

MORNINGSIDER

The Official Newsletter of MorningSide



Houses nominated for the neighborhood holiday lights contest. Photo collage by Nicolas Hall

MorningSide Shines Bright with Holiday Lights Contest

Nicolas Hall | The Morningsider

Late last year the MorningSide board brainstormed what we could do as a community to celebrate the holidays. With COVID canceling our annual holiday party for the 2nd year in a row, we needed something festive but still safe and socially distant.

What did we come up with? A neighborhood holiday lights contest! What better way to get into the spirit of the season, and inspire more neighbors to decorate their homes than having some competitive fun with prizes and bragging rights on the line.

We got the word out, and the nominations came rushing in — over 30, with many houses receiving multiple nominations. Five MCO board members presided as judges, weighing criteria like design, creativity, location, and number of nominations received.

(drumroll please) And the winners of the MorningSide Holiday Contest are —

Story continued on Page 2...

Other Stories inside this Issue

- MCO President's Desk - 3
- Local Musician Al Coker - 4
- Why is this Mess Here? - 5
- Let's Talk Trash! - 5
- Voter Suppression - 6
- \$75 Mill for Jobs/Training - 7
- Give a Smile, Get a Smile - 8
- Seniors, Get in Shape - 8
- Resources - 9
- MorningSide's Finest - 10
- Advertising Inquiries - 11



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(313) 224-3400

Detroit City Clerk

Janice M. Winfrey
(313) 224-4841

City Council - Elect (District 4)

Latisha Johnson

District 4 Manager

Rod Liggins
(313) 236-3518

Neighborhood Police Officer

Jasmyn Whatley
(313) 600-5595

Continued... MorningSide Shines Bright with Holiday Lights Contest



To the left, 3rd place 5960 Audubon. To the right, runners-up 12120 E Outer Drive. Both houses received multiple nominations.

3rd Place

Coming in third, we have 5960 Audubon, a fantastic, well-lit house on the north end — classy decor and a great touch with the addition of a personalized sign, “Happy Holidays from The Slade Family”.

2nd Place

In 2nd place, we have 12120 E Outer Drive. This house — with great visibility to cars passing by on Outer Drive — featured fantastic, colorful lights on not only the house itself but the entire lot next door. A head-turner!

1st Place

First place of our Holiday Lights Contest goes to 5818 Beaconsfield! [Video of the house was posted online](#) — the lights and decorations were synchronized with holiday music — and it got a lot of attention and positive feedback.



President Eric Dueweke gives 1st place winner Nicole Bryant a certificate and prize. To the right, her home lit up at night, 5818 Beaconsfield.

Thanks to everyone who sent in a nomination and everyone who participated in the contest. Let’s do it again in 2022.

A Word from the President's Desk: Progress Made in 2021, Challenges Remain

Eric Dueweke | The Morningsider

Most of us would agree that 2021 was a year like no other, and like the City of Detroit motto says, “Speramus Meliora”—we hope for better things—in the New Year. Yet despite the many challenges brought on by the pandemic, several positive changes were experienced in our MorningSide neighborhood during the past year.

After years of citywide complaints regarding speeding on residential streets, 2021 brought speed humps to almost every street in MorningSide. In my opinion, they have indeed resulted in slower driving. Several streets, even including some cross-streets, were paved last year for the first time in the 30 years I’ve lived here. DTE replaced many of our natural gas meters in 2021, which required replacing sidewalks in front of hundreds of houses. Tree trimming and new wooden light poles on many blocks provided additional upgrades to our community infrastructure. While many of these changes were long overdue, the result is a safer and better-looking environment.

New housing investment is also happening big-time. Large dumpsters indicating major rehabs of vacant houses are evident on almost every block. Sale prices for many rehabbed homes are often in the \$150,000+ range. The City of Detroit demolished at least four unsavable structures, with a few more on the schedule. And major improvements to East Warren are planned for this summer.

Although the above changes bring reasons for hope, many quality-of-life issues remain to be tackled in 2022. By my estimate, we still have over 300 vacant houses in the neighborhood. Almost all of them are owned by non-Detroit investors. The City’s Nuisance Abatement program cited over 40 of these in 2021, but other actions can be taken by organized neighborhood groups such as ours. Also, the Land Bank owns over 300 lots that are available to block clubs and neighbors who show plans for improvement.

