

Ohio's Largest Black-owned Business Newspaper

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OhioMBE welcomes letters to the editor from readers. Typed letters of 350 words or less are preferred. Each letter must include name, home address and daytime phone number. Some letters may appear on our website.

Nominations Open: Black History Awards

Nominations are now open for the Columbus City Council James Preston Poindexter Awards, named in recognition of the former clergyman, abolitionist, civil rights activist and political pioneer elected as the first Black Columbus City Councilmember in 1880.

"The Poindexter Awards are an opportunity to acknowledge the people who laid the foundation of the City we live in today," said Council President [Shannon G. Hardin](#). "We stand on their shoulders, working to build a stronger Columbus. This is an opportunity to celebrate and honor those who have uplifted our community."

[SUBMIT NOMINATIONS HERE](#)

These awards recognize the accomplishments and achievements of individuals who have made significant contributions to Columbus in the following categories:

- Art
- Business
- Education
- Faith
- Public Service

In choosing an individual to nominate, please be mindful of the below criteria. This will help the Selection Committee determine the honorees.

- The nominee must have dedicated time and talent to efforts within the African-American community.
- The nominee should be distinguished in his/her chosen profession or work.
- The nominee exhibits a high degree of commitment both professionally and civically.
- The nominee must demonstrate/provide strong, effective leadership and service in the community.

Nominees must live or work in Columbus to qualify. Self-nominations will not be accepted. [Click here to submit nominations](#). Applications are open until January 11, 2021.

The Poindexter Awards will be given during the Black History Month Celebration on February 12, 2021

OhioMBE can announce your next business event, employment notice or news item in an exclusive email blast.

We will also post it on our Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn Pages.

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Support Black Media

publisher's note

By Ronda Watson Barber
Publisher & Editor at Large



Happy New Year! May 2020 bring you health, wealth, and stronger relationships.

Finally, 2020 is behind us. What a year! We lived through an ongoing global health pandemic, the exposure of America's racial inequities in every facet of our lives, stay-at-home orders, and working from home. Oh, the stories we will be able to tell about how we survived

the madness of 2020.

What did you learn from 2020? How will those lessons impact your business in 2021? Have you made resolutions for your business for 2021? While we are all adapting and growing more proficient in our new norms of working from home and staying socially distant from colleagues and friends, please consider adding to your resolutions a routine of personal care and wellness. As business owners, we must be present. Our health is a vital asset to our businesses. Make 2021, your year of wellness.

According to Health.mil, the official website of the Military Health System, eating right, physical activity, adequate rest, and taking care of our mental health not only improves overall health and wellness but also makes us more resilient during COVID-19. Consider these tips:

- **Stay active.** Take a work break and take a daily brisk walk.
- **Get good rest.** "Immune system activation alters sleep, and sleep in turn affects the innate and adaptive arm of our body's defense system." While the amount of sleep needed for good health and optimum performance mostly depends on the individual, the CDC recommends adults age 18-60 years get seven or more hours of sleep per night.
- **Eat well.** Practicing self-discipline and avoiding "emotional eating" due to stress that may be related to the drastic changes surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and how it affects our lives is imperative. According to the CDC, whole foods like dark, leafy greens, oranges, and tomatoes— even fresh herbs—are loaded with vitamins, fiber, and minerals. Make it a habit to try to eat more whole nutritious foods instead of processed snacks or fast food.

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Elford Construction announces the promotion of **Denise Gilliam to Director of Human Resources and Inclusion.** Denise, an OhioMBE Awards Top Advocate, has been a part of the Elford team since 2008. She has led their Community Outreach initiative for almost 10 years. Through her efforts Elford's program

has become a key resource for many minority owned companies. Her role has expanded to take on more traditional human resource functions in addition to her outreach efforts including benefits, training, and policies and procedure development. Her partner-focused attitude and dedication to making construction a positive experience for all parties involved is a valuable asset.

