



MORNINGSIDER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MORNINGSIDE



U- SNAP BAC will look to renovate a previously owned DLBA home similar to this one in Morningside. Image courtesy of Zillow

Partnerships Bring New Opportunities in 2024

Eric Dueweke | The Morningsider

Detroit — As we welcome a New Year of possibilities, three upcoming joint efforts with partners offer potential improvements for our Morningside community.

Local nonprofit organization and longtime partner U-SNAP-BAC Nonprofit Housing Corporation recently purchased two vacant houses on Three Mile Drive from the Detroit Land Bank. Thanks to assistance from the City of Detroit, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) and other funders, U-SNAP-BAC will hire contractors to completely rehab both houses over the next few months. These houses will then be sold to moderate income first-time homebuyers at a price far below the rehab costs.

Story continued on page 4...

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Another Year, Another Celebration of Community

The Morningsider



MCO's own Nicolas Hall pulls a Bingo number. Image courtesy of Jim West

Morningside Community Organization continued its long-standing tradition of turning our December meeting into a holiday party. Chief organizer and MCO First Vice-President Twiana Odom outdid herself this year. With help from family members, she prepared a fabulous feast of chicken, meat loaf, and enough delicious side dishes to rival an all-you-can-eat buffet.

Neighbors played an icebreaker game of "Human Bingo" before dinner and decorated the tiny Christmas trees that served as centerpieces on every table. After dinner entertainment included traditional bingo and live music featuring Twiana at the mic and her husband Donald on drums. The evening ended with group singing of "The Twelve Days of Christmas," sure to be a new tradition at Morningside Christmas parties.

Special thanks to Board member Sharon Cawthorne, who helped with decorations, and Board member Nic Hall, who ran the bingo. Board members and community volunteers pitched in to help with set-up and clean-up. Thanks to all who made it a success!



THE MORNINGSIDER

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Crochet With a Cop

The Morningsider



NPO Deanna Merriweather leads a crocheting class. Image courtesy of Model D

Fifth Precinct NPO Deanna Merriweather made the news recently with a crocheting class she's offering at the precinct headquarters at 3500 Conner. Officer Merriweather learned to crochet as a child and wants to share her skill as part of the DPD's ongoing effort to engage residents through fun activities with police officers.

As Officer Merriweather told Model D, "It's a dream and a goal to make this work because I just love to be able to get people together to learn new skills." ... "This is a skill that can take you far." Read more about it in Model D [here](#).

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... Partnerships Bring New Opportunities in 2024

Thanks to another U-SNAP-BAC connection, Morningside will be partnering with Urban Planning students from Michigan State University during the January-May semester. Students will work to create a housing improvement plan for our neighborhood that aims to define priorities for home repair needs and funding. Such a plan may help put us first in line for City home repair funds focused on MorningSide that can be funneled through nonprofit partners like Habitat for Humanity Detroit, U-SNAP-BAC, or others. The MSU students will be asking for community input at our February membership meeting on Feb. 13.

One more new partnership will help bring activity to our Three Mile-Munich Park. We have joined the nonprofit Detroit Parks Coalition, who will be assisting the City's General Services Department in re-invigorating the Adopt-a-Park program. Because MorningSide has adopted the Three Mile-Munich park, we'll get first priority on reserving the park for events such as our Summer Sizzler and monthly meetings. Detroit Parks Coalition also plans to create a resource bank that will be available to its member parks. In return, we pledge to do two park cleanups in addition to scheduling activities.

These are three examples of resources available to active and informed community groups such as Morningside. Though we are a large neighborhood, our influence with partners and the City is dependent on involvement by our Board and residents. It's essential that we continue to communicate, create activities, and attend the monthly meetings. To get involved or get more information about any of these three partnerships, contact me at ericdue@umich.edu.

Eric Dueweke, MCO President



Flowers were planted last spring at Three Mile - Munich Park. Image courtesy of Jim West



The Summer Sizzler provided enjoyment for all ages last summer. Image courtesy of Jim West

Share the Warmth – Giving that Impacts Beyond the Holidays

Sharon Cawthorne | Contributing Writer

When Twiana Odom looked out her window one day in November and saw a child walking in the neighborhood without a winter coat, she was sparked to do something. As a longtime community activist and Morningside Community Organization (MCO) 1st Vice President, Twiana immediately began to involve partners to help with what she saw as an issue the neighborhood could address.