My personal priorities for MorningSide in 2022 include advocating for:

- removal of non-running, unlicensed cars — especially on side streets and empty lots
- ticketing of cars parked on front lawns
- code enforcement on landlords of substandard and vacant houses

What are YOUR priorities for action in MorningSide during 2022? The MorningSide board wants to hear any and all realistic ideas for neighborhood improvement. Hit us up at morningsidecommunity2@gmail.com, or email me directly at ericduew@gmail.com.

Wishing you a healthy and happy 2022. Speramus meliora!



Al Coker Shares a Wealth of Experience in Music - and Life

Charon Nogues | The Morningsider

My job doing door-to-door canvassing this summer for the East Warren/ Cadieux Plan had some unexpected perks. I got to meet residents with great stories, including musician-poet Al Coker, who lives on Chatsworth near Outer Drive.

Like almost every other resident I surveyed in MorningSide, EEV, and Cornerstone, Al was concerned about the lack of a recreation center and after-school programs. He echoed others' concerns that our youth "have nothing to do but find trouble."

Al explained that he wanted to tackle this issue with tools for self-expression such as jazz and poetry. "It's about honesty" he said, "speaking truth about real life in a positive way, without all the bragger b-s, misogyny and swearing."

Al brings a lifetime of experience — 72 years and counting — to creative self-expression. He grew up in the Parkside Projects in the 1950s and '60s, getting involved in music - playing keyboards & singing - with like-minded kids when he was 15.

He went on to make a career in music with funk/soul musical groups like the Gaslight, making hits like "Carried Away", "Just Because of You", and "It's just like Magic." Al also performed with The Amores and The Young Sirs.

Al has played all the big venues locally, including the Fox Theater, and performed all over the world. He's recorded backgrounds for the Temptations and hobnobbed with notable acts such as the Mary Jane Girls.



Musician Al Coker. Image courtesy of Jeffrey D. Lewis II

Al said that "A lot of people in the neighborhood are afraid of the younger people, but they are only afraid because they don't want to change. Times have changed and you have to change along with them. Kids need guidance; instead of running away from them, you should be running towards them to teach them something."

I've already started helping Al connect with some of the people involved in youth mentoring through programs like Caught Up, or EEV Prep. It would be awesome for Al to return to his alma mater using his talents and experience to inspire a new generation!



Tim Killeen

Wayne County Commissioner – District 1

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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

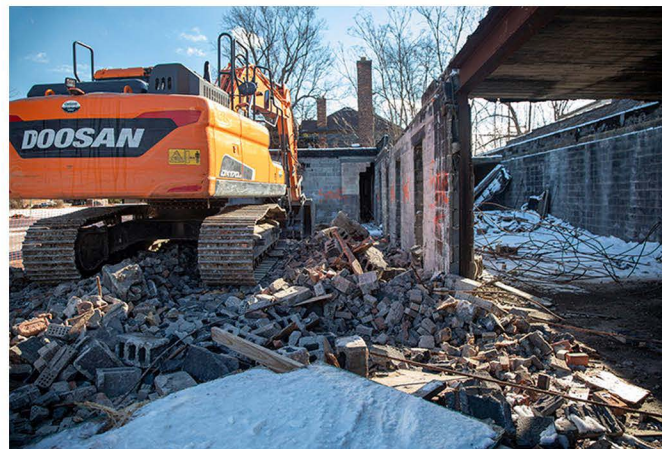
Why Is This Mess Still Here?

Susan Newell | The Morningsider

The building at the corner of E. Warren and Bedford (16134 E. Warren), has been in a state of collapse for many months. A few MorningSide residents are doing our best to try to get rid of this blighted property, which stands near the western end of the E. Warren Streetscape, scheduled to begin construction this spring. On December 3, we filed a request for emergency demolition through the Demolition Department’s website, but got no response.

With help from our newly-elected Council representative, Latisha Johnson, and Allen Penniman, East Region Director for the City’s Planning and Development Department, we got the attention of Buildings, Safety Engineering, and Environmental Department (BSEED). They sent an inspector out to the building on 12/21/21.

On December 23, the owner of the building, Sarmed Ridha, an investor who lives in Ypsilanti, pulled a permit for “Alterations” to the building. On New Year’s Eve, the contractor working for Mr. Ridha demolished the front half of the building, leaving his debris in dumpsters at the site as of January 9. According to the contractor, the owner’s intention is only for a partial demolition of the building.



