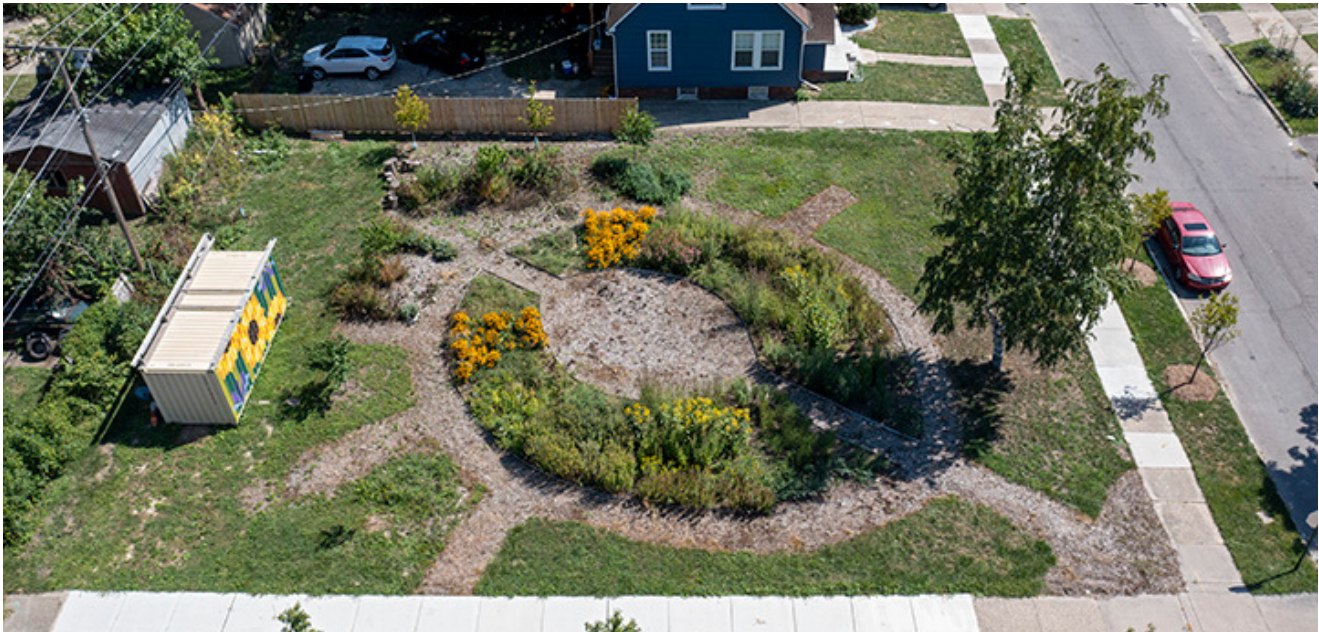




# MORNINGSIDER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MORNINGSIDE



Aerial shot of Emerald Garden MorningSide. Image courtesy of Jim West  
**Emerald Garden MorningSide is Thriving**

**Gary Gray | Contributing Writer**

Detroit — It has been a while since I last wrote about Emerald Garden MorningSide. I came out of semi-retirement when our newly elected Councilwoman, Latisha Johnson, asked me to be her Chief of Staff. I thought being an urban farmer was challenging work, but it's a cakewalk compared to my new job.

Fortunately, I have a secret weapon, my wife Sharon, who has assumed the role of Executive Director of Emerald Isles CDC. She has excellent administrative skills, but you should not expect to see her with a shovel or a wheelbarrow. Under her leadership, we plan to raise funds to add some needed and exciting new features to the garden.

This October, we plan to add a 20' x 50' hoop house next to the cherry tree orchard, and we hope to add fencing next spring. The hoop house will enable us to extend the growing season for the market vegetable garden we plan to plant next year. The fence and a couple of pit bull dogs will help to discourage people from raiding the cherry trees when they begin to bear fruit.

Story continued on page 6...

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## Improvements Coming to Chandler Park - New Indoor Recreation!

