

# MORNINGSIDER

The Official Newsletter of Morningside



Mayor Mike Duggan joins the staff of The East Warren Tool Library. Photo by Vaughn Arrington

## East Warren Tool Library Open and Ready to Help

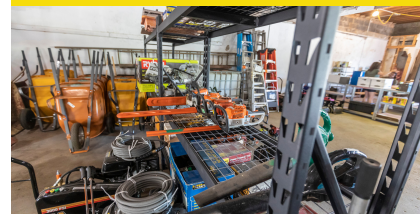
By Vaughn Arrington | Morningside Community Organization

Detroit — Lawnmowers, weed whips, rakes, wheelbarrows, and a variety of other tools and equipment are lined up and ready for use, as the long-awaited East Warren Tool Library opens its doors. A tool library is very similar to a regular library, but instead of borrowing books, you can pay an annual membership fee and borrow the equipment you need for up to four days for your latest maintenance or home improvement project.

The tool library initiative is part of Motor City Grounds Crew's (MCGC) long-term strategy to expand its support in the Detroit community. This program has been in the planning stage for over a year now and is very happy to have partnered with the Morningside community to establish the first official community tool library in Detroit. MCGC is a city-wide non-profit organization with a mission "to strengthen Detroit neighborhoods through green space beautification, youth sports activities, and community tool libraries." I spoke recently with MCGC's Program Director, Joshua Arntson, about this new resource for all Detroiters. Story continued on page 3...

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**Neighborhood Radio Patrol Helps Keep Us Safe**

By Susan Newell | Morningside Community Organization



Pictured, left to right: Paul Phillips, Beverly Brown, Lenora McElrath, Jim Grenwick, Zelda Anderson, Ethan Boyd, Allyce Smith, Ulysses Jones, and Alexis Adams-Wynn. Photo by Jim West

Beverly Brown has been around long enough to remember the days when White Boy Rick and the Chambers Brothers, notorious crime figures of the 1980's, lived in our neighborhood. Fortunately, they're long gone, and so are highly organized gangs, but Beverly, Vice President of the MEC Radio Patrol, and the rest of the crew are still working hard to keep our community safe.

Beverly answered the call to join a neighborhood patrol back in 1979, when MorningSide was NEAR (Neighborhood East Area Residents), the patrolling was limited to this one community, and its volunteers had no CB radios. Today the group is more high-tech and covers not just MorningSide, but neighboring communities East English Village and Cornerstone as well (hence the name MEC Patrol).

About 20 volunteers patrol in cars in pairs for a few hours each month, looking for and reporting the red flags of criminal activity. Open windows or doors in vacant houses, cars in driveways of unkempt abandoned houses, missing addresses, abandoned cars – all these are signs of possible illegal activity in the area. "You develop a sixth sense," says Beverly. "If something seems out of the ordinary, if something doesn't seem quite right, it isn't."

Joining the MEC Patrol requires a police clearance and a commitment of just 12 hours per year; most volunteers choose to give much more. They're also encouraged to attend the MEC Patrol's meetings on the third Monday of every month.

Volunteers receive individualized training depending upon their familiarity with the community, a stipend for gas, and as Beverly puts it, "a chance to meet some really great people." She stresses that the job of MEC volunteers is not to put themselves in dangerous situations, but to serve as extra eyes and ears for the police. "If you want safety, you've got to be a part of making it happen," says Beverly.

For more information about how you can help with some low-key crime fighting, contact Beverly at 313-505-8355 or send her a private message through Nextdoor.

## East Warren Tool Library Open and Ready to Help

### VA: **What got you started on this project?**

JA: Motor City Grounds Crew has been managing tools and service projects for a lot of non-profit organizations around the city. We recognized that tools are essential to these projects, and that organizations really needed that resource. Before coming to MCGC, I had visited cities across the country who had community tool libraries and they were doing exactly that. We also recognized that individual community members could really benefit from this resource. Tools are very expensive and we want to empower those individuals who want to maintain and fix their homes.

### VA: **What are your goals?**

JA: Our main goal is to help Detroiters get access to tools at a low cost. We also want to run home repair classes and workshops, and allow partner organizations to utilize the workshop space for their own classes. MECCA (MorningSide East English Village Cornerstone Community Advocates) is running a home builders workshop in our space currently. We want to help make the work of non-profits easier and more cost effective. The whole point is to make this cheaper for everyone so that we can continue the great work that folks are already doing in the Detroit community..

Eventually we want to have contractors and consultants available so people can learn how to do things like electrical work, plumbing, put up drywall, things like that.

### VA: **How do you become a member of the Tool Library?**

JA: The cost of Individual membership is based on household income. For those making \$25,000 or less its \$25 per year, between \$25,000-\$50,000 its \$50 per year, between \$50,000-\$75,000 its \$75 per year and any household making over \$75,000 its \$100 per year. There are NO rental fees. There are also non-profit and neighborhood associations/block club memberships. Any non profit can sign up for \$250 a year or \$100 for neighborhood associations/block clubs and get the tools they need for their volunteer projects. We drop these things off and pick them up at their work site, using our mobile tool library trailer. For service projects and cleanups we need these organizations to schedule this in advance so that we can make sure you get the tools you need. Continued on page 4...



