



# MORNINGSIDER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MORNINGSIDE



Demonstrators voicing the importance of protecting voters right. Image courtesy of Jim West

## Support the Promote The Vote Initiative!

**Adrian L. Green** | The Morningsider

Detroit — Last month, I shared much needed information about the nefarious attempts by the right-wing establishment in Michigan to suppress the vote through the SECURE MI VOTE petition. This initiative seeks to put in place several needless roadblocks and hurdles that make it more difficult to vote, especially in historically vulnerable and disenfranchised communities.

This month, I am happy to report the emergence of a new initiative, known as “PROMOTE THE VOTE 2022. Promote the Vote — the coalition behind the [successful 2018 ballot proposal](#) that created no-excuse absentee voting and same-day registration in Michigan — recently announced the launch of a new ballot initiative to make voting more accessible and protect election outcomes from interference by partisan actors.

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**(313) 600-5595**

## Habitat Continues to Build Up MorningSide

Mary Ellen Kearney | Contributing Writer



Tamike Thomas holds the celebratory key to her new home in MorningSide. Image courtesy of Jim West

Since 2006 Habitat for Humanity Detroit (HFHD) has invested to build or rehab more than 120 homes in MorningSide for first-time homebuyers. Last year we successfully completed rehabs on two more homes, welcoming two new homeowners to the community. We also completed several Critical Home Repair projects for those in need, ranging from repairs to siding, plumbing and cabinets, and other key safety updates.

The Critical Home Repair Program helps ensure homes are safe for their owners. Detroit's old housing stock coupled with high poverty rates and an aging population have intensified demand for home repair and home accessibility modifications. Fixing the gap is a vital component of HFHD's effort. The availability of money for home repairs varies from time to time, so to learn about current options it's best to call our office at (313) 521-6691 and follow the prompts.

Our plans for 2022 include two rehabs and two new builds, plus Critical Home Repair work to continue shining a light on the strong community that is Morningside.

"Working with members of the MorningSide community to identify areas of need not only helps us determine a plan of action for our work, but it also helps us connect to those we serve. Habitat Detroit seeks to continue to make a significant impact in the Morningside neighborhood well into the future. We know our work is not possible without the extraordinary residents of this community," said Stephanie Osterland, CEO of Habitat Detroit.

For more information on our work or to learn more about our programs, please visit: [www.habitatdetroit.org](http://www.habitatdetroit.org).

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Mary Ellen Kearney is Director of Fund Development for Habitat for Humanity Detroit

*Note from your Council Member*

**Latisha Johnson** | Contributing Writer

It is a pleasure to serve as your Council Member for District 4. I would like to extend my gratitude to the Morningside Community Organization President, Mr. Eric Dueweke, for assisting our office in our foreclosure prevention efforts. Mr. Dueweke, along with a team of volunteers, helped canvass the Morningside neighborhood to provide information to help residents at risk of foreclosure.

My priorities for the next few months will be to better understand community projects and direct resources to support implementation, stay connected with the District 4 residents, and define our partnership with the Department of Neighborhoods. We are planning to host a number of events such as hazardous waste drop-off for Earth Day, hold weekly virtual office hours, and create our marketing plan to stay connected with residents.

Much of my day-to-day workload revolves around responding to constituent needs and preparing for Council sessions. My committee assignments include serving as the Chair of the Internal Operations committee and as a member of the Planning and Economic Development (PED) Committee. Internal Operations is tasked with conducting initial interviews with Board and Commission appointees, approving (or not) all lawsuit settlements, and matters of pay rate reclassifications. PED is primarily responsible for land transfers, zoning changes and development agreements.

I enjoy bringing a different perspective to both committees and encouraging discussions around changing behavior and tax abatements. My biggest surprise so far has been realizing how long it takes to pull the office together. In addition, my biggest challenge so far has been managing my schedule to accommodate all of the meeting requests.

Our feedback from constituents so far has been extremely positive regarding my entire team. We will continue to work to streamline our response to residents and Develop Districtwide priorities.



**District 4 Council Member, Latisha Johnson.** Image courtesy of the City of Detroit

I look forward to building upon the great relationships that I have within the Morningside community. You can contact me by phone (313) 224-4841 and/or email at [councilmemberjohnson@detroitmi.gov](mailto:councilmemberjohnson@detroitmi.gov).

