



# MORNINGSIDER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MORNINGSIDE



Owner of Morningside Cafe, Jeffrey D. Lewis II, makes a Latte during the establishment's highly anticipated soft opening. Image courtesy of Jim West

## Morningside Cafe Soft Opening was One to Remember

[Jeffrey D. Lewis II](#) | The Morningsider

Detroit — It's been a long time coming, but the wait is finally over! The Morningside Cafe soft opening took place on Friday, September, 8th.

The amount of people who turned out was truly unbelievable as nearly 100 eager individuals had the opportunity to take in the *Coffee x Vibes* experience during the two hour event. It actually ran over because the traffic continued to flow in after the scheduled ending.

Many of you arrived in advance of our scheduled start time and I gotta say that definitely caught me by surprise, but it was much welcomed and appreciated.

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## East Warren Streetscape Near the Finish Line

### The Morningsider



An aerial shot of the streetscape improvements to East Warren Avenue. Image courtesy of Jim West

The end of streetscape construction is in sight! The trees planted along the East Warren streetscape earlier this summer – mostly Michigan natives ginkgo, maple, elm, coffeetree, and planetree – have really made the avenue shine. There's more planting to come this month. By next year the flower beds will be blooming with Michigan natives - allium, spirea, echinacea, prairie dropseed, catmint, blue oat grass, and fountain grass.

A few more trash receptacles and bike racks are coming, as well as signposts. And then we're done!

We recognize that none of this would have been possible without a generous donation of \$5 million from Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan. And thank you to all the city departments that collaborated to make it all come together on schedule.

Those who kept their businesses on E. Warren open during two years of construction deserve special recognition. Your patience is sure to be rewarded as E. Warren grows into a revitalized business corridor.



THE MORNINGSIDER

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Jim West

## E. Warrenfest

### The Morningsider



E. Warrenfest will take place on September 21st. Image courtesy of East Warren Development Corp.

Join E. Warren Development Corporation to celebrate the completion of the East Warren streetscape on Thursday, September 21 from 4-9 p.m. There'll be three music stages and 35+ vendors, from Zab Cultural Collective on E. Warren at Harvard, to Terri's Cakes Bakery at Three Mile.

But wait, there's more! A kids' zone, fashion show, food trucks, and business grand openings. We've waited a long time for this transformation, so it's time to celebrate with your neighbors.

## 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](mailto:morningsidecommunity2@gmail.com). Letters, edited as necessary for space and clarity, will be published each month.



## Continued... Morningside Cafe Soft Opening was One to Remember

The minute people walked inside they were immediately amazed at the aesthetics and the overall feeling they felt.

Words that were used to describe Morningside Cafe varied from gorgeous, bright, comfortable, and so many more

So many of you completed the beautiful *Dedication Pt. II* mural which was commissioned by the extremely talented, Detroit-based artist, Trae Issac.



Morningside Cafe Dedication Pt. II mural. Image courtesy of Trae Issac

Trae actually did the first mural for us back towards the end of 2021, but as many of you know we suffered a fire last January that completely destroyed the first version of the Dedication mural.

I loved the original, but this one is by far the better of the two.

We provided a few of the items you can expect to see on the menu regularly such as Lattes, which we gave away for free, our Cinnamon Swirl cupcakes and Chocolate Chip cookies were all provided by our baked goods provider, Tee Cakes by Toshia.

All in all, we were extremely pleased by the turnout. I can't thank everyone enough for the kind words, the patience you demonstrated as we took your orders, it truly means the world to me.

I am so looking forward to being open and serving our community with nothing less than excellence.

I know many of you want to know what our hours of operation will be. Starting after September 21st, our hours will be:

*Monday - Friday: 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.*  
*Saturday: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.*  
*Sunday: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.*

Our official grand opening/ribbon cutting ceremony will take place on September 21st. We're still getting all the details in place, but follow us on our social media sites (Facebook: **morningsidecafedet** and Instagram: **morningsidecafe**) for the latest information pertaining to our grand opening.

Also visit our new website, [coffeexvibes.com](http://coffeexvibes.com) to learn more about us.



The lines stayed long during the soft opening at Morningside Cafe. Image courtesy of Jim West

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

## Emerald Gardens Morningside Boasts Bumper Crop

**Susan Newell** | The Morningsider

Emerald Gardens Morningside has blossomed and grown since this time last year, thanks to people who know what it takes to create a community garden, and have the will to make it happen. One of those people is Gary Gray, who has pulled together a strong team of volunteers over the past several years and spends much of his free time working in the garden. He calls himself the “Chief Laborer of Love (LOL).”

