

Rhonda Sewell

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2017 YWCA Milestones Honoree for Volunteerism

"I love this life thing, and I'm going to walk this path and effect change. I don't have to be rich, and I don't have to shine all the time. I like driving and orchestrating from behind the scenes."

Kroger, Ferner and the Lionesses

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

The TruthContributor

The problem will never be solved through eliminating or silencing the opposition but by learning to hold the tension of the opposites and launch them in a new direction.

- Richard Rohr



Councilman Larry Sykes caucused briefly with Chairman Tyrone Riley at last week's City Council Zoning & Planning Committee meeting over whether to allow activist Mike Ferner's testimony to continue.

"Let him speak! We want to hear it," voices rang throughout the packed city council chambers.

Riley wavered, wondering whether the topic of campaign donations was relevant to the zoning change decision.

"With all respect, chairman," Ferner pleaded, "it's called politics, and it does seem to be relevant."

"Go ahead, you may proceed," Riley ruled.

"From the last couple elections from the building trades," said Ferner, Ceceilia Adams, (received) \$5,500, Matt Cherry \$33,826, Teresa Gabriel \$8,050, Yvonne Harper \$9,000, Rob Ludeman \$0, Tyrone Riley \$11,500, Sandy Spang \$2,000, Steve Steel \$9,700, Larry Sykes \$500, Peter Ujvagi \$6,656, Tom Waniewski \$2,000, Lindsay Webb \$24,355, and our mayor, (received) \$60,090 plus \$2,000 from Jerry Parker, Kroger attorney for this project."

Back to the drama in a minute.

On Kroger:

The battle for zoning change and planned development surrounding Kroger's legitimate business decision to relocate their own store practically across the street has been contentious.

Yet, parking and parking lot security at the existing store are woefully inadequate. Earl Mack, former assistant director of Ohio Homeland Security, however, doesn't think security will be an issue at the new store. "I am impressed with the security measures that they (Kroger) did, so I think the plans should be approved," he spoke at the hearing.

Kroger, who recently received an award for their nationwide diversity efforts, provided the Zoning & Planning committee with major concessions and changes to their first proposal, including allowing the site's beloved trees to remain. They also presented a plan for controlled access to Notre Dame Academy and a preschool on the grounds in order to maintain privacy.

Construction of the new store will add 125 new employees in addition to all 150 employees who will transfer from the old site. Existing employees will keep all benefits and have their seniority transferred to the new store, according to Justin Richmond, organizer for United Food and Commercial Workers Local 75. The new construction will also require 110 skilled trades

jobs to construct. Currently, 61 percent of their managers in training right now in Columbus are minorities, as is Mike Davis, the Monroe Street store manager.

Now, returning to the drama, what was Mike Ferner thinking? And did he truly understand who he was talking to?

Women and Power:

For certain, Ferner could stand to acquire "learning" on the topic of women and power, particularly about the lioness paradigm. A lioness is "an extremely independent, ambitious, driven woman who is fierce and backs up what is hers and takes care of her own - her friends and her family."

There were at least four lionesses on the dais at the committee hearing who ripped Ferner apart and took home the bounty. Their responses to his assertions were swift and merciless.

Lioness Yvonne Harper: "I think it's only fair when you mention my name and when you go to the Board of Election you need to know that you need to look at all the contributions. I just got elected in May, I had to run and in September I had to run, and in November I had to run, and I'm shocked when you say \$9,000, because I think that was my total altogether, that's just not building trades. I got other contributions. Why didn't you mention the \$1, \$2 donations? I walked door to door. I don't mind you saying what I received, but don't stand here before God and everybody, cause it's misleading."

Lioness Lindsay Webb: "I'm surprised that he wouldn't put on the record that I'm married to somebody who works in the construction trade, and so

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The Sojourner's Truth

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The Sojourner's Truth, 1811 Adams Street, Toledo, OH 43604

Phone 419-243-0007 * Fax 419-255-7700

thetruth@thetruthtoledo.com

www.thetruthtoledo.com

Community Calendar

March 25

Challenging Prisons for Profit: Presented by Free Ohio Movement; Noon; Frederick Douglass Community Association: 419-973-0248

March 26

Calgary MBC 28th Pastoral Celebration: Pastor Floyd Smith, Jr: 4 pm; Guests Rev. James Willis of St. Paul MBC

New Prospect Baptist Church Pastor's Aide Day: 4 pm; Guest are United Vision Baptist Church

Vocal Arts Competition: Sponsored by the NANBPWC, Toledo Club and Maumee Bay Club; 4 pm; St. Paul MBC; Performance categories include arias/opera, art songs/German Lied or French melodies, Negro spirituals or works by an African-American composer

April 8

Aurora Academy Spring Fling - Kindergarten Round Up: Kindergarten registration 11 am to 2 pm; Plus activities such as - pics with the Easter bunny, egg coloring, Easter egg hunt, and many more: 419-693-6891

April 21-22

Calvary MBC Women's Ministry 20th Spring Retreat: "Be still and know that I am God;" Holiday Inn and Suites in Lima: 419-787-9635

April 23

True Vine 3rd Pastoral Anniversary: Pastor Jerome Graham; 4 pm; "Where He leads me, I will follow;" Guest Rev. John Roberts and Indiana Avenue MBC: 419-539-9104

April 29

Hip Hop "Extreme Mission" 2017: Presented by New Leaf Group and Positive Force Dance; Scott High School; 3:30 to 5 pm; Boys only with adult male; Grades 6-12; Guest speaker Maurice Claret --- 5 to 7 pm - boys and girls ; Grades 6-12; Guest speakers James Jackson of Owens and John Hicklin

To: City Council Members and Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson

From: Carty Finkbeiner

Re: Kroger Issue

Ed. Note: This letter was sent to City Council Members before their vote on the Krogers' zoning issue this week

Council members, I believe life is a wonderful marathon race. It is broken up, however, into innings – like innings in a baseball game. And, our lives have to score positive points in some key innings, if the final score is to reflect that we made wise decisions during the course of our lives. Particularly, did we score positive points in key innings when we were the batter at the plate? You are the batter at the plate, in this very important inning of the city's life. Will you hit a home run? Will you strike out?

I can tell you – as a 10-year veteran of this Council, and a 12-year resident of the corner office on the 22nd floor, you should hit this "pitch" out of the park because it truly is a "No Brainer."

Kroger is hell-bent upon building or expanding upon their present property on Monroe Street so that they can compete with competition that is going to open up nearby on Secor Rd. They just did this same thing in Perrysburg where they expanded – did not build a new Kroger's – at their site on Route 20, just across the street from the Holiday Inn. In fact, Kroger either expands their present sites, or builds new stores - very frequently in the suburbs.

Their track record in Toledo is quite different. They have closed stores on Manhattan Blvd, on Glendale Avenue, on Woodville Road, at Swayne Field and on Suder Avenue. They will shut down at Southland Shopping Center before long, I predict. At the same time, Kroger has built new stores on Holland-Sylvania Road in Sylvania Township, in Maumee, in Oregon and in Waterville. In fact, Kroger has a track record, in at least three other Ohio cities, of closing urban core stores and then building new stores in suburbia.

The administration and council should take a hard, long look at the Kroger closures in our city – particularly our central city – and ask why? Why is there no Kroger store in central Toledo? There are other grocery stores serving residents of the Central City – on Bancroft and Cherry, on Broadway near South, on Central near Cherry, on Main Street in East Toledo. I helped Kroger locate and build upon Glendale at Detroit and Jack Ford assisted with the present Kroger store on Monroe Street. And I can testify today that I am disappointed, as is my wife, in the lack of food options avail-

able and the lack of cleanliness at the store on Glendale and Detroit. We are not alone. It simply should be better maintained!

Kroger, like most big, big companies, is more interested in volume than in quality. Visit Fresh Market at Westgate, or a Monnette's, or a Churchill's and you'll find management going out of its way to offer a variety of options, terrific delis and clean stores and parking lots. In fact, the suburban Krogers I visit from time-to-time – there is no comparison between the appearance of those stores and the deli offerings available vs. the Toledo stores. There are simply more supplies and options available in suburban Krogers.

Remember, council members, you're the batter and the subject is "has Kroger's been an investor in Central Toledo and have their stores in Toledo been maintained as well as their suburban stores?" After 25 years of officially keeping score myself – the answer is NO!

