

MORNINGSIDER

The Official Newsletter of MorningSide



Organic Gardener Annie Hakim attends to plants at Featherstone Garden.
Photograph by Jim West

Featherstone Garden Feeds Body and Soul

By Susan Newell | Contributing Writer

Detroit — An organic garden is a lot like a good marriage. If you avoid outside toxic influences and focus on helping each other grow, the result is something nourishing and lovely to behold. Annie Hakim, self-taught organic gardener, follows those principles at Featherstone Garden, MorningSide’s first commercial garden, on Lakepointe.

Annie’s passion, she says, is “to grow healthy food in sync with nature.” She uses no pesticides, of course, but controls pests naturally through “companion planting,” placing plants close together that will protect and nourish each other. Annie knows, for example, that lettuce and chives make good companions, as chives repel the insects that are naturally attracted to leafy greens. And cucumbers appreciate the nitrogen that peas offer them. Taller plants can provide welcome shade to shorter plants that may wilt in direct sun.

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Let's Come Together - Second Saturdays at the Alger!

Charon Nogues | Contributing Writer



Artist Desiree Kelly reveals her artwork on the rooftop patio at the Alger Theater in June 2019. Image courtesy of Jim West

The recently revamped Alger Theater rooftop deck is the perfect place to safely come together in small numbers, so the Friends of the Alger Theater Membership Committee is pleased to present Second Saturdays, a monthly party on the rooftop deck at The Alger to showcase musical and artistic talent from the Eastside. It will also be available for all the world to experience and appreciate via streaming.

When is it? The second Saturday of each month, of course. **Mark your calendars for August 8, September 12, and October 10 from 7pm-11pm.** Whether you're very young, very old, or in between, we want to see what you've got. Send me a video of your performance or art to apply to be showcased.

Here's the lineup for August 8: Artist and MorningSide resident Twiana Odom; vocalist Denise Bane; and eastside rock band JAKDD, and rock musician Ricky Rat. We'll also have a DJ spinning vinyl before, after and in-between acts, as well as lots of special surprises! Check out Denise on notesfornotes.org and JAKDD and Ricky Rat on Facebook.

Due to COVID-19, our rooftop deck is limited to 50 people. We'll make room for proper social distancing by using the inside of the Alger, storefronts next door, and the alley behind the theater as well.

Since the theater isn't yet licensed by the state to be fully open to the public, we must operate as a private club. So join the party by BECOMING A MEMBER TODAY! As a member, you are a SHAREHOLDER! Visit our website, www.algertheater.org and click the "Friends" tab to become a member.

Please RSVP to friends@algertheater.org. Contact Charon Nogues at Charon.nogues.rad.estate@gmail.com or (562) 895-9399 for questions. Come out and show your Eastside Pride!

Brilliant Detroit Offers Virtual Summer Tutoring Programs

Cindy Eggleton | Founder and CEO, Brilliant Detroit

Brilliant Detroit is thrilled to offer free enrollment in the Springboard Learning Accelerator (SLA), a 5 week program designed to help you, your child, and a teacher build a team and improve your child's reading skills. By enrolling in an SLA program, you and your child commit to doing the following:

1. Participate in a virtual family workshop once a week
2. Participate in classroom (virtual) instruction once a week (optional)
3. Read at home daily

You will earn points for your participation and practice, and with enough points your child can win a prize! Please see the attachment for additional details.

Program begins: July 13th

Participants can sign up

here: <https://www.tfaforms.com/4830630>

Center for Success Tutoring

Brilliant Detroit and the Center for Success are now offering virtual tutoring! **The summer session of Center for Success tutoring will run from July 6th until August 13th with sessions at 3:55 pm, 4:50 pm and 5:45 pm Monday-Thursday.** Each session lasts for around 40 minutes.

Students will also have the opportunity to engage in a virtual club. Club themes include cooking, video games, acting, and more! The clubs meet on different days and occur outside of tutoring hours. Once you sign up, we will give you more information about club offerings.

