



MORNINGSIDER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MORNINGSIDE



The E. Warren Holiday Market at the Cadieux Stage. Image courtesy of Nick Hagen

E. Warren Holiday Market Series Returns

The Morningsider

Detroit — E. Warren Development Corp (EWDC) is excited to host our annual holiday market series on Saturdays through December 17th, from 11 am to 3 pm. The market, which includes DJs, over 30 local vendors, and food trucks, takes place at the historic Cadieux Stage, located at 4925 Cadieux Rd (just south of E. Warren).

The Cadieux Stage, recently purchased and reactivated by Christopher Lee, has an iconic past of supporting Detroit's automotive and music history including Aretha Franklin, Bob Seger, and many other artists.

EWDC launched a Farmers Market in the summer of 2020 and just closed out their third market season in September. The markets have been a way to incubate small businesses, provide technical assistance and coaching, and ultimately put more than \$115,000 back into the local community over the past 3 years.

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Emerald Gardens Has a New Greenhouse, Thanks to Community

Sharon Gray | Contributing Writer



Volunteers assist with the building of the Emerald Gardens Greenhouse.

Last month, I wrote about our campaign to raise \$3,000 to pay the remaining balance for a greenhouse at Emerald Gardens MorningSide. Thanks to your support and generosity, we reached our goal. We have completed constructing the greenhouse at the corner of Cornwall and Haverhill, and we look forward to planting a community and market garden next spring. We hope you will lend a hand and partake in the harvest.

The GoFundMe fundraiser went well mainly due to the help that we received from my fellow Board member, Nic Hall. He graciously set us up for success with an excellent video to tell the story of changing a neglected space into a productive place. We are thrilled to be one of many uplifting our city by beautifying vacant lots one at a time.

Thanks to everyone who supported us in one way or another. You may have made a generous donation, shared the video on social media, offered to help construct the greenhouse, or wished us well. We are grateful for your support in any way you show it. We thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

If you are interested in volunteering to help us plant next spring, please contact me at sharongray59@gmail.com or (313) 929-3980.

Sharon Gray is Secretary of MorningSide Community Organization and Director of Funds Development for Emerald Gardens

Housing Matters

Eric Dueweke | The Morningsider

You may have noticed the yellow bags posted on the front doors of some vacant houses during November. The yellow bags mark the beginning of another property tax foreclosure season—properties that display them are in danger of being foreclosed by the Wayne County Treasurer next spring.

Multiple nonprofit groups such as U-SNAP-BAC and Friends of the Alger have begun the hard work of contacting residents living in homes threatened by foreclosure, providing information on the many ways to help people save their homes. But what ultimately happens when a property owner fails to take advantage of one of the property tax payment options?

In this first Housing Matters column, I'll report on the results of the 2022 property tax auctions for properties in MorningSide. Knowing how the system works allows neighbors to be more aware of what can happen to the foreclosed houses in our neighborhood.

Back in February 2022 MorningSide received a list of 213 supposedly occupied houses in danger of foreclosure. A volunteer task force worked with Councilmember Latisha Johnson's staff to place door hangers at 197 addresses, encouraging folks to take action. The good news is that the vast majority of owners were able to prevent their property from being sold by the Wayne County Treasurer.

State law requires each county treasurer to hold a public auction to sell the properties he has foreclosed upon. On September 15, 2022, the Wayne County Treasurer's Auction included a total of 24 houses within MorningSide. The "minimum bid" for each house equals the amount of property tax, interest and fees owed. Generally, the minimum bids in our neighborhood are in the range of \$9000-\$20,000. For the first time ever in 2022, each one of the 24 MorningSide houses sold for above minimum bid.

One eye-catching bid for a house on Berkshire topped \$61,000 when the minimum bid was only \$9800. A more typical example was a house on Bedford that owed \$19,500 in taxes and fees and sold for \$27,500. In most cases the owner who lost his property to taxes, as well as the auction buyer, is an absentee investor. Two local individuals were the "winning bidders" for most of the 24 MorningSide properties—although each of them may have been bidding on behalf of multiple out-of-town investors.



An at-risk tax foreclosure property. Image courtesy of Joel Kurth

Along with other "property tax nerds," I'll be continuing to research the new owners and exterior condition of tax auctioned houses in our neighborhood. If you're interested in this topic or have questions about the tax foreclosure process, feel free to contact me at ericdue@umich.edu.

