

MorningSider

FEBRUARY 2015

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

A HEARING ON HOUSING IN DETROIT DRAWS A RELUCTANT CROWD 1

THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN OWNED AND OPERATED HOSPITAL IN DETROIT 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE 3

THE HISTORY OF BLACK HISTORY 3

RECIPE OF THE MONTH 4

10 SMART WAYS TO USE LINKEDIN TO GROW YOUR BUSINESS 6

FROSTBITE SYMPTOMS 8

A HEARING ON HOUSING IN DETROIT DRAWS A RELUCTANT CROWD



By Monica Davey

It is the sort of convention no city wants to host.

Hundreds of Detroit residents on Thursday packed into a vast hall of Cobo Center, the same complex that hosted the flashy annual auto show last week, gripping yellow notices that told them they were soon to lose their houses for failing to pay property taxes.

From all around the hall came grim stories of unemployment and illness, of family homes passed down from parents but tangled in debt, of landlords who never mentioned that the taxes had gone unpaid for years.

Paulet Johnson, 47, said she thought she had a deal to rent the house she lives in in exchange for paying the owner's tax bills. Yet she discovered that far more was owed in taxes and that the house was subject to foreclosure when the yellow notice — calling for \$3,624 — suddenly appeared on her door. And foreclosure, she feared, might mean eviction.

"I have to find a way to save it," Ms. Johnson, a cashier at a liquor store whose four grandchildren live with her, said. "If you put us out, all you're going to get is people who don't care, people who are stripping these homes, tearing up the neighborhoods. I'm desperate to find a way to stay."

The city's leaders, fresh out of federal bankruptcy, are pledging to lure new residents and expand the population of a city that has been plagued by decades of exodus. They note that uncollected taxes amount to hundreds of millions of dollars, money cities rely on to pay for services.

Yet even as Detroit envisions a renaissance, the scene from the convention hall Thursday provided a far gloomier picture of what for many will be a foreclosure pipeline out of town.

Cont. page 5

MorningSide

Executive Board/Ambassadors



President

Zelda Anderson

Vice President-

Jackie Grant

Audubon Rd. /Courville St.

2nd Vice President-

Beverly Brown

Buckingham Ave. /Berkshire St.

Treasurer-

Vaughan Tolliver

Three Mile Dr. /Bedford St.

Secretary-

Claudia Meeks

Chatsworth St. /Balfour Rd. /
Waveney St.

THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN OWNED AND OPERATED HOSPITAL IN DETROIT

Mercy General Hospital

Detroit, Michigan (1917-1976)

Founders:

Drs. David and Daisy Northcross

Locations:

73 Russell St (20 beds)

688 Winder (34 beds)

2929 W. Boston Boulevard (50 beds)



After fleeing the Klu Klux Klan in Montgomery, Alabama, Drs. David and Daisy Northcross settled in Detroit, MI, intent on rebuilding their medical practice and providing medical care for Detroit's African American community. They met with other physicians who formed the Allied Medical Society, precursor to the Detroit Medical Society, hoping to become a part of the Society's endeavor to open a hospital facility for African Americans.

The Northcrosses, having operated a hospital in the South, brought much administrative knowledge to the table, and they finally chose to strike out on their own and succeeded in opening Detroit's first African American hospital in 1917.

Opened mostly because the doctors needed a place to care for patients who were too sick to return home, the hospital located at 73 Russell St. eventually contained 20 beds. Because of demand for care, the hospital soon outgrew this limited space and relocated to 688 Winder St. This property was finally demolished to make way for the construction of the I-75 expressway.

There were pressures to close the hospital at this point, but the Northcrosses took the \$400,000 they made selling the Winder property and built a new 50-bed facility at 2929 W. Boston. Pressure from Blue Cross forced the hospital to convert to a methadone clinic, and then an abortion clinic. Before a final conversion to a mental health facility, it was firebombed.

February Event's 2015

Motown Winter Blast!

