



# MORNINGSIDER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MORNINGSIDE



Mack Avenue will undergo a complete street redesign in the near future. Image courtesy of Google Street View

## What Do You Want in Mack Avenue Streetscape?

**Eric Dyer** | Contributing Writer

Detroit — The Eastside Community Network (ECN) and the project team have been working with staff from the City of Detroit, the Grosse Pointes, and community organizations to develop preliminary design concepts for the Mack Avenue Streetscape Project. The first phase of the project kicked off in June 2022 to understand the walking, driving, and infrastructure conditions along Mack Avenue. To read the project summary provided for the January 2023 MorningSider issue, click [here](#).

Since December 2022, the project team has been facilitating community engagement to hear thoughts and ideas from residents, business owners, and local leaders about the future of the corridor. Numerous groups have been represented in community meetings thus far, including:

Story continued on page 4...

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**(313) 236-3520**

**Neighborhood  
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Karen Maxey  
**(313) 319-2990**

## City launches Application Process for \$25M Sidewalk Replacement Program

### The Morningsider



As a part of the streetscape project on East Warren, new sidewalks have been installed. Image courtesy of Jeffrey D. Lewis II

- Mayor adds \$20.5M of budget surplus funds to expand sidewalk replacement; work to take place this year
- Applications and info on all programs mentioned in Mayor's State of the City Address available on city's website
- Click [here](#) to request a sidewalk replacement

Repairs for sidewalks will be given priority for in the following categories:

- Near schools, churches and parks
- Identified and requested by registered neighborhood block clubs
- Adjacent to city road resurfacing projects
- Requested by elderly and disabled residents
- Along city jurisdiction commercial corridors where cleanup and beautification is planned
- Existing backlog of requests from prior years

## New DON Deputy Manager Starts With a Full Plate

**Susan Newell** | The Morningsider

Last month we introduced Caprice Johnson, District 4 Manager in the Department of Neighborhoods. This month it's Eboni Deberry's turn to take the spotlight. Eboni has only been Deputy Manager for District 4 since December, but she has hit the ground running. She takes a hands-on approach to her primary mission - helping to eliminate blight in our district. Not content to wait for complaints to come in, two or three days a week Eboni drives through neighborhoods in District 4, looking for pockets of blight and neglect so that she can report them to the appropriate city departments.

"I want to bridge the gap between neighborhoods," she says. Some are areas that have strong community organizations and involved residents, while others need lots of attention.

Eboni knows the neighborhoods of District 4 well, having grown up here. She attended Dominican High School and Grosse Pointe South before going to Grambling State University in Louisiana. She later earned a Master's Degree in Business Management from Walsh College.

Of course this is a job that requires an ability to work with all kinds of people, and Eboni's work history demonstrates she has plenty of "people skills." She spent almost a decade as a community liaison and new-hires trainer for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services before moving to the Horatio Williams Youth Foundation to serve as its Community Director. In that position Eboni was responsible for running summer camps, tutoring programs, special events, and projects for seniors. She says one of the highlights during her tenure there was organizing the memorial service for Aretha Franklin at Chene Park in 2018.

Eboni says the best part of her new job is "being the point of contact for residents".... "I have a heart for people," she says. Her biggest challenge? "Not being able to personally take care of a problem myself... If somebody calls about their trash not being picked up, I can't go pick it up myself".... "I'm looking forward to Motor City Makeover when I can get my hands dirty," she says with a laugh.



**District 4 DON Deputy Manager, Eboni Deberry.** Image courtesy of Eboni Deberry

When she's not fighting blight, Eboni enjoys spending time with her husband and two sons, 11 and 1. She also likes to travel. "My dream vacation is going to Santorini Island in Greece." In the meantime she's happy to chill out and bask in the Florida sun from time to time.

"Faith plays a major role in my life," Eboni adds. She is a member of Second Ebenezer Church, where she sings on their praise team.

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

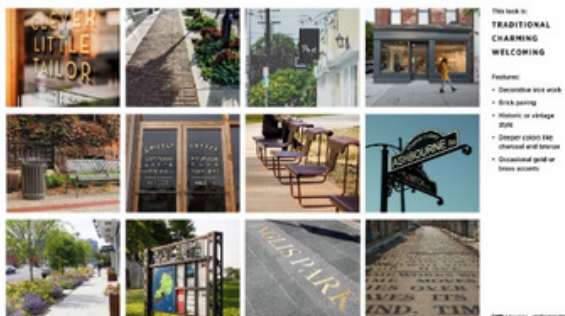
## Continued... What Do You Want in Mack Avenue Streetscape?