Eric Dueweke, President of the MorningSide Community Organization

Continued... E. Warren Holiday Market Series Returns

“We’re more than just a market. We’re an intentional community of entrepreneurs,” says EWDC Operations & Special Project Manager Sarah Feldman. “We’ve seen local vendors start from scratch and grow to run brick & mortars and food trucks.”

When asked what the markets mean to Scott from Preva Body, he replied, “Family. Backbone. Support. I’ve never really seen that in any other organization. Especially as a small Black business owner, we need those resources and that support. “ The support of the community continues to be overwhelmingly positive.

The markets are curated by E. Warren Development Corp., a 501(C)3 organization. To find out more about the markets, E. Warren developments, or for those interested in becoming an EWDC sponsor or advocate, we encourage you to visit <https://linktr.ee/ewdc>.

Checkout E. Warren Development Corporation latest newsletter by clicking [here](#).

Sarah Feldman, EWDC Operations & Special Project Manager

Brilliant Detroit MorningSide Featured in Hour Detroit Magazine

The Morningsider

One of Detroit’s most successful nonprofits is Brilliant Detroit, whose mission is creating “kid success neighborhoods” by offering educational and social programs for kids ages 0-8 and their families.

BD was featured recently in Hour Detroit. Although Brilliant Detroit runs community houses in 12 neighborhoods around Detroit, the magazine chose to highlight the MorningSide house on Balfour just north of E. Warren

Click [here](#) to see what they’re saying about our own Brilliant Detroit house!



Customers purchasing items from a vendor at the E. Warren Holiday Market. Image courtesy of Jim West



A vendor showcases a variety of skin care products. Image courtesy of Jim West



Brilliant Detroit's MorningSide home. Image courtesy of Sal Rodriguez

New D4 Community Liaison Is Here For You

Susan Newell | The Morningsider

Even over the phone, Carlena Toombs radiates energy and enthusiasm. As the new District 4 Community Liaison and Digital Media Specialist for Councilmember Latisha Johnson, Carlena's passion for people is obvious. She sees "connecting the dots" as an important part of her mission. That means finding out residents' needs and concerns to connect them with the appropriate resources.

"Sometimes my hands are tied," she says, "but I always want to give people an answer, make sure they feel seen and heard...I always call residents back to give them an answer, even if I haven't found a solution."

Carlena was born in Detroit and spent her early childhood on the east side before moving to Southfield. After a stint at the University of Michigan, where she earned a degree in Communications and Media, Carlena moved back to Detroit several years ago.

"Job hunting was tough during the pandemic," she says. She looked at jobs in other cities but when push came to shove, she really wanted to stay in Detroit, and "do something for the community." A Detroit booster, Carlena enjoys directing out of town guests to our many cultural gems, then getting their feedback. They're always impressed, she says. "They say "This isn't what I thought (Detroit would be like) at all!"

The best part of her job, Carlena says, is getting to know the residents, learning their stories, and serving District 4 constituents. She quotes her friend and Chief Storyteller of Detroit, Eric S. Thomas: "Everyday Detroiters are the story of Detroit."

Carlena's community work "doesn't stop when I take off my badge at the end of the day." On weekends, you might well find her helping organize community events with friends who live in Districts 1 and 2. "I call them "my council," she says with a laugh. "Sometimes I take them to art shows, or we go out dancing. I love to dance!" She even makes dance videos for her Instagram account, [carlenatoombs](https://www.instagram.com/carlenatoombs).

Carlena is in charge of Councilmember Johnson's Facebook page (D4 – [Councilwoman Latisha Johnson](#)) and Instagram account ([cmlatishajohnson](#)). If you have a community event or resource you'd like to promote, contact her at (313) 224-1309 or carlena.toombs@detroitmi.gov. Problems and concerns should be directed to the main office number, (313) 224-4841.

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



Carlena Toombs. Image courtesy of Carlena Toombs

Check Out MorningSide’s Pop-Up Bookstore

The Morningsider

Next Chapter Books will make you feel welcome as soon as you walk in. No matter what you’re looking for - sci fi, memoir, kids’ books, adult fiction, whatever - you’re likely to find something to complete your Christmas shopping here. All of their books are new or very gently used.

Next Chapter Books is located in the storefront next to the Alger Theater on E. Warren. They are open Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. But don’t wait! Their last day is Sunday, December 18.

“We’re also excited to grow into programming and engage our neighbors through story time, after-school read-a-loud, teen book reviews, author talks, monthly book clubs, and maybe even some open mic nights. We plan to open our brick-and-mortar bookstore when the time is right, listening to what our community wants to see.”

For more information, check out their website [here](#) or call (313) 320-6371.