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*Latisha Johnson, Detroit City Council Member of District 4*

## Continued... Support the Promote The Vote Initiative!

"Promote the Vote 2022" will be on the November 8 ballot if it secures enough signatures. The ballot initiative proposes major changes to Michigan election law, including:

- **Early voting:** Voters would have nine consecutive days of early voting before an election to cast their ballot.
- **Funding for ballot postage, drop boxes and ballot tracking:** The state would be required to fund prepaid postage to apply for and return absentee ballots. The state would also be required to provide funding for secure drop boxes and a ballot tracking system so voters could see where their absentee ballot is and alert them to any issues they can fix to ensure their vote counts.
- **More time for military and overseas voters to return ballots:** Election officials would be required to count ballots received from military and overseas voters that are mailed by Election Day and received within six days of an election.
- **Requesting an absentee ballot for every election:** Voters would be able to request an absentee ballot for all future elections without having to apply before every election.
- **Voter ID:** The amendment would add to the state constitution existing voter ID rules for in-person and absentee voters, limiting lawmakers' ability to enact different requirements. As is current practice, those voting in person would present a photo ID or sign an affidavit to verify their identity while those voting absentee would place their signature on their absentee ballot application and ballot return envelope.
- **Prevent interference in the vote certification:** The amendment would make clear that the election results certified by the Board of State Canvassers are final unless there is a recount. It also makes clear that the Legislature plays no role in the vote certification and that boards of county canvassers have a clear and ministerial duty to certify election returns received by municipal clerks.
- **Bar political parties from participating in post-election audits:** Only election officials would be able to carry out post-election audits. Officers of national, state, and local political parties, as well as precinct delegates, would be barred from carrying out an audit.



A demonstrator holds up a sign for voter rights. Image courtesy of Jim West

This is common-sense legislation that goes far toward ensuring that all of the voices of Michigan are respected and heard. I urge you to sign this petition wherever you see it circulated. Better yet, support the effort by making a donation or signing up to circulate the petition yourself. See <https://promotethevote2022.com/> to get involved.

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

## Summer Jobs for Detroit Youth – Apply Now!

### The Morningsider

The City of Detroit's highly-successful summer work experience program for Detroit youth ages 14-24 – Grow Detroit's Young Talent (HDYT) - kicked off last month. The application portal is open at [www.GDYT.org](http://www.GDYT.org) and will remain open until May 20, 2022.

8,048 Detroit youth were employed through GDYT during the 2021 program, the seventh straight year of exceeding the program's target of 8,000. To maintain social distancing protocols, GDYT made more than 6,000 of the 2021 summer opportunities virtual and the program will provide similar accommodations in 2022.



Detroit youth of the GDYT program paints a garage. Image courtesy of Kimberly P. Mitchell

While the target for total GDYT enrollments for 2022 will remain at 8,000, the program will introduce new enhancements for the 2022 program year, including:

- Career Pathways Plus, a new GDYT component that recruits, screens, and matches youth with businesses that offer specialized programs designed to prepare youth for occupations within their industry. The goal of this initiative is to place youth on a career pathway with participating companies that leads to permanent employment, high-growth career options and economic self-sufficiency.
- Partnership with the Financial Empowerment Center (FEC) to allow GDYT youth access to professional, one-on-one financial counseling as a free public service to address any financial challenges and plan for their futures.

During May and June, candidates will be interviewed at a GDYT-sponsored career fair for Career Pathways Internships, Industry-Led Training, and Pre-Apprenticeships, or through a virtual Career Fair. Successful GDYT registered youth will also attend a Youth Orientation where they will receive additional materials regarding timekeeping, benchmark achievements, and the GDYT Handbook. For more information about the youth applicant process, refer to GDYT's Roadmap to Success at [www.GDYT.org](http://www.GDYT.org).

### Process for Successful Youth Applicants

After an individual expresses interest in a summer work experience through GDYT.org, the applicant will be randomly selected through a lottery system. Selected youth must complete all enrollment forms and upload the required documents into the CareerEdge portal. All properly registered GDYT youth will receive a minimum 12 hours of work-readiness training prior to the start of their summer employment.

