

DETROIT

**SMART
PAGES**

SINCE 2006

BUSINESS • POLITICS • COMMUNITY

“Building Business to Business and Business to Community Relationships”

JAN/FEB 2025

WHAT'S INSIDE



Ellis Liddell

Celebrating 25 Years

pg. 6

**Unsung Women
In Black History**

pg. 7

**Farewell To An Historic
Presidency**

pg. 11



Simone Lightfoot

Empowering Business Steps

for 2025 pg. 15



RECESS25

Resilience and Equity in the Clean Energy Sector Summit



Early Bird Registration Now Open for RECESS25 National Black and Brown Clean Energy Conference

The Premier Event on Equity in the Clean Energy Sector
Scheduled for October 7 - 9, 2025 at the Marriott @ The Renaissance Center

The highly anticipated Resilience and Equity in the Clean Energy Sector Summit 2025 (RECESS25) is set to return for its third year, building on the success of past conferences. This national event will take place from October 7-9, 2025, at the Marriott at the Renaissance Center in Detroit, Michigan.

Themed “SOS: Eradicating Energy Poverty Through Clean Energy,” RECESS25 will bring together industry leaders, innovators, students, and environmental justice advocates to advance equity in the clean energy sector. The conference will feature engaging keynote speakers, cutting-edge panels, and impactful workshops aimed at fostering opportunities for Black, Brown, Latino/a, Indigenous, and other communities of color in clean energy careers and businesses.

“We are excited to announce the 2025 date and venue for RECESS25,” said Carla Walker-Miller, CEO, Walker-Miller Energy Services and convener of RECESS25 National Black and Brown Clean Energy Conference. “This year’s theme emphasizes the urgent need to eradicate energy poverty and mobilize diverse communities to lead the clean energy transition. We invite everyone to join us in creating a more inclusive and equitable clean energy future.”

Detroit Opera

BANKABLE MARKETING STRATEGIES
CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF SERVICE

PRESENT



Alvin Ailey American Ballet Theater 50th Anniversary Tour

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater grew from a now-fabled performance in March 1958 at The Wald Street Y in New York City. Led by Alvin Ailey and a group of young African American modern dancers, that performance changed forever the perception of American dance. The Ailey company has gone on to perform for an estimated 25 million people at theaters in 48 states and 71 countries on six continents—as well as millions more through television broadcasts, film screenings, and online platforms. Today, the Company continues Mr. Ailey’s mission by presenting important works of the past and commissioning new ones. All programs will include Ailey’s iconic Revolution; the program’s remaining repertoire will be announced at a later date.



The Central Park Five

DIRECTOR | RAJESH KAPUR
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS | ANTHONY MARRASINO

Anthony Marrasino, co-owner of E. The E. and Thee of Marquette, was the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Music for his one-way adaptation of systemic discrimination. The gripping opera follows the wrongful convictions of five African American and Latino boys in the search of a white teacher to Central Park. Through the lens of the film, the opera and the opera's message on the "The way to the future."

Buy tickets early for best seats OR subscribe to all three with a Choose-Your-Own subscription. Details at [DetroitOpera.org](https://detroitopera.org).

Interested in bringing a group of 10 or more? Contact our group sales department at groupsales@detroitopera.org for discount pricing and reservations.

Before we officially close out the year, we are excited to share this Save the Date! On October 11, 2025, we will gather to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History.

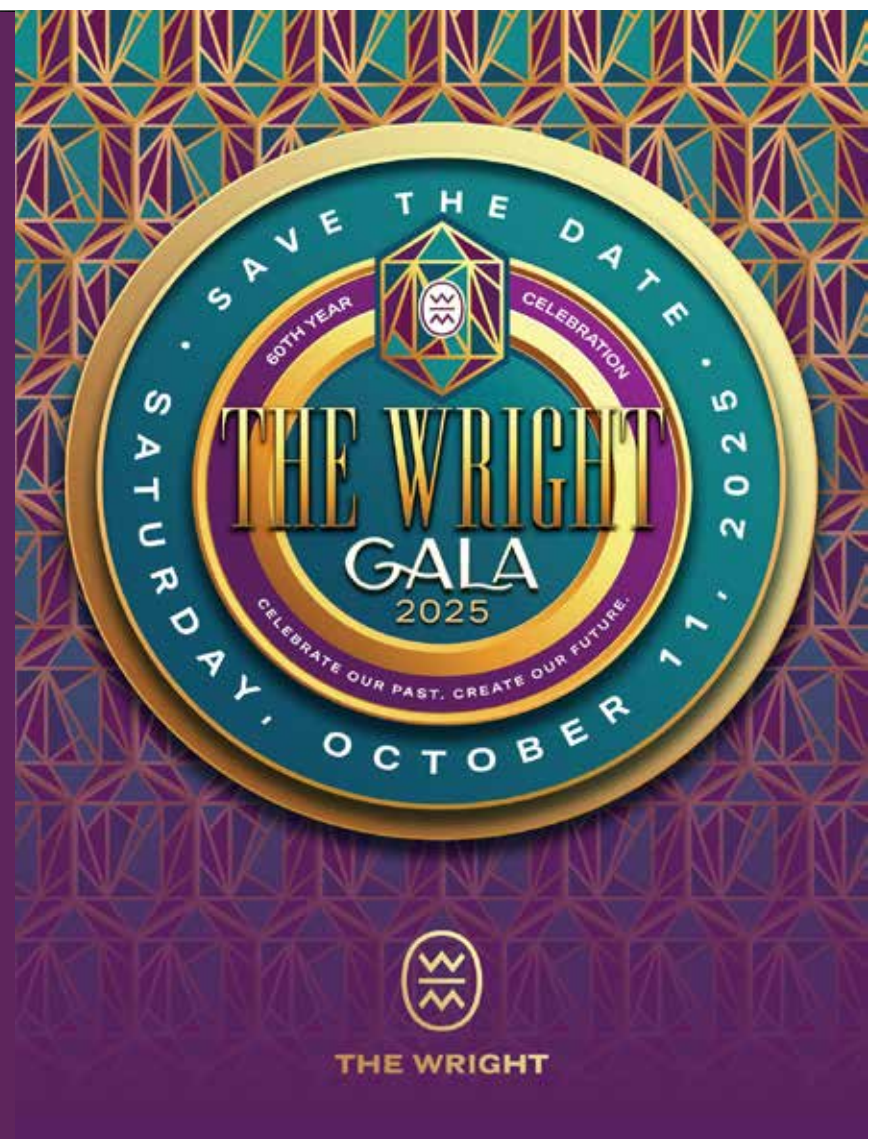
The Wright Gala 2025 will pay homage to our past, embrace our present, and boldly begin to shape our future. This event honors the museum as a community and national treasure, and recognizes the “gems”—the people and institutions that have shaped our legacy.

The gala is a reunion, rekindling the spirit of community that defines Detroit and our museum.

Mark your calendars, continue to read our newsletter, and follow our social media for more information in the coming weeks and months.

Have a safe new year,

Michon Lartigue
Senior Vice President, Institutional Advancement





25th Anniversary

ELE Wealth, Management, Inc

EVERYTHING FINANCIAL

ELE FAMILY COMPANIES

- ELE Wealth Management, Inc.
- ELE Wealth Solutions, Inc.
- ELE Advisory Services, Inc.
- ELE Peagler LLC
- ELE Properties, Inc.
- ELE Mortgage Services, Inc.
- ELE Cares Foundation, Inc.

 **(248) 356-6555**

SERVICES



Wealth Management



Advisory Services



Tax and Accounting
Services



Financial Advice



Mortgage Services



Insurance Planning



**18700 W. Ten Mile Road
Southfield, MI 48075**



www.elewealth.com



info@elewealth.com

Securities offered through ELE Wealth Solutions Inc, member FINRA. Advisory services offered through ELE Advisory Services, Inc. ELE Wealth Solutions Inc and ELE Advisory Services, Inc are affiliated under common ownership and control. NMLS #283326.

Be careful of what you wish for because you just may get it!

I can only think that the 77,303,428 people who voted for a convicted felon on November 5, 2024 for



BEVERLY SMITH

the presidency of the United States, knew exactly what they would get. Yes, the convicted felon received 49.8% of the popular vote and Vice President,

Kamala Harris received, 75,018,929 votes, 48.3% of the popular vote.

Now that Americans got what they asked for, let's see if any buyer's remorse will ever set in during the next 4 years. The newly elected president has held true to his word with over 40 executive orders and granting pardons for the January 6

rioters on his first day including recessions of dozens of executive orders from the Biden administration.

Look very closely at what this president has done already on his first day and what he will do throughout his presidency. All American will be

He, along with his band of merry conspirators and loyalists will gut this country of its core values and drain it dry of any decency, compassion or well being for the American people.

affected by the vengeful and reckless actions of this president. So don't be surprised when you and your family are caught in the cross hares of his obsession with retaliation of his lost to President Biden in 2020.

Please research all the executive orders this president signed into law on January 20, 2025. He, along with his band of merry conspirators and loyalists will gut this country of its core values and drain it dry of

It is now up to "We the People" to stand steadfast against tyranny and publicly voice our opposition to this tyrant at every opportunity.

any decency, compassion or well being for the American people.

