

MorningSide

"A Community on the Rise!"



15820 East Warren Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48224 Tel. (313) 881-4704

East Warren Farmers Market

Help the Local Economy While Enjoying Good Food

Once upon a time, it was easy to find tomatoes that actually tasted like tomatoes. They were soft and juicy, with a hint of sweetness. And they didn't have those annoying little corporate logo stickers on them either. If you're over 50, you probably have fond memories of such tomatoes.

Fortunately there's a growing movement to reverse the trend toward corporate-grown fruits and vegetables in favor of locally grown foods, and our community has reaped the benefits.

Every Saturday through the end of October, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., a farmers' market at Warren and Bishop offers MorningSide and East English Village residents Michigan-grown produce—corn, peaches, tomatoes, zucchini, blueberries—whatever is in season.

The purpose of the farmers' market is two-fold, according to Ryan Hertz, the project coordinator of GROW (Growing and Retailing Opportunities in Wayne County).

"Our main goal is to increase retail opportunities for farmers, especially urban farmers," says Hertz. "The



Jim West



All produce at the East Warren Farmers Market is grown in Michigan.

amount of food grown in Detroit is pretty surprising, but we also attract farmers from all over southeast Michigan." Each week 6-12 area vendors bring their produce to market. Since they're selling directly

to customers, Hertz says, they see about 90-95 cents on the dollar. "You don't have to sell as much to make a profit because you don't have a whole string of middle managers."

The farmers' market program was organized by a partnership of several non-profits including the Warren-Conner Development Corporation, Wayne Metro Community Action Agency, Michigan State University

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MorningSide Meetings

**2nd Tuesday of each month
7 p.m.**

**Peace Lutheran Church
(Warren at Chatsworth)**

**"Working together to
strengthen our community"**

Change is Coming

In the past few months our city and our nation have gone through some turmoil. We've seen some rocky days, and our faith is being tested, but like the songwriter says "When I look around and I think things over, all of my good days outweigh my bad days, and I won't complain."

MorningSide is experiencing some weary times in this hour. The foreclosure rate in zip code 48224 is among the highest in the country. We've seen an increase in crime, rented property, failing public schools districts, and we have reached an all time low in property value. The negative media attention the city has been receiving over the past few months has not helped.

All of these depressing facts can leave one wanting and needing hope and in this time of despair, but a CHANGE is on its way. Now is not the time to complain but to take action. With all of our downfalls I still believe that America is a great country and that Detroit is the heart, soul, and backbone of America.

Now is the time for this blue collar, manufacturing city of the world, home of the greatest sports fans in our nation, the city that is known for its classic Motown Sound, trend setting style, the true international city of America to stand tall and show this nation that our sincerity does not come in our words, but it comes in our actions.

Now is the time to embrace change! We must start to work with our city government and not just complain. This means that we must become more involved by attending community meetings and lending a helping hand to the cause. We must become better acquainted with the voting booth and start electing officials based on intelligence, experience, and most importantly, willingness to serve the public, and not name recognition. We must let our voice be heard loud and clear that we want people in office who will bring integrity and leadership with them, not ego.

It will take the people of this city to elect new leadership and to work with this leadership to create CHANGE. Let's get out Detroit and embrace change by voting on November 4th. If you are not registered to vote get registered by October 6th. If you would like to volunteer your time in registering new voters in MorningSide then give Marcelus Brice a call at (313) 989-7421.

To Mayor Ken Cockrel Jr., congratulations! We wish you great success in your endeavors to move our city forward. MorningSide welcomes and encourages you and your staff to become more involved in our community. Morning Side meets regularly every second Tuesday of each month at Peace Lutheran Church located on East Warren and Balfour at 7pm. MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND MAY HEAVEN CONTINUE TO SMILE UPON YOU!

—Marcelus Brice
President of MorningSide



Farmers Market

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Extension, the Garden Resource Program, and Rebuilding Communities, with funding from the USDA (US Department of Agriculture).

"Response to the market has been great," says Hertz. He estimates that about 1700 people have patronized the Warren-Bishop market over the course of the summer and hopes for more as word of the market spreads. "People really appreciate having it."

