

The Sojourner's Truth

Volume 61, No. 7

“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”

May 20, 2020

Academic Excellence Is A Family Tradition



The Sweeney Family

In This Issue...

Perryman
Page 2

Minority
Health
Outreach

Westfield Senior Celebration
Page 8

Classifieds
Page 15

Brothers United
Page 16

Tolliver
Page 3

Page 5

Braden Honors Its Seniors
Page 9

Taxpayers
Page 4

Cover Story:
The Sweeneys
Page 7

Book Review
Page 13



New Directions

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

The Truth Contributor

Where do we go from here?

- Martin Luther King, Jr.



No Republican has ever won the U.S. presidential election without carrying Ohio. In 2016 President Trump continued that trend by handily defeating Hillary Clinton in the state by a whopping eight percentage points. However, if local Democratic Party leadership can win over suburban voters, a demographic historically loyal to Republicans, the Dems can reclaim Ohio in the 2020 general election.

I caught up with attorney Keith L. Mitchell, who is bidding to become chairman of the Lucas County Democratic Party. In this article we discuss his candidacy, thoughts on taking the Dems in a new direction, and how to make Ohio relevant again in state and national politics.

Perryman: Let's chat about your candidacy for the chairmanship of the Lucas County Democratic Party.

Mitchell: Well, sure. We have between six and 15 days after the certification of the primary election to have this reorganization meeting. So, we'll see what happens.

Perryman: What is the state of the Lucas County Democratic Party as it exists now?

Mitchell: We're in transition. Unfortunately, we're in a transition during a national election, but here we are. Kurt Young was doing a decent job but decided not to run again, so I'm running.

Perryman: What is your assessment of the Party's effectiveness, culture, goals, and stance on the issues?

Mitchell: I have five primary goals. First, to elect Democrats. The purpose of a Democratic Party is to elect Democrats and so, certainly, we need to energize the Party in Lucas County. Lucas County is vital to Ohio and Ohio is essential to the United States, and so, we need to do our part to make sure that we come out and vote for Joe Biden and all the people down the ticket.

Secondly, we need to energize the Central Committee, the precinct committee people. We need to give them the tools and training and get them to be very active. The Party has not done a good job of that in the past. People need to go door to door in their precinct to let voters know which Democrats are running and encourage people to come out and vote. So, it's imperative, first of all, to encourage Democrats to come out, secondly to help people if they are not registered to vote to get them registered and to motivate them to vote in the future. So, not just around election time, but all year long.

Perryman: And third?

Mitchell: Third, I want to get young people involved. We need to get young people in leadership positions because it's time to pass the baton. I have gray hair, I'm old, and this is not my dream job, so we need to get young people involved in the Party and decision-making positions and let them take over.

Fourth, I want to make sure that we start or better utilize data-driven strategies. We need to use Facebook and other social media platforms more effectively. Young folks don't watch regular television, so TV ads don't make a difference in terms of voting. They don't read the newspaper like people used to, so ads in the press don't make sense for elections, and so we have to use social media a lot better, and certainly, I hope to do that.

And then lastly, we need to find a Party home. We need to purchase an office building that suits our needs. It's my understanding that ProMedica wants to buy our building to

tear it down so that they can build apartment buildings. Those are the five areas that I want to focus on and I think I'm the best person for the job.

Perryman: The goals are laudable, but how do you effectuate the goals and get them accomplished?

Mitchell: By getting people involved and holding them accountable. In the past we have not done a good job of encouraging people and making sure that precinct people do their jobs, so we need to make sure that happens. We also need to broaden the base of our financial support. We have depended on the unions a lot and we certainly still want to depend on unions, but we want to broaden the base so that everybody's contributing. Precinct people, executive committee members, clubs and organizations, elected officials, all folks need to donate to the Party so that we can help get Democrats elected. So, I think it's a matter of motivating people, getting them engaged and energized. Again, I think we can do that behind Joe Biden. And, I would venture to say, all Democrats want to get Donald Trump out so I think we can get people energized to do that.

Perryman: What are your qualifications to become chairman of the Lucas County Democratic Party?

Mitchell: I've been active with the Party for many years. I worked on Senator Howard Metzenbaum's campaign in the late '80s, so I've been involved in local politics for a long time. I'm currently the parliamentary and, therefore, chair of the bylaws committee. I have sat on the screening committee and chaired the judicial screening committee, so I've been active in many of the Party's committees. I've also been a precinct committee person for eight years now, so I've been active in the Party, and know the inner workings and know what needs to be done to get people out to vote.

Perryman: How about fundraising experience?

Mitchell: I've participated in several different campaigns. I'm currently the finance chair for Judge Myron Duhart's campaign. So I've certainly had experience raising money with different political contests. The Party has various fundraisers, and I've attended them, but I have not organized those for the Party.

Perryman: So, why Keith Mitchell and not Mike Ashford for Party Chair?

Mitchell: I have the temperament to bring people together. The first ques-



Keith Mitchell

The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's Truthful African American
Owned and Operated Newspaper

Fletcher Word - Publisher and Editor

Becky McQueen - Business Manager

Tricia Hall - Reporter

Rev. D.L. Perryman - Columnist

Megan Davis - Columnist

Jennifer Retholtz - Webmaster

Jessica Crans - Layout

A Certified MBE

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

Phone 419-243-0007

thetruth@thetruthtoledo.com

www.thetruthtoledo.com

... continued on page 6

White Skin Privileges in Overdrive!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq
Guest Column

HOME MORTGAGES

Every part
personalized.

JAMES BAILEY | FIRST-TIME HOMEOWNER

eMail
[EAGLE MAIL]

Dear Eagle,

We wanted a backyard and enough bedrooms for all of us. When we got our house, it had everything we wanted and more. Thank you!

Sincerely, James Bailey

Watch James' story and start your conversation at **First-Fed.com/EagleMail**

1707 Cherry St., Toledo
(inside the Seaway Marketplace)
419-214-4302

Offer of credit subject to credit approval.

2920 W. Central Ave., Toledo
419-537-9300

Taxpayer Advocacy Panel (TAP) Want to improve the IRS? SPEAK UP

By Andrea Price, TAP member representing Ohio

Guest Column

The Taxpayer Advocacy Panel is comprised of civic-minded citizen volunteers from all walks of life representing each state, D.C., Puerto Rico and an international member (citizens living, working or doing business abroad). TAP is a Federal Advisory Committee whose mission is to listen to taxpayers, identify taxpayers' issues and make suggestions for improving the IRS service and customer satisfaction.

Everyone has something to say about taxes and the IRS. Please take a moment to give us your suggestions for TAP to consider by contacting one of the following:

TAP Ohio member: tapohioandreaprice@gmail.com

Call Toll-free at: 1-888-912-1227

Website: www.improveirs.org

IRS Operations during COVID-19: Mission-critical functions continue

On IRS.gov, The Internal Revenue Service reminds taxpayers and tax professionals to use electronic options to support social distancing and speed the processing of tax returns, refunds and payments.

To protect the public and employees, and in compliance with orders of local health authorities around the country, certain IRS services such as live assistance on telephones, processing paper tax returns and responding to correspondence are extremely limited or suspended until further notice. All Taxpayer Assistance Centers (local IRS offices) remain temporarily closed as are many volunteer tax preparation sites until further notice.

Although the tax filing deadline has been extended to July 15, 2020, from April 15, the IRS continues to process electronic tax returns, issue direct de-

posit refunds and accept electronic payments. As of April 3, the IRS received over 97.4 million tax returns and issued over \$213 billion in refunds.

IRS operational status and alternatives

Paper Tax Returns: All taxpayers should file electronically through their tax preparer, tax software provider or IRS Free File if possible. The IRS is not currently able to process individual paper tax returns. If you already have filed via paper but it has not yet been processed, do not file a second tax return or write to the IRS to inquire about the status of your return or your economic impact payment. Paper returns will be processed once processing centers are able to reopen. This year, more than 90% of taxpayers have filed electronically.

Web Options: IRS.gov remains the best source for tax law questions, checks on refund status and tax payments. All IRS updates on the Economic Impact Payments and other Covid-19 related issues also will be posted immediately on IRS.gov/coronavirus. Taxpayers can check their refund status at Where's My Refund? or obtain a tax transcript at Get Transcript Online. Tax transcripts are only available online at this time.

Taxpayers also can make tax payments through Direct Pay. Taxes due must be paid by July 15. The Interactive Tax Assistant can help answer tax law questions. There currently are no email options that will generate answers to questions posed by taxpayers. Publication 5136, IRS Services Guide (PDF), is a good source of information.

