

# The *Sojourner's* Truth

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“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”

October 28, 2020

**Vote As If Your Life Depends On It!**



*But I came to admire Joe as a man who has learned early on to treat everybody he meets with dignity and respect, living by the words his parents taught him, no one's better than you Joe, but you're better than nobody. And that empathy, that decency, that belief that everybody counts, that's who Joe is. That's who he'll be. And I can tell you the presidency doesn't change who you are, it reveals who you are. And Joe has shown himself to be a friend of working people. For eight years, Joe was the last one in the room when I faced a big decision. He made me a better president and he's got the character and experience to make us a better country. And he and Kamala- A better country. – President Barack Obama, Erie, PA, speech, October 2020*

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**ISSUE 3**  
CITY OF TOLEDO, INCOME TAX 3/4%

**ISSUE 4**  
CITY OF TOLEDO, INCOME TAX 1/4%

**ISSUE 17**  
METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF  
TOLEDO, PROPERTY TAX 2 MILLS

**ISSUE 18**  
LUCAS COUNTY CHILDREN'S SERVICES,  
PROPERTY TAX 1.8 MILLS



# Now or Never

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

The Truth Contributor

*Opportunity don't come but once. And if you miss it – it may not come back again.*

*- Grandmama 'nem*



William Shakespeare, once eloquently wrote, “There is a tide in the affairs of men. When taken at the flood, leads to fortune; Omitted, all the voyage of their life, is bound in shallows and in miseries.” However, the short, sententious mother wit of Big Mama or Grandmama ‘nem articulated this pearl of wisdom no less masterly when they forewarned, “Don’t miss an opportunity. It may only come once!”

Whether expressed by the grandiloquence of the storied poet-playwright or the pithy innate common-sense intellect of seasoned African American women, the truth is the same. There are some things before us that the urgency of the hour requires that we act on or the opportunity to do so will vanish, never to return. The implication is that we risk the consequences of not taking immediate action.

American voters are facing our most consequential election since perhaps the vote which preceded the blood-soaked Civil War.

Voting is a fundamental right, and all citizens should have voter access that is easy and convenient. Yet, the 2020 election occurs when a myriad of political tactics and outside attempts to interfere with our elections, are being employed to suppress voter turnout in urban centers and areas with large minority populations.

In Ohio’s major urban areas, voters have had to wait for hours in lines up to a quarter of a mile or longer, on average. Low income and African American voters find that they have to wait in line twice as long as white voters as Ohio voters “must overcome a series of barriers put into place by the state’s Republican-controlled legislature and secretary of state,” says the Center for Public Integrity.

Specifically, the impediments, which disproportionately burden people of color, include “strict ID laws and purging voter rolls that target those who do not vote frequently enough, limiting the number of drop boxes and rejecting signatures on absentee ballots and applications.”

What’s at Stake:

The implicit narrative painted is that certain groups do not deserve access to the voting booth nor other rights, such as access to affordable health care. And, as has been stated before, this momentous election also comes at a period that Miguel De La Torre describes as where “white nationalism has been brought back into the mainstream of American public life; racial tensions are running high fueled by explicit bigotry such as slurs against Hispanic immigrants; excessive force is perpetrated against citizens of color by law enforcement; and the rhetoric of identity politics pervades the media rather than racial justice and reconciliation.”

Protecting Your Vote:

Undoubtedly, these biases and aggressive voter suppression strategies played a role in our community’s low turnout in 2016. While life presents us with opportunities, it is time to seize the moment and bring about change. In the 2020 election, it is time to go on the offensive rather than the prevent defense we played four years ago. We don’t have much time, but we can counter the suppression. Here’s what we can do.

8 Ways to Fight Back:

**1. Check and Re-Check your Registration:** In September 2019, 182,000 Ohioans were purged from the voter rolls. Ensure that you are properly registered, your name is on the rolls, and that your address is up to date. Registration information available at OHVOTES.ORG

**2. Vote now and Know your local election dates and deadlines:** Election Day, Nov.3, 6:30am -7:30pm. Early in-person voting starts October 6, M-F 8am – 5pm; The last two weekends and Monday before election (Nov.2) also have Early Voting; Take absentee ballots in signed envelope to Drop Box at One Government Sq. (Jackson St.) from October 6 to November 3, 7:30pm. Only immediate family members may return absentee ballots, but anyone can provide a ride to vote or drop off the absentee ballot.

**3. Find your polling place,** what’s on your ballot, ID requirements and other information at ohvotes.org.

**4. Be Informed:** The League of Women Voters’ website generates voter-specific voter guides. Reach out to your local league or visit VOTE411.ORG to research candidates and ballot measures.

**5. Complete Absentee Ballots Accurately:** Follow instructions to a tee and fill in information PROPERLY. Include email and phone numbers where asked in case information needs to be corrected. Double-check the return envelope and track your ballot like a package at <https://www.ohiosos.gov/>

elections/voters/toolkit/ballot-tracking/.

**6. Election Protection:** Flag and report any misinformation on social media immediately. Report voter suppression/intimidation. The Nonpartisan Voter Hotline provides registration status, polling location, and voter rights. They also provide an intake process for voter rights violations. 1-866-OUR-VOTE (English) or 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA (Spanish). Attorneys interested in making sure that every vote is counted should contact [wetheaction.org](http://wetheaction.org) to help out.

**7. Have a Plan:** Ensure everyone in your household has a ride and a plan to get to the polling place; ensure you have weather-appropriate gear, folding chair, water, and snacks.

