



MORNINGSIDER

The Official Newsletter of MorningSide



Detroit City Council District 4 Candidates Latisha Johnson and M.L. Elrick
Image collage courtesy of Jeffrey D. Lewis II

District 4 Candidates Speak: Police, Recreation, Blight, & Ethics The Morningsider

Detroit — Democracy is a fragile institution requiring our constant protection. The right to vote can be taken away if we don't exercise it regularly. We know that for so many, winning the right to vote took years of struggle and sacrifice. But voting alone isn't enough to keep democracy alive if citizens aren't well informed.

MorningSide Community Organization wants to do its part by using this newsletter to help residents get to know the candidates asking for our votes.

We've asked our District 4 candidates for City Council – Latisha Johnson and ML Elrick – to answer a few questions which we hope will give you some insight into how they see their role as Council members and how they approach complex and controversial issues. Because we were unable to reach all of the at-large candidates by our deadline, we will publish their statements in a separate e-blast.

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(313) 224-3400

Detroit City Clerk

Janice M. Winfrey
(313) 224-4841

District 4 Manager

Rod Liggins
(313) 236-3518

Neighborhood Police Officer

Jasmyn Whatley
(313) 600-5595

RIP to MorningSide Great - O'Dell Tate: 1960-2021

Jeffrey D. Lewis II | The Morningsider



O'Dell Tate. Image courtesy of the Tate Family

Our community suffered the loss one of its biggest advocates in the untimely passing of former Morningside Community Organization (MCO) President, O'Dell Tate last month.

O'Dell was an individual who truly believed in serving his community to the fullest. He served as the Department of Neighborhoods District Manager for the City of Detroit (2014-2018), and he proudly served as the president of our organization from 2010-2015.

In his role as MCO President, he played a pivotal role in securing over a million dollars to help remove blighted properties and repurpose vacant land for green space throughout the continuous communities of Cornerstone, East English Village, and MorningSide.

Below are tributes from several MorningSide residents:

Greetings,

My deepest sympathy for the passing of Mr. Tate. May God Bless his family and friends who mourn his loss.

Sincerely,

Gayle Wooten

Story continued on page 4...

A Message From The President

Eric Dueweke | The Morningsider

Those of us who are longtime Detroiters sometimes express pessimism about the ability of City departments to “get things done.” So, we also need to give credit when our complaints and issues are successfully addressed. Three recent examples of success here in MorningSide demonstrate my point.

On Nottingham Street, neighbors led by AJ White requested the emergency demolition of a fire-damaged house (Time-lapse video of demolition: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RWQzmR_ZUrA). With support from MorningSide leadership and the efforts of our D4 Department of Neighborhoods managers, this ‘crispy critter’ was torn down on September 17, within two months after our original complaint. Several days later another longtime eyesore at 5027 Courville was also demo’d.



The long overdue demolition of 4350 Nottingham St. took place recently. Image courtesy of Nicolas Hall

A longer-term problem has been the terrible condition of many of the sidewalks at our Three Mile-Munich park. Thanks to the untiring work of Susan Newell and the Three Mile Block Club, last week I spotted City engineers from the Department of Public Works marking multiple sidewalk sections for replacement. Hopefully we’ll be seeing brand new sidewalks around the park before the snow flies.

Last month in The Morningsider I wrote about the work of the Nuisance Abatement Program under the Detroit Land Bank Authority. It is my pleasure to report that on October 6, the DLBA filed a nuisance abatement lawsuit against MorningSide’s most negligent slumlord for more than a dozen vacant houses within our boundaries.

Included in the lawsuit filing were nine letters of support from MorningSide residents who live near one of these nuisance properties. Huge props go out to those neighbors who took the time to write up their thoughts to help the City’s case. A second lawsuit is scheduled to be filed this week against the owners of several additional MorningSide vacant properties.



4890 Bedford Rd. is owned by Blake Mikus. He owns several properties throughout MorningSide. Image courtesy of Jeffrey D. Lewis II

In closing, I wish to offer a few thoughts on the untimely passing of former MorningSide President O’Dell Tate. During his years as our President, O’Dell showed great skill at getting City departments to deliver services to the neighborhood. His talents shone even brighter when he became our Department of Neighborhoods Manager for District 4. He never lost faith in the abilities of community and government to work together for neighborhood improvement.

Story continued on page 4...

Continued... A Message From The President

One great memory is the day that O'Dell brought Mayor Mike Duggan to the Spirit of Love church on Mack, where he met with a small group of MorningSiders in what turned out to be his first mayoral campaign appearance in 2013. O'Dell was especially adept at building bridges with religious leaders. His deep faith and respect for everyone almost always resulted in positive outcomes for our community.



Mayor Mike Duggan and former MCO President, O'Dell Tate. Image courtesy of Matthew Franklin

Let us all be inspired by the life and accomplishments of O'Dell and continue to challenge and collaborate with our government officials to seek a brighter future for MorningSide.