The Notre Dame site is the single most attractive parcel of land in West Toledo. And Kroger wishes to lay cement, after clearing beautiful landscape – years and years in the growing – and then put up a huge box-like grocery store WHEN THEY OWN A PROPERTY A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY AND HAVE SEVERAL OTHER SITES AVAILABLE ON SECOR, AS WELL AS THE ANDERSONS STORE ON TALMADGE ROAD. If they truly cared about our city, they would re-build on their present site just as they did in Perrysburg or buy the Andersons property on Talmadge Rd. But "NO" – THEY WANT TO TEAR DOWN AND PERMANENTLY RUIN THE MOST ATTRACTIVE SITE OF LAND AND HISTORIC BUILDINGS IN WEST TOLEDO. And if you approve, that site will not be available for future development that would preserve the green landscape, historic buildings and peacefulness that exist there.

The sisters of Notre Dame – wonderful and dedicated women they are – should look at the option the Miller Diversified people, the same company that developed Arrowhead Park in Maumee, put on the table. It is real, it is equal in dollars and the community development envisioned will preserve the historic integrity of this site, while offering new housing, education and socializing opportunities to seniors and to others.

The personality of Monroe Street in the vicinity of Secor Road and out by the Franklin Park Mall all the way to Sylvania is commercially zoned and busy, busy, busy with cars, stop lights and businesses. It is great for Toledo's economy and for the merchants of this busy street. At Secor and Monroe streets there is a beautiful oasis – the site of Notre Dame Academy. And this oasis needs to remain an oasis – an interruption to the non-stop traffic, cars and businesses.

The Miller interest in this property is real. Every project they have been a partner in, including Arrowhead Park in Maumee, has been done with fine detail and attention to how human beings can move about quietly and peacefully in their neighborhoods.

If you were not aware, Miller and Danberry Real Estate Company, for whom Councilman Rob Ludeman has worked for years, are preparing to merge. When they do, the merged companies will become a very real force for positive real estate developments in northwestern Ohio and southeast-



Carty Finkbeiner

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Senator Edna Brown to Introduce Domestic Violence Survivor Protection Act

Special to The Truth

Last week, State Senator Edna Brown (D-Toledo) announced that she will soon introduce legislation which will help prevent more gun violence by keeping firearms away from domestic abusers.

"Support for the 2nd Amendment should go hand-in-hand with keeping guns out of the hands of people we know are dangerous," said Senator Brown. "Guns in a domestic violence situation do not make anyone safer. The presence of a firearm at such a time makes it five times more likely that a woman will be killed. My legislation will help keep domestic violence survivors safe from gun violence."

Every year in the United States, women suffer from 5.3 million in-

cidents of domestic violence. But 26 states, including Indiana and Pennsylvania, already have laws that prohibit people who have either been convicted of domestic violence or are subject to a domestic-violence restraining order from owning firearms. Ohio does not. The laws passed by those 26 states have reduced gun violence against women, because we know that the presence of a gun in a situation of intimate-partner violence makes it five times more likely that a woman will be killed.



Edna Brown

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Perryman... continued from page 2

when I lay my head on the pillow at night, I talk to a man who picks up tools and works 12 hours a day in his community with his hands and with his skills. I'm proud to have the support of the building trades union, and that money that was given to me was given to me over a decade. A decade of service to the people that I represent in this community, and if you think for one second that I am bought and paid for, you are surely mistaken, and I am gravely offended at this testimony and at the allowance, because it has very little bearing on this discussion today. I am also a graduate of Notre Dame Academy, and I will put that on the record, the nuns there nearly expelled me because of my mouth. I am here to hear the facts about this land use and that is what is relevant today."

Lioness Teresa Gabriel: "Well, to Mr. Mike Ferner, as long as you have known me, and I started off with the City of Toledo in 1963 as a clerk, worked my way up to assistant chief of staff, and as well as you know me, you know no one can control me. Only the good Lord up above and my mother, and she died two years ago. You had a smile on your face, but you made a big mistake when you alluded to the fact that organized labor controls me. I'm a veteran union member, and have been in a union member house since the day that my mother purchased a home, when my father was in World War II, organized labor. I support our organized labor, I'm proud of it, I'm a past president of 2058, a lifelong member of union from the time I started working. For you to insult us in that fashion to insinuate that we are supporting or not supporting Kroger because of building trades is ridiculous, it's stupid, and you ought to be ashamed of yourself. Thank you!"

Lioness Cecelia Adams: I think I should just put on the record that when this issue came up initially, I went over to Notre Dame Academy. I sat and talked with the nuns and listened to their concerns and they told me about the roof and what it would cost to try to replace it, the boiler and what it would cost to replace it, the trees that were dying and/or dead; the walnut tree that they were trying to use to build the altar in their new place. It was mostly rotten and they almost couldn't get enough wood to build it, and so I toured the whole campus. I did my homework. I read everything that's been given to us. Every letter sent, every email that's been sent, every proposal, the first and the second. I supported the first proposal and I support the second proposal, because I think it's even better, the revised one. I think that anyone that comes here to speak before this body should be able to explain their position without trying to impugn the integrity of the members of this council. So I would prefer and admire those individuals to come and speak on facts that are not intended to embarrass or try to destroy the honesty of people who serve on this dais."

My Take?

City Council's decision to approve building of a new Kroger on the property of the sisters of Notre Dame, was made "in that moment, period." The counter attack by the lionesses to Ferner's unprovoked attack on their honesty and reputation, I believe, vanquished the project's opposition.

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



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Rhonda Sewell: Bringing Light Into the Room Through Her Public Service

By Linda Nelson

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The first time I met Rhonda Sewell was at a business leadership meeting hosted by my church. Sewell was one of the guest speakers that day, and when she got up to address the crowd of 100 plus developing entrepreneurs, she was energetic, warm and inviting as she shared some of her business insights, and answered many of our questions.

At the end of the meeting, and with the same open energy, Sewell gave me her business card and extended an invitation to "call me." A couple of days later I did call. And although she was on her way to work, she took the time to listen to my business concerns and offer some advice. She told me that she was planning a trip in a few days but still invited me to "do lunch" when her schedule thinned out.

What I didn't know at the time was that during our conversation Sewell was most likely also preparing for a meeting with a district legislator, juggling the schedules of her teenaged twin daughters, brainstorming ideas for a board meeting at one of the many local organizations where she volunteers, thinking about edits for her book, preparing for a daily Facebook connection with her group of girlfriends and taking on the task of helping me.

This is Rhonda Sewell: manager of External and Governmental Affairs at the Toledo Lucas County Public Library, journalist, author, marketing strategist, community advocate, mother, friend and gracious giver.

In recognition for her years of gracious giving, Sewell is this year's recipient of the YWCA of Northwest Ohio's Milestones Award for Volunteerism. She will receive her award on Thursday, March 30 during the association's annual luncheon at the SeaGate Center in a ceremony that will be filled, for Sewell, with more than a touch of nostalgia and irony.

Sewell, in one of her many stints as a volunteer with numerous organizations, served on the board of the YWCA more than 20 years ago when the Milestones Awards were conceived by her and the other board members. The annual awards honor outstanding local women in a range of seven categories.

Thus, Sewell's passion for volunteering has come full circle.

"My mom always tells me, 'you must give back to the community that helped to raise you.' I took that to heart," said Sewell, about the proclivity she has for getting things done with openness and generosity, which forms the foundation of everything that she does.

"I looked around at what my parents were doing," Sewell said. They were active, and they were involved in the church, with service organizations in the community and in things that fought injustice."

And in a short time, Sewell has managed to accomplish much. Born

in Bowling Green, Ohio, she spent the first two years of her life living in the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity house on the BGSU campus where both her parents went to school and where her father served as chapter president and her mom was den mother.

"I was sort of a baby/toddler and don't remember much of it," Sewell said. "But the pictures are hilarious. I was sort of their mascot with these 'uncles' who had these Greek letters and they're holding me."

After college, the family moved to Toledo when Sewell's father, who earned his master's degree in public health, landed a job at the Toledo Lucas County Health Department. Sewell attended St. Angela Hall and St. Ursula Academy before her parents split and her mother remarried.

Sewell and her mother relocated to Michigan where she finished high school – but not before she received recognition for being one of the 10 most outstanding students. "I wasn't one of the most popular students, I was just a doer," she insisted.

