

MORNINGSIDER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MORNINGSIDE



The Ribbon will be a mixed-use development located on East Warren and Kensington. Image courtesy of Flux City

Mixed-Use Development, The Ribbon Ready for Takeoff

Edward Carrington | Contributing Writer

Detroit — I am thrilled to announce that we have secured our construction loan for The Ribbon at East English Village! Construction will officially begin this spring and is scheduled for completion by the summer of 2024.

This project will transform the vacant, one-story "Old Charter One" building at 16530 East Warren Avenue into a mixed-use development featuring a restaurant on the first level, with 18 residential units situated above. We are particularly proud that 10 of these residential units will be designated as affordable housing, fostering a diverse and inclusive community.

The Ribbon's compact mixed-use development design, which includes both housing and retail, is a first for the East English Village community. However, such developments have proven throughout the City to effectively increase density without causing stress on the existing community population, making the East Warren Commercial Corridor more walkable and vibrant.

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Jefferson Branch Celebrates Black Culinary Arts

The Morningsider



A variety of Culinary Arts cookbooks inspired by African American chefs. Image courtesy of Megan Summers

Food – its cultivation, preparation, and enjoyment - are embedded in African American history and culture. The 2023 African American Booklist highlights this history in *Beyond the Kitchen: The Culinary Legacy of African Americans*. Books featured on this list are available now at the Jefferson Branch Library. They have also set up a recipe box where everyone is welcome to stop by and share some of their favorite recipes, which will be put on display later in the spring.

You can get a copy of the booklist at the library or access a digital copy <u>here</u>.



THE MORNINGSIDER

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Next Chapter Books Needs Your Votes

The Morningsider



Owners of Next Chapter Books, Sarah and Jay Williams are a top ten semi-finalist for the Hatch Detroit contest. Image courtesy of Next Chapter Books

Next Chapter Books is one of ten businesses competing for \$100k in the Comerica Hatch Detroit contest. Over the last several months, the independent bookstore has been well received during their pop-ups at the Alger Theater.

You have the opportunity to vote from now until noon on April 12. Let us all do our part to see Next Chapter Books selected into the final four and make their pop-up into a permanent location on the East Warren corridor.

To vote, click <u>here</u>. You can also vote locally by visiting The Detroit Pepper Company at 17180 East Warren Ave.

TALK TO US! Letter to the Editor

One of our goals is to make *The Morningsider* more interactive and resident-driven. To that end, we invite you to send us your ideas and opinions – what do you like about the newsletter, what should we be paying more attention to, what pressing issues are Detroiters facing? Please keep your communications brief - about 200 words - and respectful in tone. Send your comments to

<u>morningsidecommunity2@gmail.com</u>. Letters, edited as necessary for space and clarity, will be published each month.

Continued... Mixed-Use Development, The Ribbon Ready for Takeoff

In February 2020, Invest Detroit, in partnership with the City of Detroit and their Strategic Neighborhood Fund (SNF) initiative, sought proposals to rehabilitate the "Old Charter One bank" in East English Village, located at 16530 East Warren Avenue. Invest Detroit's request for proposals (RFP) centered on identifying diverse developers for the project. The selected developer was also required to maintain transparency and an open dialogue with the residents of surrounding communities and stakeholders throughout the development timeline. After submitting our proposal, we had the opportunity to present to representatives from the MorningSide, East English Village, and Cornerstone communities, and The Ribbon was chosen as the top project.



The former Charter One bank will be redeveloped into The Ribbon. Image courtesy of Edward Carrington

From the outset, our strategy has been to ensure the community's voice is heard as we design The Ribbon with a ground-up approach that primarily focuses on enhancing the streetscape and providing retail options that local residents frequently engage with. To achieve this, we held a number of community engagement events to gather input from residents who walk, bike, and drive East Warren daily.

Despite the pandemic, we were able to engage with the community in various ways over the past three years. We started our engagement process virtually via Zoom, which included numerous Zoom community meetings in partnership with the East Warren Development Corp.

These virtual meetings allowed us to regularly introduce our project to the community and gather detailed feedback through a rolling survey on aspects like building design, retail desires, and more. Survey respondents were even rewarded with gift cards to The Detroit Pepper Co.



