



# MORNINGSIDER

*The Official Newsletter of MorningSide*



A fire damages several East Warren businesses, Stiletto Shoetique Stealer, Flamz Pizzeria, and Morningside Cafe

## Cafe Devastated by Fire from Neighboring Business, Owner Vows to Rebuild

[Nicolas Hall](#) | The Morningsider

Detroit — Morningside Cafe is a labor of love for owner Jeff Lewis. He's spent the last 4 years working hard to make it a reality. It's been a slow process, no doubt, but it's been steady progress.

What started as an idea, and then a series of neighborhood pop-ups, turned into a physical location at 16369 East Warren (between Courville and Audubon).

As a neighbor down the street, it's been exciting to see the project come to life firsthand. First, the business plan and interior renderings. Then the logo and website. At some point, the windows received vinyl signage to hype the opening. And of course the installation of the outdoor sign!

Story continued on page 4...

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**(313) 224-3400**

**Detroit City Clerk**

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**(313) 224-4841**

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**(313) 224-4841**

**District 4 Manager**

*Rod Liggons*  
**(313) 236-3518**

**Neighborhood Police Officer**

*Jasmyn Whatley*  
**(313) 600-5595**

**MorningSide Celebrates Black History Month**

**The Morningsider**



**Ford Freedom Rotunda at The Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. Image courtesy of Visit Detroit**

East Warren Development Corporation (EWDC) is rolling out its first initiative for Black History Month with a fun and engaging Scavenger Hunt for the E. Warren community. Just visit any of the following businesses this month and scan their QR code with your phone camera to get a fun fact about Black history and a chance to win a \$50 gift card.

Participating businesses are all located on East Warren and include:

- Early Learning Prep/Kiddos Village Academy – just west of Cadieux
- East Warren Tool Library – between Balfour and Somerset
- Zab Cultural Collective - between Grayton and Harvard
- Chelsea Jane Apothecary – E. Warren at Kensington
- The J Spot Bar – E. Warren at Bedford
- The Craft Café – E. Warren at Balfour
- M & M Pet Supply – between Balfour and Somerset
- E. Warren Development Corporation – between Bishop and Grayton
- The Detroit Pepper Company – just east of Cadieux
- Alger Theater – E. Warren at Outer Dr.

**Other Ways to Celebrate Black History Month Around Town**

Every month is Black History Month at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. See what special plans they have for February.

<https://www.thewright.org/programs>

Story continues on page 3...

## President's Column - Volunteers Needed for a Successful Summer

**Eric Dueweke** | The Morningsider

Our MorningSide Community Organization's board of directors has been hard at work over the past few weeks brainstorming a set of proposed activities for the year 2022. We'll discuss some of these ideas at the February 8 membership meeting. Needless to say, the success of any neighborhood project or event is dependent on support and participation from community residents.

The ambitious line-up being discussed for the warm-weather months starting in April falls into three buckets or categories that will each be led by a board committee:

- Outreach
- Neighborhood Improvement
- Events

Examples of community activities under consideration include:

- MorningSide unity walk
- a "Good Neighbors" guide
- monthly bike rides
- blight clean-ups
- tree plantings
- t-shirt sale w/MorningSide logo
- block club canvassing
- new MorningSide entry signs
- holiday lights contest
- vacant house inventory
- fun events like movie night, skating party, bowling, etc.

Coming soon, the board will publish a schedule showing planned activities for each month from April to September.

Which one of these ideas are YOU excited about? We need folks willing to volunteer, both as participants and helping to organize. Starting in February, every monthly meeting will include a call for volunteers needed for upcoming projects and events. No need to wait though—if you can help out with planning one or more of these events, please email your interests and contact info anytime to [morningsidecommunity2@gmail.com](mailto:morningsidecommunity2@gmail.com). Each of our three committees is seeking multiple volunteers.

And if you've got a great proposal for a MorningSide event, let us know. Please only send ideas that you are willing to help organize!

Yes, we're thinking big and unforeseen circumstances (Omicron begone!) may alter our plans. But with enough people power, the sky is the limit.

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

### Continued... MorningSide Celebrates Black History Month

Month of Melanin – a whole month of family-oriented events downtown:

<https://happeningnext.com/event/come-out-andamp-enjoy-andquotmonth-of-melaninandquot-celebrating-black-history-month-eid4snudvrfj1>

This would also be a good time to visit the DIA's permanent collection of works by African American artists. Here are other offerings for Black History Month at the DIA.

<https://www.dia.org/blackhistorymonth>

Story continues on page 6...

## Continued... Cafe Devastated by Fire from Neighboring Business, Owner Vows to Rebuild

Jeff is methodical about the details and has invested everything he has into the business.

He was right at the finish line. And then tragedy struck.

On Tuesday, January 4th, a neighboring business, Stiletto Shoetique, caught on fire. Jeff was inside the cafe with his contractor when it happened. He called 911. The fire department responded quickly and did everything they could do. But it was too late. The electrical. The drywall. The HVAC system. The espresso machine, the coffee brewer. The furniture that had just been delivered the day before (no joke). All of it was severely damaged by fire, smoke, and water.

It's a tremendous gut-punch. It's heart-breaking. And yet, Jeff vows to rebuild.

I asked him, given the setback, what makes him want to continue? What makes him push forward with the rebuild?