Telephone Options: Automated phone lines: which handle most taxpayer calls - also will remain available during this period. Some tax compliance lines also remain available. IRS phone lines supported by customer service representatives for both taxpayers and tax professionals are not staffed at this time. To check on regular tax refund status via automated phone, call 800-829-1954. (This line has no information on Economic Impact Payments.)

Taxpayer correspondence: While the IRS is receiving and storing mail, our mail processing functions have been scaled back to comply with social distancing recommendations. Currently, we have reduced responses to paper correspondence.

Taxpayers who mail correspondence to the IRS during this period should expect to wait longer than usual for a response. Once normal operations re-

...continued on page 12



Andrea Price

Social Media Training

HOW TO
MULTIPLY
YOUR MESSAGE
& GROW
YOUR REACH
WITH
SOCIAL MEDIA

Marketing
Branding
& Managing

a FREE 30min consultation for

ORGANIZATIONS, CHURCHES,
PUBLIC FIGURES, BUSINESS OWNERS
& CORPORATIONS

REGINA WHITTINGTON

CEO of REGWHITT.COM

Regina has a passion for Christ and Social Media coaching and consulting. With years of experience in ministry and the business world, Regina can help you reach and impact the world utilizing the platforms of social media.

CALL 567-703-6272 TODAY!

www.regwhitt.com

GLASS CITY
GRIND

Saturdays @ 8 AM
Sundays @ NOON
Anytime on VOD

Find us on:

Toledo Area Leaders Analyze Current Outreach Efforts in the Minority Communities

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Local leaders from the government, social service and community-based agencies discussed urgent community issues during a recent video call that was held on May 14, 2020. Community leader Paul Hubbard convened and facilitated the 45-minute meeting that requested reports on current outreach efforts in specific sectors with respect to opportunity gaps.

The video conference included representatives from the Lucas County Commissioner's office, Toledo Unit NAACP, Complete Count Committee, Center of Hope, Toledo African American Chamber of Commerce and The Movement.

The first topic solicited information about coronavirus testing sites. The first local testing location was Rite Aide, and by mid-April, four additional locations now have the resources to provide testing. These sites are Neighborhood Health Association, Kroger and Walmart.

"We've advanced our testing abilities, in part thanks to Doni Miller and NHA, one of the current testing locations. We're testing the men and women of Cherry Street Mission, and looking at public housing testing in the future in partnership with LMHA," explained Pete Gerken, Lucas County Commissioner.

The Toledo Unit NAACP the annual Freedom Fund dinner. "We're having conversations about health verse wealth, and employees re-entering the workforce. We understand that people, our people are cautious right now because of reported health issues. We are willing to help our community wherever it is needed. We will volunteer to check on seniors, help with the Census or other needed services," explained Ray Wood, president Toledo NAACP.

The group discussed the shifted 2020 census timeline. Residents have until October 31 to complete a self-response form. Census takers will conduct field interviews from August 11 until October 31. The Census Bureau will review submitted data from May 1, 2020 until July 2021, then deliver final population data to the president by April 30, 2021. The results are also delivered to Congress just 14 days after the president receives the results and than legislative redistricting begins. According to local new reports, Toledo's self-response rate is low.

"We're focusing on the low response Census Tracts in Toledo. Everything that we are talking about today is impacted by the Census. This impacts our public housing, homelessness services, redistricting, and so much more. We have to get our self-response numbers up and if you're on this call today, I am asking you to join this call to action," explained Deborah Barnett, Toledo-Lucas County Complete Count Committee coordinator.

In the midst of the pandemic, several faith-based institutions expanded or launched food pantries. "Several religious leaders are addressing food insecurity in our communities. We're here to serve our communities. We have also begun having conversations with the Toledo's Mayor to discuss utility concerns of local churches," explained Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, pastor

of Center of Hope.

The primary election and November's election was also discussed by Tina Butts of The Movement. The local board of elections reports that 16.7 percent of Toledo's voters casted their ballots, and this was after the March Ohio primary was rescheduled due to the pandemic.

"We need to mail out the November ballots now, instead of waiting until the last minute. Toledo's mail has an average turnaround of 7-8 days. There were people who waited until the last minute to request a ballot to vote in the primary election. We need to make sure that our people are aware of their voting options, because we're facing an uphill ballot in November," explained Tina Butts of The Movement.

The final topic discussed was local economic development. Commissioner Gerken explained county-wide efforts while Roy Hodge of the Toledo African American Chamber of Commerce and Toledo's Jumpstart provided a city-wide prospective.

"At the Toledo African American Chamber of Commerce we're diligently identifying and bridging gaps for entrepreneurs of color that are in the area of technology assistance, professional filings, and restructuring organizational structures in this space. At Jumpstart, we're working with our clients and providing resources that can remove obstacles that can assist our community," explained Hodge.

"The County's economic development plan is different than the City of Toledo, our focus is workforce and training. We focus on the actual workforce, matching employers with employees, and meeting workforce needs. I find that the information I received today was valuable. I can use these talking points to push initiatives. I would like to create a community roundtable based off today's conversations, of individuals from different industries and coalitions. We need to take what we learned today and share it with our partners. We need to take what we learned today from all the speakers, and share it with our larger audiences," explained Commissioner Gerken.

A list of some local faith-based food pantries includes: Toledo Masjid Al-Islam located at 722 E. Bancroft St, Lutheran Social Services of Northwest Ohio on Collingwood Blvd., Monroe United Methodist Church, River of Life Church located at 3611 Upton, Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church. Those in need can contact United Way 211 for additional locations.

According to the Lucas County Board of Elections, Ohio citizens have 90 days until the election to request an absentee ballot. The absentee ballot must have proper postage to the return envelope, postmarked no later than the day before the election day, and received by the board of election office no later than the 10th day after the official election day. For additional information about in-person Absentee voting or returning an absentee ballot in person, visit the Lucas County Board of Election website or call 419-213-4000.



Join Us!
Worship
EXPERIENCE
 Every Sundays at 5:30 p.m.
 Let's FELLOWSHIP together - Acts 2:42

Eastern Star Missionary Baptist Church
 2102 Mulberry Street, Toledo, Ohio 43608
 (419) 726-1180, FAX: (419) 726-6240
 E-mail: EasternStarMBC@aol.com
 Website: www.drjwilliams.org

Dr. John W. Williams, Pastor

DIXIE

DIXIE CARS DIV. DIXIE AUTO LEASING INC

5876 N. DETROIT AVE. TOLEDO, OHIO 43612

419-476-8678

OFF LEASE - 4 DOOR SEDANS

\$2,500

THIRTY DAY WARRANTY

Social Security Questions and Answers

By Erin Thompson, Public Affairs Specialist in Toledo, OH

Guest Column

Question:

I'm planning to retire next year. I served in the Navy back in the 1960s and need to make sure I get credit for my military service. What do I need to do?

Answer:

You don't need to do anything to apply for the special credit for your military service—it is added automatically. For service between 1957 and 1967, we will add the extra credits to your record at the time you apply for Social Security benefits. For service between 1968 and 2001, those extra military service credits have already been added to your record. So you can rest assured that we have you covered. Read our online publication, Military Service and Social Security, at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10017.html. Then when the time comes to apply for retirement, you can do it conveniently and easily at www.socialsecurity.gov/retireonline.

Question:

I have never worked but my spouse has. What will my benefits be?

Answer:

You can be entitled to as much as one-half of your spouse's benefit amount when you reach full retirement age. If you decide to receive Social Security retirement benefits before you reach full retirement age, the amount of your benefit is reduced. The amount of reduction depends on when you will reach full retirement age. For example, if your full retirement age is 66, you can get 35 percent of your spouse's unreduced benefit at age 62 (a permanent reduction); if your full retirement age is 67, you can get 32.5 percent of your spouse's unreduced benefit at age 62 (a permanent reduction).

The amount of your benefit increases if your entitlement begins at a later age, up to the maximum of 50 percent at full retirement age. However, if you are taking care of a child who is under age 16 or who gets Social Security disability benefits on your spouse's record, you get the full spouse's benefits, regardless of your age. Learn more about retirement benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/retirement.

Question:

I worked the first half of the year, but plan to retire this month. Will Social Security count the amount I earn for this year when I retire?

Answer:

Yes. If you retire mid-year, we count your earnings for the entire year. We have a special "earnings test" rule we apply to annual earnings, usually in the first year of retirement. Under this rule, you get a full payment for any whole month we consider you retired regardless of your yearly earnings. We consider you retired during any month your earnings are below the monthly earnings limit, or if you have not performed substantial services in self-employment. We do not consider income earned, beginning with the month you reach full retirement age. Learn more about the earnings test rule at www.socialsecurity.gov/retire2/rule.htm.

Question:

I'm trying to figure out the best time to retire based on my future earnings. How can I calculate my own retirement benefit estimate?