Whether you voted for him or not, we will all be the benefactors of his authoritative policies that will weaken the standing of the United States in the eyes of the

world. This president has zero understanding of his depraved actions targeting Americans and doesn't realize that he is being manipulated by powerful billionaires that know how to effectively stroke his ego to their advantage.

There is no time to waste for the democratic legislative body of congress to find ways to counter these actions and fight against them on behalf of the American people. This authoritative figure must not be normalized in any way. It is now up to "We the People" to stand steadfast against tyranny and publicly voice our opposition to this tyrant at every opportunity.

Contact information:
info@detroitSMARTpages.com
313-268-3523

INSPIRATIONAL CORNER

Love and Truth will always Prevail

The hearts of many still remember the legacy of a man who devoted his life to peace and equality. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a beacon of love and unity for our nation, tirelessly working to bridge



BARBARA BRAZILE

the divisions between black and white and promote a world where justice and equality could prevail for all. His vision of a peaceful, harmonious world continues to resonate deeply within our hearts.

In recognition of his inspirational leadership, Congress has designated January 20 as a National Day of Service, honoring Dr. King's birthday and the enduring legacy of the civil rights movement. There will always be challenges that test our unity, but we are reminded that hope is not seen with the eyes alone—it is felt in the heart. In the spirit of Dr. King's teachings, we must continue to hope,

act, and advocate for the equality and justice everyone deserves.

January 20 also marks the inauguration of Donald Trump, whose tenure has stirred division and strife. While his leadership has often been associated with rhetoric promoting division, fear, revenge, and aggression, it is essential that we, as a nation, hold firm to the values that bind us together: love, respect,

As Dr. King said, "If you can't fly, then run; if you can't run, then walk; if you can't walk, then crawl; but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward." We must carry on with unwavering faith, trusting in what we cannot yet see, knowing that what is unseen is eternal.

and a commitment to equality for all. Evil may seem to have the upper hand at times, but it cannot last.

History has a way of repeating itself, and although the battle between good and evil may seem endless, it is love and truth that will ultimately prevail. We must trust that there is a deeper truth at play—one that is not always visible on the surface but is felt deeply in our hearts. "Things

are not always what they seem," and to know what is true requires us to look beyond the visible and to see with our hearts instead of our eyes.

As we move forward in life, more and more people are awakening to the reality that our time on this earth is limited and that the material distractions of this world—such as major world events, personal struggles, or the accumulation of

wealth—are not the true measure of our lives. Instead, it is the impact we have on each other, the love we share, and the fight to maintain integrity and justice that hold lasting value. Therefore, we must remain steadfast in our faith, knowing that a brighter day is ahead—one where peace, love, and unity will triumph over war, division, and hate.

There is a greater plan at work,

one that our Heavenly Father has already set in motion, transcending human understanding. His plan is the Law of the Spirit, a protocol that has been in place since the beginning of time. In spiritual reality, money and physical power cannot alter the course of Divine truth. While the wealthy may hold physical power, it diminishes over time; however, the power of love, truth, and justice is not tangible—it is eternal.

As Dr. King said, "If you can't fly, then run; if you can't run, then walk; if you can't walk, then crawl; but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward." We must carry on with unwavering faith, trusting in what we cannot yet see, knowing that what is unseen is eternal.

Let us hold our heads high, continue to smile, and believe in the light of hope and truth. Despite the challenges and setbacks we may face, love and truth will always prevail!

CONTACT INFO:
Barbara Brazile prfbook@yahoo.com

New Year, New Opportunity to Nourish and Grow

As we embrace the dawn of the New Year, we find ourselves in a space ripe with possibilities and opportunities for personal growth and wellness.



LATRICIA WRIGHT

January, universally recognized for reflection, renewal, and intention-setting, offers us a fresh canvas to paint our aspirations for a life marked by greater health and fulfillment.

It's a period when the concept of new beginnings inspires us to evaluate our journey, learn from our past, and chart a course for the future that resonates with our deepest values and wellness goals.

In the spirit of embracing the present moment, the New Year presents a unique oppor-

our diet. Celebrated for its anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties, ginger is a powerful ally in our quest for wellness. Adding ginger to our diet is a simple way to boost our health. Begin your day with a cup of ginger tea, a soothing beverage that can kickstart your metabolism and support digestive health. Steep fresh ginger slices in boiling water to unlock its benefits.

For culinary enthusiasts, ginger offers a world of possibilities. Its powder form adds a warm, spicy flavor to baked goods, soups, stews, and marinades, enhancing both sweet and savory dishes. Fresh ginger, used in stir-fries, pairs wonderfully with ingredients like tofu, chicken, and vegetables, infusing them with its distinctive flavor.

Beyond its culinary uses, ginger's medicinal properties have been recognized for cen-

one of many steps we can take towards a more vibrant and healthier version of ourselves. Beyond the individual habits, the journey towards wellness is enriched by the support and inspiration we find in community.

If you're inspired by the principles of wellness, renewal, and personal growth discussed in this article, I warmly invite you to join our Nourish Community. This is more than just a group; it's a sanctuary where like-minded individuals gather to support and uplift each other on their wellness journeys. Our online Nourish Community offers a transformative journey designed to guide you towards a more nourished and flourishing life. This journey is not just about adopting healthier habits; it's about creating a lifestyle that resonates with your deepest values and aspirations.

As part of this journey, you'll have access to a comprehensive

suite of wellness activities, nutritional guidance, and enriching community interactions. These resources are crafted to support your well-being, helping you to cultivate a life filled with joy, health, and fulfillment. For more details on how you can join this vibrant community and embark on a journey that promises to transform your life, for more information visit www.tinyurl.com/nourishcommunity. Together, let's make this New Year a starting point for a journey filled with growth, well-being, and boundless possibilities.

Latricia Wright, Holistic Nutritionist, Wellness Educator and Advocate for Healthy Living. For more wellness tips and insights, follow her on social media @LatriciaWright or visit www.olive-seed.com.

Our online Nourish Community offers a transformative journey designed to guide you towards a more nourished and flourishing life. This journey is not just about adopting healthier habits; it's about creating a lifestyle that resonates with your deepest values and aspirations.

tunity to cultivate habits that can significantly transform our daily lives. It's about creating a sustainable pathway toward lasting improvements in our health and well-being. Let's focus on making small, impactful changes that align with the philosophy of plant-based eating, dedicating time to mindfulness and meditation, and reconnecting with the natural world and our loved ones. Each habit we adopt, no matter how small, is a step toward a more vibrant and healthier version of ourselves.

One transformative habit is incorporating ginger into

turies. Studies highlight its effectiveness in alleviating nausea, reducing muscle pain, and lowering blood sugar levels. By incorporating ginger into our diet, we're not just enhancing our meals; we're taking proactive steps toward better health.

As we navigate through the New Year, let us do so with openness and a readiness to explore new habits. True change lies in our persistence to make healthier choices, nurturing our bodies, enriching our minds, and feeding our souls with practices that uplift and sustain us. Adding ginger to our diet is just

Make the **SMART Choice!**

Let Detroit Smart Pages tell everyone about your business

- Free Business profile with your advertisement
- Affordable Pricing
- Ad Design Services
- Featured on our website

www.detroitSMARTpages.com



25 Years of Joy and Pain

BY ELLIS LIDDELL

The year was 1999, and I had just completed the most financially rewarding year of my life. My boss, Mr. Thomas, handed me a monthly commission check that brought my total annual earnings to \$111,000, which in turn had generated \$261,000 for the firm. At that moment, I envisioned a future where I would be part of the company forever. Little did I know, that check would be my last from Mr. Thomas.

He invited me to attend the annual Christmas party, which is always celebrated the Friday after Thanksgiving. After that night of festivities, I was to come into the office, clean out my desk, and leave the key behind. The reality of his instructions hit me hard, but it was his parting words that lingered: “Ellis, you don’t need me anymore. You are ready to go out on your own.” Those words struck a chord within me, blending disbelief with a sense of new beginnings.

My mind was a whirlwind of thoughts, racing like fireflies in the dark. What would I name my new company? How could I attract clients? Did I have what it takes to succeed in financial services?

Reflecting on my ten years in banks and regional firms, I realized I had developed valuable

Our mission, “Everything Financial,” reflects our belief that “Wealth is our legacy, Pass it on.” Our goal is to be the “Best Wealth Management Company on the Planet” while helping clients achieve their financial objectives.

skills. My time with Mr. Thomas sharpened my abilities and boosted my confidence, but doubts lingered, was I ready to go solo? The \$261,000 I had earned was a culmination of my hard work and client relationships, not just Mr. Thomas’s reputation. Despite the uncertainty, an exhilarating possibility lay ahead. I reminded myself to take it one step at a time;



the future was mine to shape.

With the name ELE Wealth Management (ELE stands for Ellis Liddell Enterprises) secured, I felt a renewed sense of purpose. My goal was to create a meaningful impact through partnerships with radio stations in Dallas and Detroit,

educating the community about financial literacy. I embraced Roosevelt’s words: “Nobody cares how much you know, until they know how much you care.” My expertise would matter only if people recognized my genuine desire to help.

To grow a company successfully, you need a resolute staff, a strong culture, and, of course,

funding. In our first year, we generated \$350,000 — proof that I can run a business! I built my core team, many of whom have been with me for over 20 years.

