



MORNINGSIDER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MORNINGSIDE



The Flores family celebrate the completion of their newly renovated home. Image courtesy of Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity Detroit Celebrates in MorningSide

Mary Ellen Kearney | Contributing Writer

Detroit — The threat of rain couldn't dampen the spirits of those who gathered together on Saturday, April 22, on Maryland Street to celebrate Habitat for Humanity's "Home is the Key" Campaign. Habitat Detroit was chosen for this national campaign, which raises funds and drives awareness around the growing need for affordable housing all across the United States.

Thanks to generous sponsors including At Home, Kum and Go, Resideo, and iHeart Media, the campaign spurs homebuilding and repair efforts and helps residents in communities like MorningSide access the undeniable advantages of homeownership. It also reminds us that when homeownership is accessible to everyone, we all benefit. Several of our very own MorningSide neighbors were featured in this campaign and a spotlight was shone on the work being done by the Detroit affiliate.

Story continued on page 4...

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Spotlight on the J Spot, Where Everyone Knows Your Name

The Morningsider



Owner of the J Spot, Jeanie Lipps. Image courtesy of Mark Rutherford

If you were a fan of “Cheers,” you know the vibe at the J Spot on E. Warren at Bedford. While other businesses have come and gone, the J Spot has been a local fixture offering good times in MorningSide for decades.

Thanks to EEV resident and photographer Mark Rutherford, as well as Ulysses Newkirk, librarian at the E. Warren Tool Library, local business owners including the J Spot are getting some good publicity. And thanks to E. Warren Development Corp for making us aware of this great video.

Check it out [here](#).

Fifth Precinct Activities for National Police Week

The Morningsider

Here’s the schedule of events for National Police Week, which runs from May 15-19 this year. All events, except for the bike ride, will be held at the 5th Precinct headquarters, 3500 Conner St.

- Monday – Food & Ice-breaker
- Tuesday – Food & Activities
- Wednesday – Bike Ride at 10:30 a.m. East English Village Prep Academy, 5020 Cadieux Rd.
- Thursday – Food & Activities
- Friday – Candlelight Prayer Vigil at 3:00 p.m.



THE MORNINGSIDER

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Problems and Promise with the Neighborhood Lot Program

The Morningsider



Bailey Park, located in the McDougall-Hunt community is one of the positive outcomes from the Detroit Land Bank Authority's Neighborhood Lot program. Image courtesy of Christine Ferretti

At the April MorningSide Community Organization general meeting, there were lots of questions for the Detroit Land Bank representative about the Neighborhood Lot program. [Here's an article](#) from Bridge Detroit that tells you how the program works and what to do if you run into problems.

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

Continued... Habitat for Humanity Detroit Celebrates in MorningSide

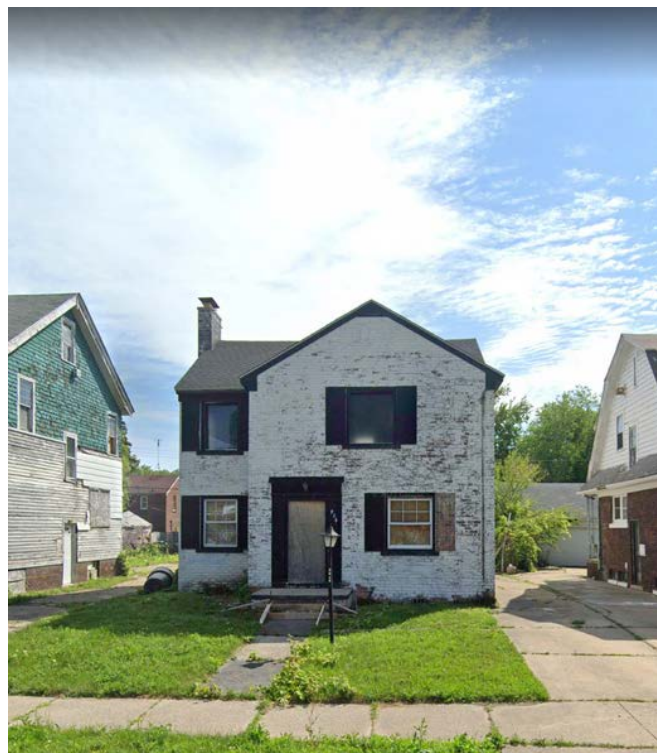
National partners, Habitat for Humanity International staff, local volunteers, and the Habitat Detroit team came together to celebrate months of work. Special guest, Egypt Sherrod, of HGTV, was on hand for a ceremonial wall raising at Habitat's newest build site. Volunteers spread out along the block to put their talents to use on a house being rehabbed by Habitat, along with helping our neighbors with other light landscaping and exterior work to freshen up the entire street. After hours of hard work guests and neighbors gathered together to enjoy food, fun, and festivities at a block party to celebrate all of the amazing work being done in the Morningside neighborhood.