Sewell would continue on a trajectory of doing as she enrolled at Michigan State University in Lansing. There Sewell worked on the school's independent college newspaper – The Michigan State News – and reported for the Lansing State Journal. She says that her early exposure with the written word helped shape her career choice.

"I chose journalism because I have always been a writer and a reader," Sewell said. "On the BG campus my parents would take me to see James Baldwin, and read Nikki Giovanni to me. Books were always around and doing the right thing was always the order of the day."

Sewell earned her undergraduate degree in journalism then seized on an opportunity to participate in a study abroad program that took her to London. She eventually enrolled at the University of London, and was in the process of taking graduate courses in international journalism, when her life was altered by an unforeseen encounter.

"My professor at the time looked at me one day and said 'what are you doing here? You need to go write,'" said Sewell. "That professor changed my life."

That professor connected her to the publisher of The Blade and at 21 years old, Sewell was soon on a telephone interview that would lead to an invitation for employment and an opportunity to tour overseas for the newspaper.



Rhonda Sewell

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The Truth Examines Despicable Lending Practices – Part 3 – Mortgage Predators

By Zahra Aprili

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

We all know the proverbial saying— "Home is Where Your Heart Is." But that does not actually answer the question "What is a home?"

The word home refers to the shelter where a person, family or group of people live. Depending on where the home is situated in the United States, it could be in the form of a detached house, town home, condo or apartment building. Not only is that definition broad and general, but it also lacks emotional perspective! Let's be specific, shall we? Let's look at our immediate area – northwest Ohio. What does the word HOME mean in here?

For Sally (not her real name), a young mother, home is a parcel in South Toledo that has a brick one story house and detached garage. The house has three bedrooms and one and a half baths. It is a piece of property and the house on that property, where she felt secure. So secure that it was the place in which she wanted to dwell and raise her children. For reasons unavailable to this journalist, Sally entered into an informal written agreement with a local property company for the purchase of the house previously described, for an agreed price of little over \$15,000 in early 2014.

Court records indicate that Sally paid the company approximately 36 percent of the purchase price upon entering the agreement. Sally and the owner of the property company, Mr. -----, met downtown at the Government Center to fill out forms and other documents needed for the sale and purchase. For the period of one year, she made regular monthly payments on the house and two additional lump sum payments. Mid-year, 2015, Sally made her final payment

fulfilling the purchase agreement and completing the purchase of her first home.

Unfortunately, Sally's story is not over. Instead of the feeling of accomplishment, satisfaction, and security that accompanies home ownership, Sally faced betrayal and deceit. A month after making her final payment, she was contacted by Mr. ----- who demanded more money from her for the purchase of the house. Sally refused and three days later a fraudulent Quit Deed Claim was filed transferring the property back into Mr. ----- name. It turns out that while both parties were down at Government Center at the commencement of the transaction, Mr. ----- instructed Sally to sign this form and later discovered that:

"Unbeknownst to Sally, Defendant ----- secretly retained the Deed and later had it notarized outside of Sally's presence and without her knowledge."

One day after, filing the Quit Claim Deed, Mr. ----- began eviction proceeding against Sally and her children. Around that same time, Sally went downtown to secure a copy of her deed, where she learned that the house was no longer in her name.

Sally was smart and she did not let herself get bullied. She kept copies of all her payment receipts; she filed a police report and contacted Legal Aid for help. It is 2017 and Sally is just starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Her case was recently scheduled to be heard in court and we hope that the outcome is in her favor.

Sally's case is just one example of how the dream of owning a home can go wrong. Unfortunately, she is not an exception to the woes that plague potential homeowners in Toledo.

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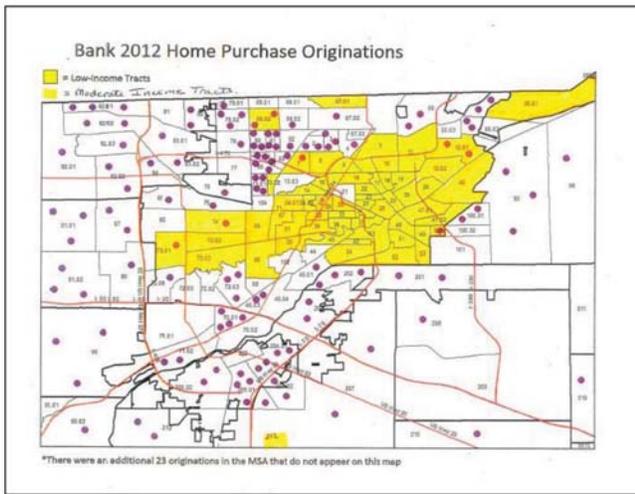
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Despicable Lending... continued from page 6

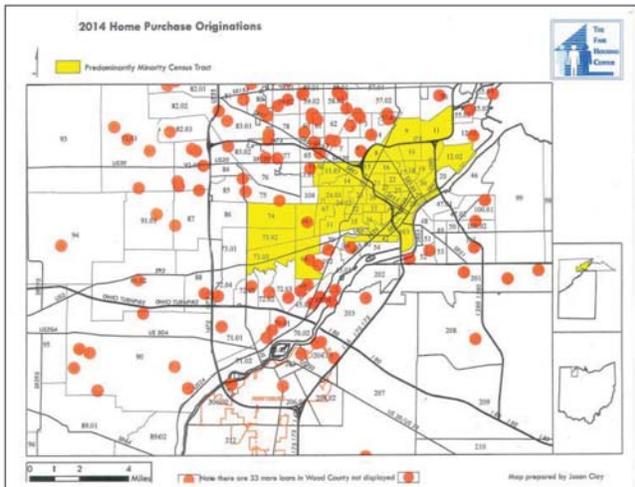
A number of questions spring to mind about why Sally ended up with a loan from someone whose business practices either could not be verified or were blatantly not above board?

Why not obtain a mortgage from a conventional lending institution such as a bank? Had Sally applied for a conventional loan and been turned down? Or, had Sally, aware from past experiences or interactions with others in her neighborhood or of her background, assumed that an application for a bank loan would not go well?

Below is a 2012 Fair Housing map of Lucas County. The areas highlighted are Low-Income and Moderate Income census tracks. The dots represent bank loans for home purchases. In 2012, two percent of local bank loans in Lucas County originated in low-income and moderate-income census tracks. These census tracks are predominately minority. What is the justifiable explanation for that number being so low?



Below, in this 2014 Fair Housing Map of Lucas County shows loan originations in the predominately Minority Census tract. In 2014 there was virtually no lending occurring with minorities in Lucas County. ZERO. How is that the case when we know that in 2014 people like Sally were living, working and purchasing homes in the area?



Total Units	72	318	167	557	5,260	532	363	94
Average Price	57,745	91,053	153,391	105,900	325,148	109,482	140,718	165,884
Volume (in 1000's)	4158	28955	25616	58987	1710280	58245	51081	15593

Days on Market	Units
0 - 30	45
31 - 60	127
61 - 90	124
91 - 120	88
121 & Over	173

Financing	Units	Financing	Units
Agent-Owner	0	Owner Financing	0
Assumption	0	Seller Assist	4
Cash	197	Trade/Exchange	0
Conventional	205	VA	23
FHA	93	Other	30
FHA/VA	4	Undefined	0
Lease	0	Not Used	0
Lease Purchase	1		

NOVEMBER

Total Units	75	320	151	546	4,900	518	470	102
Average Price	60,485	90,670	180,703	110,255	339,153	109,620	138,853	9,948,327
Volume (in 1000's)	4536	29014	27286	60195	1661850	56783	65261	1014525

Days on Market	Units
0 - 30	45
31 - 60	134
61 - 90	118
91 - 120	58
121 & Over	190

Financing	Units	Financing	Units
Agent-Owner	0	Owner Financing	1
Assumption	0	Seller Assist	1
Cash	202	Trade/Exchange	0
Conventional	210	VA	30
FHA	83	Other	12
FHA/VA	2	Undefined	0
Lease	0	Not Used	0
Lease Purchase	5		

DECEMBER

The information above is a summary of financing statistics for the months of November and December, 2014 from the Northwest Ohio Real Estate Information Systems' (NORIS.) Why was there no lending originating from local banking sources in these minority census tracks?

