

The *Sojourner's* Truth

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"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

October 21, 2020

The African American Legacy Project's "Voices"



Dawn Scotland and Robert Smith

In This Issue...

Perryman
Page 2

John Jones at HOPE
Page 4

Cover Story
AALP's Voices
Page 8

Classifieds
Page 15

Tolliver
Page 3

A Barbershop Conversation
Page 5

Taxpayers' Assistance
Page 11

Shawonna's Super
Lit Emporium
Page 16

Ghee on Bootstraps
Page 3

City's Microgrants
Page 7

Book Review
Page 13

Getting to the Finish Line

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, PhD

The Truth Contributor



When I played, I went all out.

- Wilma Rudolph

Ohio's election is already well underway. There is a lot of attention currently focused on the Presidential election and the ultra-important Ohio Sixth District Court of Appeals and Ohio Supreme Court contests. That's understandable and right, but be sure not to sleep on these other significant local issues.

Issue 3 is a renewal of the city's .75 percent income tax, which provides most of its general fund. It is not a new tax. It pays for safety services like fire and police, and other city services like leaf collection and neighborhood improvement. We are told that renewing the levy means that the city can "continue to provide life-saving emergency services and maintain current response times." Failure of the levy could mean mass layoffs within our safety forces that are estimated to total "several hundred."

Issue 3 only taxes earned income. It does not include tax property, government allotments, pensions, or social security, which is critical to our senior citizens.

Issue 4 is a four-year, .25 percent income tax to fix our roads and is also on the ballot. The most common complaint among Toledo residents, perhaps, is the deterioration of our streets. Issue 4 promises to be a big step toward remedying that issue. City officials state that Issue 4 will enable the administration to complete five times more roadwork for each of those four years than will happen without the levy.

Notably, the City listened to and heard the voters after the defeat of Issue 1 this past spring. If approved, funds from Issue 4 would be used only for roads and nothing else. A separate fund would be created, and all expenses tracked to ensure that the money is only used for fixing our streets.

Again, because Issue 4 only taxes earned income, it does not include property tax, government allotments, pensions or social security.

Together, Issue 3 and 4 have been endorsed by the Lucas County Democratic Party. They are worthy of public support and will help maintain vital services and fix streets in the community.

There is also another local issue that requires the community's attention and focus.

Issue 17, for the Metroparks is a property tax of approximately \$200 per \$100,000 for ten years.

The Metroparks has provided careers and well-paying jobs for our community members and promises to help create additional jobs in these difficult economic times.

Recently, the Metroparks opened the Manhattan Marsh Metropark, completing another promise. Today, there is a Metropark within five miles of every resident in Lucas County. According to leadership, very few—if any—park systems in the United States can make that claim. "Every neighborhood and every community can now experience the benefits a Metropark offers," they declare.

COVID-19 has revealed how important our parks are to our emotional and physical well-being and our overall quality of life. Park usage has more than doubled during that time, as people eagerly left the house to enjoy the peace and fresh air that the parks offer. Preserving open space for public use is vital to a thriving community.

Issue 17 will improve our community in three crucial ways, insists Metroparks' leadership.

"First, it will improve every park in the system, benefitting every Lucas County resident.

Second, it will create a transformational riverfront park that will provide residents with the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of the river on a year-round basis. It will also attract visitors and bring revenue to Lucas County.

Third, it will create jobs. More than 500 new jobs are created within months of the levy passing, and further investment is expected to follow. In fact, just the promise of this Metropark has spurred investment in the area around the riverfront park."

While it is a difficult ask during a difficult financial time, Issue 17 nevertheless, presents an excellent opportunity to make a promising investment on our riverfront, our downtown, and our neighborhoods.

Issue 17 is endorsed by the NAACP, the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, and the African-American Chamber of Commerce.

As voters think about the issues facing them on this year's ballot, I urge them not to underestimate the importance of Issues 3, 4, and 17 – all of which deserve support.

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

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Have you recently noticed that Herr Trump is pulling out all stops to get a slice of the critically important Black American vote?

He is touting how much he has done for Black America, to the point that he compares himself to former President Abraham Lincoln!

The rapper, Ice Cube, was recently on CNN explaining his Contract with Black America and that he is willing to work with whomever, including Trump, that will give his ideas some daylight.

Is this the same person who in times past was the brainstorm behind the group, NWA? Trump, in this late stage of his seemingly failing campaign, is trying to hook onto the rapper's fame and base and earn some votes.

Knowing the racist tendencies of Trump, do you really believe that this late in the political season, that Trump has any muscle left to do anything of credence for Black America? He had his chance for four years and he ripped it up!

Is Mike Tyson so simply punch drunk that he is totally clueless about Trump and his racial rants about Black people that he would endorse him?

And what is up with the famous Cleveland Browns footballer, Jim Brown? Has he lost his mind sitting up in Trump's Oval Office with that clown, Kanye West, and Brown looking as if he lost the powers of speech!

You can Google: "Negroes" who are on the Trump plantation and how they swoon and go starry-eyed when they are in the presence of this racist president.

You wonder. You really got to wonder, how do any black people fall off the turnip truck and wind up supporting a man who clearly has no affinity for nor care for them or the collective plight of Black Americans?

Trump has consistently shown by his words, lies and deeds that he considers Black people a "different" type of human.

Why do I say this? When he was throwing red meat to his deplorable base and was worked up about Colin Kaepernick taking a knee for social justice regarding White cops putting Black men and women in early graves, he said (it is on tape) that he wished that the NFL owners would throw those, "Sons of Bitches off the field."

For those who do not know, a female dog is known as a bitch. Trump dehumanized Black men to the point that they were deemed as the offspring of dogs breeding.

That comment alone should have shredded any bond between Black people and Trump. But no, some of "our" people have heads that are harder than granite boulders.

They have no shame and know truly little history of who they are and where they came from. All they see is a chance to be in the spotlight and maybe get a few dollars in soft monetary contracts; and to be spokespersons who must tie themselves in knots in order to explain his bizarre statements.

How can Ben Carson continue to fawn over Trump? How can any Black person with two working brain cells kiss Herr Trump's ring finger and come away with any sense of personal worth or value?