- Neighborhood Associations of Cornerstone Village, East English Village, and Morningside
- ECN Youth Council and SAG Committee
- City of Grosse Pointe
- Grosse Pointe Farms
- Grosse Pointe Rotary

Several key themes were heard from the community through the engagement phase so far:

- Desire for a consistent look and feel on both sides of the street
- Address the infrastructure needs first – lighting, sidewalks, crosswalks, overgrown areas, etc.
- Improve safety along the corridor in two ways:
  - Traffic and mobility safety conditions
  - Business and property safety
- Desire for Mack to feel like a main street rather than a commercial street
- Mack is a major vehicle connector and traffic needs to flow
- Strong desire for no bike lanes
- Desire for additional public art and beautification projects
- Low maintenance landscaping to reduce the amount of concrete, with special attention to not block views of businesses or their signage.

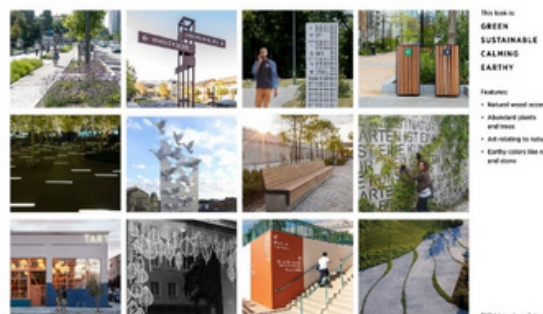
### STYLE 1 / CLASSIC CHARM



Traditional charming elements features decorative iron work, deep colors and historic styles. Image courtesy of OHM Advisors

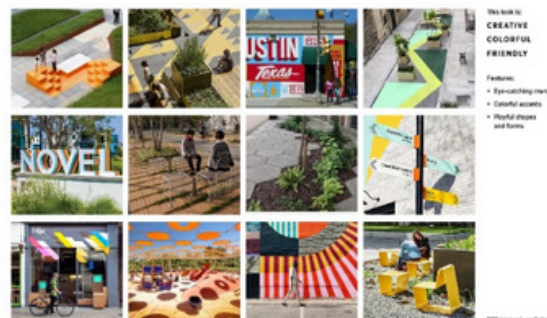
Each community meeting has included these style mood boards for attendees to respond to. The community engagement thus far shows a preference for the classic charm design style for the future Mack Avenue. If you haven't been able to attend a meeting yet, you can expect another round of community engagement coming soon in Spring 2023. Read on to learn how you can be involved!

### STYLE 2 / NATURAL ELEMENTS



Sustainable green elements such as art and wood accents are featured. Image courtesy of OHM Advisors

### STYLE 3 / URBAN ARTISTRY



Creative colorful aspects are highlighted. Image courtesy of OHM Advisors

### Take the Survey!

To share your thoughts on the future of Mack Avenue, take the survey:

<https://ohmplanning.typeform.com/to/fiGaWOYO>

Eric Dryer, Senior Planner, OHM Advisors

## Brilliant Detroit Offers Something Fun for All Ages

Roberto Paredes | Contributing Writer

### March Madness Read -A-Thon

March is National Reading Month! Please join us each Tuesday in March from 5:00-6:00p. We will have four rotating reading stations for children to visit and hear new stories. You might even find a new favorite novel. This will be a time of exploration and people expressing their love of reading.

### Toddler Time

Are you a parent with restless toddlers? Every Tuesday, we have TODDLER TIME! Come by the Hub and hang out with other parents, enjoy coffee, and let the toddlers get their energy out! Your toddlers will be read to, play with other kids, create music and crafts, and have fun! Every Tuesday from 11 AM to 1 PM

### Young Bankers Club

Brilliant Detroit Morningside is excited to be offering a Young Bankers club! Young Bankers Club is a Financial Literacy program for children ages six and up. This is an 8-week program beginning on Friday, March 17, 2023, and will continue on Fridays from 4:00–6:00 PM. (Please note: No class on 4/14 and 5/12).