According to Jen Teschner, senior manager of Systemic Investigations for the Toledo Fair Housing Center, given the availability of houses in low-to-moderate income neighborhoods and the population therein, the equitable amount of loans in these neighborhoods should be in the area of nine percent. That was the goal that Fair Housing was shooting for, and could see some progress in attaining, in the years prior to the great recession that began in 2008.

"We felt lenders were making progress in proportional lending," says Teschner. "Since the great recession, lending has come back, but not proportionally in communities of color."

Yes, houses were being bought and sold in northwest Ohio. In November of 2014 there were 205 conventional loans and in December 210. But none of them were from local banks to minority customers. These graphics show Lucas County went from two percent of loans going into minority census tracks in 2012 to -0- in 2014. The 11/2014 and 12/2014 tables are only a snapshot, 1/6, of the disproportion that occurred in 2014.

So, what is a home? Most would agree that the definition given at the start of this piece is an accurate definition. It is the place you are building your memories. It is the security of knowing that the place you lay your head is yours. It is the individual and family wealth that you are building.

However, on some streets and neighborhoods in the City of Toledo, County of Lucas, it is an illusion. An illusion fueled by institutionalized discriminatory practices. An illusion enabled by the abandonment of community and local financial institutions removing their accessibility from would be borrowers. An illusion clothed then stripped by mortgage lenders that did not care about the effects of their practices or impact on the communities they entered. Illusions spun by mortgage lenders like American Equity Mortgage and Beneficial, companies who are known to have participated in practices that have been labeled predatory in function.

FIRST TIME HOME OWNER? FINANCE, REFINANCE, HOW ABOUT A HOME EQUITY LOAN FOR SOME IMPROVEMENTS? Sign Here, Here and Here. Psst...If you are elderly or a person of color we especially want to help. Why settle for just an equity line, let us show you our platinum refinance plan.

Did you sign for a "quick" mortgage that had no documents or papers? Did a representative convince to you go with a loan product that you did not initially want or need? What about an interest only loan or a loan that has huge end of life payment, known as a "balloon" payment? Have your payments been properly credited?

Unjustified fees; inflated interest; including the debt from unsecured sources like credit cards or medical bills; inflation of "points" or what the lenders fee is for making the loan; penalties for early repayment or prepayment, are all examples of practices that mortgage lenders used to increase their profits while subjecting unsuspecting consumers to unjust lending terms. Have you been victimized?

Take the time to look at your current mortgage; it is not too late to seek help. If you have not purchased a home in Toledo using financing, you now have some background. When it is all said, and done, having a home and keeping it should never be an illusion or just a dream. It should be a reality.

Ed Note: This is the end of Part 3 of our series on predatory lending. Part 4 will start next week focusing on predatory lending in auto loans.

The Blessing of the Hands Interfaith Service

Sojourner's Truth Staff

On Sunday, April 9, Third Baptist Church, in collaboration with the African American Legacy Project, will host a Blessing of the Hands Interfaith Service at 10:00 am in an effort to bring together those of different faiths with community caregivers.

"We are trying to join forces together with all types of caregivers," said Rev. K. David Johnson, D. Min, pastor of Third Baptist Church.

The Blessing of the Hands project has already brought together leaders of the Muslim, Jewish, Catholic and Protestant faiths to organize an effort to bring those in the health professions to the table in order to foster "more unity between Toledo area community services among those who offer services to others," said Johnson.

Johnson added that the models for their efforts were those "brave men and women who go to war for their country." Before such service for their country, he noted, they often ask for blessings.

A call has gone out to those in the health professions to join those of various faiths for this initial event, said Robert Smith, executive director of the African American Legacy Project. "What's really critical is how different professions coalesce," he added.

Smith said that the purpose of the joint effort is both to "celebrate those who honor us with their professions" and to "create a data base and directory to link to medical providers."

The faith leaders will be on the dais during the April 9 service, the homily will be presented by a hospital chaplain and doctor and nurses choirs will provide the music.

A meet and greet will be held after service in the church.



Pinky Evans; Barbie Harrison; Johnnie Early, PhD; Herman Harrison; Rev. Le Roy Williams; Imam Farooq Aboelzabab; Robert Smith; Father Tony Gallagher; Rashieda Timpson; First Lady Sheila Johnson; Pastor David Johnson

Jack and Jill Hosts Cluster for Moms and Children at Toledo Zoo

The Toledo Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. hosted the 2017 Northern Ohio Children's/Tween Cluster on Saturday March 18 at the Toledo Zoo's African Lodge. This year's Cluster theme was "The Power to Make a Difference: Caring for Community, Environment and Ourselves."

Children in grades six through eight participated in a "Shark Tank, Jr" program with the goal of inspiring such youth to dream of becoming

...continued on page 12

D'Vine Pen Holds Book Signing at Camino Real

Dela Sean Morgan, a/k/a D'Vine Pen, Houston resident and one-time Toledo resident, held a book-signing on Thursday, March 9 at El Camino Real on Douglas to introduce prospective area readers to her first book of poetry, *Dark Hearts*. This first book was a collaboration between D'Vine and her writing partner and co-author Frederick James Lee, a/k/a Surreal

D'Vine's focus in this collection of poems is "about relations once they go bad," she told The Truth.

"The book was written," say the authors in their notes, "with every reader in mind who has gone through a difficult marriage, hard times dealing with a boyfriend or girlfriend, or someone who has been mentally or physically abused."

D'Vine was joined at El Camino by numerous Toledo family members and friends to celebrate the book's publication and the start of the author's volume of work.



NaTasha Jones-Baker, Sheila Eason, Midwestern Regional Director Nadine Gibson, Angelita Cruz-Bridges, Stacey Jackson-Jones



Young entrepreneurs

Indiana Avenue's Congregation Helps Pastor Roberts Celebrate His 90th

Special to The Truth

Reverend John E Roberts, D.Min, celebrated a milestone during a 90th birthday brunch surrounded by friends, well wishers and church family on March 11, 2017 at the Stevenson Roberts Fellowship Hall of the Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church. The theme, "A Journey Well Traveled" from Proverbs 323 through 326, was very appropriate for a man whose footsteps have been led by God for many years.

With his lovely wife, First Lady Mother Bernice Roberts, and his family by his side, the pastor entered the beautifully decorated hall walking down a pathway to emphasize his journey. His accomplishments are many, including having a street named in his honor and along with many years of visiting the sick and shut-in members of family and friends. He has contributed to the community with his presence at many meetings and in service to others.

Roberts has served as pastor and Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church for 52 years faithfully and diligently. He has, say members of his flock, a selfless love for his church family and a child-like faith in the Lord.

The hall was filled with over 200 church family and friends, along with a host of elected officials and dignitaries. A special program was given in his honor and proclamations from the city and state were read by members of the City Council and state government.

Former assistants, now pastors of their own churches, spoke in tribute to their former leader: Rev. Jerome Graham, Rev. Jerry Boose, Rev. Rufus Middleton and Rev. W.L. Perryman.

Reverend Roberts has been married to Bernice Roberts for over 60 years. He is the father of three sons: Reverend Derrick Roberts, Reverend Jeffrey Roberts and Tracy Roberts. He is a pastor, father, grandfather, uncle, teacher and counselor.

Delores Bates and Clara Brank served as co-chairmen of the birthday

committee. Committee members included Jacqueline Jackson, Frankie Anderson, Sharon-Green Gaines, Willie Purnell, Larry Jones, Jelise Roberts, Carlis Stevens, Gevette Love and Robert Jackson



Tracy, Derrick, John, Bernice and Jeffrey Roberts



Councilmembers Cecelia Adams, PhD; Peter Ujvagi, Theresa Gabriel and Larry Sykes, with Eric Walker (second from right) Director of LC Workforce Development



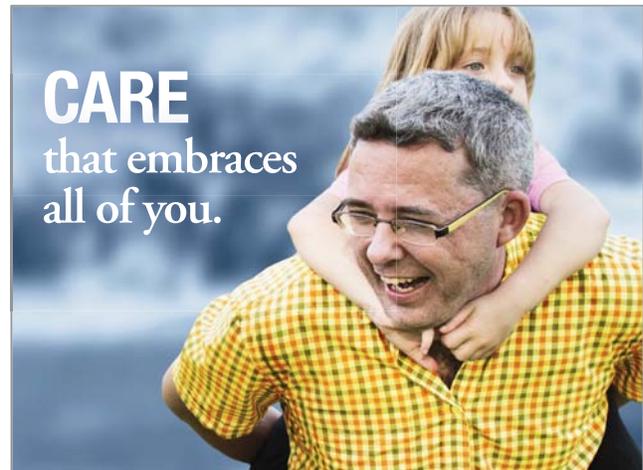
Front - Carlis Stevens, Delores Bates, Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson, Clara Brank, Dorothy Edwards; Back - Barbara Robinson, Sharon Jones, Robert Jackson, Willie Purnell



Bishop Robert Culp and Rev. John Walthall (seated); Rev. W.L. Perryman (standing)



Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson and State Rep. Michael Ashford



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CONFIDENT. COMMUNITY. CARE.

