



# MORNINGSIDER

*The Official Newsletter of MorningSide*



A election day poll worker retrieves an absentee ballot from a voter. Image courtesy of Jim West

## Election Day 2020

**Adrian L. Green** | The Morningsider

Detroit — As we prepare for “the most important election in our lifetime,” Detroiters have been inundated with information on how voting will be different this year, especially considering the COVID-19 Pandemic. Millions of people will be voting by absentee ballot for the first time in this election, and it can be confusing. To make sure that your absentee ballot isn’t thrown out, be sure you do the following:

- Read and follow the instructions on the absentee ballot carefully.
- Be sure to put your ballot into the secrecy envelope with the perforated tab sticking out and then put it in the mailing envelope.
- Be sure you sign and date the outside envelope where indicated. Hundreds of thousands of ballots get thrown out because the outside mailing envelope wasn’t signed.

Story continued on page 4...

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**E. Warren Tool Library Relocates to New Home**

**Joshua Arntson** | Contributing Writer



**The East Warren Tool Library is located between the M&M Pet Shop and the Craft Cafe. Image courtesy of Jeffrey D. Lewis II**

Detroit — After a little over a year, Detroit’s beloved E. Warren Tool Library will have a new 3,000 square-foot home starting in mid-September. The move helps ensure the innovative community resource can continue to grow in size and capacity.

“We are excited to have our own building to now anchor the tool library for years to come,” said Motor City Grounds Crew Director of Programs, Joshua Arntson. “We will continue to operate on E. Warren which is critical to not disrupt the familiarity of our location to our loyal customers.”

Despite the new location, tool borrowers and community members can expect the same quality service at 15631 E. Warren Avenue, Detroit, MI 48224.

The E. Warren Tool Library is an initiative of Motor City Grounds Crew and boosts more than 200 members citywide. Members have access to more than 1,800 tools to work on community projects, home repairs and beautification endeavors.

“The E. Warren Tool Library has been a great help,” said tool library member Jordan Yagiela. “We have used them for every community event we have had - the convenience and affordability are unrivaled.”

The new location will retain its current operational hours but offer more workshops despite the ongoing pandemic.

For more information on the tool library or the move, contact Joshua Arntson at 313-757-2670 or [e.warrentool@mcgroundscrew.org](mailto:e.warrentool@mcgroundscrew.org).

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*Joshua Arntson, Director of Programs for Motor City Grounds Crew.*

## The Morningside Listeners

**Rakisha Odom** | Contributing Writer

Meet the Morningside Listeners! They have one goal: to connect with their neighbors and listen to their gifts and talents.

The Listeners are a part of Brilliant Detroit, an organization dedicated to building “kid success neighborhoods,” where families with children ages 0-8 have what they need to be school-ready, healthy and stable. They do this by establishing and operating early childhood and family hubs built from abandoned houses that serve as centrally-located gathering places for the community. Brilliant Detroit works in partnership with the neighborhood every step of the way, and will soon open one of their hubs in Morningside!

Part of building a “kid success neighborhood” is to understand what the existing skills of the community are and how they can be developed to best support families with young children. For example: think of your neighbor who is an amazing chef — all of the families on the block love their cooking. Think of your neighbor who can grow their own food like no one else can and who delights in teaching kids how to do that. Think of the one who can fix any bike, repair any piece of furniture, and is excited to pass along those skills.

Those are the kinds of talents that the Listeners are looking for. Each Listener is a part of the Morningside neighborhood and will connect with their neighbors — through door-to-door canvassing, porch-sitting, spontaneous conversation, and more — to learn about the community’s skills.

This will allow the Listeners to document the gifts of Morningside, understand the neighborhood’s priorities, and work with Brilliant Detroit to develop Kid Success Projects that drive those priorities forward. The Listeners will be active for one month, through mid-October, and want to hear from you!

Imagine: what does a neighborhood look like where everybody is recognized for their gifts and talents? Where people can feel valued as individuals by their community? That can be Morningside but it truly will take all of us to make this happen.

