

# MORNINGSIDER

The Official Newsletter of Morningside



Over 600 vines were planted by community members and Detroit Vineyards to create the Morningside Community Vineyard. Photo by Jeffrey D. Lewis II.

## Repurposing vacant land for community vineyard

By Jeffrey D. Lewis II | Morningside Community Association

Detroit – When you think of ways to repurpose vacant land in the city of Detroit, often Detroiters have heard one of the following: construction of affordable housing for low-income residents, a community garden for neighbors to grow their own produce, or even a pocket park for neighborhood children to enjoy.

However, one idea that is new and recently implemented here in the Morningside community will surely become one of the recommendations for the vastness of vacant land we have here in Detroit.

Two weeks ago, Detroit Vineyards, (first winery within city limits in 60 years) and community members worked together to plant over 600 vines on several vacant parcels of land on Beaconsfield street which will now be known as the Morningside Community Vineyards. Story continued on page 3...

### OTHER STORIES INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Detroit Vineyards - 1
- Land + Water Works -2
- 2nd Morningside Storytelling Bike Ride - 3
- KAWS: Alone Again Exhibit - 4



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**Detroit Future City: Land + Water Works**

By Allyce Haney | Morningside Community Association



Perennial Rain Garden

**Land + Water WORKS**

As you may know, Detroit Future City (DFC) leads a campaign to create a more sustainable city by empowering Detroiters to become better land and water stewards. The program does so through education and installation of green stormwater infrastructure (GSI). Each year, DFC identifies residents and local non-profit organizations to serve as Land + Water WORKS Ambassadors. These Ambassadors are trained to provide information about GSI and connect Detroiters with essential resources. MECCA Development Corporation is a 2019 Land + Water WORKS Ambassador and will provide education this summer and fall throughout MorningSide, East English Village, and Cornerstone Village.

Detroit is comprised of 42% impervious or hard surfaces, such as buildings and parking lots. When it rains, this water has nowhere to go. It flows off of these surfaces into Detroit's combined sewage system, mixing with human waste (anything from your sinks, toilet, washing machine, etc.) during heavy rain events. This can lead to our combined sewage system overflowing and contaminating our waterways, as well as causing flooding and basement backups.

Each of us has a role to protect our water. You can disconnect your downspouts, plant a rain garden, or build a rain barrel. Keep an eye out this summer and fall for upcoming events about GSI. If you are interested in learning more, please contact me (Allyce) at 517-490-4024 or allycehaney@gmail.com.



Multi-Color Rain Barrels

## Repurposing vacant land for community vineyard

The first urban vineyard brought out nearly fifty volunteers over the course of the day. "This was great! I love seeing positive stuff like this in our community," one volunteer who chose to remain anonymous mentioned. It was a great way for residents to unite and learn about the process and the benefits of a community vineyard.

Over 600 Marquette vines (hybrid red wine) were planted on nearly three-fourths of an acre on Beaconsfield. "By the end of the year you will see significant progress" says Thomas Roberes, who serves as the Community Affairs Coordinator for Detroit Vineyards. "This vineyard is something the entire community can take part in. "The neighbors right here across from the vineyard have been a great help," says Roberes. "When we're not here, they have eyes on it constantly. Whether its picking up little pieces of trash or just informing those who may pass by wondering what's going on, they're on it."

It's been quite a busy time for Detroit Vineyards as they recently celebrated the grand opening of their tasting room, which is housed out of the historic Stroth's Ice Cream factory on Gratiot Avenue near the Eastern Market.

Many of the elements that remained in the former Stroth's factory were preserved by Detroit Vineyards as it was their way of honoring Detroit's historic past. Detroit Vineyards is open seven days a week and features a excellent selection of wine to choose from.



Detroit Vineyards Tasting Room. Photo by Jeffrey D. Lewis II

## Morningside Community Meetings

Our general community meetings are the first Saturday of every month from 12-2 pm at Bethany Lutheran Church, 11475 E. Outer Drive. If you live in the boundaries of I-94 to Mack Ave., Alter Rd. to E. Outer Drive, you're automatically a member of our great community. We hope to see you soon!



Residents of Morningside attend general community meeting.

## Gleaners Food Bank Distribution

If you know of anyone in need of food assistance, please come out to the Gleaners Food Bank distribution on June 10th. The food distribution will begin at 11 a.m. Location to be announced.



Prepping for Gleaners food distribution. Photo by Zelda Anderson.

## Storytelling Bike Ride in Morningside

Get your bicycles tuned up and ready for the second annual Storytelling Bike Ride through Morningside on Saturday, June 15th. You'll get a chance to take a closer look at some of the new projects popping up in our neighborhood and meet the people making them happen.

The tour will begin and end at Slow Grow Park, a pocket park on Buckingham started by Twiana Odom, organizer of the tour and Morningside's 2nd Vice President.

"I'm an avid bike rider," Twiana says, "and I use this as an opportunity to engage people. We have so many interesting people in Morningside, and this is one way to hear their stories." She said she hopes to bring people together from Morningside, East English Village, Cornerstone, and Grosse Pointe. Continued on page 4...

## Bethany Lutheran Church, Thank You!

The Morningside Community Association would like to take out the time to give a special thanks to one of our biggest community supporters, Bethany Lutheran Church. From being the host of countless events such as our General Community Meetings, to Christmas celebrations over the years and just being a pillar for Morningside and all the surrounding communities, we would not be able to do what we do if it wasn't for Bethany. Please stay up to date with the wide variety of services Bethany provides to the community by following their Facebook page at: Bethany Lutheran-Detroit, and their website: bethanydetroit.org.



Community Anchor, Bethany Lutheran Church.



For the latest news taking place in MorningSide, please follow us on:



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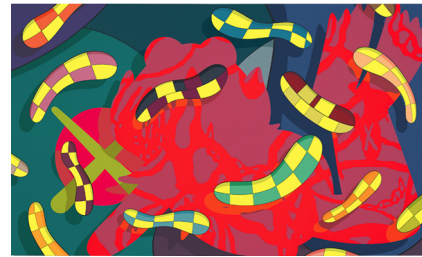
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P.O. Box 24325, Detroit, MI 48224

## Arts & Culture:

### KAWS: Alone Again

Detroit Metro Times



KAWS. Courtesy of Library Street Collective

Remember when that 17-foot creepy Mickey Mouse-esque statue curiously appeared on the grounds of Quicken Loans' campus downtown last year? The KAWS creation titled "Waiting" ignited a conversation about public art and how it speaks to its surrounding community. Now, more KAWS is coming to Detroit: In partnership with Library Street Collective, MOCAD will display five sculptures, a site-specific wall work, and three paintings by the renowned Brooklyn-based street artist. Alone Again boasts bold colors, abstractions, deconstruction, and commentary on turbulent times. The museum's spring exhibition opening also welcomes 12 never-before-seen paintings by figurative surrealist Eddie Martinez, as well as Nicolas Lobo's Wellness Center, which will be on display at Mike Kelley's Mobile Homestead. Work will be on display through Aug 4.

## Storytelling Bike Ride in Morningside

Stops on the tour will include the Craft Cafe, which hosts a variety of art-themed parties; Flamz Pizzeria, Morningside's newest restaurant offering quick-fired thin crust pizza; and Three Mile Park, an evolving community park at Munich. Bikers will also visit the Alger Theater for an update on their progress toward reopening this important neighborhood institution.

The bike ride begins at 5 p.m. at 4828 Buckingham. For more information, Twiana can be reached at (313) 808-3493.