Eric Dueweke, MCO President, a 31-year resident of MorningSide and a lifelong Eastsider

Continued... R.I.P. to MorningSide Great - O'Dell Tate: 1960-2021

Odell was our neighbor and my high school friend. I am a cook like Odell was, so I would take my tasty dishes and my famous pound cake down the street for Odell and his family to enjoy. We had many laughs, and share many happy memories. Odell welcomed me and my wife to the neighborhood ,and was instrumental in telling us about the home before we even moved in. He loved his family, and the community. We will miss him blowing his horn when he pulled out of the driveway when we were outdoors. We have all lost a true man of integrity, and a great humanitarian. Rest in peace our friend and neighbor, job well done.

*Fred and Darlene Lucas
Morningside, District 4*

When I started getting involved in Morningside, O'Dell was there to lend his ear and give advice. He would call regularly with suggestions on how to do X-Y-Z, but he never pushed his perspective too hard. The ultimate diplomat, O'Dell seemed to want to unite people over anything else. He was an old-school kind of guy with a formality that brought expectations to the table but also made you feel right at ease. And he had great taste in cars — I loved seeing his black Lincoln Continental in the driveway.

*Nicolas Hall
Audubon Road*

As a community, our prayers are with O'Dell's beloved wife Monique, his children, Angell, Marika, and Everett, and his extended family.

O'Dell will forever be cherished for his contributions to MorningSide. Thank you for being our community champion.

Rest In Peace!

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

New State Budget Strengthens Social Safety Net

Stephanie Chang | Contributing Writer

I was proud to vote “yes” on the state budget last week, which includes critically needed boosts for childcare, higher education, high water infrastructure, assistance with water bills, homeowner assistance, bridge repairs, and much more. I am proud of our work to secure \$250K for outreach regarding discrimination/hate incidents, \$150K for de-escalation training center at WSU, \$2M for the MI Hispanic Collaborative, \$1.5M for home repair programs, a program for young women, and other critical grants.

The budget also includes funding to reduce health disparities, set up the reformed expungement system, provide a \$2/hr wage increase for direct care workers, extend Medicaid coverage for new moms, increase local revenue sharing, pilot a program to help families get their homes repaired/eligible for weatherization programs, increase the fund to compensate our exonerees who were wrongfully imprisoned, set up a teacher recruitment program, and support rapid remediation of environmentally hazardous sites, including those that contain the dangerous chemical PFAS.

Here’s an update on two sets of bills I am co-sponsoring to protect the mentally ill and survivors of domestic violence:

Jail Diversion Grant

Together with Senator Rick Outman and numerous organizations, we introduced bills to support community crisis/co-response systems and jail diversion programs across Michigan.

We know that far too many people with mental illness end up in jail or prison when they should be getting treatment. Imagine having trained mental health professionals come on the scene to respond to mental health/behavioral health crises, in tandem with or in place of law enforcement when appropriate. This is being done in some cities and can make an even bigger difference if we pass these bills and appropriate the funds to make it happen.

Domestic Violence

A bipartisan group of lawmakers introduced bills to prohibit abusers convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence crimes from possessing firearms for eight years. These new bills will bring Michigan law into partial alignment with current federal protections, allowing state and local prosecutors to enforce misdemeanor domestic crime prohibitions. They will also ensure firearms stay out of the hands of convicted domestic abusers. This legislation is a common-sense, bipartisan solution to protecting survivors in our state.

Michigan Redistricting Process

The Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission, created by a citizens’ initiative in 2018 to end gerrymandering in our state, is responsible for drawing new boundaries for state and congressional legislative bodies. The commission will spend the coming days tweaking its collaborative maps and some individual submissions to bring them into compliance with several criteria, including partisan fairness.

Starting Tuesday, Oct. 12, multiple maps will be available for the second round of public hearings. Public hearings will be held at Detroit’s TCF Center on Wednesday, October 20th from 1-3:30 p.m. and from 5-8 p.m. I encourage everyone to take part in this important process which could change the shape of our politics for at least the next decade.



State of Michigan Senator Stephanie Chang. Image courtesy of U of M School of Social Work

Those maps will be published Nov. 14, starting a 45-day clock for public comment. Commissioners are expected to adopt final maps on Dec. 30. For more information on the important redistricting process, see the links below.

- https://www.michigan.gov/documents/micrc/Redistricting_101_720187_7.pdf
- https://www.michigan-mapping.org/?fbclid=IwAR2j_YCEIXVnI9OJtNezCYPWtjs7tzX1Aw_WoQ0LFla_d3l1HEA990-w8cM
- <https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/politics/2021/10/04/michigan-redistricting-commission-mapping-process-public-hearing/5990489001/>

State Senator Stephanie Chang has represented the 1st District in the Michigan Senate since January, 2019. She served in the Michigan House of Representatives from 2015-2019.