Do you have a gift or talent that can help build a “kid success neighborhood?” Contact Rakisha Odom at [rodom@brilliantdetroit.org](mailto:rodom@brilliantdetroit.org) and she will connect you to the Morningside Listeners.

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*Rakisha Odom, Community Engagement Coordinator for Brilliant Detroit, advocate for the youth of Detroit.*



**The Morningside Listeners. Image courtesy of Rakisha Odom.**



## Continued... Election Day 2020

- If you realize you've made a mistake and need a new ballot, contact the Detroit Department of Elections, 2978 W. Grand Blvd., 313-876-0190 right away.

Below are some other **Frequently Answered Questions** which may help you in successfully navigating the political waters of this election.

**As the risk of COVID-19 is still imminent, how can voters safely participate in the general election on Nov. 3?**

All voters have the right to vote safely from home via absentee ballot. To do so, voters must either submit their absentee ballot application online at [Michigan.gov/Vote](https://Michigan.gov/Vote) or download an application to return to the City Clerk's office by email, mail, or in person before 5 p.m. on Oct. 30, 2020, the deadline to request to receive a ballot by mail. After Oct. 30, if a voter has not yet registered to vote absentee, they can still request an absentee ballot in person at the City Clerk's Office up until 4 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 2. All precinct polling locations will remain open in each jurisdiction on Nov. 3 for those who wish to cast their vote in person. The Michigan Bureau of Elections will provide all local jurisdictions with personal protective equipment and hygiene supplies to ensure that all polling places are sanitized.

**Will precinct polling locations still be open for those who prefer to vote in person?**

Yes. All polling places will remain open in each jurisdiction on Tuesday, Nov. 3 between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. for those who wish to cast their vote in person. Voters can locate their assigned polling location by visiting [Michigan.gov/Vote](https://Michigan.gov/Vote).

**When is the deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail?**

The deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail is 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30, 2020, however, it is advised that voters submit their absentee ballot application much earlier than this date to avoid the potential for mailing delays. Voters can request an absentee ballot be sent to them by mail by completing an absentee ballot application online at [Michigan.gov/Vote](https://Michigan.gov/Vote) or downloading an absentee ballot application to complete and return to their local clerk's office by email, mail, or in person.

**Will all those who have signed up to be on the permanent absentee voting list automatically receive an absentee ballot for the Nov. 3 election?**

No. Voters who are on the permanent absentee voting list still need to complete and submit an absent voter ballot application either online at [Michigan.gov/Vote](https://Michigan.gov/Vote) or by email, mail, or in person at their local clerk's office order to receive an absentee ballot by mail ahead of the Nov. 3 election. The permanent absentee voting list only ensures that a voter automatically receives an absentee ballot application from their local clerk's office ahead of every election. An absentee ballot is not automatically sent to voters on this list.

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## Policing the Mentally Ill - There is a Better Way

Susan Newell | The Morningsider



A demonstrator stops at the memorial for Daniel Prude. Image courtesy of Jamie Germano/Rochester Democrat and Chronicle

Imagine for a moment that you have a brother with schizophrenia. Let's call him Michael. For years you have tried to help him, but Michael's mental illness has led him down a very dark path to drug abuse as well. No effective treatment programs have been available, and he has relapsed time and again. You are exhausted physically and emotionally, but he's still your brother, and you care about him.

One night Michael appears at your door in the throes of a psychotic episode, out of control. You are desperate for help, so you call the only emergency number you have – 911. Michael disappears into the cold, snowy night, and hours later you get the news that he has been apprehended - naked, agitated, and delusional. You learn later still that he has died in police custody but are given few details about the cause. Michael has become another statistic; 25 -30% of those killed by the police have an underlying mental health problem. You are devastated, replaying the episode in your mind, wondering what you might have done differently. Your biggest regret is that you called the police in the first place.

Now let's imagine you had another option. Let's say you could have called an emergency number that would have led directly to a mental health crisis team - perhaps specially trained police officers who have volunteered to respond to psychiatric emergencies, perhaps mental health professionals working closely with the police. Dressed in plain clothes and driving unmarked cars, when they encountered Michael, naked and terrified, they likely would have immediately recognized the signs of excited delirium, a medical as well as psychiatric emergency. Those in a state of excited delirium are at great risk of sudden death and need immediate medical attention.