Answer:


We suggest you use our Retirement Estimator at www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator. Our Retirement Estimator produces estimates based on your actual Social Security earnings record, so it's a personalized, instant picture of your future estimated benefit. Also, you can use it to test different retirement scenarios based on what age you decide to start benefits. For example, you can find out your estimated monthly payments if you retire at age 62, 70, or any age in between. Try it out now at www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator.

Question:

Is it true that ten thousand people are retiring each day? What is the best way for me to apply and avoid long lines in my Social Security office?

Answer:






Yes. The best way is to use our online retirement application at www.socialsecurity.gov. You can complete it in as little as 15 minutes. It's so easy. You can apply from the comfort of your home or office at a time most convenient for you. Once you've electronically submitted your application, you're done. In most cases, there's no need to submit any documents. There's also no need to drive to a local Social Security office or wait for an appointment with a Social Security representative.




THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COVID-19 PREVENTATIVE MEASURES CLEAN YOUR HANDS OFTEN

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. Washing your hands is easy, and it's one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

<h3>HANDWASHING STEPS</h3> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Wet your hands with clean, running water  2 Apply soap  3 Lather and scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds  4 Rinse your hands well under clean, running water  5 Dry your hands using a clean towel or air dry them  	<h3>WHEN TO WASH HANDS</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing • Before and after caring for someone that is sick • After going to the bathroom • Before and after preparing food • During food preparation as needed • Before eating food
<h3>HAND SANITIZER</h3> <p>If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry.</p>	

For more info, visit: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov
Updated March 18, 2020



NC STATE
EXTENSION

Perryman... continued from page 2

tion I'm going to ask before making any decision is 'what's in the best interest of the Party?'. Every decision you make will upset some people, but I will be able to articulate the decision and why particular decisions are being made a certain way. I'm not in this to make friends; I'm in it to move the Party forward. I think I'm in a better position than Mr. Ashford to bring people together. I'm not divisive. I believe that I can do that better than he can.

Perryman: Do you have any endorsements so far?

Mitchell: No, I have not been asking for endorsements, I've been calling people on the Central Committee, those people that vote, and asking for their support and that's been very positive so far, I'm continuing to do that.

Perryman: Is there anything you would like to add?

Mitchell: I've been practicing law for 32 years here in Toledo, but again, I've been active with the Party, and I think that is important for this particular position that I'm seeking. You don't have to be an attorney, obviously, but that gives me the flexibility to do what I need to do. Being Party chair is not a paid position; you have to meet at all times during the day, the week, evenings, and on weekends. My practice allows me the flexibility to do that.

And again, I think I'm best qualified for the position. I'm hoping the people on the central committee will vote for me because we need to get Democrats elected, and the Party needs to become galvanized and energized so that we can move forward.

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

Class of 2020 • Class of 2020 • Class of 2020 • Class of 2020 • Class of 2020 • Class of 2020 • Class of 2020 • Class of 2020 • Class of 2020

The Sweeneys: High Achievement Is a Family Tradition

By Asia Nail

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Despite our current circumstances regarding the pandemic, a shining star from E.L. Bowsher High School's 2020 graduating class has persevered and been named valedictorian.

With her exemplary work and determination, senior Caroline Sweeney, has earned this esteemed honor.

As college and high school graduations take place, thousands of high achieving students like Caroline, will step to socially-distanced podiums and deliver their graduating class's farewell remarks at commencement ceremonies virtually this year.

These select students – generally the graduating seniors with the highest grade point averages, or GPAs – are recognized with formal titles: valedictorian and salutatorian respectively.

In covering this story, excitedly, we found out the Sweeney name carries a lineage of academic excellence.

Following in her siblings' footsteps, Caroline Sweeney will be the third of her siblings to hold valedictorian and salutatorian titles in the past four years!

These titles have come to symbolize the highest honors you can achieve academically and upon high school graduation every child in the Sweeney home has achieved it. We sat down (virtually) with all five members of the Sweeney family to find out what's their secret.

Calvin and Christine Sweeney lead the ministry of The Tabernacle Church, located in the heart of Toledo, at 531 Pinewood Ave. They have extensive academic backgrounds: Christine Sweeney graduated from University of Toledo with a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Toledo.

Calvin Sr. has a bachelor's degree in elementary education, a master's degree in curriculum and Instruction, mathematics, and a PhD in Educational Theory and Social Foundations and Leadership all from the University of Toledo.

As the leaders of this multigenerational house of God, Calvin and his wife share:

"We've been the pastors at The Tabernacle since 2011. Our church is focused on introducing people to Jesus while making sure we show tangible acts of love to our community."

They have three children who all have had the highest GPAs in their respective schools, congratulations. What role has education played in your family?

Christine Sweeney:

"I was raised by my mom with my brother and my mom always stressed the importance of education. She told us it wasn't enough just to graduate from high school but attending college was also necessary because education brings choices. That's something we always talk about in this household; the more education the more opportunity."

Calvin Sweeney:

"My great Aunt and Uncle Henry raised my brother and me. They were from Mississippi and relocated north for a better life. Uncle Henry routinely reminded us that they were only able to get up to a third grade level education back then because they had to work the field. Uncle Henry owned a small construction company. He would always say to me I do this type of work because I have to, but I want doors to open for you. Get your education.

What is your parenting philosophy?

Christine Sweeney:

Many different factors contribute to our parenting philosophy, but our faith plays the biggest role in our philosophy as parents. We believe God blesses us all with talents and skills to use to the best of our ability. We teach our kids whatever skills God blesses us with, we need to use.

Calvin and I parent in a two-prong approach to education. We believe in consistency and continuous engagement. The kids can agree. Every day after school when they would get into the car, I'd ask them how their day was and what they learned. They couldn't just give one-word answers. I was and will always ask the follow up questions. When we got home, I always asked what homework they needed help with. We started this process with each child in preschool and it became a daily habit.

Calvin Sweeney:

"We believe that God has given us all a purpose. We encourage our kids to discover their passions in their academics because we believe one's passions always lead to one's purpose. Me and my wife Christine always make sure learning takes precedence over doing. It's not: "Is your homework done?" It is, "Do you understand what you learned?"

It's not enough for our kids to just complete an assignment, they have to understand it as well.

Who aided in this understanding?

Christine Sweeney:

"As parents we always encourage the kids to communicate with their teachers, to find online resources, to learn to navigate within the library for resources and to use any resource they have at their disposal. If we don't know the answer, we always encourage our kids to use all the resources they have available to find one. We always tell them to never feel like because you don't know the answer right now, that you should stop looking."

Are your children active in the community?



The Sweeney Family

...continued on page 9

WASHABLE
FACE
MASKS

100%
COTTON
FABRIC
\$10

To Place an Order visit Autumn Gineen
via Facebook or call (567) 318-2248

Masks are made to order. Please allow up to 2 days for completion of order. Thanks.

Class of 2020 • Class of 2020 • Class of 2020 • Class of 2020 • Class of 2020 • Class of 2020 • Class of 2020 • Class of 2020 • Class of 2020

Westfield Students Celebrated with a Graduation Parade

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

Staff and faculty of Westfield @ Phoenix Academy took to their autos on Thursday, May 14, packed their vehicles with gifts and caravanned to the homes of the academy's seniors to honor the Class of 2020's achievements.

"We do a party for graduates every year," explained Susan Nahaas, Westfield counselor. "Since that was not able to happen, we decided to take the party to them."

Westfield is a Toledo Public School academy for students who have had some difficulty adjusting to the routine of the regular high schools but seem to thrive in an atmosphere of small classes with extra attention by faculty and staff.

"They excel with us," said Nahaas. "We give them small classes, interventions

and we love them to pieces!"

This year's five Westfield graduates are still student members of their regular high schools, where they spend about half of their time and from which they will receive their diplomas and where with other seniors they would have marched in a commencement ceremony had this been a normal year.

And all five are planning to go on to college, two immediately on athletic scholarships while three plan to work and continue their education in the fall.

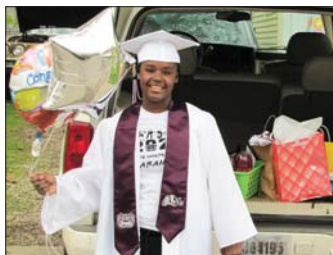
Aaliyah Armstrong, a senior at Scott High School, has several options to play college basketball but had not yet decided where she will attend.

