

MORNINGSIDER

The Official Newsletter of Morningside



The new home of the Morningside Community Organization, Ronald Brown Academy.

Morningside Moves to A New Home & Time

By Jackie Grant | Morningside Community Organization

Detroit — First things first: I want to say thank you so much to Bethany Lutheran Church and all the good people working there who have opened their doors to us and given us a meeting space for the past six years. Their generosity is greatly appreciated, and we look forward to continuing to serve this community with them. You'll be hearing more about Bethany Lutheran and other churches in our community in an upcoming issue of The MorningSider.

This month we are excited to be starting a new partnership with Ronald Brown Academy, where we'll be meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Principal Damon Pitt, who grew up in the Chandler Park neighborhood and Vice-Principal Rodney Deal (a Morningside resident), are welcoming us as part of an effort to make Ronald Brown Academy a "neighborhood hub" as well as a school. Story continued on page 4...

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Herman King
(313) 596-5510

Noisy neighbors? Illegal dumping?

Don't Get Mad - Call An NPO

By Susan Newell | Morningside Community Organization



Detroit Police Officer Herman King. Photo by Susan Newell

If you've ever been to a community meeting or complained to the city about illegal dumping, loud neighbors, or Courville dumpsters left too long at the curbside, chances are you've dealt with a Neighborhood Police Officer (NPO), most likely Officer Herman King. He's been a fixture in our community, working on handling non-emergency "quality of life" issues since 2013, when Chief James Craig established this latest addition to "community policing."

In 1986, Herman King was working as a security guard in the Michigan state unemployment office. "A laid off police officer came in and encouraged me to join the force. He told me that I might as well be doing the same work for more money," he says with a laugh. "I thought, why would I want to take a job where people are getting laid off?" He joined the Detroit Police Department anyway and hasn't looked back since.

When he was first hired in, Officer King says, they didn't have enough scout cars for everyone, so for the first six months he and other new recruits had to walk a neighborhood beat. "Sometimes we'd have to take the bus to get to our beat.... I'd stand on a corner where there was no right turn allowed on red, then step out into the street to wave a car down when they made an illegal turn."

Fortunately, Officer King didn't have to give tickets on street corners for very long. Over his 32 years as a police officer, he worked the plain clothes unit and later served at the mini-station at Mack and Alter.

He is now one of 45-50 NPOs assigned to precincts city-wide and the longest-serving NPO in the 5th Precinct. But his job isn't a one-person show. Officers Willie Soles and Karen Maxey also serve this precinct, and King says they are actively trying to recruit two more NPOs. Continued on page 3...

Noisy neighbors? Illegal dumping?

Don't Get Mad - Call An NPO

Officer Maxey has been an NPO in our community for almost two years, after working in other capacities in the DPD for more than twenty. She says it's time for "fresh legs" to take over working the streets, while she enjoys "seeing a different side of police work." Although she handles the usual "quality of life" complaints, she also organizes some of the special activities that help to create a stronger bond between the police and residents. You can thank Officer Maxey and her team for events like National Night Out, Trunk-or-Treat, and Christmas giveaways.

Officer Soles, the newest NPO in the 5th Precinct, brings 24 years of experience working the streets to his new role. Handling non-emergency issues like blight, barking dogs, disputes between neighbors, and code violations isn't the kind of police work you see on television. All three officers agree that the job isn't for everyone. Officer Soles says that you need to be "a very strong 'people person.' If you're not, they're going to hear about it all the way up the chain of command." Officer King says you also need to be "self-motivated and have a good work ethic." Helping two neighbors resolve a dispute may require "thinking out of the box," he says, and knowing that "to get the right answers, you have to ask the right questions." All three NPOs agree that helping people find a resolution to their complaints is the best part of the job.

Over the course of his years as an NPO, Officer King says he's been encouraged by seeing more people who care about their neighborhood. Also, he says that the implementation of See Click Fix and Improve Detroit, mobile apps and websites, has lightened the NPOs' workload by allowing residents to report problems directly to the department responsible for the solutions, rather than routing every complaint through an NPO. Problems that might have taken two weeks to resolve before SeeClickFix, he says, now can often be addressed within a couple of days.

If digital technology isn't for you, or you just want to talk to a friendly human being, you can contact Officer King at 313-596-5511, Officer Soles at 313-596-5512, or Officer Maxey at 313-319-2990.



Detroit Police Officer Kim Maxey. Photo by Susan Newell

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 Avenue.



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

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, 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.

Morningside Moves to A New Home & Time

We hope the new day and time will make it more convenient for working people, whose weekends are often packed, to attend our monthly meetings. And the new venue provides some great amenities, including:

- Access to a number of rooms of all sizes in the building
- A large well-lighted parking lot
- Access to audiovisual equipment and computers
- Office/storage space for MorningSide documents and other assets
- Access to a health department-certified kitchen

Perhaps best of all, MorningSide will now be able to provide easy access for residents with mobility issues, as the school is ADA-compliant. We hope you'll join us as MorningSide grows larger and stronger!



HBCU Inspired Middle School Auditorium at Ronald Brown Academy

Morningside Has A New Phone Number!