The training of these first responders would have prepared them to calm Michael and de-escalate the situation, in stark contrast to the standard training of police, which tells them to "meet force with equal or greater force." In fact, the sight of a police car and uniformed officers can make a mentally ill person even more agitated. A good outcome is never guaranteed, even with the best-trained first responders, but Michael's chances of survival could have been much better.

Continues on page 7...

## Continued... Election Day 2020

How can voters return their absentee ballot to ensure it is received and counted starting on Election Day?

To avoid the potential for postal delays, voters are encouraged to return their completed ballot to their local clerk's absentee ballot drop box located throughout the city of Detroit, prior to 8 p.m. on the day of the general election. You can find your nearest drop box through [MichiganDropBox.com](https://www.michigan.gov/elections). Those who plan to return their absentee ballot by mail are cautioned to do so no later than Tuesday, Oct. 20 to ensure their ballot arrives in time to be counted on Nov. 3. Additionally, voters are reminded that U.S. postage is required to submit an absentee ballot by mail.

Are voters required to wear a face mask to cast their vote in person at their precinct polling location in the upcoming Nov. 3 general election?

Pursuant to Governor Whitmer's Executive Order 2020-153, voters are encouraged but not required to wear a face covering while at a polling place for the purposes of voting in an election.

What must voters bring with them to the polls in order to vote?

Before arriving at a precinct polling location, voters should ensure their voter registration information is accurate and up to date by visiting [Michigan.gov/Vote](https://www.michigan.gov/Vote). Voters can also confirm their polling location at this website. Michigan's voter identification requirement asks voters to present up-to-date and accurate photo identification in order to cast their ballot or, if they do not have it, to sign an affidavit. Acceptable forms of photo ID include:

- Michigan driver's license or state identification card
- Driver's license or state ID card issued by another state
- A valid U.S. passport
- Federal or state government-issued photo identification
- Military ID with photo
- Student ID card
- Tribal identification card with photo.

Please note, state law does not require that the voter's photo ID show the voter's address.

Are voters required to present their driver's license or state identification card in order to vote in-person?

No. If a voter does not have their ID with them at the time of requesting a ballot, they are still eligible to vote. Voters who do not bring valid photo ID can sign a brief affidavit stating they are not in possession of a photo ID and proceed in casting their ballot.

Will the ballot for the general election be a straight-ticket, or can voters vote for candidates of more than one political party?

Unlike the Aug. 4 state primary election, the Nov. 3 general election is not a straight-ticket ballot. This means that voters can vote for candidates belonging to different political parties and are not confined to vote for candidates of just one party throughout the ballot.

This list is by no means exhaustive. For more information, please contact the Detroit Department of Elections and/or log on to the Michigan Department of State at [Michigan.gov/SOS](https://www.michigan.gov/SOS). PLEASE VOTE LIKE YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT!!!

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*Adrian Green is MCO Treasurer, a community activist and proud graduate of HBCU Florida A&M University.*



The mask says it all. Image courtesy of Jim West

## Continued... Policing the Mentally Ill - There is a Better Way

Of course, the police don't always know what they will be dealing with when a call comes in. But there are often clear signs of an underlying mental health issue, such as when a person is naked, wearing a bizarre outfit, or simply "acting strange."

Other police departments around the country have recognized the need for specially trained first responders in mental health crises. San Antonio, Seattle, and Eugene, Oregon have all had very effective programs in place for years. Denver is starting a similar pilot program called STAR. They all run slightly differently, but what they have in common is an understanding that responding to the mentally ill puts an unnecessary burden on front-line officers, and that these situations can be dangerous to both the mentally ill person and the police.