### Community Dinner

Join us for Dinner! Adults and Children are welcome to get a free meal. There will be great food, community fellowship, and FUN!

Wednesday, March 29th | 4:00-6:00pm | 5050 Balfour Rd.

Story continues on page 7...



Toddlers playing with toys. Image courtesy of Eielson Community Center, Getty Images

## Next Chapter Books Launches Book Club Series With *Black Cake*

### The Morningsider

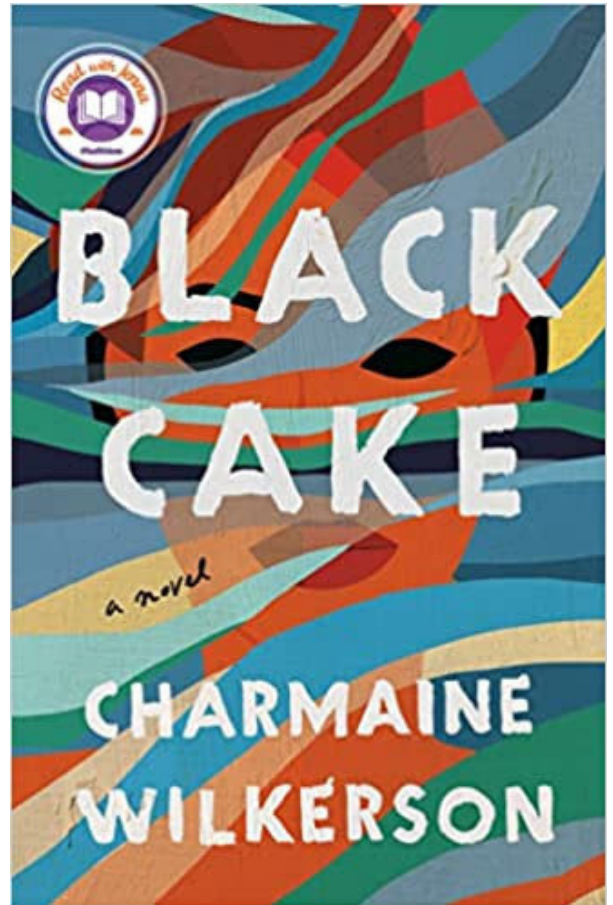
A discussion of *Black Cake* by Charmaine Wilkerson will kick off Next Chapter Books' new book club series on Wednesday, March 15 at 6:30 p.m. at the Alger Theater, 16451 E. Warren. Here's a sneak peek at *Black Cake*:

"We can't choose what we inherit. But can we choose who we become? In present-day California, Eleanor Bennett's death leaves behind a puzzling inheritance for her two children, Byron and Benny: a black cake made from a family recipe with a long history and a voice recording.

Can Byron and Benny reclaim their once-close relationship, piece together Eleanor's true history, and fulfill her final request to "share the black cake when the time is right"? Will their mother's revelations bring them back together or leave them feeling more lost than ever?

Charmaine Wilkerson's debut novel is about how the inheritance of betrayals, secrets, memories and even names can shape relationships and history. Deeply evocative and beautifully written, *Black Cake* is an extraordinary journey through the life of a family changed forever by the choices of its matriarch." - *Goodreads*

If you can't make it this time, keep up with future offerings through their [website](#), Instagram account, or Facebook page. And check out their new [promotional video](#) here, created with input from neighborhood leaders and the expertise of residents Nicky Cheese and Mark Rutherford.



The debut novel from author Charmaine Wilkerson, *Black Cake*. Image courtesy of Next Chapter Books

## Continued... Brilliant Detroit Offers Something Fun for All Ages

### Community Dinner

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Wednesday, March 29th | 4:00-6:00pm | 5050 Balfour Rd.

### Tech Hub

We have laptops for your use to borrow while visiting the site. Use them to complete resumes and cover letters, apply for a position, and take a course; you can join any of Brilliant Detroit's programs and events! Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00–5:00 PM

### Family Reading Experience!

Join us for a night of food, reading, and healthy conversations about literacy! Kids can participate in a Story Circle where we read the book "Stone Soup" and parents will sit and talk about how literacy is vital in our children's lives! Did we forget to mention we will have Dinner as well?

Thursday, March 30th | 4-6 PM | 5050 Balfour Rd.