When: 2/6/2015 through 2/8/15

Where: in and around Campus Martius

Park, Downtown Detroit

<http://www.winterblast.com>

Detroit Zoo: Wild Winter African

Adventure Weekend

When: 2/7/2015 through 2/8/2015

www.detroitzoo.org

Paczki Day in Hamtramck and Detroit

When: Tuesday, February 17th

Where: Hamtramck and Detroit

Campus Martius Ice Skating

When: Now through 3/1/ 2015

Where: Woodward Avenue, Downtown Detroit

campusmartiuspark.org

State and Metro Park Events

When: Throughout the month of February
where: Parks in and around the Metro-Detroit area

activities includes ski and snowshoe classes, Ice-fishing instruction and evening hikes.

www.metroparks.com

As the economy continues to improve it does not always improve for all of us. Our community still struggles with recovering from the fall of the economy in 2009. There are homes in our community that are in jeopardy of property taxes but can be still saved. **PLEASE** if you are in need of assistance or know someone that is reach out for help! There are organizations in the city that specialize with assisting home owners in foreclosure. One of these organizations is United Community Housing Coalition. Their information is listed below.

Thank you!

United Community Housing Coalition
220 Bagley Ave.
Detroit, Mi 48226
www.uchcdetroit.org



Zelda Anderson

MorningSide President

THE HISTORY OF BLACK HISTORY

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." What you might not know is that black history had barely begun to be studied-or even documented-when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America at least as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a respectable presence in the history books.

Blacks Absent from History Books

We owe the celebration of Black History Month, and more importantly, the study of black history, to Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Born to parents who were former slaves, he spent his childhood working in the Kentucky coal mines and enrolled in high school at age twenty. He graduated within two years and later went on to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard. The scholar was disturbed to find in his studies that history books largely ignored the black American population-and when blacks did figure into the picture, it was generally in ways that reflected the inferior social position they were assigned at the time.

Established Journal of Negro History

Woodson, always one to act on his ambitions, decided to take on the challenge of writing black Americans into the nation's history. He established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (now called the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History) in 1915, and a year later founded the widely respected Journal of Negro History. In 1926, he launched Negro History Week as an initiative to bring national attention to the contributions of black people throughout American history.

Woodson chose the second week of February for Negro History Week because it marks the birthdays of two men who greatly influenced the black American population, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

"If a race has no history, if it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world, and it stands in danger of being exterminated."

- Carter G. Woodson

MorningSide

Members -At-Large

/Ambassadors

■ ■ ■

Scotty Boman

Outer Dr. E. /Whittier St,

Eric Dueweke

Wayburn St. /Alter Rd.

Ulysses Jones

Beaconsfield St. /Barham St./ Linville St.

Paul Phillips

Somerset Ave/Nottingham Rd.

Pastor Darell Reed

Lakepointe St. /Maryland St.

Monique Tate

Devonshire Rd. /Haverhill St.

Important Numbers



US

Congressman

Gary Peters

(202) 224-3121

Senators

Carl Levin

(313) 226-6020

Debbie Stabenow

(313) 961-4330

Michigan

Governor

Rick Snyder

(517) 373-3400

State Senator

Coleman Young II

(517) 373-7346

State Representatives

(District 1) Brian Banks

(517) 373-0154

(District 2) Alberta Tinsley-Talabi

(517) 373-1776

TEXAS CHILI

3 tablespoons vegetable oil

2 medium yellow onions, medium dice

1 medium red bell pepper, medium dice

6 medium garlic cloves, finely chopped

2 teaspoons ground oregano

1/4 cup chili powder

1 tablespoon ground cumin

1 tablespoon ground coriander

1 teaspoon sugar

1 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt, plus more as needed

2 pounds lean ground beef

1 (28-ounce) can diced tomatoes

1 (14-ounce) can tomato sauce

2 (15-ounce) cans kidney beans, drained and rinsed

1/4 cup coarsely chopped pickled jalapenos or green chilies, drained

Directions:

Heat the oil in a large frying pan over medium heat until shimmering. Add the onions and bell pepper, season with salt, and cook, stirring irregularly, until softened, about 8 minutes.

Add the garlic, oregano, chili powder, sugar and cumin, stir to coat the vegetables, and cook until aromatic, about 1 minute. Add the ground beef and measured salt and cook, breaking the meat into small pieces with a wooden spoon, until the beef is no longer pink, about 7 minutes.

Transfer the mixture to the slow cooker, add the diced tomatoes and their juices, tomato sauce, and beans, and stir to combine. Cover and cook until the chili thickens and the flavors meld, about 8 hours on low or 6 hours on high



A HEARING ON HOUSING IN DETROIT...

