

BUILDING D4 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

In Memory Of Andre Seldon Jr.



In the garden of their hearts, a precious flower grew, A son so bright, so full of life, with dreams that he pursued. His laughter was their sunshine, his achievements made them proud, A beacon of their hopes and love, standing tall and loud.



Though now the days feel darker, and the nights are filled with tears, The memory of their cherished son will echo through the years. In every gentle breeze that blows, in every star that gleams, They'll find a piece of him they lost, living in their dreams.



His spirit soars on wings of light, beyond the earthly bounds, Yet in their hearts, his legacy of love and pride resounds. For every step he bravely took, for every goal he met, He left a mark upon their souls, a love they won't forget.



Though the pain is deep and endless, and the grief is hard to bear, They'll hold onto the joy he brought, the moments they did share. For in the fabric of life, his thread shines pure and bright, A son who made them very proud, now a star in the night.



Much love to the Smith & Seldon Family.



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Bringing Back Our Communities One plot plan at a time

It seems like everyone wants our land except us. The most talked-about project in Detroit's media, social media, and urban areas is the creation of solar farms. Mayor Duggan has gained support for these solar farms by collaborating with community leaders, city employees, council members, church leaders, and others who share his vision. While solar power is generally well-received, there's an old saying: "It's not what you do, it's how you do it." Many residents feel that solar farms are not the best way to improve and revitalize residential areas. The media often highlights areas that fit their narrative, ignoring the fact that much of the land remains out of reach for local residents.

Residents are increasingly attending the 9th liaison meetings held at the Heilmann Center on the first Thursday of each month. Ms. Jackson, a long-time resident of Spring Garden for over 30 years, highlighted that residents are missing the chance to purchase as much land as possible. She mentioned that the community is too passive and not paying attention to the changes happening around them. Another comment was made about a building plagued with illegal activities for over 30 years, questioning what initiatives have been set to address these issues. Commander Purifoy addressed the community respectfully, outlining current measures to eliminate the problem. He concluded with a powerful message, stating that a new energy has been created in the community, with people speaking up and saying, "no more." This, he said, is driving the implementation of priority actions.

On August 31, 2024, a Detroit Land Bank Authority (DLBA) representative presented their draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The key point emphasized was the importance of "adhering to the City's land use plan," suggesting that the land is being held up by the City of Detroit's representatives, not the DLBA. They also noted that their inventory includes 66,648 properties, consisting of 61,046 vacant land parcels and 5,602 structures, with only 2,323 of these structures considered salvageable. Additionally, the MOU highlighted a collaboration with the General Services Department (GSD) to handle maintenance tasks, such as mowing all DLBA lots five times a year.

Continued

You can track the mowing schedule for your area at detroitmi.maps.arcgis.com. The DLBA aims to clear out their inventory within the next few years. Their transparency is commendable, with numerous success stories of returning land and structures to the community.

Solar Arrays & City Council



Photo Credit: Detroit Free Press

July 23rd the Detroit City Council agreed to once again delay voting on the proposed Neighborhood Solar Program. Council members Latisha Johnson (District 4) and Angela Whitfield-Calloway requested a delay on the vote until after the August Council recess to enable Council members to provide time to review over 20 detailed documents concerning the program before voting on financing and land acquisition proposals. Council member Johnson noted that while the City had been working on the project for over a year, the Council had not received detailed information about the program until 3 weeks ago and that it was important that Council members understood what they were being asked to vote on and to make sure that it is right for the communities impacted. In a surprise move, on July 31st the Detroit City Council approved the first phase of Mayor Duggan's Detroit Solar plan. Earlier in the previous week several Council members requested more time to study and understand plan documents during the August recess. **However, by a hurried vote over the objections of Council President Mary Sheffield and members Angela Whitfield-Calloway and Gabriela Santiago-Romero**, the Council approved the beginning of the development process, including land condemnation where necessary. Council also approved creation of a **\$4.4 million fund** to purchase property and homes in 3 areas previously selected for large scale neighborhood solar farms.

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Representing The Opposing Voice



Council President Mary Sheffield



Council Member Gabriela Santiago-Romero



Councilmember Angela Whitfiel-Calloway

President Sheffield was most vocal in her opposition of the vote. While strongly in favor of using solar power as a way to reduce the City’s carbon footprint, she objected to what she characterized as a rushed process that failed to consider the potential for housing and other community development in the targeted areas or other strategies for producing renewable energy that would directly benefit Detroit residents. “I still believe that we have not studied or explored scenarios or policies that represent a different path to reducing our carbon footprint through solar panels or green roofs on newly constructed or current buildings”. She also questioned DTE’s commitment to true community solar development, saying that she has not heard a commitment from DTE in support of community solar moving forward, saying “One can only surmise that’s ... because community solar would decrease [DTE’s] profit and benefit residents”.

Council members also raised concerns about the high probability of immediate litigation to challenge the program, something city attorneys have already said is likely. The lack of transparency in the project development and site selection process has created an environment of uncertainty and concern within several community organizations. In particular, the legal basis for the City’s proposed use of it’s power of Eminent Domain to take people’s property for this type of project has raised serious questions. Nevertheless, despite these and other concerns raised by some City residents such as questionable claims of true “blight reduction”, Council voted to move the project forward without providing actual opportunity to Council members and residents for appropriate study and evaluation.

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Strength In Unity Neighborhood Association

Strength In Unity prioritizes community engagement, which is why we frequently host events and spend countless hours in the community. Engaging with the community is crucial for two reasons: it reduces idleness, thereby decreasing crime that might occur when no one is present or watching, and it unites the community, signaling that change is happening. While we may not be patrolling the neighborhood in cars using SeeClickFix, all initiatives are necessary. We acknowledge and appreciate the efforts of our neighboring organizations. Our overall goal is to eliminate crime and enhance our communities.