To sign up for any of our programs or to get more information, visit [linktr.ee/Morningsidebd](http://linktr.ee/Morningsidebd)

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*Roberto Paredes is the Community Engagement Coordinator for Brilliant Detroit MorningSide*

## Let's Talk Trash

### The Morningsider

If you watched Mayor Duggan's State of the City address last Tuesday, you've already heard the good news that beginning in 2024, GFL Environmental will be picking up bulk trash every week! No more annoying piles of your neighbor's bulk trash sitting around for days on end. But until then, here are your next three bulk trash and recycling pickup days:

Thursday, March 16

Thursday, March 30

Thursday, April 13



Bulk waste is cleaned up by DPW workers. Image courtesy of WXYZ Detroit

## Summer Jobs Program for Detroit Youth – Apply Now!

The Morningsider

The ninth year of Grow Detroit's Young Talent (GDYT), the City of Detroit's summer work experience program for youth, has officially kicked off with a goal of providing over 8,000 summer employment opportunities for Detroit youth ages 14-24.

A total of 8,068 Detroit youth were employed through GDYT during 2022, the eighth straight year of exceeding the program's target of 8,000. To maintain social distancing protocols, GDYT made more than 5,500 of the 2022 summer opportunities virtual or hybrid, and the program will provide similar accommodations in 2023.

### How to get involved

Detroit youth interested in a summer job should visit [GDYT.org](http://GDYT.org) to apply. The registration portal will be open until May 31. Organizations interested in becoming a sponsor or providing summer work experiences for Detroit youth may also register at the GDYT website.

For more information, read the full story at [Mayor kicks off ninth year of Grow Detroit's Young Talent \(detroitmi.gov\)](http://detroitmi.gov).



Participants of Grow Detroit's Young Talent program. Image courtesy of the University of Michigan Youth Policy Lab



### Tim Killeen

Wayne County Commissioner – District 1

313.224.0920 (phone) 313.967.1238 (fax)

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

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

**In the Community, Working with the Community, to  
Build the Community**

Paid for by: Tim Killeen For Commish, 16260 Lappin, Detroit, Mi 48205



## Pulling Back the Curtain on How Our City Operates

### The Morningsider

If knowledge is power, Detroiters are better equipped these days to exercise it, now that we have a number of local online publications dedicated to shedding light on the inner workings of city government and other influential political figures.

We've already introduced readers to some of these excellent news sources - Bridge Detroit, Bridge Michigan, Axios Detroit, and Model-D. Now we have a couple more filling an important niche for citizens who want to stay well informed.

Soapbox Detroit sends out an email each morning with notices of government committee and board meetings. It's geared toward those who want to get into the weeds of government operations or those who have an interest in a particular issue. Each meeting provides an opportunity for public comment. Soapbox Detroit also gives you easy access to important documents like the City Charter and city ordinances.

Detroit Documenters, a newsletter published by Outlier Media, takes a different approach to keeping citizens informed. They send trained volunteers to meetings to take notes, then Outlier Media reporters use those notes to write the kind of stories you often won't find in the mainstream media. Click [here](#) for an example of their reporting on tenants' rights.

If you want to become a citizen reporter, this is an excellent opportunity to make a contribution.



Over 100 people marched on Michigan Avenue in Downtown Detroit on April 10, 2021 to protest against illegal evictions. Image courtesy of Eric Seals

## MorningSide Real Estate Market Heats Up

### Jeffrey D. Lewis II | The Morningsider

The market value in MorningSide is rising to rates we have not seen in the days prior to the 2008 financial crisis.

Here is a prime example of a once dilapidated home on Bedford Street that has undergone a complete renovation.

New electrical, six bedrooms, and two full baths are just a few of the highlights at 4800 Bedford.

If you are in the market for a new home, consider this gorgeous Tudor by clicking [here](#).



This beautiful Tudor at 4800 Bedford Street could be your new dream home. Image courtesy of Zillow

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

# Give A Smile, Get A Smile

Donyelle Pressley | The Morningsider

Hi Neighbors!

I have been following this organization for over 15 years. It has grown so much since then and some of the original people have passed on. Playing for Change is an organization that loves people and music. The concept is to take a song and have people all over the world be in the band and contribute to the song, right where they are! I love what they have done for music and humanity with music. I hope this song and maybe some other ones, can bring as much joy to your heart and huge smiles to your face as it does mine. Please click on the [video](#) and scroll through the site to see more... Enjoy!