Continued... District 4 Candidates Speak: Police, Recreation, Blight, & Ethics

1. *Both of you have deep roots in Detroit and share a love for the city and commitment to its revitalization. What are the most important ways in which you differ from your opponent?*

Latisha: Born and raised in Detroit, I've always believed in our city and have dedicated the last fourteen years working directly within our neighborhoods. Elected to the Executive Board of the East English Village (EEV) neighborhood association in 2007, I spent seven years helping to stabilize and rebuild our far eastside community. Specifically, I held the banks accountable for securing their properties, removing squatters and keeping vandals out, as well as assisting neighbors with foreclosure prevention.



Latisha Johnson. Image courtesy of Latisha Johnson

In 2014, I founded the non-profit, MECCA Development Corporation. With development in Detroit on the rise, it seemed critical to our future that every resident's voice be heard. Working with sustainability in mind, our board engaged neighbors, business owners, and community partners to implement the ideas that grew out of community conversations. We are proud of the programs we have implemented that directly serve our neighbors, including:

- Community Closet - providing no-cost essentials to neighbors in need
- Senior computer skills and exercise classes
- Youth skill-building programs, including home rehab skills

I also uniquely understand firsthand the challenges of balancing our residents' needs with budget and logistical constraints. My tenures as Treasurer for the 5th Precinct Police/Community Relations Council and Detroit Board of Zoning Appeals taught me how important it is to recruit input and involvement from a wide cross-section of citizens, businesses and local officials.

ML: I am the only candidate with a track record of rooting out government corruption. I will continue to use those skills to bring honest change to Detroit politics. Additionally, my more than 20 years experience covering Detroit city hall, as well as my sources and contacts, will allow me to hit the ground running on Day One. I have used that knowledge during this campaign to solve many problems for my neighbors, including getting a derelict home torn down for a woman who had been waiting a decade for someone to remove that blight on her block. I am also a creative problem solver who builds strategic partnerships to get things done -- with or without the help of the city's bureaucracy.

2. *Many Detroiters want a stronger police presence in the neighborhoods and a crackdown on speeders. Others have called for "reimagining public safety" in a way that would redirect funds from the DPD to other social programs, reduce reliance on surveillance technology, increase accountability, etc. How would you address the concerns of both groups?*

Latisha: I believe that we need to both increase the number of police that live & work in our neighborhoods AND redirect some DPD funds to better serve our community. I think police respond differently when they know and understand the culture of the community they are living in.

One place I would look is expanding the current Co-Response Pilot Programs like the 911 Integrated Response & Detroit Homeless Outreach Team, a collaboration between Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network & the DPD. These programs have shown promise in redistributing resources to better address the needs of individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. I also think we can reduce serious injuries caused by police intervention with better training & implementation of non-violent approaches to apprehension & crowd control.

I am against the use of facial recognition technology by our police. Recent studies by [M.I.T.](#) and the [NIST](#) have found that while the current technology works relatively well on white men, the results are less accurate for other demographics.

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Need a Dibble? The Library Has It!

Susan Newell | The Morningsider

The East Warren Tool Library has just about any tool you might ever need – including a dibble. If you don't know what that is, chances are you're not an avid gardener looking for a tool to make holes in the ground for seeds or young plants. It also happens to be tool #2021 in the EWTL's extensive collection, according to staffer and EWTL booster Andrew Iannaccone.

When we first wrote about the EWTL three years ago, they were just getting started under the umbrella of Motor City Grounds Crew, a project of MorningSide board member Aaron Smith. Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic, their inventory has grown from roughly 800 tools to more than 2,000. They've also moved to a larger home on East Warren – between the Craft Café and M&M Pet Supplies – grown their membership to about 400, developed a roster of 35 volunteers, trained DIYers, and are near completion of a broadcast and recording studio.



Andrew Iannaccone is using a tablesaw at the East Warren Tool Library. Image courtesy of Jim West

The tool library concept is simple: for a sliding scale membership fee based on your income, you get access to a wide range of tools – everything you'd need to plant a garden, make a bookshelf, or give your home some serious love. Who wants to buy an expensive tool that you may only need once? Renting tools from a big box store will cost you more, and you won't get the kind of personal attention you can find at the East Warren Tool Library.

Building a broadcast and recording studio on site has been a great opportunity for members to learn new construction skills, says Andrew. Thirty-five people have worked on it so far, and it should be completed soon. "The spirit of all our workshops is that people learn from each other. As a teacher, I emphasize that you can learn more from your teammates than from me because you're meeting each other at a similar skill level and working out problems together." When it's completed, the studio will give members a space to create podcasts and commercials or record music.