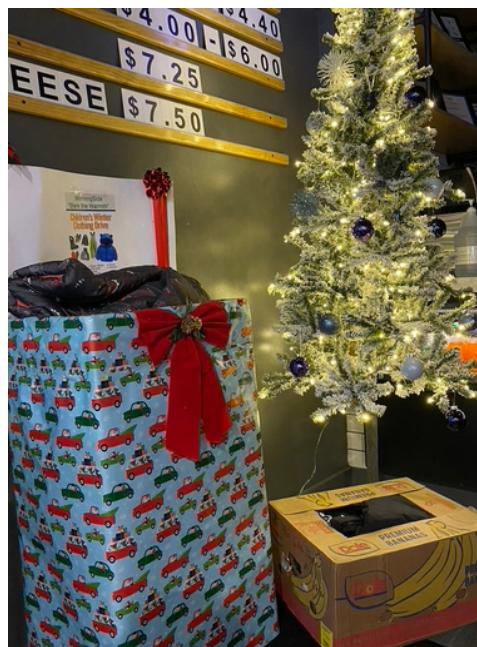
Her first thought was to benefit the children of the Morningside Hub of Brilliant Detroit at 5048 Balfour. The Hub, managed by Regina Williams, serves families with children 0-8 through reading readiness and life-skills programming. With the goal of meeting community needs, the staff at Brilliant provided a list of clothing needs. It's widely recognized that the need for cold weather items increases in the winter months, especially for children, who outgrow clothing quickly.



Donated items from the winter coat drive included coats, gloves and scarves and more. Image courtesy of Sharon Cawthorne

Although Southeast Michigan has had warmer temperatures on average this past year, due to an El Niño, local weather services report that temperatures drop November-March with January being the coldest month during the season. Snow isn't our only indication of frigid air, as January is predicted to have an average low of 21°F and the average high of 32° F', according to one online source.

Even without the statistics, Jeffrey D. Lewis II, owner and operator of Morningside Café, was a willing partner as a collection site. When the idea was mentioned at a Board meeting, where Jeff also serves as 2nd Vice Chair, he was ready, "We just wanted to assist in any way we could. Whenever we are talking about youth, especially our younger children, we all have to do what we can to make this time of year a little easier for our families that may not have the means to go out and purchase a new winter coat and the necessary accessories for multiple children."



Donations for the winter coat drive filled in rather quickly at Morningside Café. Image courtesy of Jeffrey D. Lewis II

The community support was tremendous. Items included coats, boots, hats, gloves, scarves, socks and sweaters, for children as well as for adults, along with a few educational toys.

Story continues on page 6...

Continued... Share the Warmth – Giving that Impacts Beyond the Holidays

Wendy Watson, the new Community Engagement Coordinator at the Balfour St. Hub, says that the adult clothing benefits the families as well, as they consider supporting a clothing closet. She says they always welcome ideas to serve the community, “We have an Open house January 23rd (for potential) advisory team members and volunteers.”

Twiana and Wendy were on hand as the items were delivered to the Brilliant Hub and were really pleased that the donations, which were both gently used and new items, could touch several families and children of all ages. This partnership to meet needs of Morningside is one among many. When asked about having the Café partner with the MCO and Brilliant Detroit, Jeff encourages fellow business owners to be involved. He says, ‘I would say we have a responsibility to help our community whenever we can. When it comes to the kids, it should be an immediate yes.’

If you’re interested in becoming involved with either Brilliant Detroit Morningside or the Morningside Community Organization, their contact information is listed below:

Hub Manager: Regina Williams at **(313) 528-7217** or rwilliams@brilliantdetroit.org

[Morningside Community Organization - Detroit \(.morningsidedetroit.org\).](http://morningsidedetroit.org)

Sharon Cawthorne is an at-large board member of the Morningside Community Organization

New Year Activities at the Jefferson Branch Library

[Jefferson Branch Library](#) | Content Partners

Saturday, January 13, 2024

M.L. King Day Celebration
12:00-4:00 p.m.
Crafts and a M.L. King family scavenger hunt for prizes.

