



# MORNINGSIDER

*The Official Newsletter of MorningSide*



Volunteers from Ilitch Charities assist in sprucing up the grounds at Grassroots Garden. Image courtesy of Jim West

## MorningSide Grassroots Garden Blossoms!

Monique Tate | Contributing Writer

Detroit — From blight to blossoms! I hope you've found or will find the time to visit the Grassroots Garden in MorningSide. You're invited to see and enjoy the improvements thus far and know we're not finished yet!

We had a tremendous, COVID-19 safe, community beautification event with a FREE, organic produce giveaway on September 5th! A beautiful new Garden sign painted by Jessie Devereaux, more produce beds, a more manicured look, beautiful hydrangeas, and an overflowing Little Free Library site are a few of the key 2020 improvements we accomplished through a Wayne Metro Grant, Keep Growing Detroit donation, and an Ilitch Charities Volunteer Team! We have portable benches as well.

Story continued on page 4...

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**Reginae Williams: 2013 - 2020**

Morningside Community Organization



**Reginae Williams. Image courtesy of WJBK Fox 2 Detroit**

Detroit — Our hearts are extremely heavy as our community suffered a tremendous loss in the senseless killing that claimed the innocent life of 7-year-old, Reginae Williams.

Reginae was wounded as she laid sleeping on her mother's shoulder with other family members surrounding her as their home on the 3900 block of Bedford was riddled with bullets on the evening of October 28th at the hands of a drive-by shooter.

Reginae Williams was a straight A-student at Marcus Garvey Academy and attended the Christian Liberty Community Church in the city of Detroit.

As a community, we are all devastated by this loss, as too often unexplainable acts of this nature occur.

You can help the family by donating to a [GoFundMe](#) account to help with Reginae's funeral expenses.

To Reginae's parents, Reginald and Etosha, her siblings, you are in the hearts and prayers of the entire MorningSide community. We are with you through this difficult time.

For anyone who has any information, please do the right thing and call the Detroit police homicide unit at **(313) 596-2260** or call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-SPEAK-UP, where you will remain anonymous.

*Rest in Peace Reginae.*



## Three Mile Munich Park Updates

**Jeffrey D. Lewis II** | The Morningsider

There has been quite a bit of activity taking place at the Three Mile Munich Park recently.

75 Volunteers from automotive supplier, *Cooper Standard* assisted in adding several features that will significantly enhance the park.

Those items includes:

- A variety of bushes (Serviceberry, Golden Glory, Cherry Dogwood, and Mohawk Viburnum)
- Picnic Tables
- Fresh mulch
- Benches
- Alpha Panel (Aluminum) material for the mural



Volunteers from Cooper Standard help install picnic tables at the Three Mile Munich Park. Image courtesy of Jim West

The Alpha Panels for the murals were key items installed during the upgrades. The community will soon announce the selected artist whose artwork will grace our neighborhood park.

One of the more exciting features that is planned for next year will be the installation of a walking trail that will include "hills," yes, you read it correctly, actual hills!

In the meantime, do yourself a favor and take advantage of all the amazing features this beautiful, community gem has to offer!

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*Jeffrey D. Lewis II, 2nd VP of MCO, Urban Planner, Editor in Chief of The Morningsider, Owner of Morningside Cafe.*

## MorningSide is MOE Better

**Eric Dueweke** | Contributing Writer

We MorningSiders know our neighborhood is a special place, and now we have "official" recognition! At the 32nd annual Eastside Extravaganza, held virtually on October 22, MorningSide received the 2020 MOE Better Award as the Most Outstanding Eastside Neighborhood. The Extravaganza is the yearly celebration and fundraising event for the Eastside Community Network (formerly known as Warren-Conner Development Coalition).

Multiple residents nominated MorningSide for this award, which was then voted on via email, social media and by texts and phone calls. This was the second time we received the honor, having previously won in 2013. Last year's winner was East English Village.