Helping residents develop their building skills and confidence is integral to the EWTL's mission. "One member joined two years ago and had a house that needed a lot of work," says Andrew. She used YouTube and we helped her, too, which really built her confidence. She said 'I couldn't have done it by myself.'"

Most tool donations come from people bringing in the tools that belonged to a loved one who's passed away. "It's really neat," he says, "when they bring the tools and go through them and tell the stories of the people. It's sad, but the people are always happy because they know the loved one's tools will live on in the people who use them now." Andrew also says that "the trust between us and our membership is fantastic. Some people worried that our tools would just disappear, but 99.5% of all our tools come back!"

Looking to the future, Andrew says he wants to increase the number of workshops they hold, guided by the needs of the community. He teaches most of the workshops himself, with Joshua Arntson, co-founder and director of the EWTL also filling in.

Story continued on page 12...

Who Will Oversee the Police?

The Morningsider

The Detroit Board of Police Commissioners was established in 1974 as a civilian oversight body for the Detroit Police Department. Seven members are elected from the Districts, and four are appointed by the Mayor. This year District 4 BOPC incumbent Willie Bell faces challenger Scotty Boman. Here they give us a look at their qualifications and their visions for how the Board should function.

Willie Bell:

I am proud to serve as your police commissioner in District 4 for the last eight years. I was elected as chairperson by the Board for four terms. I led the initiative in police reform within the DPD and helped create the motto "Accountability through Civilian Oversight." My passion for effective, community policing and crime prevention has never waned. As an officer, and now commissioner and National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) board member, I have fought to hold law enforcement accountable.

My priority is impacting disciplinary actions. I am advocating that the contract with the police unions address this issue. I will remain vocal in asking the mayor to follow the charter to give the Board final authority in this area. I want the Board to be more involved with recruiting and talking with our local students. We need more officers and should give them better pay and benefits.

I am seeking re-election because of my years of experience, and because I stand on truth and integrity. As a black man who grew up on the eastside of Detroit, 40+ year EEV resident with my family and now grandchildren, I remain committed to public safety and serving the best interest of my community in District 4.

Gleaners / MorningSide Food Distribution

The Gleaners/ Morningside food distributions are held at **The Craft Cafe, 15641 E. Warren Ave.,** at 11:00 a.m. on the second Monday of every month.

The next food distribution will be held on **Monday, November 8th.** For anyone interested in donating or volunteering, please contact Twiana Odom at (313) 808-3493. Text message is preferred.

Distributions are no longer held on the fourth Monday of every month.

Scotty Boman:

I was born and raised in Detroit, and have been a resident of the Morningside Community in District Four for nineteen years.

Police Commissioners are not police officers. They're the civilian oversight of the police department. The Board of Police Commissioners (BOPC) was created in 1974 to give Detroiters an alternative place where they could make complaints, against police officers. An independent investigator is supposed to investigate those complaints, and the BOPC is to hold wrong-doers accountable. Unfortunately, the current board falls short; my opponent obstructs the process.

I will redirect the BOPC to their core mission, and insist on full transparency to prevent any further corruption. I support law enforcement, and I condemn abuse of the trust we place in them. I've assisted police through MEC radio patrol, Angels Night patrols, on the Detroit River Walk.

I was on the Morningside board from 2013 to 2019. I was also Vice President of MEC Patrol for a few years. I chaired the focus group, which offered a plan to improve civilian oversight, for the Charter Commission. I'm a graduate of the DPD Citizen's Academy.

I am currently Chairperson of your Community Advisory Council. Learn more at [DetroitLivesMatter.org](https://detroitlivesmatter.org)



A variety of food perishables. Image courtesy of Gleaners / MorningSide Food Distribution

Continued... District 4 Candidates Speak: Police, Recreation, Blight, & Ethics

I also want to work on a long term solution to the low wages our police earn so our young people are encouraged to serve. Let's also implement more quality job creation programs, which have been proven to decrease crime.

ML: Unlike my opponent, I do not want to de-fund the police. I want more and better police, meaning officers trained to be guardians first, not just warriors, and who are trained on how best to de-escalate situations and interact with us as peace officers. I will also work to require police academy graduates to work for DPD for at least three years. Too many of our academy graduates are lured away by suburban departments before they ever work a day in Detroit. We should not foot the bill to train officers for suburban departments. I will also work to expand job classifications at DPD to include non-traditional roles, such as park rangers, counselors, social workers and others who can provide human services. While I support speed humps, hiring more police will allow us to have traffic enforcement officers and more community-oriented officers. The reason the city has speed humps, Green Light and Shot-Spotter is because we do not have enough police, so city officials have turned to technology. While I respect our police and have the support of the Detroit Police Officers Association and Lieutenants and Sergeants Association, I will never tolerate police who cross the line. My 20-year track record as a government watchdog reporter includes exposing police misconduct.

