

BUILDING D4 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Happy One Year Anniversary to Strength In Unity! Mapleridge Neighborhood Association.



June 14, 2023: Strength In Unity first community meeting.

It has been one year since community members Sharita Pierce and Dazmonique Carr set out to organize Strength In Unity Neighborhood Association. Their mission was to unify the community members in Mapleridge and create one sound voice to align the community with resources from the City of Detroit, as well as address the internal issues the community had been facing. Most of their accolades are documented on their instagram: @Strength_in_unityd4. You can also follow their journey on our website: WWW.BUILDINGD4COMMUNITY.ORG

A Difference One Intentional Year Can Make.

The organization has cultivated strong bonds within the group and with formal entities. They consistently organize monthly gatherings and provide events at no cost to the community. Additionally, they have effectively responded to many issues raised by community members, leading to noticeable improvements in the neighborhood. Their commitment to expansion is evident as they canvass each month to involve all residents of Mapleridge.



**STRENGTH
IN UNITY**

Community Organization

Benefits Of Joining SIU Neighborhood Association

A significant point of pride for the organization is its backing by the local non-profit, Building D4 Community. This support ensures that all events hosted by Strength in Unity are financed by BD4C, provided they take place within Mapleridge and are offered at no cost to residents. The events are a collaborative creation by the members, who either use their own plots or the community spaces recently acquired by BD4C, enabling outdoor community gatherings. These lands are also envisioned as future sources of sustainable employment for locals. While there's more to this narrative, it's noteworthy that BD4C's board comprises Mapleridge residents, reflecting true community representation. Our grant writers actively pursue funds for land acquisition from the DLBA and seek private donations to sustain us during periods like awaiting the Beautification Grant. Membership affords you the necessary support to vie for such grants, devise plot plans, and maintain your personally owned land. Joining Strength In Unity grants you eligibility to apply for parcels through the Detroit Land Bank's Create-a-Project program, without the need to establish a block club. By aligning with an already thriving, recognized, and proactive organization, you gain substantial support. Founded by and for the community, Strength In Unity unites us with resources from the City of Detroit. To ensure everyone contributes and we maintain momentum, we ask for a modest annual membership fee of \$50. This collective contribution keeps us moving forward together.

ALL COMMUNITY NO GIMMICKS!



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Each One Help One

Strength in Unity is a constant presence in the Mapleridge community, always lending a hand to neighbors. The group recently received a generous donation of four new adult-sized tricycles from Keyrie Jones, which will aid their canvassing efforts. SIU members Sean Willis, Raymond Richardson, Michael Logreco, along with young participant Elyse Chambers, joined forces to put together all the tricycles. Additionally, Building D4 Community Board members Jackie Tobar and Paul Lewandowski contributed their time to this initiative. To watch the video of this eventful day, visit our Instagram profile [@strength_in_unityd4](https://www.instagram.com/strength_in_unityd4).



Patricia Horne, a community member, has received endorsements for two lots from Building D4 Community. She, along with the Strength in Unity's project coordinator, Ms. Bobbie, recently arranged for the setup of a 10 by 20-foot tent on her property. This effort is in preparation for the upcoming projects she plans to host within the Mapleridge community. The assembly day was a collaborative effort, culminating in a cozy BBQ to inaugurate the new tent.



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Continue Strengthening Mapleridge Community

Join Strength In Unity Neighborhood Association

The boundaries of Strength In Unity is defined by 7-mile to Houston Whittier from North to South, and Gratiot to Kelly from East to West. Membership ensures robust support for nurturing events, programs, land acquisition, and community initiatives in Mapleridge, along with a means to express any issues or concerns. You're welcome to participate in the monthly meetings held on the third Wednesday, and to get involved in or help out at our events. To become a member, reach out to President Sharita Pierce, who will arrange for a membership form to be delivered to your doorstep.

For the July Monthly Meeting:
This time, we're excited to host our quarterly community dinner. Detailed flyers will be distributed throughout the community and also shared on our Instagram page. Join us at:
Location: First Class Events, 14408 Gratiot Time: 6 PM - 8 PM

President Info:
 Sharita Pierce
 248-506-1834



Free Lawn Service

Mapleridge community is part of the CVI zone which qualifies residents for free lawn service. Contact Anthony: 248.901.5808



VOLUNTEER WITH US



Volunteer for a project in Mapleridge: Contact Ms. Bobbie at 313.575.2182.