The fire severely damaged the customized mural. Image courtesy of Jeffrey D. Lewis II

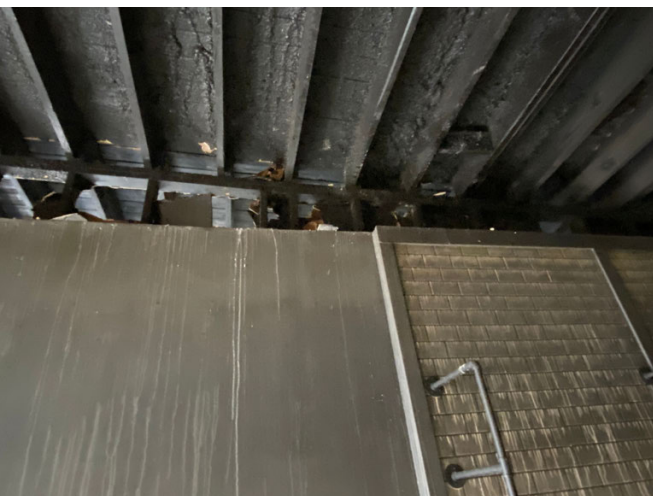


One of the restrooms inside of Morningside Cafe. Image courtesy of Jeffrey D. Lewis II

"Walk away? It's just something I can't do. This is home."

Jeff is committed to this community. He is committed to Morningside Cafe. No matter what happens.

[Please consider donating to his efforts to rebuild.](#)



The aftermath of the January 4th fire. Image courtesy of Jeffrey D. Lewis II

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

## District 4 Has a New Community Advisory Council

**Adrian L. Green** | *The Morningsider*

With the election of new Detroit City Council Member Latisha Johnson in November 2021, also came a new elected District 4 Community Advisory Council. The Community Advisory Council (CAC) is established according to Article 9 Chapter 1 of the Detroit City Charter. District 4 is the second district to establish a CAC. The other is in District 7. The newly elected members of the District 4 Community Advisory Council, in addition to myself, are Dennis Bryant, Rose Jones, and Jocelyn Harris.

The primary duties and responsibilities of the District 4 Community Advisory Council are to communicate to City Council the concerns of groups, agencies, businesses, and residents within the District with respect to the delivery of programs and services. The CAC will also assist groups, agencies, businesses, and residents in community problem solving by meeting to clarify issues and demonstrate proper procedural approaches to accessing city government. We will also disseminate information to groups, agencies, businesses, and residents on social and physical plans for the District.

The CAC will provide advice to community representatives and to the Council Member Johnson on major issues within the district which may include housing development, commercial blight, safety and security, economic and community development, employment opportunities, code enforcement, and other concerns impacting social, economic, cultural, and environmental conditions within the District.

As members of the District 4 CAC, we should be familiar with the City Charter with the objective of assisting the community in understanding the intent and relevance of Charter provisions. We should also be familiar with the Master Plan for the City of Detroit in relationship to the City generally and land area within District 4.

The District 4 CAC will also meet annually with the Mayor and City Council to discuss the challenges confronting the district and the resources required to advance the interest and support the viability of the district.

A community council may require that the City Council representative receive prior consultation from the Community Advisory Council on all issues which relate exclusively to that district. The CAC does not cost taxpayers any money and the positions are not compensated. We also have no staff or budgets to manage. The CAC may accept donations or grants in accordance with state, federal or local law.

The District 4 Community Advisory Council must hold public meetings at least four times a year in donated facilities within the geographical boundaries of the district.

There is currently one additional vacancy among the elected CAC members and that seat will soon be appointed by Council Member Johnson. She will also appoint a Student Representative and a Seniors Representative to round out the seven-member Community Advisory Council.

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

## Manistique Community Treehouse Center Making Strides

**Tammy Black** | Contributing Writer

The Jefferson Chalmers community is looking to develop a newspaper, The Historic Jefferson Chalmers - Presented by the Manistique Community Treehouse Center (MCTC) and our Neighbors.

Our expectation is to craft and publish a physical copy by the end of the Summer or early Fall. Until then, we will also be publishing our content on the Manistique Community Treehouse website.

For the latest updates and forthcoming events, please visit our website:

<https://www.manistiquetreehouse.org>

Volunteer opportunities are available for all as well (link listed below).

<https://www.manistiquetreehouse.org/volunteer-positions>



Rendering of the Manistique Community Treehouse. Image courtesy of Manistique Community Treehouse Center

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*Tammy Black, President of the Manistique Community Treehouse Center*

### Continued... MorningSide Celebrates Black History Month

On the Shoulders of Giants: Celebrating Black History Month” at the Detroit Historical Museum  
<https://detroithistorical.org/things-do/events-calendar/events-listing/shoulders-giants-celebrating-black-history-month>

Here’s another institution that celebrates Black artistry year-round – Aretha’s Jazz Café, located in Detroit’s Music Hall for the Performing Arts  
<http://jazzcafedetroit.com/>

Jamon Jordan is a local historian who has for years illuminated Detroit’s Black history with tours, both in-person and virtual, through Black Scroll Network. Check out his latest virtual series to learn about issues like Detroit’s place on the Underground Railroad, Black Bottom and Paradise Valley, struggles for fair housing, and much more.