To see what some humane and successful approaches to policing the mentally health look like, check out these resources:

For information about the San Antonio PD's approach to mental health emergencies, check out these resources:

<https://www.texasobserver.org/ernie-and-joe-san-antonio-police-mental-health>

I See You (Joseph A. Smarro | TEDxSanAntonio)

[https://www.ted.com/talks/joseph\\_a\\_smarro\\_i\\_see\\_you?utm\\_source=tedcomshare&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=tedsread](https://www.ted.com/talks/joseph_a_smarro_i_see_you?utm_source=tedcomshare&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=tedsread)

For a fascinating look at the San Antonio Mental Health Unit in action, see

<https://youtu.be/wWU38es-tWU>

For information about the STAR pilot program in Denver:

<https://denverite.com/2020/06/08/a-long-planned-program-to-remove-police-from-some-911-calls-launched-as-denvers-streets-erupted-in-police-brutality-protests/>

To learn more about the CAHOOTS program in Eugene, Oregon:

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/07/05/us/cahoots-replace-police-mental-health-trnd/index.html>

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

## MCO & 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, October 26th beginning at 11 a.m.

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



## 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 October 13th 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](https://morningsidedetroit.org) or the Morningside Facebook page the day of the meeting.

East Warren/Cadieux Neighborhood Framework Plan Virtual Office Hours: Date: October 14th, 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

The Zoom link for the 5th Precinct meeting is scheduled twice a month. For anyone who is interested in attending, please email MCO at [morningsidecommunity2@gmail.com](mailto: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=S1kzVzU4RURFb2NBRCJlbnkwVVNjdz09>

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 put bulk trash out whenever they feel like it or leave their Courville containers out all the time? You can report it anonymously through [www.seeclickfix.com](http://www.seeclickfix.com) or the ImproveDetroit app.

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

- October 15th & 29th
- November 5th

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

### 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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[www.waynecounty.com/commission/district1.htm](http://www.waynecounty.com/commission/district1.htm)

**In the Community, Working with the Community, to  
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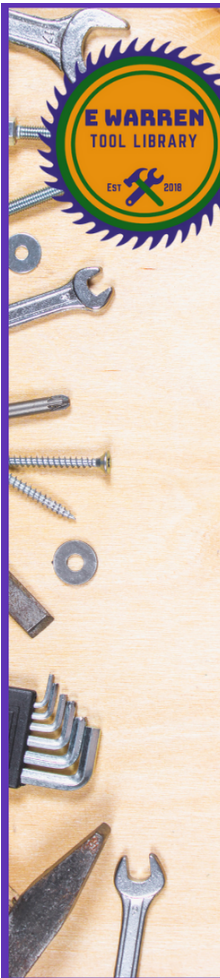
# featherstone garden

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](http://www.featherstonegarden.com)*



**STARTING TUESDAY SEPT. 15TH**

**WE WILL BE LOCATED AT**

**15631 E WARREN, DETROIT, MI 48224**

**TUESDAY 2-7 P.M.**

**WEDNESDAY 2-7 P.M.**

**FRIDAY 12-5 P.M.**

**SATURDAY 9A.M. - 3 P.M.**

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# Morningside's Finest

Windee Brown

To her neighbors on Berkshire, Windee Brown is more than just a neighbor – she’s a blessing to parents who must work outside the home every day. Since the schools reopened a few weeks ago, Windee has been monitoring and mentoring children from several families in her own home as they attend classes virtually. And this isn’t a business for her – it’s a labor of love that she’s providing free of charge.

Windee spent her early childhood in Detroit, then the next two decades or so in Florida, where she worked as a medical assistant and later as a preschool teacher. “I realized that health care just wasn’t for me,” she says. “Teaching is my real passion...It’s so exciting to see a kid’s eyes light up when they really get what you’re teaching them.”

Since she came back to Detroit last year, Windee has contributed to our community. “I’ve always been the one that neighborhood kids like to come to,” she says. Her dream is to start her own preschool someday, and we certainly wish her well. Thank you, Windee, for being one of MorningSide’s finest!



Windee Brown. Image courtesy of Susan Newell



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



@morningsidedet

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Contact The Morningside Community Organization at:

**(313) 355-2468** or via email

[morningsidecommunity2@gmail.com](mailto:morningsidecommunity2@gmail.com)

Also checkout our new website!

[www.morningsidedetroit.org](http://www.morningsidedetroit.org)

P.O, Box 24325, Detroit, MI 48224



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