Mrs. Hilbert has stood by us for 25 years, Ms. Parran for 24 years, Ms. Gordon for 23 years, Ms. Hall for 22 years, and Mrs. Sanders for 21 years. Each of them has played a vital role in our journey.

One standout hire was Ms. Harris, my first full-time employee from 2000 to 2015, who helped lay the foundation for our company today.

To God be the Glory! For 25 years, we have served our community with honor and dedication, navigating challenges and celebrations. From the Dotcom bubble crash and the 9/11 attacks to the birth of my daughter, Elise, in 2003, each experience has shaped our journey.

In 2005, I became the number one insurance agent at National Life Companies, the first to generate over \$1,000,000 in commissions in a single year. I continued to thrive as the top advisor at Investors Capital in 2006 and 2007, generating over \$2,000,000 in new commissions.

However, the path has not been easy. The stock market downturn in 2008, the housing crisis in 2009, and a challenging divorce

in 2012 tested my resilience. I found love again in 2017, but the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 brought heartache with the loss of my former father-in-law. I also lost my godmother in 2021, my mother, Ms. Mae, in 2022, and my father, Coach Moreland, in 2024.

At ELE Wealth Management, we provide services for retirement planning, education planning, mortgages, and more. Our companies include ELE Wealth Solutions, Inc. (Broker Dealer), ELE Advisory Services, Inc. (Registered Investment Advisory), ELE Properties, Inc. (Property Management), ELE Mortgage Services, Inc. (NMLS # 283326), ELE Cares Foundation, and ELE Family of Companies, Inc. (Holding Company).

Our mission, “Everything Financial,” reflects our belief that “Wealth is our legacy, Pass it on.” Our goal is to be the “Best Wealth Management Company on the Planet” while helping clients achieve their financial objectives.

Ellis Liddell is the President/CEO of ELE Family of Companies in Southfield, MI. He is also the author of “Wealth Management: Merging Faith with Finance” and a member of the Top of the Table. Mr. Liddell can be reached at (248) 356-6555 or on his website: www.elewealth.com.

Securities offered through ELE Wealth Advisors, Inc., member FINRA. Advisory services offered through ELE Advisory Services, Inc. ELE Wealth Advisors and ELE Advisory Services, Inc. are affiliated through common ownership and control.

Unsung Women In Black History

The first Black woman judge in the US Jane Bolin made history over and over. She was the first Black woman to graduate from Yale Law School. The first Black woman to join the New York City Bar Association. The nation's first Black female judge.



Jane Bolin-1908-2007

The daughter of an influential lawyer, Bolin grew up admiring her father's leather-bound books while recoiling at photos of lynchings in the NAACP magazine.

Wanting a career in social justice, she graduated from Wellesley and Yale Law School and went into

private practice in New York City.

In 1939, New York Mayor Fiorello La Guardia appointed her a family court judge. As the first Black female judge in the country, she made national headlines.

For the compassionate Bolin, the job was a good fit. She didn't wear judicial robes in court to make children feel more at ease and committed herself to seeking equal treatment for all who appeared before her, regardless of their economic or ethnic background.

In an interview after becoming a judge, Bolin said she hoped to show "a broad sympathy for human suffering."

She served on the bench for 40 years. Before her death at age 98, she looked back at her lifetime of shattering glass ceilings.

"Everyone else makes a fuss about it, but I didn't think about it, and I still don't," she said in 1993. "I wasn't concerned about (being) first, second or last. My work was my primary concern."

Faith Karimi, CNN-Photo: Bill Wallace/NY Daily News via Getty Images

The First Black Woman to Become a Pilot Born to sharecroppers in a small Texas town, Elizabeth "Bessie" Coleman became interested in flying while living in Chicago, where stories about the exploits of World War I pilots piqued her interest.



Bessie Coleman 1892-1926

But flight schools in the US wouldn't let her in because of her race and gender.

Undeterred, Coleman learned French, moved to Paris and enrolled in a prestigious aviation school, where in 1921 she became the first Black

woman to earn a pilot's license.

Back in the US, Coleman began performing on the barnstorming circuit, earning cheers for her daring loops, acrobatic figure-eights and other aerial stunts. Fans called her "Queen Bess" and "Brave Bessie."

Coleman dreamed of opening a flight school for African Americans, but her vision never got a chance to take off.

On April 30, 1926, she was practicing for a May Day celebration in Jacksonville, Florida, when her plane, piloted by her mechanic, flipped during a dive. Coleman wasn't wearing a seatbelt and plunged to her death. She was only 34.

But her brief career inspired other Black pilots to earn their wings, and in 1995 the Postal Service issued a stamp in her honor.

Leah Asmelash, CNN Photo: Michael Ochs Archives/Getty Images

She riveted viewers at the DNC Most of the civil rights movement's leaders were Black male preachers with impressive degrees and big churches. Fannie Lou Hamer was a poor, uneducated Black woman who showed that a person didn't need fancy credentials to inspire others.



Fannie Lou Hamer - 1917-1977

She was so charismatic that even the President of the United States took notice.

Hamer was the youngest of 20 children born to a sharecropping family in Mississippi. She had a powerful speaking and gospel singing voice, and when activists launched voter registration drives in the mid-1960s, they recruited her to help out.

She paid a price for her activism. Hamer was fired from her job for attempting

to register to vote. She was beaten, arrested and subjected to constant death threats.

Yet seasoned civil rights workers were impressed with her courage. Hamer even co-founded a new political party in Mississippi as part of her work to desegregate the state's Democratic Party.

Hamer spoke at the 1964 Democratic Convention about the brutal conditions Blacks faced while trying to vote in Mississippi. Her televised testimony was so riveting that President Lyndon B. Johnson forced the networks to break away by calling a last-minute press conference. Johnson was afraid Hamer's eloquence would alienate Southern Democrats who supported segregation.

"I guess if I'd had any sense, I'da been a little scared," Hamer said later about that night.

"But what was the point of being scared?" she added. "The only thing the whites could do was kill me, and it seemed like they'd been trying to do that a little bit at a time since I could remember."

Alaa Elassar, CNN-Photo: William J. Smith / Associated Press

The first Black woman to argue before the Supreme Court Constance Baker Motley graduated from her Connecticut high school with honors, but her parents, immigrants from the Caribbean, couldn't afford to pay for college.



Constance Baker Motley - 1921-2005

So Motley, a youth activist who spoke at community events, made her own good fortune.

A philanthropist heard one of her speeches and was so impressed he paid for her to attend NYU and Columbia Law School. And a brilliant legal career was born.

Motley became the lead trial attorney for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and began arguing desegregation and fair housing cases across the country. The person

at the NAACP who hired her? Future Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall.

Motley wrote the legal brief for the landmark *Brown vs. Board of Education* case, which struck down racial segregation in American public schools. Soon she herself was arguing before the Supreme Court – the first Black woman to do so.

Over the years she successfully represented Martin Luther King Jr., Freedom Riders, lunch-counter protesters and the Birmingham Children Marchers. She won nine of the 10 cases that she argued before the high court.

Motley maintained her composure even as some judges turned their backs when she spoke.

"I rejected any notion that my race or sex would bar my success in life," Motley wrote in her memoir, "Equal Justice Under Law."

After leaving the NAACP, Motley continued her trailblazing path, becoming the first Black woman to serve in the New York state Senate and later the first Black woman federal judge. Vice President Kamala Harris, a former prosecutor, has cited her as an inspiration.

The Foundation for Mastering Your Time

As we cross the threshold into the new year, there are many things you might be focused on changing. If getting more done and having more time is one of them, know that your long, endless struggle to get your days under control can finally be over. Living your life in hustle mode can come to an end by taking these three steps that will get some foundational pieces in place help you come to a point of gaining control of your days.



SHEILA HAWKINS

I'm sharing three foundational pieces that contribute to gaining control of fast-moving, full-speed-ahead haphazard days and the related steps to take. The process for each step is going to pull back the layers and reveal what's really at play and set you up to work in flow, if you do the work.

Three Primary Keys

With jam-packed days there's always something to do, so you need to cut through the weeds and get to what's important. When you know what's important you can easily get things off your agenda so that you can focus on the things that move the needle.

There's a big difference between being busy and being productive. To start, take a look at the things that have you being

ing on your days and nix them.

You have to define what's important by breaking things down. This process begins with logging your time. Yes, I know, not the most fun things to do, but it will reveal more than you know. Keep track of each task, its importance, the start/stop times, things you stop for---calls, email, people, snacks, social media, etc. for three to five days. It may seem tedious, but it's important.

When you know what's important you can easily get things off your agenda so that you can focus on the things that move the needle.

busy, but not productive and all the things that keep you running in place instead of moving forward. For example, eliminating interruptions can make way for productive days. The following steps will give you an up close view of the things that are intrud-

Then, go through each day's tasks to see which are actually directly related to your big picture, what you're up to, or to a client or something else important that deserves your time and highlight them all one color.

Run through the list again and highlight items that aren't directly in line with something important as described above a different color. Red is a good choice. Finally, note anything else that stands out to you. This process gives you a good look at what's going on and lets you see what's keeping you from focusing on the important things, which you can remove from your plate and then focus on the things that are actually important and help you move forward.