[https://www.eventbrite.com/e/detroits-black-history-series-tickets-253959508727?ref=enivtefor001&invite=MjE4MzA0MDkvc2RuZXdlbGw1MEBnbWFpbC5jb20vMA%3D%3D%0A&utm\\_source=eb\\_email&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=inviteformalv2&utm\\_term=eventpage](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/detroits-black-history-series-tickets-253959508727?ref=enivtefor001&invite=MjE4MzA0MDkvc2RuZXdlbGw1MEBnbWFpbC5jb20vMA%3D%3D%0A&utm_source=eb_email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=inviteformalv2&utm_term=eventpage)

## Brilliant Detroit MorningSide Welcomes New Team Member

**Susan Newell** | The Morningsider

Kahtara Richardsen, new Community Engagement Manager at MorningSide's Brilliant Detroit house on Balfour, was first introduced to Brilliant Detroit a few years ago as a participant in its parenting programs. "I'm a single parent raising a son and daughter," she says. "We participated in different programs, and it really added to my life. Now I see myself helping others benefit from them as well."

Before coming to Brilliant Detroit, Kahtara had worked at Henry Ford Health System overseeing the medical residents. She quickly noticed a difference in the cultures of the two organizations when she started her new job here in early November. At Henry Ford, she says, there was a clear hierarchy, with goals and expectations set by those higher in the chain of command. At Brilliant Detroit, programs and policies are created with a great deal of input from the residents being served. "Here the emphasis is on sharing the power to make programs for, with, and by the people."

As Community Engagement Manager, Kahtara is responsible for supervising outreach to the MorningSide community, working closely with Windee Brown, Community Engagement Coordinator. She is also in charge of the logistics of the MorningSide house, keeping everything running as smoothly as possible. The pandemic, of course, has made all that more difficult for everyone. She's frustrated, she says, by the fact that participants aren't able to meet face-to-face as she and her own children were able to do - "So much is relationship based." But she's looking forward to spring, when they can do outdoor programming safely.

Kahtara's special passion is health - both mental and physical - and she's currently pursuing a Master's degree in Health Education at the Wayne State School of Education. "I'm really big on parenting," she says, and finds the programs that emphasize developing healthy eating habits in children especially close to her heart. "A lot of what we put into us contributes to who we are," she says.

They recently finished the Two Bites Club, a health education program funded by Wayne State for young children. It's based on a book about a mother encouraging kids to "take two bites" of new foods. "The kids were very engaged," she says. "I love this slogan that the community came up with: Eat the best to beat the rest, and take it one day at a time."

Kahtara and the rest of the staff are assisted by the Community Advisory Committee, made up of community members with children 0-8 years old representing the families they serve. They also partner with other community organizations in or serving the neighborhood. Their newest community partner is the Junior League of Detroit.

Kahtara is replacing Rakisha Odom, who has been promoted to a new role with Brilliant Detroit as a Community Engagement Outreach Manager. Congratulations Rakisha, and welcome Kahtara!



**Brilliant Detroit Community Engagement Manager of MorningSide, Kahtara Richardson. Image courtesy of Kahtara Richardson**

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

## What You Should Know About the SECURE MI VOTE Initiative

Adrian. L. Green | The Morningsider

Despite coming off the safest and most secure election in history in November 2020 and in response to vetoes of voter suppression bills by Governor Whitmer, there has emerged an effort by Michigan Republicans, known as Secure MI Vote, to collect just over 340,000 signatures to send their proposals directly to the Republican-controlled Michigan Legislature for consideration and adoption.

If passed by the Legislature, the voter suppression measures would not be placed on the ballot but would become law without the Governor's signature. That means also that potentially, only 3.4% of the state's population could negatively impact millions of Michigan voters and impose severe restrictions on voting rights, especially in predominately Black and Brown communities.

An investigation into the 2020 and 2021 elections revealed no widespread voter fraud and yet Michigan Republicans persist in their illegitimate and nefarious designs to disenfranchise specific vulnerable constituencies by making it more difficult to vote. The initiative proposes to amend, or change, nine sections of Michigan's election code, in addition to adding three new sections to it. The proposal focuses on a few key points:

- Stepping up photo ID requirements.
- Eliminating and replacing the affidavit voting option.
- Preventing the mailing of unsolicited absent voter ballots and applications.
- Establishing a "Voter Access Fund;" and
- Limiting how election funds are acquired and spent.

Voters are already required to show photo identification at the polls. If a voter has no photo identification, the voter is allowed to complete an affidavit of identity and risk going to jail if he/she is lying about who they are. Further, with the historically low voter turnout in the city of Detroit, it is nearly impossible to believe that anyone would take the time or have the desperate inclination to lie about their identity just to cast a ballot. Most if not all voters are generally very conscientious citizens who are well informed about the issues and the candidates of their choice. It is inconsistent with common sense to suggest that many of the citizens who even bother to vote could be voting criminals.

The proposals also seek to prevent the mailing of unsolicited absent voter applications and ballots. This practice has long been of particular benefit to our seniors, many of whom would suffer a considerable hardship by having to travel to the polls and stand in line for an extended period to cast a ballot.