When Trump repeatedly excoriates and traduces people of color and some of those lost souls run back for more, I think that it is a sickness, a mental health issue.

The book by Dr. Frances Welsing (The Isis Papers) is instrumental in explaining such low esteem that people who purportedly "have it all together" show out shamelessly for Trump even when he clearly demonstrates traits and vocalizations of being a white supremacist.

A book entitled, Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome and authored by Dr. Joy Degruy is also enlightening describing how Black people can become so injured to their own self-interests that they are easy prey for a huckster like Herr Trump.

You can see the Black apologists for Trump on television trying to defend his unconscionable behavior and virulent commentary towards people of color. But, yet, even when such racist language comes directly from the mouth of Trump, his Black followers, ostensibly cover their ears and cackle on about how much Trump has done for the African-American community!

Trump's racist history is out in the open for all to see, hear and evaluate but still, some Black people will break a leg trying to get to Trump so they can touch the hem of his garments!

When I see these sycophants cloying over Trump, it makes me nauseous to realize that they are overlooking his sordid racial history as if it does not matter

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HOPE Toledo Board Names Organization's President

John C. Jones to lead HOPE Toledo

Wendi Huntley, Esq., chairperson of HOPE Toledo, has announced that John C. Jones has been named the organization's president. Jones has been serving as community liaison for ProMedica Health System with its Social Determinants of Health office.

In this role, he served the community through the development of mentoring programs, as well as training and placement of youth, young adults and other diverse individuals. He also focused on education, i.e., early education and beyond. Prior to that, Jones served as president and Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Toledo Urban League.

"In his role with ProMedica's Social Determinants of Health, John has been instrumental in developing the vision for HOPE Toledo. We are thrilled that he is now able to pivot to take the leadership role in the organization," stated Huntley. "John's deep experience in working with youth, and his knowledge of our community, make him the ideal leader."

HOPE Toledo's mission is to coordinate and deliver higher-quality educational experiences for children and youth, from birth to career, with the goal of helping to create generational economic change for the betterment of Toledo area families and our community. Currently, 36% of the people in the TPS district are living below the poverty line and only 18% of Toledo children enter kindergarten ready to learn.

This cradle to career to community approach will better serve our children and, in the long run, help our city progress towards a stronger, more educated workforce. To that end, HOPE Toledo is working with the Toledo community, through public/private partnerships and in tandem with Toledo Public Schools and Washington Local Schools, to develop a plan to deliver higher-quality educational

experiences for all of our youth.

HOPE Toledo is committed to a full educational continuum beginning with a focus on early childhood education, universal access to Pre-K, so that all Toledo children have the opportunity to enter kindergarten ready to learn. In addition to Pre-K, it is operating the HOPE Toledo Promise Scott High School pilot that was started with a grant from the Kadens Family Foundation. The Kadens Family promised to fund postsecondary education for the Scott High School graduating class of 2020 and also provide that same opportunity to a parent/legal guardian of those students. The program is inclusive of tuition, room and board, books and fees.



John Jones

Currently, there are 80 HOPE Scholars enrolled in 12 postsecondary institutions. Of this number, 20 are parents. There are several more who will begin in the spring semester. HOPE Toledo has provided laptops/devices to 36 of the enrolled Scholars and they have conducted mentoring sessions to help prepare these students with the transition to postsecondary institutions.

John Jones is a proud alumnus of Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio, where he received his undergraduate degree in 1996. He went on to receive his Executive Masters of Business Administration (EMBA) at the University of Toledo in 2013. In 2016, he completed his Certificate in Diversity Management through the American Hospital Association's Institute for Diversity and Health Equity.

Jones has been the recipient of numerous awards, including induction into the 2008 Class of

"20 under 40" for Toledo and recipient of the 2010 Calla Lily Educator Award from the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. – Beta Gamma Chapter. He currently serves the community through numerous boards and church-related organizations including: The Toledo Zoo; Toledo Opera; American Leadership Council (Program Committee – Chair); Cherry Street Mission Ministries; Ohio Coalition of Community Schools; Toledo Christian Schools; Toledo Police Chief Advisory Board; The Ohio Baptist State Convention (Youth Director); and The Ohio New Life Baptist District Association (Youth Director). He is also a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated – Alpha Xi Lambda Chapter where he serves as Vice President.

Jones is an ordained minister and serves as an Associate Minister at the Christian Temple Baptist Church under the leadership and pastorate of his father, Rev. Charles E. Jones.

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Civil Rights Attorney Ben Crump Joins Biden for President Ohio Shop Talk Discussion on Biden-Harris Plan to Lift Every Voice, Dismantle Systemic Racism

Yesterday, Biden for President Ohio hosted a Shop Talk event with noted civil rights attorney Ben Crump, retired professional basketball player Todd Mitchell, Mayor of Warrensville Brad Sellers, and State Senator Hearcel Craig, who gathered virtually at the Groomed Barber Shop in Toledo to discuss President Trump's failed leadership and highlight the need for Joe Biden and Kamala Harris' Lift Every Voice Plan for Black America to control the virus, invest in Black-owned small businesses and begin to dismantle systemic racism.

Attorney Ben Crump: "We have to take advantage of this moment. We have to transform...this protest into policy, systemic reform to prevent some of these hashtags and stop them from not only killing our children in the streets, but even worse, killing our children in every city in every state in every courtroom, every day in America. And so this is what's on the ballot. When you think about all the federal judges that President Trump appointed...we cannot let him have four more years to appoint another army of federal judges who think like him...It is the right thing to do to stand up for our children. It is the right thing to do, to speak up for our children, it is the right thing to do to fight for our children's future because if we don't do it, we can't expect nobody else to do it for us."



Ben Crump

Mayor Brad Sellers: "We know we have an opportunity here in each of our communities, in each of our states to make a difference. I think we now understand that this is our moment, and this is a moment because we have to start leveling the playing field...We have to have representation at the table and make sure that, as we've been represented that... we will be represented by people of quality. I think that's what you have in Joe Biden and Kamala Harris - people that stand for something."



