

# SHELBY

DEMOCRAT

POLITICAL MEDIA OF SHELBY COUNTY

MAR  
2022



## MAJOR MARCUS MITCHELL Knows

"Juvenile Court  
is all about the Children"

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

BLACK HISTORY  
MONTH  
HIGHLIGHTS

EDITOR'S  
CIRCUIT COURT  
MESSAGE

*Elect*

*Jamita E.*

***SWEAR. ENGEN***

*Circuit Court Clerk*

**SHE'LL GET THE JOB DONE!**

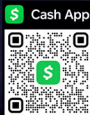
- FOR A BETTER RELATIONSHIP WITH EMPLOYEES
- FOR A BETTER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE JUDGES
- FOR A BETTER RELATIONSHIP WITH ALL LAWYERS
- FOR A BETTER CIRCUIT COURT CLERK'S OFFICE

Early Voting  
April 13th - 28th  
Election Day  
May 3, 2022



LEADERSHIP  
ACCOUNTABILITY | PASSION

Vote



MARCUS  
MITCHELL

Shelby County Juvenile Court Clerk

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT MARCUS MITCHELL / TRACKI KOLHEIM, TREASURER

# SHELBY

DEMOCRAT

POLITICAL MEDIA OF SHELBY COUNTY



PUBLISHER  
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PUBLISHING INC  
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FELIX WALKER  
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## From The Editor

*To all our Readers...* Thank you for your interest in the Shelby Democrat Publication. I usually do not get too deep in the weeds regarding this publication and specific persons I personally support and etc. You may not know that I have never sold the front page or a ballot nor an endorsement! It's about who has a story to tell, a race to run, or the most competent candidate!



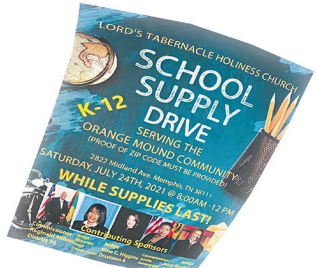
MARCUS MITCHELL

On this cover, I have chosen **Marcus Mitchell**, a young man who has risen through the ranks for twenty nine years to become a Major on the Memphis Police Force, in 2021. Throughout his career, he has focused on working with youth.

He is a LeMoyné Owen Graduate Basketball Player who used his talents to coach basketball and football at several schools and leagues for youth throughout Shelby County. He is currently a member of the Memphis Grizzly Team Mentor Program but has also spent countless hours working with children while Community Policing, and working with the Police Athletic League.

Mitchell believes that he is the right person to be the Juvenile Clerk because it's all about the children. Mitchell says that he has spent hours volunteering in various programs to aid and guide young children away from trouble for years. Mitchell's interest and concern reaches beyond the young people he counsels as demonstrated in how he connects with parents to help provide parenting skills. He recently held a "Mugs with Mitch" meeting with mothers to learn what could be done collectively to encourage and support our youth. He plans to host a round table discussion with fathers to get their input and perspective on how to keep children out of the juvenile system, and how together, we can prevent them from becoming another statistic.

I believe that you and I have some of the same concerns for our young men and women. Just looking at the world we live in now makes me a little nervous about what they will be facing. I share your concerns and that is why I believe that Marcus Mitchell will make a big difference. I like the idea of having a law enforcement person that is personable and sincerely dedicated to the welfare of these children, making decisions and fighting for their survival. Yes I like this young man and I think he will get the job done.



## Another race that I need to stick my neck out for is the Circuit Clerk.

I thought I would stay out of that race but recent activity on the part of the incumbent has forced me to speak my peace. It is baffling to me why there has been so much chaos and discourse between the clerk and the judges. I think it is in large part because the incumbent did not have enough information about what the job actually entailed. At least in a conversation with me, she admitted as much and said she regretted getting off to a bad start and wishes she had done things differently. The problem is that even after that conversation, her irrational behavior continued as noted in her Facebook post where she often enjoys posting her grievances...whether merited or not. For example, she has complained to me and many people that several of the judges appear on a flyer (see flyer above) to endorse her opponent before the opponent had pulled a petition. Ironically the flyer she refers to is simply a flyer for a fundraiser that her opponent participated in to help raise money for school supplies. It features several judges that donated and some people that are not judges. I even donated money. Nowhere does that flyer ever mention the incumbent's name or remotely refer to her.