For over a decade, ECN has featured the MOE Better Awards as part of the Extravaganza, which supports and spotlights their many efforts which include community organizing, economic development and youth programs. For more info, please check out [www.ecn-detroit.org](http://www.ecn-detroit.org) or call (313) 331-3499.

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*Eric Dueweke, Lecturer in urban and regional planning at the University of Michigan's Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.*

## Where is Our Facebook Page?

### Morningside Community Organization

You may be confused by the fact that if you search "MorningSide" or "MorningSide Detroit" on the Facebook home page, several Facebook pages associated with our community will come up. The official page for MorningSide Community Organization is the one labeled "nonprofit."

## Continued... MorningSide Grassroots Garden Blossoms!

It was the close out of the 2015 MorningSide Board of Directors Term when I decided not to re-run for office, but to continue grassroots work in the community and the Grassroots Garden provided the opportunity in both name and need. During that same year, at a Motor City Makeover (MCM) assignment I spearheaded at the Grassroots Garden, I introduced myself to a new owner who had just purchased the previously more than 15 year abandoned retail space adjacent to the Garden. I was thrilled to hear that both occupancy was coming to this long forgotten and neglected space and that the Fish Market was going to bring a new, and likely well received, business to the neighborhood! I then made a personal commitment to bring the equally abandoned and desolate, former community garden space to an improved state to welcome the new neighbor and customers, and to reflect the MorningSide pride, though waning, I still had faith in displaying.



**The new Grassroots Gardens sign was designed by Morningside resident, Jessie Devereaux. Image courtesy of Jim West**

Taking on this task with neither gardening experience nor resources was driven by a significant leap of faith and strong belief that some other caring residents and neighbors in the community felt the same as I did and would show the true epitome of "grassroots organizing" come to life! This was quickly proven to be true when I reached out to supporters from that very MCM Clean Up Day. I applied for the Seeds & Plants gardening grant and became a member of the Keep Growing Detroit (KGD) Garden Resource Program, which enabled the move towards cleaning up and bringing back the green space.

To me, one of the essentials to grassroots organizing is to always make sure home is taken care of and prioritizing your agenda. It means, gathering and collaborating with other community-centered residents, businesses, schools, churches, etc., to accomplish things for the common good. As mentioned, when presented with the opportunity, the committed quickly responded! Subsequently, the pride and honor of the 2020 Grassroots Garden transformation is shared with a host of friends and neighbors who agree, we want and expect the best for our community!



**Volunteers of Ilitch Charities sorting out fresh produce. Image courtesy of Monique Tate**

The Grassroots Garden was reactivated in 2016 and is being progressively restored to provide FREE organic produce, healthy eating and health education in our community. In addition to the history, I actually want this article to serve as a Declaration of Thanksgiving to the workers! I give my sincerest THANK YOU and most heartfelt appreciation to ALL who contributed to and will continue to support the Grassroots Garden 2016 to 2020 and beyond journey to greatness! The Grassroots Garden transformation is the result of so many dedicated contributors sacrificing and donating extremely valuable time and skills. **In the forefront of this effort and there from the beginning, in 2016, with me is Ms. Dorothy Johnson, contributing in every way; thank you Dorothy! Allyce Haney-Smith joined in Fall 2019 as a graduate of KGD's Urban Roots Program, so she brought a wealth of knowledge and resources, writing grants and planting our first garlic crop, thank you Allyce!**

Continues on page 6...



## DLBA Rolling Out New Program for Prospective Homeowners

Detroit Land Bank Authority

Rehabbed & Ready to Renovate (RRR) is the Detroit Land Bank Authority's latest effort to turn their inventory of vacant houses into occupied homes at affordable prices. This new pilot program has the potential to make homeownership even more accessible than the current Rehabbed & Ready program.

Under Rehabbed & Ready, vacant houses throughout the city are being completely renovated and sold as "move-in ready" at market prices. MorningSide has four houses for sale on Three Mile under this program, which you can check out on the DLBA website, [www.buildingdetroit.org](http://www.buildingdetroit.org).