Mayor Brad Sellers



Sen. Hearcel Craig

Senator Hearcel Craig: "Health care is on the ballot...lives are on the ballot, employment opportunities and entrepreneurship are on the ballot...affordable housing is on the ballot, quality education for all our children is on the ballot. Don't you wait till November 3. Go down there. I stood in line. I voted on the first day. Whatever you can do to make sure that we are pronounced in our votes. We have got to be. The truth of the matter is we've got to vote like our lives depend upon it, because the reality is they do."



Todd Mitchell

Todd Mitchell: "This game right here is for all the marbles...The importance of right now going out to vote whether you have to stand in line for a half hour, 60 minutes, two hours, three hours, four hours, that's what we're going to do. And I've seen the passion around the country...I myself have already gone out and voted myself, and I stood in the line for two hours to make sure that I had my opportunity...I just can't impress upon them enough, not just for us to get out on November 3 and vote, but we have to continue to educate our folks, educate our black men in regard to what is important. It's not just November 3 for the president, which this year is highly important, but we got to look at our state officials. We got to look at our local leadership. And if they're not doing the job, we got to get them out. And for me that's what's important. This is our time."

Groomed Barbershop owner Tawann Gaston: "I'm hearing so much about what's going on and the importance of this election, the importance of us getting out to vote. We can't wait. I believe a part of our voice is voting, and I think we want our voice to be heard. We must get out here and vote and we must do it now - it's necessary. I'm all for a change in this nation. I have two young sons that are nine and 10 and I think a change can happen if we all take this opportunity and vote...We're voting for Joe Biden, and we believe in what he is going to bring to the table. I'm excited about this opportunity."



Tawann Gaston

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Brown Announces More Than \$63 Million to Support Victims of Crime

Special to The Truth

Last week, U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) announced that the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) Office of Victims of Crime (OVC) has awarded two grants worth a combined \$63,153,829 in funding to the State of Ohio to support organizations serving victims of crime, including victims of domestic violence, child and elder abuse, and human trafficking.

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the risk of domestic violence incidents, as victims are isolated from family, friends, and support services. A recent report conducted by the Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN) has found that the annual count of Ohio domestic violence fatalities has jumped by 35 percent in the last year, a stark contrast to a two-year decline in lethal domestic violence cases.

The awards are part of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and include:

- Victim Assistance Formula: \$58,307,829 to enhance crime victim services in the state.
- Victim Compensation Formula: \$4,846,000 to enhance State Victim Compensation payments to eligible crime victims. VOCA compensation funds provide financial assistance to Federal and State victims of crime.

"We have an obligation to victims and to help our communities recover from violent crimes, abuse, and other criminal activity. While these funds are good news for Ohio, there's still more work to do," said Brown. "That's why, earlier this year, I urged my colleagues to increase the amount of money available for the Crime Victims Fund to the highest possible amount and pushed for all the funds from the program to go toward victims assistance programs. I'm continuing to work with my colleagues to ensure that Congress is doing all we can to help victims and communities across the country."

Brown has long fought for legislation to address domestic violence and support survivors and their children:

Brown is leading the Child Welfare Emergency Assistance Act, with Senators Kamala Harris (D-CA), Robert Casey (D-PA), and Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), which would provide flexible, emergency aid for key child welfare programs to support vulnerable children, youth, and families, increasing federal support for parent training, family counseling, and substance use disorder treatment.

The legislation would also provide families, caregivers, and young people with a broad range of support services, including assistance for transportation, housing, and utility payments. Provisions from Brown's bill were included in the bipartisan Supporting Foster Youth and Families through the Pandemic Act introduced by Chairman Danny Davis (D-IL-7) and in the Updated HEROES Act, which passed the House earlier this month.

In May, Brown joined his colleagues in introducing the Emergency Funding for Child Protection Act, which would provide \$500 million in emergency funds for local child protective services and \$1 billion for community-based child abuse prevention programs. The funds for these local child protective services and community based programs are flexible, and can be used to target populations that have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, including racial and ethnic minorities, children with disabilities, families experiencing domestic violence or homelessness, and LGBTQ youth.

In April, Brown joined a bipartisan letter to Senate leadership requesting robust funding for Family Violence and Prevention Services Programs, which provides grants to states, territories, and tribes to support emergency shelter and supportive services for victims of domestic violence and their children.

In March, Brown joined 23 of his Senate colleagues in writing a letter expressing concern for the wellbeing of families who face an increased risk of domestic violence during the outbreak of the novel coronavirus and urged the administration to ensure service providers have the flexibility and resources to help victims and survivors of domestic violence.

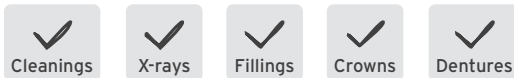
Brown fought to secure funding in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act for victims of domestic violence and service providers through the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services Program, and the National Domestic Violence Hotline.

If you or someone you know is a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233 or contact the RAINN National Sexual Assault Hotline at 800-656-4673. If you are in immediate danger, call 911.

To learn more about domestic violence and ways to prevent it, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention online.

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Toledo Emergency Microenterprise Recovery Grant Second Round Announced

Special to The Truth

Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz last week announced a second round for applications to the city's Emergency Microenterprise Recovery Grant (EMRG) program.

The grant application originally opened May 11 and closed May 24. The second and final round will open at 9 a.m., Monday, Oct. 19, Mayor Kapszukiewicz said.

"There is \$250,000 remaining, so we will be able to help about 50 additional businesses," the mayor said. "The first round of this program was a great success and helped a lot of small businesses in Toledo. We established the Emergency Microenterprise Recovery Grant to aid in the economic recovery of microenterprises negatively impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. Microenterprises, the smallest businesses in our city, contribute greatly to the vitality of our neighborhoods, support families, create jobs, and are essential to the economic health of our city. We will process applications during this final round of the program until the funds are exhausted."

The EMRG is a grant program designed to assist for-profit microenterprises to maintain or restart operations and retain jobs by providing up to \$5,000 for eligible operating expenses. The program is funded with \$1 million of the \$4.4 million COVID-19 CARES Act Community Development Block Grant Funds received by the city. The grants are subject to federal requirements. EMRG is a one-time program that will terminate once the grant funds are disbursed.

"Each business receiving funding is located in a low-to-moderate income census tract, or is owned by a member of a low-to-moderate income household," said Sandy Spang, commissioner of business services. "The business types are strongly representative of sectors most severely impacted by mandatory closures and loss of revenue, including salons and barbershops, daycares, restaurants, retailers, and other service providers."