©2025 Sheila Hawkins, Third Eye Group. All Rights Reserved.
Third Eye Group Contact Info:
Sheila Hawkins
Personal Productivity Alchemist
Third Eye Group, Inc. info@
thirdeyegroup.netwww.thirdeyegroup.net

EMBRACE THE NATURAL GOOD LIFE

Let Olive Seed enhance your health and well-being by decreasing inflammation, increasing immunity, and promoting overall well-being.



HOMEOPATHIC WEIGHT LOSS



HIGH-QUALITY SUPPLEMENTS



NUTRITIONAL ASSESSMENT



BLOOD DIAGNOSTICS

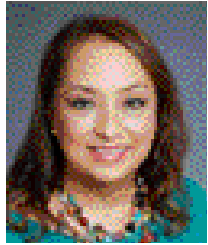
Experience the power of our natural products and services in revitalizing your body and mind. Call us today to embark on a journey towards a healthier lifestyle.

313-757-0993 | www.olive-seed.com | vitality@olive-seed.com

We accept Health Savings Account (HSA) and Flexible Spending Account (FSA) cards

Detroit Lions Football, Return of the Auto Show, 60th Anniversary of Local TV Show, New Years' Celebrations & Tragedies

2025 started out with the usual fanfare and worldwide celebrations, but the murder of United Healthcare CEO Brian Thompson and the numerous wildfires in California dampened the spirits of Americans hoping for positive



CHARLENE MITCHELL-RODGERS



news as we started the New Year. There is good news however, as Detroiters share excitement over the success of the Detroit Lions football team. The NFC North Division leader has a good chance of making it to the Super Bowl.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION – WXYZ TV (ABC) CHANNEL 7& CHUCK STOKES

Applause and hat's off to the 60th Anniversary of Detroit's longest running weekly public affairs show, Spotlight on the News, currently hosted by Chuck Stokes since 1994. The program focuses on political and community news and has a variety of guests including nearly every Michigan Governor, Senator, Congressperson, and local Mayors. Chuck has an extensive and impressive background in



ASPIRING AUTHOR & FILMMAKER – RYON MOORE JASON

Detroit native, Ryon Moore Jason describes himself as a creative mind both by nature and profession. His journey into storytelling took an unconventional route through marketing where he assisted in developing award-winning campaigns for globally renowned companies. His passion inspired him to write "Song of Freedom." Originally



conceived as a screenplay, and later a novel. The story questions how far America has truly advanced over the past 160 years since the end of slavery, and what modern generations are willing to do for racial equality. Jason says it's a cautionary tale for those who believe freedom, democracy, and racial equality are universal and ever-present. Jason is in contact with several publishing companies and movie producers. We wish this talented young man the best and look forward to seeing him reach his goals. By the way, he is an honors graduate from Florida A & M University, a prestigious HBCU.

the media and is regarded as one of the most well-respected journalists on local television. He has earned 12 Emmy Awards for editorial reporting, and 2 Emmys for documentaries. He was inducted into the Michigan Broadcasters Hall of Fame and has received many more awards; too numerous to mention. Spotlight airs every Sunday morning at 10am. You can also watch previously aired broadcasts online.

BEST LIVE LOCAL TV COVERAGE – DETROIT AUTO SHOW

WXYZ TV provided excellent live coverage from the Charity Preview at the Detroit North American Auto Show held at Huntington Place. Carolyn Clifford and Mike Duffy did an exceptional job as co-hosts. Interviews with the auto company executives were informative, and the vehicle displays were impressive as usual. Although the cars and trucks are the real stars of the show, the black-tie event showcases hundreds of well-attired party goers showing off spectacular gowns and tuxedos.



EARLY BIRD TICKET SALE AT \$30 ENDS FRIDAY, JAN. 24. AFTER FRIDAY, TICKETS ARE \$35.

CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S DAY AND SUPPORT DETROIT NABJ



DETROIT NABJ VALENTINE'S

FUNraiser

**SATURDAY, FEB. 8, 2025
6 p.m. - 10 p.m.**

**Shops on Top
2362 Russell
(Eastern Market)**

**Tickets include
fun, food, beer,
wine and sangria
S.W.A.G. TEAM Hustlers
DJ Tee Two Times**

\$30 Early Bird (Jan. 13-24) | **\$35** In Advance (After Jan. 24) | **\$40** At the Door (Feb. 8)

Connie Martin- First Woman Inducted into the National Motorsports Association Hall of Fame

Connie Martin, fondly known as a “Woman in the Middle of Motorsports,” has been a cornerstone of the racing community since the 1950s. On Saturday, January 4, 2025, Martin was the first woman to be inducted into the National Motorsports Association (NMA) Motorsports Hall of Fame. In a ceremony that also celebrated her 90th birthday, Martin was surrounded by family, friends, motorsports enthusiasts, business leaders and government officials as a tribute to her amazing life and accomplishments.

Carmen Carter, founder and President of NMA said, “Her enduring legacy lies in her unwavering support and management of behind-the-scenes motorsports operations”. As the wife of the legendary late racecar driver Huston Martin, the mother of renowned racecar driver and automotive engineering innovator Harold Martin of MARTIN Technologies, and the grandmother



Connie Martin and Carmen Carter

of racing, she continues to guide and inspire young people in pursuing careers in the automotive and motorsports industries. Martin’s impact on motorsports has been a multifaceted family business affair, encompassing roles in administration, marketing, and occasionally mechanical work. Her efforts have included being responsible for the finance budget, organizing parts and tools, managing track setups and breakdowns,

torsport career, she has been there during good and bad times. Without her cheering, I wouldn’t have started working on racecars at the age of six, become a teenage racecar driver, or pursued a career in automotive engineering. Designing my racecar from concept to reality and achieving victories on and off the track would not have been possible without her backing. Corey also drew strength from her influence—doing the work, learning, and having the courage to win races at racetracks across the country with the skills to build and maintain his racecars and bikes.”

About the NMA:

The NMA was established in 1996 as a nonprofit dedicated to empowering youth in automotive and motorsports careers. Partnering with GM, Ford, Chrysler, MARTIN Technologies, Holley, and others, the NMA launched its Engine Build-

ing Bootcamp pilot program in 2023 at MARTIN Technologies; and will expand its offerings with the Electric Vehicle Bootcamp in 2025, continuing its commitment to innovation, education, and community impact. Carter is working on a book about the history of the organization and its journey with “Women in the Middle of Motorsports,” due out in late 2025.

Eligibility for induction into the NMA Hall of Fame is extended to motorsport racers or individuals who have demonstrated exceptional achievements in racing competitions or excellence in motorsports and the automotive industry. As the NMA celebrates its 29th anniversary, Martin was honored as the 13th inductee, joining an esteemed group of Hall of Fame members. For more information, please contact: Carmen Carter, 248.910.6527-carmen@cjcmmediagroup.com or www.nmadetroit.org

National Motorsports Association’s Hollywood Sam Display returns for its 12th year at the 72nd Detroit AutoRama, downtown Detroit, Huntington place - Feb. 28 to Mar. 2, 2025.

Eligibility for induction into the NMA Hall of Fame is extended to motorsport racers or individuals who have demonstrated exceptional achievements in racing competitions or excellence in motorsports and the automotive industry.

of racecar driver Corey Smith, currently active on the professional racing circuit, Martin is deeply committed to advancing the sport.

She has selflessly attended over 1,000 motorsport events, car shows, community events, schools, and other events to support her family’s motorsports endeavors. Her advocacy and contributions are woven into the history and future of motorsports globally.

This historic induction celebrated Martin’s invaluable contributions to motorsports and the countless professionals, adults, and youth she has influenced and inspired over the years. Approachable and deeply knowledgeable about the business

and navigating thousands of miles across the U.S. and Canada. Her legacy is a testament to innovation, perseverance, behind-the-scenes support, and the power of mentorship in shaping the future of the industry.

Harold Martin shared, “There wouldn’t have been a motorsport career and legacy without her unwavering support. Huston, with Harold as crew chief (12 years old) earned the title of most wins in history at the famed Detroit Dragway throughout his era. During the early years when a young 10-year-old Harold did not have the arm strength to mount the transmission, Connie would help him install while Huston was at work. Throughout our Mo-

GET GREAT RESULTS WITH A DETROIT SMART PAGES AD!

SMART “AD” VANTAGES

- Reaches over 150K readers bi-monthly
- Distributed in over 150 locations
- Read by decision makers
- Provides targeted demographics

Special Advertising Rates!
www.detroitSMARTpages.com

Farewell to an Historic Presidency

The Biden Harris Administration made historic advances in protecting our Democracy and enacting policies to protect and provide for the American people. In President Biden's farewell speech, he warned the American people of the incoming takeover of oligarchs beholding to the Trump administration and his following of MAGA supporters including the United States legislative Republican Party and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Vice President Harris made history as the first woman of Black and Asian ethnicity to hold that office and the first to be nominated by a political party to become the President of the United States. **Most Pro-Labor President in History**

The middle class built America, and unions built the middle class. President Biden is proud to be the most pro-worker, pro-union president in American history. The President and Vice President have stood by workers as they organized, bargained collectively, and went on strike for higher pay, better benefits, and safer workplaces.