Blighted E. Warren property owned by Sarmed Ridha. image courtesy of Jim West

When we called Mr. Ridha to find out what his plans are for this site, he had only one thing to say before hanging up: “I don’t give you authorization to write about this building. Don’t do it.”

What, exactly, does a permit for “Alterations” mean when a building no longer appears suitable for rehab? Why would anyone choose to demolish only half a building? The Morningsider will follow up with updates on our continuing efforts to get answers and get the site cleared.

Let’s Talk Trash!

The Morningsider



Here are your next three dates for bulk trash, recycling, and yard waste. Don’t forget that yard waste pickups ended in December and won’t start again until April.

- Friday, January 21 — delayed one day due to MLK’s Birthday
- Thursday, February 3
- Thursday, February 17

Voter Suppression, Crisis Intervention, and More

Stephanie Chang | Contributing Writer

Secure MI Vote Petition

Decline to sign! Many of you are aware of the Secure MI Vote Petition initiative circulating across the state. This is an effort to enact stricter voter ID laws that would make it harder for our seniors, disabled persons, students, low-income people, and naturalized citizens to vote. We should instead be focused on guaranteeing equitable access to the polls. When people in one community have to wait four hours to vote, and people in another can walk in and out in 10 minutes, that is not equitable access. We should be fixing this, not making it worse. If you see someone circulating one of these petitions, always ask to read the language before signing. It is unfortunately not illegal for a petition circulator to provide inaccurate or misleading information in their attempts to gain signatures. Please be assured that I will continue to fight back against efforts to restrict the freedom to vote in Michigan. I've said it before and I'll say it again: our elections are secure. We must uphold our democracy.

Community Crisis Response Bills Signed into Law

I was pleased to join my colleague, Sen. Rick Outman, to pass Senate Bills 637 and 638 to create a community crisis response fund and behavioral health jail diversion fund, respectively. Both bills passed the Senate and House and were signed by Governor Whitmer during the holidays. When these bills go into effect, it will make a big difference for vulnerable residents and public safety in our state. Our bills will change the way we respond to behavioral health emergencies in Michigan by ensuring people facing mental health crises get the help they need and are directed to services rather than unnecessarily spending time in jail. We know this legislation will improve public safety by helping people in crisis more effectively and with the ultimate goal of saving lives.

Wayne County COVID-19 Vaccines, Boosters, and Flu Shots:

Appointments for Wayne County residents 1-866-610-3885 between 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM or text "WAYNE VAX" to 48355 to make an appointment. A parent or guardian must accompany the child (18 and under) to the vaccine clinic. The parent or guardian must sign a consent form for the child to receive the vaccine. Vaccines are provided at no cost to residents. Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson (J&J) COVID-19 vaccines, and flu shots are available at all Wayne County Public Health locations.

<https://www.waynecounty.com/covid19/vaccination.aspx>

Warming Centers

As the weather gets colder, the City of Detroit would like to remind residents of warming centers in operation during the day. Below are 3 warming centers that are open in Senate District 1. Those seeking shelter or warming center placements should call the Coordinated Assessment Model (CAM) to explore available shelter options. Due to COVID-19, the CAM access points have moved from in-person to a call line. Please contact CAM at (313) 305-0311 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Wednesday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. CAM staff will explore alternatives to shelters or make a shelter placement referral. Both Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries warming centers will be open during CAM business hours and on holidays.

<https://detroitmi.gov/departments/homeland-security-emergency-management-detroit/shelters-warming-and-cooling-centers/warming-centers>

\$75 Million Skills for Life Provides Detroiters With Diploma, Training, As Well As Jobs

Annalise Frank | Crain's Detroit Business

A new job training program in Detroit is being funded with \$75 million in federal COVID-19 recovery aid. Skills for Life, using part of the \$826.7 million the city got through the American Rescue Plan Act, is slated to pay around 2,200 Detroit residents for three days a week of work and two days of education or training, according to a news release and the city's website.

Participants can get a high school diploma, GED or skilled trades training certificate for future work, like a commercial driver's license. The city's Detroit at Work employment program will help trainees with child care and transportation, as well as Skills for Life graduates to get them jobs paying at least \$15 per hour, a listing describing the program says.