Three-hundred three applications were received during the first round, of which, 239 were HUD-qualified by census tract or household. One-hundred ninety-five businesses have been awarded grants for a total of \$750,000.

"We look forward to offering support to additional businesses impacted by the unprecedented challenge of COVID-19," Ms. Spang said.

Demographics of Awarded Business Owners:

- 60 percent of awardees are Minority Owned Businesses
- 52 percent of awardees are Woman Owned Businesses
- 40 percent of awardees are Female Head of Household
- 77 percent of awardees are Woman and/or Minority Owned Businesses

A microenterprise is defined as a small-scale business with five or fewer employees, including the owner(s).

... continued on page 11

OhioMeansJobs Lucas County to Partner with UAW Local 12 on Job Fair

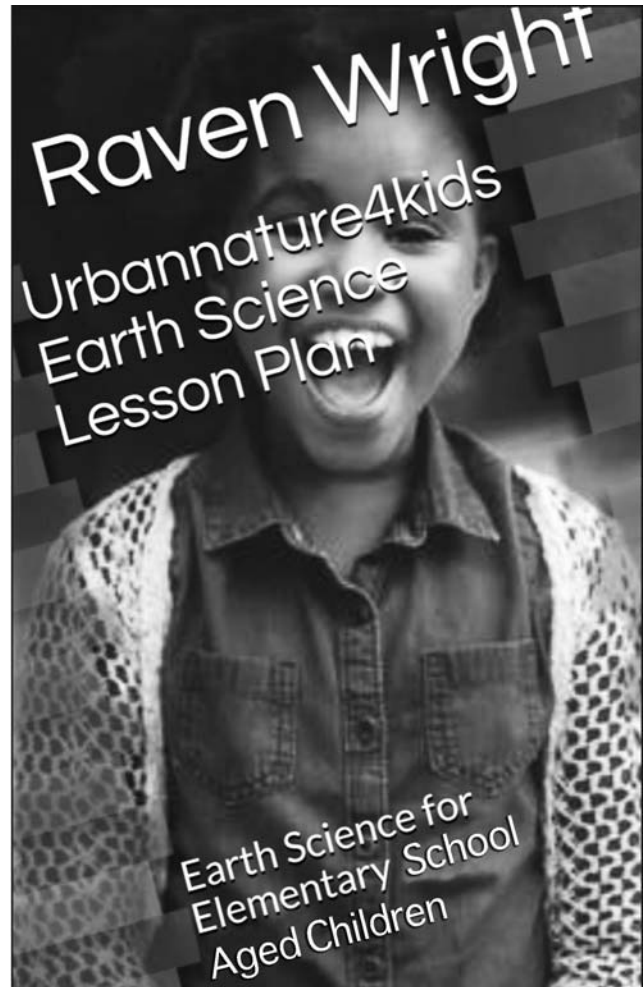
OhioMeansJobs Lucas County is partnering with the United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 12 to hold a person-to-person job fair from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 22, at the UAW Local 12 Hall, 2300 Ashland Ave.

Job seekers have the opportunity to schedule interviews with employers on a first-come, first serve basis by going to <http://bit.ly/UAW-Interview> and selecting the company and reserving a time frame. Interested individuals can schedule interviews with multiple companies. Attendees should bring their resume and dress appropriately to impress prospective employers.

OhioMeansJobs Lucas County is available to assist job seekers with the sign-up process by calling 419-213-5627.

Representatives from the following employers will be participating in the

... continued on page 12



Urbannature4kids Earth Science Lesson Plan ebook for children in grades K-4 available on Amazon. The book is authored and created by the Founder and CEO, Raven Wright UrbanNature4Kids.com

African American Legacy Project Promotes Community Dialogue

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

Last week, the African American Legacy Project introduced its initiative to enhance communication between law enforcement officials and the area's communities of color. The initiative, "Voices," will bring together a police official and a community resident for one-on-one lunch meetings to share their thoughts on the state of relations between the two groups. The meetings will be videoed in order to share with the community at large.

According to Robert Smith, director of The African American Legacy Project, "We are the architects of tomorrow ... We have to challenge ourselves to find solutions, which will allow our community to move forward to create a better future for succeeding generations."

The concept is to bring different generations, cultures and experiences together to share their "voices."

During a press conference at Jerusalem Baptist Church, the AALP members, along with Toledo Police Chief George Kral, Oregon Police Chief Mike Navarre and Lucas County Sheriff John Tharp, spoke about the reasons for "Voices" and how the project will proceed.

"We have witnessed a civil war between police officers and the black community," said AALP Past Honoree and facilitator Bill Harris during his opening remarks. "Many involved in such shootings are not in jail or even charged. What can we do in our city?"

Harris explained that the goal of the "Voices" project is to assess current relationships and to discuss what "we can all do together."

"We have to acknowledge mistakes and try to figure out how to proceed," said Smith. "We all do better when we work together. Our differences do matter, but our common humanity matters more," he added citing the words

of former President Bill Clinton.

According to the literature assembled by the AALP, "the purpose of this project is to stimulate conversations about moving toward change ... and to diminish stereotypes that have helped build walls between community and police."

Sheriff Tharp, who has sat for such a chat with Larome Myrick, executive director of Juvenile Correctional Services for the State of Rhode Island, echoed those sentiments. "We want to bring the community and law enforcement to

...continued on page 9



Bill Harris



Dawn Scotland and Robert Smith



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African American Legacy... continued from page 8

gether," said Tharp, "so that we can understand each other. So many law enforcement officers that I know do not know the cultures of the community and the more we can learn, the safer the community will be."

For Sakiah Porshia, a senior at Scott High School and also a student at the University of Toledo, who attended the press conference with her mother Danetta Walker, the prospect of improving relations between the community and law enforcement is critically inviting to her life and the lives of her friends. "We are growing up in this world," she said.

The current participants of the project include Kral, Navarre and Tharp, along with – on the law enforcement side of the table - Earl Mack, a 39-year-veteran of law enforcement, including a term as deputy director of the Ohio Homeland Security force, and Brett Warner, the director of Community Affairs for the Lucas County Sheriff's Office.