**8. Stay in line!** If you are in line to vote before the polls close, you have the right to vote, no matter how long it takes. If asked to leave or experiencing other problems at your polling place, call the ACLU’s Election Protection Hotline 1-866-OUR-VOTE or visit their anti-suppression website at [866ourvote.org](http://866ourvote.org).

The determination to suppress certain communities’ votes is fierce and millions of Ohio voters neglected – or were prevented - from casting ballots in 2016. The voting public must be equally intense in fighting back in 2020. If we do not defend our rights now, there might not be another opportunity.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at [drldperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org](mailto:drldperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org)

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# Honoring the University's Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion

By Kait Tippey

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion announced the Inclusive Wall of Honor to be installed on the third floor of University Hall.

The Inclusive Wall of Honor will honor and highlight the contributions underrepresented minorities, individuals with disabilities and members of the LGBTQA+ community have made as faculty, staff, administrators and alumni of The University of Toledo.

"I hope it will instill a sense of pride for current students and hopefully inspire them to become their best selves, whatever that means to each student," said Willie McKether, PhD, vice president of diversity and inclusion and vice provost at UToledo.

Prior to the Inclusive Wall of Honor's installation, ODI is calling for nominations of the incoming class of inductees for 2020. The nomination form is available on the Office of Diversity and Inclusion website.

Criteria for nomination:

- Nominees must be an Underrepresented Minority (URM), a person

with a disability or a member of the LGBTQA+ community.

- Any faculty, staff or administrator who made significant contributions while employed at the University and has demonstrated good citizenship since leaving the University is eligible to be nominated. These nominees must have been separated from the university for at least two years in order to be eligible for nomination. This includes individuals who left the University on favorable terms through resignation, retirement or are deceased.

- Alumni who have been graduated from UToledo for at least five years, have made significant contributions to the community and have demonstrated good citizenship are eligible for nomination. Nominated alumni may be living or deceased.

- Nominations should be supported with as much historical data as possible (newspaper clippings, statistics, etc.).

Email [diversity@utoledo.edu](mailto:diversity@utoledo.edu) or call 419.530.5535 for more information.

## A Letter From Kenny Boles

Afternoon All,

It is with great concern that I am writing this email regarding the city's latest murder early this morning. I called 911 because I heard bullets

ripping through my home at 1665 Woodland Avenue. The police were dispatched to the area.

I am a registered CCW card holder, as I was armed standing in front of my house. I was immediately relieved of my firearm and thanked for my cooperation. I was then told to stay outside, and to have my wife come outside as well.

My home was searched, and at a point we were allowed to return back inside under the watchful eye of police officers. We felt victimized not being able to use the restroom without supervision. There were so many officers present that I lost track of who had my weapon. I was told of several reasons of why my firearm was kept (mostly by patrolmen and not their supervisors).

This was a very traumatic event for myself and wife. The only person's name that I got, of all the people who came in and out of my home, some of which who didn't wear any face covering, was Detective Sharp. We felt like prisoners in our own home, although the officer who was watching us, he was very understanding of what we were going through.

...continued on page 6

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# My Plan to Lift Every Voice in Black America

*President Trump wants to paper over the living wound of racism. He's issued Executive Orders and established a new national commission designed to whitewash our history—and deny the daily reality of being Black in America. He actively appeals to white supremacists and fans the flames of hatred and division in our country, because he thinks it benefits him politically. He ignores the most basic job of every president: the duty to care for all of us, not just those who voted for him.*

By Joe Biden

There is injustice in America. There is discrimination. There is a legacy of racism and inequality that lives still in our institutions, our laws, and in too many people's hearts that makes it harder for Black people to succeed. These are facts in the United States of America in 2020, and we must all do more to move our nation closer to the ideals inlaid at our founding—that all women and men are created equal.

This year has also brought us too many examples of the dangers Black people can face in the course of going about their lives. With grieving hearts, we learned to say the names of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Rayshard Brooks, and many more. I've spent time with the families of George Floyd and Jacob Blake, sharing their grief and anger and seeing the incredible resilience of communities that for too long have had a knee on their neck. And I was inspired by their commitment to turn their pain into purpose.

Today, there are Americans all across this country, especially Black Americans, who are exhausted and hurting. Who are disappointed by a system that never seems to deliver for your communities. Who are sick and tired of a cycle where, in good times, Black communities lag behind, in bad times they get hit first and hardest, and in recovery, they take the longest to bounce back.

We're in the midst of four simultaneous crises—a pandemic that has claimed more than 200,000 lives, a disproportionate number of whom were Black; an economic crash that has hit Black workers and Black business owners especially hard; a long overdue reckoning on racial justice; and a climate crisis that is already hurting Black and Brown communities the most.

It is our job to do everything in our power to rip out systemic racism across our society, root and branch. It will be hard work in any case. But we will not succeed without a leader who understands our history and is ready to grapple with our challenges.

President Trump wants to paper over the living wound of racism. He's issued Executive Orders and established a new national commission designed to whitewash our history—and deny the daily reality of being Black in America. He actively appeals to white supremacists and fans the flames of hatred and division in our country, because he thinks it benefits him politically. He ignores the most basic job of every president: the duty to care for all of us, not just those who voted for him.



It's the polar opposite of what I will do as president. I was proud to serve for eight years alongside President Obama. I watched up close how he filled the Oval Office with dignity and compassion for others. And, together with Senator Kamala Harris as my vice president, we will restore honor, integrity, and competence to the White House.

We will build an administration that looks like America, including nominating the first Black woman to serve on the Supreme Court.

