

The *Sojourner's* Truth

www.thetruthtoledo.com

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"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

January 27, 2021

"We Are Striving to Forge a Nation With Purpose"



"We seek harm to none and harmony for all; Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true: That even as we grieved, we grew; That even as we hurt, we hoped; That even as we tired, we tried; That we'll forever be tied together, victorious; Not because we will never again know defeat but because we will never again sow division."

- Amanda Gorman, Youth Poet Laureate

Lucas County CARES Act Funding Supports Internet Access For Low Income Families

In 2020, the Board of Lucas County Commissioners made CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) funding available to local organizations to cover the cost of expenditures incurred due to the unprecedented COVID-19 public health emergency.

Lucas Metropolitan Housing received a generous grant of \$297,787 to support enhanced cleaning, modifications to community rooms and internet connectivity for our residents and programs. Participants included the residents at Collingwood Green and Parqwood Apartments.

"During the pandemic, internet access has become a top priority for all; whether to continue education, obtain telehealth services, seek employment or meet other needs. LMH used the grant funds to obtain internet hotspots for homes with school age children and families. Priority was granted to families who have been unable to obtain a hotspot through the educational systems," stated President and CEO, Joaquin Cintron Vega.

The distribution was carried out through LMH's Information Technology and Resident Services Departments. During the distribution process, LMH representatives connected with residents and helped some set up their hotspots. What follows are some of the most memorable quotes heard from residents:

"This really came just in time! I have four kids doing online school and my other internet source was terminated."

"My grandkids are finally going to be able to stay over on school days!"

"This hotspot will help me continue my education and make things better for my family."

LMH remains grateful for the partnership with the Board of Lucas County Commissioners and for their support of this important initiative. Commissioner Pete Gerken, when referring to the grant stated, "During this time of crisis, the ability to have access to the internet is critical for families and individuals in our community, especially those with limited resources and support. The digital divide between those who can easily access the internet and those who can't became even more glaringly clear in the pandemic as schools went online and businesses and social agencies closed or reduced operations. Internet access through Wi-Fi hotspots will help families and individuals with a wide range of activities, from schoolwork to job searching to paying bills."

Established in 1933, Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) continues to provide affordable housing to adults, seniors and children in its Public Housing, Housing Choice Voucher, Mixed-Income and Market Rate housing units. LMH also provides a myriad of programs and opportunities designed to improve the total quality of life for our residents, with the ultimate goal of achieving self-sufficiency. The programs and services are the results of successful collaborations with numerous community partners.

The current housing portfolio consists of 2,633 Public Housing units; 4,657 Housing Choice Vouchers; 322 Low-Income Housing Tax Credit units; 198 Market Rate units and 107 Homeownership Properties. There are approximately 17,500 people who reside in LMH properties. Lucas Metropolitan Housing partners with ALL people and organizations willing to exchange ideas and ef-

orts to enhance Toledo, Lucas County and the world.



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No More Christopher Harris or Brandon Stalker Tragedies

A sound is heard in Ramah – deep anguish and bitter weeping. Rachel weeps for her children, refusing to be comforted - for her children are gone.

- Jeremiah 31:15 (NLT)



A critical situation in Toledo is causing tremendous suffering and the loss of an increasing number of lives.

Up to 50 percent of police encounters may involve those with mental health disorders. In Toledo, these often-confrontational interactions appear to be rising both in frequency and tragic outcomes. The result has been a rampant outbreak of high-profile fatalities.

Last week's standoff between police and Christopher Harris resulting in Harris' and Toledo Police Officer Brandon Stalker's death is just the latest incident in what has become a full-blown crisis.

Despite several recent grievous encounters, there appears to be no concrete action plan other than a "cross your fingers and hope for the best" strategy. However, the inherent link between mental health and homelessness, substance use disorders, race, poverty and violence demand holistic solutions to the crisis.

We certainly need a radical transformation of how we approach the matter of police engagement with the mentally ill, from the tools available for law enforcement to do their jobs to crossing boundaries to include the input of those who have not been traditionally at the table to discuss solutions.

What actions should take place so that there are no more Christopher Harris or Brandon Stalker tragedies?

Diversity Matters:

The biggest complaint I hear circulating in the community is: Why did the police show up to the Harris residence with such an overwhelming display of force in response to a property crime? Second to that was what decisions went into the police decision to introduce tear gas when it did and when they knew he was having a cognitive breakdown, possessed guns and that no hostages were being held?

Police Chief Kral says that at a certain point, the incident has to end. Why were six hours the magical number? There was certainly time to wait longer than forcing him out since he was not going anywhere and had no hostages.

These issues occur when the relationship between the black community and law enforcement is at an all-time low and homicides at a record high. Presently, there is not an African American on the Toledo Police Department above the rank of sergeant. Conversely, crime in Toledo decreased every year from 2011 to 2013 when there was a black chief, a Latino American deputy chief, and a black assistant chief. There were African Americans and people of color throughout the entire department during that period. A more diverse police force could bring more legitimacy to the department and with it, possibly, better engagement outcomes in the future.

Inclusive Input Matters:

News accounts indicate that Harris's mom was present but wasn't allowed to go inside to talk with her barricaded and troubled son before the police decision to use tear gas. Another tragedy is that black mothers attempt to raise sons and daughters in today's trauma-filled society (many times by themselves), but their perspectives are callously dismissed.

In addition, Christopher was known as a faith community member where he used faith to get him through periodic mental health episodes. However, there is no record that anyone reached out to his pastor and if his religious community had access to the mental health system.

The truth is that it is unpardonable to devise strategies, develop policies or

decide on solutions to this tragic problem without heeding advice from black mothers and other caregivers. Perhaps the greatest sin of our day is the arrogance which believes that others know black people better than black people know themselves. Today's social problems persist because the people that are most closely affected by the issues are excluded from dialog about solutions.