You won't find any bananas at this market, however, because only Michigan-grown produce is allowed. The reason for that goes to the heart of GROW's second goal—promoting environmental sustainability. "We want to educate people on the value of eating seasonally and knowing how much energy you save when you eat things that are locally grown," Hertz continues. "The amount of fossil fuels you use is much less when you depend on local agriculture."

What's next for GROW? "We'd like to increase opportunities for local gardeners," Hertz says, "maybe by developing connections with local restaurants or opening up more farmers' markets next summer around the city."

For now, MorningSide and East English Village residents can support the local economy, reduce our "carbon footprint," and find a good tomato in our own backyard—and not a corporate logo sticker in sight. Now that's a good deal.

—Susan Newell
Secretary, MorningSide Board

Gino's

Family Dining



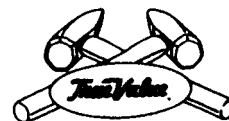
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How Other Detroit Neighborhoods Are Dealing with the Foreclosure Crisis

by Candice Williams

Hundreds of homes across Detroit have been abandoned due to the foreclosure crisis and the impact is affecting neighbors. Now neighborhood associations are calling on those neighbors to help fight the problems of theft and blight.

Some associations have reported that empty houses are lures for vandals seeking scrap metal and architectural treasures. The houses are desirable shelter for squatters while other houses are left unattended creating blight with decaying structures, overgrown lawns and stagnant swimming pools.

In East English Village, Bob Drury, a vice president of the association, said the neighborhood has a task force and block captains to combat theft and blight.

There are 130-150 empty homes out of 2,100 houses in the neighborhood which is bordered by Cadieux, Outer Drive/Whittier, Harper and Mack.

Whenever a house is foreclosed the association updates neighbors so they can keep an eye out on the property.

"We're trying to get the residents take ownership of the houses next door to them," Drury said. "We talk with whoever is taking charge of it to see if they can leave the porch light on."

The association also asks that property owners keep draperies in the windows to give the appearance of a lived-in dwelling. If the house is obviously empty thieves may come in and steal copper pipes, decorative windows and other antique features that add charm to Detroit's older homes, he said.

Historic Indian Village is also bat-

ting against thefts. The east side neighborhood is comprised of three streets: Burns, Iroquois and Seminole between Jefferson and Mack avenues. Of the more than 350 homes in the neighborhood 50 of them sit empty from a combination of foreclosures and outright mortgage fraud, said Michaline Larson, member of the Indian Village Association.

Whenever a house is foreclosed the association updates neighbors so they can keep an eye out on the property.

"The houses are just not reselling fast enough to protect the property," she said. "We do what we can do, but we'd like to see people move into them."

To keep an eye out for vandals, Indian Village has its historical area security patrol, to which members voluntarily contribute. Neighbors also volunteer to monitor nearby empty homes. One neighbor witnessed a man coming out of a home with a door in a wheelbarrow, Larson said. The neighborhood has since placed alarms in some of the homes to deter thieves.

When it comes to foreclosed homes, blight can follow if the owner of the home—which is oftentimes a bank or mortgage lender—doesn't attend to its properties. Some of the neighbors in Indian Village have stepped up and volunteered to mow the front lawns of the empty homes. Larson said.

"It takes neighbors who care," she said. "They do those things the Real-

tors aren't willing to do. You have to somehow inspire the neighbors to keep things looking presentable."

Blight is also a problem in the Palmer Woods Historic District, said Julie Hurwitz, a member of its association. The west side neighborhood is bounded by Woodward, Seven Mile, Evergreen Cemetery, Strathcona Drive and Argyle Crescent. There are several empty houses within a half block from her home and about 20 in the area.

"They're not only empty, but in bad shape," Hurwitz said. "Even this neighborhood is getting bad. It's the last place you would have thought."

One home is in such disrepair there is a large hole in the roof.

To combat the issues of theft in the area the Palmer Woods began a trial run in July of creating a sort of gated area community by cutting off the majority of the streets with large cinder blocks. They hope that it will decrease unnecessary traffic through the area. So far they've closed off all but two entrances to Woodward and all but two to Seven Mile.