We will work to unite the country around solutions that will push our country forward, and most importantly, I will listen to those impacted by the long-standing inequities in our system—especially Black Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, and Native Americans.

That's how we will work together to deliver real, lasting change. Criminal justice and policing reforms, but also economic opportunity and financial stability. Building wealth for families of color and passing it down. Closing the racial wealth gap is one of the most powerful ways we can build real equity in our society, and it's going to require a full-court press. That's what my Lift Every Voice plan is—a comprehensive agenda to take on the range of issues that drive inequality in Black America.

We'll tackle student debt and invest more in our HBCUs, so higher education is a pathway to wealth and opportunity instead of to debt that prevents you from owning a home or starting a small business.

... continued on page 6

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*Kenny Boles... continued from page 4*

We finally regained control of our home after 4:00 AM. I want to know who has my weapon, why they have my weapon, and why was my weapon taken from me with no explanation? I was the person who called the shooting in, only to have my Second Amendment right to be violated is my feeling.

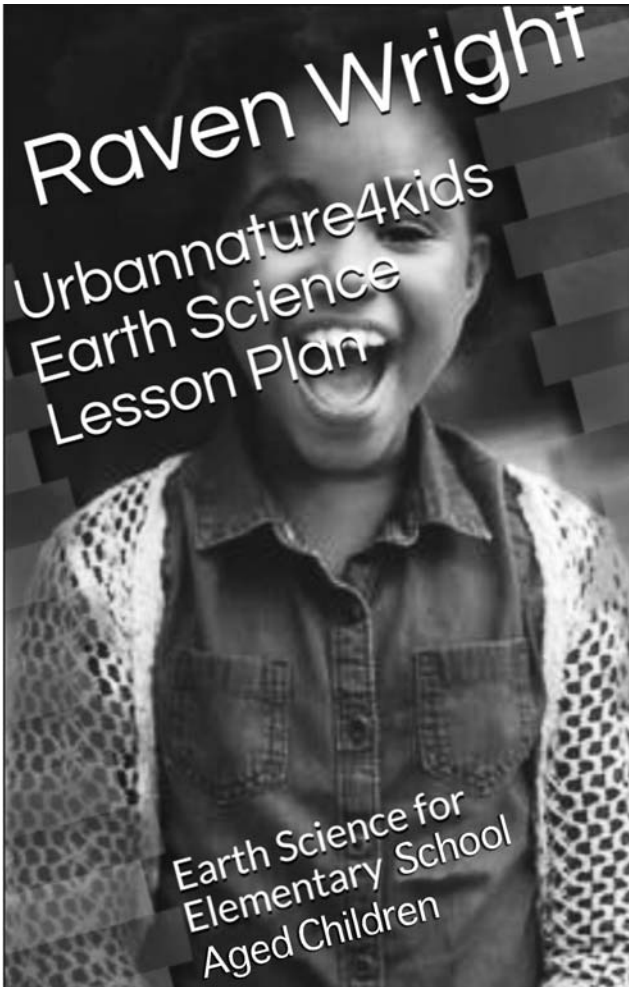
I have been an advocate for improved community engagement with policing, as well as a voice for the rights and safety of the junction community at large. We know there is a problem with gun violence in and around our community, but this is not a reason for the victims, to in turn become the suspects.

Kenny Boles

Kenny,

This is the injustice that we see throughout our community and I apologize for the harm that has come to your home and neighborhood. We can no longer be silent, God forbid that one of those bullets that escaped into your home would have killed you or your wife. We have asked for dialogue with the officers after each event that has taken place in our community and there has been NO RESOLVE just promises. Now, to have your firearm taken and left with no explanation of WHY! Yet, we continue to work, live and attempt to protect our families. I will see you in a few.

Alicia M. Smith, M.A.  
Alternative Solutions, LLC 43607  
Community Empowerment Toledo, Ohio 43607



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

*Joe Biden... continued from page 5*

My plan will empower Black-owned small businesses, with short-term relief to get you through this tough time and long-term investments to help you build back better — with access to new capital and financing and government contracts.



Critically, we're going to tackle the racial homeownership gap head on. There is no greater vehicle for wealth creation than homeownership. That's why my plan will restore the steps President Obama and I took toward eradicating housing discrimination, including redlining; end racial bias in how we judge which families are credit-worthy; and provide a \$15,000 down payment tax credit to help millions of young Black families buy their first home.

We'll fix our upside-down tax system to finally reward work, not wealth. Trump thinks billionaires deserve more tax cuts. But under my plan, I'll make sure the super wealthy and big corporations pay their fair share, while ensuring that no one making less than \$400,000 a year sees their taxes go up.

And I'm going to fight like hell to defend your family's health care, just like I would my own. Right now, in the midst of a pandemic, Donald Trump is asking the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn Obamacare—all of it. He wants to overturn the very law that expanded coverage to an additional 3 million Black Americans. If he succeeds, more than 20 million Americans will lose their coverage, and more than 100 million people with preexisting conditions will no longer be protected against their insurance companies charging them more, or denying them coverage all together.

I'll defend Obamacare and build on it—adding a public option that will automatically enroll four million more people that Republicans shut out by refusing to expand Medicaid in their states. We're going to get to universal coverage and lower health care costs. We're going to give working families a bigger subsidy to lower their premiums. And we're going to take on pharmaceutical companies, bringing down the cost of your prescription drugs by 60 percent.

As my friend John Lewis used his final words to remind us: "Ordinary people with extraordinary vision can redeem the soul of America." We cannot be tired. We cannot be hopeless. The choice in this election couldn't be more stark, and we must vote for the future we want for every single one of our children. I'm ready to fight for you and your families, and I hope to earn your vote.

