MORNINGSIDER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MORNINGSIDE



Work to convert the former St. Matthew School into affordable housing is officially underway. Image courtesy of Jeffrey D. Lewis II

School-to-Housing Project Now Underway Eric Dueweke | The Morningsider

Detroit — Construction begins this week on the conversion of the vacant St. Matthew School buildings into affordable housing. Located in MorningSide on Whittier just south of Harper, "The Residences at St. Matthew" will include 46 units of affordable housing. Though the project was announced in June of 2022, the official property transfer to Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan just occurred on November 2nd.

Rising costs due to inflation delayed the start date and increased the project price tag to \$20 million, from \$17 million. The timeframe for construction completion is an estimated 13 months, with the hope that some new residents can move in before Christmas of 2024. Property management company KMG Prestige will begin taking applications in late summer of 2024. OTHER STORIES

- Programs @ JBL 2
- Athl. Dome @ Chandler Park - 3
- Brilliant Det. Advisory 5
- Hiptique Resale 6
- New Librarians 7
- Gift Certificate 8
- Small Business Saturday 9
- Fall Festival Recap 10
- Curb Appeal 11
- Let's Talk Trash 12
- Resources & Upcoming Events - 13
- Land Value Tax Plan 17



Story continued on page 4...



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Upcoming Programs at Jefferson Branch Library The Morningsider



Jefferson Branch Library. Image courtesy of Google Street View

An Afternoon with Pete the Cat: Giveaways, raffle, story time, crafts, and photo ops with your favorite cartoon cat. Saturday, November 18 at 2:00 p.m.

Weekly Storytime: Come enjoy books and a craft! It's a great way for children to build early literacy, creativity and social skills. This weekly program features a mix of stories, songs, and activities for children of all ages and their caregivers. Every Tuesday from 10:30 – 11:15 a.m.



Children storytime will be one of the regular events taking place at the Jefferson Branch Library. Image courtesy of Jennifer Hamra

A Visit from Santa: Join us for a visit from Santa and holiday crafts. Saturday, December 16, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Call **(313) 481-1760** for details. The Jefferson Branch is located at 12350 E. Outer Dr. (just north of E. Warren).



The Morningsider

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City Council Approves Money for Athletic Dome in Chandler Park



District 4 Councilwoman Latisha Johnson speaks during the opening of the community center at A.B. Ford park. Image courtesy of Junfu Han/ Detroit Free Press

For years District 4 has been the only City Council district without a public indoor recreational facility, but that will soon change. Last month, the Council approved \$13.9 million in ARPA funds to install an inflatable athletic dome in Chandler Park.

Councilwoman Latisha Johnson admitted to being ambivalent about having an inflatable dome instead of a bricks-and-mortar facility, but ultimately voted for it. Read her comments and details about what activities the dome will hold in <u>this article</u> from the Detroit Free Press.

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.

RESIDENT PHOTOGRAPHER Jim West

Continued... School-to-Housing Project Now Underway

As noted in the May edition of The Morningsider, The Residences at St. Matthew will include 36 one-bedroom apartments, 4 two-bedroom units and 6 studio units. The apartments are targeted for households earning up to 30%, 50% and 60% of the "area median income." Health and social services will be provided on-site through a partnership with Ascension Michigan. Some services will be open to neighborhood residents.

MorningSide residents from the 5900 block of Audubon expressed concerns with an original site plan that showed a new driveway exit to Audubon. Thanks to the involvement of Councilmember Latisha Johnson and the City's Housing and Revitalization Department, project developers agreed to drop the proposed driveway.

Many supportive partners are necessary to execute a complex revitalization effort like The Residences at St. Matthew. In addition to Catholic Charities, MorningSide is thankful for St. Matthew Catholic Church (which will remain open!), Ascension Michigan, Ethos Development Partners, Cinnaire Solutions, KMG Prestige and O'Brien Construction. Project updates will be posted at <u>https://ccsem.org/residences</u>. MorningSide President Eric Dueweke <u>ericduew@gmail.com</u> is the community liaison to the development partners.