Jeremy Thomas | City of Detroit



A conceptual rendering of the indoor recreation center at Chandler Park  
Image courtesy of Studio Detroit Architects

The City of Detroit General Services Department is currently in the planning stage for several improvements in Chandler Park, including a new indoor recreation facility and new playground equipment. The recreation facility is the result of many years of community input and planning efforts, as well as recognizing the need to address a "gap" in access to public recreation facilities in this part of the city.

The type of building—and how it is constructed—will be determined by an architecture and engineering study once a firm is hired. We are gathering input on what types of activities you and your family would like to do in this space, to best design the space to serve the needs of the community. To make your voice heard, take our survey!

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

You can also see a Powerpoint presentation on current options for the recreation facility here. ([Chandler Park Presentation\\_8.15.22.pptx](#)).

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*Jeremy Thomas is Communications & Marketing Manager for Detroit's General Services Department*

## E. Warren Streetscape Taking Shape

### The Morningsider

If you have a good imagination, you can begin to see the individual features of the E. Warren streetscape emerging this month. We already have beautiful new wider sidewalks on the north side of Warren. You can also see where the narrower bike lanes will be, next to the sidewalk. They won't be wide enough for a car to park or drive in, fortunately, eliminating the confusion and tension we've experienced between cars and bikes.

The wooden frames that workers are building provide the foundation for raised platforms separating bikers from parked cars and serving as a place for hardy trees, which the city has promised to maintain.



Framing is set for the new raised platforms set to separate the bike lanes from the parking lanes. Image courtesy of Susan Newell

If you're annoyed by the signs prohibiting left turns at E. Outer Drive and at Cadieux, please know that they're the lesser of two evils. Since construction has temporarily eliminated the left turn lane, cars would be seriously backed up behind a car waiting to turn left from a two-lane street.

Streetscape construction has proceeded with no major delays so far. That's a great accomplishment considering that most construction projects of this size take much longer than anticipated.

Wednesday office hours from 5 to 6 p.m. on Zoom continue to provide an opportunity for residents to ask questions and raise concerns about the project. You can access those meetings at this [link](#).

East Warren Development Corporation also has a great weekly newsletter which includes updates on the streetscape and other developments along the E. Warren business corridor. You can sign up for it [here](#).



With the addition of the raised platforms, bicyclists will be protected from other methods of transportation. Image courtesy of Jeffrey D. Lewis II

# Introducing "Curb Appeal"

Jeffrey D. Lewis II | The Morningsider



The well-maintained front yard, and home of Mrs. Mary Jones.  
Image courtesy of Jeffrey D. Lewis II

Outer Drive has always been considered by many as one of Detroit's premier thoroughfares. Many of its large and beautiful homes are based right here in MorningSide.

As you're traveling along East Outer Drive, the curb appeal of one home will definitely have you wanting to take a second look.

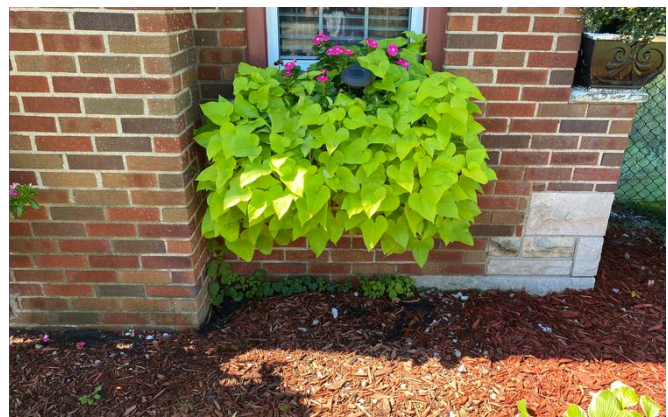
The stunning East Outer Drive residence belongs to Mrs. Mary Jones. A resident of MorningSide since 2008, Mrs. Jones credits her daughter for discovering one of the neighborhood's most inspiring homes. "I was on vacation and my daughter just happened to come across the property," says Mrs. Jones. After viewing the property, she was immediately sold. As she says, "It just had the right spirit."