Saturday, January 20, 2024

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Family Lego Time Saturdays!
Students and parents meet to create their own Lego structure. They are displayed in the library until the next meeting.

Saturday, January 27, 2024

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Crafting with Snow Shapes! Create a snow windsock and paint a wooden snowflake for a wintery fun day.

Monday, January 29, 2024

5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Family Movie Night – The Rosa Parks Story.
Celebrate Black History Month with a movie!
Starring Angela Bassett, a must-see movie about the life of Civil Right Activist, Rosa Parks.



January is filled with events at the Jefferson Branch Library. Image courtesy of Jefferson Branch Library

Announcing the Winners of Morningside Detroit's 2023 Holiday Lights Contest

Nicolas Hall | The Morningsider

The Morningside Holiday Lights Contest returned for a third year, and this winter our neighbors did not disappoint. There was a festive atmosphere at all corners of the community.

The details of the contest remained the same as previous years. Throughout the month of December, nominations were taken for any decorated home, business, and block in Morningside. We received over 30 nominations, with many houses and blocks receiving multiple nominations. Four volunteer judges considered criteria like creativity, design, radiance, and location.

With so many great nominations, it was difficult to name finalists but the judges did their duty and we're proud of the following winners.

(drum-roll please)

The winners of the 2023 Morningside Holiday Lights Contest are —

1st place: 4821 Devonshire



First place of our Holiday Lights Contest goes to Koleisha and Jernard Everett at 4821 Devonshire. The Everett's have lived on Devonshire since 2012 and every year they transform their house into a holiday wonderland. Standout features include lighting each window with a different color to create a uniquely vibrant display. And their neighbors responded positively – we received several nominations for this one!

Story continues on page 8...

Continued... Announcing the Winners of Morningside Detroit's 2023 Holiday Lights Contest

2nd Place: 4706 Nottingham



In second place, we have the head-turning light display at 4706 Nottingham, by Gaston and Charon Nogues, which they described as “Tudor gingerbread house” and an “electric farm”. The Nogues bought their house from the Landbank in 2019 and, in the years following, have acquired neighboring lots. And, yes, you can bet their holiday display occupied every inch of those lots!

3rd Place: 3687 Chatsworth



Coming in third, we have 3687 Chatsworth, a house whose holidays lights can be best described as classy and sophisticated. Using only white lights, 3687 Chatsworth had an elegant look all to its own.

Best Block: 3600 Berkshire

For Best Block, judges mostly considered the number of decorated houses. And the 3600 block of Berkshire had A LOT of them. From Brunswick to Windsor, the block was a colorful oasis, a special stretch of Morningside with bright lights and holiday cheer.

Best Business: Be Her Boutique

And last but certainly not least, for Best Business, we have Be Her Boutique at [15715 E Warren Ave](#). The Be Her storefront was adored with traditional white and red lights and inside the shop was decorated with homemade ornaments. Be Her Boutique has been in operation for 2 years. If you haven't been, go check them out! Owner Jamie Hendrix has a fantastic eye for fashion.

Thanks to everyone who sent in a nomination and participated in the contest. Let's do it again in 2024!

Nicolas Hall, MCO at-large board member, works for the Blue Oval Company, loves to ride his bike throughout Morningside

Alger Theater Looks Back at an Exciting Year

Jackie Grant | Contributing Writer



Alger Theater. Image courtesy of the Alger Theater

Did you know that the Alger Theater opened to great excitement in 1935, a neighborhood theater on the east side of Detroit with first-rate Hollywood films? Over the years, the Alger added a performance stage for live local theater like *Bye Bye Birdie* and live music, including Dave Brubeck, Glenn Miller, Duke Ellington, and Blood, Sweat & Tears.

But in 1981, the theater closed and was left vacant. It was left to decay until 1986 when the Friends of the Alger was formed, and the theater was purchased. Funds for repairs were scarce. With the discovery of an undisclosed tax bill coupled with a declining economy and business district, work on the theater progressed slowly.



Alger Theater during the 1930s.
Image courtesy of the Alger Theater



Alger Theater during the 1990s.
Image courtesy of the Alger Theater

Fast-forward 40 years. The Alger is making great progress, raising over \$300,000!

Story continues on page 10...