Wages for the three-year Skills for Life program are \$15 an hour, according to a July presentation on ARPA funding. The timeline will depend on what education or training they're getting.

Work will include cleaning up 7,000 commercial properties, painting 1,500 properties, trimming 5,000 trees and cleaning up parks and erasing graffiti, the Wednesday news release said. The majority of employment will be in the General Services Department. The federal funding pays for various equipment, not just wages.

The program is [taking applications](#) now, while a pilot version started earlier this year.

Skills for Life is aimed at bringing more Detroiters into the workforce through removing barriers like lack of a diploma and training.

"There is so much more we could do together if this works. There is so much funding and so many opportunities in the city of Detroit, from fixing houses in our home repair program ... through the infrastructure upgrades ... there is lots of opportunity and Detroit, you have the talent," Nicole Sherard-Freeman, Detroit's group executive for jobs, economy and Detroit at Work, said Wednesday at a news conference announcing Skills for Life at the Detroit Training Center trade school near Grand River Avenue and I-94.



Nicole Sherard-Freeman, Group Executive of Jobs, Economy & Detroit At Work

Creating wealth in Detroit and improving the number of not just jobs but accessible, middle-wage jobs is a problem many say Mayor Mike Duggan needs to look at more deeply in his third term. The number of low-paying jobs in the city is set to grow much more quickly than other types of work.

This is the second program Duggan's administration has launched with American Rescue Plan Act funds, after the \$30 million senior home repair initiative, Renew Detroit. Detroit City Council approved Duggan's priorities for the money in June. Around half is budgeted to fill budget holes created by the pandemic.

The city spent nearly \$14 million of its ARPA dollars as of Sept. 30, according to a Legislative Policy Division report. It's gone toward maintaining city services, replacing lost revenue and improving IT and cybersecurity, the report says.

Duggan also hopes to get \$1.5 billion more in stimulus funds from the state for more workforce training, as well as improving the city's transportation infrastructure, public spaces, aging rental housing and availability of land for new industrial redevelopment.

Give A Smile, Get A Smile

The Morningsider

We're bombarded every day with news about how divided our country is, so it's good to be reminded that when people just relate to each other as individuals and not as labels, there can be a warm connection.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/2021/12/23/ups-baby-gift-dallen-harrell/>



Get in Shape from the Comfort of your Chair

Brilliant Detroit

It's difficult not to become a couch potato when the winter sets in, so Brilliant Detroit is offering a Zoom class specially designed for our seniors or anyone else with mobility challenges.

The Low Impact Chair Aerobics is a class taught by a retired, licensed physical therapist who previously worked at the Detroit Medical Center, with both inpatient and outpatient experience. The class is a low-impact program designed for seniors or others who would benefit from low-impact exercises, to promote joint and muscle integrity, and to be performed in practical places, while employing everyday tools. The program is an 8-week course that will cover a different theme each week.

Week 1: Deep Breathing Exercises to promote good lung and circulation health

Week 2: Hand exercises to promote finger flexibility and reduce symptoms of carpal tunnel stress

Week 3: Instruction in arm exercises that work against gravity with the implementation of mild resistance

Week 4: Instruction in leg exercises, sitting & standing, with the use of a chair for stability

Week 5: Instruction in good body mechanics with sitting, standing, and lifting

Week 6: Instruction in good sleeping posture

Week 7: My aching neck and my aching back - simple treatments and quick remedies for back neck pain

Week 8: How low can you go - focus on bracing and stability when reaching the floor

Week 9: I've Fallen and I can't get up - instruction on technique to get off the floor if you have a fall

If you're interested in participating, call 313-528-7217 or email Windee Brown, wbrown@brilliantdetroit.org, or Kahtara Richardsen at KRichardsen@brilliantdetroit.org.

