

New Americans

Magazine



**Bhargav
Trivedi**

Building Seamless Digital Journeys

July/August 2025

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Hello From The Editorial Desk

EDITORIAL

For the first time, the New Americans magazine is leading with a story on trending technology, how seamless and its impact on community. In “Building Seamless Digital Journeys” Bhargav Trivedi, a seasoned Solutions Architect with over 14 years of experience explains how he has been driving enterprise-scale digital transformations, AI-powered personalization, and cloud-native commerce solutions.

Incidentally, Emmanuel Fadipe, founder of Animal Friends Academy, unveils the free 60-day educational curriculum designed as the best tool ever created to teach children and youths worldwide about animal welfare, veterinary science, environmental stewardship, leadership, and compassion.

Most often, Nationwide Children’s Hospital is only regarded as a healing home for children that are sick. But on Friday, August 1, 2025, leaders of Nationwide Children’s Healthy Neighborhoods Healthy Families initiative held an interactive session with members of the media, a very appropriate opportunity to shine light on the valuable works of the program.

During the session which emphasized the fact that Nationwide Children’s is building healthier neighborhoods, the leaders representing different units of the initiative spoke on their work at Liden and Southside Columbus, hospital backed housing efforts, and free tax services to the community.

For the fourth year in a row, the New Americans magazine, New American Community Information Center and the Columbus Metropolitan Library will be hosting the New Americans Book Fair on Saturday, September 20, 2025, at the Karl Road library branch, Columbus, Ohio. A unique addition to this year’s is the Essay, Short Story and Drawing competition for K-12. Also, is the international participation of the trio of Elebesunu Abraham Ebimielen, Alli-Shobande Oluwadaisi Eugene and Jubril Al-Hassan Olasunkanmi who will be performing the United States anthem with the gangan drum during the opening session.



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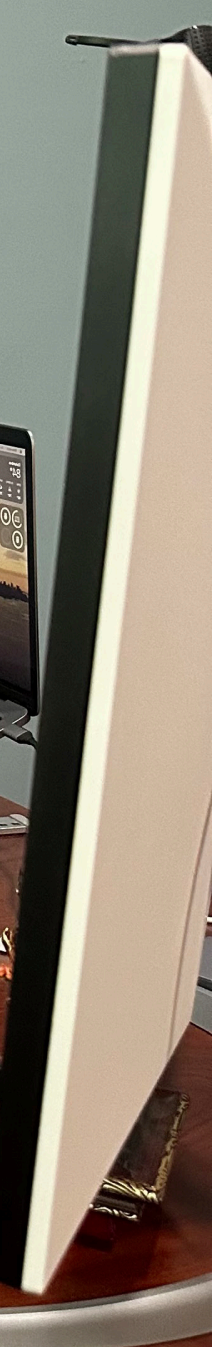
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Bhargav Trivedi

Building Seamless Digital Journeys



I'm Bhargav Trivedi, a Solutions Architect with over 14 years of experience driving digital transformation across the retail industry. My passion lies in building scalable, cloud-native systems that power personalized and seamless shopping experiences.

I currently work at Bloomreach Inc., a leading platform for AI-driven product discovery and digital experiences. Bloomreach helps businesses connect customers with the right products at the right time through intelligent search, personalized content, and data-driven insights. At Bloomreach, I lead architectural strategies that enable retailers to unlock real-time value from their customer and product data.

Before joining Bloomreach, I served as an Engineering Manager at Big Lots—a brand with strong roots in Columbus—where I led several high-impact initiatives, including mobile app development, cloud migration, and omnichannel personalization. Having spent most of my career in Columbus, I've seen the region grow into a vibrant tech and retail hub, and it's rewarding to contribute to that evolution through roles that blend innovation with practical business outcomes.

Who is a Solution Architect, what does it entail and how did you end up becoming one?

A Solution Architect acts as a bridge between business strategy and technical execution. We're responsible for designing systems that align with business goals, whether that means enhancing customer experience, enabling new digital capabilities, or reducing operational complexity. It's about turning high-level ideas into real, working solutions.

I completed my Master of Science in Computer Engineering and, over the years, progressed through roles in software development, systems integration, and platform engineering. I've always been curious about how things work. With each step, I gained a deeper understanding of how the right technical decisions can help businesses serve their customers better and adapt faster. That journey ultimately led me to the Solutions Architect role, where I now get to connect the dots between innovation and real-world impact.

Where and in which area of business do we need Solutions Architects?

Solution Architects play a vital role in any industry where technology drives customer experience, operational efficiency, or business innovation. In retail, for example, we design systems that connect point-of-sale, mobile apps, eCommerce platforms, and third-party marketplaces using APIs, cloud-native services, and event-driven microservices.

The need extends far beyond retail. During my time at International Game Technology, I worked on gaming server integrations that required high-throughput, real-time communication between front-end interfaces and backend services—an environment where architectural precision is critical.

