



MORNINGSIDER

The Official Newsletter of MorningSide



Nikki J., owner of Hiptique Resale and Gifts at 16235 Mack Ave. in MorningSide, displays her merchandise at the first East Warren Farmers Market. Image courtesy of Jim West

The E. Warren Farmers Market Schedule Has Been Extended!

[Joe Rashid](#) | Contributing Writer

Detroit – Food trucks, fresh produce, and vendors selling everything from candles to jewelry to home-baked treats have been filling up the parking lot of the former Charter One Bank building every Thursday afternoon for the past few weeks. Activating vacant properties along the E. Warren business corridor is just one early project of the East Warren/Cadieus Plan to improve three neighboring Eastside communities - Cornerstone, East English Village, and MorningSide.

The E. Warren Farmers Market launched with 15 vendors on August 13th. Since then the market has grown to 30 vendors, almost exclusively Eastside neighborhood businesses. The market has added community favorites such as The Lobster Food Truck, SnoBiz Detroit, Terri's Cakes Detroit, and Stacey's 2 Day Tea to the roster.

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What's Happening at Gateway Park?

Susan Newell | The Morningsider



Phase 1 of the Gateway Park cleanup consisted of clearing out weeds and installing mulch. Image courtesy of Charon Nogues

It may not look like much right now, but Gateway Park, at the corner of Mack and Alter, is going to get an extreme makeover.

For years dedicated volunteers have tried to keep that patch of earth free of weeds and full of flowers and perennials. But without an easy and reliable water source, the weeds have always thrived but the other plants haven't. Recognizing that Mother Nature always has the last word, we've resolved to start working with her, rather than against her, by using native plants and organic gardening techniques.

Recently a group of volunteers - purposely kept small in order to maintain social distancing - removed and saved the non-native plants from the circular bed until they can get new homes. They also cut down the weeds and covered the bed with biodegradable, non-toxic cardboard and mulch to slowly kill the weeds. By early spring, the soil should be well prepared for the first stage of the park's makeover.

With the help of a master gardener with almost 30 years of experience, MorningSide Community Organization will be creating a garden filled only with drought-resistant plants and flowers native to Michigan. These are the plants with the greatest chance of surviving with whatever rain we get, and they're also the ones that attract native pollinating insects and birds.

If you'd like to be a part of reclaiming this pocket park or helping with other beautification projects throughout MorningSide, please contact Jackie Grant at: president.morningside@gmail.com or (313) 720-3904.

Susan Newell, a retired nurse, and her photographer husband Jim West have lived in MorningSide since 1984.

Vacant Property Task Force looks to change the landscape of properties in Morningside

Morningside Community Organization

The Morningside Community Organization is excited to announce our latest initiative, The Vacant Property Task Force (VPTF).

The VPTF is designed to improve and maintain the appearance of vacant properties throughout Morningside.

The Task Force will work with the Block Captains, Street Ambassadors, a number of community partners; as well as various departments within the City of Detroit.

We are actively recruiting volunteers to partake in this endeavor as this will be a community-wide, driven effort.

Volunteers can expect to average 2-3 hours per week and will be required to attend training sessions.

Here are a few things all Task Force members can expect upon joining the VPTF:

- Property Identification & Assessments: Identify blighted vacant properties and assign priority level for work for abatement. Use the [Landgrid](#) app to document property conditions before and after abatement
- Resident Communications: Communicate project goals before and after work activities during completion. Inform residents of available resources to assist with property maintenance
- Owner Communications: Communicate and encourage owners to appropriately register and maintain their vacant properties
- Work Volunteer: Assist with and support the project work of clearing vegetation and debris removal at identified vacant properties.

Task Force members Will Not be responsible for:

- Working alone: All volunteers will be partnered with at least one other person.
- Heavy Lifting: Volunteers will not be expected to do more than they are physically able or work that is emotionally uncomfortable

There will be a training session for all those interested in joining the VPTF on Saturday, September 12th at the Featherstone Garden, 4178 Lakepointe at 10 a.m.