Community participants include Zahra Collins, director of Special Projects for the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union, John C. Jones, newly appointed president of HOPE Toledo and a minister at Christian Temple Baptist Church, Dawn Scotland, program coordinator at the AALP and licensed insurance professional, Larome Myrick, and Joshua Williams, an attorney and associate at Growth and Associates.

After the lunch meetings are concluded, three two-minute video presentations will be produced representing the time spent together and a perspective of common ideas. The interviews will be distributed to schools, businesses and organizations and also shared on social media. Public service announcements will be sent to local electronic and print media and a print publication will be developed to enhance relationships between school-aged children and the policing community.

For more information on the "Voices" project, contact the AALP at 419-720-4369.



Lucas County Sheriff John Tharpe

Sakiah Porshia and Danetta Walker

Early Voting Hours at Monroe and 13th

Early voting for this 2020 general election started on Tuesday, October 6 and continues until November 2.

The Center expanded operations this election cycle into the next door OhioMeansJobs building and added plastic barriers and floor markers to keep voters isolated from each other.

The Board of Elections has also made it easy for voters to make their selections with actually touching the machines, offering each voter a sty-lus or plastic gloves.

Early voting hours are: October 19-23 – 8 am to 6 pm; October 24 – 6 am to 4 pm; October 25 – 1 to 5 pm; October 26-30 – 8 am to 7 pm; October 31 – 8 am to 4 pm; November 1 – 1 to 5 pm; November 2 – 8 am to 2 pm.

Mailed absentee ballots must be postmarked by November 2 and voters are able to drop off absentee ballots at the Lucas County Board of Elections at One Government Center.


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Social Security Column

By Erin Thompson, Social Security Public Affairs Specialist in Toledo, Ohio

Guest Column

ACCESS SOCIAL SECURITY FROM JUST ABOUT ANYWHERE

You can access our programs and services from just about anywhere with your personal and secure my Social Security account. It's easy to sign up for one, and it will give you access to important information you can't find anywhere else. With your personal my Social Security account, you can:

Use our Retirement Calculator to compare future benefit estimates for different dates or ages to begin receiving benefits.

Check the status of your application or appeal for benefits.

Review your work history.

Request a replacement Social Security card (in most States).

If you already receive benefits, you can also:

Get a benefit verification or proof of income letter.

Set up or change your direct deposit.

Change your address.

Request a replacement Medicare card.

Get a Social Security 1099 form (SSA-1099).

You can even use your personal my Social Security account to opt out of receiving certain notices by mail, such as the annual cost-of-living adjustments and the income-related monthly adjustment amount notice. These notices are now available in your Message Center when you sign in to your account.

Please let your friends and family know that they can create their own my Social Security account today at www.ssa.gov/myaccount.

NEW BENEFIT VERIFICATION LETTERS

We are excited to announce the release of a new, standardized Benefit Verification letter.

People receiving Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits can obtain their letter by using their personal my Social Security account. You can use the letter as proof of income for loans, housing assistance, mortgage, and other verification purposes.

Please create your personal my Social Security account to access your new Benefit Verification letter online in a safe, quick, and convenient way without needing to contact us. People not receiving benefits can use their account to get proof that they do not receive benefits, or proof that benefits are pending, in the same standardized letter. Individual representative payees can also use the new my Social Security Representative Payee Portal to access the new Benefit Verification letter online for themselves or their beneficiaries.

You can access your Benefit Verification letters at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. If you don't want to use your personal my Social Security account, you

can call our National 800 Number to speak with a representative or to use the Interactive Voice Response system. You can also contact your local office.

UNDERSTANDING SOCIAL SECURITY SURVIVORS BENEFITS

We are here for surviving family members when a worker dies. In the event of your death, certain members of your family may be eligible for survivors benefits. These include widows and widowers, divorced widows and widowers, children, and dependent parents.

The amount of benefits your survivors receive depends on your lifetime earnings. The higher your earnings, the higher their benefits. That's why it's important to make sure your earnings history is correct in our records. You can do this by creating a personal my Social Security account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. A my Social Security account is secure and gives you immediate access to your earnings records, Social Security benefit estimates, and a printable Social Security Statement to see an estimate of survivors benefits we could pay your family.

You may also want to visit our Benefits Planner for Survivors to help you better understand your and your family's Social Security protections as you plan for your financial future at www.ssa.gov/planners/survivors.

Please visit www.ssa.gov or read our publication Survivors Benefits at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10084.pdf for more information. You can also help us spread the word by sharing this information with your family and friends.

SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAM EXPERTS CAN ANSWER YOUR IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

There are many online resources about Social Security, so it is important that you come to us as the first place for answers. You can find many of the answers about our programs and services on our Frequently Asked Questions page at faq.ssa.gov. We feature our most-asked questions at the top of the page to help you find answers to the most common questions quickly, like:

Are Social Security services affected by Coronavirus (COVID-19)?

What should I do if I receive a call from someone claiming to be a Social Security employee?

How do I change or correct my name on my Social Security number card?

How do I apply for a new or replacement Social Security number card?

How can I get a Social Security Statement that shows a record of my earnings and an estimate of my future benefits?

You can also browse by topics like:

Disability.

Social Security Payments.

Retirement.

Medicare.

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Taxpayer Advocacy Panel (TAP)

Want to Improve the IRS? SPEAK UP

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

and for which tax relief options. If additional steps are needed to claim these, the tool will provide links to more information, including any forms needed.

- If you are a business owner, nonprofit or self-employed individual, visit taxpayeradvocate.irs.gov/BizTaxReliefTool and see if you may qualify for some #COVID-19 tax relief options today!
- If you're a business owner, the new COVID-19 Business Tax Relief Tool is a simple way to find out what your options might be under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) and/or the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFRCA).
- Use the new #COVID-19 Business Tax Relief Tool to see if your business may qualify to be immediately reimbursed for certain credits by reducing your payroll tax deposits, claiming the credit on your employment tax forms, or requesting an advance payment of the credit. Even if you don't own a business, you can spread the word and help local businesses stay in business.

