

MORNINGSIDER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MORNINGSIDE



Volunteers celebrate a successful Motor City Makeover at the Motor City Grounds Crew campus. Image courtesy of Eric Dueweke

Greening Up MorningSide

Eric Dueweke | The Morningsider

Detroit — MorningSide has been blessed in recent weeks with several volunteer efforts to clean up and green up our community. For the annual Motor City Makeover, we chose to hold our major clean-up project on Saturday, May 20 at the Motor City Grounds Crew campus on Barham St. Nearly 20 residents joined staff from Featherstone Gardens to build up the planting beds with many wheelbarrows full of mulch and compost, along with some serious weed removal.

Volunteers from the Well Initiative Women's Association, MorningSide board members Twiana, Nic, Eric and Alex and neighbors Denise R. from Courville, Delores M. from Three Mile, John W. from Whittier, and Allyce H. (with son CJ) from Courville were among those who beautified the new vegetable gardens.

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Detroit Celebrates Juneteenth

The Morningsider



The King Crusaders marching band performs at the 2022 Juneteenth Jubilee Detroit Freedom Weekend. Image courtesy of Cheryl and RJ Photography.

Detroit recently joined the growing number of cities making June 19 a paid holiday for city workers. Juneteenth marks the day in 1865 when federal troops marched into Galveston, Texas to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation that President Abraham Lincoln had signed two years before, freeing the last enslaved African Americans. Juneteenth was made a federal holiday in 2021.

Our own Eastside Community Network is one of many organizations throughout the metro Detroit area celebrating Juneteenth with a variety of events. ECN's activities will take place on June 17. Click here to see a full schedule of other celebrations around town throughout the month.

Correction

The Morningsider

In last month's article, "Donyelle Pressley, Another Habitat for Humanity Success Story," we mis-identified Donyelle's son. His name is Chance, not Chase. Our apologies to both.



Donyelle Pressley and her son, Chance. Image courtesy of Christine Ferretti



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East Warren Streetscape Taking Shape

The Morningsider



Rendering of the Courville Plaza. Image courtesy of OHM Advisors

It was exciting to see trees being planted on the south side of E. Warren this week, giving us a clearer vision of what the beautiful finished corridor will look like. Planting of trees on the north side of the street will begin later this month.

We've been told that traffic lanes will be restored to normal by the middle of the month. Concrete and electrical work are continuing at the Courville Plaza. See the renderings to get a better idea of what it will look like when completed, as well as its multiple uses.

And don't worry, weeds will be removed soon from the planting beds. Plants will be installed when we're not dealing with drought conditions.

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... Greening Up MorningSide

At the same time, a work brigade from the Motor City Grounds Crew under the direction of Aaron Smith did an amazing job of removing illegal dump sites in the western section of MorningSide. The MCGC crew tackled a total of 19 different dumping locations with their "grapple" truck, removing over 60 cubic yards of trash. That's enough to fill two standard-sized dumpsters! Thank you Aaron!!

Two Saturdays earlier on May 6, an amazing crew of staff and volunteers from The Greening of Detroit hit the streets of MorningSide to plant 50+ new trees, mostly along Cornwall, Haverhill, Nottingham, and Buckingham streets. Board member Charon Nogues served as primary liaison to the Greening staff, led by Christina Ridella who grew up here in the neighborhood. Gary Gray and yours truly were among local residents assisting in the tree planting. This marks the second consecutive year that Greening has blessed our community with a large tree planting project.

Most recently, a contingent of ~50 volunteers from Rocket Community Fund, under the leadership of Habitat for Humanity Detroit, came out on June 6 to beautify the Emerald Gardens site on Haverhill. A new privacy fence, a water catchment system and three new benches are among the improvements built by these hard-working folks.

Large and highly visible projects such as these will hopefully inspire each of us to clean up and green up our own house and block.

Beautification is the antidote to blight, and is equally if not more contagious. Let's keep up the momentum by improving our public spaces while at the same time reporting negative activity like illegal dumpers.



Volunteers lay fresh soil along the garden beds. Image courtesy of Eric Dueweke

Eric Dueweke, President of the MorningSide Community Organization

"Curb Appeal"

Susan Newell | The Morningsider

In the 34 years that Gail Chappell and her husband have made Morningside their home, her yard on Buckingham has been a source of pride and joy. "I love beauty," she says. "I represent a higher God, and He expects the best...If people would all have that mind set, it would be beautiful."

When her children were young, working in the yard was a family affair. Now they've grown up and gone their own way, but she still enjoys creating a beautiful yard.

Gardening has been a source of comfort for Gail as well. "When tragedy strikes, this is my go-to." When she lost her father years ago, taking care of the yard – and prayer - gave her peace of mind, she says.

