

MORNINGSIDER

The Official Newsletter of Morningside



Volunteers of the non-profit SAY Detroit, help construct the Pavilion at the Three Mile Munich Park. Photo by Jim West.

Another Morningside Park Taking Shape

By Susan Newell | Morningside Community Association

Detroit — Three Mile Munich Park came a step closer to completion when 70 volunteers from Cooper Standard, an automotive systems and parts supplier, descended on the site in early June to install a picnic pavilion on one quadrant of the park, picnic tables in another section, and paint a “traffic calming” design on the street at the intersection.

The developing park is the result of an ongoing collaboration between MorningSide residents, SAY Detroit, and the city. Most of the funding for the park so far has come from SAY Detroit, a nonprofit started by Detroit Free Press columnist Mitch Albom.

Its development began four years ago, when the Three Mile Block Club repurposed several adjoining vacant lots on Three Mile at Munich to create a pocket park. We named it the “Mothers’ Park” in honor of the many women who form the backbone of our community, and installed picnic tables, hand-made Adirondack chairs, plants, a large mural, and several smaller murals honoring three of our own mothers. Over the next couple of summers, we added art work created by neighborhood children. Story continued on page 3...

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Alger Theater Gets New Art, New Look

By Susan Newell | Morningside Community Association



Artist Desiree Kelly showcasing her amazing art on the rooftop of the Alger.

They're bound to catch your eye as you pass by – portraits of movie directors David Lynch, Alfred Hitchcock, and Spike Lee – on the wall of the rooftop patio of the Alger Theater at the corner of East Outer Drive and East Warren. These colorful, bold, and beautiful works are the latest example of the Alger's revitalization.

The three larger-than-life portraits were unveiled June 19 at a rooftop reception organized by the Friends of the Alger Theater, a group that has worked for many years to renovate and reopen the Alger as a community performance space.

Desiree Kelly, the artist commissioned by the Friends of the Alger to do these portraits, says she finds it "really powerful to be able to tell a story visually, without any words. I want to tell it in a vibrant, energetic way."

This graduate in graphic design from Wayne State University has done just that for the Alger. Much of her art focuses on portraiture. Although she started out with "ordinary people" that she knew from Detroit or met while traveling throughout Michigan, she gradually began to focus more on portraits of the famous musicians she loves, historical figures – she has some quirky portraits of Abraham Lincoln in her collection - and well-known Detroiters.

"I try to recreate the person in a little different light," Desiree says, "molding my own style with use of color and composition, and the use of foreground and background to create a different (understanding of the person)."

Although she began her career in drawing, Desiree has gradually moved toward large works using oil, spray paint, and collage that give her paintings great depth.

You can learn more about Desiree Kelly and her work at <https://www.desireekellyart.com>.

For more information about the Friends of the Alger Theater, go to <https://www.algertheater.org/friends-of-the-alger>.

Another Morningside Park Taking Shape

Two years ago, SAY Detroit installed a playscape for young children in the next block. Through a series of negotiations between residents, the city, and SAY Detroit, the city agreed to take over fourteen parcels of land around that intersection, clear and grade the land, and turn it into a city park.

The overall plan for the park will be to re-install some of the art work that had been removed for upgrading, create new art for the old Mothers' Park section, put in grassy play mounds next to the playscape, add more landscaping to all four quadrants of the park, install a walking track around the perimeter of the park, and put in outdoor exercise equipment in another quadrant. We expect the project to be completed within the next 2-3 years.

We invite you to stop by the park – at the intersection of Three Mile and Munich, of course - to see what's been done and enjoy the picnic pavilion and playscape. The more it's being used for family-friendly activities, the safer and more vibrant an asset it will be to our community. And stay tuned for updates!



SAY Detroit volunteers installing streetscape art. Photo by Jim West.

Craft Cafe offers "A place to create."

The idea came to Candice Meeks one evening about four years ago, as she was sitting in the comfort of her living room, painting and enjoying a glass of wine after work. It occurred to her that "it would be nice to have a place to create for others to enjoy right in the neighborhood, along with a coffee shop," she says.

Eager to make it happen, Candice had a friend create a logo and worked on gaining the business skills and generating the necessary capital to make her dream a reality. She received a \$4,000 grant for technical assistance from Motor City Match and solicited help from two programs that assist budding entrepreneurs - Matrix Workforce Development and ProsperUs.

Although the coffee shop portion of her dream is still a work in progress, today the Craft Café is a place where people can explore their "inner artist" in a fun and non-judgemental atmosphere. Think you have no "inner artist" to explore? No problem!

Register for FCA Jobs Now!

You've probably heard by now that Fiat-Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) is planning to hire almost 5,000 workers for its new Mack Avenue Jeep assembly plant and Jefferson North Assembly Plant.

Detroiters will get preference in hiring, but you must pre-register and attend one of more than 50 Pre-Application Prep events held around the city in order to qualify for early consideration. Volunteers there will help you with the application process and help you overcome barriers to employment, such as a criminal record or lack of a high school diploma. Their goal is to prepare you for employment, whether at FCA or elsewhere.

The only way to get early access to these jobs is through detroitatwork.com/fca. That's it. Beware of anyone who promises you that they can get you a job through another route. They can't. They are scammers!

Interviews and conditional job offers will be given in October and November, and jobs begin in late 2019 until late 2020. Don't miss this important opportunity!



Conceptual rendering of FCA factory.