Rhonda Sewell.. continued from page 5

"They sent me to the Netherlands, Italy, Switzerland, Brussels, and Belgium," she said. "I was developing stories daily because I was getting paid. Everything was paid. And I would call The Blade's city desk every day and say 'I'm in Geneva and the Cyprus talks are going on. I can get a press pass and cover the story.' or 'I'm in Milan do you want something on fashion? I'm in Paris do you want something about the expatriates that have moved here?'"

Sewell says she was always met with the same response. "He just said 'You can go if you want to for the experience but I just want you to take a tour.'"

Sewell said she found out later that the publisher just wanted her to grow, and to learn and become immersed in those experiences so that when she came back to Toledo she would be a more developed reporter.

Once she returned to the states, Sewell finally got her chance to report. She would work for The Blade for 18 years and, in between, she taught. An invitation came from a BGSU professor who asked if she would teach a journalism course at the university.

"They asked me to be an adjunct professor and teach real world curriculum," Sewell said. And true to form, the "doer" asked if she could develop her own class curriculum. "I know mass media and I love black culture," she remembered. "So I developed and taught a course on the historical perspective of African Americans and Mass Media." Sewell would teach that course for two years.

In 2006, Sewell says The Blade union employees, which included her, had become embroiled in heated contract negotiations. She says the talks involved significant pay cuts and, once again, she was urged to rethink her future.

"I thought I would only work at The Blade for two years and then move on to USA Today or The New York Times and that would be it," said Sewell.

But even with the uncertainty of her job status, Sewell's propensity for philanthropy would lead her into the next assignment.

"I continued to be active in the community," said Sewell. "I came through the doors of the library for a board meeting with the American Heart Association when the library deputy director at the time and the current marketing manager stopped me and said that their media relations coordinator had just taken another job. I looked at the salary, which was a little higher and I looked at all of the headaches from the negotiations." Sewell applied for the position.

And she admits that even though she had become comfortable in her position at The Blade, it was time to move on.

But now it was no longer reporting and journalism, but marketing and PR. "It's what I did naturally," said Sewell. "This is what drives me. I'm a people person."

And 11 years later Sewell has found herself in the place that she describes as her dream position, as she works everyday doing exactly what she loves.

"This position didn't exist before," she said. "My director created this role for me because he knew that I would stand on top of this desk and wax poetic about the library."

She says that her current goal is to promote the library's mission through a variety of methods.

"This is an advocacy role," Sewell said. "Advocacy is mainly convincing legislators, not only of what our offerings are, but reminding them of what our core values are and what our mission is because we place a lot of value in the community. We have never had an advocacy role here. I'm pushing the agenda for the library and part of advocacy is establishing a relationship with people and telling them about our good works."

For Sewell this means meeting regularly with political leaders who have the power to fund library programs like its literacy initiative.

"We have to constantly convince legislatures of our value," Sewell said.

She says convincing involves making monthly trips to Columbus in order to establish and maintain relationships with elected officials and keep the library's agenda relevant. And she says she makes it her business to know the agendas of those she needs to influence.

"For Senator [Sherrod] Brown, education is his interest. For [State Rep] Teresa Fedor, it is human trafficking," Sewell said. "[U.S. Congresswoman] Marcy Kaptur's new focus is early literacy, so when she kicked off her early literacy reading tour – about the importance of words in familie – I offered our library as the place for her news

conference."

And in her spare time Sewell is brainstorming ideas and creating programs through her community endeavors. One of the programs that she is proud of is the Real Men READ-y initiative – a public school reading program that was established in 2012 through her association with the United Way of Greater Toledo's African American Leadership Council's Strategic Partnership Committee.

"We had a specific focus that year on black males," Sewell said. "They weren't graduating like black females. And then there were the obvious issues like police brutality, incarceration and drugs. As I was thinking about how we could affect change I thought, I work at a library, I'm into literacy, and my dad had been a part of this reading program called 'Real Men Read' in Chicago."

Sewell said that the Chicago reading program involved men from the community going into schools and reading to kids. But she wanted to modify the program to be more focused on black boys, and she wanted the program to be regulated so that they could track and measure its effectiveness.

"Black men aren't missing from the hood, but there are a lot of black male role models who are missing," Sewell explained. "So I wanted it to be successful, but what we didn't know was that there was going to be a behavior change. These men are imparting wisdom and it's all from a book."

Sewell says there are currently 90 black men in the Toledo community who consistently volunteer their time and attention three times a week to participate in the program.

"We teach them the Dialogic method of reading which is a participatory type of reading," Sewell said. "They read books that are relatable, culturally relevant and sensitive to boys. The teachers choose the most troubled kids and those who have the most difficulty reading, and they say that this is often the most consistent parts of these boy's lives. These men are there. One teacher describes it as 'when they see those black men coming to read to those babies it's like a king walking through the doors.' Because real men our ready to take their rightful place in our community. It's a great program."

Sewell says that the program's measurement analysis shows improvements in the boys' reading scores and an increase in their love of reading.

"These boys may be authors, senators, or TARTA bus drivers but this program will make them better men," she said. "And the men say that these boys have changed their lives also."

Sewell is happy about the success of the reading program, but she's not surprised by it.

"I think that people know what they're going to get when I get on board," she said. "If I'm involved we're going to create something. Something is going to happen. If we aren't making change happen, I'm out. Otherwise why am I wearing the pin? What are we doing here? We're not just pin wearers, we're doers. We should be doing something to make the community a little better. I'm a mission driven person, so I always go back to whatever the mission is. This is how I roll. This is how I get down."

Sewell says that the substance of her fierce determination and commitment is founded, in part, on an ancestral platform that existed before her, but also on her strong faith.

Sewell has two cousins who have made great strides in society. Ethel Lois Payne, a civil rights activist and journalist, who worked for the Chicago Defender in the 1950s, and Willa B. Brown, the first woman and African American to get a commercial pilot's license in the U.S., and the subject of Sewell's book.

"Every time I read stories about the both of them, they were both fighting some kind of injustice," Sewell said. "They both had a justice bent and I think that was passed along to me. And I learned a lot from my mommy. She is my rock. We're just a very strong matriarchal family where women are at the pinnacle and the rocks of the family. But although you achieve a lot because of your talents, some of it you just can't explain. Our trajectory is paved by a lot of prayer. God orders those steps. I often tell God I am so not worthy, but thank you. I



MC Rhonda Sewell

...continued on page 13

Hair Loss Happens

Special to The Truth

The word "alopecia" is the medical term for hair loss. Alopecia does not refer to one specific hair loss disease -- any form of hair loss is alopecia. Mistakenly thought to be a strictly male disease, women actually make up 40 percent of American hair loss sufferers.

Hair Loss Happens and is a common concern at any age. Most hair shedding is due to the normal hair cycle, and losing 50-100 hairs per day is no cause for alarm. People who notice their hair shedding in large amounts after combing or brushing, or whose hair becomes thinner or falls out, should consult a dermatologist.

"I have been treating patients with hair loss for 20 years," says Dr. Hope Mitchell, MD, "and it can be caused by many factors from genetics to the environment."

While androgenetic or hereditary hair loss (male or female pattern baldness) is by far the most common form of alopecia, dermatologists also see many people with other forms of hair loss such as alopecia areata (round bald patches), ringworm, scarring alopecia, and hair loss due to cosmetic over processing. Drugs used for cancer, arthritis, depression, heart problems, high blood pressure and birth control can cause hair loss.

Did you know that you are born with all the hair follicles you will ever make in your lifetime? Interestingly, by week 22, a developing fetus has all of its hair follicles formed and we do not generate new hair follicles anytime during the course of our lives. There are a total of one million follicles on the head, with one hundred thousand of those follicles residing on the scalp. We are naturally going to lose follicles as we age; therefore, we need to protect them by avoiding over processing and tightly pulled hairstyles.