*Ed. Note: Reprinted from the NNPA Newswire*

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# Shop Talk Explores the Upcoming Presidential Election

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

A group of black male leaders gathered for a virtual black barber shop chat to discuss the upcoming November Presidential election. The October 22 chat featured Cleveland Councilman Basheer Jones as facilitator and discussion panelists Columbus barber shop owner Muhammad Shabazz, SCIU Deputy Director of Government Affairs Dominique Warren, Deputy Engagement Director for Ohio Democratic Party Jordan Hawkins, and Columbus Councilman Shannon Hardin.



Cleveland Councilman Basheer Jones

The virtual location, a black-owned Cleveland barber shop, Mobazz, owned by Shabazz was selected because it represents an important location in the black community.

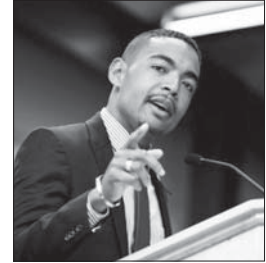
"The barber shop is the sanctuary for black men. It's a place to get information, this is a safe space where you come and get therapy. The barber is a peacemaker and does more than just cut hair," explained Jones.

The discussion began with opening remarks from each panelist and quickly pivoted to the current negative impacts that COVID-19 has had on the black community, including loss of jobs and health disparities.

"If we don't have the right type of president in the White House that understands urban communities and understands people like us, we're in trouble. Voting for Joe Biden will not make our lives perfect, but I promise

it can make it better than this," said Hardin.

The panelists shared perspectives about how Joe Biden's presidency would improve the lives of black people by increasing minimum wage to \$15 an hour and how Biden and Harris are working to run a moral campaign.



Columbus Councilman Shannon Hardin

"We're seeing the effects of Trump's presidency from the last four years we've lifted the old dirty carpet up and seeing what is happening in our communities. We're seeing police violence, under employment, unemployment, young black males dying of COVID, lack of access to healthcare, a shaking education system, and also education and wealth gaps. Voting is one of the tools of activism, but not the only tool. When Trump says make America great again. He means more segregation, more racism and more violence towards black males. Once Biden is elected as president, we will have a seat at the table and the ability to advocate for things that we need," shared Warren.

Ohio is one of the few states that took proactive steps to provide absentee ballots for Ohio residents, who also have two additional options to either vote early before the November election or in person on November 3, 2020.

... continued on page 12

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# AALP's Centennial Celebration of National Negro League

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Toledoans gathered on Saturday, October 24 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the National Negro League and specifically three local baseball teams.

The press event was held at Jerusalem Baptist Church on Dorr Street and organized by The African American Sports' Legends of Northwest Ohio, a component of The African American Legacy Project.

"We're here to celebrate the wonderful history of sports in this city. We must also pause to reflect and remember 100 years of the Negro League. There is sadness when we reflect on the Negro Leagues because it had to exist in the first place. There were players who should have played in major leagues. Toledo has been a welcoming place for people of all talents," said Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz.

In addition to the Mayor, the press conference received remarks from two Lucas County Commissioners: Tina Skeldon Wozniak and Pete Gerken, and two City of Toledo Councilmembers Cecilia Adams, PhD and Tiffany Preston-Whitman, PhD.

"We are excited to participate in this celebration, let's continue to move together as one Toledo team," Skeldon.

The press event provided visuals commemorating highlights of the National Negro League and concluded with a donation of a Negro League jersey and Negro League history book from the Preston-Whitman family to the African American Legacy Project.

The African American Sports' Legends of Northwest Ohio committee: Doug Allen, Jackie Allen, Leroy Bates, Robert Bates, Land Battles, Truman Clayton, James Coogler, Terry Crosby, Robert Gore, Wes Harper, Bill Hayes, Ed Jaynes, James L. Jones, Willie Loper, John Preston, Marcus Newbern, Ed

Norrils, Robert Shorter, Keith Mathis Smith and George Snelling.

The committee's mission is to discover, document and preservation of the histories and achievements of African-American athletes, coaches and distinguished citizens who have made significant contributions to athletics through their genre, regardless of gender. Primarily, but not exclusive, attention shall be directed to those whose excellence have made a positive impact and influence upon the African American and/or global communities and who may be recognized and/or visually memorized at a common venue in perpetuity in the Hall of Legends.

The National Negro League was created by founder Rube Foster and ran from 1920-1931 and included 22 teams. The press conference closed with a digital replica of a historical marker bearing the names of three Negro League Teams: Toledo Tigers, Toledo Cubs and Toledo Crawfords who played their homes games at the old Swayne Field baseball stadium. On a national level, the Negro League paved the path for Jackie Robinson to break into Major League Baseball in 1947.



AALP Sports Legends Committee



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 The African American Chamber of Commerce  
 The Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance  
 The Area Office on Aging of Northwest Ohio

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Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz and AALP Director Robert Smith



Unveiling the Plaque





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Publication Date 09/20  
\*Rounded averages from FY20.





# Surge in Early Voting Continues over the Weekend

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Even as the fall temperature dipped into the 40's on Sunday, the line of voters curled around the Early Voting Center on Monroe Street as voters appeared to be undeterred by the cold or the perception that voting, especially early voting, has become increasingly more restricted.

Voters were greeted on this first weekend of voting, at a distance, by streets lined with candidates' signs, volunteers waving and chanting, music and a food truck, if they chose to break out of line for a minute or two.