Other irrational comments include the recent Facebook post where she asked GOD to basically eliminate her opponents and then quotes a scripture that warns of the wrath of those who are against her (paraphrasing). Any person who claims a judge was hit by a truck because that judge did not support her simply has no business being in a position of leadership. As old folks like me often say... this person is more than a notion. The judges need a clerk that they can relate to. Not someone there to create chaos or to be combative. Paradoxically, the incumbent made frivolous complaints to the FBI and the DA's office regarding rumors, erroneous flyers and hearsay that was unsubstantiated. Get that! In the middle of one of our largest elections, these baseless claims about our candidates were given to law enforcement to spark investigations! I believe it's a campaign ploy to create sympathy and boost her re-election bid.



JAMITA SWARENGEN

We need someone that the Judges trust and that they can communicate effectively with. They need to work together and I am not sure that is possible with the incumbent so I am asking you to vote for **Jamita Swarengen**. She has served honorably on the City Council. Let's give them some relief and a competent servant. If you would like to comment please leave a note to the editor ..... [www.shelbydempub.com](http://www.shelbydempub.com).



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# ACCOUNTABILITY ATTAINABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

*Since 2018 it has been my honor to serve as your county register of deeds. We have made unprecedented strides in revolutionizing your Register's Office 'and making it more customer friendly. I'm asking for your vote to continue my service to the people of Shelby County.*

Shelandra Y. Ford

**RE-ELECT**  
SHELANDRA  
**FORD**  
SHELBY COUNTY  
REGISTER OF DEEDS

## Keep Heidi Kuhn

Being the Criminal Court Clerk isn't just a position for me, it's an opportunity for change, to provide good government to the people who elected me. When elected in 2018, I didn't make campaign promises, I made campaign commitments.

The Criminal Court Clerk's Office has accomplished a lot in four years:

- Addressed the Odyssey computer system and in the first three months of being in office, completed more than the previous administration did in two years.
- Provided 16 community Expungement clinics and assisted with 4,111 expungements.
- Developed an online payment system for customers to pay their fees and fines.
- Implemented a Settlement Solution program for eligible people to pay 50% of the debt to settle it.

We have made great progress over the last few years and I have a vision to make the Criminal Court Clerk's Office even more effective and efficient. I need you to vote Keep Kuhn as the Criminal Court Clerk to continue the progress.



# KEEP KUHN

## CRIMINAL COURT CLERK



FRIENDS TO ELECT HEIDI KUHN. TREASURER, SHERMAN GREER

**ELECT**

**SHANTE  
AVANT**



**VOTE  
TUES  
MAY 3  
2022**

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
DISTRICT 5**

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# SHELBY

DEMOCRAT

POLITICAL MEDIA OF SHELBY COUNTY

## REFLECTIONS ON BLACK HISTORY

THE HONORABLE JUDGE BERNICE BOUIE DONALD



BERNICE DONALD

As we near the close of Black History Month, we remember the successes, the struggles, triumphs, and trials of the past while we celebrate the present and contemplate the future. It is important to remember that we stand on the shoulders of giants. It is also important to remember that Black history is American history! As our nation sought to suppress the hopes and dreams of her darker sisters and brothers, as well as her brown, yellow, and red sisters and brothers, it is time for us to celebrate the racial and ethnic mosaic that is America. For too long, our nation focused on difference rather than commonality. Different does not mean "less than" or "more than" it just means "different". It is important for all Americans to learn the stories of all of America's peoples. While there is no singular profile of an "American," there should be common or shared values. Those values transcend skin color, hair texture, class status, religious affiliation, weight, height, or labels. The values that should unite Americans are freedom; a commitment to equal rights, equal opportunity, equal justice; and respect for the rule of the law, including individual and collective rights, and the core institutions that are uniquely America.

As we divide along ideological and sociological lines it makes it more difficult to claim the fundamental tenants that make America the nation defined by freedom loving Americans. America's strength and prosperity depends on a strong legal foundation, shared values, respect for human dignity, respect for individual and collective rights, and the right to be different and not be considered "less than". My mother shared with me a fundamental truth. She said don't fear people because they're different because to those people you are different. That truth has guided me as I have lived and worked across this county and visited places around the world. At the close of Black History Month 2022 let us cherish African-American history as an integral part of America's history!



# SHELBY

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## BLACK HISTORY

### THE MEMPHIS RED SOX NATIONAL NEGRO LEAGUE



JAVIER BAILEY

Most major cities had a black owned and operated professional baseball club. Memphis was no exception. A local barber and barber college owner, named *Arthur P. Martin* formed the Barber College Baseball Club. As they toured the region winning games, Arthur Martin reached out to his three brothers (all of whom were doctors and business leaders) and reformed the team as the Memphis Red Sox. They joined the now famous National Negro League and the rest is history.