Cont. page 1

Wayne County officials have warned that 62,000 Detroit properties are subject to foreclosure this year because the owners had fallen three years behind on taxes. Even as Detroit has had a flood of foreclosures over the last six years, this year's number is a record, accounting for nearly one-sixth of all city properties — an unimaginable total in most cities, tax foreclosure experts said.

Some portion of the properties will be put up in the fall for public auction, where prices have sometimes started as low as \$500

"This is the worst year ever," Ted Phillips, the executive director of the United Community Housing Coalition, which tries to help people avoid foreclosure, told the gathered crowd, gazing out at row after row after row.

Though these were technically "show cause" hearings, offering residents a chance to argue that the county should not foreclose on their homes, the scale made it feel more like an unhappy county fair — complete with workers in yellow vests offering help from an array of nonprofit groups and large signs guiding residents into subgroups like "Nondeed holders including renters" and "Homeowner occupants." Thursday was the first day of what will be seven days of hearings at Cobo Center, which officials said they had chosen because the proceedings would have outgrown other sites.

Michigan in 1999 changed the way its local governments deal with people who fail to pay their property taxes, replacing a system of tax liens with foreclosure. Yet the number of foreclosures did not reach what advocates here view as a crisis level until years later, when the national recession hastened the city's problems with blighted properties and population decline. By last year, at least 70,000 foreclosures had taken place here since 2009, not for unpaid mortgages but for failure to pay property taxes.

Of the 62,000 city properties subject to foreclosure this year, more than half are believed to be occupied; nearly 13,000 are probably vacant lots. Some portion of the properties facing foreclosure were also eligible for it a year ago or more, but officials had delayed pursuing them in part because the numbers had grown too large for county workers to handle so many proceedings.

In the coming months, some of these owners will pay their bills or get on payment plans and save their homes, and thousands already had by Thursday night. Some will not even try. Others will meet requirements for assistance in paying their bills, including a state program that uses federal funds — efforts county officials spent much of the day explaining to residents and urging them to apply for.

David Szymanski, the chief deputy for the Wayne County treasurer's office, said Detroit officials were dealing with the "competing interests" of "collecting taxes that allow services and of keeping people in their homes."

Under new provisions urged by city officials and approved by the state Legislature, Detroit residents who live in their homes may qualify for payment plans that decrease interest on their debt to 6 percent from 18 percent, as well as place caps on the amount owed, based on the home's value.

"Take a deep breath, relax," Mr. Szymanski urged the crowd as the day began and residents were told to wait for their numbers to be called. "We don't want to take anyone's property."

But many here were brimming with anxiety. Some spoke of years of worry over their failure to pay and embarrassment that it had come to this. Others said they were stunned when they found a plastic bag hanging from their front door, announcing foreclosure.

"My heart got to beating so fast — it's just very scary," said Rebecca Miles, who said her home was put in her name after her mother's death but had fallen about \$3,000 behind on taxes.

Important Numbers

■ ■ ■

Wayne County

Executive

Warren C. Evans

(313) 224-0286

Clerk

Cathy M. Garrett

(313) 224-6262

Treasurer

Raymond Wojtowicz

(313) 224-5950

Sheriff

Benny N. Napoleon

(313) 224-2222

Commission (District 1)

Timothy Killeen

(313) 224-0920

Prosecutor

Kym L. Worthy

(313) 224-5777

Register of Deeds

Bernard J. Youngblood

(313) 224-5854

Cont. page 9

Important Numbers

■ ■ ■

Detroit

Mayor

Mike Duggan

(313) 224-3400

Emergency Manager

Kevyn D. Orr

(313) 224-3400

Clerk

Janice M. Winfrey

(313) 224-3260

City Council Member

(District 4)

Andre L. Spivey

(313) 224-4841

Department of

Neighborhoods

- District 4

District Manager

O'Dell Tate

(313) 236-3518

Asst. District Manager

Toson Knight

(313) 236-3520

10 SMART WAYS TO USE LINKEDIN TO GROW YOUR BUSINESS

By Carolyn M. Brown

Entrepreneurs know by now that LinkedIn allows them to find potential employees and customers based on their interests and experience. But apart from that the questions remains, how can it actually help the business grow and generate revenue?