Resources & Upcoming Events

CITY OF DETROIT

Notice of Public Outreach

You are invited to give input on the following proposal:

PROPOSAL

The Mayor's Recommended Budget for FY2022-2023

OUTREACH DETAILS

FY2022-2023 Budget Priorities Virtual Forums will occur for each City Council District. Join your District meeting via Zoom:


District 5 - Jan 18, 2022- 5:30pm - <https://cityofdetroit.zoom.us/j/87898914341>
 District 6 - Jan 20, 2022- 5:00pm - <https://cityofdetroit.zoom.us/j/3631409738>
 District 3 - Jan 25, 2022- 5:00pm - <https://cityofdetroit.zoom.us/j/93947894155>
 District 4 - Jan 25, 2022- 5:00pm - <https://cityofdetroit.zoom.us/j/89532011115>
 District 1 - Jan 27, 2022- 5:30pm - <https://cityofdetroit.zoom.us/j/92945572636>
 District 7 - Jan 26, 2022- 5:00pm - <https://cityofdetroit.zoom.us/j/85682928727>
 District 2 - Feb 08, 2022- 6:00pm - Zoom Meeting ID: 99861905552 pass: 222222

ADMINISTRATIVE SUMMARY

The Budget Office within the City of Detroit Office of the Chief Financial Officer is preparing the Mayor's Recommended Annual Budget for programs, services and activities of the City of Detroit in fiscal year July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. The Recommended Annual Budget will be presented with the Four-Year Financial Plan to the Detroit City Council on March 7, 2022, for their review and adoption. The Mayor's Recommended Annual Budget is an estimated \$2 billion proposal, including an estimated \$1 billion of general fund activities.

ONLINE FEEDBACK

The OCFO-Office of Budget will receive feedback, comments and documents through the inbox: yourbudget@detroitmi.gov

 With advance notice of seven calendar days, the City of Detroit will provide interpreter services at public meetings, including language translation and reasonable ADA accommodations. Please contact the Civil Rights, Inclusion and Opportunity Department at (313) 224-4956, through the TTY number 711, or email criso@detroitmi.gov to schedule these services.



DETROIT PARKS & RECREATION DIVISION

INVITES YOU TO SHARE YOUR
THOUGHTS ABOUT COMING
IMPROVEMENTS TO
BALDUCK PARK

A Strategic Neighborhood Fund Project: Click Here to Review the East Warren Cadiieux Neighborhood Framework Plan

WHEN: Tuesday, Feb 1, 2022 6:30-8:00 PM

HOW:

Zoom Link: <https://cityofdetroit.zoom.us/j/84616652886>

Zoom Call In Number: +1 267 831 0333

Meeting ID (enter when prompted): 846 1665 2886

 SCAN ME

Can't make the meeting? Send feedback to:
Shamori Whitt, Parks Planner- Shamori.Whitt@detroitmi.gov




The Detroit Public Library is partnering with Wayne State University to provide health and vaccine services. No appointment is necessary and no ID or insurance will be required.

They will be offering free COVID-19 testing (for those 3+ years old) and COVID-19 vaccinations (for those 12+ years old). Those who stop by can receive free health screenings for diabetes, cholesterol, kidney function and blood pressure.

Jefferson Branch Library: 12350 E. Outer Dr.

Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022: 11am - 4pm

Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022: 11am - 4 pm
(return date for 2nd dose)

MorningSide's Finest

Tito Burleigh



Every day we hear about young people getting into trouble, but not so much about teens who excel. Tito Burleigh, an 11th grader and MorningSider at East English Village Preparatory Academy, is exceptional in his ability to stay focused on his education despite the challenges and distractions that Covid has created for our youth.

Tito was recommended for MorningSide's Finest by Toson Knight, EEVPA's Dean of Culture for the 11th grade. In addition to maintaining a 3.8 GPA, Tito works part-time at McDonald's and participates in Caught Up, Mr. Knight's mentoring program for young men. He even finds time for "a little bit of basketball."

Tito says he's thinking of pursuing a career in real estate or perhaps culinary arts, since he enjoys cooking for his dad, brother and sister, who share a home on Devonshire. Tito is one of ten siblings.

He says the memory of his mother, who passed away when he was twelve years old, provides much of his motivation to do well in school. "My mom wanted me to graduate." We're confident that Tito, if he maintains these goals and stays focused, will succeed in whatever field he chooses.

Advertise in The Morningsider!

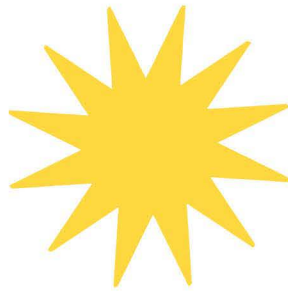
For those who want to place ads in our newsletter, please email us at morningsidecommunity2@gmail.com. Below are the rates for advertisements:

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

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