Just days later Habitat Detroit hosted a Home Dedication for the newest Habitat home, a beautifully restored house on Haverhill. Joining the more than 130 homes built or rehabbed by Habitat Detroit in MorningSide, this house was a labor of love. The Habitat team and countless volunteers worked tirelessly to breathe new life into the house as it was prepared to welcome the Flores family to their very own home sweet home.

The Flores family was surrounded by family, friends, neighbors, and community leaders as they were officially welcomed to the community. Excitement was in the air and the sun was shining as Gabby, Miguel, Jada, and Gracie (along with pup Phoebe) laughed, cried, and showed off their beautiful new space.

Since partnering with Habitat Detroit in May 2022, the entire Flores family has taken an active partnering role, from building sweat equity hours as volunteers at builds, attending events and classes, and working diligently to increase their buying power.

Upon viewing the house on Haverhill, we could see the joyful tears in their eyes as Gabby pointed out where she would put her plants, which room her girls would have, and how she would hang Christmas stockings along the fireplace mantel.



A before photo from June 2022 of the Haverhill home prior to the Habitat for Humanity renovation. Image courtesy of Google Street View

Both of these events are shining examples of the continued work Habitat Detroit has been doing in Morningside for the past 15 years. Habitat Detroit is so thankful for the outstanding partnership with the neighborhood and is excited to continue our dedicated efforts to help build homes and hope for our community.

Mary Ellen is the Director of Philanthropy for Habitat for Humanity Detroit

May/June Activities, Live and Virtual, at the Jefferson Branch Library

The Morningsider

The First 100 Years of Jewish Detroit: 1850 - 1950

Date/Time: Wednesday, May 24th, at 6 pm

Location: Zoom

Description: Archivists Laura Gottlieb and Robbie Terman from the Joan Meyers Jampel Center for Michigan Jewish Heritage explore why Jewish people flocked to Detroit and how they created a thriving community. This is a virtual event that will take place on Zoom. Please register on Eventbrite to receive the Zoom link for the program.

Eventbrite Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-first-100-years-of-jewish-detroit-1850-1950-tickets-604054101077>

How to Start a Business With the Michigan Small Business Development Center

Date/Time: Monday, June 5th, at 5:30 pm

Location: Jefferson Branch Meeting Room

Description: Host Richard Choi will help aspiring entrepreneurs assess their abilities to lead and manage a company as well as evaluate the market and sales potential for their products/services. Start-up costs, financing options and business planning are introduced, along with the necessary steps to getting started. This is an in-person event limited to 25 people, so make sure to be early to get a seat.

Detroit Institute of Arts Presents Art|Pride

Date/Time: Monday, June 6th, at 6 pm

Location: Zoom

Description: Presented by trained DIA teaching volunteers, Behind the Seen: Art|Pride brings insight and engagement about the DIA's collection from the museum to your community. The LGBTQ+ artists who are featured in this presentation are among the leaders of modern and contemporary art and have shattered stereotypes and defied prejudice and discrimination on their path to success. This is a virtual event that will take place on Zoom. Please register on Eventbrite to receive the Zoom link for the program.