Input for The Ribbon was taken regularly during the summer of 2020 at The East Warren Farmers Market. Image courtesy of Edward Carrington

One of our most successful community engagement strategies involved partnering with the East Warren Development Corporation and playing a small role in helping to jumpstart the East Warren Farmer's Market initiative in the summer of 2020. This collaboration allowed us to connect and strengthen ties with local residents. Our team worked with EWDC and Invest Detroit to host the Farmers Markets at the development site, enabling us to interact directly and consistently with the local community on a weekly basis.

During our ongoing engagement sessions, the community expressed a high demand for amenities they could directly engage with, particularly a sit-down restaurant. The community emphasized the need for spaces where neighbors could gather and collaborate. To address these requests, we have identified a retail tenant with a unique and integrated vision that promotes retail diversity and stimulates street-level activity.

Story continues on page 7...

See What's Happening at Brilliant Detroit in April

Roberto Paredes | Contributing Writer

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.

The Golden Hour

Golden Hour is a support group for Grandparents! We take time to have healthy conversations, serve a light breakfast, and supply information on Brilliant programming and community resources — every Thursday from 12 PM to 1:30 PM.

Arts & Crafts Club

Bring your children by for a time of arts and crafts! Children will be able to enjoy creating different skills every week. This is a great way to end your week and start your weekend! Every **Thursday** from 5 PM to 6 PM.

Nature Explorers

Join us along with the Belle Isle Nature Center. They are coming to Morningside to help kids discover the wonders of nature in their neighborhoods. Sessions include music and movement, vocabulary and literacy, math and science skills, and artistic expression—every Friday (starting April 21st) from 5 PM to 6 PM.

The Learning Kitchen

The Learning Kitchen is a hands-on cooking and nutrition education program. This is where adults and children can learn different cooking techniques and practical skills necessary to establish lifelong healthy eating habits. This program is on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM from April 15 through May 25.

Brilliant Minds

We are excited to be now offering Brilliant Minds! This is a support group where caregivers can come together in a non-judgmental environment to support one another and learn valuable skills to improve their well-being. Topics include Self-Care, Facing Fear, Anxiety, Depression, Dealing with Trauma, and Conflict Resolution. This Program will begin on May 1st, and Registration is required. Spots are limited!

Community Closet

Find gently-used clothing for babies, toddlers, older kids, even adults – free of charge - every **Tuesday** from 1-3 p.m. at our house, 5048 Balfour.

For more information or to register for our programs, go to linktr.ee/Morningsidebd

Roberto Paredes is the Community Engagement Coordinator for Brilliant Detroit MorningSide



Tim Killeen

Wayne County Commissioner - District 1

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

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Arts & Scraps Celebrates Its 34th Birthday

Desiree Jennings | Contributing Writer

Arts & Scraps, the creative reuse education-based nonprofit founded in 1989, celebrated its 34th birthday with a lively party at its headquarters on Harper Ave. in MorningSide on March 31st, 2023.

The party was a joyous occasion filled with excitement and entertainment. Attendees were gifted with goody bags filled with A&S-related activities and were given a chance to fill a small bag at the Detroit Community Store for free. A newsletter display dating back to the start of Arts & Scraps was also on display, along with a T-shirt exhibit showcasing A&S shirts throughout the years. Guests had the opportunity to buy Arts & Scraps merch from CLOZTALK.



Attendees enjoy the Arts & Scraps 34th birthday celebration. Image courtesy of Desiree Jennings

There was also a stop-motion video of Arts & Scraps Kits that enthralled guests. The party provided an excellent opportunity for the community to build relationships and enjoy the Arts & Scraps classroom ahead of their Safe Space Saturdays in-house event. Safe Space Saturdays will be in-house events that will take place every other Saturday in the Arts & Scraps classroom. These events will feature guided programming, community discussions, playtime, food, music, and free education. The first Safe Space Saturdays will take place on April 22nd, 2023.

The birthday party was a great way for Arts & Scraps to raise awareness about their mission to provide creative and educational opportunities to the community.

It was also an excellent opportunity to fundraise for the organization. Arts & Scraps is currently fundraising to increase its monthly donors by 30 people. Donors can set the amount to their choice and help support Arts & Scraps all year round!