In September 2023, during the United Auto Workers' historic Stand Up Strike, President Biden made history by becoming the first president to walk a picket line. The UAW's strike won historic wage increases and helped ensure that electric vehicles would be manufactured in America by union workers.

President Biden signed into law the Butch Lewis Act – the most significant law for union retirement security in over 50 years. Thanks to this legislation, the Biden-Harris Administration rescued and protected roughly 2 million workers' pensions, ensuring they remained solvent. Workers who saved their entire careers for their pensions deserve a strong, digni-



fied retirement, and this rescue of multiemployer pension plans protects their hard-earned investments **Increased Housing for Americans**

Immediately upon entering office, President Biden was faced with an unprecedented housing crisis wherein millions of Americans were facing eviction related to the economic impacts of the pandemic. In response, the Biden-Harris Administration deployed unprecedented tools to keep Americans

These are only a few of the policies enacted by the Biden Harris Administration that documents the overall protections put in place to ensure prosperity of the United states and caring for the American people

housed, including nearly 11 million emergency rental assistance payments, and a first-of-its-kind national eviction prevention infrastructure that kept eviction filings below pre-pandemic levels for one and a half years after the eviction moratorium ended. **Small Businesses: The Engines of the Economy**

Under President Biden, the federal government awarded a record \$178.6 billion in contracting opportunities to small businesses, including \$76.2 billion to small, disadvantaged businesses. Traditionally underserved small businesses are growing at near-his-

toric rates, with Black business ownership growing at the fastest pace in 30 years and Latino business ownership growing at the fastest pace in over a decade. The Small Business Administration has doubled the number of small dollar loans and loans to Latino and women-owned small businesses and tripled the number of loans to Black-owned small businesses since President Biden took office. In 2023, federal contracting dollars to women-owned

small businesses hit the highest dollar amount ever awarded. **Historically Strong and Broadly Shared Recovery**

The Biden-Harris Administration, thanks in part to the American Rescue Plan (ARP), led America to the strongest jobs recovery on record and the strongest economic recovery in the world, driving unemployment below 4% for 28 months – the longest stretch in over 50 years - and creating a record 16.6 million jobs since President Biden took office. ARP also spurred the largest investments in fighting crime, preventing violence, and

investing in public safety in history. Thanks to this funding to help states, cities, towns, and counties across the country, 2023 saw one of the lowest rates of violent crime in over 50 years. The murder rate saw its sharpest decrease in history. **Building a Fairer Tax System**

The Inflation Reduction Act's corporate minimum tax ensures that billion-dollar corporations pay at least 15% of their income in taxes. In response to the surge in corporate stock buybacks after the Trump tax cuts, the Biden-Harris Administration enacted a surcharge on corporate stock buybacks to encourage businesses to invest in growth and productivity as opposed to funneling tax-preferred profits to wealthy and foreign shareholders.

The Biden-Harris Administration reversed the chronic underfunding of the IRS, giving the agency the tools it needed to improve taxpayers' experience and make wealthy and corporate tax cheats pay the at axes they owe. This includes slashing call wait times from 28 minutes to 3 and launching a Direct File program – so Americans in states across the country could file their taxes easily, online, and for free directly with the IRS. The IRS has also used this funding to collect more than \$1 billion in unpaid taxes from wealthy tax cheats and crack down on high-end tax evasion.

These are only a few of the policies enacted by the Biden Harris Administration that documents the overall protections put in place to ensure prosperity of the United states and caring for the American people. Other policies include: Tackling the Mental Health Crisis, Beating the Opioid and Overdose Epidemic, Advancing Women's Health Research and Innovation, Taking on Big Pharma, Tackling the Climate Crisis and a Clean Energy Future.

Kemp Funeral Home hosts Third Annual Community Event A Fabulous Celebration of Art and Jazz

By Charlene Mitchell

The owners of Kemp Funeral Home in Southfield, MI strongly and passionately believe in serving the community and families beyond their time of loss and grief.



Nathan Spratt, Artist

Every year at the start of the holiday season, Funeral Director Stephen R. Kemp, Sr., and his wife

Every year at the start of the holiday season, Funeral Director Stephen R. Kemp, Sr., and his wife Jacquie Lewis-Kemp invite the families that they have served along with a host of community leaders and friends to a complimentary art and jazz gala.

Jacquie Lewis-Kemp invite the families that they have served along with a host of community leaders and friends to a complimentary art and jazz gala.

The occasion lifts spirits through socializ-

ing and entertainment. The Ron Otis Band, along with Charles and Gwen



Atty. Odie Uddyback, Artist

Scales provided great musical entertainment.

Local artists whose work was on exhibit include Priscilla Phifer, Marcell Stewart, Oneita

Jackson, Atty. Odie Uddyback, and Nathan Spratt. Delectable hors d'oeuvres were prepared and served by Frances Davis Catering Co. More than one hundred guests attended the event, and several art

pieces were purchased.

The Kemps are avid jazz enthusiasts and collectors of Black art. They say it is only natural to combine the two genres



Marcell Stewart, Artist

for their annual event.

“We want to say thank you to people who have entrusted us to take care of their family. For those who have never been here, we want them to see the place. We want to see people not just when they are grieving, but when they are able to enjoy themselves. We have a purpose, and it’s just an enjoyable evening.”

Kemp Funeral Home has been honored for seven consecutive years with The Pursuit of Excellence Award from the National Funeral Directors Association.



Oneita Jackson, Artist



Priscilla Phifer, Artist

To see excerpts from the art exhibit and jazz concert, log on to The Charlene Mitchell Show Episode 17 on YouTube.

The Benefits and Risks of Selling a Profitable Small Business: A Seller's Path to Success



GARY L. SMITH

Selling a small business is a significant decision that can have lasting financial implications. Whether you're looking to retire, pursue new ventures, or simply cash out on years of hard work, selling a profitable small business offers substantial benefits. For many sellers, it provides the opportunity to capitalize on their success, unlock financial rewards, and transition to the next phase of their life or career.

However, selling a business is not without its risks and challenges. In this article, we explore the key benefits of selling a profitable business, as well as the risks and considerations sellers must be aware of when preparing for and executing a sale.

1. Unlock Immediate Financial Rewards

One of the most obvious benefits of selling a profitable business is the financial payoff. After years of hard work, building a customer base, and growing the business, the sale provides an opportunity to realize the financial rewards of your efforts. The proceeds from the sale can be used to fund retirement, reinvest in other opportunities, or pursue personal goals.

However, it's important to note that the amount you can sell for depends on how well you've prepared your business for sale. Buyers will look at your business's financial health, customer base, and potential for growth before determining its value. Sellers who have kept their business in strong financial condition and built a loyal customer base are more likely to receive top-dollar offers.

2. Reduced Risk of Future Business Challenges

Running a business often comes with inherent risks and challenges. Whether it's managing fluctuating market conditions, facing new competitors, or dealing with internal operational issues, the responsibilities

of ownership can be overwhelming.

For many sellers, the decision to sell is driven by a desire to mitigate future risks. By selling at the right time, you can avoid the potential difficulties that may arise from changing market conditions, evolving customer demands, or emerging competition. A profitable business is most valuable when it's in good standing, and selling at the peak of your business's performance ensures that you maximize your return.

3. Transitioning to New Opportunities

Selling a business opens the door to new opportunities. Whether you want to retire, explore other ventures, or focus on personal pursuits, the sale of your business can provide the financial and personal freedom to move in new directions. After years of building and nurturing your business, you may feel ready for a change, and selling provides a clear exit strategy.

However, letting go of your business can also be emotionally challenging. Many small business owners form strong emotional ties to their businesses, having spent years building it from the ground up. It can be difficult to part with something that has been such a central part of your life. The process of finding the right buyer and negotiating terms can be time-consuming and stressful. Having the right support in place—whether through a business broker, financial advisor, or legal counsel—can help ease this transition and ensure that the process goes smoothly.

4. Ensuring Continued Success and Legacy

A well-planned sale also ensures the continued success of your business after you've moved on. For many business owners, ensuring that the business remains in good hands and continues to grow is an important consideration. Selling to the right buyer—someone who has the expertise, resources, and vision to take the business for-

ward—can provide peace of mind.

Selling your business allows you to protect your legacy by choosing a buyer who values your company and is committed to its continued growth. However, there's always a risk that the business may not thrive under new ownership if the buyer lacks the experience or vision to sustain its success, making it crucial to select someone who aligns with your values and has the ability to take the business forward.

5. Potential Pitfalls and Risks

While selling a profitable business can be a financially rewarding move, it's important to be aware of the risks involved. One of the main challenges sellers face is ensuring they receive a fair price for their business.

Without proper valuation and preparation, it's easy to either undervalue or overprice your business,

potentially leading to a lengthy sales process or leaving money on the table. Having a team of experienced advisors—including accountants, lawyers, and business brokers—can help navigate these challenges and ensure the sale goes smoothly.

With the right preparation and support, you can successfully transition to the next chapter of your life or career while ensuring your business's continued success.

Contact Business Consultants International, Inc. for a complimentary business valuation report, www.swanmoney.com or call (248) 579-8320.

For more information on crafting a successful exit strategy or purchasing a profitable business, reach out to Business Consultants International at (248) 579-8320 or email us at info@swanmoney.com.