St. Matthew school will include 36 units of onebedroom apartments, 4 two-bedroom units, and 6 studio units. Image courtesy of Jeffrey D. Lewis II

Eric Dueweke, President of the Morningside Community Organization

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Brilliant Detroit Seeks Residents for Advisory Team

Regina Williams | Contributing Writer

Brilliant Detroit Morningside is nestled inside the Morningside community at 5048 Balfour St. (just north of E. Warren). We are a community hub which welcomes all families that have children 0-8 years old. Our programming is for the entire family to grow and become their own definition of success, especially in the area of literacy. Because community involvement is so vital to the success of what we do, we are reaching out to community members, leaders and business owners to possibly become part of our advisory team. A potential Advisory Team Member needs to agree to the following:

OVERVIEW/PURPOSE:

The Brilliant Detroit ("BD") House Advisory Team ("Advisory Team") is a group of volunteers ("Champions") dedicated to advancing Kid and Family Success in neighborhoods. The Advisory Team will provide leadership in relation to community views so that they are recognized and reflected in service delivery, and in general, Champions will advocate on behalf of the community.

EXPECTATIONS:

The Advisory Team will help advance kid success neighborhoods by providing suggestions, advice, and recommendations as well as championing the mission and related projects. This team will offer non-binding strategic advice or recommendations. Though it has no executive authority, the Advisory Team provides a central focus for all strategies and mechanisms for participation in BD activities. Champions may choose to focus on one or more of the following or other topics:

- Quality assurance for programming
- Input from community
- Outreach for new or consistent participants
- Events

If this sounds like a mission that you would like to be part of, please reach out to Regina Williams at (**313**) **528-7217** or <u>rwilliams@brilliantdetroit.org</u>. Thank you, and

we hope to hear from you soon!

Regina Williams is the Community Engagement Manager at the Brilliant Detroit Morningside.



Brilliant Detroit offers a vast variety of programming for children, adults, and families. Image courtesy of Brilliant Detroit

Hiptique Resale & Gifts with Owner, Nikki Delano

Sharon Davis-Cawthorne | Contributing Writer

You may have missed it - the 'Open' sandwich board sign at the sidewalk or the sunshine yellow 'flower power' logo for Hiptique Resale & Gifts on the Mack Avenue Mall. Yet over the past five years, Nikki Delano has turned her passion into a place for unique hip items. Offering upscale, budget-friendly, new, gently-worn and consignment items, Delano's classy boutique at 16235 Mack serves Morningside and bordering communities Tuesday-Saturday, llam-3pm.

As a past Motor City Match recipient, Delano says, "I started the store for the flexibility for my family and a desire to bring quality clothing goods to our neighborhood." She also adds that her fashion items are for, "school and work to party and pub."

On a rainy Saturday morning visit, Hiptique customer Jeanette Taylor also found pieces she said, "are pretty for church, too." This versatility in the collection is one of the reasons why Delano's boutique has gained popularity among individuals with diverse fashion needs.



Hiptique has a variety of woman accessories, clothing, and shoes. Image courtesy of Sharon Davis-Cawthorne

The store owner has faced her share of personal and business challenges. Like many businesses, Hiptique faced its share of hardship due to the pandemic. Delano says "I closed, not essential, I lost momentum and customers." The sidewalk directional marks bear witness to the reopening of the shop doors post-pandemic to both male and female customers. However, this past June when Michigan-born Delano lost her father, she shut her doors again for three-months, reflecting that, "It was harder than I thought it would be." It was one of her most difficult and recent life-changing events to weather. Yet, Nikki says her biggest rewards and reason for being the "Resale Rocker" has been to "invest in the city I was born in, seeing happy faces, be in a neighborhood I call my own and remain close by for family while providing sustainable fashion."