Continued... Alger Theater Looks Back at an Exciting Year

The Friends of the Alger are more determined than ever. Our east side community has forged new partnerships with the city of Detroit, foundations, corporations, neighborhood organizations, and local businesses, leading to remarkable successes. We are all excited about the economic opportunities the new streetscape is offering to the Morningside, East English Village, and Cornerstone Village communities.

As President of Alger's Board of Directors, I am excited to report some of the results of our recent efforts, which have culminated this past year. We sincerely thank all who have supported us and patiently watched our progress. We know many repairs and improvements are not visible from the street, but progress is aggressive and continuous. From adding improvements to our rooftop deck to collaborating with neighborhood organizations to provide needed resources to our neighbors, the Alger is proud of where we've come from and where we're going.

In addition to our neighbors and members, we'd like to acknowledge some of our recent major supporters:

Hudson Webber Foundation
 Lear Corporation
 Rocket Community Fund
 DTE Energy
 Helen Laidlaw Foundation

Story continues on page 13...

Give A Smile, Get A Smile

Donyelle Pressley | The Morningsider

There are not many more exciting ways to start the New Year than welcoming a newborn baby into the world.

The city of Detroit recently welcomed its newest resident at the stroke of midnight on New Year's Day at the Detroit Medical Center Hutzel Women's Hospital.

Click [here](#) to learn more of the joyful moment.

Donyelle Pressley, Morningside resident



Keshana Brooks and Raekwon Watkins are the proud new parents of their newborn son, Ka'Von.

Continued... Alger Theater Looks Back at an Exciting Year

As a result of these generous contributions, we are happy to report the following major recent improvements and collaborations:

- Installed a new ADA-compliant elevator to our rooftop patio
- For the first time in 30 years, a new water line was brought into the building.
- Commissioned and installed artist Desiree Kelley's mural of Ava Duverney on rooftop
- Currently in the process of installing new ADA-compliant restroom, heat, and concrete floors in retail space

We are also happy that these donations paid for the necessary straightening of the iron frame on the building for our community marquee. We anticipate applying a fresh coat of our signature red paint this spring. Our marquee board seems to be a community landmark, and we're happy to take your messages on a first-come, first-serve basis. If you have a message to display, please go to [our website](#) or call **(313) 343-9087**.

In addition to our efforts to maintain and repair the theater, the Alger is happy to continue working towards providing a community space for local events and programs. We have partnered with Rocket Community Fund to canvas 5,500 east side homes in 2023 to hear residents' needs and to alert neighbors to available services. Last year, we opened our doors to assist neighbors in completing their 2023 HOPE applications, providing much-needed property tax assistance. We held community meetings to introduce local entrepreneurs who proposed their business ideas for the retail spaces along East Warren. Along with other community organizations, we partnered with the City of Detroit to host meetings to determine the design for the new E. Warren Avenue streetscape. And here's something we are really proud of – we opened our doors and helped incubate [Next Chapter Books](#), which has now moved into its own space a block away at Kensington and E. Warren.



Ribbon cutting for the Alger's roof top patio. Image courtesy of the Alger Theater



Artist Desiree Kelly. Image courtesy of the Desiree Kelly

We are excited about the changes both inside and out of the Alger and about the changes along East Warren. Please [sign up](#) for upcoming meetings and for volunteer opportunities. Become a member of the Friends of the Alger. And if you can, [DONATE](#) and help us continue our progress.

We hope to see you at the Alger soon and wish you and your loved ones a prosperous, healthy, and joyous New Year!

Jackie Grant is the President of the Friends of the Alger Theater

Celebrate MLK Day in Detroit

The Morningsider

Recognition of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday has grown exponentially over the years since it was established as a national holiday in 1986.

Now you can find MLK Day festive and educational activities all over the Detroit metro area. Here are a couple happening in Detroit, one at [Wayne State University](#) on January 11 and 12, the other at the [Charles Wright Museum of African American History](#) on Monday, January 15.



Dr. Martin Luther King marches along Woodward Avenue in 1963 during the Walk to Freedom march. Image courtesy of Tony Spina, Detroit Free Press

DPL on a Mission to Get Every Detroiter a Library Card

The Morningsider

Only 20% of Detroiters have library cards, and the Detroit Public Library has launched a campaign to change that. The goal of the campaign is to get library cards into the hands of 41,000 more residents. The effort will end in April during National Library Week.