In summary, the Secure MI Vote initiative is not about Security....it is simply about **suppression!** If you are approached by one the canvassers with this petition, I'd urge you to do as the Detroit Branch NAACP says, and "Decline to Sign". It should be noted that many of the petition drives across the state are in rural areas, not in urban or suburban areas where larger numbers of voters reside. This bogus assault on voting rights and access to the ballot will not stand! I urge you to resist this attempt to suppress the vote and **do not sign this petition!**

—

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



## Deadline is February 22 to appeal property tax assessment!

### The Morningsider

By now you should have received notice of your property tax assessment for this year. This is not a bill - just a statement of how the county has assessed the value of your property. Many factors should be taken into account when assessing your property, including the physical condition of the surrounding neighborhood and property values in your area. If you think your property has been over-assessed, you have until Tuesday, February 22 to appeal it. And you don't have to do it alone. There are more resources than ever to help you navigate the process.

There's even help available in our own neighborhood. Jackie Grant, President of Friends of the Alger Theater, has been doing property tax counseling for a number of years now and has helped many MorningSide residents keep their homes. She has virtual office hours by appointment on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 5 p.m. For those who don't have internet access, in-person appointments can be arranged. To make an appointment, contact Jackie at (313) 720-3904 or email her at [president@algertheater.org](mailto:president@algertheater.org).

Check out this article from Bridge Detroit for more information on property tax assessments and other avenues for help.

[https://www.bridgedetroit.com/detroiters-can-appeal-their-property-values-next-month-what-to-know/?utm\\_source=Bridge+Detroit&utm\\_campaign=66125bd670-week+in+review+1%2F30%2F2022&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_f488832fef-66125bd670-82575312](https://www.bridgedetroit.com/detroiters-can-appeal-their-property-values-next-month-what-to-know/?utm_source=Bridge+Detroit&utm_campaign=66125bd670-week+in+review+1%2F30%2F2022&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f488832fef-66125bd670-82575312)

Also, property tax foreclosures, which have been on hold during the pandemic, are set to begin again this year. If you or anyone you know is behind on property taxes, follow this link to another Bridge Detroit article to see what help is available to you.

[https://www.bridgedetroit.com/wayne-county-to-resume-all-tax-foreclosures-this-year-offers-payment-plans-if-you-act-fast/?utm\\_source=Bridge+Detroit&utm\\_campaign=66125bd670-week+in+review+1%2F30%2F2022&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_f488832fef-66125bd670-82575312](https://www.bridgedetroit.com/wayne-county-to-resume-all-tax-foreclosures-this-year-offers-payment-plans-if-you-act-fast/?utm_source=Bridge+Detroit&utm_campaign=66125bd670-week+in+review+1%2F30%2F2022&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f488832fef-66125bd670-82575312)

**THIS IS NOT A TAX BILL** L-4400

**Notice of Assessment, Taxable Valuation, and Property Classification**

FROM: CITY OF DETROIT, OFFICE OF THE ASSESSOR, 2 WOODWARD AVE., SUITE 804, DETROIT, MI 48226

PARCEL IDENTIFICATION: PARCEL CODE NUMBER, PROPERTY ADDRESS

PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE EXEMPTION:

- % Exempt As "Homeowners Principal Residence": 100.0000%
- % Exempt As "Qualified Agricultural Property": 0.0000%
- % Exempt As "MBT Industrial Personal": 0.0000%
- % Exempt As "MBT Commercial Personal": 0.0000%
- Exempt As "Qualified Forest Property":  Yes  No
- Exempt As "Development Property":  Yes  No

ACCORDING TO MCL 211.34c THIS PROPERTY IS CLASSIFIED AS: 401-RESIDENTIAL

	PRIOR AMOUNT YEAR: 2021	CURRENT TENTATIVE AMOUNT YEAR: 2022	CHANGE FROM PRIOR YEAR TO CURRENT YEAR
1. TAXABLE VALUE (Current amount is tentative):	17,982	18,575	593
2. ASSESSED VALUE:	32,800	40,600	7,800
3. TENTATIVE EQUALIZATION FACTOR: 1.000			
4. STATE EQUALIZED VALUE (Current amount is tentative):	32,800	40,600	7,800

5. There WAS/WAS NOT a transfer of ownership on this property in 2021: WAS NOT

The 2022 Inflation Rate Multiplier is: 1.033

Property Tax Assessment sample. Image courtesy of the City of Detroit

## A Better Balduck is Coming This Year

### The Morningsider

Balduck Park is probably best known and loved for its perfect sledding hill, but it has so much more to offer- a softball diamond, soccer field, picnic and play areas, basketball hoops, and even a nature trail. More features and upgrades are coming this summer, thanks to the Strategic Neighborhood Fund, and city planners want to know residents' priorities for the proposed changes.

Some possible improvements, including enhanced play and picnic areas, a parking lot, walkways, a more welcoming and attractive perimeter, and a dog park, were rolled out at a virtual meeting on Tuesday, February 1. For a recording of the meeting, follow this link:

[https://cityofdetroit.zoom.us/rec/play/XGSExPaH\\_eC\\_LmQxLWICFRcCQ\\_knoV0SSgWarfDs91ONCEWjNDZCQFEy4pO-fMmLfvu5mZdXMFzs236A8.AZGzpZDI5MAAdCTi5?continueMode=true](https://cityofdetroit.zoom.us/rec/play/XGSExPaH_eC_LmQxLWICFRcCQ_knoV0SSgWarfDs91ONCEWjNDZCQFEy4pO-fMmLfvu5mZdXMFzs236A8.AZGzpZDI5MAAdCTi5?continueMode=true)

If you missed the meeting, the next opportunity to give city planners your comments and questions will be **Tuesday, March 22 at 6:30 p.m.** In the meantime, the City is soliciting your opinions through a survey which you can access by scanning the QR code on this flyer.