The Rehabbed & Ready to Renovate pilot program "is designed to give buyers flexibility," according to the DLBA website. "In RRR properties, the Property Rehab team has managed some of the most expensive and challenging components of the work, leaving the final stages to the new owner. This means new owners have flexibility in the customization of their homes – working within their own budget and on their own timeline to finish their renovation.

"The scope of every Rehabbed & Ready to Renovate home is slightly different – buyers should be prepared to complete rehab work before they can move into their new home and may need to factor in the anticipated cost of rehab into their financing decisions."

The improvements you can expect to already be done on an RRR home include things like new or repaired siding, windows, roof, sewer line, brickwork, flatwork, drywall, environmental abatement, foundation repairs, and a new electrical system without fixtures and new interior plumbing without fixtures. For more details about what is and isn't provided, check out their website.

As for financing, purchasers aren't required to use any particular loan product. The RRR program accepts conventional, FHA and VA loans, as well as cash offers. In Detroit these institutions have a track record of financing projects similar to RRR: Detroit Home Mortgage, Quicken Loans, and Liberty Bank.



Before: 5239 Three Mile Drive. Image courtesy of Google



After: 5239 Three Mile Drive, renovation completed. Image courtesy of Detroit Land Bank Authority

## Continued... MorningSide Grassroots Garden Blossoms!

Although the list is long (and please forgive me and charge it to my head and not my heart if anyone is overlooked, I truly appreciate every single contribution) I THANK and acknowledge all of the following dedicated garden partners who offered major and significant contribution along this 4 year journey:

- O'Dell Tate
- Dorothy Johnson
- East English Village Prep Academy (Angela Williams & Latrice Rogers)
- Wayne Metropolitan Agency
- Adam McDonald
- Nature's Alternative Staff
- Sanaa Green
- Siobhan Gregory
- Monique Holiday
- Eddie Lester
- Hope Community Church - Growing Detroit Youth Talent Team
- Pastor Charles Laster II
- Salem Memorial Lutheran Church - Detroit Urban Retreat Center
- Pastor Oliver Washington
- Ulysses Jones
- Curtis Patton
- Bethany Lutheran Church - Vance Thornton
- Raymel Tyler & her AKA Sorority Sisters
- Allyce Haney-Smith
- U Snap Bac (Linda Smith & Jawana Jackson)
- Joshua Arnston
- Motor City Grounds Crew
- Gaston & Charon Nogues
- Jessie Devereaux
- Ilitch Charities



Grassroots Garden prior to the Motor City Makeover. Image courtesy of Monique Tate

As we continue to grow and enhanced this space, I invite you to participate and support the work at the Garden! It's the concept of Give a Little Time, Take/Share A Little Food, and/or Take a Book, Share a Book at the Little Free Library. Assistance of any kind is welcome. For more information, you can reach us at [growingmorningside@gmail.com](mailto:growingmorningside@gmail.com).



Above: Volunteers taking a break after a long day of work at the Grassroots Garden. Image courtesy of Monique Tate

Left: The Little Free Library is one of the new features at the Grassroots Garden. Image courtesy of Monique Tate

*Monique Tate is a Morningside resident, devoted community activist, leader, and consultant, for over 25 years. Monique's passions are dedicated to uplifting the community, strengthening pathways to education in technology, and in community organizing to bring about Digital Justice in Detroit and beyond. She's still new at gardening but loves it!*



## Can You Still Enjoy the Holidays During Covid-19?

**Susan Newell** | The Morningsider

Remember the good old days of last year, when all we had to worry about during the holidays was getting the Thanksgiving turkey just right, finding the perfect affordable presents, and keeping Uncle William and Cousin James from getting into a huge argument over dinner? Now with Covid-19 added to the mix, we have to wonder, Is it even going to be possible to have a happy Thanksgiving or a merry Christmas this year?