[To sign up for the CFS summer program, fill out this survey!](#)

BookNook

Brilliant Detroit has partnered with BookNook to offer free remote literacy tutoring two times a week to students this summer! BookNook is a web-based application where students can participate in one-on-one tutoring through the internet. Students connect with a tutor through a video call and use BookNook to read a book and engage in literacy activities and games. Students will experience fun, interactive phonics and comprehension lessons while also connecting with a caring adult tutor.

For families who wish to have their student(s) participate, they must have access to wifi and a BookNook compatible device (laptop, chromebook, ipad or tablet - not a phone).

We are currently offering the program to students Kindergarten to 3rd Grade. Sessions are offered at 10am or 3pm and take place on alternating days (M/W or T/Th). We also request your student commits to participate in two 30 minute literacy lessons each week. The BookNook is currently taking place and is accepting students on a rolling basis. [Fill out this survey to get started with the program.](#)



The Springboard Learning Accelerator program is designed to improve your child's reading skills. Image courtesy of Jim West

Morningside + Gleaners Food Distribution

The Morningside/Gleaners food distributions are held at the Craft Cafe, 15641 E. Warren Ave, at 11:00 a.m. on the second and fourth Monday of every month. The staging area is located in the rear of the Craft Cafe on Balfour facing E. Warren. The setup is intended to operate as if it's a drive thru making it easier to access goods and creating a swifter motion to serve as many families in a timely manner as possible.

The next food distribution will be Monday, July 13th beginning at 11 a.m.

For anyone interested in donating or volunteering, please contact Twiana Odom at (313) 808-3493. Text message is preferred.

Continued: Featherstone Garden Feeds Body and Soul

Companion planting results not only in incredibly healthy and nutritious vegetables, but a beautiful mixture of colors, shapes, and textures. It's all part of what Annie calls "creating an ecosystem instead of a production space."

Running a commercial organic garden isn't a one-person job, and Annie has partnered with co-owner Aaron Smith of Motor City Grounds Crew, renting the space for the garden from MCGC and working with them on other community projects. In addition to Aaron, three part-time employees work here. Annie also houses several beehives at the garden from Bees in the D, a non-profit which raises honeybees and does education about them throughout metro Detroit.

Featherstone Garden is also an important addition to the neighborhood. The nearby residents all know Annie, and she knows them. On one visit, she told me about a birthday party being planned that afternoon for the relative of a neighbor across the street. And the neighbors helped me find Annie on my first trip there. Clearly there's a symbiotic relationship between the people here, not just the plants.

Probably the most important lesson Annie says she's learned from this project is patience. Nothing about growing food or running a business happens quickly, and you need patience to deal with the inevitable setbacks. Although she still has a couple of restaurants that are regular customers, the closing of restaurants in the metro area due to the pandemic has cut off one source of income for Featherstone Garden. Fortunately, her main business goal has always been to sell her produce through a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) program. With a CSA, members buy a subscription for weekly pickup or delivery of a market bag of seasonal produce. As subscribers, consumers develop a stronger connection to those who grow their food.

For more information about Featherstone Garden and their CSA program, check out their website at www.featherstonegarden.com. You can also follow them on Instagram, @featherstone.garden. Beginning this month, Featherstone Garden will also have a weekly farm stand. (See sidebar).



A mixture of colorful plants and vegetables in the Featherstone Garden. Image courtesy of Annie Hakim

**Featherstone Garden
Weekly Farm Stand
Fresh, Organic, Seasonal
Produce
Thursdays, 4-7 p.m.
4178 Lakepointe
(just north of Mack Ave).
Delivery service also available.**



Concerns About the 2020 Census?

City of Detroit | Morningside Community Organization

If you haven't already turned in your census form, a census worker will be coming to your door soon to help you fill it out.

Many residents understandably have concerns about filling out the census. Why are they asking these questions? Will my personal information be kept confidential? Can I get in trouble for giving them this information? What if I'm not a US citizen?