To sign up, please click this <u>here</u>.

Choose monthly instead of one-time, and select the amount you'd like to donate each month!



Attendees enjoy the Arts & Scraps 34th birthday celebration. Image courtesy of Desiree Jennings

Arts & Scraps has always been committed to providing a safe and welcoming space for children and adults to learn, grow, and create. Their Safe Space Saturdays events promise to be an exciting and enriching experience, and with the support of the community, Arts & Scraps will continue to provide valuable educational experiences for years to come.

Desiree Jennings is the Director of Marketing and Development for Arts & Scraps

Continued... Mixed-Use Development, The Ribbon Launches this Spring

During our ongoing engagement sessions, the community expressed a high demand for amenities they could directly engage with, particularly a sit-down restaurant.

The community emphasized the need for spaces where neighbors could gather and collaborate. To address these requests, we have identified a retail tenant with a unique and integrated vision that promotes retail diversity and stimulates street-level activity.

GO GO GALIZA

HOMEMADE ASIAN DUMPLINGS & EATS

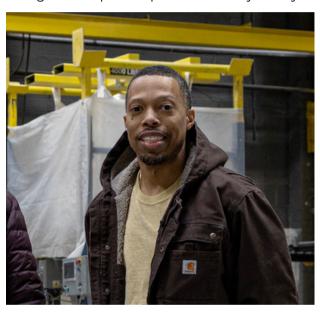
Jasmine Haskins, owner of Gajiza. Image courtesy of Edward Carrington

From the very beginning, our primary focus has been on enhancing the East Warren streetscape to cater directly to the needs of local residents. With this in mind, we are excited to officially introduce Gajiza, owned and operated by Jasmine Haskins of East English Village, as the anchor tenant of The Ribbon! Specializing in Asian-inspired street food, Gajiza offers a wide range of delicious dishes and handmade prepackaged dumplings. After four years of serving over 40,000 customers through pop-ups in and around Detroit, we are thrilled to provide Gajiza with their first official location.

Reaching this milestone would not have been possible without the direct support of the local East English Village, Cornerstone, and MorningSide communities.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your invaluable feedback and patience as we worked toward this goal. Your input over the last three years has played a crucial role in shaping the vision for The Ribbon.

I look forward to keeping you informed of our milestones and successes throughout the construction phase, and I eagerly anticipate the day of the official "Ribbon" cutting. Once again, thank you for your support and for being an exceptional partner in this journey.



Edward Carrington. Image courtesy of Edward Carrington

For more updates, please visit: www.theribbondetroit.com

Edward Carrington, Principal Developer of Flux City

New Youth Librarian Joins Jefferson Branch Staff

Susan Newell | The Morningsider

The Jefferson Branch library has seen its share of challenges over the past four years. First, major renovations closed it for months. Then, a couple of weeks after reopening with a beautiful new interior, the pandemic closed it down again. Staff shortages lingered even after the library reopened, leaving the Jefferson Branch without a youth librarian, and kids in MorningSide and nearby communities without a full roster of children's activities.

All that has changed now with the arrival of Tracy Malek, our new Assistant Manager and Youth Librarian. In the month that she has been here, Tracy has begun hosting an after-school story time every Thursday at 4 p.m. You can celebrate Earth Day with crafts on Saturday, April 22, at 2 p.m.

Next month's calendar includes a Mothers' Day craft-making party on Saturday, May 13 at 11 a.m. and "Slime Time" on Saturday, May 20 at 2 p.m. Making "slime" is a great way for kids to learn some science while having fun.

Tracy brings a wide range of experience to her job at the Jefferson Branch. She's been a librarian since 1999, mostly in children's services. She says she really enjoys working with families and younger people, and wants to be a "good role model."

A native of Hamtramck, Tracy lived and worked in three other states before coming back home to the Detroit area. She knows her way around the Detroit Public Library system as well, having worked at the main library and the Edison and Duffield Branches before settling in at Jefferson.

Tracy's leisure time interests include making collage art to sell on Etsy, reading (of course!), gardening, and volunteering with animal rescue everything from dogs and cats to rabbits and parrots.