Eventbrite Link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/detroit-institute-of-arts-presents-artpride-tickets-615954996977>

Emerald Garden Community Open House With DPL

Date/Time: Saturday, June 10th, from 10 am to 1 pm

Location: 4806 Haverhill Street, Detroit

Description: Detroiters Sharon and Gary Gray run Emerald Garden, a community garden at the intersection of Haverhill and Cornwall in the Morningside neighborhood. They will be opening up their space to the community at large for a library-sponsored morning of fun, learning, and interaction. Attendees will be educated about soil, planting, and garden maintenance. Food, refreshments, and kid-friendly activities will be provided.

If you are interested in adopting a raised bed for you and your loved ones to maintain for the 2023 gardening season, please register on Eventbrite. Space is limited to 10, with one raised bed available per household.

Eventbrite Link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/emerald-garden-community-open-house-with-dpl-tickets-621793359677>

Chair Yoga

Date/Time: Wednesday, June 14th, at 6 pm

Location: Jefferson Branch Meeting Room

Description: Chantia Thompson of Good Vibz Yoga will host a series of Chair Yoga workshops for adults this summer. Chair yoga involves relaxing seated poses and support with a chair. The program will be limited to the first 15 attendees, so make sure you're a bit early to be one of them.

Former St. Matthew School To Be Repurposed for Affordable Housing

Steve Palackdharry | Contributing Writer

Construction work on “The Residences at St. Matthew” is now slated to begin mid-summer. The \$20M project will repurpose the St. Matthew School and Activities Building near Harper and Whittier into quality affordable apartments and permanent supportive housing. The buildings have been vacant for over a decade but have been well-maintained and are structurally sound. The project will address the housing and health needs of many in the community.

“I’m excited to see this much needed and productive reuse of two vacant structures that were once important community assets.” said Eric Dueweke, president of the MorningSide Board of Directors. “The project will definitely add value to our surrounding neighborhoods.”

Eric is a member of the project’s Community Engagement Team, which is composed of representatives from nearby community organizations and key project partners. The team meets regularly to provide updates and gather feedback.



Construction on the former St. Matthew School will begin in the mid-summer. Image courtesy of Steve Palackdharry

The Residences at St. Matthew is a collaborative effort by St. Matthew Parish, Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan (CCSEM), Cinnaire Solutions, Ethos Development Partners, Ascension Michigan, and civic leadership to create a new community resource that helps meet the city’s great need for affordable housing. The property manager for the project will be KMG Prestige.

CCSEM is the lead sponsor for the project and is part of the national Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) network. The Residences at St. Matthew is one of five affordable housing projects initiated by CCUSA in cities around the country. Part of the mission of Catholic Charities, both locally and nationally, is to provide housing solutions for disadvantaged families and individuals.

“The Residences at St. Matthew is, first and foremost, a project that addresses the needs of a diversity of people who at this time find themselves marginalized and simply need a hand up to provide them with a brighter future,” said Father Duane Novelly, pastor of St. Matthew.

A total of 46 apartments will be available at The Residences at St. Matthew, consisting of 36 one-bedroom units, 4 two-bedroom units, and 6 studio units. Health services will be provided to tenants through a partnership with Ascension Michigan. The former gymnasium will be converted into a multi-purpose space offering programs and services provided by CCSEM and Ascension Health that will be available to tenants and community residents.

The housing project will be open to all individuals and families who meet income requirements set by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA). The units are intended for households earning no more than 30%, 50% and 60% of area median income. MSHDA is providing project-based rental subsidies for 25 of the units, as permanent supportive housing for formerly homeless households. The City of Detroit is providing rental subsidy for 7 units. Residents in these units will pay no more than 30% of their income for rent (which includes utilities).

Story continues on page 8..

Adore the Dandelion!