Did you know that at any given time, a random number of hairs are in one of three stages of growth and shedding? At any point, 90 percent of our hairs are in the growth phase, which can last three to six years. The other 10 percent are in the shedding phase.

Some people have difficulty growing their hair beyond a certain length because they have a short active phase of growth -- likely three years or less. On the other hand, people with very long hair have a long active phase of growth -- likely three years or longer.

How do dermatologists diagnose and treat hair loss? Most insurance companies will cover an initial appointment for the evaluation of your hair loss. Because so many things can cause hair loss, a dermatologist acts like a detective.

When evaluating your hair loss, some of the questions Dr. Mitchell may ask you about include your diet, allergies, medications, hormone changes, family history of hair loss, recent illness, and hair care habits. In some cases blood tests or a scalp biopsy may be required for an accurate diagnosis. It's important to find the cause of hair thinning as soon as possible for early and effective intervention.

Dr. Mitchell may recommend nutritional supplements, Minoxidil--over the counter--Rogaine with or without prescription creams and/or pills, steroid injections or the newest technology-Platelet Rich Plasma (PRP) injections-to help stimulate hair growth and counteract hair loss.

PRP and Hair Loss

Dr. Mitchell is excited about offering PRP injections to her patients and the results they are getting from these treatments. PRP is a promising new hair loss treatment for women and men to regrow and thicken hair without surgery.

"PRP works by injecting platelets from my patient's own blood directly into the scalp," says Dr. Mitchell. "These platelets contain growth factors that stimulate regrowth and thickening of hair follicles." The primary purpose of using PRP in hair restoration is to stimulate inactive or newly implanted hair follicles into an active growth phase.

If there is no scarring of the hair follicles, patients can see results as early as a few weeks after the treatment. This procedure is safe and ideal for patients who are experiencing any hair loss from localized thinning in the temples to diffuse or generalized hair loss. PRP therapy can be combined with Rogaine, prescription topical and oral medication and steroid injections. It is not recommended for people who have a history of heavy smoking, platelet dysfunction or chronic infections or diseases.

Join Dr. Mitchell and her highly trained medical staff for Hair Loss Happens an event to learn more about the causes and treatments for this common condition or visit our website www.mitchellderm.com for more information about PRP injections. Call Mitchell Dermatology today at 419-872-HOPE (4673) to schedule your hair loss consultation.

Mitchell Dermatology's Hair Loss Happens Event

Date: Wednesday, March 29

Time: 1p.m. and 4 p.m.

RSVP: mitchellderm.com or 419.872.HOPE (4673)



Dr. Hope Mitchell

Heroin hurts children, too. Become a foster parent.



Help LCCS meet the growing need for foster parents. Free training takes place Monday & Wednesday evenings, April 3 through May 10, from 6 to 9 p.m.

Classes are held at the Lucas County Children Services Training Center, 711 Adams St., in downtown Toledo. To register, call 419-213-3336 or visit www.lucaskids.net



Art & Soul

TICKETS/COVER: \$5

FRIDAY, MARCH 24 AT THE TRUTH ART GALLERY



Featuring playwright and author Joyce Lewis; Child of the System; Victoria Lawrence; Eternal FIYAH and Latoya Williams.

Plus there will be an open mic sign-up for anyone wanting to perform. This will be a spoken word celebration!

Light refreshments served • Doors open at 9 p.m.

Log onto Eventbrite.com and type "Art & SOUL @ Truth Art Gallery: Express Your SOUL!" in the search bar to purchase tickets in advance

Located at 1811 Adams Street (UpTown Toledo)

This is B.Y.O.B. event -- you may bring your own food as well.

Toledo Zoo... continued from page 8

ing entrepreneurs. Local entrepreneurs walked the Tweens through the process of developing a business idea, taught them how to turn their business ideas into profitable businesses and how to pit their idea.

Finally the Tweens presented their proposals to a panel of judges who graded the Tween on creativity, the business plan and overall presentation.

Meanwhile children in grades one-to five participated in various activities facilitated by the Toledo Zoo, including a behind-the-scenes tour of the Aquarium.

A total of 39 children joined the chapter for the Zoo activities.

The mothers also enjoyed some R & R away from the children. Mother activities included a local doctor, Traci Watkins, speaking about women's health, a demonstration of essential oils and a tour of the Aquarium.

The local chapter of Jack and Jill is participating in a community service project by collecting donations for the Family House.

*Edna Brown... continued from page 4*

Recently, Ohio experienced another incident of this type of violence. James Ramey is charged with killing his intimate partner Amanda Mangas with a gun on March 14. He had previously been convicted of domestic violence against her—for holding a knife to her throat when she said she might leave him.

“Along with Constitutional rights comes great individual responsibility,” Brown added. “If a person has been convicted of violent domestic abuse or is under a protection order for the safety of another human being then that person has forfeited his or her right to own a gun.”

Overall one in two American women who are killed with guns is killed by a romantic partner or family member. Moreover, roughly 4.5 million women alive today have been threatened with a gun by an intimate partner. According to Gallup, over 60 percent of Americans are dissatisfied with United States gun laws. And a second recent poll from Gallup shows that a majority of Americans agree that laws limiting gun access should be stronger.

“If we value the lives of our mothers, wives, and daughters, we have a responsibility to act,” emphasized Brown. “Millions of Americans have spoken and deserve to be heard: Ohio needs common-sense gun laws, and this means keeping firearms away from violent domestic abusers. I wish we could have acted sooner to help protect Amanda Mangas.”

Kroger Issue.. continued from page 3

ern Michigan. And, the proposal that Miller made to the sisters of Notre Dame was for the type of balanced community living opportunities that will attract senior Toledoans to it, while preserving the natural beauty and historic properties at this site. Monroe Street does not need another Kroger box store decimating this outstanding piece of property.

Now, let us talk jobs – construction jobs. I understand Shaun Enright is pushing this project because of the jobs it will create. However, a Kroger Store at this site will actually cost Toledo union workers jobs. If Kroger builds at this site, that's it for jobs – no more. However if Miller Diversified builds upon this site, Kroger will find another site to build upon, or simply expand at their present site as they have done in other areas and you will have both the Miller construction jobs and Kroger construction jobs. And, Kroger will build another store! They want to keep up with the competition they will be getting on Secor Road.

Speaking of the building of another Kroger store, may I ask council members to have a Kroger store built in central Toledo, including downtown Toledo. Kroger continues to move their stores closer and into suburbia. And as they do, they are hiring fewer and fewer minorities. During the past 48 hours I visited six Kroger stores – three in Toledo and three in suburbia. I wanted to count the number of minority employees on the floor and visible at these six stores. I have been told that Kroger has promised to build a central Toledo store – if you give them this site. I was told that 20 years ago!

No such store has been built, and since that time five Toledo stores in the urban core of Toledo have been shuttered. Thus I wanted to see what the employment staff looked like at the six stores I just toured. Here are the exact numbers as these employees were front, center and busily involved in their Kroger duties the last 48 hours.

Total Employees – 133

Caucasian – 110

African American – 20

Hispanic/Latino – 3

I am told that Toledo's minority population is 33 percent. Kroger is hiring, based on my observation, about 16 percent of their employees from the minority population – not nearly what they should be doing.

Do those of you voting today – and next week – believe that the city of Toledo owes Kroger the benefits of this lovely piece of property that could easily remain a jewel in the middle of a very busy corridor? Or, should you be guided by a Plan Commission that studies these proposals with great integrity and forethought – a Plan Commission that has twice rejected this Kroger proposal. And they were not aware of the promises Kroger made to Mayor Ford and myself about building a central city Krogers. And I doubt they studied the make-up of the Kroger workforce as I did the past two days. Other than the Kroger Monroe Street store, there were no more than two or three minorities out of 25 employees at five other stores.

In your public lives, this is a very important inning. Twenty years from now you can point to a box store on cement at Monroe and Secor and ask, “why did I allow this?” Or, you can, 20 years from now, point to trees, green grass, some meaningful buildings and a campus-like setting, with people strolling about and say “isn't that beautiful! I played a key role in preserving that beautiful piece of real estate.”