She's also given her neighbors a fine example of community pride. Thank you, Gail!

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



Gail Chappell at her home on Buckigham Street. Image courtesy of Jim West

MEC Radio Patrol – Helping the Police Help Us Stay Safe

Judy Roth | Contributing Writer



Members of the MEC Neighborhood Patrol gather at The Craft Cafe. Image courtesy of Judy Roth

The Citizens Radio Patrol Program is one of Detroit's best success stories. Through a partnership with the Detroit Police Department, our radio patrol groups have been engaged in crime prevention efforts since 1967. Criminals are not in the business of working harder; they are looking to avoid being observed, to avoid contact, and to avoid getting caught.

Our MEC Neighborhood Radio Patrol has been patrolling Morningside, East English Village, and Cornerstone Village since 1976. We are seeking interested, committed volunteers. Increasing the presence of our citizen patrollers shows would-be criminals that the community refuses to let crime run rampant.

Volunteering with the patrol does not require a large amount of time. Even an hour or two once or twice a month are helpful. It can actually be fun to learn what is going on in the different neighborhoods.

Each applicant must complete a Volunteer Application and pass a Detroit Police Department Criminal Background Check. Once cleared you are eligible to become a Base Operator, a Driver, or an Observer, who rides along with a Driver looking out for issues in the neighborhood and recording them on an Activity Sheet. The Observer will handle location checks with Base Operator on our Police Radios. Patrol Drivers are reimbursed for mileage (65.5) cents a mile.

If you prefer working from home, we also need Base Radio Operators. It requires you to stay in contact with the Observer and Driver while they are patrolling, as well as our 5th Precinct Department. Suspicious activities and crimes are reported to the Base Operator, who then relays this information to the 5th Precinct. If it's an emergency, the Observer directly calls 911 with the information. So, if you like being able to stay at home, this could be your patrol position.

Story continues on page 8...

Exotic Animals Kick Off Summer Reading Program at Jefferson Branch Library

Tracy Malek | Contributing Writer

Whether you're young, old, or in between, you'll find something fun to do at the Jefferson Branch Library this summer.

Special Interest Programs

Wednesday, June 28th at 6 pm, Bees in the D-Participants will learn how to grow plants in their yards and gardens that help benefit pollinators. This program is for adults and families.

<u>Thursday, July 7 at 2 pm</u>, *Animal Magic* - Mark Rosenthal will be presenting this unique and educational exotic animal show for all ages as part of our Summer Reading Kick-Off.

<u>Wednesday, July 12 at 2 pm</u>, Arts & Scraps -Join us for this student craft workshop based on the theme "A New Fish in the Detroit River." For ages 5 and up.

Wednesday, July 19 at 2 pm, Huron-Clinton Metroparks - "We're Fond of Ponds" is an educational program for ages 6 and up. We'll learn about ponds and ecosystems while having fun.

Wednesday, August 2 at 2 pm, Wayne County Parks - "Nature's Superheroes" focuses on animals and plants that are the superheroes of the Crosswinds Marsh. This highly educational program is for ages 6 and up.

<u>Wednesday, August 16 at 2 pm</u>, *Clark Family Players* - "Bee Kind" is a special puppet show that embraces our Summer Reading theme of "All Together Now." This entertaining show is designed for all ages.

Wednesday, August 30 at 2 pm, Hands-On Folktales - Storyteller James Abbott will present the Haitian Creole tale "Little John Lost and Found" for all ages during our Summer Reading Finale.

Family story time sessions will also take place every Friday at 10:30 a.m. for all ages. Join us for stories, songs, fingerplays, and crafts.

Tracy Malek is the Assistant Manager/Youth Library at the Jefferson Branch Library



Jefferson Branch Library. Image courtesy of Jefferson Branch Library

Continued... MEC Radio Patrol – Helping the Police Help Us Stay Safe

Patrols require two members to be in the vehicle. They always remain in the vehicle except to possibly perform "Good Samaritan Acts". No weapons of any kind can be carried while on patrol, even if the volunteer has a CCW.

Patrollers are not to engage in high-speed chases. Crime and serious situations must be reported immediately to the Base Operator for relay to the Police, or if in an emergency, dial 911. Also, patrollers should never confront individuals or put themselves in harm's way. That job is for our Police Department to handle. Our role is to watch over the neighborhoods looking for suspicious activities, illegal dumping, abandoned vehicles and boats, unsecured vacant houses, and such.

Training will be provided. Each new volunteer is required to do at least three ride-alongs with other patrollers. You are trained to look out for specific warning signs while out on patrol. These would include unsecured homes with open doors, broken windows, ladders leaning against buildings, persons following mail or newspaper carriers, loitering individuals, burglar alarms triggered, and vehicles slowly driving up and down alleys, to name a few.