The Movement, the group that hosts events to encourage people to register and vote, led by Tina Butts, was out in force as were various candidates and their supporters ready to greet voters as they strode to the lines from their parked cars.

By Friday, October 23, before the weekend of voting, 1.1 million Ohioans had already cast their votes, more than double the 2016 same-period early voting totals.



Tina Butts and David Fleetwood



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# Burdens of COVID Hit Hardest Among Marginalized Students

Special to The Truth

Students are the greatest hope for the future, but for many, their plans are threatened due to burdens posed by COVID-19. Here are just a few of the issues students and families face today, and steps being taken to address these concerns:

- **The digital divide:** Recent images of two Latino children doing their online schoolwork in a Silicon Valley restaurant parking lot calls attention to the deepening digital divide in the COVID-19 era. Nationwide, 16.9 million lack the home internet access necessary to support online learning. A phenomenon known as the "homework gap," this issue disproportionately impacts students of color. According to the Alliance for Excellent Education, one out of three Black, Latino, and Native American/Alaska Native households doesn't have access to a home internet connection and one in six doesn't have access to a computer or device.

- **Housing insecurity:** For students in the LGBTQ community, campus closures have sometimes meant the loss of in-school counseling and the support of like-minded, accepting peers. When "home" is an unwelcoming or even unsafe environment, students can be at a greater risk for depression, anxiety, abuse and homelessness.

- **Educational barriers:** Distance learning creates new educational hurdles. With parents taking on an unprecedented instructional role, language barriers for non-English speaking parents can prove significant, like for Asian and Latino immigrants. What's more, certain programming for students with disabilities, including speech and physical therapy, can be tough, if not impossible, to provide virtually. Lastly, certain learning disabilities can make virtual lessons especially difficult to follow.

- **Military family and school options:** Continued access to quality education has always been a concern for military families, who often have no choice but to send their children to the nearest public school, whether it's the right fit or not. Today, this problem has grown in severity, as the level and quality of remote instruction can vary wildly among school districts.



- **Lack of financial resources:** Despite the economic disruption caused by the pandemic, colleges and universities are largely maintaining or increasing their tuition costs, leaving financially struggling students and families in a lurch.

### Efforts to Help

In the face of today's many unprecedented challenges, help is on the way. New emergency grants are being provided by organizations like UNCF, Thurgood Marshall College Fund, APIA Scholars, Point Foundation for LGBTQ youth, American Indian Graduate Center, Hispanic Scholarship Fund and Scholarship America for military veterans and people with disabilities. Career sites like Zippia offer annual scholarship lists for students such as this curated list for LGBTQ college students: [zippia.com](http://zippia.com).

Additionally, organizations like Wells Fargo recently completed their new Wells Fargo Student Impact Scholarship in September 2020 to help students impacted by COVID-19. This initiative will provide 200 students with \$5,000

each in funds, which could help them cover various costs for their instruction and potentially make the difference in being able to continue their education. Since 2010, Wells Fargo has provided more than \$87.8 million across all higher education programs and sponsored events. For additional resources, visit the Beyond College Webinar Series for online training modules for students and recent graduates at [collegesteps.wf.com](http://collegesteps.wf.com).

While the hardships of the COVID-19 era can make it incredibly difficult to be academically successful or even continue school at all, new efforts are helping close the gap during this difficult time.

Courtesy StatePoint



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 National Certified Counselor  
 Certified Grief Recovery Specialist  
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# Toledo Library Offers Grant Help

Just as there is more need than ever for help finding grants assistance, the Toledo Lucas County Public Library (TLCPL) has a Grant Specialist available to find personalized grants searches for nonprofit organizations and individuals. Interested individuals/organizations can complete this online form (<https://form.jotform.com/202855975693068>) and results will be emailed.

TLCPL Grants Specialist, Zachary Huber said, It is estimated that 11% of nonprofits will close their doors this year compared to the average 4% in the absence of a crisis such as the pandemic. TLCPL feels it is important to provide support to our local nonprofits to prevent this daunting trend. This new service not only allows us to provide immediate, expert help but also allows us to serve individuals who may not be ready to come in person to use our grants search computer."

Database used for the search include:

- Foundation Directory Online
- Grants to Individuals Online

Types of funding, besides program funding:

- Capital Campaign
- Seed Money
- Scholarship/academic
- Travel Stipend
- General Unrestricted Funds

Data:

- List of grantmaker names association with subject search results
- In-depth grantmaker giving profiles associated with subject search results
- Specific foundations' 990 tax form
- List of grants given by specific foundations

Media Contact:

Kelsey Rader, (<mailto:kelsey.cogan@toledolibrary.org>) Media Coordinator  
419.280.5271

## Shop Talk... continued from page 7

"We are in the fourth quarter and in the home stretch of this election. We need to wake up every day and ask ourselves, what are we doing to bring this election home for our communities? There is so much on the ballot our lives are on the ballot. We need to do what we can to get our folks out to vote," stated Hawkins.



Dominique Warren

Facilitator Jones mentioned the recent backlash against Biden for the negative impact from the 1994 'Crime Bill' had on the black community. The Violence Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 was drafted by Joe Biden who was the Senator from Delaware. Panelist Hardin addressed that question.

"People were asking four years ago, what was the difference between Clinton and Trump, look where we are at now. There are 230,000 people dead because of an incompetent man without morals, who's currently running our health system. There is so much negativity being pushed out there about Biden and Harris, we need someone with morals in the White House. Let's be honest for one moment, we know black women will vote, we need black men to step up and vote too," explained Hardin.