Here's what the census does and doesn't ask for:

Name, age, date of birth, sex, race, ethnicity, and relationship to other household members for every individual living at a particular address as of April 1, 2020. The census taker will NOT ask for social security numbers, bank or credit card account information, money or donations, or anything on behalf of a political party. Anyone who asks for that information is running a scam!

There is **NO** question about your citizenship on the census. The Trump administration tried to have that question included, but it was struck down by the US Supreme Court. This is a count of people residing in the US, **not** citizens of the US.

Why ask these particular questions? The census questionnaire asks for names, birth dates, and age to help ensure that each person's age is reported accurately and that each person is counted only once.



Census canvasser Donald Sullivan providing important information for Morningside residents. Image courtesy of Twiana Odom

Each individual is asked to identify themselves as either male or female in order to allocate federal funding for education under the Higher Education Act of 1965 and to enforce rules against sex discrimination.

Information about age, race, and ethnicity is used to help the government determine whether different segments of the population are being adequately served.

And by identifying the relationships between people in a household, the government gets a better snapshot of important social trends in our society and what current American households look like. It's also used to determine funding for federal nutrition and education programs, housing programs, and other social services.

All your personal information is kept strictly confidential. It cannot be shared with any law enforcement agency, including the Department of Homeland Security, ICE, the FBI, or CIA. The information you provide can only be used for statistical purposes. The Census Bureau has a strong cybersecurity program that incorporates industry best practices and federal security standards for encrypting data.

If you have any questions about the census, just ask your census worker when he/she comes to your door. Or you can avoid being contacted by filling out the census online at my2020census.gov or by phone at the toll free number **844-330-2020**.

Don't Miss the Next Bulk Trash/Yard Waste Pickups!

Please note that bulk trash and yard waste should be put out no more than 24 hours before the city picks it up, and certainly not the day after! Please be considerate of your neighbors who don't want to look at a pile of trash for two weeks. The next three pick up dates are:

- **July 23rd**
- **August 6th & 20th**

Better yet, sign up for text reminders by texting your address to: **(313) 800-7905**.

Online Community Meetings

Despite social distancing, we can still stay in touch. Here are some important meetings happening online by Zoom videoconferencing website:

Morningside General Community Meeting

Second Tuesday of every month via Zoom. Meeting details will be shared 24 hours before the scheduled meeting. Visit our Facebook page for login info. Our next meeting will be held **July 14th at 6:30 p.m.**

East Warren/Cadieux Neighborhood Framework Plan Virtual Office Hours Each Wednesday from 12:30pm to 1:30pm

Join via computer: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/248643408>

Join via phone: (312) 626-6799, Meeting ID: 248 643 408

5th Precinct Command/Community Update Each Friday, 12 – 1 p.m.

Join by computer: <https://cityofdetroit.zoom.us/j/96700800969>

Join by phone +1 267 831 0333 US Meeting ID: 967 0080 0969

Detroit Board of Police Commissioners Each Thursday at 3 p.m.

By computer: Use the following link and follow prompts: <https://cityofdetroit.zoom.us/j/397380647?pwd=S1kzVzU4RURFb2NBRGJlb1kwVWVnjdz09>

By phone: Call one of the these numbers: 1(929) 436-2866, 1(312) 626-67991, (346) 248-7799, 1(301) 715-8592

Meeting ID: 397380647 and press ##

The virtual meeting will use a form for public comments:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/d26fa38cc5e94a018836d065000714ce>

2020-2021 Morningside Street Ambassadors

Whether you live on Alter Rd., Outer Drive, or anywhere in between in Morningside, you are represented.