Nominate A Good Community Member

If there's someone in the community who deserves recognition for their recent achievements or goals, we'd love to hear about it. Please share their story along with a photo, and we'll include them in the upcoming newsletter. Let's celebrate their accomplishments together!



The court ruled in *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo and Relentless, Inc. v. Department of Commerce* on Friday. (Thomas Hawk via Flickr)
This article was updated on June 28 at

The Battle of Power: Agencies -V-Congress

On June 28, 2024, the Supreme Court reached a verdict in the case of *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo*, overturning the Chevron deference doctrine. Since 1984, this doctrine had empowered federal agencies like the EPA to enact regulations serving the public good. It mandated that courts prioritize the interpretations of federal agencies tasked with implementing ambiguous laws. In essence, when a law was unclear, the courts would typically uphold the agency's reasonable interpretation. However, with the Chevron doctrine now invalidated, the Supreme Court will no longer defer to agency experts. Should the Supreme Court find itself unable to reach a verdict, it will defer to Congress for clarification.

Supporters of Chevron Deference argue that it enabled agencies to swiftly address legislative gaps without constant updates to the law. Agencies contend that their specialized expertise makes them uniquely qualified to grasp the intricate details of the laws they administer. It's also suggested that Congress deliberately leaves certain legislative details vague, entrusting agencies with the authority to interpret and enforce laws.

Opponents of Chevron Deference maintain that it encroached upon the judiciary's prerogative to interpret laws and improperly shifted this power to the executive branch. Some assert that courts should not relinquish their responsibility to define the law, even in areas that are complex or technical. Additionally, critics warn that dependence on agency interpretations can lead to instability, as agency stances may shift with each new administration.

In conclusion, while the full impact of this ruling remains to be seen, it is evident that discussions about the distribution of power among government branches and the role of federal agencies in interpreting laws are set to continue and evolve.

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Family Events In Mapleridge!



Occupy Yourself Garden has started a fun summer event for children to actively learn how to plant fruits, and vegetables. The children are given lunch and snacks, then are provided their assisted assigned garden task for the day. This event is open and free to everyone in the community.

Join us every Wednesday from 4pm to 6pm. Location 14467 Mayfield

Strength In Unity Sunrise yoga has started. Jumpstart your weekend with a 1-hour session of good stretching and breathing exercises at BD4C future microgreen garden. **Join us every Saturday for the month of July From 7am-8am. Location 14403 Cedargrove.**

STRENGTH IN UNITY
SUNRISE YOGA

JULY 6ST - JULY 27TH
Join us for 4 FREE SESSIONS OF YOGA 1 HOUR
7 a.m. - 8 a.m. 14403 Cedargrove
every Saturday in July

Join us as we "get up get active get moving."
All levels and ages are welcome.

YOU'LL RECEIVE
ONE FREE YOGA MAT WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

Yoga is a great way to start your day along with mental and physical health.

"HEALING THE COMMUNITY, ONE STRETCH AT A TIME"

PUP'S & CUPS
Celebration

August 3rd, 2024 | noon-2pm
14403 Cedargrove Detroit MI 48205

Join us in celebrating International Dog Month
a heartwarming event dedicated to the love
and joy fur babies bring to families.

@Strength_in_unityd4

Come celebrate International Dog Month with us at our special one-day gathering. We'll have delicious treats for your canine companions and valuable tips for caring for your furry friends. Plus, you'll have the opportunity to adopt adorable puppies in exchange for modest contributions that will support future Strength in Unity events. **August 3, 2024 Noon-2pm. 14403 Cedargrove**

Hard Court Hitters, summer reading program Started June 25, 2024. Keep your pupils sharp with fun reading activities at the "Blue House." Lunch is served between 1pm and 1:30pm.

Join us every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 12pm-3pm all summer long. Location 14481 Seymour.



Strength in Unity has kicked off their movie nights. New location is at the BD4C future microgreen. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy a family friendly movie, hot popcorn, food and beverages!

Join us July 27, 2024, for movie night. Movie starts at 9:00pm. Location 14403 Cedargrove.

