



MORNINGSIDER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MORNINGSIDE



Aerial footage of MorningSide's Gateway Park. Image courtesy of Jim West

Sustainable Elements Key to Gateway Park Makeover

Jeffrey D. Lewis II | The Morningsider

Detroit — For the first time in quite a while, MorningSide's Gateway Park is gaining attention for all the right reasons.

The northwest corner at Mack Avenue and Alter Road underwent a significant makeover back in September as many new plants, and a beautiful Colorado blue spruce tree took its rightful spot as the centerpiece of the park.

All of this was made possible by two generous MorningSide business owners who believe in giving back to the community they serve.

John McLeod of the Cloud Cannabis Company and Jim Leamon of Leamon Landscape and Design took the lead of uplifting the grounds of a very important entryway into MorningSide.

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Featherstone Garden Goodies at the Motor City Grounds Crew Fall Festival

Renee Sandoval | Featherstone Garden



Pumpkins and mums are synonymous with the Fall season. Image courtesy of Washingtonian

Featherstone Garden's MorningSide Farmstand is closed for the season, but the Featherstone team will be offering caramel apples, "worms in dirt" pudding (also known as gummy worms in chocolate), fall produce, and some other yummy, spooky treats for sale at the Motor City Grounds Crew Fall Festival.

When: October 22 from 10am-3pm

Where: The MorningSide Community Campus at 4143 Barham St. Detroit

Stay in the loop with Featherstone Garden's winter offerings, plant-centered recipes, and featured community partners by subscribing to the weekly Featherstone Garden Happenings Newsletter: <https://featherstonegarden.substack.com>

To learn more please visit:

www.featherstonegarden.com or follow: @featherstone.garden on Instagram

Renee Sandoval is the Creative Content Manager for Featherstone Garden

New School Year, New Atmosphere at EEV Prep

Adrian L. Green | The Morningsider

About this time last year, the culture and climate at East English Village Preparatory Academy was at an all time low. Violence was the order of the day and "The Ville" went viral after 50 police cars responded to a full-on riot inside the school. A year later, Principal Marty Bulger and the EEVPA team have worked to dramatically improve the image and reputation of the school by putting students first and focusing on social emotional learning and restorative practices, while at the same time building in accountability among the student body.

We started the new school year on August 29th and spent the first week emphasizing the "Three A's - Attendance, Attitude, and Achievement" and setting expectations for the students. We pledged to approach the new year with "LUV.....Listen, Understand, and Validate." As a school team, we will allow for student input and "Listen" to their concerns and recommendations. We will seek to "Understand" their point of view and opinions, and we will "Validate" them by affirming and recognizing their successes as well as their weaknesses.

Such an approach has resulted in very few negative incidents, especially fighting. We are attempting to be proactive in resolving disputes between students before they develop into a fight. According to many of the veterans at EEVPA, the change among the student body is quite evident, and they see many of the students making good faith attempts to be better scholars and even better citizens. Consequently, our suspension rate has been extremely low, and students are spending more time in school.

We have had two pep rallies to allow the students to have some fun as we cheer on the football, cross country, and volleyball teams. Our Homecoming Day was held on September 30 and although the football team fell to Denby High School by a score of 14-6, a good time was had by all who attend the Homecoming Dance at the school.

Overall, the first month of school at The Ville has been positive, uplifting, and fun. It is our hope and expectation that this positive start of the school year will carry on and translate into increased test scores and high academic achievement at every grade level.



East English Village Preparatory Academy students enjoy September's Homecoming dance. Image courtesy of Adrian L. Green

Adrian L. Green is the Treasurer of MorningSide Community Organization and a Dean of Culture at East English Village Preparatory Academy.

Continued... Sustainable Elements Key to Gateway Park Makeover

Growing up on the west side of Detroit in the Rosedale Park neighborhood, John has been active in community-driven projects since his childhood as his parents were heavily involved in the community (still are to this day).