Legal Changes:

Those suffering from mental health issues often refuse to take their meds regularly or seek treatment. Legally, only the probate court can force a person to take their meds, and they only do so when there is an emergency. Even with evaluation, it may take from one to three months to get an appointment for treatment. The mental health system needs the legal tools to be more proactive in providing involuntary hospitalizations and outpatient services when there is a threat to public safety and personal safety, even when it seems to override an individual's personal rights.

Legislative Change:

Need always exceeds resources. Not only does the mental health system need radical legal change. It also needs change in how funding is delivered. This requires legislative change.

There was no record that Christopher Harris was in the mental health system. Thus, mental health needs to develop outreach for individuals who suffer from disorders but fail to engage in treatment services. Due to a lack of a funding mechanism, these outreach services do not exist. Neither does the mental health system reimburse agencies for the time spent identifying the gaps between those who suffer illness and those who seek treatment. The need for housing, prevention, and other mental services are also at crisis levels, ruling out re-allocation of existing budget categories. Addressing the gap between resources and need requires new funding and proactive leadership from local, state, and federal authorities.

Will we keep responding in the same old way repeatedly and continue to get the same tragic results? Or will we react in ways that mitigate the problem?

To ensure that we have no more Christopher Harris or Brandon Stalker tragedies requires the community's families and religious leaders' engagement. Viable solutions demand that law enforcement, the mental health system, the legislature, and the medical system, develop new ways of thinking.

A delayed response risks turning an outbreak of violence into a full-blown epidemic.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at drldperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org

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A Look at The Toledo Black Agenda

A wide range of leaders in Toledo's Black community have joined forces to put together a report on the challenges facing that community in six critical areas.

The report, *The Toledo Black Agenda*, a months-long project in the making, examines historic obstacles and current challenges in the areas of criminal justice, economic development, education, health, housing, workforce development.

The community leaders and experts were assembled by Lisa McDuffie, CEO of YWCA of Northwest Ohio and Robin Reese, CEO of Lucas County Children Services.

Now Toledo's Black Agenda will be made available to local government agencies, along with a host of private and public companies and entities in order to gather community-wide support for the demands and suggestions proposed in the report.

We are printing excerpts from the report over the next few weeks. The following is an excerpt from the fourth pillar – the Health Care Equity & Justice Pillar – recommendations of the Health Care Task Force. The first part of the Health Care Pillar was published in our January 6 issue.

The entire report, with citations, can be read online at thetruthtoledo.com

Recommendations

Health inequality and a lack of attention to health justice exists throughout our health care system. While a number of recommendations for improvement can be proffered, we focus on those listed below: The Purposeful Incorporation of the Health in All Policies (HiAP) methodology in all areas of Social Determinants of Health. The result of the utilization of the HiAP approach will be health, equity, and sustainability. Additionally, the engagement of stakeholders in true collaborative efforts will drive effective change.

Intentional and Authentic Engagement of Blacks in the Development of Programs Created to Serve the Black Community. Here, we underscore the critical nature of involving every level of the Black community in planning from the outset. Understanding what will impact a community requires meaningful input from that very same community. To achieve Health Equity, authentic collaboration, transparency and diversity is not an option, but a requirement.

Highlighting the Availability of Services as well as Stressing Personal Responsibility. In our community, a wide range of services are being offered, yet Blacks continue to suffer health-related challenges at a much higher rate. Take

for example, our statistics about Black men in Lucas County suffering from obesity and being overweight. For many, these are conditions that can be addressed through healthier eating and engaging in physical activity. Black men must take personal responsibility for their health. No one else will or even can do this for them.

Identify ongoing Implicit Bias trainings that health care workers must attend; increase workforce diversity overall in the Health Care System, and inspire all community organizations (board members, leaders and employees) as well as community members to engage in Implicit Bias trainings to help dismantle racism at all levels of the Health Care System. Concurrently, it is imperative that the health and human service providers across geographical areas communicate and collaborate to maximize available services and resources to serve the Black community.

Devise a strategic plan for improving co-morbidities for those in the Black community who suffer from conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, high cholesterol, cardiovascular disease, COPD, and obesity. The plan must include a wide variety of points of emphasis including, but not limited to healthy eating, active living, engaging preventive screenings, the elimination/reduction of tobacco and alcohol products through available cessation programs, encouraging regular medical check-ups and increased consultations with a family doctor. It is important to note that attention must be placed on the often-overlooked barrier of transportation as public transportation is a primary means of getting to work, going to medical appointments, and even for grocery shopping. Without access to transportation, many of the tactics outlined above will fail.

Confront Infant Mortality Rates in the Black Community. At every level (federally, state-wide and locally), the infant mortality rates among Blacks well exceeds that of other races and ethnicities. The keys to reducing these figures involve (i) educating Black mothers about proper care methods to be utilized and connecting them with proper available and affordable resources, (ii) tackling and resolving root cause concerns that Black mothers hold that preclude them from seeking appropriate health care services during pregnancy; (iii) providing effective training for health care providers on racism and implicit bias and (iv) developing a full continuum of maternal and infant care engaging all relevant types of providers.

Addressing Food Insecurity and Overall Health. According to USDA, 22.5% of Black households are food insecure which is significantly higher than the national average of 12.3%. Lack of access to healthy foods results in a myriad of ramifications. Due to alarmingly high poverty rates in the Black community, decisions are often being made to pay rent, utilities and other necessities ahead of healthy food purchases due to limited resources. Specific tactics for addressing food insecurity include:

(i) Increasing daily access to healthy foods and fresh produce for children, adults and seniors. This is critically important because presently, Black communities are often disproportionately surrounded by food deserts. "Food deserts" are an area where people do not have access to affordable and nutritious food. As such, unified and coordinated efforts to make public transportation, ride-sharing and other manners of transportation available to residents will be vital.

