



# MORNINGSIDER



*The Official Newsletter of MorningSide*

*Home of the Back to Back Best Eastside Community Organization!*



EEPVA Principal Marty Bulger speaks with a group of student. Image courtesy of Toson Knight

## New Principal at EEV Prep Leads with Love and “LUV”

Susan Newell | The Morningsider

Detroit — Marty Bulger is the kind of principal who would rather greet you with a hug than a handshake. When he meets students in the hallway, he puts their names and grade levels into his phone, all the better to remember them as individuals.

Like so many schools throughout the nation, East English Village Preparatory Academy has seen an uptick in student fights as a result of pandemic stress. EEVPA was cast in a negative light in the local news this fall after an especially disruptive fight broke out in the school lunchroom. But Principal Bulger didn't let the story end there. A follow up on TV a few days later showed all the staff applauding students as they returned to school after a few days' cooling off period. He also organized a pep rally that day, which included showing off his dance moves to a surprised and delighted student body. "We needed to receive them with the knowledge that they hadn't been in school for 16-18 months. They needed to know that we love them."

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## East Warren Farmers' Market Ends 2021 Season With Great Live Music

### The Morningsider



**The East Warren Farmers Market. Image courtesy of Jim West**

The East Warren Farmers' Market will be closing out 2021 in style from 5-8 p.m. this weekend – December 17 and 18.

On Friday night singer and guitarist Dave Hamilton will perform rock, funk, and pop covers as well as original compositions. The Spangler Paxton Group performs on Saturday night, featuring TBone Paxton on trombone and vocals and RJ Spangler on drums, along with some of their musical friends, playing everything from jazz to R&B to swing.

Thanks to the addition of a heated tent and a structure for vendors built by community volunteers, you can stay toasty warm while you shop for jewelry, baked goods, candles, clothing, skin care products, and other gifts. And there's bound to be at least a couple of food trucks ready to serve you when you've worked up an appetite in the frosty air.

Join your neighbors to celebrate this holiday season. We could all use a little more joy!

## MorningSide Thrives With Help From Our Non-Profit Partners

**Eric Dueweke** | The Morningsider

During this holiday season of giving, we who live in MorningSide can truly give thanks for the many nonprofit partners and leaders who provide service in and near our neighborhood. A prime example of working together to help neighbors was the recent Thanksgiving food distribution event on Tuesday, November 23.

As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, Motor City Grounds Crew and Brilliant Detroit led the effort, with support from the MorningSide Board of Directors. All the more impressive is the fact that the magic all came together in four days, kick-started by a last-minute grant to the MC Grounds Crew from the BeyGOOD Foundation. Joshua from the Grounds Crew knew that Rakisha from Brilliant Detroit had lists of families in need, and that the BD house on Balfour would be a great central location for distribution. Rakisha reached out to the MorningSide board for volunteers and some matching funds.



Motor City Grounds Crew Joshua Arnston delivers food to a nearby resident. Image courtesy of Brilliant Detroit and Motor City Grounds Crew

The next day, Christie Laster from Greater Pentecostal Temple church on East Warren at Haverhill donated bags of fresh vegetables left over from their Gleaners Food Bank distribution. (Note: the next Gleaners food giveaway at Pentecostal will be December 27 from Noon-2pm.) On the day of the event, three MC Grounds Crew employees delivered turkeys and “fixins,” along with a few prepared meals, to those who couldn’t get over to the Brilliant house. Along with Rakisha and myself, MCO board members Charon Nogues and Twiana Odom, Windee Brown and other BD employees loaded the cars of grateful MorningSide residents. A hugely successful event all the way around, serving close to 50 families.

Another amazing nonprofit working in our area is Habitat for Humanity Detroit. On December 9, the Mayers family received the keys to their newly-renovated house on Lakepointe. Several neighbors turned out to welcome the family, and I was proud to represent the wider MorningSide community.

In addition to those already mentioned, several other nonprofit organizations located in/near this neighborhood also deserve our thanks and support for their ongoing work. The East Warren Development Corp., Friends of the Alger Theater, U-SNAP-BAC, Arts and Scraps, Detroit Public Library Jefferson Branch, Mack Avenue Business Association, and Bethany Lutheran Church all are assets that make MorningSide a better place to live.