The DPL will focus its campaign on the many benefits of owning a library card, including access to library materials from all over the state, internet and printer access, tax preparation materials, discounts to museums and state parks, and book clubs.

If you don't already have a free DPL library card, make it one of your New Year's resolutions to get one. The friendly folks at the Jefferson Branch will be happy to help you. See the article from the Detroit Free Press [here](#) for more information.



Rebranded Detroit Public Library cards. Image courtesy of the Detroit Public Library

City Council Talks Trash

The Morningsider

For years, residents have complained about unsightly bulk trash left at curbsides, often for weeks at a time. Mayor Duggan has proposed a plan to address this problem by increasing bulk trash collection to every week at the cost of an additional \$12 million per year. He says there are three options on the table: raise the solid waste fee from \$240 to \$300 per year, reallocate funds from other parts of the general fund, or leave things the way they are. Some members of City Council and some administration officials have expressed concerns about the effect of more frequent bulk trash collection on the city's financial stability.

If passed, the new collection system would expand the area serviced to include side streets and vacant lots. Construction debris would also be picked up for the first time.

Currently the vote is scheduled to take place sometime this month, so now is the time to express your opinion on this issue to our Councilmember Latisha Johnson. Do you want to leave the schedule the way it is? If not, are you willing to pay more for weekly pickups? Or would you rather take money from somewhere else in the budget to pay for it? If so, what are you willing to cut back?

You can reach Councilmember Johnson at councilmemberjohnson@detroitmi.gov or **(313) 224-4841**. For more details about the discussion, check out the Bridge Detroit article [here](#).

In the meantime, here are your next three bulk trash and recycling pickup dates:

Friday, January 19 – Bulk trash/recycling collection delayed one day due to MLK Day

Thursday, February 1

Thursday, February 15



Bulk items are picked up for collection. Image courtesy of the City of Detroit

Resources & Upcoming Events

The Morningsider

THE STOU DAMIRE

SOUND BOWL HEALING



Wednesdays
6pm-7pm

1/17/23 | 1/24/23 | 1/31/23

4401 CONNER ST DETROIT, MI 48215



Next Chapter Books Presents...

Open Mic Night

January 18
6 - 8pm



Calling all
poets,
storytellers,
and
musicians

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on the day of

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**SATURDAYS
JAN 20, 2024**

**SIGN-UP
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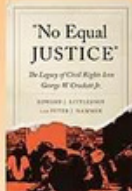


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THE STOU DAMIRE


Next Chapter Books Presents...

**Author Talk
with Peter Hammer**



Winner of a Michigan State History Award!
Gold Medal Winner in the Independent Publisher Book Awards!
Gold Medal Winner in the Midwest Independent Publisher Awards!
Silver Medal Winner in the Foreword Indie Awards!
Finalist in the Next Generation Indie Book Awards!


"There is no equal justice for Black people today; there never has been. To our everlasting shame, the quality of justice in America has always been and is now directly related to the color of one's skin as well as to the size of one's pocketbook." This quote comes from George W. Crockett Jr.'s essay, "A Black Judge Speaks" (Undisputed, 1970). The stories of Black lawyers and judges are rarely told. By sharing Crockett's life of principled courage, "No Equal Justice" breaks this silence.



Peter J. Hammer is the A. Alfred Taubman Professor of Law and the director of the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights. The Keith Center is dedicated to promoting the educational, economic and political empowerment of under-represented communities in urban areas and to ensuring that the phrase "equal justice under law" applies to all members of society. Hammer has become a leading voice on the economic and social issues impacting the city of Detroit.