Children of the Playing for Change organization. Image courtesy of Playing for Change

## Homebuyer Education

Buying a home is one of the biggest financial investments you'll make in your lifetime! We offer a HUD Certified education class that provides an unbiased comprehensive overview of the home purchase process to help homebuyers make smart, informed decisions in their journey to becoming homeowners.



**Topics Covered Include:**



What do I need to qualify for a home loan?  
What home price can I afford?  
What if I have bad credit or no credit?  
How can I qualify for down payment assistance?

Creditworthiness  
Budgeting & Spending  
Closing Process  
Home Inspections

Assistance Programs  
Mortgage Applications  
Working with a Realtor  
Role of the Attorney

Workshops are via zoom given in two - three hour session. You must complete both sessions

U SNAP BAC NPHC, INC. reserves the right to cancel or reschedule any workshop that does not meet the minimum total of confirmed participants required. In the event that a workshop must be cancelled or rescheduled, U SNAP BAC NPHC, INC. will refer participants to other agencies that best suits their housing needs.

PHONE: 313.640.1100 | FAX: 313.640.1112 | [RSVP@www.usnabac.org](mailto:RSVP@www.usnabac.org)

## Resources & Upcoming Events

Presented by The Morningsider



**Did you know we have a tech hub?**

**Benefits:**

- 14 Laptops accessible to use
- Resources to receive affordable internet
- Basic computer classes
- Learn the latest technologies & softwares
- Personal assignments can be completed

4401 Conner St Detroit, MI 48215  
 OPEN: M (in the butterfly room), W, F 10-4pm. Saturday 10-3pm

**Free digital workspace!**

For more information visit:  
 District 4 Ambassador : LETITIA RUSSELL (313) 649-4577




**TECH CLINIC**  
**BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE**

LAPTOP | IPAD | TABLET | CELL PHONE

OUR GOAL: TO PROVIDE OUR COMMUNITY HELP WITH THEIR OWN DEVICE AND LEARN MORE ABOUT TECHNOLOGY.

**MARCH 15 • 5:00PM - 7:00PM**

INFO@CONNECT313.ORG  
 TIA@CONNECT313.ORG



**EASTSIDE HOUSING FAIR 2023**  
*You're Invited*

**Saturday, March 18, 2023 • 10AM - 3PM**

The Stoudamire • 4401 Conner Street, Detroit, MI 48215

Join ECN for a housing fair and connect with organizations supporting residents in need of home repair resources, eviction support, affordable housing and more!

To register visit [bit.ly/ECN-HousingFair](https://bit.ly/ECN-HousingFair) or scan the QR code below



EASTSIDE COMMUNITY NETWORK

[www.ecn-detroit.org](http://www.ecn-detroit.org)  



**ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT HOUSING & RACIAL JUSTICE? AND LOOKING TO MAKE EXTRA MONEY?**

**JOIN OUR TEAM AS A COMMUNITY ADVOCATE**



**SEE COMPLETE JOB DESCRIPTION: [BITLY.WS/XMTP](https://bit.ly/ws/xmtp)**

# Resources & Upcoming Events

Presented by The Morningsider

**npower** LAUNCHING TECH CAREERS. TRANSFORMING LIVES.

OUR PROGRAM FOR VETERANS WILL **JUMPSTART YOUR CAREER IN TECHNOLOGY**

Join the 1,500+ veterans that have transitioned to a new career path through NPower

**DEVELOP THE IN-DEMAND TECH SKILLS YOU NEED AT NO-COST!**

- Up to 20 weeks of interactive virtual training with live instructors
- Paid opportunities and career placement assistance with access to a top range of employers
- Earn industry-recognized credentials and certifications from CompTIA and Google
- Exposure to Microsoft, Cisco, AWS, and other leading technologies
- Networking with senior level IT professionals through NPower's mentorship program, NPowerMATCH

Our Tech Fundamentals program will have you ready for the job in less than six months.