Gleaners Food Distribution

This month's Gleaners food distribution will be moving to a new location in Morningside! Starting Monday, July 15 at 10 a.m., all future food distributions will be held at The Craft Cafe located at the corner of E. Warren and Balfour Rd. Please share with your neighbors!

Craft Cafe offers "A place to create."

Although the coffee shop portion of her dream is still a work in progress, today the Craft Café is a place where people can explore their "inner artist" in a fun and non-judgemental atmosphere. Think you have no "inner artist" to explore? No problem!

"People choose the Craft Café," says Candice, "because it is for all levels of artist. Everyone can be creative, and most of my canvases are pre-sketched, so if you can stay in the lines, you'll be good. And if you can't, that's where the black marker magic comes into play to clean up any mistakes."

"People also come to the Craft Café because they enjoy my personality, and I make the party fun for everyone. You can also add karaoke to your party and sing while you paint, while enjoying good food and drinks".

You can also rent out the space, which comfortably seats 40 people in tables and chairs, for your own events. People rent it for everything from baby showers to gender reveals to graduation parties, prom send-offs, and more, says Candice. If staying in one place for an event sounds too tame, you can even rent a Craft Café party bus.

Candice says she chose MorningSide for her business because she wanted to invest in the community she grew up in, and she is certainly doing that now.

You'll find the Craft Café at 15641 E. Warren, at Balfour. For information about rental, pricing, and a selection of services, visit the Craft Cafe website at: <https://www.thecraftcafedetroit.com> or call 313-658-8414.



A fun-filled evening at the Craft Cafe. Photo by Jim West.

Want to help Morningside while buying groceries?

It's easy, if you shop at Kroger's. Just sign up for the Community Rewards Program, designate MorningSide as the organization you want to benefit, and Kroger will donate 10% of the value of your purchases to us, whenever you shop. It only takes a couple of minutes to do this online at: Kroger.com/communityrewards, or visit the Customer Service desk of the Kroger you normally shop at. You can only choose one Kroger location to donate from, so please choose the one you shop at most often.

Upcoming Events

- East Warren Development Corporation Community and Business Meeting, Tuesday, July 9, 6 p.m. at Jeanie's J-Spot, 16200 E. Warren at Bedford.
- U-SNAP BAC Presents: Homebuyer Education Workshop, Saturday, July 13, 2019. 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. U- SNAP BAC, 14901 E. Warren Ave.
- U-SNAP BAC Presents: Understanding Your Credit 101 Workshop, Wednesday, July 17, 2019. 6-8PM. For registration , call (313) 640-1100 or email at: rsvp@usnapbac.org

The following events are all sponsored by MECCA (MorningSide East English Village Cornerstone Community Advocates). Sign up online at www.meccadc.org/sign-up (except the Hustle class), or by calling 313-757-1355.

- Summertime Fun at Kensington Metropark, Monday, July 29th, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. The Splash n' Blast, lunch, and the Farm Center are FREE. The motorcoach will leave the area at 10 a.m. sharp. (Motorcoach location TBD.)
- Residential Builders Workshop Kickoff, Tuesday, July 16, 5 – 9 p.m. The class will run for 12 weeks, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 to 9 p.m. Participants will learn about safety practices and get an overview of landscaping, weatherization, carpentry, electrical, plumbing and drywall. They will then have the opportunity to work on projects within their own area of interest and give back to the community. Tool bags are provided, and contractors will be lined up to hire individuals upon completion of the program.
- Hustle for Beginners, Saturdays at Bethany Christian Church, 5901 Cadieux, 10am – noon. (\$5 per class).
- Family Fun Fest, Saturday, August 10, noon – 4 p.m., Balduck Park. Stop by for food, dancing, games, giveaways, and more.

Greetings from our president, Jackie Grant

After a cool and rainy spring, summer is finally here, so let's enjoy it!

In May, MorningSide elected a new board - I'm now serving as President - and we're all feeling energized. Good things are happening in our community, although of course we still have issues to address. MorningSide has been designated as one of the ten neighborhoods that will receive investment from the Strategic Neighborhood Fund to improve our commercial corridor and stabilize housing. We need a wider reach into the community to bring more residents into the conversation about what we want our neighborhood to look like ten years from now.

MorningSide is one of the largest communities in Detroit, made up of over 200 individual blocks. That makes communication between the organization and the residents difficult, especially when you're an all-volunteer organization. But we're taking a big job, breaking it down, and ramping it up.

We're revitalizing the current street ambassadors initiative and adding block captains to our effort. Each board member will be responsible for at least two streets and will recruit a captain from each block. The block captain will serve as a watchful eye, welcoming new residents to the block, as well as reporting vacancies and suspicious activity or problems to the appropriate street ambassador.

In many blocks, there's already someone who's been keeping an eye out for their neighbors, but it hasn't been coordinated. The block captain will also be asked to help spread the word about MorningSide meetings and special events and share useful information with their neighbors.

We're just beginning to walk the neighborhood, but our goal is to reach every household in MorningSide over the next year. Be on the lookout for us!

Other means of communication are important too. This newsletter now has a new committee of residents working on it. We're also planning to revamp our website over the next few months. Last but not least, we'll be ready soon with a new phone number to accept messages from residents. MorningSide is definitely a community on the rise!

All the best,

Jackie Grant
President, MorningSide



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



morningsidedet

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#morningsiderepresent