## Let's Talk Trash

### The Morningsider

Here are your next three bulk trash and recycling pickup dates. Be sure to put your Courville containers out only the night before weekly pickups and bring them back in the evening of pickups. The fine for non-compliance is **\$100** for each container.

Thursday, February 17

Thursday, March 3 and March 17



**BALDUCK PARK**  
5777 CANYON  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48202

**DETROIT PARKS & RECREATION DIVISION**  
INVITES YOU TO TAKE THIS SURVEY TO LET US  
KNOW WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT UPCOMING  
IMPROVEMENTS TO

**BALDUCK PARK**

**JOIN US FOR**  
**COMMUNITY MEETING #2**  
Wednesday, March 8, 2022  
6:30 - 8:00 PM

**HOW:** **Zoom Link:** <https://cityofdetroit.zoom.us/j/87904594322>  
**Zoom Call In Number:** +1 312 626 6799  
**Meeting ID (enter when prompted):** 879 0459 4322#

**Closes Feb 11th**

[https://qfreeaccounts1.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6sXV7ZayqXAf6xo](https://qfreeaccounts1.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6sXV7ZayqXAf6xo)

Improvements to Balduck Park are forthcoming. Image courtesy of the City of Detroit



Bulk trash sits curbside. Image courtesy of the City of Detroit

## Drug Paraphernalia, Teaching Truth, Honoring Civil Rights Hero, and More

Stephanie Chang | Contributing Writer

### Whip-It Bill Introduced

Last week I introduced SB 855, which adds Nitrous Oxide to the list of substances for which selling paraphernalia is illegal, in the public health code. In 2018, Rep. Joe Bellino and I passed legislation that prohibited the sale of whip-its to minors and instituted a fine for stores who failed to check for ID or who sold whip-its to minors. Over the past year, I have been working with law enforcement and community groups in Detroit, such as the Whippet Wipeout Coalition, and it has become clear that, instead of minors, adults are now abusing whip-its at higher rates. This is being widely observed by local law enforcement, and the used whip-it cylinders are a litter nuisance. In collaboration with the coalition, in 2021, the City of Detroit prohibited the possession, sale, and consumption of nitrous oxide for recreational purposes. SB 855 will prohibit stores from selling any paraphernalia used to access nitrous oxide for use as an inhalant.

### Teach Truth Package Unveiled

Senators Geiss, Hollier, Wojno, and I introduced a package of bills that would require public schools to include lessons about the histories of people of color and indigenous communities in their social studies curriculum to ensure that students are receiving an equitable education that responsibly represents history. It is so clear to many Michiganders that if we actually taught the history of all our communities, perhaps we would have better community relations, less hate, and more inclusion. My bill, Senate Bill 797, would require schools to teach Asian American Pacific Islander history. In the wake of anti-Asian hate during the pandemic, many Asian American parents and educators reached out to ask what we can do to ensure our children learn Asian American history in our schools.

### Black History Month

Let's honor and celebrate all of the amazing accomplishments of Black Americans this month and every single month of the year! The Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History is holding Black History Month events all month long. This is a great way to take part in Black History Month. For more information click here <https://www.thewright.org/black-history-month-wright>. Additionally, story time is a great way to teach young children about Black pioneers and trailblazers. For a list of 12 children's books celebrating Black History, visit [PBS Kids](https://www.pbskids.org/black-history-month/).

### World Hijab Day resolution

I was proud to offer Senate Resolution 104 to recognize February 1st, 2022 as World Hijab Day. World Hijab Day is an opportunity for the millions of Muslim women around the world who choose to wear the hijab and live a life of modesty. It's also an open invitation to women of all walks of life to wear a hijab and stand in solidarity with Muslim women. The hijab is a traditional veil worn around a woman's hair and chest and a very important part of the history of Islam and is a symbol that promotes dignity and respect for women. World Hijab Day is used to raise awareness and to provide education and empowerment. Michigan is a diverse state and World Hijab Day is a fantastic opportunity for us to participate and learn about our neighbors. We have so much to learn from others, and recognizing this day is our chance to proudly display our support of religious freedom.

Story continued on page 13...

# Give A Smile, Get A Smile

## The Morningsider

This month's *Give a Smile, Get a Smile* is a story about a young man who saved two lives in one day. Dayvon Johnson is only 11 years old, but his quick action in school one day helped to save the life of a classmate who was choking. Later that same day, he was driving home with his mom and saw smoke coming from a house.

Dayvon insisted his mother turn the car around and call 911, then he jumped into action, helping a woman escape the fire. Dayvon lost his father to COVID-19 last year, but he says he hears his father's voice in his head encouraging him to help others.