Happy holidays to all!

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





## Continued...New Principal at EEV Prep Leads with Love and “LUV”

Principal Bulger may be new to EEVPA, but he's no stranger to educational challenges. Before starting there in early October, he had been the principal at Legacy Academy, which serves students who've had difficulty succeeding in DPSCD's regular high schools. His emphasis on love and support shouldn't be mistaken for weakness. He's clear that fighting will not be tolerated at school. "Instead of fighting each other, we must fight for each other. If you want to fight, this is not the place for you. Come back when you're ready to learn."

To help foster a calm and supportive environment for learning, Mr. Bulger wants to ensure that the DPSCD officers assigned to help keep order in the school have a good rapport with the students. He plans to bring the officers into classrooms regularly to get to know the students and provide them with information and resources.



**EEVPA Principal  
Marty Bulger**  
Image courtesy of  
Susan Newell

Mr. Bulger's approach to education has been shaped by his own life experiences. He grew up in the North End of Detroit and graduated from Northern High School, where he got "foundational support. Everyone invested in me. I learned how to be a good educator from them." His mother, who worked at Thirkell Elementary-Middle School, also encouraged his education. Although he admits getting into his share of trouble as a kid, he says "my mother taught me how to love."

Love guides Principal Bulger's educational philosophy and shows up as "LUV - Listen, Understand, and Validate." That's the mindset he wants all the staff at EEVPA to adopt in their interactions with the students.

Mr. Bulger's plans for EEVPA are as expansive as his personality. His office is filled with boxes of pink T-shirts, ready for the young women's leadership council to wear. He changed the name from "principal's council" to "leadership council" to emphasize the leading role that students must take. There will be another one set up for the young men in the school.

Mr. Bulger is also committed to developing relationships with community organizations and leaders through "Collaborative Community Conversations." And he very much wants parental engagement, not just involvement. "Involvement means you know a few things about the school, might go to a conference now and then. Engagement means that you're interacting in the day-to-day operations of the school." He's especially interested in engaging fathers through a "Dads on Duty" group modeled after a successful program in Louisiana.

Principal Bulger sums up his approach to his new job in just a few words. "Do what you say you'll do. Be who you say you are. We're not teaching subjects, we're teaching students. This is what education is."

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

## Thanksgiving with the Motor City Grounds Crew and MorningSide Community Board

Rakisha Odom | The Morningsider

We want to give a huge shout out to Josh Arntson and the Motor City Grounds Crew and the MorningSide Community Organization Board, who partnered this Thanksgiving to provide meals to our Brilliant Detroit families in the MorningSide community.



Packaged meals are ready to go. Image courtesy of Motor City Grounds Crew and Brilliant Detroit

Together we were able to feed nearly 50 families in need this Thanksgiving. Volunteers from the board and staff from the Grounds Crew teamed up to pack, distribute and deliver meals to families who did not have transportation and seniors who were unable to get out of their homes or prepare meals.



Bagged Fruits and Vegetables. Image courtesy of Motor City Grounds Crew and Brilliant Detroit

Brilliant Detroit is grateful to have such awesome partners in this work. Both the Motor City Grounds Crew and the Morningside Board have supported the Morningside BD site since the beginning.



Members from Motor City Grounds Crew, Brilliant Detroit, and MCO. Image courtesy of Motor City Grounds Crew and Brilliant Detroit

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*Rakisha Odom, Community Outreach Manager for Brilliant Detroit, at-large member of MCO, advocate for the youth in the city of Detroit.*



## The Morningside Holiday Lights Contest

Briana Mason | Contributing Writer

MCO is organizing a holiday lights contest to inspire more neighbors to decorate their homes and businesses.

Do you know someone on your block or street with fantastic holiday decorations? Nominate them, or yourself, for our Holiday Lights Contest!

We are accepting nominations now through **Saturday, December 25th**.

Nominations should be emailed to [morningsidecommunity2@gmail.com](mailto:morningsidecommunity2@gmail.com).