Across industries, whether it's launching mobile applications, migrating to the cloud, integrating AI capabilities, or modernizing legacy platforms, Solution

Architects ensure that complex systems work together smoothly and scale with confidence. Whether building gaming servers or large-scale retail platforms, the core challenge remains the same: building systems that are fast, reliable, and flexible.

You mentioned integrations across POS, mobile and marketplaces—how does that work?

Integrating across POS systems, mobile apps, and marketplaces is key to delivering a unified customer experience. Today's shoppers expect consistent product availability, pricing, and promotions—whether they're shopping in-store, on an app, or through a third-party platform.

As a Solution Architect, I design event-driven architectures and APIs that synchronize data across these touchpoints. This includes customer profiles, inventory, and pricing logic, ensuring accurate information across channels. These systems also enable real-time personalization engines to respond to context dynamically, creating experiences that are not only seamless, but also uniquely tailored to each user.

What should we expect of AI and its impact today?

AI is already reshaping the way we shop, work, and interact with digital platforms. In the retail world, it powers personalized recommendations, dynamic pricing, demand forecasting, and targeted marketing. But we're now seeing the emergence of intelligent agents that can assist customers more autonomously, almost like virtual shopping companions.

These systems can help us understand context, learn preferences, and help customers navigate choices across multiple channels in a natural, conversational way. As AI shifts from automation to true engagement, we must also ensure it is built with ethics, transparency, and trust at the core. At Bloomreach, I work on the technical foundations that make these intelligent experiences possible, ensuring that AI systems are not just smart, but also respectful and responsible.

Are there any other areas you may wish to let us know about?

Yes—one area I care deeply about is making personalization more human. There's a risk that over-optimization based purely on data can lead to robotic, impersonal experiences. I believe personalization should be grounded in empathy and enabled by thoughtful architecture.

This involves designing modular systems that incorporate behavioral signals, contextual awareness, and transparent feedback loops. I also urge technologists to consider the intent and ethics behind what they build. That's where real innovation—and responsibility—converge.

As someone who came to the U.S. to pursue higher education and advance my career in technology, I've experienced the challenges and opportunities that come with building a new path. I'm passionate about mentoring those who feel like they don't fit the traditional tech mold. Technology thrives on diverse perspectives—and some of the most innovative solutions come from those who see things differently. In the end, I believe technology should not only solve problems—it should elevate the people using it.

Bhargav Trivedi is a seasoned Solutions Architect with over 14 years of experience driving enterprise-scale digital transformations, AI-powered personalization, and cloud-native commerce solutions. With deep expertise in composable architecture, microservices, and cloud platforms, he has led complex initiatives spanning omnichannel integration, performance optimization, and real-time data systems. Bhargav, who currently leads architectural strategy at Bloomreach, helping global retailers unlock the full potential of intelligent product discovery and scalable customer experiences took the New Americans magazine through building a seamless digital journey, software architecture, Artificial Intelligence, AI and personalization.

New American Community Garden Opens at YMCA North

With the Bhutanese Community of Central Ohio, BCCO driving the initiative, the New American Community Garden and Farm Stand has opened to the public at the YMCA North, 1640 Sandalwood Place, Columbus, Ohio.

“All the gardeners are allocated their plots of land, and they can grow what they want to grow. They can grow their own culture food,” said Sudarshan Sharma, Executive Director of Bhutanese Community of Central Ohio.

“There are gardeners from Bhutan/Nepal, Afghanistan, Cameroun, Congo and others. We leased this land for 10 years and we have provided water and fencing.”

Sudarshan Sharma said the garden is used to teach the gardeners how to grow during wintertime.

Senator William DeMora described the garden as amazing and exciting. “This is where we get homegrown food. It is a great thing to have this garden here.”

Also, Representative Munira Abdullahi said “it is really good to have this farm with many communities working on it in a cross-community collaboration. I am honored and excited to see this development. It is an opportunity to teach the young people how to farm.”

“I am quite proud to see the growth and significant impact the BCCO has made in this community and leading this farm project,” said Abdi Soofe, Department of Neighborhood, City of Columbus, Ohio.

Alfred Akainyah of the Office of the Mayor of Columbus described it as “as a beautiful thing and it is a good recognition of what we do. These things are very natural and reminds us of where we come from.”

“The New American gardeners have transformed the corner of Sandalwood and Karl into a new green space of beauty and abundance for our community,” said Mike Cote, Columbus community leader.



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Mail Theft Is Surging: Families Must Rethink the Way We Send and Receive Money

By Taiwo Akinlami

Founder, LawGuard360® LLC

There are a few things I've made a rule of thumb, shaped by my commitment to Family Strengthening, Child Safeguarding, and Parenting Education. I tend to evaluate most issues first through the lens of their impact on families.

That's why, when it comes to mailing checks or cash, I treat the U.S. mail as a last resort. On the rare occasions when I must send them, I always use registered mail that I can track, often with insurance. I make it a point to pick up our mail regularly, never allowing it to sit overnight in the box.