Our area is covered by the 5th Precinct, 3500 Conner, Detroit, MI 48215 - (313) 596-5500. Our patrol officers are always great to work with, and our NPO Officers are awesome and very hardworking.



MEC Neighborhood Patrol members at East English Preparatory Academy at Finney. Image courtesy of Michigan Radio

Please consider becoming "eyes and ears" for the DPD by volunteering with our MEC Neighborhood Citizens Radio Patrol. For Volunteer Applications contact Judith Roth (313) 690-0613 by text or voice mail. Also, MEC President, Beverly Brown (313) 505-8355.

Judy Roth is a long-time resident of East English Village and dedicated MEC Patrol volunteer

Brilliant Detroit Summer Activities

Roberto Paredes | Contributing Writer

Family Fun Day

You are invited to our Eastside Family Fun Day at Wish Egan Field (Eastburn and Reno). This will be full of fun for the whole family! Games, Food, Bounce House, and Community Resources. Join us on Saturday, June 17th, from 11am-2pm

Summer Camp

Explore and play all summer long with Brilliant Detroit! Our hands-on summer learning camp will help your student foster a love of reading and reduce the risk of summer learning loss. Camps run Monday-Thursday beginning July 10th - August 24th from 10am-3pm. These camps are for students in grades K-3/Ages 5-8. For more information, text "Summer Camp" to (313) 528-7217

Arts & Scraps Expands Hours, Needs Your Help to Continue Serving Detroit

Ang Adamiak | Contributing Writer

We are pleased to announce that Arts & Scraps has expanded the hours of our community store at 16135 Harper. You'll find recycled materials for all your craft projects on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For 34 years, Arts & Scraps has been Metro Detroit's beacon of creativity, STEM education, and environmental stewardship. That has been made possible by thousands of people doing their small part to make Arts & Scraps' impact possible.



The exterior mural at Arts & Scraps. Image courtesy of Susan Newell

The ongoing challenges presented by the economic downturn, inflation and staffing shortages have left Arts & Scraps in a precarious situation. Despite our best efforts to navigate these difficult times, our financial resources have been severely affected. The goal of Rally for Arts & Scraps is to raise funds to ensure a sustainable future. Your donation will make a tangible difference, unleashing creativity, fostering learning, and building a lasting impact in our community.

Join the Rally for Arts & Scraps and become a catalyst for change. With three "laps" from June 2 to July 15, we aim to raise \$40,000.

Champions who raise or give \$500 will receive a special invitation to our public grand finale and receive a special thank-you gift.



Star Wars themed Arts & Scraps figures. Image courtesy of Susan Newell

Let's unleash creativity, inspire minds, and build a sustainable future for Metro Detroit. "Rally for Arts & Scraps today!"

Ang Adamiak is the Executive Director of Arts & Scraps

Wanted: Job Seekers at District 4 Job Fair June 23

Carlena Toombs | Contributing Writer

Are you ready to take the next step in your career? Look no further! We are thrilled to announce the upcoming District 4 Job Fair, a collaborative effort between Councilwoman Latisha Johnson's office and Detroit at Work. We invite District 4 residents seeking employment to join us on June 23rd, 2023 at Detroit at Work's Payne Pulliam Campus, 18017 E. Warren, for a day filled with networking opportunities, on-site interviews, and career guidance.

As Detroit continues its remarkable resurgence, it is essential to ensure that our residents have access to meaningful employment. The District 4 Job Fair serves as a catalyst, uniting employers, job seekers, and community leaders to drive economic growth and empower individuals to thrive. With a focus on providing opportunities right here in our local community, this event holds tremendous significance for the revitalization and prosperity of Detroit.

Through this partnership between Councilwoman Latisha Johnson's office and Detroit at Work, we are reinforcing our commitment to supporting Detroit residents on their journey to secure employment. We understand that a job is more than just a paycheck; it is the foundation for self-sufficiency, personal growth, and the overall well-being of individuals and families.

The District 4 Job Fair will feature a diverse range of employers from various sectors, offering a wide array of positions across different industries. We encourage you to come prepared with copies of your resume, dressed professionally, and ready to make a lasting impression. Whether you are a seasoned professional seeking new challenges or an entry-level job seeker eager to kick-start your career, this event has something for everyone.

Together, let's rebuild and reshape our community by connecting District 4 residents with the employment opportunities they deserve. We believe in the talent, potential, and resilience of our fellow residents, and we are excited to witness the positive impact this job fair will have on the lives of individuals and our city.