Susan Rutherford | Contributing Writer

You may see dandelions as pesky weeds, but did you know that they offer many benefits? These little yellow gems can improve soil health, have medicinal properties, and provide nutrition to humans and wildlife!

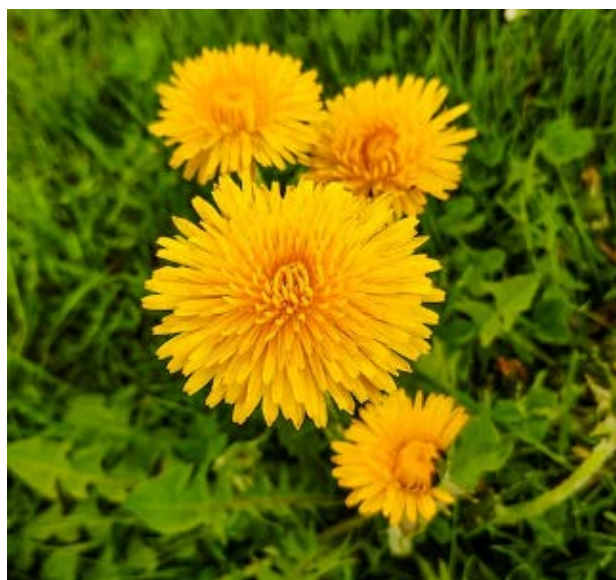
Dandelions are known to benefit the soil and grow where they are needed. They thrive in soil that is acidic, low in calcium, and compacted. If you let them alone, dandelions will improve your soil. Their deep taproot reaches deep down breaking up compacted soil and allowing water and air to circulate freely. The taproot also brings up essential nutrients like nitrogen and calcium, which enriches and helps neutralize our dense, clay-heavy Michigan soil when the plant dies. Dandelions will also fill in the shaded areas in your lawn that are not optimum for grass. Keeping some dandelions mingled in with your lawn can greatly support the vitality of your yard.

Dandelions have been around forever (okay, only 30 million years) and have been used by ancient cultures for their medicinal properties. The Egyptians, Greeks, Chinese, and Romans used dandelions to treat liver and digestive ailments, fever, skin conditions, and promote urinary tract health. Europeans brought dandelions along with them on the Mayflower in 1620 and Native Americans quickly adopted the plant as a food and medicinal herb.

[WebMD reports](#) that while more research is needed on the medical uses of dandelions, the plant has been shown to have diuretic, antibacterial and anti-inflammatory effects. Dandelion roots contain inulin, which promotes healthy probiotics in our gut, and tea from the root contains polysaccharides that help the liver filter harmful chemicals in the foods we eat. The potassium in dandelion tea may also help to stimulate the heartbeat, help the kidney filter toxins more effectively, and improve blood flow.

Dandelions are also edible and enjoyed by people all over the world. In Europe and North America, dandelion leaves are used in salads and cooked dishes, and the flowers are used to make [dandelion wine](#).

In Korea, dandelion leaves are used in soups and stews, while in Vietnam, the flowers are used to make a tea that is believed to support liver health. The plant is high in vitamins A, C, and K and is also a good source of iron, folate, vitamin D, calcium, potassium, and zinc. The tender young leaves can be used as you would arugula, or you can [sauté them](#) as you would any green. The leaves are best picked before the flowers bloom, as they become bitter afterward.



Fully bloomed Dandelions. Image courtesy of Susan Rutherford

It's also fun for kids to eat the little yellow flowers on their own - they have a fresh, slightly sweet honey taste! Just make sure they haven't been sprayed with chemicals before eating and remove the bitter green base first.

Perhaps most importantly, dandelions are an essential food source for wildlife - at least 93 species of insects feast on their nectar and another 33 species of wildlife rely on the plant for food. They are one of the first flowers to bloom in the spring and provide much-needed nectar for bees, moths, and butterflies. Dandelion seeds are also an important food source for birds. By leaving at least some dandelions in your yard, you can help support pollinator and bird populations.