## How Do You Want to Get Involved?

### The Morningsider

Our organization has been brainstorming priorities for 2022 and we need volunteers to help with neighborhood beautification, event planning, community outreach, and more.

[Please take our 2022 community survey.](#)

You can join a committee, sign up as a block captain, and/or provide your ideas.

## Detroit Youth Soccer is Back, Bigger Than Ever

The Morningsider

If you're looking for a way to get your kids away from the screens and off the couch this spring and summer, Soccer in the D may be what you're looking for. Soccer is played by more people in more countries around the world than any other sport, and its popularity in this country has been steadily growing.

Now in its third year, Soccer in the D, sponsored by the Detroit Parks & Recreation Department, is registering boys and girls ages 3 to 14 for co-ed teams. The cost is \$35, which includes shin guards and uniforms. Covid precautions will be in place for practices and games.

Registration began last month, and spots fill up quickly, so don't wait. You can register at [www.detroitmi.gov/soccer](http://www.detroitmi.gov/soccer) or call (313) 224-1100 for more information.

The Parks & Rec Department will also be offering other youth sports this spring and summer, including flag football, basketball, and T-ball.



Children playing soccer. Image courtesy of Jim West

## Eastside Community Network is Hiring!

**Job Terms:** Part-time position, without benefits

**Reports to:** Chief Administrative Officer

**Description:** Drivers will be responsible for transporting residents to/from their destinations in a timely manner. Assist in marketing to increase residents' need for transportation.

Send your resume to Nicole Perry at [nperry@ecn-detroit.org](mailto:nperry@ecn-detroit.org) with "Stoudamire Driver" in the subject line. Learn more [here](#).

## Flood - Prevention Program Coming to MorningSide

**Susan Newell** | The Morningsider

Last summer's flooding wreaked havoc in neighborhoods all over the city. Whether or not your own basement was flooded - it was hit and miss in MorningSide - everyone is worried about these so-called "hundred year floods" occurring every few years now.

But help is on the way. Last month Mayor Duggan and Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) Director Gary Brown announced a new program to help residents protect their homes from future flooding.



**Ruined household items as a result of the Summer 2021 floods. Image courtesy of Jim West**

The Basement Backup Protection Program will provide up to \$15 million for eleven neighborhoods, including MorningSide, that are at heightened risk of flooding. The program is open to homeowners as well as landlords and will assist residents by installing backwater valves and/or sump pumps in their basements. Commercial properties and non-profits are not covered by this program.

Using funds from the American Rescue Plan (ARPA), the city will pay up to \$6,000 per household to have these protections installed. Five of the eight contractors currently identified to do the work are Detroit-based.

The Basement Backup Protection Program will start this spring in the two neighborhoods hardest hit by the flooding - Aviation Sub and Victoria Park. MorningSide will be part of the second phase, beginning this summer.



**Many households near the Fox Creek canal experienced significant flooding last summer. Image courtesy of Jim West**

Although our residents may wish to be among the first neighborhoods served, the advantage of being part of Phase 2 is that contractors used in Phase 1 will be vetted through resident satisfaction surveys. We can be confident, then, that the contractors that pass the first phase will be reliable and perform well.

Although the work won't begin until this summer, you can apply now at [www.detroitmi.gov/basementprotection](http://www.detroitmi.gov/basementprotection). If you don't have internet access or need help filling out the application, call DWSD at 313-267-8000.

Once an applicant has gotten preliminary approval, Buildings, Safety Engineering, and Environmental Department (BSEED) will send out an inspector for an initial look at your property. Then a licensed plumber will do a more thorough assessment to determine, on a case by case basis, what services you need. Not all homes, for example, will need a sump pump.

Story continues on page 8...

## Continued... Flood-Prevention Program Coming to MorningSide

If you are approved as a homeowner - and you must be living in the home - you will only need to pay 10% of the cost - around \$600. If you qualify for the Water Residential Assistance Program (WRAP), this deposit will be waived. Landlords will be required to pay 20% of the cost of the service and are not eligible for a waiver. If you are a renter, you should speak to your landlord about the program, as only property owners can apply.

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

### BASEMENT BACKUP PROTECTION PROGRAM

Homeowners in 11 Detroit neighborhoods that have historically experienced basement backups during rain events are eligible to apply for this program.