Make sure to mark your calendars, spread the word, and get ready to embark on an exciting new chapter at the District 4 Job Fair. We eagerly anticipate meeting you and providing the support you need to achieve your goals. This is your chance to connect with potential employers, explore promising opportunities, and take significant steps towards your desired future.

Carlena Toombs is Community Liaison/Digital Media Specialist at the Office of Councilwoman Latisha Johnson



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Let's Talk Trash

The Morningsider

Juneteenth on Monday, June 19, will not affect that week's bulk trash, yard waste, and recycling pick up – at least for this year. However, the July 4 holiday will delay trash collection by one day. Our next three pick up dates are:

Thursday, June 22 Friday, July 7 Thursday, July 20



Multiple bags of trash sits alongside the berm. Image courtesy of Jeffrey D. Lewis II

Mark Your Calendars Now for MorningSide's Summer Sizzler!

The Morningsider

Don't miss this celebration of all that's great about our community. There'll be music, dancing in the streets, food, community resources, and activities for all ages. Stay tuned for details in the weeks to come!

Saturday, August 5 1 – 4 PM Three Mile Munich Park



Three Mile Munich Park. Image courtesy of Nicolas Hall

Sign Up for Councilmember Johnson's Bi-Weekly Updates

The Morningsider

Our Councilmember Latisha Johnson's keeps District 4 residents in the loop through her biweekly communications. It's a great resource to find out what's happening in our Council district and city. Here's the latest bi-weekly update. Click on the form below to sign up to receive them by text and/or email.

<u>Councilwoman Johnson Contact Form</u> (smartsheet.com)

You can also follow her on <u>Instagram</u> and <u>Facebook.</u>



Detroit City Council Member of District 4, Latisha Johnson. Image courtesy of the city of Detroit

Neighborhood Bike Ride This Saturday, June 17

Nicolas Hall | The Morningsider

Join us for a neighborhood bike ride this Saturday, June 17, from 10am - noon!

Participants will meet up at MorningSide's Three Mile Park (4600 Three Mile Drive) at 10:00am. From there we'll cruise into East English Village and eventually end up in Cornerstone Village, where we have a planned stop at Messmer Park. We'll also check out Cadieux Cafe's new signage. The ride will be about 4 miles in total and wrap up by noon.

All riders are encouraged to wear bike helmets. If you have questions or concerns, please call Nic Hall at (815) 354-2092.



Participants at last month's bike ride. Image courtesy of Nicolas Hall

Give A Smile, Get A Smile

The Morningsider

Here's an example of the healing power of music in any language, anywhere in the world. Thanks, Donyelle Pressley, for sharing this soul-nourishing story. We welcome any stories Morningsiders have to share that will make your neighbors laugh, smile, or cry (in a good way). Send them to Susan Newell at sdnewell50@gmail.com or Jeffrey D. Lewis II at jefflewis2@ymail.com.

Watch: French surgeon sings to relax patients before surgery



Obstetrician Dr. Aïcha N'Doye of the Polyclinique Bordeaux Nord in southern France. Image courtesy of NBC News





PHONE: 313.640.1100 | FAX: 313.640.1112 | RSVP@www.usnapbac.org

Resources & Upcoming Events

Presented by The Morningsider

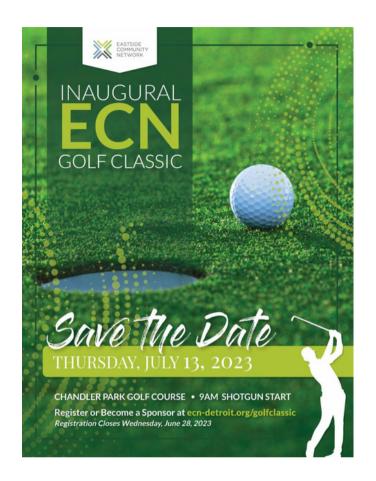






Resources & Upcoming Events

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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





HOPE & LIFELINE DAYS

MONDAYS I 10AM - 3PM

Eastside Community Network 4401 Conner Street | Detroit, MI 48215

Join us for our City of Detroit Homeowner Property Exemption (HOPE) and Detroit Water and Sewerage Department's (DWSD) Lifeline Plan Application Assistance Days!

You can apply to have part or all of your 2023 property taxes exempt, and begin the Lifeline process by completing Wayne Metro's Universal Application, and ask questions about various assistance programs.

We will have limited number of additional community resources available on-site, so RSVP today! Schedule your appointment at hopepartners.timetap.com & select Eastside Community Network

Questions?

Please contact Sustainable Homes Coordinator, Sparkle Berry at 313.264.1416 | sberry@ecn-detroit.org

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Monthly Run

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Contact the Morningside Community Organization at: (313) 355-2468 or via email:

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Also checkout our website!
www.morningsidedetroit.org

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