- Employment readiness workshops to prepare for job searching, interviews, and higher wage IT careers
- A full range of ongoing social support including guidance navigating challenges with VA Benefits, financial hardship, housing, food insecurity, childcare assistance, and more
- Most common entry-level tech jobs are Desktop Support Technician, Junior Network Engineer, and Systems Support Specialist with graduates' average starting salaries at \$40,000

**APPLYING IS EASY**

[npower.org/apply](https://npower.org/apply)

Applications are considered on a rolling basis.

The NPower Tech Fundamentals Program is a **NO-COST** virtual training program. Classes are held twice a year, in fall and spring.

**PROUDLY SERVING MILITARY VETERANS AND SPOUSES**

Military applicants must be transitioning active-duty service member through the DoD SkillBridge program, honorably discharged or member of the Guard or Reserves.

QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT: Erica Peyton, Recruitment Admissions Manager | 313-217-3322 | [erica.peyton@npower.org](mailto:erica.peyton@npower.org)

New York | New Jersey | Texas | California | Maryland | Missouri | Michigan | Canada | | [npower.org](https://npower.org)

**DWSD IS HERE TO HELP**

**No One Has To Lose Their Water Service In Detroit**

The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) Lifeline Plan is Detroit's new water affordability program. Once enrolled, your benefits are:

- Get water **shutoff protection**
- Have your **past due balance erased** for good
- Receive an **affordable fixed bill** based on household income and size, and get up to 1,125 gallons of indoor water usage per household member per month
- Eligible for **minor plumbing repairs** for high water usage

Call Wayne Metro at **313-386-9727**

Complete online application at [waynemetrolife.org/DWSDlifeline](https://waynemetrolife.org/DWSDlifeline)

TIER 1 135% FPL*	
*Federal poverty level	
You Pay Monthly	
<b>\$18</b>	
For water, sewer & drainage if your income is:	
Number of People Living in the Household	Maximum Annual Household Income
1	\$18,075
2	\$24,352
3	\$30,630
4	\$36,908
5	\$43,185
6	\$49,463
7	\$55,740
8	\$62,018

TIER 2 136% - 150% FPL*	
You Pay Monthly	
<b>\$43</b>	
For water, sewer & drainage if your income is:	
Number of People Living in the Household	Maximum Annual Household Income
1	\$20,385
2	\$27,465
3	\$34,545
4	\$41,625
5	\$48,705
6	\$55,785
7	\$62,865
8	\$69,945

TIER 3 151% - 200% FPL*	
You Pay Monthly	
<b>\$56</b>	
For water, sewer & drainage if your income is:	
Number of People Living in the Household	Maximum Annual Household Income
1	\$27,180
2	\$36,620
3	\$46,060
4	\$55,500
5	\$64,940
6	\$74,380
7	\$83,820
8	\$93,260

DWSD has developed this water affordability program to keep everyone's rates low. This is also why water conservation is built into the program. Once your water debt is erased and you are enrolled, please pay your income-based monthly bill.

Updated 2/2023

**TAKE PART: Tap into the Lifeline Plan**

## CALLING ALL DISTRICT 4 RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES



### WHO WE ARE

Connect 313's mission is to put in place by 2024 the means for all Detroiters to have access to appropriate devices, internet connections, technical support and digital resources for improved learning, employment and wellbeing.

### OUR VISION

Our vision is to ensure every Detroiters is fully digitally included, improving the quality of life for all residents.

Need access to a computer?

Need affordable internet?

**TECH HUB**

Our goal: To give our community access to a computer, connect to the internet and learn more about technology.

4401 Conner St  
Detroit, MI 48215

OPEN: M (in the butterfly room),  
W, F 10-4pm, Saturday 10-3pm

**AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM**

CALL 313-241-7618 to learn how to receive \$30/month off your broadband internet service.

**RESOURCES DEVICES**

Human-I-T  
[www.human-i-t.org/detroit-resources](http://www.human-i-t.org/detroit-resources)

Microsoft  
[www.affordablecomputerprogram.com](http://www.affordablecomputerprogram.com)

Dell  
[www.getdigitalskills.org](http://www.getdigitalskills.org)

For more information visit:

Connect 313 District Ambassador: LETITIA RUSSELL (313) 649-4577

INFO@CONNECT313.ORG  
TIA@CONNECT313.ORG

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



@

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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)

P.O, Box 24325, Detroit, MI 48224



#morningsiderepresent