ALL ABOUT TECHNOLOGY

COMPUTER TROUBLE?

We're Here To Help You!

All About Technology

6450 Michigan Avenue Detroit, MI 48210

(313) 218-4888

www.all-about-technology.com

f t i

I Want to Retire from the Business, What Do I Need to Know or Consider?

In less than 10 years, I'd like to semi-retire if not fully retire from this practice that I've built from the ground. In 10 years, the practice will be 27 years old, and I consider that time served! As I ponder and plan what's over the horizon, I'm starting to realize that exiting the business seems a bit more involved than I originally thought. Have you thought about how to exit your business?



LAURA SIGMON

low the family members to take over or maybe some combination of the latter two options. To help you consider and to begin the planning phase, here is what you should consider:

Personal Goals:

- Define post-retirement lifestyle needs and timeline. How much do you have saved, how much does the business owe you?
- One consultant said you should prioritize objectives like financial security vs. legacy preservation.

Business Viability:

- Assess the business's market value and attractiveness to buyers or em-

Professional Input:

- You are an expert, but you need another set of eyes; engage advisors for valuation, legal, and financial guidance.
- Consult with industry peers for additional insights, you can ask the MEDC for their future outlook too.

Implementation Plan:

- Draft a step-by-step plan with clear milestones, which support map discovery, go-no-go strategies, and a contingency plan.
- If you're ready to pull the trigger, establish a timeline for the transition, allowing for flexibility and the best possible outcome for you and possibly your stakeholders.

2025 Action Steps

1. Ask your financial institution, industry associations or similar about the best method to account for the value of your particular business, as the process is not uniform.
2. Evaluate financial tools to help raise the funds for the employees to buy you out!
3. Identify and vet potential buyers or successors if this is a course of action you're interested in.
4. Create a detailed financial plan that

- aligns with your retirement goals and one that presents the business as a worthy investment/acquisition.
5. Communicate the transition plan to stakeholders (employees, clients, partners).
 6. Execute the selected exit strategy while monitoring progress and adjusting as needed.
- ### Timeline and Milestones
- 0-3 Months: Conduct valuations and feasibility studies; define retirement goals.
 - 3-6 Months: Identify buyers or successors; create a transition roadmap.
 - 6-12 Months: Begin ownership transfer and address operational adjustments.
 - 12-18 Months: Finalize sale or transition; exit the business fully.

This plan of action will guide my next year or two, and it will give me a bit of comfort in determining if I will need to work at Walmart!!

Well, I've been advised that starting with a personal financial planner is probably the right first step. Based on those findings you'll need to figure out the health and wealth of your business!

Well, I've been advised that starting with a personal financial planner is probably the right first step. Based on those findings you'll need to figure out the health and wealth of your business! Then you need to determine whether to sell it outright, maybe sell it to your employees, al-

low the family members to take over or maybe some combination of the latter two options. To help you consider and to begin the planning phase, here is what you should consider:

- Determine operational readiness for an ownership transition.

CONTACT INFO:

Laura Sigmon
Best Practices Consulting Services, LLC
11189 Shook Road, Romulus, MI 48174
www.BestPractices
ConsultingServices.com
(O) 313.265.3062 (F) 313.355.9371
(C) 313.757.1695

URBAN JOURNEYS

Black Theater History - 1950 – 2025- A Call to Action!

I was approached by Yolanda Jack, a black theater enthusiast employee at the Wright Museum, about development of a history of black theater in Detroit using zoom interviews. I agreed to prepare for these interviews so I have started making notes to discuss, which are laid out in minor detail below to be expanded as the project grows.



DAVID RAMBEAU

I also thought we ought to reach out via print media to black theater people nationwide to participate in this most important project by soliciting additional participation so they could have input from the beginning of this project and

share it with their contacts as well.

We are at an inflection point in History technically, politically and productively. We can collectively address and confront our challenges or we can remain unengaged and apathetic.

We need your black theater input no matter how small, a name, a sentence, paragraph, page, 10 pages, or 100 pages. You make the call, the contact, or make your contribution to this historic project.

Black theater in Detroit began to take shape in the 1960s, when artists established a permanent home for Black theater. The city has a rich history of Black culture and performing arts. Enter three idealistic young actors in the early 1960s with the gumption to open a Black theater with a permanent home. Motivat-

ed by the social and political unrest of the day, Woodie King Jr., Cliff Frazier and David Rambeau joined forces to establish Concept East.

"When we started Concept East, we believed that we could do anything, and we did it," says Frazier. It was that feat that catapulted Detroit, according to the late preeminent African-American playwright August Wilson, into the limelight as a cultural hub that was to theater what New Orleans was to jazz.

Ron Milner. S. Epatha Merkeron. Lloyd Richards. Cliff Roquemore. Dorothy Robinson. Aku Kadogo. Ernie Hudson. Even Tony Brown, host of the venerable PBS television series that bears his name. All these performers and playwrights, among others, passed through Concept East on their

way to national, even international, prominence on stage and screen.

Yet Black theater has not vanished completely. As Yolanda and I approach this historic project, we want your participation. The scope of stories told have changed. More common are faith-based musings of fledgling writers and producers. And, like the rest of the country, Detroit's Black theater community struggles amid fickle audiences and financial hard times.

For more information on how you can get involved, please contact David Rambeau at 313-418-8216 or projectbait@icloud.com

(C) January 2025. All rights reserved
Resource: Angela G. King is a Detroit based filmmaker, actress and writer.

“Resilient Roots, Bold Future: Four Empowering Business Steps for 2025”

As we approach 2025, Detroit’s Black business community stands at a pivotal crossroads, where opportunity and challenge intersect. The city’s economic growth is accelerating, with new manufacturing hubs in automotive and technology creating a dynamic business environment.



SIMONE LIGHTFOOT However, as we navigate this transformation, it’s crucial for Black entrepreneurs to remain grounded in the values that have historically defined Detroit’s entrepreneurial spirit, honor, collective works, and craftsmanship.

• Focus on Craftsmanship and Quality:

In a rapidly evolving market, businesses that prioritize quality and craftsmanship will stand out. This goes beyond simply delivering a good product or service; it’s about creating a holistic, customer-centered experience that builds long-term trust. Whether in

clean energy, manufacturing, tech, or retail, businesses that emphasize consistency, personalization, and customer service excellence will thrive. Quality today means offering reliable products, customized services, transparent business practices, and maintaining high ethical standards. Sustainability and innovation also play key roles; customers increasingly expect businesses to be both eco-conscious and forward-thinking.

• Leverage Collective Works:

Collaboration has always been a strength of Detroit’s Black business community. By working together; whether through joint projects, shared resources, or mentorship; business owners can amplify their impact. Collective works provide access to capital, new markets, and innovation, while strengthening the local economy and increasing resilience. By forming networks of support and fostering a spirit of collaboration, businesses can navigate the changing landscape more effectively and unlock new opportunities.

• Embrace Renewable Energy:

The clean energy transition offers significant opportunities for Detroit’s businesses. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and Michigan’s new clean energy laws are driving investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency, creating a favorable environment for growth in this sector. Black-owned businesses can position themselves at the forefront of this movement by adopting clean energy solutions such as solar installations, energy efficiency upgrades, or electrification projects. These efforts will not only support sustainability but also generate new revenue streams in a rapidly expanding sector.

• Invest in Workforce Development: As technology advances, it’s essential for businesses to invest in the development of their workforce, particularly employees over 50 who may need up skilling in areas like digital literacy or clean energy certifications. Offering training and professional development opportunities ensures that businesses remain competitive

and that workers are equipped to thrive in the changing economy.

In 2025, the green economy presents continued opportunities for small businesses. By embracing sustainability, enhancing one’s digital presence, and exploring new sectors such as health and wellness, entrepreneurs can tap into growing markets while staying true to their core values. By focusing on honor, collective works, and craftsmanship, Detroit’s Black business community can continue to innovate in both the green economy and cultural regeneration.

Simone Lightfoot is an energy, conservation, and environmental leader. She is the founder of parent company Light Green Energy LLC and its affiliate Light Green Energy Mississippi, LLC, an energy and environment consultancy based in Ann Arbor, MI and Jackson, MS. She can be reached at Simone@light-greenenergy.org or 313.585.1052.

SMART COMMUNITY NEWS

Honorary Doctorate and the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Gold Medal Award from the White House presented to prominent Detroit resident

Robert Bernard Middleton, II received both an honorary doctorate degree as well as the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Gold Medal Award from the U.S. White House at special ceremony. Middleton, grew up in Dayton, Ohio during his middle school years. By high school, his mother got a job with a prominent attorney who eventually became the Governor of Ohio, where she worked their way into the middle class. College Preparatory courses were mandatory when his mother encouraged her children to pursue lofty goals in higher education.



Robert Bernard Middleton, II

and entrepreneur and owned several businesses, working in the field of marketing and management, corporate finance, and the construction industry. Over the years Middleton has been heavily influenced by the leadership of dignitaries and close confidants such as the Hon. Carlos Campbell, former Asst. Secretary of U.S. Commerce & Economic Development, and Ambassador Theodore

Britton, former Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Albania.