I've also signed up for USPS Informed Delivery, which sends me daily email alerts showing what mail is scheduled to arrive. These are not just habits, they are proactive measures to protect my household from preventable loss.

In our home, we are equally careful about how we dispose of mail. We never throw away letters or documents without first removing any personal identifiers. These days, we use a shredder to ensure nothing with our name, address, or sensitive information ends up in the wrong hands.

In a country where nearly every household depends on the mail, most of us still treat our mailboxes like an afterthought, until something goes missing.

Last week, a case in California made national headlines: a former U.S. Postal Service (USPS) letter carrier pleaded guilty to stealing checks, credit cards, and personal information from the mail she was entrusted to deliver. The scale was alarming over 130 stolen cards, stolen Treasury checks, a loaded ghost gun, and luxury goods purchased with stolen funds. It's easy to shake our heads at her crimes, but this case underscores a truth we've been slow to confront: mail theft is no longer rare, and it is often devastating.

According to the U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS), high-volume mail theft increased 87% between 2019 and 2022. In fiscal year 2023 alone, there were nearly 1,200 mail theft cases, resulting in 1,559 arrests. The FBI warns that check fraud linked to stolen mail has nearly doubled between 2021 and 2023. And identity theft often fed by stolen mail, affects 22% of Americans, costing victims far more when it begins offline.

The USPS and the USPIS are on the front lines of this crisis. The USPS has invested in replacing arrow locks with electronic locks, increasing postal police patrols, and promoting tools like Informed Delivery, which allows customers to see scanned images of incoming mail before it arrives. The USPIS actively investigates, prosecutes, and educates the public about prevention. But they cannot be everywhere at once. Mail security is a shared responsibility.

And that's where we, as families, have been too complacent. We continue to mail personal checks in plain envelopes, send cash as gifts, or leave sensitive mail in unlocked boxes overnight. We post valuable items without tracking, insurance, or signature requirements. These habits are an open invitation to thieves.

It's time we treat mailing money the way we treat online payments: with intention and safeguards. That means:

- Mailing checks or cash only as a last resort, and considering safer alternatives like online bill pay, direct deposit, or in-person delivery.
- Using lockable mailboxes and collecting mail promptly.
- Tracking incoming mail with USPS Informed Delivery.
- Dropping outgoing mail inside the post office or in secure blue collection boxes before the last pickup of the day.
- Monitoring financial accounts for suspicious activity, because detection speed matters.

Mail theft is not just a nuisance; it is a gateway crime to larger fraud schemes, identity theft, and in some cases, armed violence. When we ignore that reality, we leave ourselves, and sometimes our most vulnerable loved ones exposed.

The USPS can modernize locks, patrol routes, and technology. The USPIS can investigate and arrest. But the final line of defense is still us. Protecting our mail is no longer about convenience, it is about security, dignity, and keeping control over our financial identity in an era when thieves are watching every gap we leave open.



The Ave: Changing the Landscape of Event Centers

Boasting of 10,000 square feet of exquisitely curated space, The Ave, located at 4284 Mascoway Ave. Columbus, Ohio is set to change the landscape of event centers in Columbus with its world of luxury and sophistication.

Especially designed for weddings, Mitzvahs,

The main event space at The Ave is a versatile canvas that can be transformed to suit any occasion, whether it's a lavish wedding reception, a corporate gala, or a milestone celebration. High ceilings, elegant lighting, and state-of-the-art audiovisual capabilities ensure that your event will be nothing short of spectacular.

But The Ave is more than just a space – it's an experience. The dedicated team of event specialists helps to bring vision to life, from customizing the layout to coordinating every detail with precision and care. The Ave believes that every event should be as unique as the people hosting it and strives to create a personalized experience that exceeds guests' expectations.

The Ave offers a level of luxury and sophistication that is unmatched whether hosting an intimate gathering or a grand affair by elevating clients' events to new heights and creating memories that will last a lifetime.

conferences, corporate events, fundraisers, concerts/ festivals, and parties, it is step into a world of luxury and sophistication at The Ave – where every detail is designed to elevate guest's event into an unforgettable experience, setting the stage for extraordinary gatherings that leave a lasting impression.

From the moment of arrival, guests are greeted by a grand entrance that sets the tone for what's to come. The sleek and modern design seamlessly blends with luxurious touches, creating an ambiance that is both inviting and exclusive.



Imran Malik Runs For Dublin City Council Ward 1



Columbus City's Hall of Fame inductee and Community Leader Imran Malik has received the Franklin County certification to contest for the Dublin City Council Ward 1 seat in the November 4, 2025, elections. Imran listed the key issues as "Roadways and Traffic Congestion, Overdevelopment, Preserving Green Spaces, Affordability and Housing Crisis, Care Plans for Aging Population, Mental Health, Represent and Embrace Diverse Social Fabric, Transparency and Accountability."