Taking on this endeavor was extremely important to him as the Detroit side of Mack has often been neglected compared to our suburban neighbors across the street. "Our side of Mack Avenue should look just as good as the Grosse Pointe side. I look at it as my responsibility to make sure we are looking just as good," says McLeod.

"This serves as the Gateway into MorningSide and it's important that people know they are here in our community. Things are changing for the good and it's truly on the rise," says McLeod.



John McLeod. Image courtesy of John McLeod

For McLeod, finding a landscape designer to implement the Gateway makeover was key, but it was even more significant to find one that was local, and based here in the city.

His search of finding a seasoned landscaper took him just a few short blocks up the street as Jim Leamon's landscaping company is based right at Nottingham and Mack.

"Jim is the plant guy," says McLeod. He knows all the types, the ones that will survive in their respective climates, he knows it all.

Working on the Gateway, John and Jim both initiated strategic planning and were very intentional in the design aspect of what would be installed at the park.

"With the lack of water, we had to install plants that would do well and could last through the harsh winters Michigan experiences," says Leamon.

Chatting with MCO President, Eric Dueweke, it was important that we find something that can remain green throughout the winter. That's where the Colorado blue spruce comes into the fold, says Leamon. "It will remain green the entire year."



Fresh soil is installed around the Colorado blue spruce. Image courtesy of Jeffrey D. Lewis II

"In the immediate area surrounding the blue spruce are alpine currents," says Leamon. They are very durable and dry-resistant.

Purpleleaf wintercreeper are based on the outer portion of the giant planter and as its name states, the plants will bloom a vibrant purplish hue in the coming months.

Story continues on page 9...

Introducing "Curb Appeal"

Susan Newell | The Morningsider

If you've been having a bad day, driving past Anthony Gildersleeve's home at 5261 Three Mile is guaranteed to lift your spirits. His porch and front yard are a riot of colors that change with the seasons. Right now hydrangeas, hostas, impatiens, and pots of coleus take center stage.

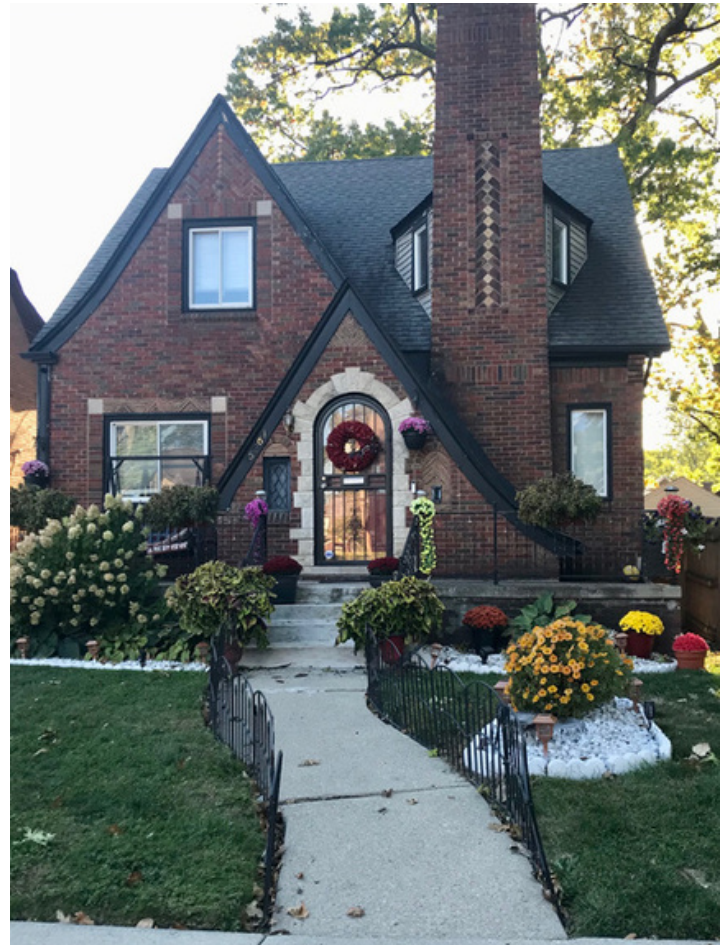
"I just like plants," says Anthony with a broad smile. This is his first home, which he was able to purchase for a great price in 2008, when property values in MorningSide had plummeted. Since then he has steadily improved both his front and back yard. He's especially proud of the garden swing hanging from a giant oak in the picture perfect backyard. "Everyone who comes here wants to swing on it."