The hoop house, which was constructed last year opposite the perennial garden, is currently home to weeds and not much else, but give it a little time. Gary says that the hoop house can hold enough warmth from the sun that he anticipates being able to eventually grow vegetables there all winter. But first he needs a water source, which he hopes to get in time for planting next spring. “I’ve talked with a neighbor who abuts the garden, and I’m considering building a water catchment system,” he says.



**The hoop house is one element of the Emerald Gardens. Image courtesy of Jim West**

In the meantime, Emerald Gardens has a bumper crop of native perennials, tomatoes, broccoli, collards, curly kale, lettuce mix, beets, celery, cabbage, dino kale, bok choy, snap peas, Swiss chard, cilantro, basil, and dill. They’re distributed to volunteers, some local seniors, and whoever comes along to pick them.

Gary is the first one to say that a garden like this isn’t a one-person operation. In the fall of 2022, Morningside Community Organization (MCO) Board member Nic Hall designed a campaign that helped raise \$3,000 to defray about half the cost of the hoop house. The hoop house was built by Mr. Kido Pielack and his Keep Growing Detroit team, Reggie Smith, Founder & CEO of Bridge Waters CDC, and MCO President Eric Dueweke.



**A bed full of sunflowers. Image courtesy of Jim West**

This June, Branden Recker of Habitat for Humanity Detroit led about fifty volunteers from Rocket Group, who installed the water catchment system, built a fence, a workbench, composting bin, raised beds, and thoroughly cleaned up the garden.

Megan Summers, Jefferson Branch librarian, resident Dorothy Johnson, and Sharon Gray, Director of Funds Development for Emerald Gardens, planted the vegetable garden. “Without the help of these people,” says Gary, “the vegetable garden would not have happened this year, and the flower garden would have been out of control.”

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

## Personnel Changes Coming to Jefferson Branch Library

Megan Summers | Contributing Writer

I was just promoted to Assistant Manager at the Sherwood Forest Branch on 7 Mile. My last day at Jefferson will be September 16. I'm sad to leave the neighborhood, but I'm excited about the new opportunity. It's been a pleasure working with this community.

Here are our September offerings:

### **Chair Yoga For Adults With Good Vibz Yoga**

Date/Time: Wednesday, September 20, at 6pm

Chair yoga involves relaxing seated poses and support with a chair. It is a gentle form of yoga that is good to take anywhere. You will learn some seated and standing poses and modifications will be offered to make the practice accessible for everyone. Interested in attending? Make sure to register for the session or sessions you're interested in, and we'll send you reminders. The program will be limited to the first 15 attendees, so be a bit early to be one of them.

Eventbrite link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/chair-yoga-for-adults-with-good-vibz-yoga-tickets-621845786487>

### **Extending the Gardening Season**

Date/Time: Saturday, September 30, 2023 at 2:00pm

Are you curious about growing vegetables during the fall and winter months? Join us as we learn which vegetables we can grow into the winter months and inexpensive ways to grow them. Join Lindsey Kerr from MSU Extension Services in conversation about how to get the most out of your garden past peak season. Participants will have the opportunity to take home a cool season flower or vegetable. This is an in-person event! The program will be limited to the first 24 attendees, so be a bit early to be one of them.

Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/extending-the-garden-season-tickets-675440208847>

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*Megan Summers is a Librarian II at the Jefferson Branch Library on E. Outer Dr. just north of E. Warren*

## *Give A Smile, Get A Smile*

The Morningsider

This month's Give A Smile, Get A Smile is definitely one that will bring some tears to your eyes. We encourage you to click [here](#) to watch the emotional speech delivered by kindergarten student, Jaxon Carter.



## It's Christmas Every Day Now at Arts & Scraps

Ang Adamiak | Contributing Writer

At Arts & Scraps we're spreading some cheer by extending our Christmas in July sale and our weekly hours! Our store is now open Fridays 11am-4pm in addition to our previous schedule of Tuesday and Thursdays 11am-6pm and Saturdays 11am-4pm. Get ready to snag incredible deals on your favorite holiday items, because bags of Christmas items are now 50% off!

Not only can you now shop on Fridays but you can come in and get all your Christmas and winter holiday supplies early. Come get your wreath bases, your glass ornaments both new and vintage. Get your tree toppers, snow globes and more... we've got it all!

Whether you're looking to stock up on festive crafting supplies or just want to spread a little holiday joy, this sale is your chance! Don't miss out – hurry down to Arts & Scraps and make the most of these incredible savings. See you soon at the store!