Looking to the future, Delano also strives to have a sustainable business. The warm, inviting nature of Delano and the well-curated racks and walls, have a flow that makes one feel welcome to browse and ask, as one shopper did, 'do you have anything to go with...'



Owner of Hiptique, Nikki Delano. Image courtesy of Sharon Davis-Cawthorne

Story continues on page 8...

Meet the New Librarians at the Jefferson Branch

Susan Newell | The Morningsider

DeAidre "Dee" Jones, Manager of the Jefferson Branch Library, may be new to our neighborhood, but she's a veteran librarian. Dee found her career niche in library science after working in the non-profit world for 15 years and doing shorter stints in the insurance industry and the tech world.

She began her library career at Wayne State University libraries in 2007 and moved to the Detroit Public Library (DPL) in 2017, first at the Main Library, and later as assistant manager at the Sherwood Forest Branch.

Dee says the best part of being a librarian is "interacting with people." The most challenging part? "Interacting with people...I see the irony in that," she says with a laugh.

Dee has always been a strong advocate for librarians – first as Chief Steward in UAW Local 2071 at Wayne State, later as an activist in the DPL system with the Association of Professional Librarians, UAW Local 2200. She has served as a union officer since 2014 and is the current President of the local.

Somehow Dee still finds time for her six adult children and five grandchildren, as well as volunteering at the Parade Company, where she often leads tours. You may also have seen Dee dressed as Kermit the Frog in last year's Thanksgiving Day parade.

Dan Patton, new Adult Services Librarian, says he enjoys ordering books for the library and takes pleasure in seeing the books he chooses become favorites of the patrons. The most rewarding part of his job, though, is "helping people navigate the modern world by helping them with the (computer) technology...It requires patience and the ability to instill confidence in people...to help them relax." He says that lack of confidence is often the biggest barrier for people learning their way around the internet. Dan started his career about ten years ago in the Canton system, then switched to the DPL, working at the Main Library for a little over a year before coming to the Jefferson Branch a few weeks ago.

Dan stays busy in his off-hours by volunteering with Greening of Detroit, a non-profit environmental group, Preservation Detroit, which works to preserve Detroit's historic places, and the Senate Theater, a theater in Redford and home to the Detroit Theater Organ Society.



Jefferson Branch Librarians, DeAidre "Dee" Jones, and Dan Patton. Image courtesy of Susan Newell

Both Dee and Dan grew up on Detroit's west side. "I had no concept of the east side until becoming an adult," Dan admits. Please give them both a warm welcome the next time you visit the Jefferson Branch for a good book, internet access, a program, or just some goodnatured eastside-westside trash talk.

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

Thanksgiving Celebration and Taekwondo at Brilliant Detroit

Brilliant Detroit

The staff of Brilliant Detroit invites you to enjoy a free Thanksgiving dinner with them on Friday, November 17 at the Brilliant Detroit house at 5048 Balfour. Call Regina Williams at **(313) 528-7217** if you're interested in attending.

Also, Taekwondo classes for kids eight years old and younger are beginning Wednesday, December 6 from 5-6 p.m. and will run weekly into March.

Shop Local This Holiday Season!



Cift certificates and gift cards are available at many of the businesses on East Warren. Image courtesy of The Morningsider

Continued... Hiptique Resale & Gifts with Owner, Nikki Delano

She plans on growing a partnership with a like-minded furniture crafter to offer unique, painted resale items alongside her clothing and gift inventory. Delano believes this partnership will not only add an interesting element to her store, but will also provide customers with access to expert advice on the pieces and other items already available. Keep an eye out for her special events throughout the year.

Here's how you can connect with Nikki:

Phone: **(313) 629-0749** Business email: <u>hiptiqueonmack@gmail.com</u> Website/Online Store: <u>www.hiptiqueresale.com</u> Social Media Handles: <u>https://www.facebook.com/hiptiqueresale/</u>

Sharon Davis-Cawthorne, at-large board member of MCO

Small Business Saturday

The Morningsider

Small Business Saturday on November 25 is a good reminder that you really can do most of your holiday shopping in the neighborhood this year. Take a good look around and you'll find plenty of options. You can support local businesses in a couple of ways:

Buy one of the many products - from books to clothing to art work – available along our newly renovated E. Warren business corridor or on Mack and Harper. Some stores and organizations are even selling their own signature clothing, mugs, water bottles, and other promotional products.