Denise can be reached via email at dgilliam@elford.com



Marliese Wicker is Franklin County Commissioner's New Chief Economic Equity and Inclusion Officer. She previously held the position as Small and Emerging Business Coordinator. Her primary focus was to provide Small and Emerging Businesses the opportunity to do business with the 13 Board of Commissioner agencies, 42 independently elected officials and 39 appointed boards, commissioners and committees within Franklin County. These agencies purchase

goods and services through various sources; Quotes, Invitations to Bid (ITBs), Requests for Proposal (RFP), State-Term contracts, Cooperative Purchasing contracts (Co-Op).

Prior to joining the County, Marliese spent over 15 years in small, disadvantaged & minority business enterprise programs with the State of Ohio, Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA). During her tenure, Marliese oversaw the supportive services program, contract compliance, goal setting, federal reporting, outreach and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) certification.

Marliese, a native of Columbus, Ohio and holds a Certified Compliance Administrator certification from Morgan State

See Wicker on page 11

Prepare Your Small Business for Winter Storms

Winter can bring unpredictable weather, which means small businesses should prepare and have a plan in place in case winter storms strike. [Here are some steps](#) you can take to protect your business, your employees, and your customers in the event of a winter storm.

Winter Weather Precautions. Winter storms may range from moderate snow fall to a blizzard lasting for days. Common characteristics of winter storms include frigid temperatures, strong winds, ice, sleet, and freezing rain.

As winter weather ramps up, small business owners should take the following precautions:

Check your insurance coverage for protection against winter hazards. Not all insurance policies cover every type of weather disaster, so it is crucial to know what your business insurance protects against – and expand your coverage if necessary. SBA partner the [Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety](#) (IBHS) has tips on how to best protect your assets.

- **Add to your business's disaster supply kit.** Make sure your disaster supply kit includes items like rock salt to melt ice on driveways, sand to improve traction, and snow shovels or other snow removal equipment. You may also want to keep portable heaters on-site at your business in case heating issues occur.

Fortify your physical business location. Seal all openings with caulking and insulation where cold air can enter. Make sure heating and heat-producing process equipment is in good condition and operating efficiently. Determine which business equipment is most vulnerable to freezing temperatures (e.g., computers, manufacturing equipment, etc.) and plan to protect it. SBA partner [IBHS](#) has information on how to protect your property from when winter storms strike.

- **Establish an emergency communications plan.** Make sure your staff knows how everyone will communicate before, during, and after a weather disaster. Keep an updated list of employee, vendor, and client contact information off-site for easy access during an emergency. Names and phone numbers of your heating contractor, plumber, fire department, insurance agent, and building owner should also be easily accessible.

During and After the Storm. During a storm, keep yourself, employees, and customers safe. Try to keep your driveways, walkways, and doorways reasonably clear of snow and ice. [FEMA](#) recommends wearing layers of warm clothing when you are outside during a

See Winter on page 5

Top Business Trends for 2021

Leverage these four emerging business trends to give your business an edge in the new year.

For small businesses across America, 2020 has been one of the most challenging years in history. Despite the coronavirus pandemic, small business owners have been resilient, pivoting, and adapting their business models to navigate continually changing conditions. With the new year on the horizon, there are potential new opportunities to take advantage of and ways to adapt to challenges you may face. Here are a few business trends that are likely to dominate in 2021, along with tips on how to position your business for growth:

1. **Businesses will continue to prioritize e-commerce.** While e-commerce was already growing before the pandemic, [a report by IBM](#) shows the shift away from physical stores to digital shopping has sped up by roughly five years. According to the report, e-commerce is projected to grow by 20% in total in 2020. To prepare for this shift in consumer spending, fine-tune your small business's e-commerce presence in 2021. Create a seamless e-commerce experience for your customers by making your site mobile-friendly.