"Basketball is my life," she admits. Aaliyah has made the All-City and All-

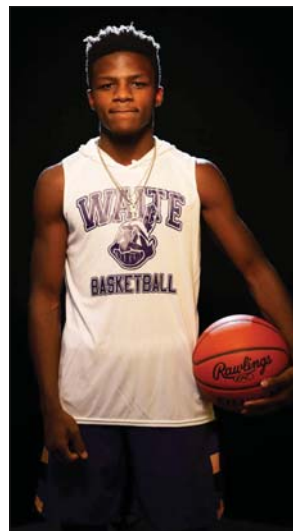
District teams every year during her four-year high school career and has been in the top five of scorers in the city during that time.

"I've had a hard time getting through since my brother was gunned down two years ago," she says. "I love helping others and have volunteered regularly serving food to those in need and have made quite a few visits to the Ronald McDonald House to volunteer there."

Delrico Stephens, graduating from Rogers, is heading to the University of Toledo for his first college year but would like to transfer to Central



Aaliyah Armstrong



Demond Allen



Chy'Nyah Isom



Jacob Scheiber's home



Delrico Stephens and family

...continued on page 9

LeafFilter
GUTTER PROTECTION

CLOG-FREE GUTTERS OR YOUR MONEY BACK GUARANTEED!

15% OFF
YOUR ENTIRE LEAFFILTER PURCHASE*
Exclusive Offer - Redeem By Phone Today!

ADDITIONALLY

10% OFF SENIOR & MILITARY DISCOUNTS

MADE IN THE USA

PLUS!

THE FIRST 50 CALLERS WILL RECEIVE AN ADDITIONAL 5% OFF**

FINANCING THAT FITS YOUR BUDGET!

*Subject to credit approval. Call for details.

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

1-866-275-2715

Promo Code: 285
Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST

*The leading consumer reporting agency conducted a 16 month outdoor test of gutter guards in 2010 and recognized LeafFilter as the "#1 rated professionally installed gutter guard system in America." CSLB# 1035795, DOP# 10783658-5501, License# 7656, License# 50145, License# 41354, License# 99338, License# 126344, License# 218296, License# 693, 233, 977, License# 2102312966, License# 21062112946, License# 27051321534, License# LEAFFNW822JZ, License# WV056912, License# WC-29998-H17, Nassau HIC License# H01067000, Registration# 176447, Registration# HIC-0649905, Registration# C127229, Registration# C127230, Registration# 366520918, Registration# PC6475, Registration# H0731804, Registration# 13VHC0953900, Registration# PA069383, Suffolk HIC License# 52229-H

American Standard
Walk-In Tubs

WALK-IN BATHTUB SALE! SAVE \$1,500

AS SEEN ON TV

Lifetime Warranty!
Finance Options Available*

Limited Time Offer! Call Today!
855-481-9036
Or visit: www.walkintubinfo.com/truth

Discount applied at time of purchase. Terms and Conditions Apply. *Subject to 3rd party credit approval. Minimum monthly payments required. Receive a free American Standard Caslet Toilet with full installation of a Liberation Walk-In Bath, Liberation Shower, or Deluxe Shower. Offer valid only while supplies last. Limit one per household. Must be first time purchaser. All offers subject to change prior to purchase. See www.AmericanStandardBaths.com for other restrictions and for licensing, warranty, and company information. * CSLB B982796, Suffolk NY-5543H; NYCCH02022748-DCA, Safety Tubs Co. LLC does not sell in Nassau NY, Westchester NY, Putnam NY, Rockland NY.

- ✓ **EXPERIENCE YOU CAN TRUST!**
Only American Standard has **OVER 140 years** of experience and offers the Liberation Walk-In Bathtub.
- ✓ **SUPERIOR DESIGN!**
Ultra low easy entry and exit design, wide door, built-in safety bar and textured floor provides a safer bathing experience.
- ✓ **PATENTED QUICK-DRAIN® TECHNOLOGY**
- ✓ **LIFETIME WARRANTY!**
The **ONLY** Lifetime Warranty on the bath **AND** installation, **INCLUDING** labor backed by American Standard.
- ✓ **44 HYDROTHERAPY JETS!**
More than any other tub we've seen.

FREE!
Savings Include an American Standard Right Height Toilet FREE! (\$500 Value)

FREE!
An In-Home Evaluation Will Be Scheduled At Your Earliest Convenience

Class of 2020 • Class of 2020 • Class of 2020 • Class of 2020 • Class of 2020 • Class of 2020 • Class of 2020 • Class of 2020 • Class of 2020

Braden UMC Honors the Legacy and Future of Education: The Class of 2020

By Megan Davis
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

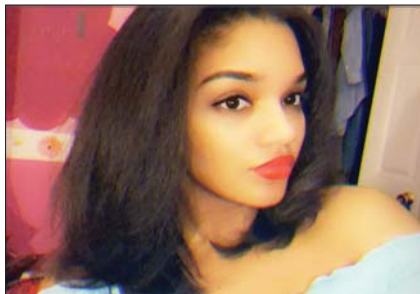
Braden United Methodist Church has been in the local community for 112 years. It's a church that has, through each decade, faced challenges



Nathaniel Mitcham



Brooklyne Gregory



Cheyann Parker



Tara K. Johnson COMBINED INSURANCE CO.

Direct: 419-860-6955
tara.johnson@combined.com

Health - Accident - Disability - Life
Serving Ohio, Michigan & Indiana

Customer Service: 800-225-4300
www.combinedinsurance.com

and has likewise accomplished many feats by faith and perseverance.

The church is comprised of a body of members who have strong faith and have been empowered to be activists in the community to create change in the areas of outreach, government and education. Retired Sen. Edna Brown, for example, has represented Toledoans in the Ohio House and Senate, and her political career spanned 32 years.

The late Gloria Layson, who was an

...continued on page 10

The Sweeney's... continued from page 7

Calvin Sweeney:

"All our children are active with extra curriculums and serve various roles in church. The girls do a lot with our children's church and educational programs, while our son Calvin works a lot with our production team. Their contributions and their feedback have helped on a lot of decisions that we make as a church and a family."

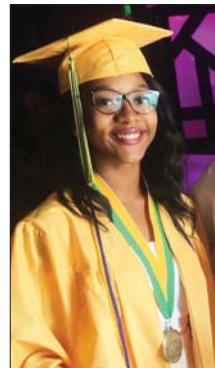
Christine Sweeney:

"One of the most important things we took into our own hands, is that we wanted to develop our kids high level thinking skills. As it pertains to critical thinking, creative thinking, and decision making, as parents, we never left it up to the schools to develop their academic life solely. Instead, we have always involved our children in conversations and debates. We talk through things and explain topics thoroughly with our kids then we ask them to explain it back to us. All of these things are important. Everyone is poised about debating for the most part and we have learned that, children too, can be



Calvin, Calvin, Jr. Christine

...continued on page 12



Christina Sweeney



Caroline Sweeney



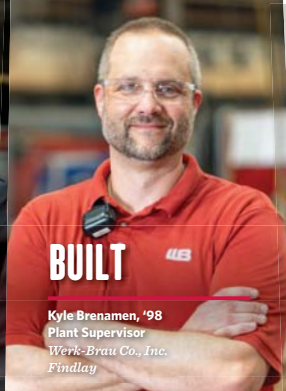
Heaven Sweeney

Northwest Ohio is POWERED



PROTECTED

Andre Tiggs, '07
Fire Investigator
City of Toledo Fire Department
Toledo



BUILT

Kyle Brenamen, '98
Plant Supervisor
Weik-Brau Co., Inc.
Findlay



CARED for

Theresa Hamlin, RN, BSN, '12
Nurse
Blanchard Valley Hospital
Findlay

BY the proud alumni of OWENS COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

More than 70% of Owens alumni choose to live and work in our community.

Take Summer classes online! Classes begin May 25 and June 22.

OWENS.EDU



Class of 2020 • Class of 2020 • Class of 2020 • Class of 2020 • Class of 2020 • Class of 2020 • Class of 2020 • Class of 2020 • Class of 2020

Braden UMC... continued from page 9

activist and a retired nurse, started the PASS Charter School and founded Mothers Outraged Against Drugs (MOAD) in Toledo, had a vision for what is now the Freedom School, sponsored by the Children's Defense Fund, that is held annually at the Monroe St. Community Center. Although the COVID-19 pandemic has stifled programming this year, it usually runs six weeks, providing academic support in reading and literacy to area youth.

Edrene Cole was an educator whose career spanned more than 35 years. She was a teacher in Toledo Public Schools, was a dean at Macomber Whitney, assistant principal at Pickett and principal at Ottawa River School, a school where Joyce Sparks, another Braden member, worked as a teacher for 30-plus years. Mrs. Cole chaired the ACT-SO competition and was a lifetime member of the NAACP. She also worked with Helen Cooks, PhD, at Toledo Excel.