**WHAT THE PROGRAM COVERS**  
 The City of Detroit's Basement Backup Protection Program will provide customized services for each eligible home based on need, and includes assessments by the City Inspector and licensed plumber determined by the Detroit Water & Sewerage Department (DWSD). Participating homeowners\*, including landlords, have the following menu of services:

- Camera inspection of sewer lateral service line
- Disconnect downspouts and install extensions three feet from foundation
- Install backwater valve only if lateral is in viable condition
- Install sump pump on properties where possible
- Install backwater valve and sump pump with overflow

\*If water bill arrears exist, the account holder must agree to enroll into a payment plan or low-income assistance program.

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE**  
 The program is open to homeowners of single-family houses, two-family flats and duplexes in the following targeted areas:

- **Phase 1** - Victoria Park and Aviation Sub; work will begin in Spring 2022.
- **Phase 2** - Neighborhoods with historic occurrences of basement backups during rain events based on DWSD's service requests and claim data (see map at right); work will begin in Summer 2022 and end by Dec. 2024.



**DEPOSIT REQUIRED UNLESS INCOME ELIGIBLE**  
 Homeowner occupants must make a deposit of 10% of the cost, landlords 20%. Low-income homeowners can have deposit waived if enrolled in WRAP.

**FUNDING**  
 The program is solely funded by the Detroit Future Fund, which is made possible by the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

**WRAP**  
 Residents enrolled in the Water Residential Assistance Program (WRAP) are exempt from the 10% deposit. Households an income qualify at 200% of the federal poverty level, which is \$54,000 maximum annual income for a family of four, for example. The WRAP benefits include:

- \$25 monthly bill credit for two years or lifetime for enrolled seniors, persons with disabilities and Veterans
- \$2,000 maximum credit over two years to pay down past due balance
- \$1,500 in minor home plumbing repairs to reduce high water usage

TAKE PART

Apply at [detroitmi.gov/basementprotection](https://detroitmi.gov/basementprotection)

Basement Backup Protection Program flyer. Image courtesy of the City of Detroit

## Next MorningSide General Community Meeting!

### The Morningsider

What's the best way to stay in the know and feel good about your community? Come to MorningSide meetings and find out!

We meet the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. We will be meeting on Zoom.

Be part of the revitalization of MorningSide community and its residents' organization!

Here's the [Zoom link](#) for your computer or call-in number for your phone.

Call-in number: 301-715-8592  
 Meeting ID: 876 5627 5944  
 Password: 824390



A colorful mural alongside Jeff's AAA Dry Cleaning. Image courtesy of Jim West



## Introducing MECCA's New Executive Director

**Erin Butler** | Contributing Writer

MECCA (Morningside, East English Village, and Cornerstone Village Community Advocates) is pleased to introduce our new Executive Director, LeJuan Council.

In November, our Founder, Board Chair, and Executive Director Latisha Johnson was elected to City Council. We are excited for Latisha's new role and believe she will continue to be a strong advocate for our community. This move means that there have been changes in MECCA leadership as well. Latisha Johnson is still our founder and Kimberly Benton will step in as Interim Board Chair.



**MECCA's Executive Director, LeJuan Council.** Image courtesy of LeJuan Council

MECCA has been in our community for nearly eight years, and we are still going strong! Our mission is to empower and engage residents and businesses across our three neighborhoods with the knowledge, skills, resources, and support needed to revitalize our communities in a sustainable way for future generations. Our programs focus on workforce development, residential development, support for youth, and support for seniors.

LeJuan Council brings a wealth of experience and skills to her new position at MECCA. A native Detroit born and raised on the east side, she is a Jefferson Chalmers resident. After graduating from Finney High School (now EEV Prep), LeJuan earned a Master's degree in finance from Strayer University in Virginia.

She is the owner of GCM Construction, LLC, which for twenty years has focused on renovating and managing properties throughout the east side. With the economic downturn in 2010, GCM began to focus on Wayne County auctions and eventually Land Bank foreclosed homes. GCM has purchased, boarded up, and renovated blighted properties in District 4 for community use. It currently holds properties in each of the three MECCA neighborhoods.