(ii) A comprehensive and unified effort to educate children, adults and seniors about the federal programs designed to support those in need will increase access. These federal programs include the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, In-

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-Brian Tracey

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Harold Brown ... There By Request ... Again

Sojourner's Truth Staff

There is clearly a lot of skepticism among Americans in general and African Americans in particular about the benefit of taking one of the COVID-19 vaccines currently on the market. Harold Brown, PhD, harbors no such concerns.

"All we have to do is to look at the numbers, with 400-plus thousand people dying over the last year, I certainly don't need any more motivation than that," said the 96-year old Tuskegee Airman after he received his injection at Magruder Hospital in Port Clinton last week.

"If you want to stick around and see your next birthday, go down and get yourself vaccinated," he added.

This pandemic is not Brown's first encounter with danger.

In 1942, at the age of 17, the Minneapolis native volunteered for the Army Air Corps in order to become an airman and join his fellow Americans in their momentous struggle against the fascist powers. He was one of 15 new pilots to join the 332nd Fighter Group – part of the Tuskegee Airman and found his way to the European theater of war to fly P-51 Mustang fighters.

His brush with danger increased when, in March 1945, on his 39th mission, he was shot down over Germany.

With luck, he fell into the hands of the German military before the German civilians on the ground found him – given the devastation Allied bombing was causing, civilians were a bit less than hospitable to downed enemy flight crews. Brown spent several months in a POW camp before being liberated by General George Patton's 3rd Army.

The exploits and bravery of the Tuskegee Airmen remained unknown to most Americans for decades and not until 2007 were the veterans invited to the White House so that President George W. Bush could bestow the Congressional Medal of Honor upon those still alive.

Brown found his way to Ohio and earned a bachelor's degree in math from Ohio University and a masters and doctorate from The Ohio State University and eventually joined Columbus State Community College in 1965 as the vice president for academic affairs.

Once again almost eight decades after he first answered his nation's call, Harold Brown is doing so again. This time he is determined to reassure his fellow Americans that taking the vaccine is more than just a casual decision. It's a civic duty, a duty one undertakes not only to protect oneself, but also to protect others.

As the organizer and leader of the Tuskegee Airman, General Benjamin O. Davis had a two-word message inscribed on the tail of his plane noting that



Second Lieutenant Harold Brown, 332nd Fighter Squadron



Harold Brown



Receiving the Moderna vaccine

the airmen in WWII were there ... "by request." Once again, Brown feels called to action by request of his fellow citizens.

Brown and his wife, Marsha Bordner, also a retired community college executive, both received the Moderna vaccine last week and are scheduled to return on February 18 for the follow-up injection. Brown reported a brief, insignificant amount of pain in his shoulder following the first injection – no long-term negative effects.

"It's easy," he said. "The needles are nice and sharp, you feel no pain, it only takes a few minutes and now you're safe. You can't beat a deal like that."

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Toledo Black Agenda... continued from page 4

fants and Children (WIC), Child Nutrition Programs (i.e., the National School Lunch Program, the Summer Food Service Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program with a focus on children and seniors to name a few, etc). All these programs offer supplemental funding and benefits to parents as well as access to free nutritious meals for kids. For children, academic performance is directly related to poor nutrition (lower test scores, lack of sleep, increased tardiness, repeated grades, more absences and behavioral instances that interrupt the learning day). As such, it is difficult to break the cycle of poverty when kids are set up to fail at an early point in their lives.

(iii) Healthy eating and engaging in physical activity are interrelated. Members of the Black community must not only become educated about the nexus between these two, but must be willing to engage in both regularly to drive towards a healthy lifestyle for increased strength, endurance, vitality and life expectancy. While joining a gym or enrolling in a yoga/Zumba class is ideal, at a minimum, members of the Black community should be encouraged to walk 20 to 30 minutes three to four times a week to help improve their overall health.

Behavioral Health is often a hidden, but critical factor that contributes to overall health. We must work to ensure access to comprehensive, integrated mental health and addiction screenings and services for the Black community including the promotion of early intervention measures. To experience any level of success with this, proper execution of programs and messaging strategies that reduce the stigma associated with seeking help for mental health and addiction services in the Black community must be carefully crafted and deployed. Simi-

lar to the efforts being done at the statewide level, local agencies must work together to increase culturally meaningful screening, early intervention, and linkage to treatment and recovery services across the spectrum for mental and substance abuse disorders. (See COVID-19 Ohio Minority Health Strike Force Blueprint.) This pandemic has highlighted the acute need for enhanced attention to be placed on the availability of Behavioral Health services. There has been sickness, death, job loss, uncertainty, financial challenges, racial unrest, and isolation.

Inside of these efforts, however, we must pay particularly close attention to the increasing Black teen suicide rates and "cries for help" resulting from peer pressure, stress, domestic abuse at home, bullying and other triggers.

As noted above, a myriad of critical issues needs to be addressed all of which contribute to overall health. Some additional issues that will need to be addressed include (1) environmental issues that are alarmingly present in the Black community with unsafe housing conditions or the presence of lead, for instance as well as providing clean drinking water along with other factors that can hamper or enhance one's life; (2) combatting stress, violence, trauma and toxic situations, (3) providing effective, comprehensive services for Seniors and for individuals with disabilities, (4) contending with isolation due to COVID-19 and especially for aging Seniors, and (5) dealing with the digital divide, just to name a few.

None of the above changes will be possible unless there is coordinated collaboration among service providers across the region along with a suitable increase in funding investments in the service organizations that render these indispensable services.