The Morningside Community Organization is striving everyday to be of service to the needs of our neighbors. Over the last few months we heard the public voice their concerns of being unable to contact our organization when there are needs or questions that have arisen. Well we are extremely happy to announce that we have a new number to address all your concerns. For all inquiries, feel free to contact us at (313) 355-2468. Our hours of operation are Monday - Friday, 9AM - 5PM.



Don't hesitate, we're a phone call away Morningside

Upcoming events!

- East English Village General Meeting, Wednesday, October 9, 7:00 PM, St. Clare Montefalco
- East Warren Tool Library - Tool Familiarization Workshop. October 10th, 5:30PM - 8PM, 16006 E. Warren Ave. For more information and to register email e.warrentool@mcgroundscREW.org or RSVP on FB @ewarrentool
- Alger Theater Tour, Saturday, October 12, 12:00 PM
- Winterizing Community Garden (Cornerstone Village), Saturday, October 12, 10:30 AM, Hereford & Southampton - please bring gloves & a shovel; refreshments will be provided.
- MECCA Development Corp. Presents & E. Warren Tool Library Presents: Youth Grounds Crew Info Session. October 16th, 4-5PM and October 19th, 12-1PM. The session will be held at the East Warren Tool Library, 16006 E. Warren Ave.
- Friends of Chandler Park - Update & Input Meeting. October 17th, 6PM - 8PM, 12801 Chandler Park Dr.
- East Warren/Cadieux Planning Study Community Meet & Greet, Thursday, October 17, 6:00 to 8:00 pm, The city's Planning & Development Department hosting the reception
- Cornerstone Village General Meeting, Saturday, October 19, 10-12 PM, Love Rising Lutheran Church, 21230 Moross Road
- Annual Alger Membership Meeting, Monday, October 21, 6:30 pm
- MECCA Dev Corp Progressive Dinner Fundraiser, Saturday, October 26, 5:00-9:30 PM, featuring homes in MorningSide, East English Village, and Cornerstone Village, tickets are \$30 (register at www.meccadc.org or 313-757-1355)

Morningside's Finest for October Goes to: Mona Lisa Horne

By Jeffrey D. Lewis II | Morningside Community Organization

The definition of an unsung hero are those individuals who does great deeds but receives little or no recognition for them. I'm quite sure at some point in our lives we all have considered someone as an unsung hero.

The purpose of Morningside's Finest is to highlight that individual(s) in our community who is doing the work to make Morningside a better place for all to be proud of. For October, we want to honor Ms. Mona Lisa Horne. Ms. Horne has been a Morningside resident for over 10 years residing on Courville. Ms. Horne is the heart and soul of her block. Whether it's educating our youth on the importance of maintaining their lawns, or gathering her fellow neighbors to assist one of their own who has fallen on hard times, she does it time and time again without any hesitation.

Recently, I had the pleasure of spending some time with Ms. Horne. She informed me of the young mother who lives across the street that just welcomed another child to her family a few weeks prior. The mother of three was struggling to provide food for her children. Unfortunately, being unable to rely on the assistance of family members and missing the monthly Cleaners food distribution, the young mother of three was at a crossroad. Aware of the struggles this young mother was facing, Ms. Horne wasted no time as she gathered her neighbors together to donate whatever they could to assist the young family. Ms. Horne's initiative helped provide the young mother with food, formula and diapers to last for the remainder of the month. It is very rare we hear of stories like this nowadays as most individuals solely focus on what's happening within their own household. When Ms. Horne shared this story with me it was only right that we shed some light on this true community leader. If you don't know Ms. Mona Lisa Horne, do yourself a favor and get to know this amazing woman serving our community.

Every month we are highlighting a neighbor who will be honored as ***Morningside's Finest*** for the month. We know there are many dedicated individuals in our community as we want to acknowledge 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. We'll recognize one of our neighbors each month until we run out of great neighbors - which should take a very long time!

Morningside's Gateway Park Planting A Huge Success!

By Jeffrey D. Lewis II | Morningside Community Organization

We had an amazing turnout for the Gateway Park Planting on September 21st! Over 30 volunteers dedicated their time in sprucing up our green space. Morningside's Treasurer Zelda Anderson couldn't have been any more surprised of the turnout. "I never imagined receiving the amount of help that we did. We received so many donations that we will be able to plant flowers at our signs throughout the community!" Anderson says. Thank you to everyone who either donated their time or goods in beautifying Gateway Park!



Volunteers helping plant perennials at Morningside's Gateway Park. Photo by Zelda Anderson

New Feature At Three Mile - Munich Park: Weightless Exercise Equipment



The installation of weightless exercise equipment was recently added at the Three Mile - Munich Park. Photo by Jim West

Fitness Parks are becoming extremely popular in the city of Detroit. The weightless equipment has recently been added to our neighborhood park, Three Mile - Munich Park. It provides residents with a option that is safer than the equipment you will find at your local gym and better yet, it's absolutely free to use. Enjoy Morningside!



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



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MorningSide is a corporation organized and operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes outlined in section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Contact The Morningside Community Organization at:
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#morningsiderepresent