When he's not gardening, Anthony works as an operations manager at Slipnot, a company on the east side that makes industrial flooring. He's been there for the past 31 years. "People sometimes get us confused with Slipknot (a heavy metal band). They tell me 'Man, I listen to your music all the time!'" Anthony says with a laugh.

Born and raised in Alabama, Anthony has lived much of his adult life in Detroit. His seven siblings are close-knit and all live on the east side. "We see each other all the time," he says.

Although the vast majority of his plants are the result of tender loving care, Anthony admits with a mischievous grin that he slips in a few artificial flowers here and there. But when the overall effect brings joy to his neighbors, no one really cares.

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



The front yard of 5261 Three Mile Drive features a variety of colorful plants. Image courtesy of Susan Newell

What's Happening at the Alger

Clifton Griffin | Contributing Writer

Now that we've gotten used to the constant construction dust and noise, narrowing kamikaze lanes, and water leaks freely running down E. Warren and other streets, we're beginning to see emerge the hint of a newness, a pre-vitality...something's coming to our corridor. There is something about blocks and blocks of new cement that announces the neighborhood is reawakening. Midtown went through it, Livernois went through it, others have gone through it, now it's our turn.

With progress sometimes come minor setbacks, though; for example, the Alger Theater normally posts messages on our E. Warren marquee. Now that the sidewalk is missing, it is not possible to use this side. We are hoping that this will be rectified any day now.

Jackie Grant, President of Friends of the Alger Theater, recently announced at the organization's Annual Meeting, that the ADA lift to our rooftop patio had been installed, and that we are awaiting final inspection. She also revealed that a fourth mural had been commissioned by the artist Desiree Kelly, and the subject is the highly talented Ava DuVernay. The artist, who is known for her Eastern Market mural of Aretha Franklin, is excited to add an accomplished female director to the set of existing murals on our rooftop balcony depicting Alfred Hitchcock, Spike Lee, and David Lynch.

And as a consequence of the streets being torn up we were able to capitalize on this opportunity and after 30 years we have finally restored water back into the theater.

The Alger Theater is currently executing the Neighbor to Neighbor program and operating out of the Jefferson Branch Library. Created by the Rocket Community Fund we work to educate residents about programs that they may be eligible for and assist in the application processes and referrals for programs such as:

Make It Home

Detroit Home Repair Fund

HOPE Counseling

Connect 313

Detroit Eviction Defense Fund

These programs are designed to reinforce neighborhood stability. They allow residents to reduce or eliminate their property taxes, help homeowners receive help with needed home repairs, provide discounted internet service and access to affordable devices, provide renters with legal representation during eviction proceedings, and provide assistance with utilities.



Commissioned murals by Detroit artist Desiree Kelly features film legends such as Alfred Hitchcock, Spike Lee, and David Lynch. Image courtesy of Desiree Kelly

Friends of the Alger Theater is happy to announce that we will be participating in the Motor City Grounds Crew's children's fall event on Saturday, October 22nd. We are happy to work alongside Brilliant Detroit and the Detroit Public Library.

Story continues on page 7...

MCO Takes Home ECN Award for Third Consecutive Year

Jeffrey D. Lewis II | The Morningsider

The evening of September 23 was a great one for the Morningside Community Organization.

For the third consecutive year, MCO took home the 2022 MOE Better Award (Best Neighborhood Association) at the 34th Annual Eastside Extravaganza. The annual event highlights the outstanding work by individuals and organizations based on Detroit's east side.