Helping Businesses Stay in Business: New Tool Provides Businesses Tax Relief Information in Only a Few Minutes

Let the Taxpayer Advocate Service help you determine if you or your business may qualify for one or more of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) business tax relief options currently available.

By using the COVID-19 Business Tax Relief tool, anyone who runs a business and has employees, can:

- Determine if they may qualify for available tax relief,
- Learn what those tax relief options are, and
- Get more information on what steps, if any, need to be taken to claim that relief.

To use this tool simply answer a couple of questions. It only takes a few minutes!

Based on your answers, it will determine if you may or may not qualify

Toledo Emergency... continued from page 7

Eligible applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

- Applicant meets one U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development eligibility requirement:
 - o Owns a business located in a low-to-moderate income census tract; or
 - o Household income does not exceed 80 percent of HUD area median income.
- Owns a for-profit business located in the city of Toledo.
- Has an active registration with the Toledo Division of Taxation.
- Applicant is 51 percent + majority owner of the business.
- Applicant is 18 or older.

- Business has been in operation since Jan. 1, 2020.
- Business has five or fewer full-time employees, or their equivalent, as of Feb. 15, 2020.
- Applicant is in good standing with governmental entities.

Ineligible applicants include:

- Landlords
- Realtors
- 501(c)(3) organizations
- Social service agencies
- Religious institutions
- Lobbying organizations

Applicant, and any owners thereof, who are employed by the city of Toledo

Other ineligible businesses include payday loan businesses, liquor and tobacco stores, pawn shops, firearm or other weapons dealers, adult entertainment, passive real estate investments, or home-based businesses operating without appropriate zoning and/or permits.

More information can be found, and applications may be filed, at <https://toledo.oh.gov/emrgrant>. Please email emrg@toledo.oh.gov with any questions.

Boostraps... continued from page 3

and exploiting the skills (as opposed to just the labor) of Blacks for profit while not allowing them to share in that wealth. Remember that Jack Daniels you enjoy? He learned the art of distillery from the slave Nathan Green.¹ I think about this each time I see “est. 1867” or “since 1861” emblems proudly displayed on products and advertisements. I think to myself “at least part of that touted success can be attributed to the fact that you did not have to compete with Black merchants for business resources and market share.”

The Half Has Never Been Told by Cornell professor Edward Baptist is a good read on how race and slavery shaped America's economy.

Additionally, the wise old “bootstraps” saying ignores the ways in which White Americans have benefitted from governmental assistance. Scholars almost universally agree that the GI bill after WWII is largely responsible for creating the middle class and allowing a large swath of the population to have access to home ownership which wasn't possible before that legislation.

Despite the fact that Blacks fought in that war (and every other war this country has fought), they were not permitted to access the benefits of that legislation.² It ignores how Whites were reimbursed for the loss of their slaves while slaves were not compensated for their labor.³ It ignores how Whites were given land in the West and how Blacks were not afforded this opportunity.⁴ When Affirmative Action Was White by Ira Katz Nelson is a great read on this point.

OhioMeansJobs... continued from page 7

Job Fair to conduct 10-minute in-person interviews with job seekers under health department guidelines and with appropriate personal protection equipment:

- Dana Driveline
- Detroit Manufacturing Systems (DMS)
- Syncreon
- Faurecia Clean Mobility
- Toledo Molding and Die (Grammar)
- Caravan Facilities Management

After registering online, an email will be sent to job seekers to confirm their scheduled interview and provide additional instructions they will need for the Job Fair. Job seekers will be required to stay in their vehicles or outside the UAW Local 12 Hall to abide by appropriate social distancing restrictions and will be required to cover their face until they are called into the building for their interview. Face coverings will be mandatory for everyone, both job seekers and company representatives.

The deadline to schedule interviews for the Job Fair is 5 p.m. Wednesday, October 21.

Finally, the saying evidences a profound ignorance of how many times Black people did in fact pull themselves up by their own boot straps (at a time when they didn't even have boots) and the wealth that they amassed was violently destroyed by Whites with little or no recourse or accountability. Consider the following (illustrative not exhaustive) list:

Black people lost over \$3 million dollars (almost \$70 million in today's money) in the Freedman's bank under white bank management.⁵

Tulsa aka “Black Wall Street” was bombed and burned by both US military forces and also private citizens. Surgeons were murdered. Families burned alive. It was on prom night for many Black youth.⁶

Attorney Bruce Wright was admitted to Princeton and awarded a full scholarship in the 1930s. When he arrived on campus his scholarship and his admission were revoked because he was Black.⁷

Rosewood, while not as well-known as Tulsa (which also isn't even that well known), was another enclave of Black economic self-sufficiency. It was burned down by whites on allegations from a white woman that she had been assaulted by a Black man. Similar allegations to Tulsa.⁸

Thomas Moss owned a grocery store in Memphis. He was prosperous and that prosperity angered Whites. He was lynched and his store burned to the ground in the 1890s. I hold this story dear because he was a friend of Ida B. Wells and of all the historical Black figures, I identify most with her. His murder is said to have angered her so much that it solidified her commitment to reporting on the lynchings of Blacks.⁹

Finally, consider SB Fuller who was the richest Black person in the 1950s. He owned a cosmetics company bringing in \$18 mil annually. He was deliberate about concealing his race. Once Whites found out that he was Black, they organized boycotts of his company and it ultimately went bankrupt.¹⁰

This is by no means exhaustive and I encourage you to do additional re-

... continued on page 13

Tolliver... continued from page 3

to them but all that counts is that Trump talks a good game and for them, that is sufficient.

Do we all have to think alike on all issues? Of course not. But let us be crystal clear and without any reservation that when a person repeatedly says to your face that the Confederacy (slavery included!) was not all bad or that there are fine White supremacists or he calls your Momma, a female dog, that person does not deserve an iota of your support.

The effect of brainwashing as a result of being a subjected people for hundreds of years has not totally worn off on some Black people who insanely feel a sense of safety and comfort being in the presence of those who have expressed their animus towards you, but yet, you hold fast and true ever hoping that they will call you in from the cotton field and into the glories and pleasures of their plantation house.