3. District 4 is the only one without a recreation center. What is your strategy for getting us a recreation center, and in the meantime, creating more recreational opportunities, especially for our young people?

Latisha: While I do support building new centers as a long term solution, I also think there are solutions within our community today. I intend to use my relationships to develop stronger relationships with neighborhood schools, churches & nonprofits to develop better community use policies so that we are better utilizing currently existing facilities.

I also plan to review the DPSCD communities in school policy and work to provide better resident access to public school resources. We also need to negotiate better Community Benefits Agreements between businesses and the city to provide funds for recreation centers. When it comes to budget allocation, one focus will be uplifting after-school and other recreational & educational programs for our youth as well as improved services for our seniors.

ML: I will work with the recreation department to identify a location convenient to every neighborhood in the district for a new recreation center and will include funds in the city's capital improvement budget to build the center. In the meantime, I will continue working with nonprofits like Eagle Sports and the Eastside Youth Sports Foundation to increase recreational opportunities for our young people. I began coaching with Eagle Sports around 2004 and have contributed to the rehabilitation of Balduck and Messmer parks, so I know what a difference local organizations can make. I will also work with the Detroit Public Schools and churches so residents can have access to their gyms, pools and other recreational facilities. As a former coach, chaperone, mentor, field day team leader and school commissioner, I know how important it is to provide activities and positive adult role models for our boys and girls.



M.L. Elrick.
Image
courtesy of
M.L. Elrick

4. The Department of Neighborhoods (DoN) was established to address the day-to-day concerns of residents over quality-of-life issues like blight. Residents also expect their City Council representative to address those same issues. How do you distinguish your role from that of the Manager and Deputy Manager in the Department of Neighborhoods?

Story continued on page 10...

Continued... District 4 Candidates Speak: Police, Recreation, Blight, & Ethics

I also want to work on a long term solution to the low wages our police earn so our young people are encouraged to serve. Let's also implement more quality job creation programs, which have been proven to decrease crime.

Latisha: Thanks for this question as it illuminates the misconception that blight issues are the responsibility of City Council. I see one of my roles is to educate the public as to who does what throughout state and local government, so that residents can hold the right people accountable.

The initial role of the DoN was to address blight. It then expanded to addressing quality of life issues, and is currently focused on helping to eliminate red tape within city government. All of which are the responsibility of the departments that the mayor oversees.

I do consider the DoN to be an extension of my office and will work closely with them to learn about specific problem areas. My role is to utilize the power of my office, as appropriate, to ensure residents' concerns are addressed and to provide the necessary funding so the administration can adequately respond to constituents' needs.

ML: The council member answers to the residents of District 4, while the manager and deputy answer to the mayor. Ideally, the council member and the district staff will have a good working relationship so that they can collaborate on solutions to residents' problems and the district office will be a force multiplier for the council member and staff. But I've already proven during this campaign that I can get things done -- such as demolishing an abandoned building -- using my knowledge of the city's bureaucracy and procedures. I am also aware that in other cities with district representatives -- like Chicago -- the mayor can try to starve independent council members of resources in a bid to control them. I will never be controlled by a mayor. That's why I will continue to be a creative problem solver and build strategic partnerships with nonprofits, churches, foundations, businesses and community organizations to serve the good people of District 4 regardless of whether the district office is effective and cooperative.

5. Council members have a legislative as well as budgetary role to play on City Council. What are some new ordinances that you would propose, if elected?

Latisha: Here are a few of the ordinances I have in mind:

- **Public Safety:** In cases when a citizen dies as a result of police action, the DPD would be required to preserve all evidence related to the incident & work with the Michigan AG to conduct an investigation into the matter.
- **Public Safety:** Suspend the use of facial recognition software within DPD until appropriate studies on the effectiveness can be carried out at the university level. Going forward the BOPC and City Council would approve the use of facial recognition software.
- **Water:** Implementation of a water amnesty program for residential customers.
- **Housing:** Provide Detroit owner occupants an advance two week period to bid on city owned properties before they are released to the public for bid.
- **Property Stewardship:** Institute "Claw back" agreements: A restitution (money or land) would be owed back to the city when a developer doesn't uphold their end of the agreement with regards to upkeep, development, or usage of city-owned properties. Implementation of better oversight and accountability would be included.
- **Ethics:** I support the ordinance proposed by Raquel Castaneda-Lopez that would require annual ethics training for all elected city officials.

ML: I have already proposed a comprehensive ethics ordinance that would require council members and top city officials to submit financial disclosure forms and conflict of interest forms that would be readily available for public inspection. I also called for mandatory ethics training for city officials and vendors, as well as gift and trip reporting requirements.

Story continued on page 11...

Reparations and Psychedelics on the November Ballot

The Morningsider

If you've already received an absentee ballot, you may find two of the three proposals on it just a bit confusing. The first, Proposal R, is pretty straightforward, calling for the City Council to set up a Reparations Task Force "to make recommendations for housing and economic development programs that address historical discrimination against the Black community in Detroit."