Dublin City Council

Dublin has made notable strides regionally and nationally, yet several critical areas demand our collective attention to prevent everyday concerns from escalating into long-term issues affecting our constituents. My candidacy for Dublin City Council seat aims to address and resolve the key issues for Dublin Ward 1 residents, ultimately benefiting the entire city.

Roadways and Traffic Congestion

Our highway connectors (270 Loop, and 33 East/West) and primary roads in Ward 1, including Sawmill, Riverside, Dublin, Hard, Emerald, Coffman, and Perimeter, as well as secondary streets, necessitate enhanced planning and traffic management. Regulation of heavy truck traffic, particularly during school hours, is essential. A proactive and consistent approach is crucial to addressing this issue, which affects all residents, rather than reacting belatedly.

Overdevelopment

A thorough examination of alternative city-wide development areas is necessary, given the current saturation in Ward 1. Conducting a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis and engaging the community are essential components of sustainable decision-making.

Preserving Green Spaces

As Dublin continues to expand, preserving and maintaining our parks and green spaces is crucial. Given Ward 1's limited green space, vigilant monitoring is necessary. Furthermore, addressing the shortage of sports facilities for growing sports such as pickle ball, volleyball, soccer, and cricket (softball and hardball format), is essential to meet the recreational needs of our residents in Ward 1.

Affordability and Housing Crisis

Successful neighborhood maintenance plans and sustainable homeownership initiatives necessitate

community engagement, a critical component of affordable homeownership and long-term residency, which serves as a key indicator of invested citizenship. This necessitates a prompt working relationship between concerned residents and responsible leadership to devise swift and amicable solutions, given its profound impact on a substantial segment of our community.

Care Plans for Aging Population

To foster an inclusive community grounded in social empathy and care, we will tackle the pressing challenges confronting our aging population, including housing affordability, social isolation, transportation, and other vital concerns.

Mental Health

Our community is also confronting a mental health crisis, which has exacerbated substance abuse, anxiety, and depression among young people. Leveraging our city's substantial resources, it is essential that we develop multifaceted and thoughtful strategies to support residents in need. We must establish safe and supportive environments where these issues can be addressed with care and compassion.

Represent and Embrace Diverse Social Fabric

Our city is comprised of citizens from all 7 continents worldwide. To cultivate a sense of community, it is imperative that we establish avenues for every individual to feel included. Creating platforms and opportunities that honor diversity and shared humanity with dignity and respect is paramount. Our global vision must extend beyond mere rhetoric and be embodied in our actions.

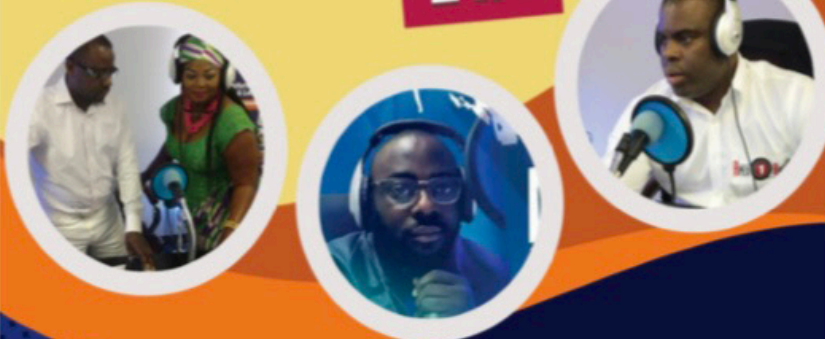
Transparency and Accountability

As integral partners, our citizens and taxpayers warrant comprehensive engagement in major decision-making processes, ensuring informed choices. Project longevity significantly impacts decision viability amidst evolving circumstances and challenges. Elected leaders, accountable to voters, must prioritize community interests and empowerment. Through transparent communication and steadfast accountability, we will foster collaborative governance serving the best interests of all residents. (<https://www.electmalikimran.com/>)




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Growing up in Ilesha, Osun State, Nigeria, Emmanuel Fadipe appreciates the tremendous sacrifices made by the parents to provide not only a strong academic foundation but also a rich spiritual upbringing that taught Emmanuel and the siblings how to raise and care for animals such as rabbits, goats, hens, and turkeys from a very young age. As the founder of the Animal Friends Academy, he attributes it “early life experiences and a deep personal faith in Jesus Christ,” telling the *New Americans magazine* that “this early exposure instilled in me empathy, responsibility, patience, and a profound love for all of God’s creatures.”