Tracy's leisure time interests include making collage art to sell on Etsy, reading (of course!), gardening, and volunteering with animal rescue everything from dogs and cats to rabbits and parrots.

She says she's pleased to see more families with children moving into the neighborhood and looks forward to growing the children's program.

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



Mother's Day Storytime & Craft flyer. Image courtesy of Jefferson Branch Library

New Housing Program Helps With Down Payments

The Morningsider

We know that wealth inequality between Blacks and whites is largely rooted in racist practices that prevented African Americans from buying homes over many decades. Now the city is offering a program to make it easier for Detroiters to purchase homes and build generational wealth.

Using funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), this program will provide up to \$25,000 to residents who are able to afford a monthly mortgage of \$800 to \$1200 a month and want to purchase a home, but don't have the down payment. It is expected that as many as 400 households will benefit from the program.

<u>Click here</u> to read the Bridge Detroit report and see if you are eligible and how to apply.

Featherstone Garden Gears Up for Spring

The Morningsider

Featherstone Garden, our neighborhood treasure on Lakewood just north of Mack, has a great newsletter with vegan recipes that are so good you wouldn't even notice that they're also healthy! They also provide prescription services for fresh flowers, a variety of mushrooms, and microgreens. Click here to access and sign up for their newsletter.



Fresh Leafy Greens. Image courtesy of Featherstone Garden

Emerald Isles To Grow Veggies and Partnerships This Year

Sharon Gray | Contributing Writer

Spring is here, and like gardeners throughout the city, we are gearing up for a productive and funfilled season. We expect to get plenty of exercise and sunshine and spend a lot of time with friends and neighbors. Emerald Isles CDC is planning for its biggest year in our short history.

This year we plan to partner with the Jefferson Branch Library to teach families and children basic vegetable gardening. We plan to expand our community vegetable garden on Haverhill. We will partner with our MorningSide and East English Village neighbors to beautify East Outer Drive. We are partnering with Keep Growing Detroit, Habitat Detroit, the USDA, and the Grass Roots Garden to enhance Emerald Gardens MorningSide at Haverhill and expand to Three Mile Drive. As you can see, we have big plans for this spring, summer, and fall, and we look forward to you being there. Follow this space.

Our first event will take place on May 6, and we would be honored to have you participate:

2023 Emerald Isles Spring Cleanup Saturday, April 29, 2023 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Meet up: Jefferson Branch Library, E. Outer Drive, Detroit, MI 48224

If we have enough volunteers, we will pick up

debris in the medians from Mack Avenue to Chandler Park Drive and clean the weeds from the curbs.

Call Sharon Gray at (313) 929-3980 to volunteer.

Sharon Gray, Secretary of MCO, and Director of Funds Development for Emerald Gardens

Homeowner Beautifies his Property with Colorful Mural

Jeffrey D. Lewis II | The Morningsider

George Corsetti wanted to do something that would truly amplify the aesthetics of our community. George set out his plans to start sprucing up the vacant lot next to him, but he wanted to do something much more than just installing flower beds full of perennials.

George wanted to add something that was full of colors and reflected his love for nature.

With these two elements in place and the perfect location of his garage doors as the centerpiece, he was ready for an infusion of a fresh, eye-popping color display to take shape. The final task for George was now to identify the artist who could bring his vision to life.

Meet 2017 Visual Arts Fellow of the Kresge Arts in Detroit, Nicole MacDonald. Nicole is the talented artist who was commissioned to paint what is now known as *The Importance of Pollinators* mural.



The Importance of Pollinators mural located at Buckingham and Brunswick. Image courtesy of Detroit Contemporary

The process to complete the mural took Nicole a full month last spring. Her preferred choice to complete her art is the sole item of a paint brush.

The Importance of Pollinators mural encapsulates key aspects such as urban gardening and the threat to pollinators.

Nicole's artistic talents is showcased just across every section of the city.



Nicole MacDonald works on The Importance of Pollinators mural in the darkness of night. Image courtesy of Nicole MacDonald

Nicole painted the mural on the facade of The Iraqi Bakery in the Cody Rouge neighborhood (See front page photo). Nicole's largest installation to date is the Detroit Portrait Series located on the corner of Grand River and Maybury Grand on Detroit's west side. "I painted 17 windows on a three-story commercial building. It took a year to complete the entire project," says MacDonald.