The previous owner lost the home due to a foreclosure. "Even then it was well cared for. It made our job a lot easier," says Mrs. Jones.

At 74 years young (doesn't look a day over 35 years old), Mrs. Jones, a retired deputy sheriff for the Wayne County Sheriff's office, takes great pride in maintaining her yard.

"I don't see it as work, it brings me joy and pleasure," says Mrs. Jones.

During our two hour conversation, Mrs. Jones and I had the opportunity to discuss many things, from her days as a sheriff at the William Dickerson Detention Facility in Hamtramck, to the landscape of the city today, and of course her beautiful home.



A potato plant is placed on the windowsill. Image courtesy of Jeffrey D. Lewis II

"One of the things I would recommend to anyone looking to beautify their yard is to one, shop around, whether it's at Home Depot or English Gardens, it never hurts to search around for the best deal, and most importantly, find something that inspires you," says Mrs. Jones.

Story continues on page 6...

## Corn Wall on Cornwall Project Keeps Growing

**Charon Nogues** | The Morningsider

When my husband Gaston and I moved back to Detroit several years ago with our son Daniel, we brought with us a passion for living simply, creating a beautiful environment to share with our neighbors, and using the land wisely. We set out to regenerate the soil around our home, planting flowers and vegetables that could eventually sustain us, using only natural gardening methods - no Roundup allowed!

When dumping became a problem on the berm at Nottingham and Cornwall next to our home, I wanted to do something creative to stop it. One day the words "corn wall on Cornwall" just fell out of my mouth! People would be less likely to dump trash in an area where something was growing - why not corn?

One great thing about corn is that it pulls toxins out of the soil. Last spring we cleared out the berm for two blocks of Cornwall, between Somerset and Barham. It's amazing what we dug up - bumpers, clothing, you name it. Then we planted corn and sunflowers. The birds love the sunflowers, which have grown taller than me this year, and our chickens - yes we have chickens, too - love the corn. Our resident pheasant and neighborhood turkey, who my husband named "LaVerne" sometimes hang out with the chickens.



The corn and sunflower berm at Nottingham and Cornwall in MorningSide. Image courtesy of Jim West

Last summer Gaston installed a patio made from reclaimed chunks of concrete - people who use recycled materials call it "urban ore" - and also a fireplace made from rubble that Gaston found inside the front porch we had to replace. The inside of the fireplace was created by cutting in half an old bathtub that was in the house we bought. You can always buy building materials at Lowe's, but it's much cooler, and cheaper, to use materials that would otherwise end up in a landfill...it just takes a bit more time!



The hand-carved decorative fence was designed by Gaston Nogues. Image courtesy of Jim West

This summer's projects include building a decorative fence around our yard from small tree limbs that Gaston carves by hand. He was an installation artist in Los Angeles before coming here, so he knows how to make large scale pieces that are beautiful as well as functional.

We're also in the beginning stages of creating a community space in the vacant lot across the street where our neighbors can watch movies on a large screen, lent to us by our friend and neighbor, AJ White. I'm determined to have it ready for movie nights before the weather turns cold.

Story continues on page 7...

## Continued... Emerald Garden MorningSide is Thriving

Some of you have visited, passed by, or helped to establish the large oval flower garden, which is the centerpiece of Emerald Gardens MorningSide. The oval is the perennial propagator, made possible by a grant from Detroit Future City and hard work by a few volunteers. This garden has over 200 native plants that attract birds, bees, and people. Among the plants are black-eyed Susans, purple cone flowers, butterfly weeds, bee balm, asters, cup flowers, swamp milk weed, and common milk weed, to name a few. Starting next fall, we intend to divide and share the plants with our volunteers, so come out and lend a hand.

You may have noticed the 12 trees that were planted by the City of Detroit General Services Department, which is led by our EEV neighbor Brad Dick. He must plant 10,000 trees to keep his job, so give him a call at 313-871-5461. Trees help to beautify the community, reduce global warming, and keep Brad employed.

## Continued... *Introducing "Curb Appeal"*

Mrs. Jones originally hails from the small town of Rockhill, South Carolina. It wasn't until she turned eighteen that she relocated to Detroit.