VPTF Identification lanyards will be available for all volunteers. Image courtesy of Nicolas Hall



The Vacant Property Task Force will address abandoned and brush-filled properties such as this one on Balfour Rd. Image courtesy of Jeffrey D. Lewis II

Continued... The E. Warren Farmers Market Schedule Has Been Extended!

The number of fresh food producers and growers from all three neighborhoods has grown with offerings from Rivendale Farms (Morningside), Lawn Gone Food Farm (EEV), Spirit Farms (Cornerstone), and Myers Farms (Cornerstone).

In the first four weeks local vendors have generated close to \$15,000 and roughly 1000 people have patronized the E Warren Farmers Market. It's been such a success, in fact, that the vendors voted to extend the market schedule through mid-October and discussed opportunities to create a holiday marketplace along E. Warren in November and December.

As a result, the team was able to re-envision the use of these funds to meet the interests of the community during these unprecedented times.



Fresh batch of tomatoes at the East Warren Farmers Market. Image courtesy of Mark Rutherford



Customized earrings dedicated to the Black Lives Matter movement. Image courtesy of Mark Rutherford

The market is a program of the E. Warren Development Corp, whose mission is to support and enhance the E. Warren commercial corridor and adjacent neighborhoods through collaboration, community engagement, and equitable development. Our vision is to have 100% business occupancy of E Warren with a diverse mix of walkable, accessible community driven businesses that serve everyone in the community.

This inaugural market season was made possible through the support of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan grant for the Design Center in a Box, a program of the Detroit Planning and Development Department.

Although these funds were intended to help redesign a brick and mortar space and provide an informational space for the E Warren-Cadieux Planning Study, due to COVID-19 we were forced to pivot and identify alternative mechanisms to implement this grant. The team went back to the drawing board and analyzed responses received by the E. Warren/Cadieux Planning study survey, which indicated many residents were interested in a local Farmers Market



Patrons checking out the Save Detroit (Stop All Violence Everywhere) apparel. Image courtesy of Mark Rutherford

Joe Rashid, EEV resident, walks E. Warren daily and serves as the Executive Director of the East Warren Development Corporation.

Young, Gifted and Black... Chadwick Boseman

Jeffrey D. Lewis II | The Morningsider



Chadwick Boseman, who plays baseball legend Jackie Robinson in "42," poses at the Los Angeles premiere of the film at the TCL Chinese Theater in Los Angeles. Image courtesy Chris Pizzello/Invision/AP, File

To be Young, Gifted, and Black, Chadwick Boseman was the epitome of these traits.

The God-given talent that Boseman possessed allowed him to exceptionally portray iconic and revolutionary Black figures such as Jackie Robinson (42), James Brown (Get on Up), and Thurgood Marshall (Marshall).

However, it would be the portrayal as Marvel Studios first Black superhero, *King T'Challa* in the 2018 international blockbuster *Black Panther* that would launch Boseman into a bonafide superstar. The impact and success of the film left us all giving our *Wakanda Forever* signs as we embraced one another.

That is why his untimely passing on August 28th at the age of 43 has left the entire world completely devastated as we all learned that he privately battled colon cancer for the last four years.

What hurts most about his passing is the fact that he was able to miraculously put out five films, all the while undergoing chemotherapy and multiple surgeries.

Talk about strength and courage.

Not once did Boseman ever seek for the spotlight to be shined on him. He would rather have the focus of attention centered on others.

Most notably children.

Boseman's unannounced 2018 visit to the St. Jude Children's Hospital in Tennessee would validate this notion. During his trip, not only would he bring toys, he brought joy and inspiration to the children, which was probably the greatest gift they would receive as a superhero brightened their day.

During a promotional trip for the release of *Black Panther*, Boseman spoke of the cultural impact the film would make, especially amongst the youth (view here in this YouTube clip: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=3&v=6J-D86wfxiE&feature=emb_logo).

Boseman was a real life superhero.

The impact Boseman made for the culture is forever cemented.

This is what it means to be Young, Gifted, and Black.

Chadwick, Thank you.

#wakandaforever

New Website! MorningSide Gets a New Home Online

Nicolas Hall | The Morningsider

Over the summer, MorningSide residents put together a new website for our community.