Watch the heartwarming video of Dayvon and his mother telling this incredible story: <https://www.today.com/video/hoda-and-jenna-surprise-6th-grader-who-saved-2-lives-in-1-day-132267589665>



Dayvon Johnson with Undersheriff Greg Martin of Muskogee County, Okla., after receiving an award for saving the lives of two people in one day in December. Image courtesy of LaToya Johnson



### **Tim Killeen**

Wayne County Commissioner – District 1

313.224.0920 (phone) 313.967.1238 (fax)

[tkilleen@waynecounty.com](mailto:tkilleen@waynecounty.com)

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

## Continued... Drug Paraphernalia, Teaching Truth, Honoring Civil Rights Hero, and More

### Fred Korematsu

Last week the Governor declared January 30th as Fred Korematsu Day in the state of Michigan. Fred Korematsu is a civil rights hero and the subject of the landmark 1944 Supreme Court decision *Korematsu v. United States*. Korematsu was arrested on May 30, 1942, and convicted on September 8, 1942, for defying the government's order to be moved to an internment camp for Japanese Americans, and he appealed his case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. Despite many defeats along the way, Fred tenaciously fought for what he believed in and never gave up. Today, his court case and Justice Murphy's famous dissent is a case study in Civil Rights law. In 1998, President Clinton honored Fred Korematsu with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. For more information on his legacy please visit: <https://korematsuinstitute.org/>

### Upcoming Events

February 11th, 10-11AM

#### Virtual Coffee Hour with Rep. Camilleri

Please join Representative Camilleri and me for a virtual conversation about what we have been working on in the state legislature. Grab a cup of coffee and join us on Facebook for a virtual chat! For more information, please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/events/649147229465144>

February 25th, 10-11AM

#### Virtual Coffee Hour with Rep. Tate

Please join Representative Joe Tate and I for a virtual conversation about what we have been working on in the state legislature. Please come with questions and ideas to share! For more information, please visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/481850043552543>

Wednesday, March 9, 6-7 p.m.

#### Save the Date Gun Safety Town Hall with Rep.

#### Kuppa Wednesday, March 9th, 6-7pm

Please join Representative Padma Kuppa and I for a virtual discussion about gun safety and storage in the state of Michigan. We will have special guests from Everytown for Gun Safety and Giffords.

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*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*

## Why is This Mess Still Here?

### The Morningsider

In last month's newsletter we highlighted a partial demolition of the commercial building at the corner of E. Warren and Bedford, owned by Ypsilanti investor Sarmed Ridha. We don't believe this building is being handled with the best interests of the community in mind. Here is an excerpt of a letter that Eric Dueweke, MCO President, sent on February 4 to James Foster, a manager at Buildings, Safety Engineering, and Environmental Department (BSEED):

"Currently this partially demolished structure remains open and dangerous--see attached photo--with only a flimsy plastic construction fence across the front. No work has been done to correct the situation in at least the past 10 days. We request that BSEED inspect this safety hazard as soon as possible and issue the appropriate citations to Mr. Ridha.

This property has attracted many complaints from neighborhood residents, as you can read in the comments on the MorningSide website [here](#). Folks are excited for new changes coming to East Warren this summer via the Mayor's East Warren-Cadieux plan. But the mess at 16134 raises questions about the City's ability to effect lasting change."

We will update you on BSEED's response.



Collapsed building owned by Sarmed Ridha. Image courtesy of Eric Dueweke

### My Two By Twiana Odom

This is hopefully the first of many articles featuring businesses in and around MorningSide.

The first article for "My Two Cents" is in its purest form (handwritten by the owner), a personal thoughtful gesture.

For "My Two Cents" this speaks volumes and sends the message that owner of Hiptique Resale & Gifts, Nicole DeLano (also known as Nikki James) cares enough to invest personally. Make sure you stop in and visit her shop at 16235 Mack Avenue.

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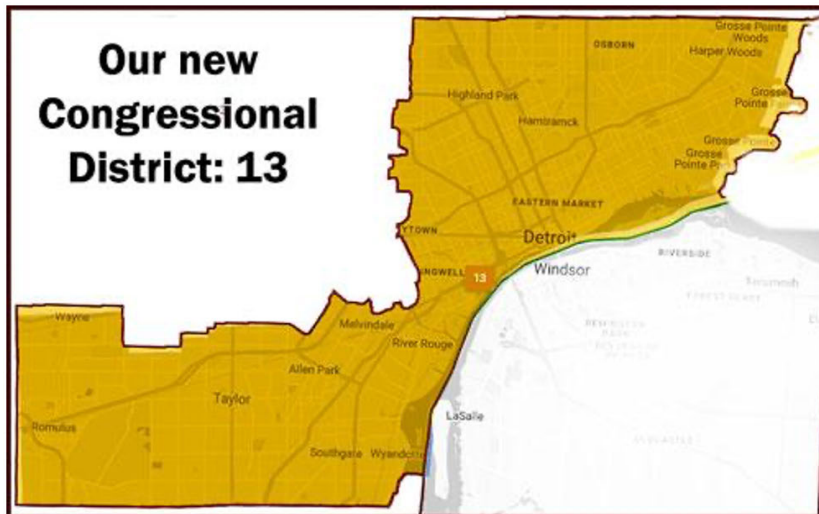
Twiana Odom, 1st Vice President of MCO

Thanks for coming to my store Twiana! and your questions made this so easy and fun ♥