"We lived in Brooklyn, New York for a very short period of time before we moved to Detroit," says Mrs. Jones. In all the years of living in the city, this is Mrs. Jones first time residing here on the city's east side. "I would forever hear the west side is better, the east side is better, it was always funny to me, says Mrs. Jones. She has since joined the consensus in the never ending debate, "the east side is indeed better," says a smiling Mrs. Jones.

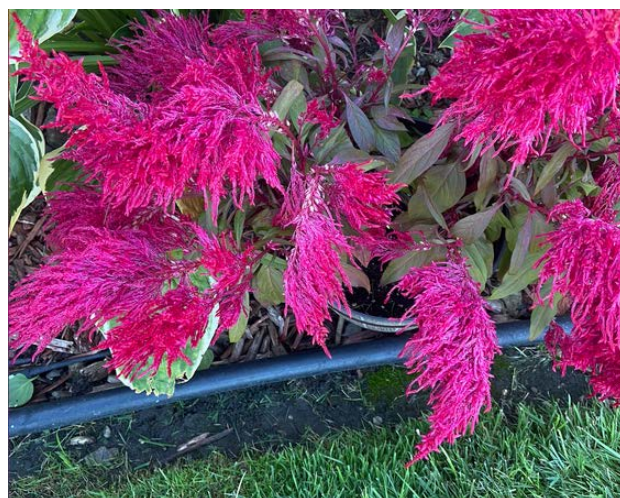
You will find a variety of flowers and plants in Mrs. Jones yard. Everything from mums, to hostas, a Japanese maple tree, and the vibrant begonias that line both sides of her sidewalk leading to her front porch.

Mrs. Jones is a spiritual woman and gives God the credit for the inspiration she has in maintaining her yard. Towards the conclusion of our conversation, Mrs. Jones provided me with a scripture she lives by: From Psalms 118:24, This is the day that the Lord has made; I will rejoice and be glad in it.

Last year we had a small group of community gardeners who planted a bumper crop of kale, tomatoes, collards, watermelons, and other vegetables and herbs. Unfortunately, we were unable to plant a community garden this year, but we will set aside some beds in the future for the community. We also plan to celebrate more as we did in the past. Emerald Garden MorningSide is alive and well. We are looking forward to helping to build a more healthy and beautiful community.

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*Gary Gray, Chief of Staff for Councilmember Latisha Johnson*



**Dragon Breath flowers are one of the many you will find in Mrs. Jones front yard. Image courtesy of Mrs. Mary Jones**

Mrs. Jones is a true gem. It's individuals such as her that make our community a better place. We are very fortunate to have her here in MorningSide!

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

## Scavenger Hunt and Storytime at Jefferson Branch Library

**Megan Summers** | Contributing Writer

We're pleased to offer two fun activities for kids and adults this month. Stop by the Jefferson Branch during the month of September for our "Better Breakfast Month Scavenger Hunt" that highlights healthy breakfast foods. Those who complete the scavenger hunt will win a prize!

Also, join us on **Saturday, September 17** from **11 to 11:30 a.m.** for Storytime in our garden behind the library for songs, rhymes, stories, and other activities. The theme for September is dancing, so be ready to cut a rug!

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*Megan Summers is a Librarian II at the Jefferson Branch Library on E. Outer Dr. just north of E. Warren.*



Jefferson Branch Library. Image courtesy of the Detroit Public Library

## Continued... Corn Wall on Cornwall Project Keeps Growing

By the end of the summer, we also plan to have an A-frame bat house completed, and we will start to dig a small pond, where we can raise fish for eating - another way we want to create a sustainable, earth-friendly lifestyle.

Our neighbors love what we're doing. People stop by all the time when Gaston is out working to ask him questions and trade stories. It started with a desire to stop illegal dumping and has grown into something much bigger and better. Next year, when the corn has improved the soil enough that the corn is safe for human consumption, we're going to have a community celebration. Stay tuned!