I've been thinking about this and doing a lot of research lately as my husband and I make tentative plans to see our family in Denver for Christmas. Each person's situation is unique, depending on their age and health, the circumstances of their loved ones, and their tolerance of risk. Here's what I've found. Perhaps it will help you think through your own choices and plans.

Before a car trip to Denver in July, getting Covid-19 testing for my husband, myself, daughter, and son-in-law helped us all feel much more comfortable together. If we decide to go again for Christmas, we will definitely get tested a few days beforehand and be extra careful to isolate between the time we get tested and the time we leave for Denver.

Story continues on page 9...

## What About Masks?

There are so many types of masks to choose from now, and the most fashionable aren't necessarily the safest. And remember, most masks are designed to protect others from you, not the other way around. Follow the link below for a pretty comprehensive article about face masks – how to choose them, use them, and make them.

It was published in late June, and since then the supply of surgical masks and N-95 masks has increased, so they are more available to the general population. I found some N-95 masks – also called particulate respirators - recently at Lowe's. The N-95 masks without valves are designed to protect the wearer as effectively as they protect others. The ones with valves release the wearer's exhaled air, so they only protect the wearer. You may see lots of KN-95 masks as well. They are similar to N-95 masks that have been certified according to Chinese standards. The N-95 masks, even those made in China, follow US standards, approved by NIOSH (National Institutes for Occupational Safety and Health). Yes, it's confusing, since the distinctions are based on the country certifying the masks, not the country manufacturing them.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/10/well/live/corona-virus-face-masks-guides-protection-personal-protective-equipment.html?smid=em-share>

## MCO & Gleaners Food Distribution



These are just a few of the items you'll find at the MCO + Gleaners food distribution. Image of courtesy of Gleaners Food Bank

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 held on Monday, November 9th.

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 **November 10th 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](http://morningsidedetroit.org) or the Morningside Facebook page the day of the meeting.

### East Warren/Cadieux Neighborhood Framework Plan Virtual Office Hours - Date: TBA, 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=S1kzVzU4RURFb2NBRCJlYkVWVjdz09>

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

Don't forget that **Thursday, November 26th** is Thanksgiving, so the pickup of bulk trash and yard waste normally scheduled for that day will be pushed back to **Friday, November 27th**.

Yard waste pickup usually ends by mid-December, but we don't yet have the exact date. Keep an eye on Nextdoor and our Facebook page for updates.

*Our next three bulk trash pickup dates are November 12th and 27th, and December 10th.*

Please share this information with your neighbors!



Illegal Dumping is one of the many items you can report via the Improve Detroit app. Image courtesy of Jeffrey D. Lewis II



## Continued... Can You Still Enjoy the Holidays During Covid-19?

The State Fairgrounds is no longer a testing site, but the city has moved the facility indoors, to the Joseph Walker Williams Community Center at 8431 Rosa Park Boulevard. You must make an appointment by calling (313) 230-0505. Appointments are available Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM, and they still offer \$2 rides to and from the testing center through IntelliRide. The testing is free, but the downside is that it takes 5-7 business days to get results, which is a very long time, according to public health experts. A lot can change in those 5-7 days. When my husband Jim and I got tested at the State Fairgrounds in April, they said it would take 5-7 days, and in fact it took 9 days.

We decided to look for faster testing before the summer trip to Denver. I did a lot of phone calling and internet-surfing looking for other test sites, only to find out-of-date information on some websites. I finally found testing at Harper Woods Urgent Care across from Eastland, at 19959 Vernier. They do testing in your car from 10 AM to 5 PM Monday through Friday, and estimate a 24-hour turnaround for results at this time. They don't take appointments; it's first-come first-served. We each had a \$45 co-pay with our insurance, but of course the out-of-pocket cost varies with insurance plans.

I also checked out a couple of pharmacies recently for Covid-19 testing. The local CVS phone number and website both sent me down a rabbit hole. I had to fill out an online questionnaire, and although I have several risk factors for Covid-19, the Minute Clinic website, which is affiliated with CVS, said I wasn't eligible for a test.