Story continues on page 9...

Continued... Former St. Matthew School To Be Repurposed for Affordable Housing

When construction begins, the property management company will start taking inquiries and then open the application process to families and individuals interested in living at The Residences at St. Matthew. The targeted completion date for the project is the end of next year. This schedule could change because of various factors, including funding, permits, and construction timelines.



The former St. Matthew School will undergo a \$20 million transformation into affordable housing units. Image courtesy of Jim West

Next Chapter Books Keeps On Keeping On

Sarah Williams | Contributing Writer

As you probably know, Next Chapter Books was a top finalist in the Comerica Hatch Detroit Contest. It's because of supporters like you that we had this opportunity! We're so thankful that you shared our story and committed to voting for us regularly. We were the youngest business to reach the top 4. Although we did not win Hatch, the process introduced our bookstore to many new people. We hope this will help expand our customer base and connections with additional funding opportunities. In short, a lot of work for all of us, but worth it! Thank you!

On April 29, we celebrated the 10th Anniversary of Independent Bookstore Day! What joy it was to be a part of Detroit's rich literary community doing so. It was also our last day at The Alger Theater storefront. The Friends of The Alger have been generous and supportive partners to us over the last five months.

So what's next? We've signed a lease on a building at E. Warren and Kensington for our permanent home. This building needs interior renovations, but we are eager to transform it into a bookstore and community hub with room for programming.

The space also allows us to partner with complimentary small businesses in the future. We aim to open here in late summer. However, we are still working to secure additional funding for our modest buildout and scaling up our inventory. In the meantime, you'll find us at the E. Warren Farmer's Market starting in June and possibly, at Food Truck Fridays. We'll keep you posted on all our events through our social media and website.

If you're looking for your next read or a literary gift, we hope you'll consider supporting us by ordering your books on our Bookshop page through nextchapterbkstore.com.

We are incredibly thankful for your support of our small business journey. We look forward to growing in community with you and seeing you around the neighborhood as we work to open Detroit's next independent bookstore!

Sarah Williams is a co-owner of Next Chapter Books with her husband Jay

Continued... Adore the Dandelion!

In conclusion, dandelions are not just pretty harbingers of spring, but versatile plants with many benefits. They can improve soil health, have medicinal properties, and provide food for humans and wildlife. Such a hardworking little flower!

Interested in learning more about how dandelions benefit humanity? [Click here!](#)

Susan Rutherford, resident of East English Village



You can also add these fuzzy bits of sunshine to your favorite pancake recipe for a fun treat! Image courtesy of Susan Rutherford

Donyelle Pressley, Another Success Story for Habitat for Humanity

The Morningsider

Elsewhere in this issue, you've read about Habitat for Humanity's work in our community. Donyelle Pressley, a MorningSide Community Organization regular participant and contributor to "Give a Smile/Get a Smile," is one of our residents who has benefited from their programs.

[Click here](#) to read Donyelle's story.



Donyelle Pressley with her son, Chase. Image courtesy of Habitat for Humanity

Thanks to Volunteers, E. Outer Drive is Looking Great!

Sharon Gray | The Morningsider

MorningSide and East English Village neighbors joined forces on Saturday, April 29th, for the first of three East Outer Drive Clean-Ups. The small band of volunteers picked up twenty-three bags of debris and cleaned weeds from the median curbs at E. Warren and East Outer Drive and Frankfort. A few days later, Wayne County Roads cut the grass and swept the curbs from Mack Avenue to Chandler Park Drive. The Emerald Isles never looked better.

Emerald Isles CDC (EICDC) has hosted the clean-ups since 2019, when they officially adopted East Outer Drive between Mack Avenue and Chandler Park Drive. The event aims to build community by transforming neglected spaces into beautiful places. EICDC hopes other neighborhoods that border Outer Drive throughout the city of Detroit will follow their example.