Proposal E calls for decriminalizing the possession and personal use of "entheogenic plants," better known as "psychedelics" or "hallucinogenic" drugs such as mescaline and "magic mushroom." Although state law may make the outright legalization of such drugs impossible in Detroit, the proposal calls for enforcement of laws against psychedelic use by adults to be "the city's lowest law-enforcement priority."

Proposal S, on the back side of the ballot, is the most difficult to decipher. Essentially, it's a backstop for the Reparations Task Force, in case Proposal R doesn't pass, or the Reparations Task Force fails to make meaningful progress toward reparations in the eyes of its supporters.

Proposal S would amend the City Charter to allow voters to enact ordinances through ballot initiatives that specify the appropriation of funds to pay for those ordinances. Passing a new ordinance is currently a separate process from finding the money to pay for it. That's the job of City Council when they develop the budget. Proposal S would combine those two functions so that voters could create a program and allocate the funding for it. Although it was created specifically to strengthen the movement for reparations, this proposal would allow for voter-directed funding for other programs as well.

Supporters of Proposal S - like attorney Todd Perkins, founder of The People's Voice - say that it is a move toward direct democracy, allowing voters more control over how the city government spends money. It would not give voters control over all aspects of the city budget, just those funds attached to a particular citizens' initiative. Opponents of Proposal S, including the mayor, say that it would take away the City Council's budgetary responsibility, making the City Council "irrelevant."

Whatever the outcome of the vote on Proposal S, both sides of the debate acknowledge that a court battle over its legality is likely.

Continued... District 4 Candidates Speak: Police, Recreation, Blight, & Ethics

I proposed taking away the free vehicles provided to council members. And I proposed reconstituting the way ethics board members are selected to eliminate the current practice of letting politicians choose cronies to police the politicians who picked them.

I also proposed hiring more city workers to handle towing and ending the corruption-ridden practice of hiring private companies to do the work. Either through ordinance or collaboration with government, businesses, nonprofits, foundations, charities and churches, I have proposed creating a THAW-like non-profit to help pay the water bills for needy Detroiters (The Heat And Warmth fund helps pay heating bills).

I would also support ordinances based on some of the best elements of Proposal P, such as responsible contracting.

And, if it's the best way to get action, I would propose ordinances to enact my proposals to stop flooding and reforming police training and retention.

Continued... Need a Dibble? The Library Has It!

Andrew hopes to give the Tool Library a higher profile in MorningSide by making the entrance more inviting, installing a bigger sign, and creating a play area for kids to build something themselves while their parents are busy picking out tools or taking a workshop. He'd also like to offer supplies and workshops for crafters. Always the visionary, Andrew imagines having a rooftop garden on the library someday. He admits, with a laugh, that Aaron and Joshua sometimes have to remind him of the practical challenges that come with his dreams. Whether they get a rooftop garden or not, you can bet that the East Warren Tool Library will continue to grow its commitment to MorningSide and surrounding communities.



A Dibble at the East Warren Tool Library.
Image courtesy of Susan Newell

The library is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 3-6 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. To find out how you can take advantage of all the EWTL has to offer, call them at (313) 924-5585, or better yet, stop by the library at 15631 E. Warren.

Susan Newell, retired nurse and resident of MorningSide since 1984. Serves as the Associate Editor of The Morningsider

Morningside Bike Ride Showcases Community, Creativity

Nicolas Hall | The Morningsider

Over 20 neighbors came out and participated in our annual community bike ride on Saturday, September 18th.

We met up bright and early, 10:00am, at Three Mile Park. From there, we cruised the neighborhood and zig-zagged our way to various planned stops: Emerald Gardens, Somerset Orchard, Cornwall Corridor, and Featherstone Garden.

Each stop showcased a once-abandoned lot being repurposed into something new. A representative at each stop was available on site to discuss the project and take questions from participants.

We wrapped up the event by noon. It was a lovely morning, showcasing the community and creativity that's happening right here in Morningside!



Participants chat with Gary Gray, owner and caretaker of Emerald Gardens MorningSide. Image courtesy of Nicolas Hall

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

Give A Smile, Get A Smile

Presented by The Morningsider

Myron Banks, resident of Cornerstone Village, celebrated his birthday this year with an act of generosity.

He set up a grill on East Warren and cooked up a bunch of juicy hamburgers to give away free to all comers. Apparently it's become a tradition for Myron.

Last year he gave away free hot dogs, he said. What Myron didn't give away was his age, but along with the hamburgers, he gave away a lot of smiles and got many in return.



Myron Banks cooking up some delicious food. Image Jim West

Bulk Trash Schedule

The Morningsider

As you know, we only get bulk trash and yard waste picked up every two weeks. We rely on every household to help keep our block clean and attractive by only putting bulk trash and yard waste on the curb on the day before those bi-weekly collections.