The recognition culminates the commitment our organization has made towards improving the quality of life for our neighbors here in MorningSide.

The extravaganza also recognized the efforts of several MorningSide based businesses and organizations. Brilliant Detroit received the honor of Best Eastside Fun Spot, The Craft Cafe took home the honors of Best Eastside Small Business. For the second consecutive year, Flamz Pizzeria received the Best Eastside Restaurant, and Motor City Grounds Crew was acknowledged as the Best Eastside Neighborhood Employer.

Overall, it was an amazing night for the MorningSide community and all the awardees.

Continue to support these wonderful businesses and organizations across our community and throughout the east side.

#morningsiderepresent

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



ECN Extravaganza emcee Orlando Bailey, ECN CEO Donna Givens Davidson stands with MCO Board Directors, Aaron Smith, Twiana Odom, Eric Dueweke, Adrian L. Green, Jeffrey D. Lewis II, and Sharon Gray. Image courtesy of Gary Gray

Blight to Beauty Program

Helen Broughton | Contributing Writer

The City of Detroit's Blight to Beauty initiative is focused on fourteen commercial corridors across the city: Grand River, Gratiot, Harper, Jefferson, Livernois, Mack, McNichols, Michigan, Mt. Elliot, Seven Mile, Van Dyke, Vernor, Warren and Woodward and is led by Katrina Crawley, Assistant Director of Blight Remediation in the General Services Department.

Our work unites and highlights city efforts that support and improve the appearance of our built environment. Our goal is to transform the city from blight to beauty by applying enforcement, remediation and maintenance in order to protect the health, safety and dignity of our citizens.

It is important that all property owners, including the city itself, comply with property maintenance code, so that everyone understands the responsibilities that come with ownership. Property owners are responsible for maintaining the area from the center of the street to the center of the alley. The public easements in the alleys and between the road and the sidewalk are not maintained by the city, although the city and public utilities have permission to work in those areas.




One key point is something that Walt Disney stressed for his businesses – the idea that "Everything Speaks." People may not consciously notice every detail, but subconscious clues are communicated. When you consider our homes and businesses, what are these properties saying?

Property owners of commercial buildings are responsible for the upkeep ranging from the center of the alley, to the center of the street. Image courtesy of City of Detroit

We can't do this alone! We ask all property owners, residents, visitors, organizations, and businesses: What are YOU doing to help move Detroit from blight to beauty?

Helen Broughton, Project Manager of Blight to Beauty Program for the City of Detroit

	<p>Tim Killeen Wayne County Commissioner – District 1 313.224.0920 (phone) 313.967.1238 (fax) tkilleen@waynecounty.com www.waynecounty.com/commission/district1.htm</p> <p>In the Community, Working with the Community, to Build the Community</p> <p><small>Paid for by: Tim Killeen For Commish, 16260 Lappin, Detroit, MI 48205</small></p>
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Continued... Sustainable Elements Key to Gateway Park Makeover

It is also important to note that the previous tree rooted as the park's centerpiece was transplanted right off the alley. It is now situated along with the other trees of its make.

The tree suffered in the planter due to the lack of water and the rooting system. It has a greater chance of reviving in this location.

"We envision this as a building block to uplift the entire community," says McLeod.

The makeover of Gateway Park is one that will resonate among community members and visitors for many years to come.

It's the small things that truly makes a difference. We're shining a little brighter today.

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



The original centerpiece tree of the Gateway Park Image courtesy of Jeffrey D. Lewis II

Continued... What's Happening at the Alger

So as the construction begins to turn and make its way back down Warren, the Alger continues to look for funding to repair the roof and to complete the other repairs necessary to get the theater open. In order to leverage whatever donations we receive, we are in strong need of volunteer community stakeholders.

We need our neighbors to volunteer to sit on committees that will not only help to spearhead our opening, but also help create the content of the programming that will take place in this space for the betterment of our children, our seniors, and all our neighbors.