Contact *Lafe Tolliver* at tolliver@juno.com

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 ** Based on customer experience between shared online at www.thehartford.com/aaarp as of April 2019.
 *** The gift offer is good for first time responders who provide a valid email address. Responders will be sent an email to confirm the gift. All respondents in IL, IN, MI, MN and WI who do not provide an email address are still eligible to receive the gift. The gift offer is not available in CA, HI, MD, MA, PA, RI, and VA. Not available where prohibited. The gift is available while supplies last. Please allow 4-7 weeks for delivery. Stocks and securities: If you are age 50 or older, once you're insured through this program for at least 60 days, you cannot be refunded unless as long as applicable premiums are paid when due. Also, you and other customary drivers of your vehicles must obtain valid licenses, remain licensed, and remain capable of operating an automobile (not applicable in WA), have no convictions for driving while intoxicated and must not have obtained your party through national reinsurance. Benefit currently not available in HI, IL, MI, MN, NC and TX.
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 † In Texas, the Auto Program is underwritten by Southern County Mutual Insurance Company, through Hartford Fire General Agency, Hartford Fire Insurance Company and its affiliates are not financially responsible for insurance products underwritten and issued by Southern County Mutual Insurance Company. 000131

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000131

Reclaiming Her Time by Helena Andrews-Dyer and R. Eric Thomas

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

"Excuse me. It's my time to talk."

Ugh, it's frustrating when someone doesn't honor your voice or respect your ideas. When it's your time to speak, they should at least be quiet, and you shouldn't feel bad for wanting to be heard. Speak up!

As in the new book *Reclaiming Her Time* by Helena Andrews-Dyer and R. Eric Thomas, one politician had no problem doing so.

Born and raised in poverty, little Maxine Carr had one thing most kids in the 1930s and 40s didn't have: she had the certainty that if she didn't open her mouth to speak up, there'd never be any food in it. With 13 children in the family and just an overwhelmed mother raising them, Maxine and her siblings scabbled for whatever they got, and they learned to stand up for themselves because nobody else was ever going to do it for them.

Perhaps because of this, Maxine was always a fighter and never let an opportunity pass her by. She landed a job at age 13, so she could buy her own clothing. She worked hard to graduate from high school, knowing that an education was important. At 18, she was married, became a mother shortly afterward, and worked to help support her family. When she was 28 years old, someone told her about Head Start, a program for children who needed a boost, and she applied to be a teacher.

"Head Start changed my life," she said later. It opened up a world for her and gave her the opportunity to use other talents to become a community



Helena Andrews-Dyer, photo courtesy Robert S. Dyer

advocate for the people of Southern California, following the Watts riots. Her roots gave her an innate ability to use the power of connections, which led her to volunteer work in local politics and later, to office.

In 1976, she made the leap to state politics with her election to the California State Assembly. She became Maxine Waters when she re-married in 1977.

And in 1990, she became the second Black woman to represent California and just the sixth Black woman in the House...

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256 pages

Cinderella did it. So did Andrew Carnegie. We love it when someone moves decisively from poverty to pinnacle, and *Reclaiming Her Time* tells the next story in line.

And yet, with side-bars, lots of colorful illustrations, and enough fuss-free slanguage to keep information accessible, authors Thomas and Andrews-Dyer have done more than just write about Congresswoman Maxine Waters, who they insist "is not a celebrity" and "is not your typical politician." No, in addition to Waters' lively and meteoric story, the authors also fully explain how their title words fit into Congressional hearings, firmly promising readers that "reclaiming" is no-nonsense and not rude. This, and other such information here makes this book like having your own personal tour of Congress.

Younger readers will enjoy it, as will adults who like things solidly informative but a little on the lighter side. If that's you and you love politics, it is worth yours.

* * *

For more light reading, check out *Queens of the Resistance: Maxine Waters* by Brenda Jones & Krishan Trotman. It's a small, pocket-stuffer book that's perfect for taking a good story on the road.



R. Eric Thomas photo courtesy c.2020 Katie Simbala

Bootstraps... continued from page 12

search. I invite you to consider what that lost wealth and opportunity would've meant for the progeny of these Black people and how it is that there has been almost no accountability for what was done to them and their wealth and instead that void has been filled with "bootstraps" rhetoric.

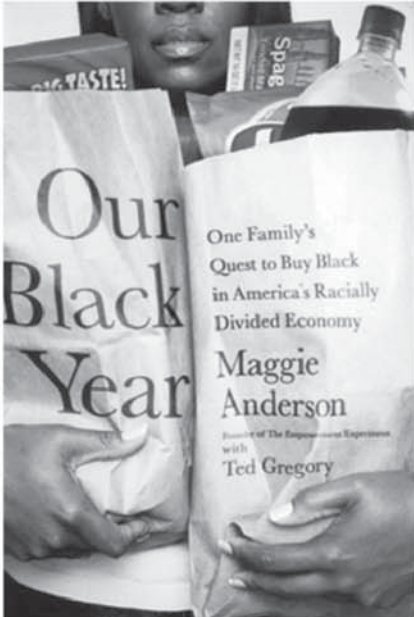
- 1) Nathan Green, The Man Who Taught Jack Daniels About Whiskey
- 2) How the GI Bill's Promise Was Denied to a Million Black WWII Veterans
- 3) When Slaveowners Got Reparations
- 4) Martin Luther King: How White People Got Their Land and Wealth
- 5) <https://www.businessinsider.com/.../freedmans-bank...>
- 6) <https://www.tulsaohistory.org/.../1921-tulsa-race-massacre/>
- 7) <https://slavery.princeton.edu/.../bruce-wright-exclusion...>
- 8) https://en.wikipedia.org/.../en.../wiki/Rosewood_massacre
- 9) <https://daily.jstor.org/peoples-grocery-lynching/>
- 10) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samuel_B._Fuller

Ed Note: RaShya Ghee is a local attorney and American racism scholar. She writes, teaches, and lectures in the areas of racism, power, human trafficking, law and culture. She facilitates anti-racism trainings around the country and you can follow her on Instagram at @AdvAKAator.

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When: Every 4th Sunday
 Time: 11:00 am
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CLASSIFIEDS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS SECURITY GUARD SERVICES RFP20-R005

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMHA) will receive proposals for **Unarmed Security Guard Services**. Received in accordance with law until **November 6, 2020 at 3:00 PM ET**. See documents: www.lucasmha.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.