Here's a schedule of the bulk trash/yard waste pickups for the rest of this year. You might want to post it on your refrigerator so it will always be there when you need to check. You can also get text message reminders of bulk trash pickups by texting your street address to 313-800-7905.

And please don't park near bulk trash piles on Thursdays! The city will pass it by if there's a car or anything else blocking their access.

BULK TRASH & YARD WASTE PICKUPS ONLY ON:

- OCTOBER 14 & 28
- NOVEMBER 11 & 26 (the day after Thanksgiving)
- DECEMBER 9 & 23

Yard waste pickup ends December 9

Thank you for your cooperation!



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

Paid for by: Tim Killeen For Commish, 16260 Lappin, Detroit, MI 48205

Resources & Upcoming Events

Presented by The Morningsider

Participate in a group interview!

COMMUNITIES CONQUERING COVID



COVID-19 has affected Black and Latino communities more than others in America. We would like to hear your thoughts about COVID-19 and ways to decrease the burden of this crisis.

Who can participate in this study?

Volunteers who are:

- 18+ years of age
- African American, Black, Hispanic and/or Latino
- Comfortable speaking English or Spanish
- Living in Genesee, Kent, Washtenaw, or Wayne County

What will you do if you participate in this study?

- Take a short online survey.
- Participate in a 1.5 hour group interview (focus group) by phone or video call.

What will you receive for volunteering?

You will receive a \$50 gift card for your participation.

If you have questions or want to sign up:

Call: 734.647.0699
Or email: c3covid19@med.umich.edu

Get in touch today!

Help us understand how COVID-19 is affecting your community, and what can be done to make things better.

Study title: "The Fierce Urgency of Now": Communities Conquering COVID (C3)



Last updated: 02/24/2021



APPEAL YOUR PROPERTY TAXES FOR FREE!

Call or text: (313)-438-8698 or
Email: Law-PropertyTax@umich.edu

Online Application: <https://app.propertytaxproject.com/detroit>

The City of Detroit illegally inflates the property taxes of most homes worth \$50,000 or less. The University of Michigan Law School can help appeal your property taxes FOR FREE! Contact the Property Tax Appeal Project, file an appeal, and get your property tax bill reduced.

Call or text: (313)-438-8698 or Email: Law-PropertyTax@umich.edu



CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) and our partners have programs to assist you.

WRAP (Water Residential Assistance Program)

You may be eligible for a monthly \$25 bill credit, up to \$700 toward your past-due balance and minor home plumbing repairs of \$1,500 on average. Eligibility is based on income. A four-person household with a combined income less than \$52,400 every year, for example, meets the income qualifications. Call Wayne Metro Community Action Agency at 313-386-9727 to see if you qualify and to apply.

10/30/50 Plan

No income restrictions to apply. Make a deposit of 10%, 30% or 50% of your past due balance. The remaining balance is spread across 6-24 months. Call **313-267-8000**, visit www.detroitmi.gov/paymywaterbill and register your account.

Are you a Veteran?

Through the Soldiers and Sailors Relief and Michigan Veteran Trust Fund, Veterans and their spouses may obtain emergency financial assistance to avoid a water service interruption. They also offer other emergency utility assistance. Call **313-224-5045** for more details.

MDHHS Emergency Services

The Michigan Department of Health & Human Services has emergency financial assistance available for qualifying low-income households. Call **2-1-1** or visit www.mbridges.michigan.gov to learn more.

Other Assistance Partners

Human Utility at www.detroitwaterproject.org

The Heat and Warmth Fund (THAW) water assistance at **800-866-8429** or www.thawfund.org

United Way for Southeastern Michigan at www.unitedwaysem.org or call **2-1-1**

June 2020

WE CAN HELP.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL
313-267-8000
www.detroitmi.gov/DWSD

Resources & Upcoming Events

Presented by The Morningsider

DETROIT LAND BANK AUTHORITY
NEIGHBORHOOD LOTS
 AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE
NOW

APPLY ONLINE



New Neighborhood Lots are now available to eligible homeowners within 500 feet, following our graduation of unsold Side Lots to the Neighborhood Lot program.

Neighborhood Lots are priced at \$250, including graduated Side Lots.



NEIGHBORHOOD LOTS

The Neighborhood Lot webpage is back up and running with more lots for sale than ever before!! To check for lots within 500ft of your home property, visit:

<https://buildingdetroit.org/sidelots/index/neighborhood/>

Please direct inquiries to
 inquire@detroitlandbank.org
 (313) 974-6869



WE'RE HERE FOR YOU EVERYDAY!