The inspiration for Animal Friends Academy comes from my early life experiences and a deep personal faith in Jesus Christ. I grew up in a town in Nigeria, Ilesha, Osun State where my parents made tremendous sacrifices to provide not only a strong academic foundation but also a rich spiritual upbringing. They taught me and my siblings how to raise and care for animals such as rabbits, goats, hens, and turkeys from a very young age. This early exposure instilled in me empathy, responsibility, patience, and a profound love for all of God’s creatures. My academic journey further shaped this calling. I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology from Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria. I went on to pursue a Master of Science in Environmental Protection and Agricultural Food Production at the University of Hohenheim, Germany, where I wrote a thesis on the “Prevalence of Coccidiosis in Poultry Farms in Nigeria and Its Impact on Food Security”. Currently, I am completing my PhD. at the Department of Infectious Diseases and Environmental Hygiene in Livestock, University of Hohenheim, Germany focusing on “Risk Factors that Contribute to the Prevalence and Persistence of Salmonella in Poultry Farms in Nigeria”.

Additionally, I am pursuing a second Master’s degree in Project Management, Graves School of Business and Management at Morgan State University in the United States. I am a specialist in animal health, zoonosis, food security, veterinary practices, biological sciences, and animal welfare, including that of horses and many other animals.

Emmanuel Fadipe Foundation

Alongside my academic work, I founded the Emmanuel Fadipe Foundation, which reflects my passion and love for humanity and my commitment to serving people and animals alike.

Animal Friends Academy

Animal Friends Academy is a free, 60-day educational curriculum designed as the best tool ever created to teach children and youths worldwide about animal welfare, veterinary science, environmental stewardship, leadership, and compassion.

The app is easy to navigate and offers interactive stories, advanced leadership tips, and a wealth of engaging activities. It includes four comprehensive modules, each

Emmanuel Fadipe Animal Friends Academy Came From Early Life Experiences

culminating in a certificate of excellence awarded upon successful completion of the module exams. Even though the 60-day curriculum is considered by evaluators as the best educational compilation for these subjects, all these accolades mean nothing to me if it does not make the world a better place. I envision children and youths from all continents and every race using this app without discrimination. Whether in Africa, Asia, Europe, North or South America, Oceania, or anywhere else, I want to know that my work has helped build a more compassionate and knowledgeable generation. When the time comes for me to meet my Savior Jesus, I want to be at peace, knowing that I gave my very best to the creatures and people I encountered and that I left behind treasures of knowledge and love for those who come after me.

Children and Youths

Children and youths are the foundation of tomorrow's world. They are naturally curious, compassionate, and capable of great leadership when nurtured correctly. By focusing on children and youths aged seven to seventeen, Animal Friends Academy aims to equip them early with critical knowledge about animal welfare, environmental conservation, health, and leadership. This is the time when values are shaped, and positive habits can have a lifelong impact. Many children and youths, especially in regions, often developmentally ignored and rural communities, lack access to quality education that integrates scientific knowledge with ethical and spiritual formation. This app fills that gap by providing an inclusive, accessible, and free platform that supports young learners wherever they live, encouraging them to be responsible caretakers of animals and the environment.

Accessibility

Offline functionality is a vital feature of the app because it allows children and youths in regions with limited or no internet connectivity to fully access the content. The app is designed to be easy to navigate with vibrant illustrations, interactive stories, and engaging leadership tips that encourage active learning. It offers four modules rich in scientific content, practical skills, creative activities, and reflections. Children and youths are expected to learn essential knowledge about animal biology and zoonotic diseases such as salmonella, hygiene practices, nutrition, ethical animal treatment, environmental protection and guide to building a career in these subject matters and beyond. Through quizzes and exams at the end of each module, they can earn certificates of excellence, which build motivation and a sense of achievement. Children and youths are also encouraged to develop leadership skills and empathy. The app helps them see themselves as agents of positive change in their homes, communities, and eventually the world. It inspires them to consider careers in veterinary medicine, agriculture, environmental science, and animal welfare. *

Uniqueness

Animal Friends Academy is designed to be culturally sensitive and globally relevant. It incorporates examples and lessons that reflect the realities of different regions around the world. For example, children and youths in agricultural communities might learn about livestock management and zoonotic disease prevention, while those in urban environments might focus more on sustainable consumption and animal welfare in domestic settings. In coastal regions, the app emphasizes water conservation and marine life protection. In forested or indigenous areas, it highlights biodiversity and habitat preservation. The content respects and includes all continents and all races, welcoming children and youths of every background with equal respect and without discrimination. This global inclusiveness ensures that every child and youth can relate to the lessons and feel empowered to act within their own community, whatever their circumstances.

Advocates

Animals depend on humans for their well-being. They cannot speak for themselves, and many face neglect, cruelty, or environmental threats. Children and youths who become advocates for animals learn empathy and responsibility that extends beyond animal welfare to human health and planetary sustainability. Animal advocacy supports food security by promoting healthy livestock management and preventing zoonotic diseases that can affect whole communities. It fosters compassion and ethical leadership, helping children and youths become better citizens who value life in all forms. By understanding the deep connections between animal health, environmental protection, and human wellbeing, children and youths who advocate for animals become leaders who can address some of the world's most urgent challenges with wisdom and heart.