Under the direction of Cosmo Jones, a resident of Balfour with experience in digital marketing, the organization worked diligently in creating an online space that is clear and accessible, making it easier than ever for Detroiters to find out what is going on in MorningSide.

The website has a variety of different features.

- There is an “Events” page, where you can learn about upcoming events and community meetings.
- Check out the “Resources” page, where you can find out who owns a property on your block, or request a free tree between your street and sidewalk.
- You can get involved and sign up for our Block Captain Program or Vacant Property Task Force.
- And on the “Newsletters” page, you’ll find an archive of newsletters going back to 2004.

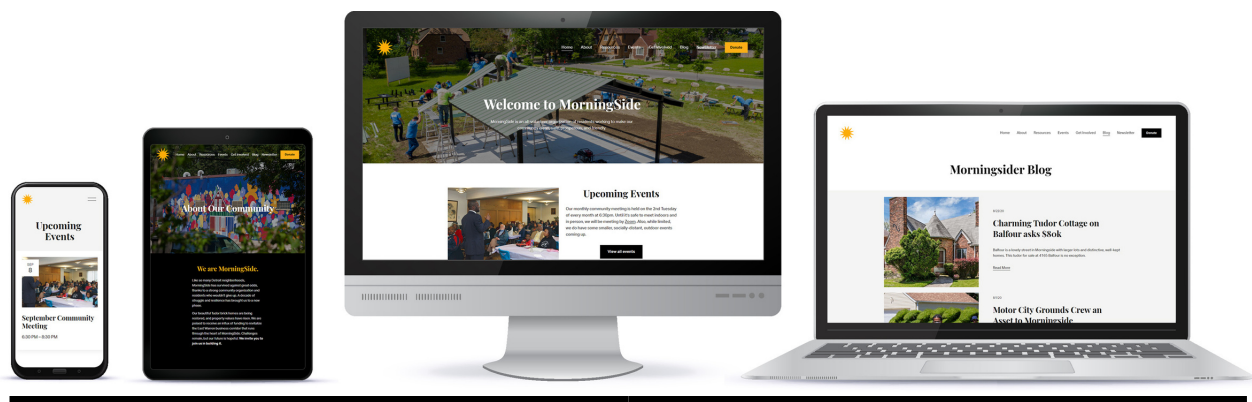
We also added the ability to donate to the organization (please do!), along with a blog for timely news and updates.

When you go to the website, you’ll see plenty of pictures of the neighborhood. This imagery was generously provided by local photographer Jim West, who lives on Three Mile.

It’s been a collective effort, and well worth it. In the three months that the website has been online, it’s received over 3,000 visits.

Check it out! Go to either www.morningsidedetroit.org or www.morningsidedetroit.com/.

Nicolas Hall, At-Large MCO board member, works for the Blue Oval Company and loves to ride his bike throughout Morningside.



Morningside's new State of the Art website is accessible on any device. Image courtesy of Nicolas Hall

Online Community Meetings

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

Morningside General Community Meeting

Second Tuesday of every month via Zoom. Our next meeting will be held September 8th at 6:30 p.m. To dial in with your phone, use the following info: Dial number: (301) 715-8592 / Meeting ID: 876 5627 5944 / Password: 824390. To access the meeting via computer, please visit either morningsidedetroit.org or the Morningside Facebook page the day of the meeting.

East Warren/Cadieux Neighborhood Framework Plan Virtual Office Hours: September 16th & 30th 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, 1 – 2 p.m.

The Zoom link for the 5th Precinct meeting change weekly. For anyone who is interested in attending, please email MCO at morningsidecommunity2@gmail.com as we will provide you with the access link once we receive it.

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=S1kzVzU4RURFb2NBRCJlb1kwWVNjdz09>

By phone: Call one of the these numbers: 1 (929) 436-2866, 1 (312) 626-6799

1 (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>

Let's Talk Trash

Do you have neighbors who leave their Courville dumpsters on the curb way past the pickup date? You can report it anonymously through www.seeclickfix.com or the ImproveDetroit app.