With a passion to provide healthy food options to the community since her childhood, LeJuan has been a full time volunteer with Feed Your Neighborhood, LLC since 2014. Through partnerships with the Jermaine Jackson Community Center, Aldi Foods, Gleaners, Forgotten Harvest, and Brilliant Detroit MorningSide program every Tuesday, Feed Your Neighborhood provides free food, PPE, and household goods to 100 families at Peace Lutheran Church, 15700 East Warren. LeJuan personally delivers over 100,000 pounds of meat, pantry items and fresh produce each year for the food pantry.

Story continues on page 13...

## 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\\_LmQxLW1CFReCQ\\_knoV0SSgWarfDs91ONCEWjNDZCQFEy4pO-fMmLfvu5mZdXMFzs236A8.AZGzpZDI5MAAdCTi5?continueMode=true](https://cityofdetroit.zoom.us/rec/play/XGSExPaH_eC_LmQxLW1CFReCQ_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

If you have neighbors who leave their Courville containers out all the time, try giving them a friendly warning first. After all, the Neighborhood Police Officers (NPO's) can come around any time and issue a \$100 ticket for every container that's left at the curb except for the evening before and the morning after trash pickup. You don't want to see that happen to them.

If they don't take the hint, you can report the problem anonymously through [SeeClickFix.com](https://www.clickfix.com) or the Improve Detroit app.

Here are our next three bulk trash pickup dates:

Thursday, March 17 and 31  
Thursday, April 14

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



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

## What's Happening in Lansing

**Stephanie Chang** | Contributing Writer

### Auto No-Fault Bills

State Senators Erika Geiss, Mallory McMorrow, and I have introduced legislation to help address some of the immediate needs of Michigan residents who survive catastrophic auto accidents.

If signed into law, Senate Bills 945-947 would give families and their support systems more flexibility to provide reimbursable care, eliminate the practice of denying medical treatment based on criteria developed by non-professionals, and refine the term “medical treatment” to carve out certain products, services, and accommodations from the fee cap system.

### Resolution to condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine

Senator Paul Wojno and I introduced a resolution to condemn the Russian invasion of Ukraine, urging the world community to unite by issuing sanctions against the Russian government. Senate Resolution 111 was adopted unanimously.

### Bill to Help Parents and Caregivers Run for Office

State Representative Rachel Hood and I have introduced legislation to allow campaign funds to be used for a candidate's dependent care expenses. [Senate Bill 0882](#) and [House Bill 5840](#) would remove a significant obstacle that many candidates, particularly mothers, face when running for office. Eighteen other states allow this, and advocacy groups have lauded the effort.

### Upcoming Events

Check out these virtual discussions, most available on my Facebook page -

[Facebook.com/StephanieChangMi](https://www.facebook.com/StephanieChangMi).

**Wednesday, March 9, 6-7 p.m. - Gun Safety Town Hall with Rep. Kuppa**

Please join me and Representative Padma Kuppa for a virtual discussion about gun safety and storage in the state of Michigan, with special guests from Everytown for Gun Safety.

**Friday, March 14th at 10:30 AM – Coffee Hour with Danielle North of Degree Forward**

Join me in learning more about Degree Forward, a non-profit dedicated to helping working adults get college degrees.

**Saturday, March 19th at 10 AM - Virtual Reading Event with Councilmember Gabriela Santiago-Romero and Special Guest Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib**

In celebration of Reading Month, I'm excited to announce a virtual story time on Saturday, March 19th at 10 AM with me, Council Member Gabriela Santiago-Romero, and special guest Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib! We hope to see you at [bit.ly/read-with-us](https://bit.ly/read-with-us).

**Friday, March 25th at 10:30 AM – Coffee Hour with Rep. Aiyash**

Please join Rep. Abraham Aiyash and me for a live Facebook conversation about what we have been working on in the state legislature. Please come with questions and ideas to share!