The East Warren Tool Library is fully stocked with a variety of tools needed to complete your DIY project. Photo by Jim West.

## Gleaners Food Distribution

The 2nd Monday of every month, Gleaners Food Bank will be present in Morningside distributing food to those in need. We encourage those within Morningside, as well as our surrounding communities to come out. Please share with those who may be of need. The distribution will begin at 10AM and will be located at The Craft Cafe, 15641 E. Warren Ave.



Volunteers of Morningside and employees from Blue Cross Blue Shield prep for July's food distribution. Photo by Zelda Anderson

## East Warren Tool Library Open and Ready to Help

We'd like to have 150 members by the end of our first year and 250 in the second year. Obviously some will drop off and some will stay, but we're hoping for big growth.

### VA: **You've said you'd like to do away with gas-powered equipment. Why is that?**

JA: We want to be more sustainable, more environmentally friendly, cleaner. We want to head into the future wave of sustainability, so we're looking to using more battery-powered equipment.

### VA: **What motivated you to take on this project?**

JA: I was in the military for four years, went back to school, and after a couple of years of living the "good life" in college, I began to feel like I needed to do more with my life. I wanted to support and empower others. I was lucky enough to get hired on at the veterans homeless shelter in San Diego. Eventually I started running the shelter, which ignited a spark in me and from there I knew what I wanted to serve others and my community. Since then it's been all about having a purpose in life. I feel like if we all did something to help one another, help a neighbor, we would all be in a better place.

### **Who else is working with you on the Tool Library?**

We are just beginning to fill up our team. Joe Rashid has been volunteering with us since we began this journey and has played a big role in the early stages of the EWTL. Joe has been doing a great job of helping connect us with the right people in the community, marketing, and now is volunteering as a tool librarian once a week. Shantwanice Vincent is going to be one of our Tool Librarians, she has been vitale in making sure the shop is organized and looking great for our community members! We are also in the process of hiring another Tool Librarian. If people are interested in being a part of this, let us know. One of our goals/strategies is to find funding for more staff, and to get a volunteer force established.

For information about volunteering or working with the East Warren Tool Library, contact Joshua Arntson at 313-757-2670 or visit their website at: <https://ewarrentoollibrary.myturn.com/library>

This writer will be working on a project to create bus stop shelters with Joshua Arntson on August 31. Feel free to contact the tool library for further information on that as well.

## Want to help Morningside while buying groceries?

It's easy, if you shop at Kroger. 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](https://www.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

- Mack Ave Business Association Neighborhood's Day will be on August 3rd from 10 am to 2 pm on Mack Avenue between Alter to Wayburn.
- MECCA (MorningSide East English Village Cornerstone Community Advocates) is holding the annual MECCA Community Gathering on Saturday, August 10 from noon – 4 p.m. at Balduck Park. Stop by for food, dancing, games, giveaways, and more.
- Film on the Hill @ Balduck park will be August 17th. They will be playing the new Lion King movie!
- East Warren Development Corporation Community and Business Meeting. Date and time TBA.
- Hustle for Beginners. Saturdays at Bethany Christian Church, 5901 Cadieux, 10am – noon. (\$5 per class).
- Keep Growing Detroit Taste of Summer Farm Style Cooking Workshop, 1850 Erskine Street, 5:00-7:00 pm. Date TBA.

## Eastside Locksmiths Continued Support of Morningside

If you ever lose your house key, need to change your locks, or simply need a key copied, you'll be glad that Eastside Locksmiths has been here, serving our community, since 1939.

Pat Maher, the current owner, started working there 30 years ago as an employee, gradually taking on more responsibility as the previous owner grew older. Six years ago, he took over the business. Pat's a friendly guy who does good work, so it's easy to see why he has so many regular customers from MorningSide and neighboring communities.

Eastside Locksmiths is located at East Warren and Lakepointe and is open Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call them at 313-881-0280.



Eastside Locksmiths Owner Pat Maher working his key cutting machine. Photo by Susan Newell

## Nominations for Morningside Finest!

Do you know someone in Morningside who goes above and beyond to help the neighborhood - maybe by keeping the grass cut on vacant lawns, mentoring neighborhood children, or going the extra mile to help another neighbor? We want to recognize the folks who help keep our community clean, safe, and friendly.

Starting next month, we'll highlight what we are calling "Morningside's Finest." We know there are many unsung heroes in our community and we want to honor them for their everlasting commitment to our neighborhood. To make a nomination, please call Susan Newell at 313-587-5484 or email her at [sdnewell50@gmail.com](mailto:sdnewell50@gmail.com). We'll recognize one of our neighbors each month until we run out of great neighbors - which should take a very long time!



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



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