inc. at 614-486-1960.

One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, October 23, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in the Health Education Building, Room 227, at the University of Toledo, Health Science Campus, 3000 Arlington Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43614. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 10%. Project Estimate: $8,982,627.00; Breakdown: General Const: $8,982,627.00.
Much could be said about the vicious attacks we have seen on early voting in the run-up to this presidential election. Right now, what you need to know is that after months of court battles and partisan bickering, you will be able to vote early in-person the weekend before the election.

Let me repeat that:

- On Saturday, November 3, you can vote early in-person from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- On Sunday, November 4, you can vote early in-person from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (SOULS TO THE POLLS SUNDAY)
- On Monday, November 5, you can vote early in-person from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00.

Want to get voting out of the way on your Saturday off? Now you’re covered! Did you have plans to join your church congregation for a “Souls to the Polls” event on Sunday? Now you’re good to go! Or, maybe you’d prefer to go to the polls on Monday to avoid the Election Day rush? Now you can do so!

If none of these days work, you can also vote early in-person between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. from now until November 1 (on Friday, November 2 the hours are 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.)

No matter what you’ve heard — or been told or read in the newspaper — these are the current rules, updated just days ago after a federal court decision. And remember, if you’re in line at closing time, you must be allowed to vote. It’s the law!

These gains have been hard fought. It has taken over a year to undo the damage partisan manipulators did to our election system in their quest to gain an advantage. The confusion they have created still looms heavy over this election, but with fewer than three weeks to go, many of their dirtiest tricks have been fought back.

Despite their attempts to pass a photo I.D. law, Ohio voters ARE NOT required show a photo I.D. at the polls in 2012; and though he initially restricted the mailing of absentee ballot applications, Secretary of State Jon Husted was eventually pressured into sending the applications to every registered voter in the state.

Husted also dragged his feet on early-in person voting, but in the end public pressure and numerous federal lawsuits forced him to set uniform state-wide hours, including weekend hours, which are especially popular in our community.

Your friends and neighbors have worked tirelessly to restore the voting rights so many Ohio politicians spent the last year trying to take away.

Now it’s your turn.

Despite the efforts of some to keep us from voting, we must now rise up and VOTE!! All over the country, voters of color experienced a historic jump in participation in 2008. We accounted for millions of votes that had a tangible effect on the presidential election.

I hope we are all beginning to see that this is bigger than individual elections and individual issues. This is about our entire community discovering that we wield real power in American politics.

Believe it!

As a registered voter, there has never been a better time to take responsibility, for yourself, for your family and for your community. Get to the polls and VOTE!

You have an opportunity to be part of history. Use the tools you have been given. CHOOSE TO VOTE!