### Community Updates

#### **I-94 Modernization Mobility Survey**

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) wants to help you get where you need to go during the rebuilding of I-94, starting at Burns Avenue to just east of Conner Avenue in late 2023/early 2024. I-94 will remain open to traffic during rebuilding; however, lane and shoulder closures are likely to cause traffic slowdowns and increased traffic on local roads. MDOT is gathering information on how and where you travel near I-94 or your local roads to determine how we can ease your travel during road work. This anonymous survey is available at <https://www.research.net/r/5PW9DV7>

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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*

# Give A Smile, Get A Smile

Elena Fracassa | The Morningsider

It's been a challenging 2022 so far, and we could all use some laughter to help lift our spirits these days. As Spring and warmer weather approaches, we look forward to less virtual and more in-person activities. Zoom just can't take the place of live interactions with our friends and family. Nevertheless, we grew accustomed to learning, working, and even socializing online. Along the way, we learned to make it as creative and fun as possible.

This clip of Jimmy Kimmel posing as a substitute teacher named Mr. Kotter in a fourth grade Zoom class is sure to bring a smile to your face, even if you are too young to remember the show "Welcome Back, Kotter"!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZOFpEjfxU>



Late night talk show host Jimmy Kimmel with a fourth grade class at Ellis Elementary in Las Vegas, Nevada  
Image courtesy of Jimmy Kimmel Live

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tim Killeen</b>                  Wayne County Commissioner – District 1                  313.224.0920 (phone) 313.967.1238 (fax)  <a href="mailto:tkilleen@waynecounty.com">tkilleen@waynecounty.com</a>  <a href="http://www.waynecounty.com/commission/district1.htm">www.waynecounty.com/commission/district1.htm</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>In the Community, Working with the Community, to Build the Community</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Paid for by: Tim Killeen For Commish, 16260 Lappin, Detroit, MI 48205</p>
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## Continued... Introducing MECCA's New Executive Director

A master gardener and lifelong vegetarian, LeJuan also volunteers with "My Father's Garden," a farm-to-table community garden located on Balfour and East Warren, provided through a partnership with Peace Lutheran Church and Feed Your Neighborhood.

After the devastating flooding last June, Feed Your Neighborhood quickly shifted to helping residents recover from the flood by assisting with clean up, providing cleaning items, gloves, and bags, and helping residents complete claim forms through Great Lake Water Authority (GLWA), DWSD, and FEMA. They also advocated for residents to gain an equitable share of community resources to replace emergency items. LeJuan, along with other concerned residents, formed a Community Task Force to keep neighbors informed and uplifted.

It's no wonder that residents and community leaders know LeJuan as a "Community Queen" for advocating and working hard in the neighborhood.

To keep up to date on all the programming through MECCA, check our website at: <https://www.meccadc.org/>.

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*Erin Butler, Youth Committee Chair of MECCA*

## Resources & Upcoming Events

Presented by The Morningsider

**Now more than ever, it pays to file your taxes!**

**You could receive thousands of dollars in payments.**

**Free tax preparation is available for individuals or households earning under \$57,000.**

Visit [GetTheTaxFacts.org](http://GetTheTaxFacts.org) or call **2-1-1**

CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!  
JOIN US FOR...

**VAULT TO SUCCESS**  
SCHOLARSHIP NIGHT

Wednesdays  
5pm  
Zoom

[bit.ly/vault2022](https://bit.ly/vault2022)

**GET THE ASSISTANCE YOU NEED**

Meeting every Wednesday night virtually, get the scholarship help you need to make your application stand out.

Get help with your:

- Scholarship completion
- Application Essay
- Document collection (transcripts, recommendation letters, etc.)

For more information, please contact Tanya Aho at [taho@ecn-detroit.org](mailto:taho@ecn-detroit.org)

## Resources & Upcoming Events

Presented by The Morningsider

### THE FORECLOSURE DEADLINE IS MARCH 31

If you are **facing foreclosure for property taxes for 2019 or prior years, you MUST get into a payment plan NO LATER than March 14, 2022** or pay the back taxes in full by March 31. April 1 is too late! DON'T LOSE YOUR HOME!