# Seniors encouraged to Use Emotional Support Line and WISE Program

COVID-19 is continuing to have substantial effects on community members' mental health, especially seniors. In collaboration with Harbor's Wellness Initiative for Senior Education (WISE) Program, the Mental Health Board of Lucas County will be delivering care packages to seniors in different areas of Lucas County over the next few months.

The first location for deliveries will be Kingston Care Center of Sylvania and Kings Pointe Senior Apartments. Packages will include resources for the Lucas County Emotional Support Phone Line and Harbor's WISE program, handwritten notes from students at Sylan Elementary School, and

... continued on page 13

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# An Environmental History of the Civil War by Judkin Browning & Timothy Silver

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

Save the Earth!

You'd agree to that. Who doesn't want to enjoy a bright, airy afternoon with cottonball clouds? Of course, you'd happily leave your grandchildren those shirt-sleeve kinds of days, thunderstorm evenings, clean air and water. That's what you'd choose if you could – though, as you'll see in *An Environmental History of the Civil War* by Judkin Browning & Timothy Silver, things weren't always so sunny.

c.2020  
The University of North Carolina Press  
\$30 / higher in Canada  
260 pages

In all the battles that occurred in the Civil War, just one campaign – the Mud March of January, 1863 – was named after the weather in which it happened. It was the result of not having accurate weather information, leading to poor planning. And it was not the only time that unforeseen forces affected the war.

The war, say Browning and Silver, had barely begun when measles outbreaks hit the newly-formed ranks especially hard. The average soldiers were boys from rural areas and "rural folk... lacked the immunity that some city folk enjoyed," so thousands fell ill. Bacterial infections followed, as did insect-carried and water-borne diseases; syphilis and gonorrhea spread, too, their effects lingering well past wars' end.

Hunger was a near-constant issue that affected soldiers' stamina; on or off the battlefield, they were not always well-fed. At least one general ordered his troops "not to confiscate private property," but hunger was stronger than a need to obey and foodstores were regularly raided, leaving civilians to starve. Troops dealt with floods or drought but, unaccustomed to local weather or ill-prepared by suppliers, soldiers suffered from heat stroke or severe dehydration exacerbated by dysentery from drinking water

contaminated by debris, human and animal waste, or by corpses dumped in water sources or inadequate graves.

These are but a few issues of environment that happened to soldiers, but the authors also write about the effects on the environment from soldiers: fields left stripped and barren, cattle populations that took decades to recover, entire forests destroyed, alterations to the land, and countless graves and trenches dug for those who never went home...

Chances are, if you're a student of Civil War history, you own shelves and shelves filled with battle dates and biographies. *An Environmental History of the Civil War* moves the story in a totally different direction.

Here, authors Browning and Silver take a no-holds-barred approach that goes deep into parts of the war that affected men on an individual basis, with a focus that's less on Generals and more on general troops, and a narrative that extends to both Black and White. Overall, that information is factual as well as matter-of-fact but it can be horrifyingly gruesome, too, with vivid descriptions of wounds and dispassionate images of violent death.

This, in other words, probably isn't a book you'd want to take to dinner.

That aside, Civil War buffs and anyone who's curious about day-to-day details of history won't be able to resist this thorough, non-sensational, very fascinating book. *An Environmental History of the Civil War* shows that it was a war between the North and the South, and the Earth, too.

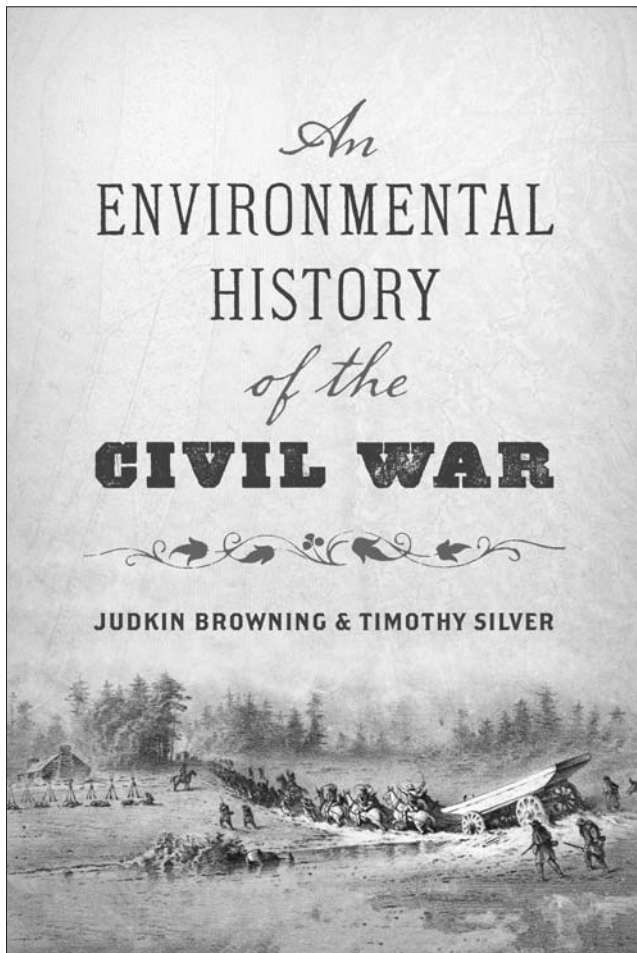
**WISE Program... continued from page 13**

individually-wrapped baked goods from The Next Sweet Thing located in Mayberry Square.

The Lucas County Emotional Support line was created by the MHRSB in March 2020 to help those who need a listening ear. The support line is available 7-days a week from 8-12 a.m.