In order for a nomination to be valid, it must include a photo of the home you want to nominate, along with the home's address.

Let's work together to create a more festive atmosphere in our neighborhood!

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*Briana Mason, At-Large MCO Board Member*



## Learn and Celebrate the History of Kwanzaa

Twiana Odom & Jeffrey D. Lewis II | The Morningsider

As we all take time to enjoy the holiday season with our loved ones, we encourage everyone in our community to learn about the history of Kwanzaa and its seven principles.

Kwanzaa is a weeklong celebration held in the United States that honors African heritage in African-American culture. Kwanzaa is observed from December 26th to January 1st. Below are the seven principles:

- **Umoja: Unity** - To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation, and race.
- **Kujichagulia: Self-Determination** - To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves, and speak for ourselves.
- **Ujima: Collective Work and Responsibility** - To build and maintain our community together and make our brothers' and sisters' problems our problems and solve them together
- **Ujamaa: Cooperative Economics** - To build and maintain our own stores, shops, and other businesses and to profit from them together
- **Nia: Purpose** - To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.
- **Kuumba: Creativity** - To always do as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.
- **Imani: Faith** - To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders, and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.



## Michigan House Passes Legislation to Invest in Infrastructure, Pollution Cleanup

**Joe Tate** | Contributing Writer

Earlier this week, House Democrats delivered the critical votes to pass [House Bills 5602-5604](#), which would create the Strategic Outreach and Attraction Reserve Fund, the Michigan Strategic Site Readiness Program and the Critical Industry Fund. Together, this legislation would attract business development, especially in manufacturing, through investments in infrastructure, renovations to pre-existing buildings and pollution cleanup.

We have recently seen companies with deep roots in Michigan lured to other parts of the globe. We can't let this happen, especially as American auto manufacturers break new ground in the development of electric vehicles, and have to do everything we can to ensure that Michigan once again leads the charge of this auto industry renaissance to both retain the jobs we have and create new ones.

I was proud to vote yes on this legislation to allow Michigan to create incentives for site development to support job creation, make our state more competitive and add critical safeguards to ensure taxpayer dollars are spent wisely.

Make no mistake: Michigan can and must do more to make our state more attractive to businesses, including addressing our aging infrastructure and continuing to make historic investments in education. But, this legislation will put Michigan in a better position to compete for the best jobs of tomorrow.

Remember, my office and I are here to serve you. If you need any assistance or would like to offer your opinion on upcoming legislation, you can reach me and my staff by email at [JoeTate@house.mi.gov](mailto:JoeTate@house.mi.gov) or by calling us at (517) 373-1776.



Michigan State Capital. Image courtesy of Susan J. Demas

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*State Representative Joe Tate, 2nd House District*

## New Deans of Culture Committed to Making a Difference at EEVPA

**Adrian L. Green** | The Morningsider

Mr. Toson Knight and I arrived at East English Village Preparatory Academy as Deans of Culture less than two months ago, but already parents, teachers, counselors, and administrators tell us how much progress has been made in transforming the culture in the wake of the huge brawl that occurred earlier in the school year.

As the only school in the District with four Deans of Culture, it is our hope that our model will be replicated throughout all DPSCD High Schools. Each grade level has its own Dean. I'm in charge of the 9th grade, Mr. Knight is Dean for the 11th grade, and Mr. Lonnell Williams and Mr. Kenneth Williams are assigned to the 10th and 12th Grades, respectively.

Our primary role is to create a culture that's conducive to high academic achievement. Deans of Culture have replaced the old Deans of Students, who were the main disciplinarians. We have continued that function, but we emphasize building relationships with the students. Rather than sit in our offices, we're in the hallways, the lunchroom, the auditorium – wherever the students are. At the request of the Board of Education, security guards in the buildings are no longer armed, and we must use non-violent methods to ensure that students are orderly and safe.

We rely heavily on restorative practice – a philosophy that promotes repairing the damage that was done to a person and a relationship. When there's been a conflict between two students, we bring them together in a "circle" with staff members. These circles allow the offender to come into touch with what he/she did and to work to repair the damage, either through an apology or an act of restitution.