This issue is a no-brainer. Hold the hand of the Sisters, suggest they review the Miller proposal – or others. And send Krogers back to the drawing board. There are about a half-dozen appropriate Kroger type parcels in the neighborhood! And please push for a central city store – with a higher percentage of minority employees.

Carty Finkbeiner

Who Thought This Was a Good Idea? by Alyssa Mastromonaco (with Lauren Oyler)

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

Your boss is a VIP: a Very Important Person.

Nothing gets done without approval from the Executive Suite and nothing is unnoticed; there's a finger on the pulse of your company at all times, which is probably how The Boss got to the top. And in the new book **Who Thought This Was a Good Idea?** by Alyssa Mastromonaco (with Lauren Oyler), you'll see what it's like to work for a guy who's more than just the president of any corporation...

Born in the mid-1970s and raised in small-town Vermont, Mastromonaco says she was independent early-on and marched to her own drummer but wasn't particularly political unless it was "cool." Nevertheless, one summer between college semesters, she interned for Bernie Sanders and discovered what she wanted to do with her life.

But, first, she worked as a paralegal. She had a short stint in finance, and she worked at Sotheby's. Finally, she practically begged for a job with John Kerry's team, but she says she knew that she didn't want to work for anyone who'd ever want to run for president, so she procured a job with Senator Barack Obama's team. Ha!

There were no working manuals for the youngest woman to ever assume the office of deputy chief of staff to the president. It was hard to find advice ("... all my mentors were men") and so Mastromonaco decided to write a book in answer the question of do-ability for the average job-seeker.

If you want a job in politics, "always be prepared" because "Preparation is protection you can create for yourself." Walk with purpose; try

c. 2017
Twelve
\$27.00 / \$35.00 Canada
256 pages

"to look like you belong." Before you take a job, "ask to see where you'll be sitting." Be "reasonable, savvy, and polite..." to the entire staff, and know as much as possible about the people you meet. Remember that "your credit score matters." Watch what you do on social media. Take care of yourself. And finally, when it's time to go, go... but do it with class.

Though author Alyssa Mastromonaco (with Lauren Oyler) says she hadn't planned on making this book a biography, that's about half of what you get here. The other half is sass and swagger and more profanity than you should expect, mixed with business advice that sometimes hovers between the lines.

Who Thought This Was a Good Idea? indeed.

Actually, you will. This book is a unique insider's peek at how presidential campaigns are run, how POTUS travels seemingly seamlessly and how one person does the 24/7 job of six. Readers with their sights set on major behind-the-scenes political employment will appreciate Mastromonaco's truthfulness: she writes of sleepless nights and "the loneliest time of my life," as well as the rewards of an interesting job – all of which she tells with humor and not just a little pride.

This is an easy-to-enjoy book that makes readers feel more in-the-know, especially if you're curious, business-minded, or love politics. For you, the VIP in *Who Thought This Was a Good Idea?* is in its Very Important Pages.

Rhonda Sewell.. continued from page 10

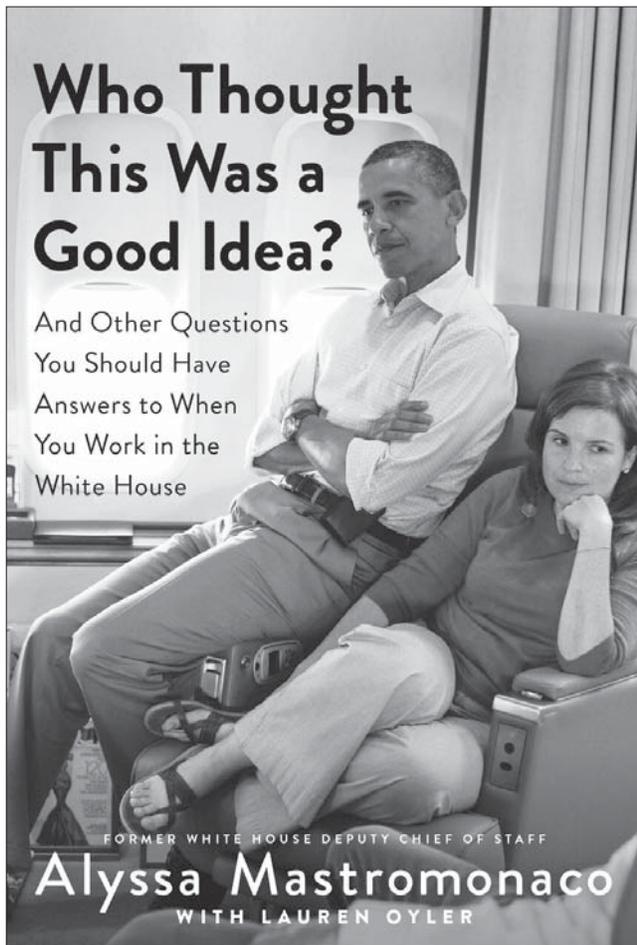
have to say that I live a blessed life, and I've led and done some great things to effect change, but I was a servant too."

Sewell's life will transition again as her girls go off to college next year, but she doesn't plan on slowing down.

"My next project will definitely be working with our girls and their self-esteem," she said. "I love this life thing, and I'm going to walk this path and effect change. I don't have to be rich, and I don't have to shine all the time. I like driving and orchestrating from behind the scenes."

Sewell wants to be remembered as a servant, and a good friend, and as someone who brings light into the room. And she hopes that those attributes are passed along into the lives of her own daughters. "I see the justice spirit in my girls but I also see a kind spirit," she said. "I tell them please be kind, not to be walked over, but it's hope that I've instilled that in my daughters."

For more information about the Real Men READ-y program visit the website at <http://www.unitedwaytoledo.org/real-men-read-y>



CLASSIFIEDS

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Sealed Bids will be received by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority for all labor, material, insurance, and equipment necessary for the **Rehabilitate Terminal Apron** project located at Toledo Express Airport in Swanton, Ohio 43558, in accordance with the approved plans and specifications. The engineer's estimate for the base bid for the project is approximately \$398,050.00.

Bids will be received at the Port Authority's administrative offices at One Maritime Plaza, Toledo, OH 43604 until Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at 10:00 AM, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Plans, Specifications, Instructions to Proposers, and Forms of Proposal and Contract are on file, and may be obtained by either (1) obtaining hard copies from Apex Micrographics, Inc., 5973 Telegraph Road, Toledo, OH 43612, phone 419.476.6535, during normal business hours, or (2) ordering from Apex Micrographics, Inc. via e-mail to ami5973@sbcglobal.net at a non-refundable price of \$TBD.

Please note that there will be a pre-bid meeting for this project for all prospective bidders on Monday, April 3, 2017 at 10:00 AM in the Banquet Room in the Toledo Express Airport terminal building, 11013 Airport Highway, Swanton, Ohio 43558. Attendance is suggested, but not necessary. Please submit all questions to the Port Authority, Gilda Mitchell at gmitchell@toledoport.org by Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 2:00 PM local time. Attendance is suggested, but not necessary. Additional information can be found at www.toledoport.org

Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority
Paul L. Toth, Jr., P.E., President & CEO

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Sealed Bids will be received by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority for all labor, material, insurance, and equipment necessary for the **Rehabilitate Taxiway D** project located at Toledo Express Airport in Swanton, Ohio 43558, in accordance with the approved plans and specifications. The engineer's estimate for the base bid for the project is approximately \$1,432,950.00. Bids will be received at the Port Authority's administrative offices at One Maritime Plaza, Toledo, OH 43604 until Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at 10:30 AM, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Plans, Specifications, Instructions to Proposers, and Forms of Proposal and Contract are on file, and may be obtained by either (1) obtaining hard copies from Apex Micrographics, Inc., 5973 Telegraph Road, Toledo, OH 43612, phone 419.476.6535, during normal business hours, or (2) ordering from Apex Micrographics, Inc. via e-mail to ami5973@sbcglobal.net at a non-refundable price of \$TBD. Please note that there will be a pre-bid meeting for this project for all prospective bidders on Monday, April 3, 2017 at 10:00 AM in the Banquet Room in the Toledo Express Airport terminal building, 11013 Airport Highway, Swanton, Ohio 43558. Attendance is suggested, but not necessary. Please submit all questions to the Port Authority, Gilda Mitchell at gmitchell@toledoport.org by Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 2:00 PM local time. Attendance is suggested, but not necessary. Additional information can be found at www.toledoport.org.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF OWNER SELECTION FOR PROJECT-BASED VOUCHER

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) provides public notice of the selection of an owner to provide housing under the Project-Based Voucher (PBV) Program. The selection was made in accordance to the LMHA Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Plan. LMHA selected a proposal previously selected based on a Low-Income Housing Tax Credit competition

Date Selected: 3/9/17

Owner/Property: United North/St. Hedwig Senior Housing

PBV Units Awarded: 38

Project Type: New Construction



LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Section 5101:2-25-03 of the Ohio Administrative Code, Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services (LCDJFS) will hold a public hearing prior to the submission of the County's Final 2018-2019 Social Service Plan to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services for incorporation in the Comprehensive Social Services Plan for the State of Ohio.