Clinton Griffin is Vice President of Friends of the Alger Theater



Volunteers clean the storefront windows at the Alger Theater. Image courtesy of Charon Nogues

Give A Smile, Get A Smile

The Morningsider

This month's *Give A Smile, Get A Smile* really shines a light on the importance of giving back.

Checkout this heartwarming [video](#) of social media influencer Isaiah Garza paying it forward.

Thanks to MorningSide's own Donyelle Pressely for sharing this with our community.



A server is overcome with emotion. Image courtesy of Isaiah Garza

Let's Talk Trash

The Morningsider

Here are your next three bulk trash and yard waste pickup dates:

- Thursday, October 13 and 27
- Thursday, November 10

Click [here](#) for everything you need to know about bulk pickups.



Illegal dumping on Maryland Street and Interstate 94 Service Drive. Image courtesy of Jeffrey D. Lewis II

Healthy Living with Diabetes

Nadine Cook | Ascension Healthcare

Ascension St. John Hospital wants to partner with you to help manage your diabetes, to ensure a healthy life. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 34.2 million people in the United States have diabetes, but one 1 in 5 people don't know they have it. Additionally, Latinos, African Americans, Native Americans, and Pacific Islanders are at higher risk for type 2 diabetes.

About 90 percent of people with diabetes have type 2 diabetes. With type 2 diabetes, your body either fights the effects of insulin or does not provide enough insulin to your body, making it hard to maintain a normal glucose level. Unfortunately, symptoms for type 2 diabetes develop slowly, so it may be hard to determine whether you have it right away. In fact, you can have type 2 diabetes for years and not know.

Here are a few warning signs:

- Increased thirst and frequent urination
- Increased hunger
- Fatigue
- Blurred vision
- Slow-healing sores or frequent infections

Though there isn't a cure for diabetes, what you do each day will make a huge difference in your life. Learning how to take care of your diabetes starts the minute you are diagnosed. As long as you are aware and know the facts, you're on your way to effectively managing your health.

Join us for a FREE online lecture to learn about the signs of diabetes, tips to manage your diabetes and the next steps on your journey to good health.

Friday, November 4th, 2 - 4 p.m.

Diabetes 101: How do I manage?

Presenter: Jaspreet Hehar, DO, Location:

Ascension St. John Hospital

To register, click on [Ascension Classes and Events](#) and search for "Diabetes 101". If you have questions or need assistance with registration, please don't hesitate to contact our helpline at (248) 849-5752.

Nadine Cook is Manager of Community Engagement for Ascension Healthcare.

Halloween Storytime at Jefferson Branch Library

The Morningsider

Kids and parents, get ready for spooky stories, songs, and more at the Jefferson Branch Halloween Storytime.

Time:

Saturday, October 15 from 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Location: Jefferson Branch Library, 12350 E. Outer Drive, Detroit, MI 48224



An illuminated pumpkin. Image courtesy of Palatine Library District

Resources & Upcoming Events

Presented by The Morningsider



HOME REPAIR PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The Phase 2 application period for Renew Detroit is October 1st thru October 31st, 2022. Interested residents can apply over the phone by calling the joint Detroit Tax Relief Fund & Renew Detroit Phase 2 Application hotline at (313) 244-0274. Applications may also be submitted online by visiting detroitmi.gov/renewdetroit and clicking the "Apply for Phase 2" button.

Applicants must meet all 3 requirements below to be considered eligible:

- 1 Approved 2022 HOPE exemption of any level
- 2 Homeowner is a senior (age 62 or older) or disabled (age 18 or older) as of Dec. 31, 2022
- 3 Home has not received a home repair grant of \$10,000 or more from the City of Detroit in the last 10 years since Dec. 31, 2012



Applications open Oct. 1-31, 2022.

To apply, call (313) 244-0274 or visit detroitmi.gov/renewdetroit



Budget Priorities Forums for

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS

Participate in one of seven virtual forums to learn more about and provide input on the Mayor's Recommended Budget for FY2024

A FY2024 Budget Priorities Virtual Forum will be hosted for each City Council District.