Please contact Morgan Gabrielson at [mgabrielson@lcmhrsb.oh.gov](mailto:mgabrielson@lcmhrsb.oh.gov) for any additional information.

Serving the community for over 50 years, The Mental Health and Recovery Services Board (MHRSB) was established to serve the behavioral health needs of Lucas County residents. The MHRSB is an integrated behavioral health services planning and monitoring organization responsible for planning, funding, monitoring, and evaluating Lucas County's community-based mental health and addiction recovery services. Those services are currently delivered through a network of 20 non-profit, community-based agencies. For more information on MHRSB, please call the office or visit [www.LCMHRsb.oh.gov](http://www.LCMHRsb.oh.gov) <<http://www.LCMHRsb.oh.gov>>.



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# CLASSIFIEDS

October 28, 2020

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## NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for bidding on **Metroparks Toledo – Riverside Trail East, 1001 Front St., Toledo, Ohio 43608** will be received; opened; and read aloud at the Metropolitan Park District of the Toledo Area, Fallen Timbers Field Office, 6101 Fallen Timbers Lane, Maumee, Ohio 43537 **Friday, November 20, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.** local time.

THE SCOPE OF WORK consists of construction of a 12' wide x 0.68 mile asphalt bike path connection from Main Street to Marina Drive including a 110' x 20' pedestrian bridge over Main Street. General construction includes erosion control; storm drainage; asphalt and concrete pavement; segmental and cast-in-place concrete retaining walls; concrete bridge abutments; steel bridge with concrete deck; railings; landscape plantings, trellises & planters. Bidders may obtain copies of plans, specifications, contract documents and plan-holder's list through Newfax Corporation, 333 West Woodruff, Toledo, Ohio 43604 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (check made payable to Newfax Corporation) or via the Newfax Digital Plan Room at [www.newfax-corp.com](http://www.newfax-corp.com). Newfax can be contacted at 419-241-5157 or 800-877-5157. A non-refundable fee of \$40 is required for each set of full-size documents obtained. For additional information, please contact Jon Zvanovec @ 419-360-9184, [jon.zvanovec@metroparkstoledo.com](mailto:jon.zvanovec@metroparkstoledo.com).

COVID-19 UPDATE: In the event the office is not staffed to receive early, hand-delivered bids, bidders may drop off sealed bids to the aforementioned office address through the front door slot. Staff will be present at the Fallen Timbers Field Office for one hour prior to bid opening. If social distancing becomes problematic due to bid-opening turnout, the opening will be held outside or in an adjacent larger facility. Masks are required.

EACH BIDDER MUST FURNISH either (1) a bond for the full amount of the bid or (2) a certified check, cashier's check or irrevocable letter of credit in an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the bid with its bid. The successful bidder must furnish a 100 percent (100%) Performance Bond and a 100 percent (100%) Labor and Materials Bond.

The bidder must be an Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) pre-qualified contractor. Pre-qualification status must be in force at the time of bid, at the time of award, and through the life of the construction contract.

The Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal for this project is minimum seven percent (7%).

No bidder may withdraw its bid within thirty (30) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF THE METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF THE TOLEDO AREA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to waive any informality in bidding.

By order of the Board of Park Commissioners  
METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF THE TOLEDO AREA  
David D. Zenk, Director

## LEGAL NOTICE REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR SERVICES RELATING TO THE DESIGN OF DOCK IMPROVEMENTS LOCATED AT FACILITY 1

The Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority ("TL-CPA") is requesting qualification statements from professional full-service consulting engineer firms to provide planning, engineering, and design services in connection with the subject project. The project involves designing the necessary repairs and modifications to all dock related components, existing rail system, site utilities, and storm drainage system. It is anticipated that this project will restore, improve, and upgrade the existing Facility 1 dock. The project area includes the 4,200 LF of existing dock within Facility 1 along the southeastern bank of the Maumee River, the submerged water areas adjacent to the dock, and a stretch of St. Lawrence Drive within Facility 1 (Figure 1). The project will be designed for phased construction to maintain continuous operation of the port during the restoration.

MARAD and ODOT MAP grant funds will be used to fund planning, engineering, and design work for the dock improvement project. The total project budget for the project described below is approximately \$14,000,000.00. Of this total, \$355,000.00 has been allocated for design and engineering services as described below. The targeted design completion date is April 30, 2021.

The required format for the proposal to be submitted to the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority is described in detail in the full copy of the Request for Qualifications, and is available by either (1) emailing Tina Perkins at [Tperkins@Toledoport.org](mailto:Tperkins@Toledoport.org) or (2) visiting the Port Authority's website at <https://www.toledoport.org/projects/public-notice/>. Proposals are due no later than Friday, November 13, 2020, at 12:00 p.m. (local time). to apply.

## 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: [ToledoLegalAid-Society@yahoo.com](mailto:ToledoLegalAid-Society@yahoo.com)

## 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.

## 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](http://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.



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## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH), located in Toledo, OH is seeking experienced applicants for the following position: Safety & Security Mobile Patrol Officer. For complete details, visit <https://www.lucasmha.org> and click on Careers. Deadline: 11/29/20. This is a Section 3 covered position. HUD recipients are encouraged to apply and are to indicate on the application if you are a LMHA Public Housing client or Housing Choice Voucher Program participant. Persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply. NO PHONE CALLS. 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.