PURPOSE:

To highlight pertinent data and information regarding identified social services problems, needs, resources, and gaps in service along with recommendations to the proposed two-year county plan.

To elicit public comment, suggestions, and recommendations relative to the County's proposed Social Service Plan.

DATE: April 11, 2017

TIME: 2pm-4pm

LOCATION: LCDJFS, 3210 Monroe Street, Toledo Room, 4th floor

Entities wishing to have their points of view captured in the County's submission to the State must submit proposals (not to exceed two pages) to Lucas_Contracts@jfs.ohio.gov by 4pm on April 4, 2017. If individuals would like to present their proposals in person at the hearing as well, they must indicate that at the bottom of their proposal. This should include the speaker's name and contact information. Those wishing to speak must register upon arrival at LCDJFS on the 11th and all efforts will be made to accommodate everyone who would like to speak. If time constraints don't allow for that to happen, individuals will still have their written proposals reviewed and included in the LCDJFS summary report to the State.

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Spring 2017 updates effective March 19.

On Sunday, March 19, 2017, the TARTA spring route schedule begins.

As some routes will be affected by routing and time changes, new timetables and maps are available at TARTA.com/Spring2017



- **2C Sylvania-Centennial/Franklin Park**
- **DISCONTINUED** and replaced with 6 King Road/City of Sylvania
- **3 North/South Crosstown**
- schedule adjustments on all trips; will no longer interline with route 2C/6 King Road/City of Sylvania
- **5 Dorr via UT Main Campus/5R Dorr/Richards**
- schedule adjustments
- **6 King Road/City of Sylvania**
- experimental route to replace 2C name, routing, and schedule adjustments; modification in routing with timepoints at Franklin Park Mall, Flower Hospital, Lourdes University, Meijer, and Wal-Mart
- **7 Sylvania Township Express via Central/Meijer Dr**
- **DISCONTINUED**
- **10 Rossford Call-A-Ride**
- schedule adjustments
- **10L Rossford via Hollywood Casino**
- schedule adjustments
- **11/12/13/14 East Toledo**
- schedule adjustments
- **15A Summit/Suder/Alexis**
- **15E Summit/Point Place via Alexis**
- schedule adjustments
- **17B Lagrange/Bennett via Miracle Mile**
- **17E Lagrange/Eleanor via Miracle Mile**
- schedule adjustments
- **22F Bancroft via UT Campus/Franklin Park**
- schedule adjustments
- **24 Delaware/Kenwood via Westgate**
- **24T Delaware/Indian via Westgate**
- schedule adjustments
- **27H Nebraska/Hill-Reynolds**
- **27N Nebraska/Angola-Wenz**
- schedule adjustments
- **28/30 City Park/Indiana/Oakwood**
- schedule adjustments
- **34 Detroit/Byrne/Western via UTMC**
- schedule adjustments
- **42 Miracle Mile with stops at Owens Corning**
- **DISCONTINUED**
- **43 Maumee-Arrowhead/Western via UTMC**
- schedule adjustments
- **44X St Luke's Hospital**
- schedule adjustments



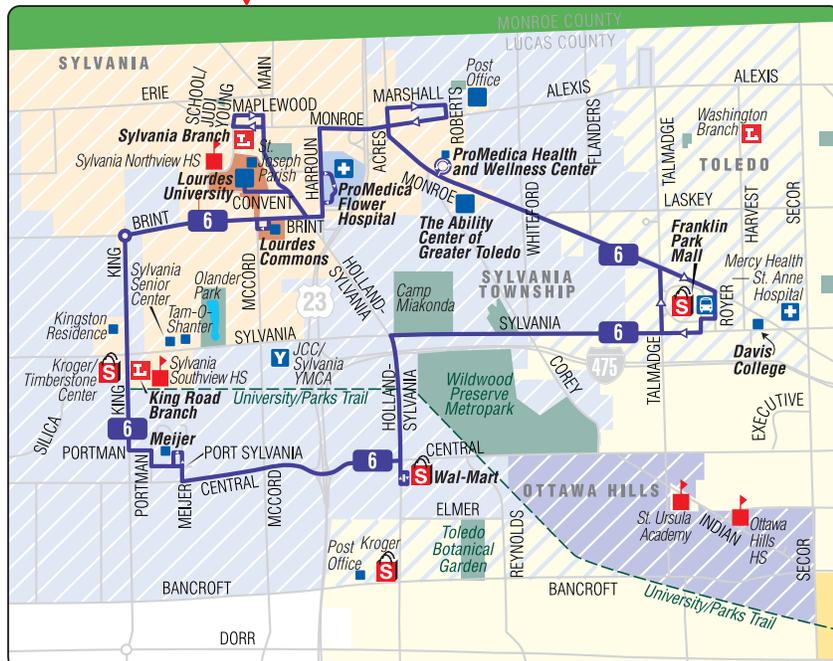
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St. Paul Sponsors Annual Men's Day Weekend Celebration

Sojourner's Truth Staff

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church (Pastor James Willis, Sr.) held its annual Men's Day Celebration this month, March 11-12, with a Prayer Breakfast on Saturday morning and a Worship Service on Sunday.

The Saturday Prayer Breakfast brought together about 100 people to feast on eggs, bacon, sausage, chicken, hash browns, grits, fruit and yogurt and to hear the guest speaker, Rev. Floyd Smith of Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, bring the word and address the weekend's theme: "The Steps of a Good Man are Ordered by the Lord."

Rev. Venson Simpson led the prayer and the blessing of the food at Saturday's breakfast.

Smith, a Toledo native and graduate of Toledo Public Schools and the American Baptist College, assumed pastor's duties at Calvary (his childhood church) in 1989 and is celebrating his 28th pastoral anniversary this month.

On Sunday, the guest preacher was Rev. Ernest H. Jones, D.Min, executive minister of American Baptist Churches of Ohio (to which St. Paul MBC is affiliated).

Jones came to Ohio in February, 2016 from Brooklyn, NY where he served as pastor of the Greenwood Baptist Church, for 17 years. He oversaw the revitalization and renovation of that storied historic congregation.

Jones' life has been devoted to the gospel ministry, having been licensed to preach at the age of 12 by the Williams Chapel Baptist Church of Detroit.

He earned a bachelor's of arts from Wayne State University, a master of divinity from

Andover Newton Theological School and a doctorate of ministry from New York Theological Seminary.

Years later, in Brooklyn he was also active in the larger community, serving on various boards and in community groups.

His ministry also includes serving as an adjunct professor at New York Theological Seminary and Bloomfield College, NJ. He has served as chairman of New York Methodist Pastoral Care Advisory Committee and is the immediate past president of American Baptist Churches of Metropolitan New York.

Deacon Joseph Diggins presided over Sunday's service and John Slaughter offered the welcome.

Sunday's worshippers enjoyed musical selections by the St. Paul Men's Day Choir.

"As your pastor, I challenge each of you to be intentional in your service to God, and keep Him at the forefront as He directs your path. This is a Day that you should be glad about as you celebrate the ordering of your steps," wrote Willis to the men of his flock. Willis is now in his 13th year as pastor of St. Paul MBC.



Pastor James H. Willis, Rev. Ernest H. Jones, Pastor John Walthall



First Lady Linnie Willis and Pastor James H. Willis, Sr. at Saturday's breakfast



Deacon Thomas Kirby, president of American Baptist Men of St. Paul, Rev. Ernest Jones, Pastor James Willis, Sr, Deacon Bobby McDole, Chairman of Men's Day and VP of American Baptist Men



Saturday's breakfast



Rev. Ernest H. Jones, Denise Jones, First Lady Linnie Willis, Rev. James H. Willis, Sr.



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