There are several **programs that can help**

- 1 **HOPE - Homeowners Property Exemption**
- 2 **PAYS - Pay As You Stay**
- 3 **MIHAF - Michigan Homeowner Assistance Fund Program**
- 4 **IRSPA/REGSPA - Stipulated Payment Agreements**
- 5 There is **assistance for Renters** living in a property going through foreclosure

**Need assistance applying?**  
(schedule your appointment TODAY)

Organization	Phone No.	HOPE	MIHAF	PAYS/ SPAs	Renters
Eastside Community Network	313-571-2800	X			
Friends of The Alger Theatre	313-720-3904	X			
MACC Development	313-731-2037	X			
Osborn Neighborhood Alliance	313-384-5019	X			
United Community Housing	313-405-7726			X	X
U SNAP BAC	313-640-1100	X	X	X	
Wayne Metro CAA	313-388-9799	X	X	X	X

**WE WANT YOU TO STAY IN YOUR HOME**  
Councilmember Latisha Johnson - councilmemberjohnson@detroitmi.gov - 313-224-4841

**March 31st Redemption and Foreclosure Deadline**  
The March 31st foreclosure deadline will not be extended as it has in the past. Please pay the 2019 and prior years taxes in full by March 31st or be enrolled and up to date with a payment plan by March 14th to avoid foreclosure.  
[Payment Plan Deadline Is March 31, 2022 \(video\) \(waynecounty.com\)](#)  
email: taxinfo@waynecounty.com, Phone: (313) 224-5990, website: treasurer.waynecounty.com

**Ask the Treasurer - February 2022 - March 2022 dates**

THE WAYNE COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE PRESENTS  
**Ask the Treasurer**

**Jan 26 6:00 PM   Feb 16 6:00 PM   Feb 23 6:00 PM   Mar 16 6:00 PM   Mar 23 6:00 PM**

  
Eric R. Sabree  
Wayne County Treasurer

Agencies providing resources for delinquent taxes, payment plans, and utility assistance.

Join the conversation:  
Zoom information: Meeting ID: 871 3819 6745 Password: 090344  
Call in: 1 (215) 446-3657 1 (888) 363-4735  
   
Wayne County Treasurer's Office - Eric R. Sabree

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The February - March meetings will take place at the following times:

- Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 6:00 PM
- Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 6:00 PM
- Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 6:00 PM
- Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at 6:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://waynecounty.zoom.us/j/87138196745...>

Meeting ID: 871 3819 6745

Passcode: 090344

Dial

USA 215 446 3657 US Toll  
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Conference code: 445666

# MorningSide's Finest

Ricardo White

Ricardo White stumbled onto politics in his early teens. He came across C-Span while channel-surfing one day in 2004, as a debate about the Iraq War was playing out on the Senate floor. Although politics wasn't often discussed around his dinner table, Ricardo felt immediately engaged. He began doing political volunteer work several years later, at the age of 18, and hasn't looked back since. Today Ricardo serves as the Legislative and Policy Director for newly-elected District 7 City Councilmember Fred Durhal III.

He also happens to be a MorningSide neighbor. A lifelong Detroiter, Ricardo moved from downtown Detroit to Three Mile Drive several years ago and says he's been "incredibly happy living here" because of "terrific neighbors" and an active community.

Ricardo met Councilmember Durhal while working as a legislative aide in the Michigan House of Representatives in Lansing, where Durhal was a State Representative. They became friends as well as colleagues, and Ricardo was drafted to work in Councilmember Durhal's office after the November election.

Ricardo says that as Legislative and Policy Director, it's his job to look at potential legislation with three things in mind. First, he says, there's the "do no harm test." Will this policy help or harm Detroiters? Second, he looks at the legal implications of a potential piece of legislation. Is it likely to face any serious challenge to its legality or constitutionality? Third, can you build a coalition around the proposed legislation? Does it have support from other Council members and residents?

The difference between working in a Republican-controlled state legislature and working for the Detroit City Council is striking, Ricardo says. "Having the ability to really have an impact is amazing. There are so many opportunities... to do something positive, especially with six new Council members."



Ricardo White. Image courtesy of Ricardo White

When he isn't busy analyzing legislation, Ricardo enjoys reading - especially foreign policy and history - and travel. He's also honed his cooking skills as a result of the pandemic, he says.

All his years in politics, even in these divisive times, hasn't dampened Ricardo's natural optimism. He speaks of being "enthralled by the majesty of government" without a hint of cynicism. Ricardo plans to carry that optimism into a bid for Michigan State Representative in the newly-configured 11th House District.

We'll certainly be hearing more from this MorningSider in the months and years to come!

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