The Young Entrepreneur Council (YEC)

is an invite-only organization comprised of the world's most promising young entrepreneurs. In partnership with Citi, YEC recently launched Startup Collective, a free virtual mentorship program that helps millions of entrepreneurs start and grow businesses. BlackEnterprise.com reached out to the collective's membership to learn: What's the right way (or most effective way) to use to LinkedIn to grow your business? Here's what they had to say:

1. **Make use of every available Platform** – use every platform LinkedIn offers. Join groups and participate - you will get noticed. Tell others about opportunities and if you don't have paid InMails get them.
2. **Become A Connector** – Help other people first. Go out of your way to make valuable connections for them, not yourself. It may seem counterintuitive to grow your business by focusing on helping others, but it not only works, it has “karmic” value
3. **Research and get personal** – for some companies LinkedIn produces the highest ROI of any distribution outlet. Use it to deeply research potential clients before sending them a message. Since LinkedIn generally charges for its InMail credits, the likelihood of spammers controlling this avenue of communication is reduced.
4. **Add Videos to your account** – one of the best ways to grow your business using LinkedIn is to add videos to your account. Blog post are fine, but displaying your industry expertise in the form of a video can have a greater impact on viewers.
5. **Don't private message for leads** – LinkedIn is becoming more popular as a platform to showcase industry thought leaders. Produce and provide relevant content for your audience, and your influence will grow. Do not send private messages to the contacts you collect. Doing this diminishes your credibility.
6. **Activate Your Network** – As soon as you meet a new contact or lead, check LinkedIn to see whom you know in common and who might be able to make a warm introduction. Also, use LinkedIn to share company updates and to keep up-to-date with what people in your network are doing and talking about.
7. **Get Active In Groups** – There's a group for almost every business niche on LinkedIn. Find a few that fit your industry and join the community. If you are seen as a useful resource in those groups, you'll get a lot of natural inquires about your business. Word of caution; don't be self-promoting. It's a big turnoff. Give first; then you become the automatic go-to person for advice.

Cont. page 6

8. **Connect With Super Connectors** – first connect with “super connectors”. Once you get to about 15 million of what LinkedIn calls third-degree connections, the usefulness of LinkedIn increases. You’re now at the second layer, where you can connect and directly communicate with industry leaders and influencers. Jobs and business opportunities will then open up to you.
9. **Use The LinkedIn Publishing Platform** – LinkedIn is heavily favoring posts made on its publishing platform. Many people will receive a notification when a new post is published. Use the tool to blog and promote your thought leadership in your industry. These articles tend to get a lot of views and can easily be passed along to mire professionals who will be exposed to your business and personal brand.
10. **Direct Message Group Members** – Join groups and message individuals in the groups directly. LinkedIn doesn’t allow you to send a direct message to second-and third-degree connections (unless you use InMail). The loophole is to join a group, use the Advance Search tool to filter the group members and then send each member a personalized message. It’s great for fundraising, brand awareness, product announcements and more.



Tim Killeen

Wayne County Commissioner – District 1

Serving: Detroit’s Eastside, Harper Woods, all Grosse Pointes

Contacts:

313.224.0920 (phone) 313.967.1238 (fax)

tkilleen@waynecounty.com

www.waynecounty.com/commission/district1

In the Community, Working with the Community, to Build the Community

Come and visit with your Commissioner at his monthly Chats

2nd Monday – 9-10:00 a.m. – Grosse Pointe Woods Community Center – in the jury room around back. 20025 Mack

3rd Monday – 9-10:00 a.m. – Grosse Pointe Park City Hall – 2nd level – 15115 Jefferson at Maryland

3rd Monday – 6-7:00 p.m. – Tim Horton’s – 19353 Vernier across from Eastland

Last Monday – Noon -1:00 p.m. - Monteith Library – 14100 Kercheval at Eastlawn

Paid for by: Tim Killeen For Commish, 16260 Lappin, Detroit, Mi 48205

Important Numbers



Detroit

Building Safety

Engineering &

Environmental

Dangerous Buildings

Division

Dilip Patel

(313) 224-3239

Property Maintenance

Division

Wayne Robinson

(313) 224-3182

Fire Department

Executive Fire

Commissioner

Edsel Jenkins

(313) 596-2900

Deputy Fire

Commissioner

John Berlin

(313) 596-2900

Important Numbers



Detroit

Police Department

Chief of Police

James E. Craig

(313) 596-2200

Assistant Chief

Eric R. Jones

District Chief

(Neighborhood

Policing)

Darryl Brown

(313) 596-1830

Eastern District

Commander

TBD

5th Precinct Captain

C. Mahone

(313) 596-5500

9th Precinct Captain

H. Rochon

(313) 596-5900

FROSTBITE SYMPTOMS

By Mayo Clinic Staff

Signs and symptoms of frostbite include:

- At first, cold skin and a prickling feeling
- Numbness
- Red, white, bluish-white or grayish-yellow skin
- Hard or waxy-looking skin
- Clumsiness due to joint and muscle stiffness
- Blistering after rewarming, in severe cases

Frostbite is most common on the fingers, toes, nose, ears, cheeks and chin. Because of skin numbness, you may not realize you have frostbite until someone else points it out.