Arts & Scraps. Image courtesy of Arts & Scraps

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*Ang Adamiak is the Executive Director of Arts & Scraps*

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## Next Chapter Books Grand Opening September 23

Sarah and Jay Williams | Contributing Writer

Autumn is upon us! We love this back-to-school, grab-a-sweatshirt, color-blazing season. It's the perfect time to settle into a literary adventure. That's why we're excited to share that Next Chapter Books will be hosting its grand opening from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Saturday, September 23, the first official day of fall. We can't wait to welcome you to our permanent home!

**Location:** 16555 E. Warren. Detroit, MI 48224

**Phone:** 313-500-4206

**Email:** [info@nextchapterbkstore.com](mailto:info@nextchapterbkstore.com)

**Soft open:** 9/19, 9/20, and 9/22 from 11-5. Drop in and chat, pick out some reads, and help us work out the kinks as we work on finishing touches in the store. We'd love to see you.

**E. Warrenfest:** 9/21 from 4-9 p.m. We look forward to participating in this inaugural 8-block community festival sponsored by E. Warren Development Corp, featuring local vendors, food trucks, live music, and a family fun zone outside Next Chapter Books! We'll be open during festival hours while our friends Eastside Roasterz and Gajiza Dumplings pop up out front. Bring your appetites, your book list, and a spirit of fun!

**Summer reflections:** We're thankful for your continued support as we've worked to prepare our space. What a busy summer! Between book pop-ups at our neighborhood farmer's market and community festivals, we've been drywalling, painting, building bookshelves and furniture, growing our inventory, and more. We couldn't have done it without the help of family and friends, both old and new. Thank you!

It's been a joy as we're working to have neighbors stop to say hello, call for updates, purchase on our Bookshop page, and chime in on our social media. Your encouragement has kept us going! We've loved hosting our monthly book club amid the reno dust and are thankful to see how this literary community continues to grow. At our last gathering, a new friend shared how much it means to her to connect with "kindred spirits." We echo this! No matter the book or our different takes on the material, this circle has been a safe and inviting space. Wanna join? Please do! Check out our other article to get details on October's read.

**More Exciting News:** Next Chapter Books has a coffee and building partner! You asked us to provide a coffee element in our permanent space, and we heard you. Since our passion is reading (but we need the coffee to function), we're collaborating with a small biz that knows how to roast its beans and is already winning the hearts and tastebuds of this community.

[Eastside Roasterz](#) is a Black, Mom, and LGBTQ+-owned coffee roaster and soon-to-be coffee shop on Kensington alongside Next Chapter Books. Tiff and Riss have become lovely friends and colleagues. They'll pop up with us often as they work on their space, from which you'll be able to order iced coffee, pour-overs, and handcrafted sodas while in the bookshop!

So much is happening, and your support is making this dream possible. Thank you! We're so thrilled to live and love, grow and read with you.

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*Sarah and Jay Williams are the owners of Next Chapter Books*



## Young People Invited to Help Shape Wayne County’s Future

The Morningsider

The Wayne Co. Commission Youth Council is dedicated to promoting youth education, community involvement and civic interaction by bringing together youth from varied socioeconomic backgrounds and multicultural neighborhoods to assist in planning, developing and implementing activities and services that help young people become socially responsible community members. As many as 30 Wayne County students in grades 10-12 can be selected to serve on the Council for the upcoming school year. The Council meets once a month.

Applications are still open for the 2023-2024 [Wayne County Commission Youth Council](#), but the deadline is coming up very soon – Friday, September 15 at 5 p.m. [Read more about the position and how to apply.](#)



Wayne County Commission Youth Council members are joined by actor and Michigan U.S. Senate candidate, Hill Harper. Image courtesy of Wayne County Youth Council/Instagram

## Wayne County Won’t Enforce Its Own Rules Against Speculators

The Morningsider

Speculators who have unpaid blight tickets and delinquent property taxes aren’t supposed to be able to purchase more properties through the Wayne County Tax Auction, but they still do because the county isn’t enforcing its own rules. It’s then up to the city to deal with the fallout – blighted properties, lost revenue, and costly lawsuits to try to make the investors pay their blight tickets.