Neighborhood coffee mugs at Next Chapter Books. Image courtesy of Susan Newell

What if a store sells goods or services that aren't easily wrapped and placed under the Christmas tree? Or perhaps you want to let your friends and family choose their own presents. Maybe you want someone to try out your new favorite business. These are all great reasons to buy gift certificates from businesses in or near Morningside. They make great stocking stuffers. Whether you're shopping for a bookworm, fashionista, handyperson, pizza lover, craft cocktail expert, crafter, a family member with a wicked sweet tooth, or a friend who can't wake up without caffeine, there's a local shopping opportunity for you. Here's a partial list of neighborhood businesses to check out. We'll be adding more in the coming weeks.



Zab Cultural Collective artwork. Image courtesy of Susan Newell

M&M Pet Supplies – 15625 E. Warren ZAB Cultural Collective, 16927 E. Warren Next Chapter Books, 16555 E. Warren Morningside Café, 16369 E. Warren Hiptique Resale & Gifts, 16235 Mack Be Her Detroit, 15715 E. Warren Warren Café, 16314 E. Warren Luxury Bubbles Auto Salon, 15735 E. Warren Warren Fish & Seafood, 14900 E. Warren Hammertime Hardware, 16380 E. Warren Finest Body Oils, 14900 E. Warren Terri's Cakes, 16311 E. Warren. Their bricks and mortar store won't be open until January, but until then, their products can be ordered online <u>here</u>

Flamz Pizzeria, 16369 E. Warren Be'Shroomed Farms, 16555 Harper Arts & Scraps, 16135 Harper

Morningside Fall Festival

The Morningsider

The annual Morningside Fall Festival on Barham, brought to us by Motor City Grounds Crew, delivered everything you'd want in a fall festival – cider and donuts, a petting farm, pony rides, crazy costumes, pumpkin painting, chess games, Jenga, a climbing hill, face painting, and of course, a happy skeleton just chillin'.















"Curb Appeal"

Rachel Pisano | Contributing Writer

Not every neighborhood can say they have a Halloween display that could rival many of the haunted houses of the season, but Morningside is lucky to have one such display created by Nicole Bryant of 5527 Buckingham.

From ghouls and spiders to a skeleton carriage and towering werewolf, Nicole's display did not disappoint. Many may remember her Halloween display from last year when she lived on Beaconsfield. Her move to Buckingham hasn't slowed her down at all.



Nicole Bryant's Halloween decorated display. Image courtesy of Nicole Bryant

The time and effort she put into her display drew interest from many neighbors and created excitement all around. Nicole has received so many compliments on the displays she curates that when asked what the best reaction she has received was, it was a quick answer: "We don't have to leave our wonderful neighborhood to see beautiful displays."

This year Nicole got over 30 trick-or-treaters and she says that a lot of the traffic was from kids who had seen the display earlier in the month and begged their parents to bring them to her house. Their joy and excitement are some of the many reasons she loves to decorate.

Nicole's main motivation for decorating is to "bring new life to the neighborhood." She has a passion for community and loves that her work contributes to a wonderful environment. She has been a resident of Morningside for about three years now and shares that she was drawn to the community because it is a nice quiet neighborhood where everyone looks out for each other. She loves to contribute to that community.



Nicole Bryant's Halloween decorated display. Image courtesy of Nicole Bryant

Though it looks like her decorations may have grown out of the ground overnight, her collection took some time. It was started by both her and her mother buying small pieces here and there, and eventually the collection grew. She encourages people who want to decorate to start small and with items they are excited about. Among her many decorations you will find some of her own creations as well. She has a great talent for making her own holiday mesh wreaths, and they are often a part of her displays.

