

MORNINGSIDER

The Official Newsletter of Morningside



The meet and greet at the Alger Theater was full to capacity as the Planning Department shared preliminary details of what our community can expect in the future.

Improvements Coming To The Neighborhood

By Jackie Grant | Morningside Community Organization

Detroit — Lots of great news for MorningSide and our neighbors. If you were not able to attend the Meet & Greet on October 17, at the Alger Theater, let me catch you up.

Representatives of the city Planning and Development Department (P&DD), along with several urban planning consulting groups, met with residents of MorningSide, East English Village, and Cornerstone to present the broad outlines of the Strategic Neighborhood Plan for the East Warren/Cadieux development project.

Although the name may imply a focus around one intersection, the plan actually encompasses all three communities. Story continued on page 4...

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Churches That Care

By Susan Newell | Morningside Community Organization



Members of the Bethany Lutheran team, left to right: Gerald Heuer, Pastor Harold Avers, Vance Thornton, Pastor Christopher Bodley, Mel Muchitsch.

From time to time The Morningsider will shine a light on churches that, in addition to being located in our community, are also of and for our community. Here is one of them.

Pastor Christopher Bodley and his team have taken to heart the passage from the Book of James which says that "... faith without works is dead."

Since he came to Bethany Lutheran Church seven years ago, Pastor Bodley has done his best to walk the walk of his faith. He came here from Orlando, Florida, where he had spent the first twenty years of his ministry. At that time, the church had hoped to start a charter school here. Although that project didn't come to fruition, Pastor Bodley and his team have worked hard to meet the needs of Morningside residents in other ways.

One of his first tasks was to canvass the neighborhood within a one-mile radius of the church, located at 11475 E. Outer Drive, to identify residents' greatest needs. Pastor Bodley's team heard concerns about blight, safety, unemployment, and the lack of activities for youth. Since then, they haven't looked back.

Of course, no single individual can fulfill a church's mission. Pastor Bodley gives special credit to several people who have gone above and beyond -retired Pastor Harold Avers, Gerald Heuer, and Vance Thornton. "There are others who help on a consistent basis," says the pastor, "but the weekly hours which (these three) log are impressive. They have been significant contributors as it pertains to their presence, time and team spirit. We would not be where we are if it were not for them serving as anchors."

Story continued on page 3...

Churches That Care

To tackle blight, the church partnered with Habitat for Humanity to clear out vacant lots, board up doors and windows of vacant houses, and work with companies building affordable housing. They've also established or hosted programs to address those other issues.

A sports camp at Messmer Park this past summer served 171 kids. The camp ran from Monday through Friday, 5-7:30 p.m., and featured archery, basketball, lacrosse, martial arts, cheerleading, soccer, and golf. "We tried to offer the sports activities that kids weren't likely to be exposed to anywhere else," he says.

Bethany also offers "Jobs for Life," a curriculum developed in North Carolina to help the unemployed and underemployed with the "soft skills" necessary to get and keep a job. The free program for anyone 18 and older runs for eight weeks, two nights a week for two hours each night, with a meal provided.

The classes include a vocational aptitude assessment, resume writing, computer literacy, interviewing skills, and techniques for doing a job search. Employers are invited to come in and talk about what to expect in their industry, and some participants have been hired by these same employers. The next class will begin at the end of January.

Bethany Lutheran also believes in feeding the body as well as the spirit. For the past eight years, they have run a food bank from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, with food from the Gleaners. Twice a year Bethany runs an Expungement Fair, partnering with a law firm to help people with felonies or misdemeanors clear their records.

Bethany's facility has also been a community hub. Meeting rooms are made available to other community groups, such as MorningSide Community Organization and MECCA, to hold meetings as well as training and enrichment programs. On any given night or weekend, you might also find a community basketball program in their gymnasium.

Bethany's latest undertaking will provide a tremendous resource for food entrepreneurs in Morningside and beyond. In partnership with Detroit Kitchen Connect in Eastern Market, Bethany is developing a commercial kitchen, which they hope to have open by January for rental 24/7 at affordable prices.

Each of these programs represent another root that the church has sunk into our community, which has been made richer by Bethany's presence. For more information about Bethany Lutheran Church or any of these programs, contact Cheryl, the church receptionist, at (313) 885-7721.

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 10:30 AM 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](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.

Improvements Coming To The Neighborhood

The plan is to phase in improvements to our three communities in four areas: parks, residential stabilization, commercial development, and enhancing the look of a section of East Warren. The Planning Department will be hosting a series of four community meetings, where you will have a say-so for what will be created for our neighborhood. Mark your calendar for the first meeting, December 11, 2019, from 6-8 pm at Ronald Brown Academy, 11530 E. Outer Drive. This will be the time for your voice to be heard. See you there!