Benefits

I want to emphasize that Animal Friends Academy supports ten United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), which guide its mission and curriculum. These include:

This app is humbly presented as the best educational tool of its kind, designed with love, faith, and scientific rigor. However, despite its features and reach, all accolades mean nothing unless the world is truly transformed by it. My prayer and hope is that lives are changed, animals are cared for, and the planet is protected through the knowledge shared in this app. When my time comes to meet Jesus, I want to do so with a joyful heart, confident that I honored the investment my parents made in me, fulfilled the calling on my life, and contributed to raising generations of children and youths who will love God's creations, our beautiful planet and equally make the world a better place.

Columbus, Ohio resident and former President of the Union of Liberian Associations in the Americas (ULAA) Emmanuel S. Wettee has been conferred with the Liberia's distinction in the Humane Order of African Redemption with the grade of Knight Commander by the President of the Republic of Liberia, H. E. Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr.

In commemoration of the 178th Independence Anniversary of the Republic of Liberia, Hon. Emmanuel S. Wettee was honored for his dedication to the Liberian people in the diaspora and leading the advocacy for the Liberian Dual Citizenship Movement.

“With other advocates in America, including Hon. Alfred Sieh, the Board Chairman for Union of Liberian Associations in the Americas (ULAA), and Federation of Liberian Associations in Ohio (FOLAO), both men worked tirelessly and advocated for the Liberian Legislature to amend the country's Alien and Nationality Law,” according to Union of Liberian Associations in the Americas (ULAA).

In 2023, Liberians in America celebrated the victory of “Dual Citizenship.”

Executive Director, Liberian In Columbus Inc., LICI, Alpha Tongor expressed appreciation to President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr. and Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sara Beysolow Nyanti for honoring Hon. Emmanuel Wettee with the national honor.

“Mr. Wettee has been more than a mentor to me, he is a father figure whose wisdom, guidance, and tireless dedication to the Liberian people have profoundly shaped my journey. Your recognition of his efforts, especially his role in advancing dual citizenship, is a powerful acknowledgment of his lifelong service and impact.”

Columbus Resident Emmanuel Wettee Bags Liberian National Award





Inside Nationwide Children's Healthy Neighborhoods Healthy Families Initiative



Friday, August 1, 2025, leaders of Nationwide Children's Healthy Neighborhoods Healthy Families initiative held an interactive session with members of the media, a very appropriate opportunity to shine light on the valuable works of the program.

The Healthy Neighborhoods Healthy Families initiative began in 2008 in Columbus' South Side neighborhood. In 2021, it expanded on the bold vision of the One Linden plan to the Linden community, a few miles northeast of Columbus' downtown.

During the session which emphasized the fact that Nationwide Children's is building healthier neighborhoods, the leaders representing different units of the initiative spoke on their work at Linden and Southside, hospital backed housing efforts, and free tax services to the community.

On their work at Linden and Southside, more than 2,000 employees at Nationwide Children are hired through the development and hiring initiatives.

Interestingly, the Healthy Homes program is the largest children's hospital-backed housing effort in the United States. Affordable housing is coordinated through Healthy Homes, a nonprofit housing organization and collaboration between Community Development for All People and Nationwide Children's.

Since 2008, Healthy Homes has impacted more than 730 homes, which includes full-gut renovations, new buildings with energy efficient and green features, and grants to current residents through the Home Repair Program.

The Home Repair Program offered by Healthy Homes provides grants to homeowners in the HNHF area to make exterior improvements to their home. Repair items include roofs, windows, doors, porches, siding, painting, gutters, fences, walkways and landscaping. The program encourages residents to stay in their homes for at least three years after the repairs are made.

A bus tour to Linden included the Linden Fresh Food Market on Cleveland Avenue and some the homes in the Healthy Homes program.

The media engagement was not just to highlight the medical works of the Nationwide Children's Hospital but an insight into the impact the hospital is making on its community through the Healthy Neighborhoods Healthy Families program.