Story continues on page 12...

Let's Talk Trash

The Morningsider

If you've been meaning to rake your front yard but haven't gotten around to it yet, you'd better do it soon. Yard waste collection ends in mid-December, so your last chance to get all those bags of leaves picked up will be December 7.

For those of you who hate raking leaves, you've got some experts on your side now. More scientists and naturalists are encouraging people to "leave the leaves." They say that a blanket of leaves provides an important ecosystem that enriches the soil underneath it. You can read more about it <u>here</u>.

But don't think you're off the hook entirely. Leaves left in gutters do nothing but block storm drains, capture litter, and create a fertile ground for weeds. So if you do nothing else, please keep your curbs leaf-free. Your neighbors will appreciate it. Our next three bulk trash, recycling, and yard waste pickup dates are:

Friday, November 24 – Collection is delayed one day due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Thursday, December 7 Thursday, December 21



Rake or leave? Image courtesy of the New York Times

Continued..."Curb Appeal"

Halloween is not the only holiday where she shines. Nicole loves to decorate for all holidays, and currently scarecrows are popping up in her yard for Thanksgiving. We have many great displays to look forward to from Nicole, and we are so grateful for the joy she creates! Thank you, Nicole!

Rachel Pisano, Contributing Writer



Nicole Bryant's Halloween theme display at night. Image courtesy of Rachel Pisano

Resources & Upcoming Events

The Morningsider



Resources & Upcoming Events

The Morningsider



Census numbers. The Detroit City Council is going to have a talk about this on **Tuesday, November 14, 2023, starting at 2 pm.** You can join this meeting either in person or online through Zoom. To join online, click on this link: <u>https://detroitmi.gov/Online-CC-Meeting</u>. You can also find more details in the attached documents.





Resources & Upcoming Events

The Morningsider



NOVEMBER 2023 | ISSUE 56

Resources & Upcoming Events The Morningsider







Resources & Upcoming Events The Morningsider

Next Chapter Books Presents ...

A Conversation with Lisa Ludwinski



Sister Pie: The Recipes and Stories of a Big-Hearted Bakery in Detroit celebrates five years!



Join us for an intimate chat with Lisa about the making of this beloved cookbook, her favorite recipes, and what's on the horizon for Detroit's iconic bakery.



Next Chapter Books Presents ...

An Evening of Poetry



7pm





Join us for a night of community highlighting the work of three unique writers who call Detroit and Michigan home.

We'll enjoy readings from each recently-published poet and celebrate the launch of Jaqueline Suskin's brand new book, A Year in Practice.

16555 E. Warren Detroit, MI 48224

To learn more of about upcoming events at Next Chapter Books, click <u>here</u>.



City of Detroit Launches New Online Estimator Tool for Land Value Tax Plan

Eric Dueweke | The Morningsider

The City of Detroit has launched a new online tool for homeowners to estimate their property tax cut under the proposed Land Value Tax Plan (LVTP).

After residents enter their address or parcel number into the online tool, the LVTP tool shows a homeowner's assessed and taxable values, the current 2023 taxes (summer and winter bills combined, not including solid waste fee) and the estimated LVTP savings.

The Land Value Tax Plan estimator tool is online at <u>detroitmi.gov/LandValueTax</u>.



Mayor Mike Duggan discusses the new online estimator tool with Detroit residents at the District 1 Charter meeting. Image courtesy of City of Detroit



The Land Value Tax estimator. Image courtesy of City of Detroit

Give A Smile, Get A Smile

Donyelle Pressley | The Morningsider

Cicera Maria dos Santos has seen quite a lot during her lifetime. What's even more remarkable is that she's recently celebrated her 117th birthday this past September!

Click <u>here</u> to learn more about her remarkable story and how she's still going strong at 117 years young.



Cicera Maria dos Santos is going strong at 117 years young. Image courtesy of Black Doctor.org

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