Hiptique Resale + Gifts is owned by Nicole DeLano some know me as Nikki James, as I am also a music professional of 30 years. I started out in retail as a teenager and worked in high end leather goods for a few years before realizing it didn't have the flexibility I needed to pursue my music. I then started a residential cleaning business that I had had from 1987-2018. I opened Hiptique in June of 2018. I am a sole owner. I was pleasantly surprised that all of my talents came full circle at Hiptique. <sup>Everyday</sup> From cleaning, organization, + retail mgmt. to poster making, booking, + event planning. I really love what I do. The name is just perfect for my little store in a few ways. Born in Detroit in 1967 I have a soft spot for the "Summer of love" and I'm a hippie at heart. I also love the song "What is Hip" by the Tower of Power and love "in style" clothing thus H.I.P. (Happening in present). My vision for Hiptique is 2 fold - Providing a neighborhood resale shop that has sustainable, quality used goods that customers love and for all of us to feel good about doing a small part for the future of our children's planet.

## We're in New Voting Districts! What That Means for MorningSide

Nancy Brigham | Contributing Writer



For the next ten years, we'll be voting for candidates in all-new districts for the state legislature and Congress. While that means changes that can be confusing and disruptive right now, it will actually give our votes more clout for decades to come.

This year, every state must design new maps of voting districts, based on the latest census. In Michigan and elsewhere, it's been a shameful process, where the party in power "gerrymandered" the districts into absurd shapes solely to keep itself in power. We got crazy

districts like the 14th congressional, which extended all the way from Pontiac to Grosse Pointe Woods and Southwest Detroit. But no more.

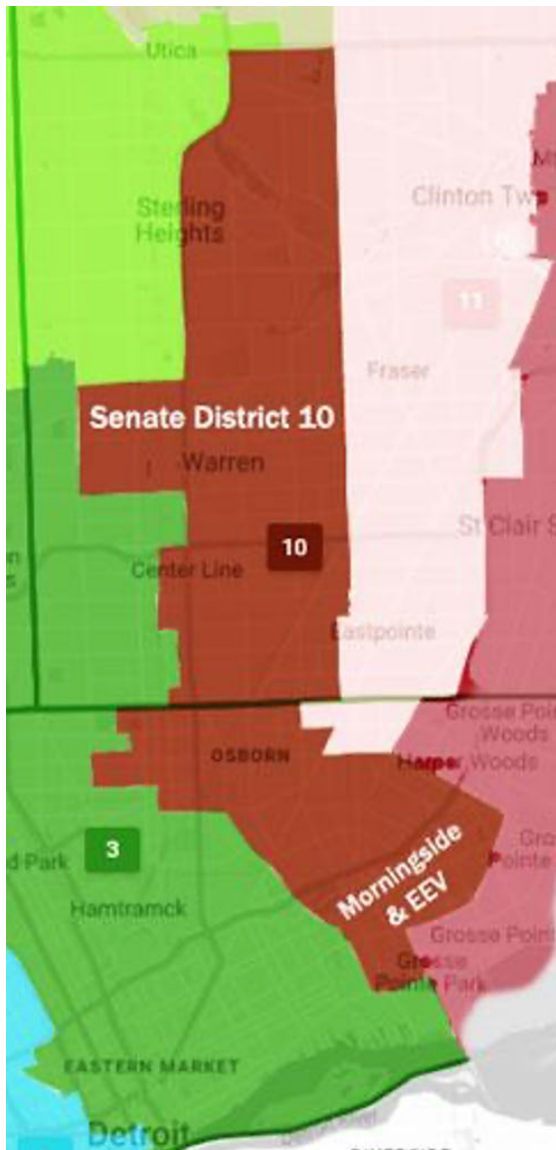
For the first time ever, thanks to voter approval of Prop 2 in 2018, we will be going to the polls in districts designed not by politicians, but by a balanced group of Democratic, Republican, and Independent citizens. The redistricting was done out in the open, with constant input from voters. As this Citizens Commission worked for months on one set of draft maps after another, citizens viewed the maps online, gave the Commission nearly 30,000 comments, and submitted our own maps. We could also speak up at hearings held across the state.

Story continues on page 16...

## Continued... We're in New Voting Districts! What That Means for MorningSide

### Trying to keep neighborhoods together as “Communities of Interest”

Some Morningside residents joined with East English Village (EEV) volunteers to hand in maps showing the “communities of interest,” (COIs) that matter to us. COIs are areas where people are connected to each other and should be in the same district. The Morningside neighborhood is such a community, and volunteers thought it should be united with the EEV and Cornerstone neighborhoods, since we cooperate on projects and mutual support.



### So how did it work out?

It comes as no surprise that not everyone is happy, Politicians are losing safe districts, and many face stiff competition in general elections, not just primaries. Voters will have to get to know a whole new slate of candidates. And the online process was not as easy to access and use as it should be. But once the dust settles, the new districts should give voters a better chance to have our votes count. If half the people vote Democratic, for example, there's a much better chance that half their representatives will be Democratic.

### How MorningSide fares

Because our new Congressional district is not so stretched out, it will be easier for our Representative to pay attention to Detroit neighborhoods.

And we are united with EEV and Cornerstone in State Senate District 10. It stretches up to Utica Road, but is more compact than our old District 1, which reached from Gilbralter to St. Clair Shores. The new Senate districts are fairer to both parties than the old ones, which heavily favored Republicans.