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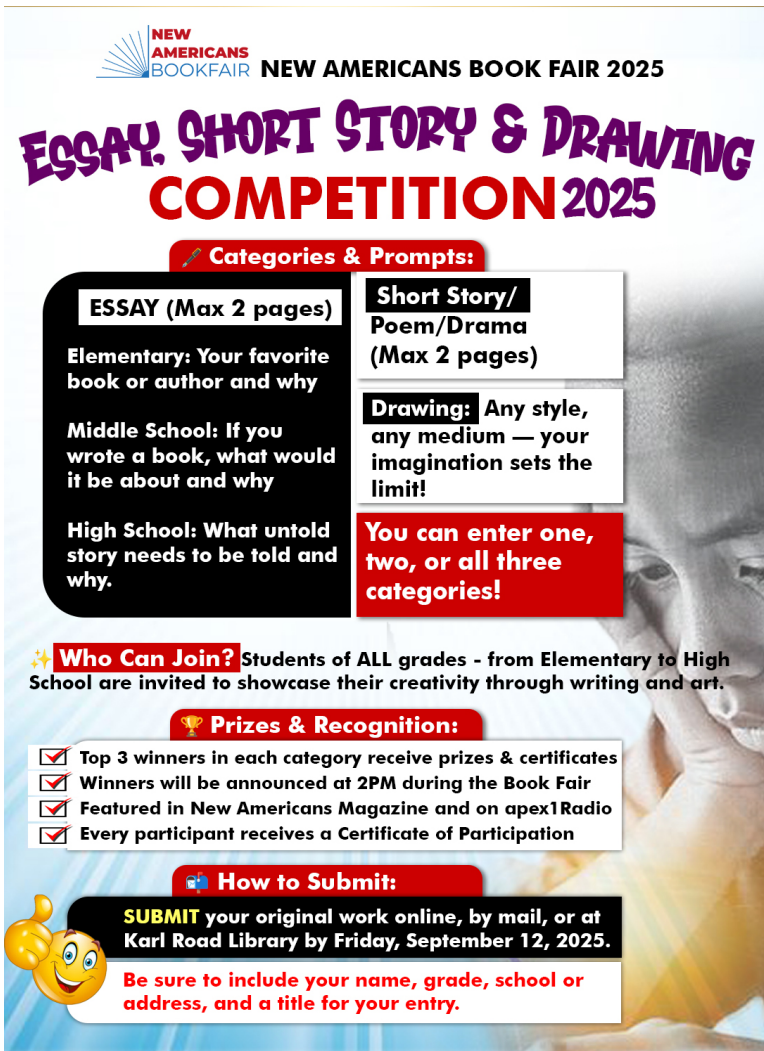
New Americans Book Fair 2025 Debuts with Essay, Short Story Competition

For the fourth year in a row, the New Americans magazine, New American Community Information Center and the Columbus Metropolitan Library will be hosting the New Americans Book Fair on Saturday, September 20, 2025, at the Karl Road library branch, Columbus, Ohio beginning from 10am to 5pm.

The New Americans Book Fair, NABF has unveiled essay, short story and drawing competition for K-12 students at the 2025 book festival with submission date set at Friday, September 12, 2025, while participants are allowed to submit entries in all categories.

“The past New Americans Book Fair editions have produced potential writers resulting in the decision of the organizers to introduce the writing and drawing competition to encourage early development in creative writing by the youths,” said Deba Uwadiae, Executive Director, New Americans Book Fair.

“Submitted works of all participants would be published in the New Americans magazine and into a book. Therefore, at early age, these young creative writers will become accomplished published authors.”



NEW AMERICANS BOOKFAIR NEW AMERICANS BOOK FAIR 2025

ESSAY, SHORT STORY & DRAWING COMPETITION 2025

Categories & Prompts:

ESSAY (Max 2 pages) Elementary: Your favorite book or author and why Middle School: If you wrote a book, what would it be about and why High School: What untold story needs to be told and why.	Short Story/ Poem/Drama (Max 2 pages) Drawing: Any style, any medium — your imagination sets the limit! You can enter one, two, or all three categories!
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Who Can Join? Students of ALL grades - from Elementary to High School are invited to showcase their creativity through writing and art.

Prizes & Recognition:

- ✓ Top 3 winners in each category receive prizes & certificates
- ✓ Winners will be announced at 2PM during the Book Fair
- ✓ Featured in New Americans Magazine and on apex1Radio
- ✓ Every participant receives a Certificate of Participation

How to Submit:

SUBMIT your original work online, by mail, or at Karl Road Library by Friday, September 12, 2025.

Be sure to include your name, grade, school or address, and a title for your entry.

SA T 20 SEPT 2025 | 10-5 AM PM | Columbus Metropolitan Library, 5590 Karl Road, Columbus, Ohio

CONTACT US Email: newamericansbookfair@gmail.com. Website: www.newamericansbookfair.com 614-726-0917



Insurance: Are you shopping for the best price?

By Bob Cunningham

So you spend hours of your precious time looking for the best price for your auto insurance protection. There is really no best-case scenario for this when you are trying to get coverage for the vehicle that will take you from point A to point B.

Here's a thought, come by the Danny Hilton State Farm Agency for a free quote and some honest conversation about the best options for auto insurance protection.

But don't just take our word for it....check out some of the customers that we have talked to about their insurance protection

Asma Moussa

I had a great experience with State Farm! was very helpful, professional, and patient in explaining all my options. They made the process of getting insurance quick and stress-free. Highly recommend this office if you're looking for good service and peace of mind.

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I would recommend State Farm Insurance anytime. I have been with them for the past 15+ years. They stand behind their policies and when needed they settle claims fairly and quickly. Everything about State Farm and my coverages has been absolutely excellent

Yvonne Clavette

From the very first interaction with Bob, he has been incredibly professional, friendly, and knowledgeable. Bob is always welcoming and efficient, and every time I've had a question or needed assistance, he is quick to respond and provide clear, helpful guidance. Whether it was for a simple inquiry or a more complex, he always made me feel supported.