2. **Alternative payment options will proliferate.** Another

See Trends on page 8



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City of Columbus – Division of Power
Power Distribution Assistant Manager- EXAM

The City of Columbus Department of Public Utilities is seeking qualified candidates for a **Power Distribution Assistant Manager** position. To apply, you must first take the open competitive examination. The application window is currently open, and candidates can submit an application online to the Civil Service Commission at <http://www.columbus.gov/civilservice> by *Friday, January 08, 2021*. The Power Distribution Assistant Manager will help plan, organize, and coordinate the work projects in the Power Distribution Section within the Division of Power. ***This position’s minimum qualification is completing the twelfth school grade and two (2) years of experience as a Power Line Worker Supervisor II or Cable Worker Supervisor II or comparable experience. Substitution(s): A certificate of high school equivalence (GED) will be accepted in lieu of the twelfth school grade requirement. Also, possession of a valid State of Ohio motor vehicle operator’s license.*** Salary range is \$39.09- \$58.63 hourly. Contact the Civil Service Commission Applicant and Employees Services unit at (614) 645-8301 with questions regarding this process.

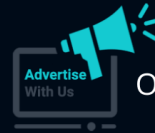
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Be so busy loving your life that you have no time for hate, regret or fear. ~ unknown

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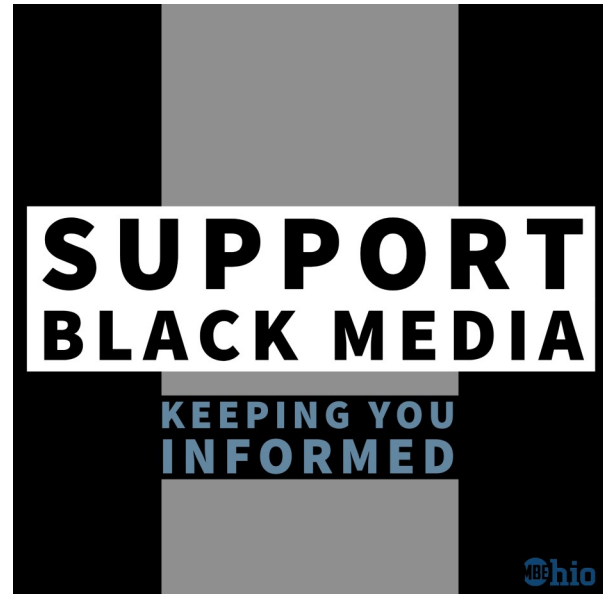


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Winter from page 4

winter storm and watching for signs of hypothermia and frostbite. If your place of business will be vacant for a long period of time during the storm, try to arrange to have someone to check indoor temperatures periodically if possible. Following the storm, assess damage and notify employees of next steps, including snow removal. If a federal disaster has been declared in your area, you may consider [applying for SBA disaster assistance](#).

For more winter weather preparedness tips, [review our checklist](#). You can also sign up for real-time weather alerts through the [FEMA App](#), which provides National Weather Service alerts, emergency safety tips for more than 20 types of disasters, and locations for open emergency shelters and disaster recovery centers in your area.

Finally, consider working with an SBA resource partner on your disaster preparedness plan. SBA is always here as a helping hand for businesses when challenges occur – and can help small business owners look ahead and plan as much as possible for the unexpected. Go to sba.gov/local to find a resource partner near you.

Source: www.sba.gov

bid opportunities

To post a bid notice, call 614-522-9122 or email news@ohiombe.com



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>



Franklin County

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Service. Progress. Excellence. (O.R.C.), public notice is hereby

Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 307.86, 307.87, 307.92, and applicable codes of the Ohio Revised Codes given that submittals will be

received by the Board of Commissioners, Franklin County, Ohio, as indicated below: Additionally, public notice is posted online at <http://purchasing.franklincountyohio.gov/>

Reference Number: RFQ 2020-03-27

Franklin County Mental Health and Addiction Crisis Center

The Board of County Commissioners, Franklin County, Ohio (the "Owner"), in cooperation with the Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Board of Franklin County (ADAMH), requests submittals from interested parties ("the Consultant") with proven experience to provide Owner's Representation services associated with the planning, design, and new construction of a mental health and addiction crisis center to be operated by ADAMH.