Helen Cooks, who founded Toledo Excel in 1989, had a vision to ensure that underrepresented students would be able to graduate from high school and guarantee their college enrollment. The program, which still exists today has impacted over 1,100 high school students, many of whom have graduated from the University of Toledo and are now educators and administrators or supportive staff themselves.

Whether it is Rahwae Shuman, who led the Toledo Ecumenical Youth Council (TEYC) in the 90s, who revived the program four years ago at Braden, or Marie L. Bush, PhD, retired principal, who continues to serve in various capacities in community organizations that empower youth, like the Boys and Girls Club of Northwestern Ohio where she serves a board chairman, the knowledge, wisdom and experience that entered the doors of this local church each week is vast and long-lived, a legacy that generations will continue to carry on.

This is why, especially during the novel coronavirus pandemic and extended stay home order, it is important for Braden to recognize the now generation of students who have achieved high school graduation and will pursue higher education in Ohio universities. These youth have grown up in the church along with their parents and even grandparents. These students, whose shoulders will carry the mantle of faith and scholarship weren't able to experience the typical senior year activities, from prom to senior pictures, to the commencement ceremonies that afford them the opportunity to be celebrated and rewarded with a diploma for their accomplishments. They won't get to hear the cheers of the crowd in the Stranahan or Valentine Theatres; no marching to the tune of Pomp and Circumstance, played by friends in the band; and no singing of their Alma Mater one last time.

The church honors all of its graduates each year, and this year, howbeit

different, it will still happen. The seniors being honored are Cheyann Parker, Nathaniel Mitcham and Brooklynn Gregory. Each has had an impressive high school career and is moving forward to pursue degrees at a local university. We have seen the resumes of Braden members before and take joy in the sharing of these seniors' accomplishments.

Cheyann Parker is a graduate of Springfield High School. A four-year honor roll student, she has participated in The African American Club, the Christian Girls Group, Be the Change Club and the Foreign Language Club. She has had administrative roles on the Homecoming and Prom Committees as well as the Chick Fil A Leadership Academy, which extended their faith mission by serving residents in the Spring Meadows Extended Living Center during the holidays, bringing them Christmas baskets.

Cheyann also volunteered as a third grade tutor at Holloway Elementary School and was in the Color Guard. She was a part of Students in Action and developed athletic skills on the track and powder puff football teams. A young lady of compassion and class, she was a part of the P.E.A.C.E Project (Protect Every Abused Child Everywhere) and she participated in the Toledo Debutante Cotillion, which could not be held this year. She has been a part of the Braden Youth Ministry, serving on Youth Sundays as a speaker, liturgist, and in the music ministry. Cheyann will attend The University of Toledo, pursuing a degree in Healthcare Administration.

Nathaniel Mitcham is a graduate of Jesup W. Scott High School, with honors. Tenth in the senior class, he has been on the honor roll and principal's list. Nathaniel is one of 140 seniors who received the H.O.P.E Program Scholarship, which is paying the tuition of students attending accredited colleges, universities and trade schools, for up to 4.5 years.

Nathaniel serves on the Shepherds Ministry and sings in the Harper Male Chorus at Braden. A young man of faith, who started in Jr. Church is an aspiring leader, attending Bible Study regularly and has served as an acolyte, and lead worship services in the Youth ministry, also singing with the youth choir. He participates in the Mystery Music Choir and also helps maintain the Our Brothers Keeper Community Garden, alongside his grandmother, retired LSW, who also received a scholarship to attend school this far from the H.O.P.E Program.

He has been accepted into Lourdes University in the fall and has received an additional scholarship for \$1,000 per year as a result of his audition and acceptance into the Lourdes University Choir. Nathaniel's major is Psychology and he is considering a minor in Sociology. He said, "I plan to help as many youth as possible through mentorship and counseling, helping them cope with and manage the pressure and stress of adolescence."

Brooklynn Gregory is a graduate of St. Ursula Academy. An emerging leader, Brooklynn was instrumental in establishing the African American Club at St. Ursula. Serving as president, she has helped to create opportunities for St. Ursula students to learn about African American

...continued on page 11

Dental Insurance

Get the dental care you deserve with dental insurance from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. It can help cover the services you're most likely to use -

✓
Cleanings

✓
X-rays

✓
Fillings

✓
Crowns

✓
Dentures

- ◆ Preventive care starts right away
- ◆ Helps cover over 350 services
- ◆ Go to any dentist you want - but save more with one in our network
- ◆ No deductible, no annual maximum

Call now to get this **FREE** Information Kit!

1-844-334-8627

dental50plus.com/truth



Product not available in all states. Includes the Participating Providers and Preventive Benefits Rider. Acceptance guaranteed for one insurance policy/certificate of this type. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. This specific offer is not available in CO, NY; call 1-888-799-4433 or respond for similar offer. Certificate: C250A (ID: C250E; PA: C250D); Insurance Policy P150 (GA: P150GA; NY: P150NY; OK: P150OK; TN: P150TN). Rider kinds B438/B439. 6154-0120

Physicians Mutual
Insurance for all of us.™

GUARANTEED Life Insurance up to \$15,000.00

Cash to help pay your funeral, medical bills or other final expenses.

Modified Whole Life Insurance from Physicians Life Insurance Company

- ◆ Guaranteed acceptance ages 45 to 85*
- ◆ No medical exam, no health questions
- ◆ Lock in your rate for life

Call for your FREE Information Kit

1-855-961-2209

or go to life55plus.info/truth

► Plus - you'll also get a **FREE Final Wishes Planner!**



*Ages may vary by state. Guaranteed for one of these life insurance policies. 6236 Benefits reduced first two years. Insurance Policy L770 (ID: L770ID; OK: L770OK; TN: L770TN).

Class of 2020 • Class of 2020 • Class of 2020 • Class of 2020 • Class of 2020 • Class of 2020 • Class of 2020 • Class of 2020 • Class of 2020

Westfield Students... continued from page 8

State after that. He was on the TPS SMARTS (Students Making Achievements Right This Second) team representing Westfield for the past two years.

"I really enjoyed the opportunity to meet other students from all over the district and collaborate with them in work groups to make TPS even better," says Delrico. "I am looking forward to starting classes in the fall and working towards a bachelor's degree in graphic design."

Chy'Nyah Isom, also a participant in the SMARTS team for Westfield, is graduating from Scott High School and is currently working at Subway and will be working toward a bachelor's of arts in business by taking a class or two in the fall. She envisions her own childcare facility in her future.

"I enjoyed playing different sports throughout high school such as soccer, volleyball and boxing," say Chy'Nyah. "I also had the privilege to participate in the TPS SMARTS Team my junior and senior year. I liked being a part of a team that made a difference in my school and my community."

Demond Allen, a graduate of Waite High School, is also an athlete. He played basketball for all four years and also football in his junior and senior years.

"After graduation, I will be attending college (still deciding where) in the fall and looking forward to playing basketball for my new school. I plan on getting a bachelor's degree of science in Athletic Training or Sports Management and want to coach basketball in my future."

Jacob Schieber, a graduate of Woodward High School, is also a member of SMARTS. "I have enjoyed being a leader and making a positive difference in my school," says Jacob.


"I specifically like the team building activities and some free time on the ice at The Huntington Center. I hope to start classes soon in working toward a bachelor of science degree and would love to be a marine biologist in the future."

The afternoon was a huge success with the families of the graduating seniors. "They were so thrilled that we came," said Nahaas. "It meant so much to them."

It meant a lot to Westfield's staff and faculty as well. The participants had been concerned all morning about rain, and the rain did come during the auto caravan. But the rain also stopped before the caravan reached each senior's house, giving everyone an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of these 2020 graduates.



Susan Nahaas



Ms. Ronda
Independent Beauty Consultant

If you love yourself call me.
Let's transform your life.
920-550-8968
Email: msiamjafra@gmail.com
Website: www.jafra.com/rcoger

JAFRA COSMETICS

When You Look Good, You Feel Good.



Discover the beauty within.

Braden UMC... continued from page 10

Heritage, celebrate culture and engage with younger students at Ella P. Stewart, working together on projects to support and mentor them. In her presidential role, she was also responsible for the Black History Month Program, organizing the events, theme and celebration held at the school.


She was awarded a trip to Tokyo, Japan to learn of their culture and how it relates to and differs from American Culture. Brooklynne has been a part of the choir and drama productions all four years and also was a varsity cheerleader for St. Francis de Sales. She was a part of the track team and has also enjoyed being a part of the Music and Spanish Honors Programs.

At Braden, Brooklynne was an acolyte, a part of Jr. Church and the Youth group, serving during Youth Sundays as a speaker, choir member and the resident liturgical dancer. She was a recipient of a scholarship from The Toledo Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and was adopted by several people in the community through the Facebook Adopt-A-Senior Group. Brooklynne has been accepted into the Provost's Leadership Academy, a high-achieving group of first year students, at Kent St. University. There, she will major in Psychology with a minor in Music.