-- Jackie Grant, President



Residents are optimistic of what is on the horizon in the communities of Cornerstone Village, East English Village and Morningside. Photo by Zelda Anderson

Progressive Dinner: Three Communities Uniting



Residents of MorningSide, East English Village, and Cornerstone Village shared food and conversation at MECCA's second annual Progressive Dinner on Saturday, October 26. This event, which provided dinner courses at six homes in the three neighborhoods, is a way to bring the communities together. Photo by Latisha Johnson

Upcoming events!

- Gleaners Food Distribution, Monday, November 11, 10:30 AM, Craft Cafe at 15641 E. Warren
- Find Your Future Fair, Saturday, November 16, 10:00-2:00, Joseph Walker Williams Center, 8431 Rosa Parks Boulevard, for more information, call 313-463-6220
- Winter Hat & Gloves drive ends November 18, donate new items to the DPD 5th Precinct, 3500 Connor Street, hosted by Urban Advocacy Corp and the Detroit Police Department
- Urban Advocacy and Detroit Police Department Presents: Children's Hat & Glove Drive Giveaway at Salvation Army, 3000 Conner St. November 22nd, 11-2pm. For more information, contact urbanadvocacygroup@gmail.com
- Strategic Neighborhood Fund meeting for the E. Warren/Cadieux Project. December 11th, 6-8pm. Location: Ronald Brown Academy

Want To Advertise In The Morningsider?

The Morningsider is excited to announce that starting next month for December's issue of our newsletter advertisements will be accepted! Rates for ads will be shared in the coming weeks. Stay tuned!

Meditation on a Park

It's quiet here -a refuge of calm in a town where cars are hellbent on getting somewhere sooner than later.

Kids crawl, jump, run, slide, shriek on the playscape. But their voices don't disturb the quiet, for they are the sound of happiness.

Late afternoon sunlight falls just so on the maple at Three Mile and Munich, turns its leaves to fire and gold, and the grass to emeralds.

An older woman strides on the elliptical, perhaps hoping to ski off a few years, or at least keep the next ones at bay.

For just a moment, forget whatever ails our scrappy slice of Detroit. At this moment, at this corner, All is well.

---Morningside resident

Time To Be Thankful

By Melissa Bunker | Friends of The Alger Theater

We want to thank all who turned out for the community gatherings and conversations these last few weeks. So many new faces and great ideas! Stay tuned for updates on Holiday Pop Up activities in the Alger Storefront on Warren.

Follow us on:

Facebook www.facebook.com/algertheater/ and our website for details. We could not be happier to see all the new businesses open on East Warren Avenue and in the area and we encourage everyone to do their holiday entertaining on The Avenue. A Marquee sign at The Alger Theater is a perfect way to advertise your company's holiday parties and end of the year events. To advertise on the marquee www.algertheater.org"

Would You Like To Share Any News With Us?

Do you have something positive you'd like to say about our community or an experience you'd like to share? If so, we'd love to hear from you! Contact Jeffrey D. Lewis II at jefflewis2@gmail.com or call him at (313) 522-1982.

MECCA Community Closet

Check out this amazing event being hosted by MECCA Development Corporation! Be sure to sign up to shop for free items you may need. We'll have a variety of new and gently used household items, i.e. bedding, small appliances, baby items, etc. We'll even have a limited supply of new clothes. Date TBA. To register for this event, please visit: <https://forms.gle/qDUaWiYPsCXxEipm7>



Editor's Note

In October's issue of the Morningsider, we published the story **Nosey Neighbors? Illegal Dumping? Don't Get Mad - Call An NPO.**

We used the incorrect name for Detroit Police Officer Karen Maxey in the photo caption. The Morningsider offers our sincerest apology to Officer Maxey.

Morningside's Finest: Apryl Jones Moore



I bought my home on Bedford in 2010. I have a passion for gardening & home improvement projects. In regards to the Morningside sign on Harper, I wanted to bring it back to life by repainting it and planting some beautiful flowers to create not only a focal point for passing cars to look at but to give a welcoming feeling to people who enter our neighborhood. I'm hoping one day in the near future I can be appointed to a beautification committee to help bring back to life Morningside through beautiful landscape & flowers at each entry way into the neighborhood.

- *Apryl Jones Moore*



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



morningsidedet

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

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#morningsiderepresent