Pre-Submittal Meeting Date/Time:

January 14, 2021 at 10:00 AM

Interested parties are to dial +1 773-917-3504 and enter participant passcode 498257516#

Opening Date/Time: February 5, 2021 at 2:00 PM EST

Obtain Documents Online at

<http://purchasing.franklincountyohio.gov/>

All Questions Should Be Directed To:

All questions must be received in writing on or before January 21, 2021 at 12:00 PM EST. Direct in writing to Public Facilities Management, Franklin County Office Tower, 373 S. High Street, 2nd Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4592. Fax 614/525-3180 or email at – PFMConstructionquestions@franklincountyohio.gov.

Franklin County will respond to all questions and will post its response to the Franklin County Purchasing Department Website on January 28, 2021. It is the responsibility of interested parties to monitor the Franklin County Purchasing website for any Amendments or Clarifications.

Board of County Commissioners:

John O' Grady, President

Marilyn Brown, Commissioner

Kevin L. Boyce, Commissioner

View complete notice at <https://ohiombe.com/archives/16067>

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THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
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.

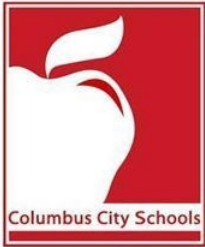
- Graffiti Removal and Arborist Services. Contact Eric Voorhees (614-645-7934 or eavorhees@columbus.gov).
- Grass Cutting and Solid Waste Removal. Contact Mike Schwab (614-645-7122 or mfschwab@columbus.gov).
- Demolition and Asbestos Abatement. Contact Mike Farrenkopf (614- 679-5873 or mlfarrenkopf@columbus.gov) 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 aehickman@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>.



bid opportunities

To post a bid notice, call 614-522-9122 or email news@ohiombe.com



LEGAL NOTICE

**OPERATION: FIX IT – RESTROOM UP-
GRADES – AVALON ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL, MAIZE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,
NORTHGATE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL,
NORTH LINDEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,
BEECHCROFT HIGH SCHOOL, AND**

WHETSTONE HIGH SCHOOL

Sealed bids for the above-referenced project will be received by the **BOARD OF EDUCATION**, City School District of Columbus, Ohio, Office of Capital Improvements, 889 E. 17th Ave, Columbus OH 43211, until Friday, January 15, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. More information can be found on the District's web site at <http://www.columbus.k12.oh.us/rfp>. The plans and specifications are on file with Franklin Imaging.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority is requesting proposals to Provide Emergency Recovery Services and Related Work at Various AMHA Locations within Summit County, Ohio.

Those interested in submitting a proposal for the aforementioned work may obtain the instructions/information package by contacting SE Blueprint, 520 South Main Street, Suite 2411, Akron, Ohio 44311. (330) 376-1689 akron@seblueprint.com

Proposals, to be considered, must be submitted in accordance with the requirements of the RFP and received by AMHA no later than 4:00 p.m. (local time) on Tuesday, January 19, 2021.

Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority
Brian M. Gage
Executive Director



Kokosing Industrial, Inc. is preparing bids for the Southerly Building Demolition 1582 project in Cleveland, Ohio which bids January 22, 2021. 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: **Photographic Documentation, Demolition, Asbestos Remediation, CIP Concrete, Rebar, Masonry, Structural Steel, Handrails and Railing, FRP Gratings, Waterproofing, Roofing, Caulking, Doors and Frames, Glazing, Painting, Signage, Fire Protection, Plumbing, HVAC, Electrical, Instrumentation and Controls, Clearing, Seeding, Asphalt Paving, Excavation and Backfill.** Bidding documents can be examined online by emailing Sonja Nichols at snichols@kokosing.biz for the link. Please have your quote Steve Ehret by 12:00 PM January 21, 2021: e-mail snichols@kokosing.biz or Fax 614-212-5711.

"Kokosing Industrial is an equal opportunity employer."