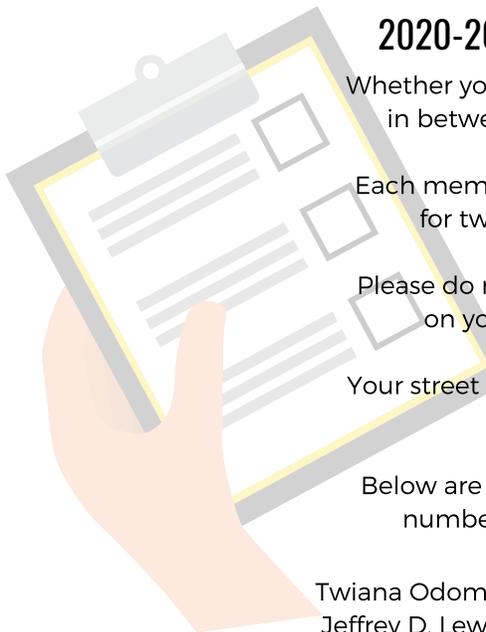
Each member of our Board of Directors is responsible for two streets throughout our community.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if there is an issue on your street that needs to be addressed.

Your street ambassador will help you find resources for your problem.

Below are the names of each board member, phone numbers, and their respective streets they are ambassadors for:

- Twiana Odom - (313) 808-3493: Berkshire St. & Somerset Ave.
- Jeffrey D. Lewis II - (313) 522-1982: Balfour Rd. & Maryland St.
- Adrian L. Green - (313) 399-8014: Outer Dr. & Whittier Ave.
- Jackie Grant - (313) 720-3904: Three Mile Dr. & Chatsworth St.
- Nicolas Hall - (815) 354-2092: Courville St. & Audubon Rd.
- Vaughn Arrington - (313) 804-8472: Haverhill St. & Alter Rd.
- Maurice "Mo" Mitchell - (313) 918-8315: Buckingham & Wayburn St
- Charon Nogues - (562) 895-9399: Nottingham Rd. & Beaconsfield St.
- Aaron Smith - (313) 757-2672: Barham St. & Lakepointe St.
- Caleb Cook - (313) 269-9037: Bedford Rd. & Devonshire Rd.



Advertise in the Morningsider!

Morningside Community Organization

The Morningsider is officially open for advertisement! For those who want to place ads in our newsletter, please contact Jackie Grant at **(313) 720-3904**. Below are the rates for advertisements:

6 - Month Run
\$825 Full Page
\$400 Half Page
\$275 Quarter Page


Place Your

AD

Here!



LUMETTA FRESH MARKET

Online Grocery Store w/Curbside Pick-Up
and Delivery To Your Doorstep

Fresh Fruits, Vegetables, Breads, Meats,
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Delivery To Your Doorstep Monday-Friday Or
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East Side Mack & Buckingham Hub

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(248) 616-1900

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Tim Killeen

Wayne County Commissioner – District 1

313.224.0920 (phone) 313.967.1238 (fax)

tkilleen@waynecounty.com

www.waynecounty.com/commission/district1.htm

**In the Community, Working with the Community, to
Build the Community**

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featherstone garden

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Thank you,
**MORNINGSIDE COMMUNITY
ORGANIZATION**
for all you do!

We are proud to be in your
neighborhood!

Featherstone Farm Stand is open to neighbors:
Thursdays from 4-7pm
4178 Lakepointe Street
www.featherstonegarden.com



E. WARREN TOOL LIBRARY GROWING SEASON OPEN HOURS!



Tuesdays 2pm-7pm
Wednesdays 2pm-7pm
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Saturdays 9am-3pm

16006 E. Warren, Detroit, MI 48224
e.warrentool@mcgroundscrew.org
313-757-2670

Morningside's Finest

Motor City Grounds Crew



High winds and rain hit MorningSide hard last month. In addition to widespread power outages, trees were downed all over the neighborhood, damaging homes and blocking some streets. That's when Motor City Grounds Crew went into high gear, cutting up trees and removing debris from streets and residents' property.

Next month's Morningsider newsletter will feature more about MCGC's work in MorningSide and throughout the city. For now, we'll just say thank you for coming to our rescue!



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.

Contact The Morningside Community Organization at:
(313) 355-2468

P.O. Box 24496, Detroit, MI 48224



#morningsiderepresent