"We're gathering data to see if this is going to have an effect on the crime rate in the area," Hurwitz said.

The association also has a security crime watch email where neighbors are alerted when there are crimes in the neighborhood.

As for the foreclosure crisis things will someday improve, Drury said.

"It will take awhile, but it won't get better until the government passes some type of law against the predatory lenders and does something about it," he said.

My Sisters and Me

Address:

17410 E. Warren
Detroit, MI 48224
Between Cadieux & Mack

Hours of Operation:

Tues.-Fri. 11am-8pm
Sat. & Sun. 12pm-8pm



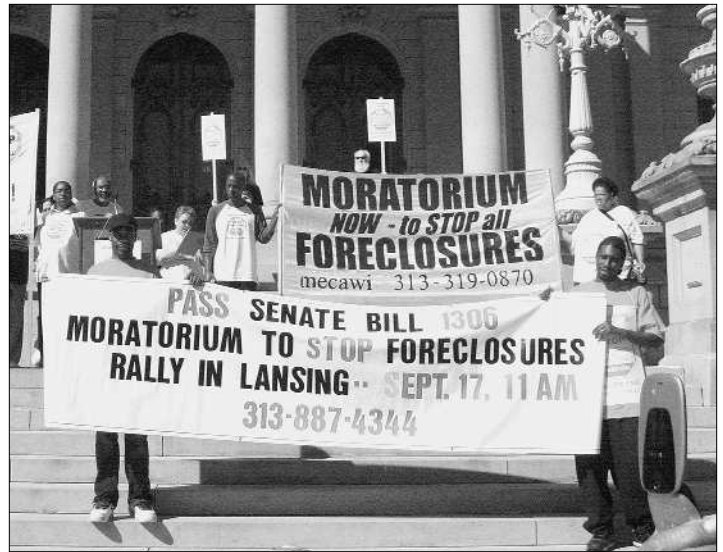
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Monday-Saturday 8:30 am to 9pm Sunday 9am to 7pm



Alan Pollock

Protesters Included Dozens Facing Eviction

Hundreds at Capitol Demand Moratorium on Foreclosures

Hundreds of people from across Michigan converged in Lansing on September 17 to demand the State Legislature enact SB 1306, a two-year foreclosure moratorium bill introduced by state Sen. Hansen Clarke, and that the federal government “Bail out the people, not the banks!” The action was sponsored by the Moratorium NOW! Coalition to Stop Foreclosures and Evictions.

People came from Detroit, Grand Rapids, Battle Creek, Flint, Lansing, Ypsilanti, Adrian, Sault St. Marie and other cities and towns representing all areas of Michigan. The protesters included several dozen people facing foreclosure and eviction, as well as past victims of the home foreclosure epidemic.

Dozens of UNITE HERE union members came from Detroit on a bus

sponsored by the Change to Win labor federation. Other unionists participating included members of the United Auto Workers, Service Employees International Union and the American Federation of Teachers.

Sen. Hansen Clarke has introduced a bill calling for a two-year moratorium on home foreclosures.

Many organizations also participated, including the Green Party; Students for a Democratic Society; National Lawyers Guild; Food Not Bombs; independent newspaper collective Critical Moment; Michigan Emergency Committee Against War & Injustice (MECAWI); Michigan Welfare Rights; Call 'Em Out; Latinos

Unidos of Michigan; Grand Rapids Latino Community Coalition; Joint Religious Organizing Network for Action and Hope (JONAH) of Battle Creek, and the Adrian Dominican Sisters & Associates for Peace.

“We the people demand relief—Moratorium NOW!” and “A home is a right—we’re gonna fight, fight, fight!” were among the chants echoing loudly from the Capitol and other buildings in downtown Lansing as protesters marched in a spirited picket line. A rally and people’s hearing on SB 1306 were also held.

To get involved, contact the Moratorium NOW! Coalition at 313-887-4344; email moratorium@moratorium-mi.org; or visit www.moratorium-mi.org.

—Kris Hamel
East English Village resident

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