Answering the Call of Those 75+ Needing the Vaccine

While the Area Office on Aging is not a vaccine clinic, the organization has been assisting the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department by answering the calls of residents age 75+ who need the vaccine but who are not able to get

scheduled for the vaccine on-line on their own. In Lucas County alone, there are over 27,000 residents age 75+. Those who are able can go to www.lucas-

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After Four Disastrous Years Without a Leader, the Nation Finally Has a President

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

If you realize that you have not been grinding your teeth during the last week with quite the same intensity of the last four years, perhaps the events of January 20 have had some impact in calming your nerves and giving you some hope that the nation is once again being led by adults.

President Joe Biden and Vice President took charge during a most unusual inauguration that featured a presidential address pleading with the nation to put an end to "this uncivil war," a poem by the youth poet laureate that asked Americans to "lay down our arms so we can reach out our arms to one another," an evening filled with memorable performances from around the country and a fireworks display that lit up the hearts of over 10 million television viewers.

Following the ceremonies, President Biden started working immediately and during that evening and the next several days, he signed over 30 executive orders undoing the "carnage" that the previous president had begun four years ago when he inexplicably pledged to stop the "carnage" during his inaugural address.

Biden also unveiled a \$1.9 trillion spending package designed to counter the health and economic devastation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and he also offered an all-inclusive action plan to deal with the heretofore disappointing rollout of the COVID vaccines.

The inauguration events began on the evening before the swearing in ceremony when the two first couples – President elect Joe Biden, Jill Biden, EdD, Vice President elect Kamala Harris and Doug Emhoff, gathered at the Reflecting Pool to honor the more than 400,000 Americans who have fallen victim to COVID-19. Such recognition of the fallen – now more than the number of Americans who perished in World War II – stood in stark contrast to the approach of the outgoing president who had somehow managed to ignore all those new graves that have been dug in every section of the country.

The usual hundreds of thousands of inauguration guests were not in attendance for this 2021 event due to the pandemic but there was an audience of 25,000 National Guardsmen and women, due to the January 6



riot – a gift of the departing president.

The 2021 version sparkled with performances by Lady Gaga, J Lo and Garth Brooks, an earnest address by President Biden and, above all, a scene-stealing poem delivered with aplomb by Amanda Gorman, a 22 year old Harvard student who, among other matters, reminded the nation

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Amanda Gorman



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President... continued from page 7

of the attempted coup on January 6 and noted: "We've seen a force that would shatter our nation rather than share it, would destroy our country if it meant delaying democracy."

She also offered words of encouragement about the strength of that democracy: "But while democracy can be periodically delayed, it can never be permanently defeated."

The evening's activities were also a departure from the usual 10 or so Inauguration Balls that draw participants from all over the country to dance the night away and in locations all over the nation's capital.

This year's event, Celebrating America, brought Tom Hanks to the Lincoln Memorial to MC a diverse group of performers both live and recorded.

In a display reflecting the new president's call for unity and keeping with the theme of honoring the fallen and those who have worked so hard to help, a number of the performances featured health care professionals, such as Demi Lovato's rendition of "Lovely Day."

Jon Bon Jovi, John Legend, Justin Timberlake and Katy Perry were among the musical performers.

At one point Hanks introduced Sandra Lindsay, a Jamaican immigrant and critical care nurse at the Long Island Jewish Medical Center in Queens, New York, who was the first person in the US to receive the Pfizer vaccine.

"Our nurses care for thousands of COVID patients daily. We're often the last people to hold their hands. It has taken a toll on so many of us on the frontlines but I'm proud of our work and honored to represent millions of healthcare workers around the country," she said.

Then she tossed it over to country music star Tim McGraw in Nashville who, with Tyler Hubbard, sang "Undivided," a song Hubbard wrote while he was in the hospital recovering from COVID-19. The song makes a plea for an end to the divisiveness that has so plagued our national discourse.

Katy Perry closed out the evening performances as the fireworks lit

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Vice President Kamala Harris and Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff



VP Kamala Harris administers oath to Senators Raphael Warnock, Alex Padilla and Jon Ossoff

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President... continued from page 8

the sky and the two new first couples, president, vice president and their mates, watched from the White House.

The week's significant events, however, were not concluded on Wednesday evening, nor were the oaths of office. Still to come on Thursday was a momentous occasion in the U.S. Senate when the vice president – the first black vice president, the first woman vice president, the first Asian-American vice president – presided over the oath as the Senate welcomed Georgia's first black senator, Georgia's first Jewish senator and California's first Latino senator.

"We will rebuild, reconcile and recover

And every known nook of our nation and

Every corner called our country,

Our people diverse and beautiful will emerge,

Battered and beautiful

When day comes we step out of the shade,

Aflame and unafraid

The new dawn blooms as we free it

For there is always light,

If only we're brave enough to see it

If only we're brave enough to be it." – Amanda Gorman – the Youth Poet Laureate



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The Community Energy Center, a cooperative with the National Newspaper Publishers Association and National Association of Hispanic Publications Media, will provide information and perspectives on the integral role of the energy sector in daily life for American families in a wide range of communities.

31st Annual Toledo Symphony Concert at St. Martin de Porres Church to Celebrate Black History Month

Special to The Truth

Toledo Symphony Strings under the direction of Maestro Chelsea Tipton II will perform a candlelight concert in honor of Black History Month at St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church on Sunday, Feb. 28 at 8:00 p.m. The title of this 31st Annual Black History Month concert is: "On Angels' Wings, We Soar to the Light."

There are a number of safeguards in place to assure an enjoyable evening. For adequate space for social distancing the attendance is limited to 125 people. Tickets must be bought before the concert – by Friday, February 26. There are no tickets available at the door. All seating is reserved and the ticket prices are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. Masks are required to be worn at all times.

Because of the pandemic this thirty-first concert will have marked changes from the previous thirty concerts. Nevertheless, those who attend will find themselves inspired, up lifted and leaving humming familiar tunes.

