

Ohio's Largest Black-owned Business Newspaper



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Ronda Watson Barber—Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

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Advocating, Informing and Promoting Small & Minority Owned Businesses

Let's Celebrate!

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR**



**Media's
responsibility
is to
challenge
government**

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**Support Black
Businesses in
2020**



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OhioMBE welcomes letters to the editor from readers. Typed letters of 200 words or less are preferred; all might be edited. Each letter must include name, home address and daytime phone number. Some letter may appear on our website.

The 912 Group is an Ohio certified Minority Owned and EDGE business. The 912 Group is a certified FBE with the City of Columbus.

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OhioMBE Awards Top FBE: Ascension Construction Services

Jeanna Hondel—owner



Jeanna Hondel
PE, CCM, LEED AP, MBA

Jeanna Hondel, is a construction management veteran. With 14 years of field experience, she has provided a wide array of construction management and inspection services. Her strong background in civil engineering, construction and client relations has led to providing engineering service in both private and public sectors, such as City of Columbus, Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati, ODOT and Franklin County Engineer's Office.

Jeanna has worked on projects/programs ranging from \$30,000 to \$4 million.

Ms. Hondel is a graduate of Youngstown State University, where she was a member of the track & field team.

Ascension Construction Solutions can be reached at 614-499-6924 or online at ascension-cs.com

Business Tip:

Where There's a Will There's a Way

Ericka L. Abrams, MPH
Licensed Insurance & Financial Services Advisor

Many people know they need to put an estate plan in place but often times are unsure as to how to best go about it. It may seem daunting, tedious - expensive even. Do you need to hire an attorney? Many questions arise and you may get lost in the paralysis of analysis. Then you do nothing at all. Well my hope is to motivate you to action. Even if you believe you don't have any assets to protect, you probably do. Take a moment to take a mental inventory. Look around you. Do you have possessions that you treasure? Family heirlooms, jewelry, photographs, intellectual assets like manuscripts, patents, inventions? More importantly, do you have a family? Do you own a home, rental property, a business? These are all essential reasons to create the first essential element of an estate plan - a will.

Dying intestate (without a will) can prevent the transference of wealth in the form of real estate, assets and more. A will is an official means to communicate your wishes when your voice can no longer be heard. You communicate with your family, the State and any other interested parties as to how you want your estate, no matter how big or small to be distributed amongst your heirs. Once drafted, a will should be officially filed in your local municipal-

ity at the local probate court or other appropriate governing body. This cost should be less than \$50 depending upon where you reside.

If you have minor children, or children from a blended family (children from previous relationships or marriage) it is imperative that you create a will. What if both you and your spouse, or partner perish together? Who is going to raise your children in your absence? You may be fortunate to have a loving, caring extended family or grandparents eager to take over your parenting roles. But if you don't, or you have several different groups of family in play, as in a blended family situation, your children may become pawns in a bitter custody dispute, as competing families vie for control of custody. Leaving both the State and Juvenile Court System to decide for you. A will that demonstrates your wishes as to who will raise your minor children will prevent this.

As an entrepreneur, you have worked hard to build your business. What better way to continue your family's pathway to generational



Ericka L. Abrams

Business Tip on page 4

publisher's note

Practicing Kwanzaa's principals are needed to improve Columbus

By Ronda Watson Barber
Publisher



Happy New Year. I wish you best for 2020.

Reflecting on the Seven Principals of Kwanzaa has me thinking about the madness going on in Columbus, OH. The first two principals are Unity (Umoja) and Self-Determination (Kujichagulia). Umoja means to strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race. Kujichagulia means to define,

name, create and speak for ourselves. Black folks in Columbus are divided. Many expect others to do the work while they reap the benefits. Some have crowned others leaders and then complain about their actions. Where is all the division getting our community?

The nation's 15th largest city has a huge economic divide. Many are thriving in the present booming economy. A lot, particularly Black folks are not reaping the economy's benefits. The public school system is failing our children. The largest public school system in the state of Ohio has repeatedly received failing grades on its state report card. Affordable housing is lacking. Homelessness is growing. Relationships with law enforcement is tense.

There is work to be done.

Columbus has a branch of the NAACP. The branch is membership driven and operated by volunteers. The mission of the NAACP is to secure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the health and well-being of all persons.

I find it amazing that Blacks folks, **who are not members**, find issues with the activities of the Columbus Branch. Many non-members repeatedly throw rocks at an organization of which they have no investment. I rarely hear members complain about actions of the organization. As a life-member of the NAACP, I stand with the leadership. I applaud and salute their efforts to improve the lives of Columbus residents. My branch is doing what I expect it to do. Fighting for jobs. Fighting for contracts. Fighting to prevent voter suppression. The Columbus Branch has been active in seeking access to jobs and business contracting for Columbus' Black residents. They spent

Why you should get your business certified?