We encourage our friends and neighbors, especially those on East Outer Drive, to join us for the summer and fall clean-ups (Saturday, August 5th, and Saturday, October 7th).



Volunteers clearing the medians of litter on E. Outer Drive. Image courtesy of Jim West

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



Tim Killeen

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**In the Community, Working with the Community, to
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Let's Talk Trash

The Morningsider

Everyone in MorningSide should have gotten a pamphlet from the city recently outlining the Do's and Don'ts of bulk trash and yard waste pickup. If you have a neighbor who doesn't know or doesn't follow the rules, you might consider putting it in their mailbox.

And don't forget <https://seeclickfix.com/> or the ImproveDetroit app as good ways to report bulk trash and yard waste that suddenly appear at the curb days before the next bi-weekly pickup. Not every problem is easy to report through these channels, but they work well for "Curbside Solid Waste Issues."

Our next three dates for recycling, yard waste, and bulk trash pickup are:

Thursday, May 11 and 25
Thursday, June 8



Tree limbs sits along the berm on Berkshire. Image courtesy of ImproveDetroit

Bad Weather Doesn't Stop Work on Streetscape

The Morningsider

Despite a month of mostly rainy days, the East Warren Streetscape is moving toward completion, hopefully by the end of July. Thanks to Sarah Feldman at East Warren Development Corp., here's the latest on the streetscape construction.

Click [here](#) to access the full E. Warren DevCo newsletter and to sign up to get their text messages announcements about Food Truck Fridays and more!

E. Warren
Development Corp

STREETScape UPDATES

- Substantial streetscape completion by July.
- Trees will be planted ASAP as this is prime planting time.
- Office hours are still being finalized as there was not much participation in the weekly office hours last round.
- The plaza is still supposed to be complete by the end of the project.
- The islands are going in now.
- Continue removals for the islands on the south side of the road.
- Plan to have south side islands poured from 3 Mile to Yorkshire.
- Electricians will be on site to continue installing the light pole foundations on the south side of the road.

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Give A Smile, Get A Smile

Elena Fracassa | The Morningsider

The gift of reading influences all walks of life, young and old.

In this instance, 8-year old author, George Laethem IV has been influenced by the power of reading that he is now a published author. Even more special, George hails right here from the Motor City.

Checkout this amazing story by clicking [here](#).



8-year old Detroit author, George Laethem IV. Image courtesy of George Laethem IV



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.





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 What home price can I afford?
 What if I have bad credit or no credit?
 How can I qualify for down payment assistance?

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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.usnapbac.org

Resources & Upcoming Events

Presented by The Morningsider



· SPRING ·

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For more information visit ecn-detroit.org

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- The differences between fresh, frozen, and canned produce.
- Identifying whole grains

Tuesday, June 6th 4PM-5:30PM

To register, Little Detroit Community Garden at 586-209-1165
or
littledetroitcg@gmail.com

Receive a **\$10 grocery gift card** for participating!



COOKING MATTERS® IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Mack Avenue Streetscape Plan

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

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



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

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

EASTSIDE COMMUNITY NETWORK

Resources & Upcoming Events

Presented by The Morningsider



WHENYOUVOTEIWIN.ORG

- **When You Vote - I Win** is engaged in an information gather to discover voter's reasoning for participation in presidential and midterm elections. Your input matters your and this is your opportunity to let your voice be heard.



Resources & Upcoming Events

Presented by The Morningsider



LEARN & PLAY LACROSSE

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BOYS & GIRLS

GRADES 5-8

SATURDAYS 12PM - 2PM

SUNDAYS 2PM - 4PM



PROGRAM STARTS

APRIL 29TH



Grill AND **Chill**

COOKING PROGRAM

Every Wednesday of the Month | 4PM
Eastside Community Network

Join us for good food,
and stay for even better conversation!
For more information contact Tanya Aho at

taho@ecn-detroit.org



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Contact The Morningside Community Organization at:

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Also checkout our website!

www.morningsidedetroit.org

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#morningsiderepresent