As for the new State House districts, they have come under heavy fire. They unfairly favor Republicans, says a NextVote analysis. The House maps also unfairly split up 24 Communities of Interest, which is much worse than the maps we

had before. Morningside is split up between districts 9 and 11, and so is EEV.

### Black Leaders Sue Over Maps

Part of the Redistricting Commission's task was also to stop "packing" most voters of color into just a few districts, which had been done by politicians as a kind of political segregation, to limit black clout.

Story continues on page 17...



## Continued... We're in New Voting Districts! What That Means for MorningSide

But community leaders said the Commission went too far, and almost left us with no majority-black districts at all. After citizens spoke out strongly against this, especially at October and December hearings in Detroit, some changes were made. But not enough, say the Detroit Caucus of the Michigan Legislature and the black community leaders who are now suing to get the maps redone.



### Messy - but a big improvement

We're also seeing public divisions within the Commission itself, and it all looks messy. But let's keep in mind that this has never been done before, and they're all rookies. Also, the work was more rushed than planned, because census figures came in late.

But the bottom line is that we are getting districts that are much fairer than anything we've had before in Michigan – or in most other states.

If you look at states where district designers don't even have to try to be fair, voters are being outrageously manipulated. In North Carolina, for example, the Republican legislature is drawing distorted maps that could give 11 of the state's 14 Congressional seats to Republicans. Yet about half the voters are Democrats.

That won't happen here.

The Commission is now asking the public to tell them how they can improve the process at [www.Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://www.Michigan.gov/MICRC).

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*Nancy Brigham, long time resident of East English Village (EEV), member of the EEV board*

## Mark your Calendar for the next MorningSide General Community Meeting!

The Morningside Community Organization monthly meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month. However, due to the scheduled State of the City address on Tuesday, March 8th, our next community meeting will be moved to the following week on Tuesday, March 15th at 6:30 p.m. Meeting details will be released at that time.

## 2022 Promises to be a Busy Year on E. Warren

**Joe Rashid** | Contributing Writer

East Warren Development Corporation (EWDC) is excited for 2022 and all the happenings in our community. This year will bring an improved streetscape on E. Warren from Three Mile to Cadieux, as well as new businesses such as The Detroit Works Training Center at E. Warren and Radnor, and Alexis Sims' opening of Leaf Me Plant Boutique, right next to Chelsea Jane Apothecary, which opened in October 2021. Additionally, we are so excited to see BeHer, a women's clothing boutique, opening their doors at E. Warren and Balfour later this month.

Larger development projects are also proposed, such as The Ribbon at the corner of Kensington and E. Warren. The developer, Edward Carrington is planning to redevelop the one story building (formerly a Charter One bank), into a 3-story mixed-use building that will include retail on the ground floor, and two residential floors above.

We are also excited that The Alger Theater plans to install an ADA-compliant lift and bathroom this spring so they can activate their storefronts and rooftop deck. The E. Warren Farmers Market will have expanded offerings, and I can't wait to share about that at a future Restorin' E. Warren meeting.

Along with the many initiatives EWDC is in the process of developing, the City of Detroit will be implementing the E. Warren Streetscape Project, which will significantly change the E. Warren footprint and will have a direct and positive impact on our businesses. Staying engaged with EWDC and the city's projects will ensure that residents have input into all projects.

We are hosting our first quarterly Restorin' E. Warren Meeting on **Thursday, Feb 17** from **6 – 7:30 p.m.** The meeting will be virtual, but we hope to host the rest of the quarterly meetings in person. Here's the invitation to join:

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgzGmthnjwDZDbWvmwLjHHrdCDKIZ>

This meeting will touch on The Ribbon development, E. Warren Streetscape, and The Detroit Works Training Center coming to Cornerstone Village, as well as other E. Warren happenings.

The rest of our quarterly meetings will be:

**Thursday, May 12**

**Thursday, September 17 and Thursday, November 10**

All meetings are open to the public. Stay tuned for details regarding times and locations.

If you have any questions regarding Restorin' East Warren's upcoming events, feel free to email [joe@ewarren.org](mailto:joe@ewarren.org).

—

*Joe Rashid, resident of EEV, Executive Director of the East Warren Development Corporation*

# MorningSide's Finest

Arttress Askew

Arttress Askew is a long-time resident of Three Mile Drive. She's raised her children and grandchildren here in MorningSide and has seen the neighborhood grow and change over time.

I had the honor of meeting Ms. Askew, better known to her neighbors as "Ms. Clem," when I moved to Three Mile Drive last year. Arttress introduced herself shortly after I moved in and was very welcoming. In fact, Ms. Askew has welcomed many residents to the neighborhood over the past 36 years of living here.

Ms. Askew said that her best memories of Three Mile Drive center around being neighborly. She remembers the picnics, pig roasts, and block parties that were a staple every summer.

Ms. Askew is a former Detroit Public School teacher and has been an unofficial ambassador of Three Mile Drive over the past few years. We thank you for building camaraderie over the years with your neighbors and welcoming new residents. Your light does not go unnoticed in MorningSide.

*Courtesy of MCO At-Large member, Briana Mason*



Arttress Askew. Image courtesy of Arttress Askew

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MorningSide is a corporation organized and operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes outlined in section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

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