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*Charon Nogues, At-Large board member of MCO, sits on the Advisory Board of Brilliant Detroit, and board member of the nonprofit, Friends of the Alger Theater*



Sunflowers are one of the primary features of the Corn Wall on Cornwall Project. Image courtesy of Jim West

## Arts & Scraps - Making Magic From Unlikely Sources

**Susan Newell** | The Morningsider

The initial reaction of a first-time visitor to Arts & Scraps is likely to be amazement. Tightly-packed bins and shelves filled with scraps of all kinds - yarn, fabric, puzzle pieces, wood scraps, tiles, machine parts, greeting cards, bottle caps - are there ready to be transformed with a little imagination into - you guessed it - art. "I had no idea this place was here!" exclaimed a young elementary school teacher stocking up recently on supplies for a classroom art project. "This place is great!"



**Bins are staffed with a variety of recycled materials. Image courtesy of Susan Newell**

That's been the response of thousands of teachers, parents, and crafters from all over the city who have patronized Arts & Scraps since it was founded in 1989. Arts & Scrap's mission is educational, artistic, and environmental. According to their website, "We reimagine recycled industrial materials to inspire people of all ages to think, create, and learn!"

Arts & Scraps is so much more than a storage space for castoff materials. The organization is doing what it can to save the environment, one industrial scrap at a time. Everything that they sell at remarkably low prices - \$8 for whatever you can stuff into a large bag, or \$4.50 for a small bag - would ordinarily end up in a landfill. In fact, they recycled 21 tons of material in 2021. More important, their programs incorporate environmental education into crafting and set up young children for a lifetime of recycling.

The organization is all about education as well - "STEM through art integration" says And Adamiak, Arts & Scraps' Executive Director. When teachers want their elementary school students to learn about the lifecycle of a frog, for example, Arts & Scraps will provide them with kits containing all the materials they need to create their own whimsical models of tadpoles and frogs. At a time when so many teachers feel compelled to buy supplies for art and science lessons out of their own pockets, Arts & Scraps fills a huge need.

Those may be the goals for grown-ups, but for kids, Arts & Scraps is all about having fun and being creative. Many years ago, my daughter had her sixth birthday party there, making Native American dreamcatchers with friends. She was jumping up and down with excitement then and still remembers it as one of her favorite birthdays. If that isn't a good recommendation, what is?

Arts & Scraps had to put their in-store programs on hold during the pandemic, but they are hoping to resume them in the near future. In the meantime, the Scrap Mobile was able to provide services to more than 26,000 people at schools and special events in the community over the past year. In fact, 85% of their programs take place out in the community.



**Mobile dragonflies made from recycled film negatives. Image courtesy of Susan Newell**

Story continues on page 9...



## Next Bike Ride is Saturday, September 24 Features Sanctuary Farms

**Nicolas Hall** | The Morningsider

Meet neighbors and explore the neighborhood at our monthly bike ride! On Saturday, September 24th, we are biking to Sanctuary Farms. Sanctuary Farms is a [MAEAP](#) environmentally-verified urban farm, located just outside Morningside at 3171 Lakeview Street. It is owned by Jøn Kent and Parker Jean, who started the farm in 2021.

Participants will meet up at Three Mile Park (4600 Three Mile Drive) at 10:00am. From there we'll cruise the neighborhood, meandering west until we arrive at Sanctuary Farms. After meeting the owners and getting a short history of the farm, we'll bike back to Three Mile Park. The ride will be about 6 miles in total and wrap up by noon.

All riders are encouraged to wear bike helmets. If you have questions or concerns, please call Nic Hall at (815) 354-2092.

Below you'll find a flyer of the event, along with a photo of co-owners Jøn and Parker.



Sanctuary Farms owners Jøn Kent and Parker Jean. Image courtesy of Sanctuary Farms

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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*

## Continued... Arts & Scraps - Making Magic From Unlikely Sources

Arts & Scraps is located on Harper at Bedford (16135 Harper). A distinctive flowered mural covers one side of the building. The store is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, check out their website or call (313) 640-4411.