The Toledo Symphony Strings will perform music of the Spirituals genre. These songs, often composed while persons were enslaved, carry a pathos and yearning for freedom and release from the darkness of slavery. During this time of the pandemic many people feel bound to their homes, or limited in their social interaction and subsequent darkness. The music performed during this concert will reflect that sense of oppression presently felt by many and will lift up the spirits to soar to the light.

Among the compositions to be performed are: Old Time Religion, Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen, and All God's Children Got Wings. Lyric for Strings by Walker and Mozart's Eine Kleine Nachtmusik, Movement 2, will add variety and interest to the program.

Arthur Jones, Jr and his wife Ellen Garrison Jones will receive the St. Katharine Drexel Award. This award is given yearly to persons who live in the spirit of St. Katharine Drexel who used her resources in creating opportunities for adults and children. St. Katharine Drexel founded over sixty



Ellen and Art Jones

schools for Black and Native American children. She also founded Xavier University in New Orleans.

Arthur Jones, a Jefferson Award Recipient, is well known in Toledo for his passion to end domestic violence and to assure the rights of minorities. He served on the Black Chamber of Commerce and is an ardent supporter of minority businesses. He also served as president of the Board of Bethany House.

Ellen Garrison Jones, Esquire, received her Law Degree from the University of Toledo. She has served in various positions in Lucas County including, Director of Lucas County Children Services. She retired from the county as a Client's Rights Officer with the Mental Health and Recovery Board. Presently Ellen is the convener for the Black Catholic Ministry Advisory Council of the Diocese of Toledo.

Art and Ellen Jones are active members of St. Martin de Porres Parish.

For tickets call 419-241-4544. For more information: Sister Virginia Welsh at 419-460-3071 or visit 1119 West Bancroft St.

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Leading Economists, Including Former Top Trump Advisor, Praise the American Rescue Plan and Stress Urgency of Additional Economic Relief

Special to The Truth

Support continues to grow for President Biden's American Rescue Plan, including among leading economists who recognize the need for urgent action to combat the economic damage being wrought by COVID-19, get relief and support to the families and communities who have been hit hardest by the pandemic, and ramp up vaccinations, testing, and public health capacity so we can get the virus under control.

In an interview with CNN on Thursday, Kevin Hassett, a former top economic advisor to President Trump, expressed support for the American Rescue Plan and cautioned against the risks of failing to act, saying "I think we need to be risk averse ... There are so many businesses treading water, barely hanging on. Now they are getting hit by another shock."

Hassett's support was echoed by dozens of economists surveyed by Reuters, which found that over 90 percent of them believed that the American Rescue Plan would "boost the economy significantly." Moody's Analytics, in an independent analysis, similarly found that the Rescue Plan would help create 7.5 million jobs in 2021, double economic growth, and return the U.S. to full employment a full year faster.

The urgency to act was underscored this week with new figures from the Department of Labor showing that nearly 900,000 workers filed for unemployment benefits, and coming on the heels of previous economic data showing that the United States lost jobs in December.

Former Trump economic adviser Kevin Hassett broadly supports President Joe Biden's \$1.9 trillion rescue package as a way to keep the coronavirus-ravaged economy afloat.

"They've thrown a lot of stimulus at it," Hassett told CNN Business on Thursday, "but I think we need to be risk averse."

The former Trump administration official fears that without more aid from Washington, the worsening pandemic will cause the US economy to suffer a repeat of the first quarter of last year, when GDP shrank by five percent.

"There are so many businesses treading water, barely hanging on. Now they are getting hit by another shock," said Hassett, who served as Trump's top economic adviser from 2017 to 2019 before returning in a voluntary role in March of last year. "You could end up in a negative spiral for the economy."

Biden's proposed fiscal package will boost the coronavirus-hit economy significantly, according to a majority of economists in a Reuters poll, and they expect it to return to its pre-COVID-19 size within a year.

Biden has outlined a \$1.9 trillion stimulus package proposal to jump-start the world's largest economy, which has been at the epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic having lost over 400,000 lives, fueling optimism and sending Wall Street stocks to record highs on Thursday.

Hopes for an upswing in U.S. economic growth, helped by the huge stimulus plan, was reflected in the Jan. 19-22 Reuters poll of more 100 economists.

In response to an additional question, over 90 percent, or 42 of 46 economists, said the planned fiscal stimulus would boost the economy significantly.

"There are crosswinds to begin 2021 as fiscal stimulus helps to offset the virus and targeted lockdowns. The vaccine rollout will neutralize the latter over the course of the year," said Michelle Meyer, U.S. economist at Bank of America Securities.

"And upside risks to our...growth forecast are building if the Democrat-controlled government can pass additional stimulus. The high level of virus cases is extremely disheartening but the more that the virus weighs on growth, the more likely that stimulus will be passed."

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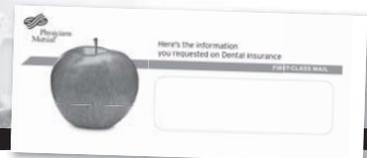
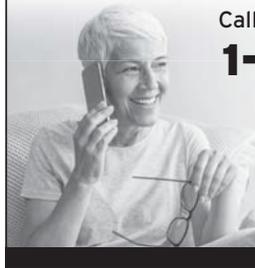
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Delicious Ideas for Big Game Sunday

Special To The Truth

With just a grill and a bit of smoke, your menu will be the real MVP of the Big Game.

“The key to making snacks and appetizers more flavorful is with hardwood pellets, which can add rich, wood-fired flavor to just about anything. And, with a few modifications, you don’t even need a pellet grill to achieve that delicious wood-smoked flavor,” says Ben Madden, product manager at Bear Mountain BBQ Woods, crafter of gourmet, hardwood pellets.