Brooklynne shared, "With the closing of all Ohio Schools, my senior year has abruptly come to an end. I will never forget the amazing memories I had with my peers or my teachers St. Ursula Academy has taught me many valuable lessons that as a young woman, I will carry no matter how far I go." The sisters that I have made over the past seven years will always remain in my heart. To my SUA sisters, this is not a goodbye but just a see you later! With one door closing, another must open."

Rev. Cecil J. Fitzgerald Thompson, Braden Pastor, The Theresa M. Brister Scholarship Committee and the Braden Christian Education Dept. and members would like to Congratulate the Class of 2020 High School Seniors on their graduation!

Braden will unite to celebrate these Youth Grads on Sunday, May 31 at 12 PM, with a Drive Through Graduation Parade/Party! Each student will be present (with social distancing in place) and the Braden church family and Toledo Community are welcome to decorate cars and bring gifts/cards to our graduates and enjoy a treat, to go! Simply drive up and drop off, in celebration of our graduates! Braden is located at 4725 Dorr St. Toledo, OH 43615.



BUILDING BLOCKS

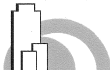
COMMUNITY MORTGAGE PROGRAM

Building Better Neighborhoods Block by Block

- Low down payment
- Purchase of a primary residence
- Up to 6% of closing costs can be paid by seller


Please contact one of our Mortgage Loan Officers

<p>Tasha Jacobs NMLS#1019844 tashajacobs@toledourban.net</p>	<p>DeLise Simmons NMLS#1132595 dsimmons@toledourban.net</p>
--	--



Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union
Building Better Futures

1441 Dorr Street, Toledo, OH 43607
Nexus Building • 1415 Jefferson St. Toledo, OH 43604
Phone: 419.255.8876 • Fax: 419.255.4390
www.toledourban.net



Other restrictions may apply. Please see lender for complete details. Subject to credit approval.

TAP... continued from page 4

sume it will take the IRS time to work through any correspondence backlog. Correspondence sent to IRS offices may be returned to the taxpayer if that office is closed and no one is available to accept them.

U.S. Residency Certification: The Philadelphia Accounts Management Campus is currently closed. Processing of the US Residency Certification Program is temporarily suspended. Normal operations will resume as soon as possible.

Taxpayer Protection Program: If you received correspondence from the IRS asking if you filed a suspicious tax return, you may use the online Identity Verification Service to validate your identity. Because the IRS cannot take calls or appointments right now, this is the only present option and is only for taxpayers who receive IRS letters asking them to authenticate their identity via online, telephone or in-person and confirm whether they filed the tax return in question.

Unable to reach the IRS by phone for levy release request?

If you are unable to reach an IRS representative by phone, fax your request to (855) 796-4524. The fax should include your name, address and social security numbers (for both spouses, if you filed jointly). Also, include the name, address and fax number of the employer or bank where the levy is being processed.

Note: This fax number is only used to address emergency levy release requests. Due to current limited staffing, the IRS will not respond to other issues sent to this fax line.

Taxpayer Advocate Service Help

TAS is open to virtually serve taxpayers who find themselves in hardship situations or dealing with IRS tax problems they've been unable to resolve directly with the IRS. If you cannot get a lien or levy released, after making contacts as instructed above, go to the taxpayeradvocate.irs.gov page and call the local number listed for your state or area. Currently, walk-ins are not available during this period.

The Sweeney's... continued from page 9

very thoughtful."

Then we spoke with the Sweeney kids. In doing so, we found five distinct categories that seem to have had the biggest impact on their children's academic success.

Academic Understanding

When we asked the children, to what do they attribute their academic confidence, the consensus was to their parents' foresight for encouraging them to be individual thinkers.

Calvin Jr, who was salutatorian of Toledo Technology Academy in 2018 shares, "I was the student that didn't like too much structure. I needed to let my ideas flow without micromanagement, so I could better formulate different ideas and thoughts into action."

"Our parents gave us each an opportunity to choose the high school we wanted to attend. As a futuristic person I decided to go to Toledo Technology Academy."

"I shadowed a class where they were building robots. I remember thinking, this is the school for me. Seeing all the innovation inside the school gave me to be around like minded people and build on my natural strengths of being a big thinker."

Extra Curricular Structure

Christina, the oldest and first to receive the honor of valedictorian of Start in 2017 shared, "I was cool with everyone and very sociable in high school. I chose to go to Start High School because I was playing basketball at the time and had built some strong relationships there. I also like schedules, so I loved the structure sports provided in high school. I did basketball, track and dance. I went with what I knew and what felt right for me. My parents always encouraged that."

Parental & Support System Involvement

Weaving fun academic resources into the special events and programming at The Tabernacle church have also supported both students and parents in the Toledo community in a variety of positive ways. "We are very intentional when partnering with other organizations in the community," shares Christine Sweeney. "We believe children thrive in resource rich environments where parents build successful partnerships with local schools."

From Christine Sweeney's perspective, sometimes parents just need to be willing to speak up. "Parents who practice helping their kids with

school-related challenges, naturally feel more comfortable and

knowledgeable when talking to teachers. We have high expectations but we keep it simple when we encourage our children to do well in school. We don't force them."

Parental Trust and Approval

Interestingly, many parents believe restricting their children's behavior, such as the amount of time they spend with friends or watching TV, produces positive effects on grades. The Sweeney's disagree. Instead they offer the suggestion of grace.

Express a lot of love

To encourage parents who may need to homeschool during this pandemic Christine Sweeney says, "I think it's important to extend grace to yourself and your kids. Make learning fun. It shouldn't be about perfection. When we make learning about perfection kids fight against it. But when you extend grace to yourself and your kids you create lifelong learners."

As schools work to improve traditional instructional practices during coronavirus closures, our hope is that parents of school age children have an opportunity to put the Sweeney's educational practices to use in their own homes.

The Sweeneys chimed in to share their youngest daughter's accomplishments, too, affirming how proud they are of each child's individual accomplishments. "I'm going to share this for my youngest daughter Heaven who is being shy, she is a competitive cheerleader, she is also in gifted classes and doing great things. We can't wait to see where her future will take her as well," says Christine.

As it pertains to graduation ceremonies this year, according to the superintendent, there will be pomp and circumstance, complete with the band, each student hearing their name called and other celebrations that would be seen at a normal graduation.

TPS Superintendent, Romules Durant, EdD, said the district is having all three options for the schools: virtual, drive-thru, and in-person.

Caroline along with the other valedictorians will be the first in the history to experience this type of virtual ceremony including a personal presentation of their diplomas presented by the superintendent himself.

As valedictorian Caroline encourages her fellow graduates to never back down from a challenge but to instead use the struggle they're experiencing during coronavirus lockdowns as fuel for their future accomplishments recalling, "I think many of my classmates would say our greatest challenge/victory was surviving geometry. Though in my personal experience, Mr. Myers geometry class was one of my favorites."

When asked how it feels to be named valedictorian of her 2020 graduating class, Caroline says, "It is an amazing feeling. There are a lot of high achievers in Toledo and I am honored to represent the class of 2020 in academics."

DIXIE Auto Leasing Toledo, OH

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

WE ARE A FULL SERVICE BUSINESS




Bernadette Joy Graham, LPC, LLC
 Clinical Mental Health Therapist
 National Certified Counselor
 Certified Grief Recovery Specialist
 419.409.4929
graham.bernadette@gmail.com
 1627 Henthorne
 Maumee, OH 43537

But We Sleep In On Sunday ...

Pick a time that works for you!

Sunday 10:30 AM
 Sunday 6:00 PM
 Wednesday 7:00 PM

Flanders Rd Church of Christ
 5130 Flanders Rd



Flanders Road CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Address Book: What Street Addresses Reveal About Identity, Race, Wealth, and Power by Deirdre Mask

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

Take a right turn at the church.

If you've ever gotten those words in the directions to some business, you know what comes following them: a feeling of being totally, inescapably lost. The feeling of frustration because there were actually two churches. The anger that your GPS app took you somewhere ridiculous. The thought that, as in *The Address Book* by Deirdre Mask, having a good, strong, easy-to-find address matters.

When was the last time you got a letter in the mail?

That's all Deirdre Mask wanted to do: send her father a birthday card with a letter from her home in Ireland to his in North Carolina. As she pressed a stamp on the envelope, she idly wondered who got the fee – and that led her to the Universal Postal Union in Switzerland, which decides such things, and to An Address for Everyone, an organization that showed her something surprising: "most households in the world don't have street addresses."