Join your District meeting via Zoom:

- | | |
|--|--|
| OCT 11 - 6 p.m. DISTRICT 2
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/99861905552?pwd=eUE0SWVmbE40RTd8ZzZp5aVhUzliZz09 | OCT 25 - 6 p.m. DISTRICT 3
https://cityofdetroit.zoom.us/j/93947894155 |
| OCT 19 - 6 p.m. DISTRICT 5
https://cityofdetroit.zoom.us/j/88093600136 | OCT 26 - 5:30p.m. DISTRICT 7
https://cityofdetroit.zoom.us/j/89283928278 |
| OCT 20 - 5 p.m. DISTRICT 6
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| OCT 25 - 5 p.m. DISTRICT 4
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ADMINISTRATIVE SUMMARY

The Budget Office within the City of Detroit Office of the Chief Financial Officer is preparing the Mayor's Recommended Annual Budget for programs, services, and activities for Fiscal Year 2024, which starts July 1, 2023 and ends June 30, 2024. The budget will propose funding allocations for an estimated \$2 billion in City programs including an estimated \$1 billion in general fund activities. It will be presented with the Four-Year Financial Plan to City Council in early March for its review and adoption.

ONLINE FEEDBACK

Public comments on the City's budget can be made at any time by emailing yourbudget@detroitmi.gov.

TAKE PART

LET'S CHAT DETROIT!

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Resources & Upcoming Events

Presented by The Morningsider

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- Grill & Chill
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Come take the first steps to complete your FAFSA Application
Work with a FAFSA Expert Jennifer Smith from Closing the Gap
Free pancake breakfast provided
October 29, 2022 | 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
4401 Conner

Scan here to register

Resources & Upcoming Events

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SOUTHWEST DETROIT EXPUNGEMENT FAIR

NO PRE-REGISTRATION NEEDED

EXPUNGEMENT FOR THOSE ELIGIBLE

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11 AM - 3 PM

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DID YOU KNOW? A new city law guarantees free legal aid to low-income Detroit renters facing eviction!

In the midst of an affordable housing crisis across Detroit, NDS represents Wayne County tenants who face the threat of losing their home. We can help families with:

- Eviction
- Nonpayment of rent
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- Land contract forfeiture
- Health hazards
- Foreclosure
- Landlord-tenant disputes

CONTACT US! Call (248) 326-4139 or email: housing@ndsdetroit.org

ABOUT US: NDS is known nationally and internationally for its innovative, community-based, holistic public defense practice. NDS Detroit represents clients facing the loss of the essentials of life due to contact with the criminal justice system or child welfare systems. Our free services include eviction prevention, criminal defense and assistance with access to public benefits.





Restore The Beat

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THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

2022 Winter Clothing Distribution



Friday, October 21st
9am-4pm (voucher only)



Saturday, October 22nd
9am-12pm (open to public)

Request for vouchers can be sent to:
sfclongdistribution@gmail.com


The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
23190 West Nine Mile Road, Southfield

What Will Be Available:

- Women's clothes
- Men's clothes
- Children's clothes
- Winter coats
- Winter boots
- Blankets (limited basis)

All items available at no cost
Bring your own bag

Questions?
sfclongdistribution@gmail.com



We need your help!

Set-up and prep for the event is done October 18th and 19th with the actual event taking place on the 20th and 21st.

We need volunteers to help set up, sort donations, and help distribute.
Contact sfclongdistribution@gmail.com to get involved.

Advertise in The Morningsider!

For those who want to place ads in our newsletter, please email us at morningsidecommunity2@gmail.com.

Below are the rates for advertisements:

6 - Month Run

\$825 Full Page
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\$275 Quarter Page

Monthly Run

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For the latest news taking place in MorningSide, please follow us on:



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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

Also checkout our website!

www.morningsidedetroit.org

P.O, Box 24325, Detroit, MI 48224



#morningsiderepresent