Below, Madden shares his winning tips and game-day recipes.

Smoked & Roasted Wings

From classic Buffalo hot sauce to sweet teriyaki, chicken wings are always a crowd-pleaser, especially on game day. Take their flavor to the next level with this recipe for Smoked and Roasted Chicken Wings:

Prep time: 5 min

Cook time: ~ 2 hours depending on size and amount of wings

Ingredients:

- Essential BBQ Rub or poultry seasoning
- Chicken wings
- Sauce of choice
- Bear Mountain’s Savory BBQ Craft Blends pellets

Preparation:

1. Lightly coat wings in seasoning.
2. Arrange wings on smoker or grill at 225 degrees with at least 2 inches of space between.
3. Smoke for 1 to 1.5 hours.
4. Turn up grill to 350 degrees to finish. Start brushing on sauce and turning wings periodically.
5. Once wings hit an internal temperature of 165, remove from the smoker or grill and toss in a bowl with remaining sauce. Then they’re ready to serve!

No pellet grill or smoker? Try using Smoke ‘Ems wood pellet packets in this recipe in the following way:

- On one side of grill, turn burner to medium-high heat or fire up charcoal and place Smoke ‘Ems packet directly over heat until it starts smoking.

- Place wings on other side of grill over medium heat until Smoke ‘Ems has stopped smoking. Note: For more smoke flavor, use a second packet after first has been used.

- Increase temperature under wings and continue with Step 4 above.

Beer Cheese Dip

Bring your appetizer game to a new level with this delicious recipe for Beer Cheese Dip with Pretzel Ring, from Bear Mountain BBQ ambassador, Jennifer Danella:

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 cups cheddar cheese grated
- 1/2 cup gruyere cheese grated
- 8 ounces cream cheese softened
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1/2 of a 1-ounce Hidden Valley Ranch Packet
- 2 tablespoons green onions chopped.
- 1/4 cup German lager beer
- 2 tablespoons baking soda
- 1 can biscuits
- 1 large egg, mixed with 1 tablespoon water, for brushing biscuits



- 12-inch cast iron skillet

- Bear Mountain’s Bourbon BBQ or Savory BBQ Craft Blends pellets

Preparation:

1. Preheat pellet grill to 350 F.
2. In large bowl, combine 1 cup cheddar, gruyere, cream cheese, Dijon mustard, Hidden Valley Ranch seasoning, beer and 1 tablespoon green onions. Mix evenly.
3. Cut biscuits in half. Roll each half into a ball, then slice an X across top.
4. Boil 2 cups water in medium saucepan. Once boiling, add baking soda and mix immediately.
5. Add biscuits in batches and cook until puffy, approximately 1 minute. Remove and transfer to skillet, forming ring along inside edge.
6. Brush biscuits with egg wash. Sprinkle with salt.
7. Transfer dip to center of skillet. Sprinkle with remaining cheddar.
8. Bake until biscuits are golden and dip is bubbly, 30-35 minutes.
9. Garnish with remaining green onions. Serve!

For more recipe ideas and grilling tips, visit bearmountainbbq.com.

By adding smoke to your Big Game playbook, you will score big long before kickoff.

Courtesy StatePoint

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Craft: An American History by Glenn Adamson

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

You are pretty handy.

c.2021
Bloomsbury Publishing
\$30.00 / \$39.99 Canada
387 pages

That thing you made – you did it yourself, with a minimum of help and it looks fabulous. It's almost a professional piece and you have reason to be proud. Look what you made, just look at it, then read *Craft: An American History* by Glenn Adamson and see if your ancestors would approve.

Tens of thousands of years ago, humans began crafting which, by definition, means the act of a skilled individual creating something by hand. For them, though, crafting was less fun, more a means of survival.

It was the same when Europeans came to America: though the Pilgrims were said to be quite taken with baskets made by Native weavers, craftsmen from back home were in demand to make clothing, plow blades, horseshoes, and such that life then required. Today, we tend to romanticize those craftsmen but the truth is that the work was largely repetitive and there was rarely any room for creativity.

Even so, the ability to utilize a valuable skill was, well, handy. It ensured work immediately and for the next generation, since tools and know-how were often passed down, parent-to-child. For slaves, having a craft might offer an edge on being kept, rather than sold away; freedmen, though sometimes fired because of white protestations of job loss, used their work to purchase freedom for family members. In those cases, knowledge and skills of a craft gave Black craftsmen and women opportunities that they mightn't have had without one.

When items began to be mass-produced, the value of craftwork shifted: sud-

denly, clothing could be made without a wait, and factory-made kitchenware was less expensive. Elite craftsmen were held in higher esteem, even though much of their product was done by "outworkers" who did the actual work. Women, at the same time, were taught homemaking skills – some of which were, when you look at them now, crafts.

Today, says Adamson, "Relatively few of us actually perform crafts anymore," although our definition of "crafts" seems to be shifting once again...

Let's start here: this is not a craft manual. It has no patterns, no instructions, and no ideas for you to alter creatively. Instead, *Craft: An American History* leans entirely on the last word in its subtitle, blending it with several cultures in time.

The other difference between this and a craft manual is that this book isn't as relaxing as is, say, sewing or woodworking might be. Author Glenn Adamson leans deeply into the background and meaning of craftmaking, beginning with a time before the Pilgrims and moving forward to "craft breweries and tattoo parlors..." The focus is on the kinds of crafts one might practice as a livelihood, while today's conventional "crafts" as we know them – crochet, knitting, metalwork, needlework, jewelry-making – are covered very little, if at all.

That may make a historian happier with this book than a cross-stitcher might be, but there's something for both inside *Craft: An American History*. Just keep in mind its depth so find it, but keep a bookmark handy.