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



A mural adorns the exterior wall of Arts & Scraps. Image courtesy of Susan Newell

## Let's Talk Trash

### The Morningsider

Don't forget that GFL Environmental won't pick up large piles of loose branches. Yard waste must be in paper bags or tied neatly in bundles. Report problems at [www.seeclickfix.com](http://www.seeclickfix.com) or on your phone at the ImproveDetroit app.

Your next three bulk trash and yard waste pickup dates are as follows:

- Thursday, September 15th & 29th
- Thursday, October 13th



A pile of construction materials illegally dumped on the side berm of Chatsworth and Munich Street. Image courtesy of Jeffrey D. Lewis II

## Hope and Help for Residents Facing Water Insecurity

### Bridge Detroit & The Morningsider

If DWSD's new water affordability program, Lifeline Plan, works as intended, Detroit should never see a return to the bad old days when thousands of residents had their water shut off. The pilot program erases overdue water bills and offers subsidies to Detroiters based on their family income and water usage.

Click [here](#) to read the article in Bridge Detroit that provides details of the plan, eligibility criteria, and tells you how you can enroll.



Residents sign-in to learn about the the City of Detroit's Lifeline Plan, a water affordability program, at the Fellowship Chapel on August 4. Image courtesy of Detroit Water and Sewerage Department

## Proposed Ordinance Would Promote Property Tax Justice

Jayla Dill | Coalition for Property Tax Justice

An ordinance coming before City Council soon, if approved, would completely change how the City of Detroit administers and maintains property taxes.

From 2011 to 2015, the City of Detroit overtaxed Detroit homeowners by [\\$600 million](#). The City has admitted to doing this but has only planned to allocate compensation for \$6 million. A 2020 [study](#) shows that Black and Hispanic homeowners pay 10-13% more in property taxes. Due to the lack of accountability and structural complications of the property tax assessment process, this type of over-taxation is still continuing today. The [Coalition for Property Tax Justice](#) created a draft Property Tax Reform Ordinance to confront and adjust these issues. The draft ordinance focuses on reforming procedural barriers, allowing more transparency, and creating oversight systems.

The Coalition began writing the draft reform ordinance in 2021 and relied heavily on its experience filing more than 250 property tax assessment appeals with the City's Board of Review. Once the draft was approved by all partner organizations, the Coalition hosted the first round of public meetings with Detroit's newly appointed City Councilmembers in early 2022. During these meetings, City Councilmembers and Detroit residents discussed potential changes to the draft to make it more effective. The Coalition took the suggestions from these meetings to create an updated version.

Now that the Coalition updated the draft, they are hosting meetings with City Councilmembers for a second round. Once the ordinance is completed, it will be presented to City Council for a vote.

The second round of meetings began on August 23 and will continue through September 16. The remaining sessions include Councilmember Coleman Young on September 12, Councilmember Gabriela Santiago Romero on September 16, and Council President Mary Sheffield on October 5. These sessions are open to the public for comments and discussion. You can also see a copy of the Coalition's presentation [here](#).

The Coalition also encourages you to attend the Council meeting of the Whole on September 15th to discuss the reform ordinance draft with City Council, property tax scholars, and Detroit residents.

Stay up to date on all of the Coalition's work by following on all social media platforms @IllegalForeclosures and visiting [illegalforeclosures.org](http://illegalforeclosures.org).

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*Jayla Dill is a Community Advocate & Digital Organizer for the Coalition for Property Tax Justice*



**Tim Killeen**  
 Wayne County Commissioner – District 1  
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[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**

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## Resources & Upcoming Events

Presented by The Morningsider

**Apply HERE**

Apply to be a partner!

# YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PARTNERS

**Application open from August 29th - September 23rd**

**WHAT WE'RE FOCUSED ON:**

- Increasing collaboration between youth development agencies citywide
- Connecting youth leaders from all neighborhoods
- Building impactful youth-adult partnerships
- Expanding opportunities for shared learning and resource exchange
- Cultivating youth leadership and civic engagement
- Advocating for youth to be informed about and involved in community processes

Questions: **Monique Holliday**  
myholliday001@gmail.com

## HOPE Days at ECN

If you cannot pay your taxes for financial reasons, you may be able to reduce or eliminate your 2022 property tax obligation with the [Homeowners Property Exemption \(HOPE\)](#).