That, of course, is not optimal: at the very least, it means difficulty in receiving mail and packages from businesses outside the household's area. Worse, economic impacts reach far beyond an individual: not having an address could prevent access to financial services, credit, and help from government programs. Studies show, in fact, that the number one request from homeless Americans is not a home but an

c.2020
St. Martin's Press
\$26.99 / \$36.50 Canada
336 pages

address.

As for you, well, it's not just the physical address of your customer that matters in the end. Where you place your workplace is equally important and shouldn't be left to chance, if you can help it.

Because a land address equals power, the street-number for your building matters and you can thank the Brits for that. Where you sit on the block makes a difference, for which you can thank Philadelphia's founders. Your street name matters, especially if you can manage to get your name on the street sign; it can tell others a lot about the racial make-up of your city; and, says Mask, "Street names are, in a way, the perfect propaganda tool."



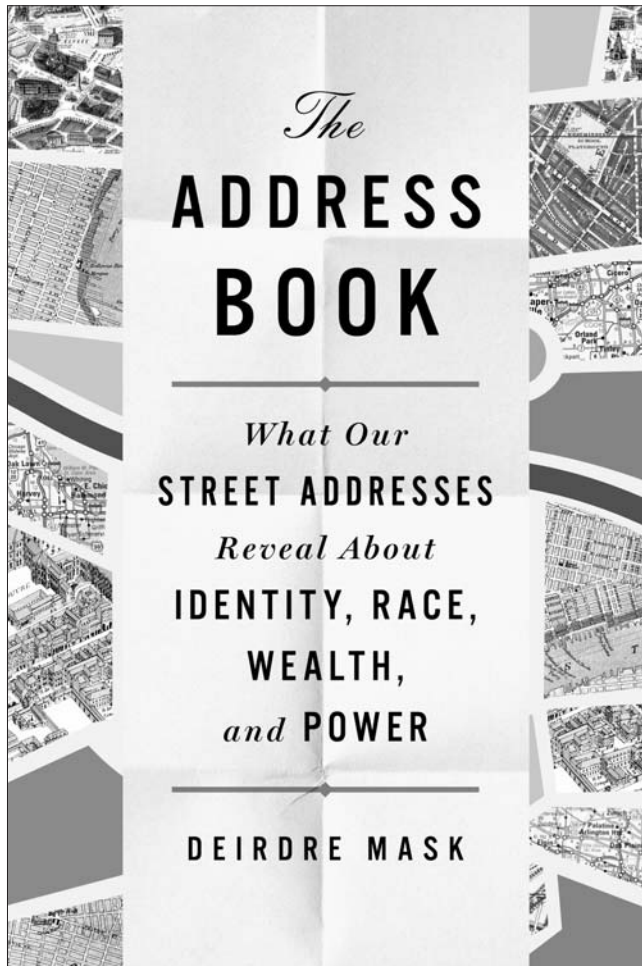
Author Deirdre Mask

Have you ever been told that they name streets after people like you? You might consider that a compliment, after reading *The Address Book*.

That's because this book is fun, serious enough to be useful to businessfolks who understand that its subject matter matters, but light enough with plenty of gee-whiz factor. Who, after all, notices this stuff?

You should, but unless your street address is wacky or borders on the profane (and author Deirdre Mask shows that there are those kinds of addresses around) you might've shrugged and went back to business when you moved there. Here, you'll see why that may have been a bad idea, how addresses might influence others, and how you can (maybe) fix it.

Reading this book is like watching someone give directions. It's great for anyone who's ever left the GPS at home and gotten truly lost in a big city. *The Address Book* is lighthearted and, for you, that turns out just right.



America's urban community alternative station!

iHeartRADIO

Entrepreneurs
Independent Artist & Producers
Actors
Sports
Fashion
Book Authors
Educators

With your host
DeVonn
aka The Musical Teddy Bear!

Jam Packed Emagazine Morning Show!

All Genres Welcome!

Community Awareness
Health Awareness
Safety Awareness

"We Make Stars Happen!"
Independent Music & Majors welcome!

www.blackbeatmusicgroup.com

Call in days Monday 12 noon - 2pm & Wednesday 12 noon - 2pm
(712) 770-4010 use access code 760462

THE TOLEDO BLACK

Market Place

Toledo's First Online Source for African-American Owned Businesses (419) 243-0007



Our Black Year

One Family's Quest to Buy Black in America's Racially Divided Economy

Maggie Anderson
Journalist of The Experience and Experiences with Ted Gregory

LITTLE GENERATION DAY CARE

419-724-7920

NEED A RIDE?

TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

1.855.475.RIDE(7433)

Truth Art Gallery

and Event Center

1811 Adams Street • Toledo, Ohio 43604

ADS POSTED ONLINE AT:
www.TheTruthToledo.com and
www.ToledoBlackMarketplace.com

POZATIV PROMOTIONS
Making Your Marketing Dream a Reality

Monique Ward
Owner/CEO

c 419.870.8757
b 347.692.8481

Pozativ Promotions, LLC
pozativpromo@gmail.com

"THE GATHERING PLACE"

Nothing but PURE FUN!

5235 Hill & Reynolds @ Meadowbrook Plaza, Toledo, OH 43615
419.320.8571 or 419.322.4462
Hours Open Thursday - Sunday @ 7 PM

Wedding Receptions, Book Signings, Birthday Celebrations, Retirement Parties, Board Game Tournaments, Special Celebrations, and much more!

Annual Membership available and receive priority bookings, church and organizational bookings welcomed
Free Wi-Fi, Light refreshments available, Safe and secured lighted parking, Accommodations for parties up to 45,
Standard booking fee for Profit and Non-profit, Event Planner available upon request
Catering Referral Services Available upon request
"Come and enjoy comedy, spoken word, music talent and more"

BOOK YOUR EVENTS NOW!

Child Care

Footprints Day Care and Pre-School,

3215 Lagrange Street, Toledo, OH 43608,
419-242-9110

Ruby's

803 N. Reynolds
msrubyskitchen.com

A-1 BONDS

Tina Butts
BAIL BONDS AGENT

419-450-3325
24 HOURS

CRUSADERS FOR CHRIST CHURCH Presents **Youth & Young Adult 4th Sunday**

Have you been feeling the nudge to develop your life more spiritually but aren't quite sure how to begin? If so, this theme-enriched and spirit-filled experience is designed just for you. Visit us on Facebook - I have a special video message for the serious pursuer!

Youth & Young Adult 4th Sunday

When: Every 4th Sunday
Time: 11:00 am
Where: Crusaders for Christ Church
910 Woodbelle Rd.
Toledo, Ohio

Bishop Joseph Mitchell Jr., Pastor Emeritus Lakota Mitchell, Pastor Leah

Crusaders for Christ Church • www.crusadersforchristchurch.org

Attention Seniors:
House(s) For Rent.
Two Bedroom
Call (419) 708-2340

Charleston House of Toledo

A Premiere Consignment Shop for the **Economical Conscious Woman**

STOP BY AND SEE OUR LARGE SPRING AND SUMMER SELECTION

Sizes small to plus - excellent prices

Designer Suites and Dresses
Elegant Hats - Name Brand Shoes
Open 10:00 a.m. - Tuesday thru Saturday
4055 Monroe Street - Toledo, Ohio
419.472.4648

ADS POSTED ONLINE AT:
www.TheTruthToledo.com

"THE GATHERING PLACE"

Nothing but PURE FUN!

5235 Hill & Reynolds @ Meadowbrook Plaza
Toledo, OH 43615
419.320.8571 or 419.322.4462
Hours Open Thursday - Sunday @ 7 PM

Wedding Receptions, Book Signings, Birthday Celebrations, Special Celebrations, and much more!

Annual Membership available and receive complimentary Bookings Church and Organizational Bookings welcomed
Free Wi-Fi

BOOK YOUR EVENTS NOW!

MENTAL HEALTH & RECOVERY SERVICES BOARD OF LUCAS COUNTY DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Lucas County is accepting applications to fill the positions of Director of Finance until position is filled. Additional information regarding the duties is available on the Lucas County web site (www.co.lucas.oh.us). Click on "Apply for a Job" and then select Director of Finance from the list to read more or apply.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

PARK TECHNICIAN

Metroparks Toledo has an opening for a full time Park Technician to provide maintenance of grounds, facilities and equipment at assigned park.