Frostbite occurs in several stages:

- **Frostnip.** The first stage of frostbite is frostnip. With this mild form of frostbite, your skin pales or turns red and feels very cold. Continued exposure leads to prickling and numbness in the affected area. As your skin warms, you may feel pain and tingling. Frostnip doesn't permanently damage the skin.
- **Superficial frostbite.** The second stage of frostbite appears as reddened skin that turns white or pale. The skin may remain soft, but some ice crystals may form in the tissue. Your skin may begin to feel warm — a sign of serious skin involvement. If you treat frostbite with rewarming at this stage, the surface of your skin may appear mottled, blue or purple. And you may notice stinging, burning and swelling. A fluid-filled blister may appear 24 to 36 hours after rewarming the skin.
- **Severe (deep) frostbite.** As frostbite progresses, it affects all layers of the skin, including the tissues that lie below. You may experience numbness, losing all sensation of cold, pain or discomfort in the affected area. Joints or muscles may no longer work. Large blisters form 24 to 48 hours after rewarming. Afterward, the area turns black and hard as the tissue dies.

When to see a doctor

Seek medical attention for frostbite if you experience:

- Signs and symptoms of superficial or deep frostbite — such as white or pale skin, numbness, or blisters
- Increased pain, swelling, redness or discharge in the area that was frostbitten

Cont. page 8

- Fever
- New, unexplained symptoms

Get emergency medical help if you suspect hypothermia, a condition in which your body loses heat faster than it can be produced. Signs and symptoms of hypothermia include:

- Intense shivering
- Slurred speech
- Drowsiness and loss of coordination



Toy Kouture Salon Studio
 Kouture your look!
 17209 Mack Ave.
 Detroit, MI 48224

Stylist and Nail Technicians needed!
 Please contact Toya at (313) 881-4247 or (313) 556-3371

A HEARING ON HOUSING IN DETROIT...

Cont. page 5

All around their East Side neighborhood, the bags had gone up, said her husband, Michael Miles. "They did the whole block," he said. "They're kicking people out for maybe \$500 at auction?"

Betty Dewberry, too, said she was trying to save her mother's home, which had been in her family for 35 years. To complicate matters, the house on which they owed taxes had never been transferred into Ms. Dewberry's name.

"All I'm trying to do is save my momma's house," said Ms. Dewberry, 46, as she waited to meet with county officials and lawyers who offered help. "And the neighborhood I stay in? Nobody else is going to want it."

Mayor Mike Duggan, who has pledged to begin increasing the city's population and end its long decline, said his administration was working with the county treasurer's office to help all qualified residents who own and live in homes up for foreclosure this year to get on payment plans that could allow them to stay.

"We're going to keep as many of these 20,000 families in their homes as we can," Mr. Duggan said, noting that his administration had also announced that residential property assessments would decline for the second year in a row.

Of the foreclosure problem, he said, "I view this as the last year of a bad wave."

Important Numbers

• • •

Detroit

Department of Public

Works

Main

(313) 224-3901

Collections (garbage, bulk, yard waste, or recyclables)

(313) 224-3901

Rizzo

(866) 772-8900

Street or Alley Repairs

(313) 224-0033

Sidewalks

(313) 224-3954

Traffic Signs & Signals

(313) 224-1610

Illegal Dumping or Rodent Baiting

(313) 876-0974



A community on the rise!

Contact Us

Primary Business Address

P.O. Box 24690

Phone: (313) 881-4704

Email: communications@our-morningside.org

Web: www.our-morningside.org

Advertise in your MorningSide Newsletter

Contact

Paul Phillips

(313) 881-4704

Newsletter@our-morningside.org

Advertisements placed in this publication are **paid ads** and **are not** an endorsement or recommendation of any product, service, or candidate.