NOTICE OF JOB VACANCY RECOVERY CARE MANAGER RN OR LSW/LISW

Registered Nurse (RN), or Licensed Social Worker (LSW or LISW) licensed to practice in the State of Ohio or a Bachelor's Degree in Counseling, Psychology, or related field, and a minimum of three (3) Year's prior experience in Home and Community Based Services or case management and mental health.

Provides Recovery Services Management for the Medicaid Specialized Recovery Services Program (SRSP). Understanding of home and community based service delivery system and community resources. Ability to travel in a multi-county service area and access private homes and facilities, which may not be readily accessible. Knowledge of issues affecting people with severe and persistent mental illness and community-based intervention/resources for those individuals.

Reliable transportation, insurance, valid driver's license and the ability to satisfactorily undergo a Motor Vehicle Record check (MVR) on at least an annual basis, successfully passing criminal background check, and drug/alcohol screening. Excellent Benefits.

EEO/AAP, Bilingual and minority applicants encouraged to apply.

Submit resumes to:
Samuel H. Hancock Ed.D.
Vice-President of Human Resources
Area Office on Aging of NW Ohio, Inc.
2155 Arlington Avenue
Toledo, Ohio 43609

Or jobs@areaofficeonaging.com

This description is intended to indicate the kind of tasks and level of work difficulty required of the position. The title of this job shall not be construed as declaring the specific duties and responsibilities of the position. This position description and/or job vacancy notice is not intended to limit or in any way modify the rights of any supervisor to assign, direct, and control the work of employees under supervision. The use of this particular expression or illustration describing duties shall not be held to exclude other duties not mentioned.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PROGRAMMING SPECIALIST

Metroparks has an opening for a full time Diversity and Inclusion Programming Specialist position at Wildwood Preserve Metropark to carry out programs and special events that focus on the inclusion of diverse populations and to develop and coordinate those with community partnerships. Bachelor's degree preferred or equivalent work experience. Moderate level of experience in program development, production and evaluation and producing special events to diverse populations. Experience in developing and coordinating partnerships with community organizations. Must be 18 years of age and hold a valid driver's license. \$18.45/hr. Full time with benefits. Please visit www.metroparkstoledo.com <<http://www.metroparkstoledo.com>>/careers for complete list of position requirements and duties; must submit online application and resume. EOE

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission is seeking candidates for a Roadway Maintenance Worker and a Mechanic at the Elmore Maintenance Building located in Elmore, Ohio.

High school diploma or equivalent and a valid Class "A" CDL are required for both positions. Please visit www.ohioturnpike.org to access the full job descriptions and application instructions.

Equal employment opportunity shall be afforded to all qualified persons without regard to age, race, color, religion, religious creed, gender, military status, ancestry, disability, handicap, sexual orientation, genetic information or national origin.

CUSTOMER SERVICE RECEPTIONIST

Metroparks has an opening for a full time Customer Service Receptionist position at Wildwood Preserve Metropark to serve internal and external customers by providing administrative support and information on Metroparks facilities, services, and programs, ensuring high levels of customer satisfaction and promoting public use and enjoyment of Metroparks. High school diploma or equivalent required. Must be 18 years of age and hold a valid driver's license. Customer service and administrative support experience preferred. \$15.11/hr. Full time with benefits.

To apply visit www.metroparkstoledo.com <<http://www.metroparkstoledo.com>>/careers for complete list of position requirements and duties; must submit online application and resume. EOE

NOTICE FOR REQUEST FOR PRICING OF AUDIT SERVICES

Preferred Properties, Inc. is seeking a Request for Proposal (RFP) from qualified accountants to provide professional audit/tax services for their entities and managed projects. A detailed RFP letter can be requested from Paul H. Bressan at pbressan@Preferred-Properties.org <<mailto:pbressan@Preferred-Properties.org>> by October 26, 2020. EOE.

TOLEDO LEGAL AID SOCIETY

Assistant Public Defender and TLAS Fellowship Program positions available in Lucas County, Ohio. Successful candidates must be licensed with the Ohio Supreme Court. Graduates from an accredited college of law who are awaiting Ohio bar results will be considered for the fellowship program. Please see <http://www.nlada.org/node/34681> for more detailed descriptions. Email cover letter and resume by November 6, 2020 to: ToledoLegalAidSociety@Yahoo.com

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.



Call to place your ad:
419-243-0007
www.TheTruthToledo.com

The Super Lit Emporium Hosts Gala at The Truth Gallery

An empowerment mixer, a dinner buffet, some spoken word, live entertainment, a dance routine and Chazze Hall performing his latest single --- Shawonna Wynn brought the magic to The Truth Gallery on Friday night, October 16 with the Super Lit Emporium to kick off fall holiday festivities.

Guests were treated to a variety of entertainment and shopping opportunities as the band Eleven entertained throughout. Chawone Ardrey and Jodie Summers brought the spoken word, DJ Big Trav (Travis Grant) brought the music when the band wasn't playing. GT San Diego (Gary Shorter) did his Michael Jackson piece and entrepreneurs kept the guests moving along to see one display of attractive goods after another.

The Super Lit Emporium is a "career networking and showcase event, organized to inspire community enhancement through a supportive family-focused structure," said Wynn of the reasons for the starting her organization.



The Band Eleven, with leader Steve Griffin



GT San Diego (Gary Shorter)



Shawonna Wynn



OCTOBER IS **Breast Cancer** Awareness Month

Time to schedule your mammogram.



Did you know:

- Breast cancer is the **second most common cancer** in women, after skin cancer. (National Cancer Institute)
- **One in eight women** will be diagnosed with breast cancer.
- There is a **98% survivor rate** if cancer is detected during EARLY stage.

Early detection saves lives!

Learn more about breast cancer screenings promedica.org/breasthealth

Don't let your busy life get in the way of caring for you. Know your risk factors. Talk to your physician about the best mammogram schedule for you.

Need a primary care provider?

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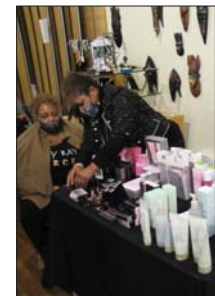
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