HelpKitchen

Brilliant Detroit is partnering with HelpKitchen, a non-profit, to **HELP FAMILIES IN NEED OF A MEAL** get delicious meals from local restaurants **FOR FREE!**

- 1 Text (313) 488-4321 to request a meal. You will be linked to a nearby restaurant and given a choice of dates and times to pick up your meals.
- 2 At the assigned time and date, you go to the restaurant, give them your order number and they will give you your meals to take home free of charge!

Please contact us if you have questions or need further information.

QUESTIONS? CLICK HERE!

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

EASTSIDE COMMUNITY YOGA

Meet the Instructor: Lynette Smith

- Certified Yoga Instructor
- Registered Nurse
- Born and raised on the Eastside of Detroit
- Lynette is a proud veteran of the United States Navy

Join Zoom Meeting
 Meeting ID: 37827611196
 Password: 799999
 One tap mobile
 +14488794925 87827611196# US (New York)
 +1301713892 87827611196# US (Washington DC)

Call by your location:
 +1 646 876 9913 US (New York)
 +1 301 713 8922 US (Washington DC)
 +1 312 528 8799 US (Chicago)
 +1 646 950 8833 US (San Jose)
 +1 202 215 8799 US (Phoenix)
 +1 347 248 7799 US (Houston)
 Meeting ID: 378 276 1196

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87827611196>

JOIN US ON WEDNESDAYS AT 4:00PM
 WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 8th

EASTSIDE COMMUNITY NETWORK

You should always consult your physician or healthcare provider before changing your diet or starting any form of exercise.

Facing Eviction?

3-Part Plan to Help Residents Avoid Eviction

7-Day Notice to Pay

To: _____

Rental Address: _____

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT _____

Your tenancy (if no original agreement)

The Lease Agreement dated _____

The Rental Agreement dated _____

The Residential Lease Agreement dated _____

Other: _____

(the "Lease") for the term of _____

Your rent for the period of _____ you owe _____

Rent paid to _____

Late fee: _____

- Provide legal help in court
- Provide back rent assistance if income was lost or had increased expenses due to COVID
- Provide rapid job placement services

Start the process at:
DetroitEvictionHelp.com
 or call (866) 313 2520

Resources & Upcoming Events

Presented by The Morningsider

CITY OF DETROIT DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOODS

DISTRICT 4 Virtual Meetings

Residents of District 4 can tune in for our virtual meetings.

September 28
October 26
5 p.m.

Join via Conference Call

CONFERENCE CALL NUMBER
(312) 626-6799

MEETING ID #
895-3201-1115

Join via Zoom

MEETING ID #
895-3201-1115

<https://cityofdetroit.zoom.us/j/89532011115>

For more information, contact District Manager **Rod Liggons** at (313) 236-3518 or Deputy District Manager **Dennis Perkins** at (313) 236-3520.



COVID-19 Booster vs. Third Dose Pfizer Booster Shots

- Individuals 65 years and older
- Individuals 18-64 years old whose occupation or medical history puts them at a high risk
- At least six months after second dose
- No booster shots for Moderna or Johnson & Johnson yet

Pfizer/Moderna Third Doses

- Approved for Immunocompromised individuals
- If unsure, consult medical provider
- At least 28 days after second dose
- No Johnson & Johnson yet

Call 313-230-0505 for appointment
Walk-ins welcome

Morning Side's Finest

Gail White & Renee Moore

When the tree in front of Gail White's home on Three Mile died about ten years ago, she and her husband Floyd knew they wanted to do something special with it. Enter "The Chainsaw Man," who carved a regal eagle out of the remaining tree trunk. "The eagle was my husband's idea," says Gail. "There's no special symbolism to it - he just likes eagles." Even after a decade, people will stop to look at it and take pictures, she says.

Gail and Floyd's neighbor, Renee Moore, was inspired by the sculpture and vowed that if her own tree ever died, she would do something similar. When that happened early this year, she commissioned the carving of three bears climbing a tree trunk. "I had three boys, and I always called them 'Bear'," says Renee with a laugh. And as a former kindergarten teacher, the story of the three little bears was one of her favorites, she says.

Renee has also created a lovely memorial garden for her son Donovan (Doc), who died in 2017. It features a mural of her son, with a stage in front of it for entertainment, a border garden of annuals and perennials, and several wrought-iron benches. "One woman who regularly takes walks in the neighborhood asked if she could stop and sit in the garden one day. Of course I said yes."

Thank you, Renee, Gail, and Floyd, for beautifying and inspiring our community!



Gail White. Image courtesy of Floyd White



Renee Moore. Image courtesy of Susan Newell

Advertise in The Morningsider!

For those who want to place ads in our newsletter, please email us at morningsidecommunity2@gmail.com. Below are the rates for advertisements:

6 - Month Run

\$825 Full Page

\$400 Half Page

\$275 Quarter Page



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 website!

www.morningsidedetroit.org

P.O, Box 24325, Detroit, MI 48224



#morningsiderepresent