For decades, Middleton has been involved in church ministry and volunteer community service. One of his nonprofit organizations assists veterans with reintegration into society after military service as well as working with disadvantaged youth and adults.

His organization has also participated in humanitarian disaster relief and emergency management. Although he wears many hats, he is also National Commandant of the Montford Point Marines of America, that preserves the history of the nation’s first African American Marines of WWII. Additionally, he is a member of the Commandant of the Marine Corps’ Advisory Council..

The 77-year-old Middleton says he hopes that his honorary

Doctorate Degree and Presidential Lifetime Achievement Gold Medal Award will open doors to help more veterans and disadvantaged people. Also, he looks forward to helping his firm to pursue opportunities for business development and international trade.

He is an aspiring author and filmmaker, and desires to complete his current book manuscript for publishing in the genre of faith and religion.

Other interests include history, reading and research, music and cultural appreciation, marksmanship, and sports. He encourages students and adults to continually re-ignite their passion to achieve their highest goals and dreams, regardless of how long it takes. His words of wisdom are, “Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value”

Understanding the “WHY” Behind Medical Advice

As the New Year begins, health resolutions are everywhere, but have you ever stopped to ask **WHY?**



LYDIAH MPYISI

Why do certain habits matter? Why does your doctor recommend specific treatments?

Health isn't just about treating a cough or headache; it's about finding the root causes behind them. This year, I challenge you to go beyond the surface and make smart choices by understanding the why behind your health decisions. Let's dive into some intriguing health facts to inspire smarter, healthier decisions!

Did you know?

Every day, tiny germs like bacteria and viruses are all

WHY? Germs like Streptococcus produce toxins that harm tissues and organs beyond the infection site. An untreated sore throat, for example, could lead to kidney or heart complications. Completing your prescribed medication isn't just following instructions—it's a smart choice to prevent long-term damage.

• **Fact: Handwashing is your first defense against illness.**

WHY? Your hands carry germs to your mouth, nose, and eyes, causing respiratory infections, skin conditions, and stomach illnesses. Washing your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds is a smart choice to stop germs in their tracks and protect your health.

• **Fact: Covering your mouth when you cough prevents illness.**

like rare steak, is a smart choice to protect your health.

• **Fact: Refrigeration slows bacteria growth.**

WHY? Bacteria thrive in warm, moist environments like the human body (98.6°F). Refrigerating food slows bacterial growth, while freezing reduces it further. Proper storage is a smart choice that minimizes the risk of foodborne illnesses.

• **Fact: Vaccines are your immune system's bodyguards.**

WHY? Vaccines train your immune system to fight harmful germs, reducing the severity of diseases like the flu and diphtheria. Getting vaccinated is a smart choice to protect yourself and others. Haven't gotten your flu shot yet? It's not too late! A flu shot is a small step with a

big impact on your health and the health of your community.

Ready to Make Smart Choices?

Understanding the why behind medical advice is your first step toward smarter health decisions. For more insights and practical tips, subscribe to my YouTube channel, Lydia Mpyisi @TheMedicalDots.

Each week, I'll help you make smart choices to bring clarity to medicine, one dot at a time.

Follow me on Instagram (@Lydia Mpyisi) for updates, behind-the-scenes insights, and inspiration to take charge of your health. Let's make 2025 the year of smarter, healthier decisions. Together, we'll connect the dots to a brighter, healthier future.

Health isn't just about treating a cough or headache; it's about finding the root causes behind them.

around us, making it easier to get sick or hurt. In fact, a U.S. Census Bureau survey found that the average person is 2.5 times more likely to fall ill or get injured. Germs can spread through coughs, sneezes, bug bites, dirty hands, or contaminated food. Knowing this helps you make smart choices to protect yourself and stay healthy.

• **Fact: Healthcare works best as a partnership.**

WHY? Doctors bring years of medical expertise, but you know your body best. Asking questions and understanding the reasoning behind treatments makes you an active participant in your care. Collaborating with your doctor is a smart choice to achieve better health outcomes.

• **Fact: Some germs attack multiple parts of the body.**

WHY? Saliva droplets carry germs that infect others. Covering your mouth when sneezing or coughing is a smart choice to protect those around you and reduce the spread of illnesses like the flu or common cold.

• **Fact: Your feet are a hotbed for fungi.**

WHY? Fungi thrive in damp areas, like between your toes. Keeping your feet dry after showers or workouts is a smart choice to prevent infections like athlete's foot and keep your skin healthy.

• **Fact: Heat destroys harmful germs.**

WHY? Bacteria cannot survive above 115°F (46°C). Fully cooking your food eliminates harmful germs and reduces foodborne illnesses. Choosing thoroughly cooked meals over undercooked ones,

detroitprinter.net
 18 YEARS OF Commercial PRINTING IN DETROIT
 313.784.9292
 SUITE 202 1111 BELLEVUE
 DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48207
 EMAIL: INFO@DETROITPRINTER.NET

Hours of Business
 MONDAY - FRIDAY 9AM - 5PM
 SATURDAY 10AM - 2PM
 ELECTRONIC PROOF & PAYMENT CONTACTLESS ORDER TRACKING AND DELIVERY

Available
BROCHURES PROGRAMS OBITUARIES
 80# GLOSS COVER • 100# GLOSS TEXT
 SPINE & STITCH BINDING • PERFECT BINDERY
 8-60 PAGES • THICKER OUTER COVER OPTIONAL
 UV COATED COVER • SCORED • FOLDED
 HIGH QUALITY • ON SITE PRINTING • CUSTOM GRAPHICS

GRAPHIC Design

Yes, We Make Art... Work!
 LOGOS BOOK COVER DESIGN
 BRANDING BUSINESS CARD DESIGN
 PRODUCT LABEL DESIGN
 BANNER DESIGN

CORNELL FRYE
 SMART PARK
 CYM
 DETROIT: The Evolution
 REDEMPTION COALITION
 PRISON DOCTOR II
 HAWKINS HEALTH GROUP
 UULSE INSTITUTE

Microsoft Windows 10 Retirement

What You Need To Know Before the 2025 Deadline

After a 10 year run, Microsoft will officially end support for Windows 10 on October 14, 2025, marking a pivotal moment



WILLIE BRAKE



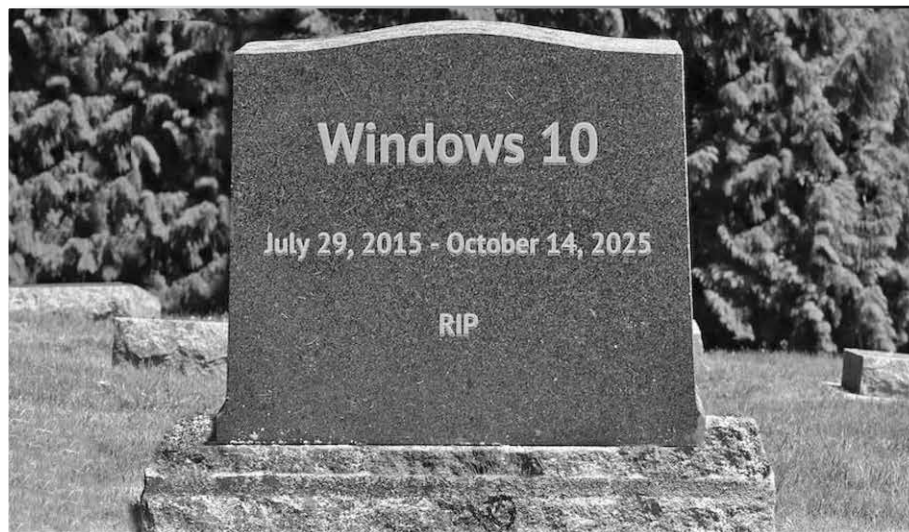
for home and business users.

This transition requires thoughtful planning to avoid security risks, compliance issues, and operational disruptions. Upgrading to Windows 11 offers enhanced features that can boost productivity, streamline operations, and future-proof your systems.

Here's what you need to know to prepare for this important change. Why Upgrade?

When Windows 10 reaches its end-of-life, users still relying on it will face significant challenges. Let me tell you why upgrading is essential:

1. No Security Updates: After October 2025, Windows 10 will no longer receive patches or updates, leaving your systems ex-



posed to emerging cybersecurity threats like malware, ransomware, and hacking attempts. Unsupported operating systems are prime targets for cyberattacks.

2. Regulatory Compliance Risks: Many industries require businesses to maintain updated, secure systems to meet legal and regulatory obligations like General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Running un-

supported software can lead to fines and reputational damage.

3. Operational Issues: Outdated software may struggle to run modern applications, leading to slowdowns, errors, and disruptions to daily workflows. Unsupported systems may also become incompatible with new hardware or tools critical for your operations.

4. Missed Opportunities: Upgrading to Windows 11 isn't just about security. It introduces productivity-enhancing features, better user experiences, and tighter integration with cloud-based tools like Microsoft 365. These improvements can give home and busi-

Upgrading to Windows 11 offers enhanced features that can boost productivity, streamline operations, and future-proof your systems.

ness users a competitive edge. Ignoring the transition isn't a viable option. Even if Windows 10 still "works," it won't stay secure or efficient as technology evolves.