Our goal is to "Help Our People Exceed" through the Homeowners Property Exemption....  
HOPE Day

**Weekly Appointments**  
**Every Monday | 10am - 3pm**  
Call to schedule your appointment & a list of required documents

For more information please contact, Sparkle Berry  
(313) 264 -1416 | sberry@ecn-detroit.org  
See other side for required documentation

# VIRTUAL FIRST TIME HOME BUYERS CLUB

Would you like to own a home and secure down payment assistance, but don't know how?

Matrix Human Services offers free one-on-one housing counseling services and educational workshops geared towards guiding you to accomplishing your goals. Our certified HUD Housing Counselors can help.

- FREE Workshop valued at \$100
- Down payment & closing cost assistance up to \$10,000
- Expert advice from an actual lender
- Pre & Post purchase counseling
- Financial Coaching with FREE credit monitoring that will not impact your credit score

An Approved HUD Local Housing Counseling Agency  
Funded By: Michigan State Housing Development Authority

First Time Home Buyers Club  
Every 4th Saturday 9:00 am to 12:30 pm  
Every 4th Tuesday 4 pm to 7:30 pm  
Complete our housing counseling intake form to receive your virtual invitation!

Location: Online | Visit [matrixhumanservices.org/events](https://matrixhumanservices.org/events) to register

## If you are having trouble paying your utility bills, United Way can help.

The Michigan Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) can help eligible families access direct financial assistance toward their utility bills during this time of crisis.

**FOLLOW THESE STEPS TO APPLY:**

- 1 Apply and be approved for State Emergency Relief through MI Bridges at [NewMIbridges.Michigan.gov](https://NewMIbridges.Michigan.gov).
- 2 Gather documentation, including:
  - Current utility bill that displays your account number and mailing address
  - Date and amount of previous energy assistance received within the last 12 months
  - Approved State Emergency Relief decision letter
- 3 Apply for direct financial assistance or enroll in the MEAP program online at [UWSEM.SMAapply.org](https://UWSEM.SMAapply.org) or by calling 844-211-4994.

Learn more at [UnitedWaySEM.org/MEAP](https://UnitedWaySEM.org/MEAP)

## Brilliant Detroit Ends a Busy Summer with Back-to-School Day

**EJ Haralson** | Brilliant Detroit

MorningSide's Brilliant Detroit has offered some great programs and events over the course of the summer - Summer Camp, Good Vibz Yoga, Arts & Scraps, Meet up & Eat up, Parent as First Teacher, and Taekwondo, just to name a few.

After a summer of learning and improving, the kids who attended summer camp celebrated with a well deserved Back-to-School Fun Day. On Thursday August 1, MorningSide's Brilliant Detroit house was transformed into a child's dream. Families had the opportunity to jump around in the bouncy castle, ride a train around the neighborhood, and enjoy a variety of special treats including popcorn, hot dogs, and flavored snow cones. The main goal for our summer camp was to allow children to find something they care about, which can be later turned into a passion or career. We encouraged the kids to try something new.

In order to help promote education and dreams, children of the MorningSide Community were provided with backpacks full of back-to-school essentials (pencils, college ruled notebooks, color pencils, scissors, glue, highlighters, etc) preparing them for school. Over 40 backpacks were distributed to the summer campers and their siblings as well, so that no child in a family would feel left out.

Wrapping up the day of fun, the kids were rewarded for their completion of summer camp and tutoring with certificates of completion and a free-range pick from the toy table. All in all, an exciting day and great way to end summer for the MorningSide community!

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*EJ Haralson is a Community Engagement Coordinator for Brilliant Detroit MorningSide*



**Brilliant Detroit Back to School Fun Day. Image courtesy of Jim West**



**Children tossing a football at the Brilliant Detroit Back to School Fun Day. Image courtesy of Jim West**

## Board of Police Commissioners Seeks Youth Advisors

**Bridge Detroit & The Morningsider**

Inspired by similar programs in other cities, the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners is recruiting residents ages 14-24 to a Youth Advisory Panel, giving young people an opportunity to share their views of the Detroit Police Department and improve relations between the DPD and the city's youth.