There are several reasons why you should get your business certified:

1. Some entities have purchasing goals. Only certified businesses can participate.
2. Certification adds legitimacy to your business. You have gone through a process that has determined that your business is owned and controlled by a minority, woman or disadvantaged business.
3. Certification can afford your loan and bonding opportunities. The State of Ohio has loan and bonding programs specifically for certified minority owned businesses.
4. Certification can be a marketing tool for your business. You can add your certifications to your marketing materials, business cards, website, etc. Many consumers like doing business with a veteran, minority or woman owned businesses.
5. Certification can be used in the private sector. Many companies don't have a certifying program but in an effort to have supplier diversity, will accept the certifications from some governmental agencies.

Attend a class at the City of Columbus Planroom, operated by OBDC and learn how.

Register at [OHbdc.eventbrite.com](https://ohbdc.eventbrite.com)

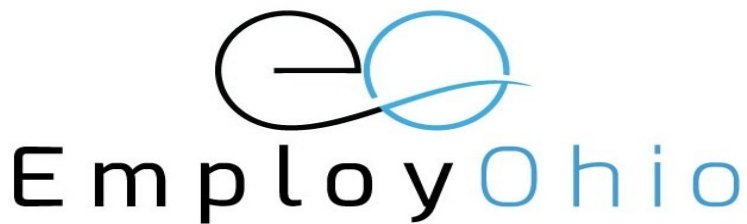
the summer months registering people to vote. Columbus had 290,000 African American residents according to the Ohio Department of Development in 2018. Only a fraction are members of the oldest civil rights organization in the country.

My father once told me, "If you don't like how folks are running their organizations, start your own." Sage advice for the critics who throw rocks, name call and issue threats.

Without a doubt there is work to be done. One group can't and shouldn't do it all. Let's pledge to use our talents, time and skills to make a difference for our children.

Just my thoughts...rwb

#bidnotices



Business Tip from page 2

wealth than to will your business to your heirs. It is important to communicate how you'd want your enterprise to be bestowed upon a partner, or distributed to beneficiaries. Otherwise, all that you have worked hard to build over the years could fizzle away if you don't leave clear directives as to how your business legacy can continue on.

According to a Caring.com survey, odds are you may be one of the 6 of 10 Americans who do not have a will, or an estate plan in place. I urge you to take action now. Not only consider drafting your will, but also consider other essential estate plan elements. Start with life insurance; more specifically the new form of whole life and term life insurance which is Living Benefit Life Insurance. At no additional cost in premium, this unique insurance affords a policyholder the opportunity to get paid from their death benefit if they suffer from a qualifying illness like cancer, heart attack, stroke, etc. From this, you can use as you see fit, like to supplement lost income if you cannot work while recovering. Moreover, you should consider establishing both a healthcare power of attorney, and financial power of attorney so that your wishes in both regards will be executed if you are mentally incapacitated.

For more information on how to get a complimentary will and how to best establish your estate plan or business succession plan please visit us at www.legacy42insurance.com or 1-888-372-2444 and via email at info@legacy42insurance.com. We serve clients in Ohio, Georgia, Texas, Alabama, Pennsylvania and Michigan. We are happy to help!

Disclaimer: This information is purely education and is to not serve as legal advice provided by a licensed attorney.

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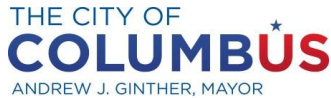
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bid opportunities

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Columbus City Schools issues solicitations on a regular basis for goods & services related to food, construction, technology, curriculum, & transportation. Interested vendors should periodically check our website at <http://www.columbus.k12.oh.us/rfp>



ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Development has contracting opportunities in the below areas. Please reach out for more information and bidding requirements.

- Graffiti Removal and Arborist Services. Contact Eric Voorhees (614-645-7934 or eavorhees@columbus.gov).
- Grass Cutting and Solid Waste Removal. Contact Mike Schwab (614-645-7122 or mfschwab@columbus.gov).
- Demolition and Asbestos Abatement. Contact Mike Farrenkopf (614- 679-5873 or mlfarrenkopf@columbus.gov) or Seth Brehm (614-645-5659 or swhbrehm@columbus.gov).
- Property Maintenance and Miscellaneous Services in November 2019. Contact Audrea Hickman (614-645-8907 or aeihickman@columbus.gov).
- Construction trades including: General Construction, Home Improvement, Electrical, HVAC, and Plumbing. Contact Tim Tilton (614- 724-3009 or twilton@columbus.gov).
- Lead abatement. Contact Erica Hudson (614- 645-6739 or ejhudson@columbus.gov).

To register for notifications on upcoming bid opportunities, please visit <http://vendors.columbus.gov/sites/public>.