# Proposals Sought to Redevelop St. Anthony

*By Sojourner's Truth Staff*

The Lucas County Land Bank announced a new plan to redevelop St. Anthony's Church during a press conference last week. The old church, in the heart of the Junction neighborhood, has been abandoned by the Catholic Diocese for a number of years and had been designated for demolition.

In 2018, after an outcry by residents and local leaders, including elected officials such as Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz and U. S. Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, whose families have a history with the church, the Diocese of Toledo donated the property to the Land Bank. Since that time, the Land Bank has organized a series of listening sessions with community residents to understand how redevelopment of the property could benefit the people of the neighborhood.

Earlier this year the Land Bank engaged The Toledo Design Collective and Rudolph-Libbe, and has invested \$300,000, to analyze the various possible uses for the property and the construction costs of remodeling to fit those uses. That analysis projects a \$3 million investment needed to make the property useful again.

The Land Bank has listed the property for sale with Signature Associates and is actively seeking proposals from developers whose plans are funded, sustainable and will create positive investment in the Junction neighborhood. A redevelopment committee comprised of neighborhood stakeholders and redevelopment experts will be formed to review the submitted proposals.

"We need the community to step up and invest; we need a team to work with developers," said Lucas County Treasurer Lindsay Webb, during the announcement. "St. Anthony has stood a very long time and it's possible to redevelop the building. We are calling on the private sector, developers, non-profits" to work with us.

"We want investors to have a great opportunity," said Amelia Gibbon, who shares redevelopment co-chairman duties with Webb. "We are in this for the long haul."



Lucas County Treasurer Lindsay Webb, speaking, Redevelopment Co-Chair Amelia Gibbon, right




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# Connecting Kids to Meals Receives Donation from Mercy and Toledo Teachers

On Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 Connecting Kids to Meals accepted a very generous donation of \$185,000 from Mercy Health, Mercy Health medical staff, and the Toledo Federation of Teachers. These funds will be used to help further Connecting Kids to Meals mission to provide hot, nutritious meals at no cost to kids ages 18 and under who are in low income and underserved areas throughout the entire year.

As childhood hunger in Lucas County and in the state continues to escalate due to the pandemic, Connecting Kids to Meals expressed gratitude in having support of local organizations who are committed to the health and wellbeing of a precious asset – children.

Since 2002, Connecting Kids to Meals has served over 6 million meals to hungry kids in need.

"This tremendous generosity of the leaders at Mercy Health is awe-inspiring. This gift ensures that Connecting Kids to Meals can continue our critical work of feeding children in our region and allows us to advance our programming in much needed ways," said Wendi Huntley, president of Connecting Kids to Meals.

"This is not the first time Mercy Health has shown such leadership and generosity. Besides helping to build our new kitchen a few years ago and aid with strategic planning, earlier this year at the onset of the COVID pandemic, Mercy Health answered our plea for emergency funding. That support from Mercy Health and other funders allowed Connecting Kids to Meals to quickly shift to new methods and scope of service at a critical time when local school buildings and other facilities were forced to close. In the midst of all of the ways Mercy Health was already rendering essential service during the pandemic, they never overlooked the needs of our community and our children. Connecting Kids to Meals is grateful for unwavering supporters like Mercy Health," she added.

Connecting Kids to Meals, formerly, Feed Lucas County Children, is a nonprofit organization that partners with community locations where kids gather during the summer months and throughout the academic year.



(From left to right): Bob Baxter, President, Mercy Health Toledo; Kevin Dalton, President, Toledo Federation of Teachers; Dr. Miguel Morillo, Chief of Staff, Mercy Health Toledo St. Anne's and St. Charles Medical Centers; Wendi Huntley, President, Connecting Kids to Meals; Dr. Gregory Haselhuhn, Chief of Staff, Mercy St. Vincent Medical Center

Mercy Health approached Connecting Kids to Meals after members of the medical staffs at St. Vincent Medical Center, St. Charles Hospital and St. Anne Hospital decided to donate money to the organization collected through their annual dues. Collectively, the medical staffs donated \$50,000 to helping the area's youth.

"As physicians and health care providers, we see first-hand not only the importance of a nutritious diet but also the uncertainty that many in our community face when it comes to feeding their families," said Dr. Gregory Haselhuhn, chief of staff, Mercy Health – St. Vincent Medical Center. "We wanted to show our support for the important work that Connecting Kids to Meals does throughout our community to ensure that all families receive the most basic of needs – food."

After learning of the generosity of the medical staffs, leaders at Mercy Health – St. Charles Hospital and Mercy Health – St. Anne Hospital as well as in the market donated an additional \$40,000 to the organization. Mercy Health – Toledo Foundation matched the entire donation.

Members of the Toledo Federation of Teachers joined the donation and pledged \$5,000 to help feed area families.

"Caring for our community, especially those who are underserved, is at the core of our Mercy Health mission. I am proud of our medical staff members and our leadership team for their support of Connecting Kids to Meals and the mission of feeding our children," said Bob Baxter, president, Mercy Health – Toledo. "Together, we can make a difference in the lives of our friends, family and neighbors who face food uncertainty."

About Connecting Kids to Meals Connecting Kids to Meals has been feeding hungry at-risk kids for over 17 years. Some of the trusted partners where meals are served include schools, libraries, churches, community centers, parks and other locations where kids gather. Last year, about 540,000 nutritious meals were provided to kids during out-of-school time. To learn more about CKM visit <https://www.connectingkidstomeals.org/>. Contact - Wendi Huntley - 419-720-1106 - [Wendi@ConnectingKidsToMeals.org](mailto:Wendi@ConnectingKidsToMeals.org)



## PAULA HICKS-HUDSON OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 44

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