Your Options

Home and Business users preparing for the transition from Windows 10 have several options to consider:

• **Upgrade to Windows 11:** If your current hardware meets the minimum requirements (e.g., TPM 2.0), upgrading is a straightforward and cost-effective solution. Use Microsoft's compatibility checker to confirm and subsequently create a bootable drive for a clean install.

• **Buy New PCs:** If your systems are outdated or incompatible, investing in new hardware designed for Windows 11 is a future-proof solution. This ensures your systems can support modern business needs and remain secure.

• **Extended Security Updates (ESUs):** Microsoft offers ESUs for up to three years after Windows 10's end-of-life, but these updates come at a cost. While this is a temporary solution, it's not a long-term fix and should only be used while planning a full upgrade.

• **Alternative Operating Systems (e.g., Linux):** For highly technical teams, transitioning to Linux may be an option. However, this requires expertise and may not be realistic for most home and business users reliant on Windows-specific software.

What Happens If You Ignore the Deadline?

Failing to upgrade before October 2025 can lead to:

- **Increased Security Risks:** With-



out patches, your systems become vulnerable to cyberattacks, which can compromise sensitive data and disrupt your business.

- **Non-Compliance:** Running unsupported software may breach regulatory standards, exposing your business to audits and penalties.
- **Lost Productivity:** Incompatibility with modern tools and software can lead to frustrating slowdowns and work disruptions.

The cost of ignoring this transition far outweighs the time and investment needed to prepare now. Next Steps

The end of Windows 10 support is an opportunity to strengthen your systems, enhance security, and embrace the future of technology. But planning ahead is key to a smooth transition.

Willie Brake is a Computer Expert and Industry Analyst at All About Technology, a Certified Disability Owned Minority Business Enterprise and Microsoft Authorized Refurbisher, based in Detroit, Michigan. (Use the info I sent also)

Willie Brake is a Computer Expert and Industry Analyst at All About Technology, a Certified Disability Owned Minority Business Enterprise located in Detroit.

All About Technology
6450 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48210
(313) 218-4888
www.all-about-technology.com

The Legacy of Jon "Bones" Jones: The Greatest to Ever Do It?

In the world of mixed martial arts (MMA), few names evoke as much debate, admiration, and intrigue as Jon "Bones" Jones.



DESHAWN
HOLMES

A polarizing figure, Jones's career is a mosaic of unparalleled achievements, personal controversies, and remarkable comebacks. Love him or hate him, there's no denying his impact

on the sport or his case as the greatest mixed martial artist of all time.

From the moment Jon Jones debuted in the UFC in 2008, it was clear he was something special. With a background in wrestling and an athletic frame perfectly suited for the light heavyweight division, Jones brought a creativity and ferocity never seen before. His spinning elbows, dynamic striking, and fight IQ left fans and opponents in awe.

At just 23 years old, Jones became the youngest champion in UFC history, dismantling Mauricio "Shogun" Rua in a performance that was nothing short of iconic. It wasn't just that he won; it was how he won, making elite fighters look ordinary. The likes of Rampage Jackson, Lyoto Machida, and Daniel Cormier all fell victim to the unrelenting dominance of Jones during his reign.

What set Jones apart isn't just his physical gifts, though they are exceptional. His 84.5-inch reach is the longest in UFC history, and his ability to use it effectively has been a nightmare for opponents. However, it's his adaptability that truly cements his greatness. Whether standing up, in the clinch, or on the ground, Jones has shown an ability to outthink and outmaneuver his competition.

His resume speaks for itself. He has beaten multiple genera-



tions of champions, from the legends of the Pride era to younger stars looking to claim his throne. Few can match the depth of his resume or the dominance he's shown in so many different scenarios.

Yet, for all his greatness inside the Octagon, Jones's career has been marred by controversies outside of it. Multiple drug test failures, legal troubles, and personal missteps have cast a shadow over his accomplishments. For some, these incidents tarnish his legacy. For others, they are merely footnotes in the story of an athlete who overcame his demons to cement his place in history.

The debate over how much these controversies should matter is ongoing. Jones has admitted his mistakes, and at times, shown a willingness to change. Still, his detractors argue that his failures can't be ignored when evaluating his greatness.

After a long hiatus, Jones returned in 2023 and moved up to the heavyweight division, a move many fans thought would never

happen. His victory over Cyrille Gane for the UFC heavyweight title was a statement, even after years away. Jones remains unparalleled. The win solidified his claim as a two division champion and added yet another layer to his legacy.

At this point, the question isn't whether Jones is the greatest fighter of his era; it's whether he's the greatest of all time.

Fighters like Georges St-Pierre, Anderson Silva, and Khabib Nurmagomedov have strong cases, but none have faced the same level of competition or shown the same longevity at the top as Jones.

Jon Jones is a paradox. He's a fighter who can't be beaten in the cage but has often been his own worst enemy outside of it. His story is one of triumph, fallibility, and redemption; a reminder that greatness is rarely simple or clean.

As his career winds down, fans and analysts alike will continue to debate his place in MMA history. But one thing is certain; Jon "Bones" Jones changed the game forever. Whether you cheer for him or against him, you can't help but respect what he's accomplished.

ALEXIS COMPANY NEWS

#55 | JAN 2025

Alexis Company is Ready to Thrive in 2025

Happy 2025! It's Time to Thrive!

The Alexis Company, a cornerstone of Detroit's novelty, souvenir, screen printing, branded merchandise, promotional products, and t-shirt industry, is grateful that the post-Pandemic aftermath has reached five years. As we continue to stand ready and excited to serve our remarkable customers, we've got some exciting news to share! On **Friday, January 31, 2025** we will be featured by Comerica Bank's Small Business of the Game at the Detroit Pistons game in Little Caesars Arena! So hurry and get your tickets as they pounce the Dallas Mavericks. Stop by our table for free giveaways!

Next, our **new showroom/display office** will open later this month where you can visit, place orders, and pick up samples, by appointment only. Take full advantage of our **2025 Deal** - \$25 off; 25% off; or 20-25 Free Caps on any purchase; as we show you some appreciation while celebrating our **39th Business Anniversary on March 16th**.

Our Families Are Forever Reunion Conference was a big hit last year for event planners, committee members, and administrators of all types of reunions or celebratory events. **Free admission but you MUST register** to attend in person or via Zoom. Thank you for being in our family circle. We appreciate the trust that you have placed in us and look forward to continuing our business journey with you. Begin the new year fresh, alive and together, let's Thrive in 2025!

The Alexis Company Team

Families Are Forever Reunion Conference



www.TheAlexisCompany.com

SAVE THE DATE!

Detroit Historical Museum
Saturday, March 15, 2025
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM



RUBY

LIVE OAK, FLORIDA, 1952. THE STORY BEHIND THE SCANDAL.

FEBRUARY 7 – 9, 2025
MUSIC HALL DETROIT



Michigan Chronicle



ELE Wealth Management, Inc
Everything Financial

ELE Family Companies

ELE Wealth Management, Inc.	ELE Wealth Solutions, Inc.
ELE Advisory Services, Inc.	ELE Mortgage Services, Inc.
ELE Peagler LLC	ELE Properties, Inc.
ELE Cares Foundation, Inc.	



- ▶ Wealth Management
- ▶ Advisory Services
- ▶ Tax & Accounting Services
- ▶ Mortgage Services
- ▶ Financial Advice
- ▶ Insurance Planning



info@elewealth.com
www.elewealth.com
(248) 356-6555

18700 W. Ten Mile Road,
Southfield, MI 48075

Securities offered through ELE Wealth Solutions Inc, member FINRA. Advisory services offered through ELE Advisory Services, Inc. ELE Wealth Solutions Inc and ELE Advisory Services, Inc are affiliated under common ownership and control. NMLS #283326.


"There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you."
- Maya Angelou -

GHOST

TELL YOUR STORY

We offer ghostwriting and editing to bring your ideas to life.

vpcbooks.com/consultation



MAYS MULTIMEDIA BOOK MANUFACTURING
VALLEY PUBLISHING GROUP BOOK PUBLISHING

WAYNE COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE

Eric R. Sabree - Wayne County Treasurer



Property tax payment plans are available now!

Interest Reduction Stipulated Payment Agreement (IRSPA)

This payment plan reduces the interest rate from 18% to 6% for eligible taxpayers. To sign up, you must own and live in your home, and have a Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) and ID that proves residency.

Stipulated Payment Agreement (SPA)

Available to everybody, this plan allows a taxpayer to pay taxes pursuant to a payment schedule. The plan will avoid foreclosure provided that payments are submitted per the agreed upon schedule.

Distressed Owner Occupant Extension (DOOE)

This program is not available to everyone. If you own and live in the property, and are suffering financial hardship you may qualify for this program. Proof of ownership, occupancy, and hardship are required.

Pay As You Stay Payment Agreement (PAYSPA)

Only for those who have first applied for their local municipality's Poverty Tax Exemption (PTE) and received an approval. Once notified by your local Assessor's office and deemed eligible, our office will mail you a notification letter with your Reduced Amount Due. You will have the option of paying a lump sum (additional 10% off) or enrolling into a PAYSPA.

Many of these plans are available online at [treasurer.waynecounty.com!](http://treasurer.waynecounty.com)

For more information, email WCTOPaymentPlans@waynecounty.com or call (313) 224-5990.