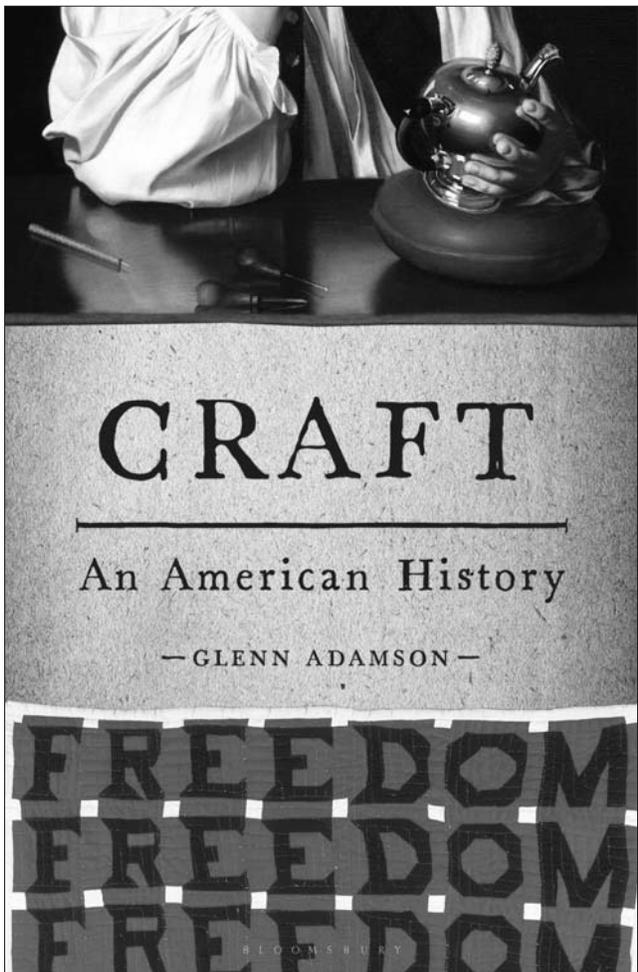
75+ Needing Vaccine... continued from page 6

countyhealth.com to schedule an appointment.

Over the last week, the Area Office on Aging has increased its staffing capacity to be able to schedule these vaccine appointments as call volume has more than tripled due to calls about the vaccine. The Area Office on Aging's phone lines are very busy, so callers are asked to be patient as the Area Office on Aging helps vaccine callers in as timely a manner as possible. If callers leave a voicemail message, they should leave their name, age, and phone number.

"For many older adults who have been quarantining since the beginning of the pandemic, getting the vaccine is their ticket to be able to see friends and family again for the first time in a long time. The Area Office on Aging has been busy connecting older adults with this important and potentially life-saving help," said Area Office on Aging President/CEO Billie Johnson.

For those age 75 and over that do not drive and do not have friends or family to transport them to these appointments, the Area Office on Aging is working with its provider Black & White Transportation to help as many Lucas County seniors as possible to get to and from their vaccine appointments.



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CLASSIFIEDS

Page 14

January 27, 2021

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES RFP21 – R002

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for Environmental Services. Received in accordance with law until February 18, 2021, 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.



DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION SERVICES NEEDED

The Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Lucas County (MHR SB) seeks to fund and invites proposals from qualified individuals or organizations for consultation and training services to provide diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) services. Proposed services will support the sustainable achievement of MHR SB goals throughout the next phase of its DEI efforts. Proposals are to be delivered no later than 5:00 p.m. ET on February 26, 2021. Submit all questions to crs@lcmhrsb.oh.gov. Find details regarding the upcoming bidder's conference, project deliverables, and submission criteria in the RFP Framework located on the MHR SB's website <http://www.lcmhrsb.oh.gov/publicnotice/>.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH), located in Toledo, OH is seeking experienced applicants for the following position(s): Vice President of Resident Services. For complete details, visit <https://www.lucasmha.org> and click on Careers. Deadline: 02/05/21. 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.



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Metroparks Toledo is looking for an individual to be our Outdoor Skills Interpreter at Oak Openings Preserve Metropark. The person in this position will connect people to parks through the development, production, and presentation of high quality park programs, special events, and experiences. Bachelor's degree or equivalent combination of education and work experience. Moderate experience in educational and public program development, production, and evaluation and presenting public or educational programs. Some outdoor skills-specific experience required. Must be at least 18 years of age and have a valid driver's license. Full time position with benefits. \$18.45/hr. Go to www.MetroparksToledo.com <<http://www.MetroparksToledo.com>>/careers to view the job description, position requirements and apply online by Feb 5th. EOE

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for bidding on **Wetland Restoration for Metroparks Toledo, Oak Openings Preserve Expansion, Village of Swanton, Lucas County, Ohio** 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, February 12, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.** local time.

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.

THE SCOPE OF WORK consists of wetland construction including grubbing, sediment trap construction, site layout, site grading earthwork, topsoil stockpiling, topsoil amendment with owner wood chips, topsoil redistribution, and temporary erosion control measures. 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.newfaxcorp.com. Newfax can be contacted at 419-241-5157 or 800-877-5157. A non-refundable fee of \$15 is required for each set of full-size documents obtained. For additional information, please contact Jon Zvanovec @ 419-360-9184, jon.zvanovec@metroparkstoledo.com.

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.

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



The Sylvania Township Fire Department is seeking candidates for a Full-time Administrative Assistant to provide the department with a variety of confidential, administrative support service, including, but not limited to the preparation of monthly reports and Agenda items for the Board of Trustees meetings; coordination of repairs and maintenance for all fire stations; preparation and monitoring of budget accounts; and coordination of the hiring process of fire department personnel.

Additional information concerning this position is available at www.sylvaniatownship.com. Three -Five (3 – 5) years' executive administrative experience is preferred. An Associate Degree in Business Administration, Accounting, or a closely related business field is also preferred.