I highly recommend Danny Hilton's SF Office to anyone in need of insurance. You can trust them to have your back, no matter what!

Thank you for being there!

Call us at 614-475-8808 or stop by the office at 3276 Morse Road, Monday through Friday between the hours of 9am and 5pm.

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Nigeria @ 65 Arts & Culture Celebration



Saturday, October 4, 2025

Venue: 4093 Cleveland Ave, Columbus, OH 43224
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**TUESDAY & THURSDAY
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**START DATE
APRIL 29, 2025**



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Gwendolyn Payton's Documentary Premieres at Macon Film Festival August 21



Gwendolyn Payton's Documentary, *The Faith of the Dreamer* will be premiering at the Macon Film Festival, Georgia on Thursday, August 21, 2025. *The Faith of the Dreamer* has also been selected for the Catalina Film Festival, September 24-30, 2025 in Southern California and the Burbank International Film Festival, California on Friday, September 26, 2025.

The documentary, a woman's story of racial trauma and healing directed by Khary Payton tells a story of an African American matriarch reflecting on growing up in the midst of racial unrest only to be stonewalled by institutional discrimination as she pursued her dream of an art degree.

In 1968, an eager, idealistic African American student at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia is denied the opportunity to receive her Studio Art degree by a racist professor who declares that "niggers aren't smart enough to earn a degree from this department" and that her artwork is "too controversial".

Fifty years later, Gwendolyn Payton—along with her family and peers—share through intimate interviews raw memories of racial trauma. Director Khary Payton (*The Walking Dead's* King Ezekiel, Gwendolyn's son) joins this collective reflection on the psychology of racial trauma, the healing power of lament and how an enduring, vibrant spirit can drown out darkness.

"I knew it would be emotional watching my mother relive this trauma. I knew it was important that I be there in the moment. I didn't know anything else. I was fortunately surrounded by passionate artists that gave me the freedom to trust the process. That's all that was necessary," said Khary Payton.

"I want to thank my mom, Gwendolyn Middleton Payton, for being so vulnerable, for allowing me to be there for her on the rough days and for an unexpected gift. This story has no beginning, middle or end without my grandmother, Johnnie Mae Middleton. She demanded better for her child. She challenged Jericho. She imbued my mother with the resilience to march till the walls finally crumbled. This film is all about and dedicated to mama... and mama."

Khary Payton thanked "Megan DeFranza for her astounding dedication and empathy and to Paul Van Ness whose talent and love for filmmaking are etched in every frame of this project."



New Americans Magazine





I am an herbalist

By Irina Perry

At the age of four, in 1974, Irina Perry received an unexpected misdiagnosis of epilepsy in St. Petersburg, Russia. In July of 2008, at the age of 38, Irina decided to apply her research skills to her own personal wellness. By making changes to her lifestyle, honoring her ancestral roots, and recognizing the profound mind-body-spirit connection, she turned to the herbal remedies her grandmother had used over the years to rejuvenate her body and support her family. Through this process, Irina rediscovered the healing power of natural remedies and began her journey toward wellness.

Irina Perry is an herbalist, integrative health coach, reflexologist, five-time marathon runner, competitive swimmer, mother, wife, and the founder of Perry's Herbal Skin Care LLC. She holds a degree in Business Information Systems and International Business from Devry University in Columbus, Ohio.

In April 2021, she earned her Certification in Integrative Health Coaching from the Institute for Integrative Nutrition. In September 2023, she received her Herbalism Certification, recognizing the importance of community and integrating her knowledge with her natural, organic skincare line.

Her knowledge of herbal medicine was passed down through generations, deeply rooted in her family tradition. Irina believes that individuals should discover scientifically supported holistic remedies to transform their lives.

This belief became her life's mission and the primary motivation for writing the book, *Paving the Path to Personal Success*, along with her passion for educating others. In the book, she blends her personal experiences with scientific knowledge, incorporating peer-reviewed research from Johns Hopkins University and other reputable sources. Irina has successfully guided many individuals toward natural healing through her holistic wellness approach, using herbal remedies, skincare solutions, therapeutic reflexology, and meditation.



Irina's scientific expertise and personal life experiences were fundamental to the creation of this book. She has meticulously selected the most well-researched herbal medicines for individuals with cancer, those in remission, and those undergoing chemotherapy or radiation, offering a natural approach to healing. These remedies not only support the regeneration of damaged cells but also provide deep hydration and moisture to the skin—free from chemicals, pesticides, paraffin, and petroleum.

True wellness isn't just about avoiding illness; it's about nurturing our body, mind and spirit to live with energy, clarity, and purpose. When we take time to care for ourselves – through mindful nutrition, movement and self-care – we build resilience, improve our quality of life, and unlock our full potential. Prioritizing wellness isn't a luxury, it's a necessity for fulfilling, thriving life. (Irina Perry – www.perrysherbalskincare.com).



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