Here are your next three bulk trash, recycling, and yard waste pickup dates:

- September 17th
- October 1st & 15th

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



Illegal Dumping is one of the many items you can report via the Improve Detroit app. Image courtesy of Nicolas Hall

MCO Sponsors Community Garage Sale

Keeping community spirit alive during a period of forced social distancing is a challenge, so MorningSide Community Organization got creative.

We sponsored our first-ever community yard sale on August 29th, giving residents a reason to get out and meet their neighbors throughout the community. By all accounts, the event was successful enough that it may turn into an annual event.



Morningside neighbors partaking in the MCO Community Garage Sale. Image courtesy of Jim West

2020-2021 MorningSide Street Ambassadors

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., Bedford Rd., Devonshire Rd. & 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 Nogue - (562) 895-9399: Nottingham Rd. & Beaconsfield St.
- Aaron Smith - (313) 757-2672: Barham St. & Lakepointe St.

MorningSide & Gleaners Food Distribution



Volunteers assisting in the MCO + Gleaners food distribution. Image of courtesy of Rakishia Odom

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 next food distribution will be Monday, September 14th beginning at 11 a.m.

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

Morningside's Finest

Cosmo Jones

This month we're giving a shout-out to Cosmo Jones, who donated his time and talents to create our new MorningSide website, with help from Board member Nic Hall. Cosmo wears many hats - web developer, marketer, branding consultant, graphic artist, rock musician and producer to name a few. A native of Los Angeles and transplant from New York City, Cosmo has wasted no time getting involved in MorningSide and is making it his long-term home.

"I started investing in rental properties in Detroit about five years ago," says Cosmo, "and in the process of coming back and forth I realized how much I like it here. There's a great music scene, it's a super diverse city, and it's one of the few places in our country where you can afford to buy a house. Plus the people are far friendlier than in the other cities where I have lived, and it's not overcrowded. I've enjoyed a better quality of life since moving here, and I'm staying."

Cosmo is CEO and founder of [Bedrock LA](#), a Los Angeles-based Grammy Award-winning recording studio and music services company. He's also creative director and consultant for *We Break Things*, a Detroit company which works on commercial campaigns and digital strategies for major companies. He also has his hand in [Xomad.com](#), an influencer marketing platform, as well as [Singlecare.com](#), which he describes as "a disruptor in the pharmacy space."

Somehow Cosmo also finds the time to rehab several houses he owns in MorningSide, Cornerstone, and East English Village. "I'm also helping renters become homeowners in these neighborhoods where financing is hard to obtain. I'm looking forward to finding commercial space on East Warren and partnering with someone to open something cool for our neighborhood."

When he isn't involved in one of these many projects, you'll find Cosmo in his home on Balfour, relaxing with Inca, his one-year-old boxer-pit mix. Thanks to one of MorningSide's newer residents, we now have a website that can raise MorningSide's profile throughout the city and beyond.



Cosmo Jones with his dog, Inca. Image courtesy of Cosmo Jones

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



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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



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PROUD PROGRAM OF



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e.warrentool@mcgroundscrew.org
313-757-2670

Another Storytelling Bike Ride? Very likely!

Morningside Community Organization

The Morningside Storytelling Bike Ride was well received by everyone that came out to tour the streets of our community.

Organizer of the storytelling bike ride and 1st VP of the Morningside Community Organization, Twiana Odom was truly excited for the turnout and prospects of an additional bike ride later this month.

"Everyone was so excited to participate and learn more about the history of our community. I was really excited for our newcomers who rode along with us more so than anything. It gave us a chance to give them a little history of our community, while we also learned more on why they decided to settle here in Morningside," says Twiana. With the success and turnout last month, MCO has decided to host another bike ride later in the month. Further details will be released in the coming days. Stay tuned!



Bike riders participate in the Morningside Storytelling Bike Ride. Image courtesy of Twiana Odom



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 or via email

morningsidecommunity2@gmail.com

Also checkout our new website!

www.morningsidedetroit.org

P.O. Box 24325, Detroit, MI 48224



#morningsiderepresent