Most of the games were played at Bellevue Park (now known as Jesse Turner Park) at South Parkway and Bellevue. The team continued to thrive for almost 40 years. However when Jackie Robinson was allowed to enter into the white Major League Baseball,



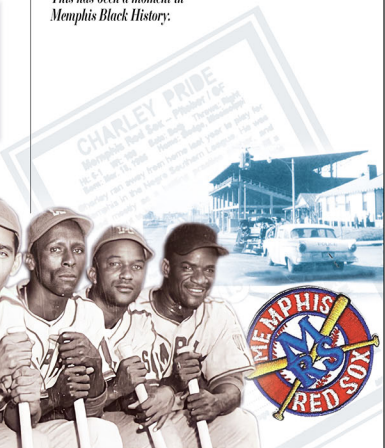
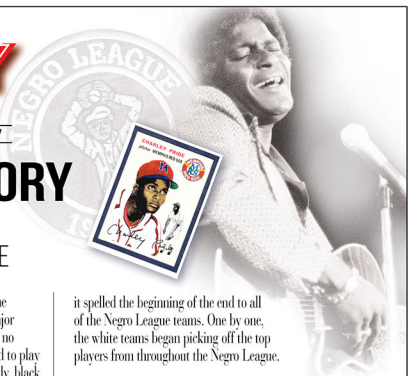
The year was 1920 and the nation's pass-time was major league baseball. However, no black players were allowed to play in the majors. Consequently, black businessmen and businesswomen began investing in their own professional sports franchises.

it spelled the beginning of the end to all of the Negro League teams. One by one, the white teams began picking off the top players from throughout the Negro League.

There was one star player for Memphis that chose not to go to the majors, but moved to Nashville and became one of the greatest stars music has ever known. That man was County singer *Charley Pride*. Charley Pride played for the Memphis Red Sox until its demise in 1959. However he was able to turn his music talents into millions of dollars and an entry into both the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Country Music Hall of Fame. Pride recently died and was remembered all over the world.

However most fans had no idea he once was a awesome baseball player with the Memphis Red Sox. On another note..... once white teams saw the profit potential in black baseball, they decided to desegregate. This has been the same in most industries. Black's are only given an opportunity when someone recognizes the profit potential in doing so.

*This has been a moment in Memphis Black History:*





**DWAYNE** RE-ELECT  
**T** **HOMPSON**

State Representative - District 96  
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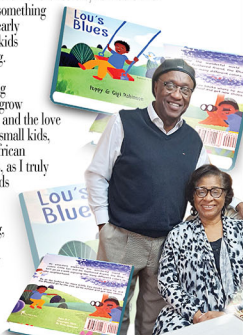
## LOU'S BLUES

### BOOK REVIEW

This children's book resulted from interactions with my very bright grandson, Louie. I have long considered myself a professional observer and an amateur writer. I have written many articles, blogs, poems and other literary works, but none have been published.

This is my first in a 4 book series about Little Lou. He is all involved in his adventures as he explores the world of colors, numbers and the alphabet: something all pre-k and early grade schools kids find interesting.

My overarching objective is to grow the interest in, and the love of reading for small kids, particularly African American kids, as I truly believe that kids who grow up with the love of reading, will mostly become highly successful adults!



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*Elect*

**MELANIE**  
**M TAYLOR**

**JEFFERSON**

CHANCERY COURT

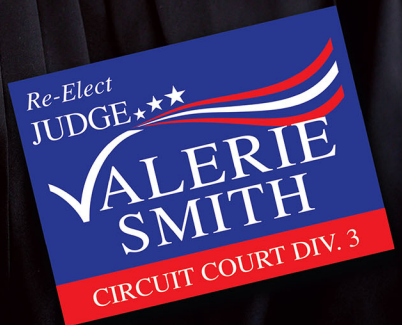
PART I

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R E - E L E C T

“*Serving  
Shelby County  
with fairness,  
integrity  
and humility.*”



A portrait of Erika Sugarmon, a woman with long, wavy brown hair, wearing a dark brown blazer over a white collared shirt. She is looking down and to the right. In the background, there is a stylized graphic of a city building and a circular emblem with three stars.

**IT'S  
TIME,  
*Now!***

*“Always in  
the interest of  
Social Justice  
& Equity!”*

**ELECT**

**ERIKA  
SUGARMON**  
**COUNTY COMMISSION  
DISTRICT 12**

**DEMOCRAT**

# EMPOWERING VOICE FOR CHANGE



★ ★ ★  
REVEREND REGINALD

**BOYCE**

SHELBY COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
DISTRICT 12