Rite-Aid's website, on the other hand, was much easier to navigate. Although I did have to fill out a questionnaire there as well, there were no restrictions on testing. I was also able to speak to a human being at the Rite-Aid at Mack and Alter, something I couldn't do with CVS. They offer free drive-through testing, which you can schedule on their website up to three days in advance. You are supposed to get test results by phone or email in 2-5 days. The website even routes you to a short YouTube video that shows you exactly what to expect when you get there.

Considering air travel this holiday season? It may be reassuring to know that most commercial planes use HEPA (High Efficiency Particulate Air) filtration systems, which block and capture 99.97% of airborne particles over 0.3 microns in size. (The coronavirus is 0.1 microns in size, but usually attaches itself to larger respiratory particles). ***But be aware that the HEPA filtration system is only fully operational when the plane is cruising.*** It's not working while you're sitting on the ground waiting for takeoff or waiting to get off the plane. And it won't protect you from the passenger sitting two feet from you who decides to wear his mask on his chin while engaging you in a lively conversation. For detailed and reliable information about air travel safety, check out this article from National Geographic Magazine:

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/2020/08/how-clean-is-the-air-on-your-airplane-coronavirus-cvd/>.

For those of you determined to have Thanksgiving dinner with extended family in person, you might consider doing it outdoors if Mother Nature gives us unseasonably warm weather. Renting a couple of propane patio heaters could make this possible if everyone also layers up – long underwear makes a big difference – and sees it as an adventure. Certainly it would be more memorable than most Thanksgivings! I called several party rental businesses in the eastern Detroit metro area and found only one that rents outdoor patio heaters, for \$89/day, without the propane. That's Party Dreams in Sterling Heights, phone number (248) 688-4640. You've heard it before, but it bears repeating. No indoor gathering with people you don't already live with is completely safe.

Finally, getting a flu shot should prevent you from having to fight off two diseases at once and possibly putting an extra burden on an overloaded health care system.

Good luck – we will get through this together!

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

### 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
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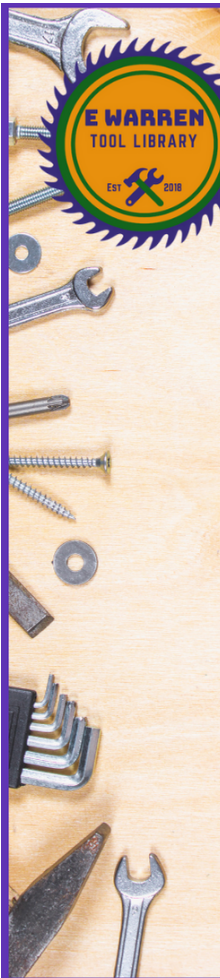
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ORGANIZATION**  
for all you do!

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neighborhood!

*Featherstone Farm Stand is open to neighbors:  
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[www.featherstonegarden.com](http://www.featherstonegarden.com)*



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# MorningSide's Finest

## Kenzie Harris

Maintaining the appearance of your neighborhood is often a tiring and thankless job, but not for 9-year-old Morningsider, Kenzie Harris.

Kenzie, along with her parents took the initiative of cleaning up trash along their block of Audubon and neighboring street of Courville recently. Their efforts led to compiling two large garbage bags as they officially launched the inaugural *Kenzie's Clean Neighborhood Club Walk*.

Led by Kenzie herself, they picked up every piece of trash in sight. "Kenzie really wants to start a neighborhood-based club that is centered around walking and picking up trash along the way," says her dad, Robert Harris.

Wow, talk about staying fit and active all at the same time, very impressive! Anytime our youth are involved in making a difference in our community brings us nothing but joy and happiness. From everyone at The Morningsider and MCO, we are extremely proud of you Kenzie. Congratulations on being the youngest recipient of MorningSide's Finest!



Kenzie Harris. Image courtesy of Robert Harris



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:

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

Also checkout our new website!

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

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