Kokosing Industrial, Inc. is preparing bids for the Springfield Eastern Pressure District Waterline Upgrade project in Springfield, Ohio which bids January 15, 2021. 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: **Cast-in-Place Concrete, Rebar, Unit Masonry, Structural Steel, Cold Formed Metal Framing/Trusses, Roofing, Overhead Coiling Doors, Glazing, Acoustical Panel Ceilings, Painting, Chain Link Fences, Directional Drilling Pressure Pipe Installation, Bridge Cranes, HVAC, Plumbing, 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 Patrick Lilienthal by 12:00 PM January 14, 2021: e-mail snichols@kokosing.biz or Fax 614-212-5711.

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trend that is likely to last into 2021 and beyond is the dominance of alternative payment options. In their annual State of Retail Payments study, [the National Retail Federation](#) found that no-touch payments (e.g. contactless credit and debit cards or mobile pay) for retailers have increased 69% since January. Among retailers that have implemented contactless payments, 94% expect the increase to continue over the next 18 months. Heading into next year, explore touchless payment options for your small business, including online payments with curbside pickup.

- 3. Remote work will persist.** During the pandemic, many small businesses shifted to part-time or full-time remote work schedules in response to local ordinances. According to [a survey by Intermedia](#), 57% of small to medium-sized business owners said they will continue to offer remote work options in the long term. Depending on your type of business, you may need to consider offering remote work options to compete for talented workers in 2021 and beyond. This also means that you may need to invest in additional technology and software solutions going forward to ensure that your employees can telework. For example, [another survey from GGV Capital](#) shows that 54% of small business owners spent more on software solutions in 2020 than in 2019, and 75% expect that spending to increase next year.
- 4. Businesses that offer virtual services will continue to be in high demand.** According to the [U.S. Chamber of Commerce](#), the pandemic has led to increased demand for certain business types, particularly those related to technology and virtual health and fitness. These include cybersecurity, at-home fitness, food delivery, gaming, home improvement, and telemedicine businesses. If you are considering starting a business, or are looking for ways to pivot or expand your business, look to these business categories for inspiration.

Source: www.sba.gov

#bidnotices

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We're Open



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  *You are never too old to reinvent yourself. ~ Steve Harvey*



Collection out our Madame VP Collection at
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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 you 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 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 and learn how to get your business certified. Visit OHBDc.eventbrite.com for the upcoming class schedule.

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*I'd rather go down in
history as one lone
Negro who dared to tell
the government that it had done a
dastardly thing than to save my skin
by taking back what I said. -*

Ida B. Wells

Ohio Diversity Network

Friday, January 8, 2021 at 11:00am

[Lifting One to Lift Many- Kiva Capital and Community Funding Dreams](#)

Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 5:30pm

[BASE:Basis of a Successful Enterprise](#)

Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 6:00pm

[WISE Women "Mentor Me" Go-To-Group](#)

Monday, January 18, 2021 at 9:00am

[MLK Breakfast Committee Inc- 36th Annual Birthday Breakfast](#)

Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 5:30pm

[Funding Your Business- The Complete Loan Packaging Process](#)

Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 6:00pm

[Women "Mentor Me Too" Go-To-Group](#)

Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 8:00am

[SBA-Preparing for Construction Season](#)

Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 6:00pm

[Ohio SBDC Small Business Tax Workshop](#)

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- **Drink Water.** You can never get enough water.

Health is wealth. Take care of yourself first so that you are able to take care of your family and business.

Just my thoughts...rwb

To the litigious: The First Amendment protects several basic freedoms in the United States including freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, the right to assemble, and the right to petition the government. It was part of the Bill of Rights that was added to the Constitution on December 15, 1791. The U.S. Constitution applies to Black Americans as well. The views expressed in OhioMBE and the media outlets of The 912 Group are solely those of the author and do not reflect the views/opinions of The 912 Group, the editor, publisher, our staff, families, or our advertisers.

Wicker from page 3

University and earned her bachelor's degree in management from Ohio Dominican University.

Marliese was the 2019 OhioMBE Awards Frank W. Watson Advocacy honoree.

She can be reached via email at mkwicker@franklincountyohio.gov



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Breonna Taylor

Casey Goodson Jr.

Andre Hill