Investors, often hiding their identities, only have to sign an affidavit promising to pay their property taxes and maintain their properties in order to participate in the auction. There’s no oversight, so when the honor system doesn’t work, the speculators face no consequences. Both the city and county failed to respond to questions from Outlier Media, which has reported its investigation [here.](#)

## Get Happy and Healthy at District 4 Health Fair

Latisha Johnson | Contributing Writer

Among my top priorities is the health and well-being of Detroiters, especially those who live in District 4. To that end, I am hosting the *1st Annual District 4 Health and Wellness Fair* on Saturday, September 30, 2023, at The Ville:

East English Preparatory Academy at Finney  
5020 Cadieux  
Detroit, Michigan 48224  
10:00 am to 2:00 pm

SHOUT-OUT to Principal Marty Bulger for inviting us to The Ville's beautiful campus and providing music for the event.

The health and wellness fair will have something for people of all ages. We have partnered with some of the Detroit area's best healthcare providers, including the Detroit Health Department, Ascension Community Health, Dedicated Senior Medical Centers, Detroit Community Health Connection, and the Wayne Health Mobile Unit to provide services to our beloved community. Below is a partial list of the services and activities that we will provide:

- Health Resources
- Vaccinations for all ages
- Free health screenings
- Free smoke detectors (on a first-come, first-served basis)
- Fun, food, music, and "Dancin' In The Street"

Thanks to generous sponsors like PepsiCo, we plan to have food and fun activities for everyone to enjoy. So come on, "every guy grab a girl everywhere around the world" and dance in the street with me at The Ville on September 30.

Nothing is healthier than laughing and singing with people you know and love.

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*Latisha Johnson represents our community as the District 4 Councilmember on Detroit City Council*

## Let's Talk Trash

### The Morningsider

If your Courville dumpster is overflowing every week, there's an easy fix. Recycling! It can cut down dramatically on your household trash. Fewer trash bags to buy, more room in your dumpster – what's not to love about that?! Find out more about how to recycle and how you can get a free recycling container [here](#).

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

**Thursday, September 14 and 28**

**Thursday, October 12**



A variety of trash bags and other items sits on the berm. Image courtesy of Jeffrey D. Lewis II

## Book Club at Next Chapter Books October 4

### The Morningsider

*Our Missing Hearts by Celeste Ng is a novel about a mother's unbreakable love in a world consumed by fear.*

Twelve-year-old Bird Gardner lives a quiet existence with his loving but broken father, a former linguist who now shelves books in a university library. Bird knows not to ask too many questions, stand out too much, or stray too far. For a decade, their lives have been governed by laws written to preserve “American culture” in the wake of years of economic instability and violence. To keep the peace and restore prosperity, the authorities are now allowed to relocate children of dissidents, especially those of Asian origin, and libraries have been forced to remove books seen as unpatriotic—including the work of Bird's mother, Margaret, a Chinese American poet who left the family when he was nine years old.

Bird has grown up disavowing his mother and her poems; he doesn't know her work or what happened to her, and he knows he shouldn't wonder. But when he receives a mysterious letter containing only a cryptic drawing, he is pulled into a quest to find her. His journey will take him back to the many folktales she poured into his head as a child, through the ranks of an underground network of librarians, into the lives of the children who have been taken, and finally to New York City, where a new act of defiance may be the beginning of much-needed change.

An RSVP isn't necessary but helpful! Email [info@nextchapterbkstore.com](mailto:info@nextchapterbkstore.com) or chime in on social

There are copies in the store if you're interested in joining us, or you can have this title shipped directly to your house through Bookshop.org, which you can access directly at [nextchapterbkstore.com](https://nextchapterbkstore.com).



## Keep Growing Detroit

### The Morningsider

Keep Growing Detroit's mission is to promote a "food sovereign city" where the majority of fruits and vegetables consumed by Detroiters are grown by residents within the city's limits.

Learn all about native plants and pollinator habitat on Thursday, September 21 from 6 – 8 p.m. At Keep Growing Detroit Farm, 3100 Orleans St. in Detroit. ([map](#)) [Google Calendar](#) [ICS](#)



## Detroit Public Library Food & Fund Drive!

We're partnering with Gleaners throughout Hunger Action Month to help provide healthy meals for our neighbors. We're dedicated to connecting our community with resources like Gleaners in order to better serve the needs of our patrons. Food stability enables our patrons to pursue continued learning and literacy, encouraging the success of our collective community.

Gleaners is always in need of shelf-stable protein rich foods, including canned chicken, canned tuna, beans, peanut butter, and protein drinks like Boost and Ensure. Other great suggestions are hearty soups, canned veggies and fruits, cereal, and oatmeal. In addition to collecting food here, we're also running a virtual food drive.

You can learn more about volunteer opportunities with Gleaners by scanning this QR code



With Gleaners' bulk purchasing power, they can provide 6 meals for every dollar donated. You can visit the DPL virtual food drive page by scanning this QR code



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