**Peter will discuss No Equal Justice followed by a Q&A.
Copies will be available for sale and signing.**

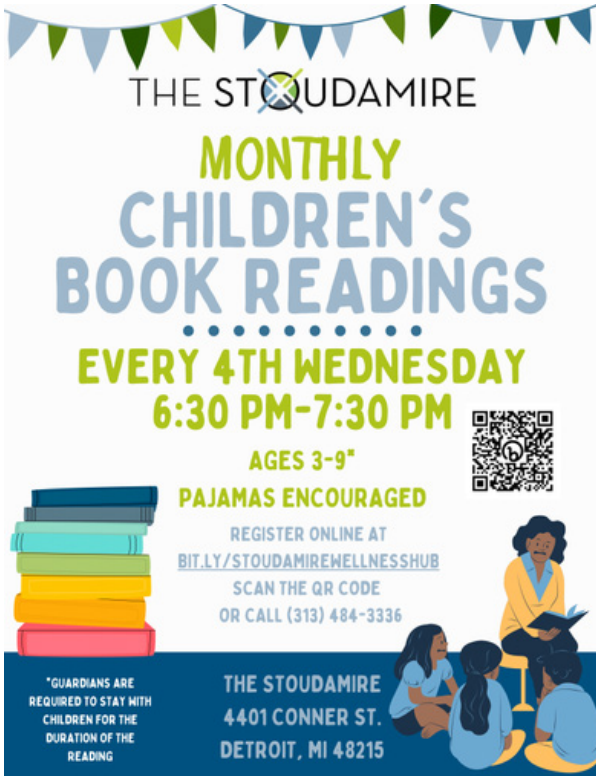
January 31, 2024
6:00 PM



16555 E. Warren
Detroit, MI 48224

Resources & Upcoming Events

The Morningsider



THE STOU DAMIRE

MONTHLY CHILDREN'S BOOK READINGS

EVERY 4TH WEDNESDAY
6:30 PM-7:30 PM

AGES 3-9*

PAJAMAS ENCOURAGED

REGISTER ONLINE AT
BIT.LY/STOUDAMIREWELLNESSHUB

SCAN THE QR CODE
OR CALL (313) 484-3336

*GUARDIANS ARE REQUIRED TO STAY WITH CHILDREN FOR THE DURATION OF THE READING

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Neighborhood Vitality Index

Neighborhood Our Voice!

Complete the survey and earn a **\$25 gift card!**
one per household

Scan this code using a mobile device, or visit www.NVIDetroit.org

Detroiters are invited to participate in the Neighborhood Vitality Index (NVI) survey and provide input on their experiences as residents and opinions concerning their neighborhoods. The NVI survey will provide more than 35 Detroit-based organizations, foundations, and city government, access to the data needed to measure neighborhood progress in areas such as health, engagement, happiness and everything in between.

Community Development Advocates of Detroit has partnered with JFM Consulting Group and Data Driven Detroit to conduct this **city-wide survey** that will be used to make better decisions in support of Detroit's unique neighborhoods. Your input is an extremely important, and the results will be made available to everyone. To learn more about this survey, and the Neighborhood Vitality Index, please visit nvidetroit.org.

Got questions? Ask at nvidetroit.org or call (313) 290-0992

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Bid-Whist Club

Every Monday
Starting
Jan 16 2024
2pm-6pm

Welcome to the Bid Whist Club!

Step right into a world of strategy, camaraderie, and thrilling card play.

Room:
Executive Meeting Room

Register Link:
<https://rb.gy/wa6v7>

Free Entry

For information contact:
aprice@ccn-detroit.org

The Stoudamire
4401 Conner St.
Detroit Mi, 48215



THE STOU DAMIRE

Ballroom DANCE CLASS

10 weeks Jan 16 - Mar 16 2024
6:30pm-7:30pm

The Stoudamire | 4401 Conner Street, Detroit, MI
Cost: \$10 per Class. *Scholarship are available upon request*

Learn the fundamentals of Detroit-style Ballroom Dancing. This class will teach you lead and follow techniques and hand and foot coordination for men and women. Couples encouraged, but not required. Taught by Detroit's own champion dancer and nationally-known instructor Pamela Moore.

To learn more and register call 313.571.2800 or visit:
ccn-detroit.org/the-stoudamire

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Below are the rates for advertisements:

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Monthly Run

\$150 Full Page
\$80 Half Page
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For the latest news taking place in MorningSide, please follow us on:



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MorningSide is a corporation organized and operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes outlined in section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Contact the Morningside Community Organization at:

(313) 355-2468 or via email:

morningsidecommunity2@gmail.com

Also checkout our website!

www.morningsidedetroit.org

P.O, Box 24325, Detroit, MI 48224



#morningsiderepresent