The rule is that only one person speaks at a time, without interruption. Often we use a "talking piece," some object that the speaker holds to remind others not to interrupt. We ask the students "What were you doing? What should you have been doing?" We want to redirect them back to the focus of the school.

If the restorative practice doesn't work, students who continue to get into fights must be removed from the building and participate online. Our goal is to get students back into the classroom, and usually we're successful, but not always.

We have also started "Project Manhood" and "Project Womanhood." The boys and girls in each grade level are assigned different lunch times. While the boys eat, the girls meet with staff in the auditorium to talk for half an hour about whatever issues are on the students' minds. Then the girls eat, and the boys get to meet. Again, we're trying to build relationships.

Another program is Each One Reach Some. Staff members are assigned a certain number of students that meet briefly, individually or in a group just to build some trust and develop a rapport. Ultimately this will result in more confident and focused students.



**EEVPA Dean of Culture Toson Knight. Image courtesy of Toson Knight**

Story continues on page 9...





## Habitat for Humanity is Hiring!

**Britney Johnson** | Contributing Writer

Habitat Detroit is looking to hire a Homeowner Services Coordinator and a Construction Crew Leader through the Americorps Program.

Below is the link for more information and to apply:

<https://www.habitatdetroit.org/about/employment-opportunities/>



Volunteers assisting in building new housing. Image courtesy of Habitat for Humanity

## Let's Talk Trash

**The Morningsider**

We hope you put out your remaining bags of leaves last Thursday. According to GFL Environmental, December 9 was the last day of the year for yard waste collection. If you still have yard waste, you're going to have to store it until spring or use an alternative method to get rid of it. *Do not leave it at the curb for the rest of the winter, as you will be ticketed.*

Other bulk trash pickup continues every two weeks. Our next three collection dates are:

Thursday, December 23

Thursday, January 6

Friday, January 21 (pick up is one day later due to MLK birthday that week)

## Continued... New Deans of Culture Committed to Making a Difference at EEVPA

Under the leadership of Principal Marty Bulger, we are helping to build a student led Leadership Council for each grade level, selecting 20-25 students from each grade who will serve as ambassadors for guests who visit the school and who provide input and recommendations on how we as adults might better serve the student body. We are also collaborating with the National Society of Black Engineers to give our students access to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) professionals and Wayne State University's C-2 Pipeline, an after-school program that focuses on increasing graduation rates, improving academics, and helping to ensure students are ready for college and career.

Dean Knight and I are proud of the work and the progress that we are making with the students at EEVPA. We have some great students who are excited to learn and grow and excel. It's a very rewarding experience and as residents of East English Village and MorningSide respectively we have a personal stake in ensuring that EEVPA is truly "The Pride of the Eastside."

—

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



## Give A Smile, Get A Smile

### The Morningsider

Our thanks to *Elena Fracassa* for sharing this wonderful story of a man whose capacity for love seems boundless. We're waiting for your own funny and/or heart-warming story to share with your neighbors. Just email us a link at [morningsidecommunity2@gmail.com](mailto:morningsidecommunity2@gmail.com).

<https://www.cbsnews.com/video/foster-dad-and-adopted-kids-thankful-to-be-together-for-holidays/>



Lamont Thomas and his children. Image courtesy of CBS News.



### **Tim Killeen**

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

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# MorningSide's Finest

E. Warren Dev. Corp

Small businesses are only as successful as the people who support them.

The team at East Warren Development Corporation has been one of the biggest allies of our local small businesses and throughout the communities of Cornerstone, East English Village, MorningSide.

Led by Executive Director Joe Rashid and Market Manager Brie'Ann Bell, these two have worked tirelessly to give aspiring entrepreneurs the opportunity and place to showcase their craft at the E. Warren Farmers Market over the last several months and most recently with their Holiday Nights series.

Make sure to checkout the vendors and the amazing work Joe and Brie'Ann are doing for our communities!



**Brie'Ann Bell and Joe Rashid. Image courtesy of Joe Rashid**



# Advertise in The Morningsider!

For those who want to place ads in our newsletter, please email us at [morningsidecommunity2@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:morningsidecommunity2@gmail.com)

Also checkout our website!

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

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