HS degree or equivalent required. Entry level experience in general turf, grounds and building maintenance. Valid driver's license required. Work schedule may include evenings, weekends and holidays. 40 hrs/week. \$13.50/hr. Full benefits. Go to www.MetroparksToledo.com <<http://www.metroparkstoledo.com>> to view detailed position description, job requirements and to apply. EOE

COVID-19 HOTLINES OPEN

Effective Friday, May 1, Mercy Health and Pro-Medica will operate their Nurse COVID-19 hotlines to answer medical questions related to the virus from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, the two health systems announced in cooperation with the Northwest Ohio Healthcare Emergency Management Coalition and Lucas County Emergency Operations Center. The hotline phone numbers are 419-251-4000 (English only) and 419-291-5355 (multilingual). After hours and weekend callers may leave a message, and their calls will be returned on the next business day. The Ohio Department of Health also operates a COVID-19 hotline, and the number is 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

INVITATION FOR BIDS MAINTENANCE & SMALL GENERAL CONSTRUCTION IFB20 – B015

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) will receive bids for Maintenance & Small General Construction. Received in accordance with law until June 2, 2020, 3:00 PM ET. see documents: www.lucasma.org; 201 Belmont Ave., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9446 (TRS: Dial 711). Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements (Executive Order #11246). This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



Call to place your ad:

419-243-0007

www.TheTruthToledo.com

HORTICULTURAL TECHNICIAN

Metroparks Toledo has an opening for a full time Horticultural Technician to provide operational support and encourage community involvement for Toledo Botanical Garden. HS degree or equivalent required. Associate's preferred. Moderate level of hands-on horticulture experience required with some experience directing volunteers or leading group activities. Valid driver's license required. 40 hrs/week. \$13.50/hr. Full benefits. Go to www.MetroparksToledo.com <<http://www.metroparkstoledo.com>> to view detailed position description, job requirements and to apply. EOE

PUBLIC NOTICE

2020-2021 ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN

To all interested agencies, groups, and persons:

The City of Toledo is seeking comments on its **Draft July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021 One-Year Action Plan** to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on or before July 10, 2020. The One-Year Action Plan will be included in and is based on the HUD-approved Five-Year 2020-2025 Consolidated Plan submitted by the City of Toledo for housing, community, and economic development.

The One-Year Action Plan includes a description of the federal funds anticipated to be received, as well as other resources expected to be available within the City of Toledo during the 2020-2021 program year. The Action Plan provides a description of the activities to be undertaken when using these resources and the expected results of those activities. Also, the Action Plan depicts a geographic distribution of assistance, special needs activities, general and public housing actions, and activities specific to the 2020 46th Year Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), 34th Year Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), 29th Year HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), and the Neighborhood Stabilization Programs (NSP). In addition, the Plan will contain HUD-required certifications, as well as a summary of the community input received at the public hearings regarding the Action Plan.

The **Draft One-Year Action Plan** will be available for review beginning Friday, May 15, 2020, on the website of the following entities:

Department of Neighborhoods
One Government Center, 18th Floor
Downtown Toledo, Jackson & Erie Streets
website: <https://toledo.oh.gov/services/neighborhood-and-business-development/>

Office of the Mayor
One Government Center, 22nd Floor
Downtown Toledo, Jackson & Erie Streets
website: <https://toledo.oh.gov/government/mayors-office/>

Clerk of Council
One Government Center, 21st Floor
Downtown Toledo, Jackson & Erie Streets
website: <https://toledo.oh.gov/government/city-council/>

The Fair Housing Center
432 N. Superior Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604
website: www.toledofhc.org

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority
435 Nebraska Avenue
Toledo, Ohio 43604
website: www.lucasma.org

Toledo Lucas County Homelessness Board
1946 N. 13th Street, Suite 437
Toledo, Ohio 43604
website: www.endinghomelessness Toledo.org

Toledo-Lucas County Public Library
325 Michigan Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604
website: www.toledolibrary.org

Lucas Co. Board of Developmental Disabilities
1154 Larc Lane
Toledo, Ohio 43614
website: www.lucasdd.info

Public hearings on the **Draft One-Year Action Plan** are scheduled as follows:

Thursday, June 4, 2020, 5:30 p.m. by Virtual Hearing
Virtual Link: <https://toledo-oh.gov.zoom.us/j/91949713607>

Thursday, June 11, 2020, 5:30 p.m. by Virtual Hearing
Virtual Link: <https://toledo-oh.gov.zoom.us/j/94909289964>

The City of Toledo will also receive comments from the public in writing beginning Monday, May 18, 2020 through Wednesday, June 17, 2020, at the following address:

CITY OF TOLEDO
DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOODS
2020-2021 ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN
ONE GOVERNMENT CENTER, SUITE 1800
TOLEDO, OHIO 43604

For reasonable accommodations or additional information, please contact Monica Brown, Administrative Analyst IV, Department of Neighborhoods at (419) 245-1400.

ABUNDANT LIFE OF PERRYSBURG ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Abundant Life of Perrysburg is accepting applications for its subsidized apartment communities. Abundant Life #1 offers independent living for senior citizens 62 years of age or older and individuals 55 or older with a physical impairment. Abundant Life #2 is a supportive living complex for people 62 and older. To apply individuals must meet the age and annual income requirement of no more than \$25,200.00 for one person or \$28,800.00 for two people.

We are located in the Three Meadows subdivision near the Manor of Perrysburg. Our garden style apartments offer an open floor plan, one bedroom, secured buildings with private patios and individually controlled heat and air conditioning.

We have a bus that transports all residents to area grocery stores and monthly outings. We offer exercise, worship services and a variety of opportunities for our active and not so active seniors. Please call (419)874-4371 to find out more about our fabulous communities and our availability for apartments. You may also visit us on the web at abundantlifeperrysburg.org.



Learning the Steps of Fatherhood: Meet Ahmad Jacobs

By Mariah Hicks, Brothers United Coach

"My dad didn't teach me about fatherhood. Sometimes he'd be in, then he'd be out for a couple months. Then I would see him and then he'd be away for a couple years. He didn't show me how to brush my teeth or take a shower, but he would come and try to give me candy sometimes. I would only spend like a day with him and then he would be gone again. That's really the number one reason why it's important for me to be a good father."

Ahmad Jacobs is a barber living in Toledo. He had his daughter at 24 years old, and since then, his life has been devoted to being the best father he can be to her.

Initially, Mr. Jacobs didn't have a good relationship with his co-parent, which caused a strain on his relationship with his daughter.

"We didn't really trust each other. At times, one of us would think that one cared more than the other or one did more than the other."

Mr. Jacobs and his co-parent argued a lot and carried bitterness towards each other. Because of this, he wasn't able to see his daughter when he wanted to.

He heard about Brothers United when a few staff walked into the barber-shop while he was working one day. He knew that he could use some advice and help since he was new to fatherhood. He joined to boost his mind and his life overall in order to become a better father.

Mr. Jacobs says that BU was a five-star experience that helped him learn how to deal with his co-parent in a more efficient manner. He learned how to handle situations better and how to not involve his daughter in the arguments he had with his co-parent.

"I learned to keep her out the negativity and put her in the positive."

Over time, the relationship between Mr. Jacobs and his co-parent got better.

"That stuff goes away when you realize that it's really about your daughter and being there for her."

Mr. Jacob believes that his relationship with his daughter as well as his co-parent improved because of his consistency and his determination to not give up.



"I built that relationship with my daughter every chance I got, and I never walked away."

Mr. Jacobs completed the program in 2019. He still works at Nitty's Barbershop and now sees his daughter daily.

He credits BU for teaching him how to communicate and behave, not only as a father, but as a man. Even though he came in thinking he knew a lot, he says Brothers United taught him many things he didn't know.

"It's important to be there for her and support her. It taught me that it's very important to be a father, not just a so-called dad."

If you are interested in joining The Brothers United Program or have someone you want to refer : Call us at (419) 279-6297 or www.pathway-toledo.org

THE TRUTH ART GALLERY PRESENTS

"Everlasting Colors" An Exhibit



Portraits, colors and nature! The Truth Art Gallery is presenting an exhibit by two of the Gallery's favorite artists over the last few year – Mack Walton and Gabriele Art – May 1 to June 30!

Toledo artist Mack Walton has been presenting his portraits and scenic displays of the world around him for decades. It's his life, it's his passion. And it has been for over 50 years.

Mack eventually ventured into street scenes, landscapes and still life – all of which are on exhibit on The Truth Gallery website and in the Gallery itself by appointment.

Gabriela Art, a Detroit-area resident is a native of Romania who developed her skills and talents studying for a masters degree in art at the Academy for Visual Arts in Cluj, Europe.

Recently, inspired by the work of Spanish painter Jose Royo, Gabriela has been increasing her art repertoire by working, as does that Spanish master, with light and bursts of color somewhat reminiscent of the French impressionist, Renoir.

The online video and exhibition catalogue and price list for "Everlasting Colors, are posted on The Sojourner's Truth website at thetruthtoled.com

Call 419-243-0007 for more information or to make an appointment!