Attention State MBE/WBE

Kokosing Industrial, Inc. is preparing bids for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements project in Dresden, Ohio which bids January 14, 2020. We are seeking quotes for any portion of the project listed that you are qualified to perform or provide supplies for which includes the following: **Demolition, Excavation, Dewatering, Manholes, Asphalt Paving, Fences and Gates, Seeding, Concrete, Hollow Core Planks, Masonry, Metal Fabrications, Insulation, Waterproofing, Roofing, Doors and Windows, Painting, Plumbing, HVAC, Electrical, Instrumentation and Controls.** Bidding documents can be examined online by emailing Sonja Nichols at snichols@kokosing.biz for the link. Please have your quote to Steve Ehret by 12:00 PM January 13, 2020: e-mail snichols@kokosing.biz or Fax 614-212-5711.

"Kokosing Industrial is an equal opportunity employer."

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bid opportunities

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INVITATION FOR BIDS

Sealed bid proposals will be received by the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority at 100 West Cedar Street, Akron, Ohio 44307 until 2:00 p.m. local time on WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2020 at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for:

STAIR TOWER REPAIRS AND RELATED WORK at WILLIAM FOWLER APARTMENTS, 65 BYERS AVENUE, AKRON, OHIO 44302 SAFERSTEIN TOWERS 1, 525 DIAGONAL ROAD, AKRON, OHIO 44320

Specifications can be purchased at SE Blueprint, Inc. located at 520 South Main Street, Suite 2411, Akron, Ohio 44311 (330) 376-1689. Please email (akron@seblueprint.com) or call with quantity requests and notice will be provided when documents are available for pick-up.

An email link for the above mentioned specifications is available at the Subcontractors Association NEO, 637 Vernon Odom Blvd., Akron, Ohio; Akron Urban League, Minority Business Assistance Center, 440 Vernon Odom Blvd., Akron, Ohio; the Builders Exchange of Canton, 5080 Aultman Rd., North Canton, Ohio; Builders Exchange of Cleveland, 9555 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Cleveland, Ohio; and the Ohio Construction News, 7261 Engle Road, Suite 304, Cleveland, Ohio. A list of plan holders can be obtained from SE Blueprint's website @ www.seblueprint.com

See full bid notice at <https://ohiombe.com/archives/13751>



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Sealed bid proposals will be received by the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority at 100 West Cedar Street, Akron, Ohio 44307 until 2:00 p.m. local time on THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2020 at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for:

ENTRY CANOPY ROOF AND STAIR TOWER REPAIRS AND RELATED WORK at RAY C. SUTLIFF APARTMENTS 1850 2ND STREET, CUYAHOGA FALLS, OHIO 44223

Specifications can be purchased at SE Blueprint, Inc. located at 520 South Main Street, Suite 2411, Akron, Ohio 44311 (330) 376-1689. Please email (akron@seblueprint.com) or call with quantity requests and notice will be provided when documents are available for pick-up.

An email link for the above mentioned specifications is available at the Subcontractors Association NEO, 637 Vernon Odom Blvd., Akron, Ohio; Akron Urban League, Minority Business Assistance Center, 440 Vernon Odom Blvd., Akron, Ohio; the Builders Exchange of Canton, 5080 Aultman Rd., North Canton, Ohio; Builders Exchange of Cleveland, 9555 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Cleveland, Ohio; and the Ohio Construction News, 7261 Engle Road, Suite 304, Cleveland, Ohio. A list of plan holders can be obtained from SE Blueprint's website @ www.seblueprint.com

See full bid notice at <https://ohiombe.com/archives/13747>

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*The beginning is the most important
part of the work. -Plato*

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Get a weekly email from OhioDiversityNetwork.com
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Tuesday, January 7, 2020 at 5:30pm
OBDC- Business StartUP 123
Columbus

Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 5:30pm
SBDC- B.A.S.E. Basis of a Successful Enterprise
Columbus

Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 5:30pm
SBDC- B.A.S.E. Basis of a Successful Enterprise
Columbus

Saturday, January 11, 2020 at 10:30am
OBDC- CERTIFICATION 101
Columbus

Saturday, January 11, 2020 at 11:00am
OBDC- Business Vision Board Workshop
Columbus

Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 2:30pm
OBDC- Webinar, How to Read the Dodge Report
Columbus

Friday, January 17, 2020 at 11:00am
SBDC- KIVA Funding Business Dreams
Columbus

Monday, January 20, 2020 at 7:00am
35th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Breakfast
Columbus

Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 5:30pm
SBDC- Tax Reform and Small Business
Columbus

Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 6:00pm
SBDC- Ohio Small Business Tax Workshop
Columbus

Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 10:00am
ODOT- Contractor DBE Roundtable Discussion
Columbus



Hosting a business event?

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OhioDiversityNetwork.com

Email: news@ohiombe.com
for login information

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