Please submit cover letter, resume, references, and salary expectations by 4:00 pm Friday, January 29, 2021 to: Human Resources, Sylvania Township 4927 N. Holland-Sylvania Rd., Sylvania, OH 43560 or by e-mail to: HR@sylvaniatownship.com.

Sylvania Township, an Equal Opportunity Employer, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, national or ethnic origin, age, status as an individual with a disability, protected veteran status, genetic information, political beliefs, marital/family/parental status, or other protected classes under state or federal law. Sylvania Township is committed to an inclusive welcoming work environment with cultural diversity and a drug-free, nicotine-free workplace.

'Black Lives' Prayer Principles Published in New Book

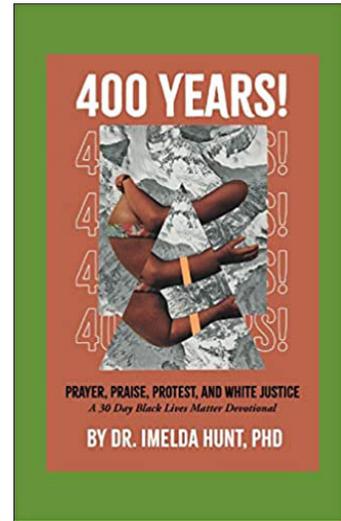
A year of renewed debates, discussions and demonstrations surrounding race and racism nationwide has set the stage for forthcoming strategies toward social change. With *400 Years: Prayer, Praise, Protest, and White Justice: A 30 Day Black Lives Matter Devotional* Imelda Hunt, PhD, contributes spiritual guidance to the ongoing fight for equality.

Using the voices and experiences of history's heroes, including many of the freedom fighters who've inspired 2020's most courageous movements, Hunt, a scholar and instructor at Eastern Michigan University, blends faith with forward-thinking.

"From Nat Turner to Jesse Jackson, the black liberation movement has always held an element of faith-based and spiritual focus," says Hunt.



Imelda Hunt, PhD



eliminating racism empowering women
ywca
Northwest Ohio



eliminating racism empowering women
ywca
Northwest Ohio

MISSION
YWCA is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

January 13, 2021

The YWCA of Northwest Ohio has long stood for the empowerment of women and the elimination of racism. The events over the past few days have spotlighted the urgency to be bold and courageous.

Warnings from the FBI alert us to expect additional attacks across all 50 states and the District of Columbia. This is an attack on the Constitution, on democracy, and on all Americans.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once called attention to, "the appalling silence of the good people" and the role silence plays in emboldening hatred. We must acknowledge our racist past and the inequities of today, and we must recommit to dismantling supremacist ideologies moving forward.

We reaffirm the centrality of our mission to eradicate systemic racism and demand a world of equity and human decency. We denounce all forms of racist, sexist, and insurrectionist agendas and we call on all "good people" in our nation, regardless of political affiliation, to ensure the peaceful transition of power.

This moment in time is exactly what our mission is about. And we will continue to do this work...

Until the land of the free is free of racism.

Until the home of the brave is brave enough to change.

Until "by the people" and "for the people" means doing right by all the people.

Until Justice Just Is.

Will you join us?

The YWCA is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

Lisa McDuffie

Diane Friedman

Lisa McDuffie, MSSA, LISW-S
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"The devotionals in *400 Years: Prayer, Praise, Protest, and White Justice* are reminders that freedom is a righteous cause."

In light of the recent inauguration of America's first vice president of color and the ongoing division of much of the nation along racial lines, Hunt says the book's publication is timely.

"As readers encounter the installments and selected writings, they can find themselves easily reflecting on events taking place today," she said.

400 Years: Prayer, Praise, Protest, and White Justice: A 30 Day Black Lives Matter Devotional is available at Amazon.com. Cover design by Yusef Lateef and Imani Lateef.

Media inquiries may be directed to director@newworkswritersseries.org.

Alzheimer's Association to Hold Virtual Educational Program on Variety of Topics February 1-11 for the Community and Families Impacted by the Disease

The Alzheimer's Association Northwest Ohio Chapter will be presenting a variety of virtual educational programs to help the community and families impacted by the disease.

These presentations cover a variety of topics and occur at different times during the day and evening via videoconferencing to allow individuals to participate in the convenience of their homes. They will discuss topics such as what is Alzheimer's disease, warning signs to look for, how to manage behaviors, and to strategize about how to have difficult conversations. We will even help you have a healthy brain! The programs are very helpful for anyone experiencing signs of memory loss, their family members who may be concerned, and the community member looking for more education.

All programs are free and open to the public. Registration is required. To register for the program, call 800.272.3900

- Feb 1 Healthy Living for Brain and Body 3pm
- Feb 1 Living with Alzheimer's - Younger Onset 6pm
- Feb 2 Dementia Conversations 2:30pm

- Feb 3 Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia 11am
- Feb 4 Effective Communication Strategies 3pm
- Feb 4 Living with Alzheimer's for Caregivers Late Stage - Part 1 6:30pm
- Feb 8 Dementia Conversations 11am
- Feb 8 Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia 3pm
- Feb 9 Understanding and Responding to Dementia-Related Behavior 10am
- Feb 9 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's 2:30pm
- Feb 10 Effective Communication Strategies 11:30am
- Feb 10 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's 4pm
- Feb 11 Healthy Living for Brain and Body 1pm
- Feb 11 Living with Alzheimer's for Caregivers Late Stage - Part 2 6:30pm

About the Alzheimer's Association

The Alzheimer's Association leads the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia – by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's and all other dementia. In Ohio, more than 600,000 Alzheimer's caregivers provide care for more than 220,000 loved ones impacted by Alzheimer's disease. Visit alz.org or call 800.272.3900.

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