DETROIT SELECTS THREE NEIGHBORHOODS TO HOST SOLAR FARMS – BUT CONTROVERSY REMAINS

On June 24th Mayor Duggan finally announced the selection of three neighborhoods to host the first solar fields under the City's highly hyped Neighborhood Solar Initiative. Originally the City had stated that six solar locations would be selected before the end of March. The three selected neighborhoods are Gratiot-Findley, VanDyke-Lynch, and State Fair. The three solar fields will take up 104 acres of residential property out of the originally planned 250 acres. The generating capacity of this first portion of the Initiative was not announced. The city is hoping to begin the land acquisition portion of the first phase of the project in September. The mayor also stated that the next three locations will be selected out of the remaining five candidates sometime in 2025. The reason for selecting only three at this time has not been explained. Interestingly the City selected a Boston based company, Lightstar Renewables to partner with DTE to develop the first three projects rather than selecting a local Detroit based company.

The solar farm in Gratiot-Findley will be the closest to the Mapleridge community. It's location is just west of Gratiot between Westphalia and Hickory and will cover approximately 40 acres. Alcoa Ave., Joann Ave., Gitre Ave., and Fairport St. will be closed to through traffic between Gratiot and McNichols by this project. A total of 21 homeowner's properties will be purchased at significantly above market values as a result of the first three projects and the City plans to use its condemnation powers to take property of landlords and vacant land owners. The City has also stated that it is exempt from zoning change requirements for these energy generation projects.

While many in the selected communities welcome the Neighborhood Solar Initiative and the \$15 - \$25,000 energy efficiency upgrades it will provide people who own homes in the "community benefits" areas surrounding the solar farms, the Initiative remains controversial. The Mayor's claim that the Initiative will "cut down on illegal dumping", an important project selling point, has been questioned (except in the fenced in solar farms), and could actually increase dumping on other near-by properties. Multiple community leaders have raised concerns about the long term negative impacts of large residential solar fields on neighborhood re-development prospects, including concerns about future neighborhood access, heat island impacts, lowered property values and further disinvestment incentives, particularly since plenty of vacant industrial property is available. They note that these projects will not lower electricity costs for neighborhood residents, and the use of the City condemnation powers to take individuals property for a DTE owned and operated facility raises concerns about the future use of those powers in their neighborhoods. The lack of transparency about key elements of the program, such as area selection criteria, the results of environmental cost/risk/benefit analysis, and the use of large Federal tax credits to support the project, has also created questions.

Continued

The next step in the process is City Council approval of the Initiative, including the three selected locations. The City wasted no time, presenting the project to the Council on June 25th. No vote was taken, but a number of Council members have voiced strong support for the Initiative.

Let's Vote!

Every citizen of the United States aged 18 or older has the right to vote in all local, State and Federal elections. This year the General Election scheduled for November 5th could be one of the most important of all time, and the August 6th primary election will have a significant impact on who wins in November, especially for the U.S. House and Senate and the Michigan House. Voters in Mapleridge (and the rest of Michigan) will vote for a representative of one of 13 U.S. House districts (Mapleridge is located in Michigan Federal District 13), one senator, 110 Members of the Michigan State House (Mapleridge is located State House District 12) and Michigan's 15 votes in the Electoral College for President.

New State laws intended to make registration and voting easier were passed in the past year. Both absentee voting and early voting opportunities have been streamlined and voter registration options have been made more accessible. To vote in the August 6th primary, registration by mail or on-line ends July 22nd, but registration in-person at your local clerk's office extends to August 5th. Even if were not registered to vote in the primary election, you can still register to vote in the November 5th general election by mail or on-line up to October 22nd and in-person at the clerk's office up to November 4th.

The candidates on the Democratic primary ballot for the U.S. House of representatives include Shri Thanedar, a Dearborn business man and the incumbent, Sharkira Lynn Hawkins, a Detroit attorney, and Mary Waters, an at-large member of the Detroit City Council. Martell Bivings is running unopposed on the Republican ballot. For the State house, the Democratic primary ballot includes incumbent Kimberly Edwards from East Pointe, Patrick Biange from St. Clair Shores and Angela McIntosh from Redford. Randell Shafer from St. Clair Shores is running unopposed on the Republican ballot.

A good on-line resource for voting in Detroit is the BridgeDetroit 2024 Election Guide. It contains information on key registration and voting dates, where and how to vote absentee or early, polling locations, and comprehensive information about how the elections will work, your voting rights, and controls to assure fairness. The Guide can be accessed at www.bridgedetroit.com/2024-voter-guide-