"The objective of having young folks work with the Youth Advisory Panel is so that young people will learn how to become empowered as they interact with law enforcement members," BOPC Vice Chair Annie Holt told BridgeDetroit recently.

According to Second Deputy Chief Kyra Joy Hope, "If your feelings were somehow changed in a negative way by a bad encounter, you have an outlet and an opportunity to voice how you felt about that situation," she said, "and what you feel that the chief of police should do as it relates to your encounter."

Applications will be made available through the city's high schools, universities, and community colleges, and libraries, as well as online. The deadline to apply is September 30.

For more details, see Bridge Detroit's article [here](#).



Wayne State University student Taylor James says she wants to learn more about the new panel and believes her generation should help shape policing. Image courtesy of Bryce Huffman

## Next MCO Community Meeting

**The Morningsider**

The next MorningSide Community Organization's meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 11**. Details for the meeting location and time will be announced as we get closer to the date.



August's MCO meeting at Three Mile Munich Park. Image courtesy of Nicolas Hall

# Morningside's Finest

## Jackie Grant

At this point in her life, Jackie Grant could be a retiree sipping piña coladas on a beach somewhere. She did consider retirement a few years ago “for a minute” but quickly realized she’d much rather stay engaged in Detroit’s revitalization. “Why not?” she says. “When you stop, you’re dead.”

Jackie worked in the hospitality industry in the 1990’s and early 2000’s, but it was her interest in real estate that got her involved in housing issues following the collapse of the mortgage industry in 2008. She hasn’t looked back since. “When you see something that’s so egregious and wrong, you can’t unsee it,” she says.

In 2010 Jackie worked on the Motor City Mapping project, a citywide survey which determined the ownership, occupancy, and condition of every property in the city. From there she went to Data Driven Detroit, then Loveland Technologies (now called [Regrid](#)), which provides detailed information on properties all over the world. She’s also done property tax foreclosure prevention work for the past twelve years with the City of Detroit Board of Review, United Community Housing Coalition and Quicken Loans (now [Rocket Community Fund](#)).

Jackie is a consultant for the Housing Stability Team at Rocket Community Fund for the [Neighbor to Neighbor](#) (N2N) project, which conducts door-to-door surveys to inform residents that their homes may be behind on property taxes or at risk of foreclosure, directing them to organizations that can provide assistance. The surveys also provide feedback from residents to these organizations so they can make their programs more effective.

After serving as President of MorningSide Community Organization for two years, Jackie took on the leadership of the Board of [Friends of the Alger Theater](#), vowing to complete a decades-long effort to re-open the theater. “It’s now or never,” she says with determination.



**Jackie Grant.** Image courtesy of the Friends of Alger Theater

Jackie has been busy fund-raising and overseeing the many improvements the theater needs. For the first time in more than 30 years they have installed a water line and an ADA-approved lift. The next projects, she says, are an ADA-compliant bathroom and a new roof. In the meantime, she wants to see more community activities in and around the theater to engage residents, particularly children.

Many residents in MorningSide and beyond know Jackie as the person who helped them save their homes from property tax foreclosure by assisting them in filling out the HOPE ([Homeowners Property Exemption](#)) application. In partnership with Rocket Community Fund, Jackie and several other active volunteers with the Alger Theater are available to help residents facing property tax foreclosure. Office hours are by appointment only. Residents should call 313-720-3904 to make an appointment. You’d be hard pressed to find a MorningSider more committed to making a difference in her community and city.

# Advertise in The Morningsider!

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

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\$825 Full Page  
\$400 Half Page  
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## Monthly Run

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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.

Contact The Morningside Community Organization at:

**(313) 355-2468** or via email:

[morningsidecommunity2@gmail.com](mailto:morningsidecommunity2@gmail.com)

Also checkout our website!

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

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