Next Chapter Books at the Alger Theater. Image courtesy of Nick Hagen

Co-owners Sarah and Jay Williams are looking for a permanent location, and if things go well here over the holidays, MorningSide could become their long-term home. According to their website, “We’re eager to share a diverse collection, highlighting the work of local and historically underrepresented authors.



Next Chapter Books co-owners, Sarah and Jay Williams talk with a customer. Image courtesy of Jim West



Next Chapter Books co-owners, Sarah and Jay Williams. Image courtesy of Jim West

Enjoy Holiday Leftovers by Turning them into Healthy Meals

Nadine Cook | Contributing Writer

During the holiday season we often cook many meals that contain a plentiful amount of food. The aroma of our favorite foods fill the air and our stomach, while the leftovers fill our refrigerators. These leftovers often go to waste. Transforming our delicious holiday meal into something we don't get bored with can help us reduce waste, save money and continue celebrating one of the special parts of holidays.

Here are some creative and healthy ways to use leftovers:

- **Cranberries or cranberry sauce** — Add to hot cereal or yogurt, or use as a topping for pancakes instead of syrup.
- **Fruit** — Make a fruit smoothie, mash or puree it and make a fruitsicle.
- **Mashed potatoes** — Make potato pancakes, add as a topping on vegetable pot pie or shepherd's turkey pie, or use them to thicken soup.
- **Pumpkin or squash** — Puree with chickpeas, garlic and olive oil for a delicious hummus, add to waffle, pancake or muffin recipes, make pumpkin or squash soup, or add mashed or cubed pieces to chili or stew.
- **Turkey or ham** — Add to soup, salad, grilled sandwiches, stew, chili, burritos or your favorite casserole or omelet. You can make homemade broth with the turkey or ham bone.
- **Stuffing** — Add to waffle batter for a savory waffle, stuff into mushrooms, put in a muffin pan coated with cooking spray, add an egg cracked on top and bake.
- **Vegetables** — Freeze broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, green beans or other vegetables and add them to soup, make a stir fry with a variety of vegetables or add them to omelets.

Another way to get ideas and find recipes is to try an app like the SuperCook, Allrecipes Dinner Spinner, Big Oven, Tasty or Epicurious, which allows you to input food items you have on hand and get recipe suggestions.

You can access the recipe ideas by downloading one of the apps on your smartphone, tablet or any device connected to the internet. On a computer you can search for one of the app's websites using your browser.

The apps are easy to use and give you ideas in just seconds. Not all of the recipes are healthy, so you will have to decide which ones will meet your health goals.

Ascension Community Wellness offers a variety of online classes, lectures and programs at no charge to the community. To learn more about our classes, please visit healthcare.ascension.org/events or call (248) 849-5752.

Nadine Cook, Community Engagement Manager for Ascension St. John

Delta Dental Testimonial - Twiana Odom

The Morningisder

On Thanksgiving Day you may have recognized a familiar face airing across multiple channels here in Detroit.

MCO's very own Twiana Odom shares the story of her amazing journey to the perfect smile. This testimonial is courtesy of community partner, Delta Dental.

Click [here](#) to watch the full video.



Twiana Odom. Image courtesy of Delta Dental

MorningSide Gets a Shout-Out at Thanksgiving Parade

The Morningsider

Blue Cross Blue Shield highlighted their commitment to MorningSide, East English Village, and Cornerstone with a float they sponsored at the Thanksgiving Day parade representing our three neighborhoods.

BCBSM has played a key role in the revitalization of this community with a \$5 million donation to the Strategic Neighborhood Plan. We're so grateful to have their support!



Blue Cross Blue Shield Thanksgiving Day parade float. Image courtesy of Jim West

Let's Talk Trash

The Morningsider

Please note that December 22 is our last day for yard waste pickup. Leaves, or anything else for that matter, will NOT be picked up if they are in black garbage bags piled on the berm. Yard waste is only picked up in paper lawn bags, and black trash bags will only be picked up if they're in Courville containers.

Since New Year's Day falls on a Sunday this year, trash collection will occur on Thursday, as usual. Christmas trees will only be picked up on January 5.

Our next three bulk trash and recycling pickup days are:

Thursday, December 22
Thursday, January 5
Thursday, January 19

Holiday Lights Contest Returns

Jeffrey D. Lewis II | The Morningsider

There's still time to nominate your favorite decorated MorningSide homes for our Holiday Lights Contest.

There are prizes for the best houses (1st/2nd/3rd), best participating block, and best business! For our MorningSide-based businesses, this is your opportunity to showcase your creativity as well.