The Detroit Portrait Series installation on Grand River. Image courtesy of Kresge Arts in Detroit

Nicole has a significant interest in capturing Detroit's historical elements and figures in her art. "Any way that I can, I always aim to pay tribute to the city of Detroit in some capacity," says MacDonald.

To learn more about Nicole's work, visit: http://www.ncolemacdonald.com/

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









Wayne County Commissioner Tim Killeen
Presents

Free Community Health Fair

Saturday April 15, 2023, 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

St. Clare of Montefalco 16362 Mack Avenue corner of E. Outer Drive Grosse Pointe, MI. 48230

Diabetes, Cholesterol and kidney Function Screening, Blood Pressure Screening, Covid-19 Vaccinations & Boosters, Covid Testing and other Health Screenings.

Social Distancing and Masks required.

















For more information visit our web site www.unifydetroitcoalition.org or call 313-418-3049

Land Bank Buy Back Program Hits Snag in MorningSide

The Morningsider

The Detroit Land Bank's Occupied Buy Back Program was set up to provide a path to home ownership for Detroiters living in DLBA-owned homes. But some MorningSide residents are learning that the devil, as they say, is in the details.

Click here to get the scoop from Bridge Detroit.



Councilmember Mary Waters meets with residents in MorningSide to discuss their troubles with the Detroit Land Bank Occupied Buy Back program. Image courtesy of Malachi Barrett

Construction Resumes on E. Warren Streetscape

The Morningsider

E. Warren may not look very beautiful right now, but just wait a few months. Workers have begun constructing the south side of the E. Warren streetscape to match the beautification done on the north side last year.

Working from west to east, they are cutting holes in the concrete to create spaces where trees will be planted later this spring. Stay tuned as we monitor their progress over the summer. Completion is expected sometime this fall.

Let's Talk Trash

The Morningsider

You know it's spring in Detroit when yard waste pick up begins. You can start putting it on the curb again, but as always, it must be in paper leaf bags – not garbage bags – or in neatly tied bundles.

The next three pickups of bulk trash, yard waste, and recycling are:

Thursday, April 13 and 27 Thursday, May 11



Lawn leaf bags. Image courtesy of Shutterstock/ Amy Tseng



A crew member uses an industrial utility concrete saw on the south side of East Warren. Image courtesy of Jim West

Give A Smile, Get A Smile

Donyelle Pressley | The Morningsider

Sisters Ruth Sweedler and Shirley Hodes of Connecticut and North Carolina, respectively. Both Sweedler and Hodes are both over the age of one hundred (106 and 103).

Learn more about these youthful sisters and their great advice for remaining sharp mentally and physically at their ages.

Read the full article here.



Ruth Sweedler and Shirley Hodes. Image courtesy of Trudy Galynker



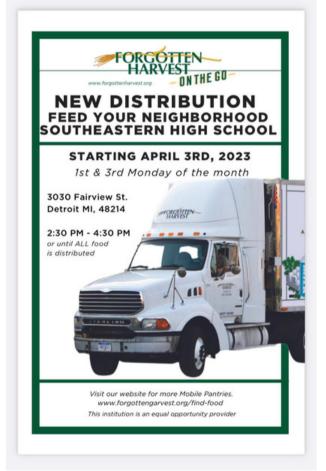


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Presented by The Morningsider

WEEKLY STORYTIME

Thursdays at 4 p·m·

This weekly program features a mix of stories, songs, and activities for children of all ages.



Detroit Public Library—Jefferson Branch 12350 E. Outer Dr. Detroit, MI 48224 313-481-1760

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION



Saturday, April 22 at 2 p.m. In the Meeting Room

Children ages 5 and up are welcome to join us for crafts to celebrate Earth Day!



Detroit Public Library—Jefferson Branch 12350 E. Outer Dr. Detroit, MI 48224 313-481-1761



Saturday, May 20 at 2 p.m.

In the Meeting Room

Students ages 6 and up are welcome to join us make slime during this science-themed program.



Detroit Public Library—Jefferson Branch 12350 E. Outer Dr. Detroit, MI 48224 313-481-1761



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