Our board directors will be hard at work over the coming days to determine our winners.

Good luck to all of our participants!

—

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



MCO Holiday Lights Contest flyer. Image courtesy of Nic Hall

Give A Smile, Get A Smile

Donyelle Pressley | The Morningsider

When history is being made its only right to acknowledge it. December's Give A Smile, Get A Smile does just that.

An American Airlines flight crew in Dallas, Texas became the first all-Black female flight crew.

It is an amazing story that definitely deserves to be highlighted.

Congrats to the entire crew!

For the full story click [here](#).



An all Black female flight crew. Image courtesy of American Airlines

Resources & Upcoming Events

Presented by The Morningsider

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 to register



Family Wellness Program

PROJECT HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Wellness. Education. Family.

This 16-week virtual series allows parents and caregivers to engage in weekly health chats, nutrition, and exercise assessments led by wellness coaches. Participants are REQUIRED to do a health screening before the program begins with one of our educators.

Participants receive:

- Zoom calls and personal follow up offering nutrition, physical, and mental health education information.
- Blood pressure screening and personal one on one sessions with a registered dietician
- Fitness and exercise ideas to do at home to get the whole family moving.
- PLUS FREE Fitness tracker and weight scale

New sessions begin Tuesday January 17th, 2023.
Sessions are held Tuesdays from 4pm - 5pm, or Wednesdays from 11am - 12pm, or 4pm - 5pm
Onboarding session will be held Tuesday January 17th, 2023 from 10:30am- 2:30pm

If this start date does not work for you, save the date!
There are 2 other start dates throughout the year:
May 16th-August 28th, 2023
September 5th - December 18th, 2023

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!
or email sasha@projecthealthycommunity.org
for registration details



Mack Avenue Streetscape Plan



Scan the code to fill out our 2 minute online survey and share your thoughts.



EASTSIDE
COMMUNITY
NETWORK

The Eastside Community Network is developing a plan for the future of Mack Avenue. We want to hear from you about your vision for the next version of Mack!

Help us design Mack Avenue

Additionally, learn more about a boutique hotel that will be located on Alter Rd. and Mack Ave.

When: Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Time: 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Where: 14711 Mack Ave.
Detroit, MI 48215

Light refreshments will be served

Questions or comments can be directed to equity@woodswatthelect.com

To learn more about the project visit www.ecn-detroit.org

Resources & Upcoming Events

Presented by The Morningsider

Upcoming Shows

Oct. 27	
Nov. 3	Nov. 17
Dec. 1	Dec. 8
Dec. 15	

Movie Night
Thursdays
4 - 7 pm
Butterfly Room
4401 Conner

the Vault

EASTSIDE
COMMUNITY
NETWORK

DWSD Lifeline Plan

Detroit's **FIRST-EVER** water affordability plan

Developed in partnership with community advocates and water affordability experts, the new Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) Lifeline Plan is an income-based water affordability plan. It offers qualifying customers a fixed monthly rate that will significantly reduce their monthly bill – and erase any past debt.

Here's how it works.

Your water bill past due debt wiped out for good!

Income-eligible enrolled Detroiters receive up to 4,500 gallons of water every month at a fixed rate. Average Detroit household (3 people) uses between 2,300 to 3,000 gallons per month.

\$18

Your monthly water, sewer & drainage bill **if you are income-eligible for SNAP/FAP benefits.**

\$43

Your monthly water, sewer & drainage bill **if you are a low-income household and don't receive SNAP/FAP benefits.**

\$56

Your monthly water, sewer & drainage bill **if you are a moderate-income household and don't receive SNAP/FAP benefits.**

That's 1.8% of the average monthly household income for each tier – a standard set by community advocates and water affordability experts. If water usage exceeds 4,500 gallons per month, you'll be charged for that additional usage based on DWSD's new inclining block rate structure.

APPLY NOW AT:
waynemetrolife.org/DWSDLifeline or call 313-386-9727

The program is funded by regional, state and federal dollars.

TAKE PART: Tap Into the Lifeline Plan

Advertise in The Morningsider!

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

Below are the rates for advertisements:

6 - Month Run

\$825 Full Page
\$400 Half Page
\$275 Quarter Page

Monthly Run

\$150 Full Page
\$80 Half Page
\$60 Quarter Page



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



@

morningsidedet

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

Contact The Morningside Community Organization at:

(313) 355-2468 or via email:

morningsidecommunity2@gmail.com

Also checkout our website!

www.morningsidedetroit.org

P.O, Box 24325, Detroit, MI 48224



#morningsiderepresent