At our July monthly meeting, we deviated from the usual agenda and held our second community dinner. We thank The Villa Restaurant for preparing such a wonderful meal for us. Commander Purifoy addressed the community with updates on crime statistics and current initiatives. We also honored Michael Logreco for his consistent volunteerism at our events. He is a cornerstone of our organization and received a small token of appreciation, a gift basket prepared by Building D4 Community Board member Jackie Tobar. Our next dinner is scheduled for October 16, 2024, in the final quarter of the year. Next Monthly Meeting: August 21, 2024
Locateion: First Class Events, 14408 Gratiot Time: 6 PM - 8 PM.



9th precinct Commander Purifoy addressing the community.



SIU member Michael Logreco receiving award from the President of BD4C.

A Stroll Through Mapleridge

SIU organized a series of community walks along with the 9th Precint that started June 13, 2024 and so far it has been a success. Although we are still aiming for more community members to join in on the walk, we appreciate the community who already have joined. This walk is open to all other community organizations as well as other communities . It's a community walk aimed to unite and engage the community. So come walk with us, Commander Purifoy Captain Maye and our fellow NPOS. Next walk is Friday August 23, 2024. Meeting Location: 14408 Cedargrove.



BUILDING D4 COMMUNITY PRESENTS:

Mapleridge Herb Walk

AUGUST 16TH, 2PM TO 4PM

Join us for a walk as we explore various species of medicinal and native plants that grow naturally in the Mapleridge community. Dazmonique Carr, a community member and founder of Deeply Rooted Garden, will guide us in identifying these plants and learning about their common uses. This educational event is free and open to all community members.



Register here: <https://buildingd4community.org/mapleridge-herb-walk>

Registration Required

Location: 14875 Young St. Detroit Mi. 48205

Time: 2-4pm

Walk starts at 2:15 pm

Light snacks & refreshments will be provide proceeding the walk.



A Stroll Through District 4 (Mapleridge)

August 23, 2024
14 408 Cedargrove
2pm-4pm
Take off at 2:15pm

Lunch served
proceeding stroll.
Bikes & Walkers
are welcome.

Brought To You By
Strength In Unity
Neighborhood
Association

Empowered By The
9th Precinct

YOU ARE WANTED

ALL COWBOYS AND COWGIRLS

STRENGTH IN UNITY



WILDEST PARTY ON THE EASTSIDE

SEPTEMBER
14TH

AT
SWEET MEAT SALOON **START 2:00 P.M**

14911 SPRING GARDEN, DETROIT 48205

FOOD, CORN HOLE, HORSESHOE
LINE DANCING, KARAOKE

(CHILLI COOK OFF STARTS AT 4)

TEXT YES TO (586)582-2096

WITH NAME AND EMAIL

IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND BY SEPT 10TH



M
A
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Come have
a **Movie Day**
with us!

Date: August 17, 2024

Time: Noon

Location: 14408 Cedargrove

Movie starts at
12:15pm

Registration
requires to receive
food tickets 🎟️

Register

here: <https://buildingd4community.org/mapleridge-movie-night>

-Hamburger or Beef Sausage

-Slushy or Soda

-Fresh Hot Popcorn

Served FREE to every registered
child and adult.

*Registration required for Free hot and snacks.



Beetlejuice 2

In Theaters September 6,
2024

Join us to watch
the original Beetle
Juice movie



“Sweet Meats Saloon”



Meet Ms. Margeret Riley, A long-time resident and key figure in the Mapleridge community. Ms. Riley shared how she came up with the name and the idea of creating a western-themed area for community gatherings. The name originated from her younger days when she participated in dance contests at parties. Although she no longer dances, Ms. Riley remains energetic and now focuses on beautifying the corner of Spring Garden.

Inspired by her love for western shows, she transformed an empty plot next to her house into a saloon with a rustic charm. Every item in the area has been salvaged and carries its own story. The amenities include a working piano, horseshoes, a photo backdrop, and various seating and socializing areas. One of the standout pieces is a sink she salvaged from Denby High School, evoking a sense of nostalgia.

Ms. Riley plans to add a pool table as soon as she can find one. So, keep an eye out for a pool table that is no longer wanted to help Ms. Riley enhance Sweet Meats Saloon. Thank you, Ms. Riley, for all your efforts in making the Mapleridge community vibrant and beautiful.



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ISSUE 9 AUGUST/3/2024



EVERYBODY
Sun, Aug 4, 2024
1pm - till food is GONE
Gratiot Ave & Harper
EAZ
Detroit
Community Feeding
FREE Nachos & Tacos
To Donate/
Volunteer
contact us @
313-808-1980



**4th ANNUAL
FAMILY FUN DAY AND
BACK TO SCHOOL RALLY**
REFORMATION
CHURCH DETROIT
SATURDAY, AUGUST 17TH
FROM 12 Noon until 4PM AT Marlowe
Stoudamire Park (Seymour@Hayes)
Free loaded Book Bags to the first 100 students!!
Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Snow Cones, Pop Corn,
Cotton Candy
Horse Back Rides
Buffalo Soldiers
Train Rides
Carnival Games and Prizes
DJ Dexter
Bounce Houses
Face Painting
Health Resources
Housing Resources
Books
WCOHC Black Family Development, Inc. VIRTUAL ACADEMY



STRENGTH IN UNITY
SUNRISE YOGA SATURDAY'S
Join us for 1 HOUR of yoga at our future micro green farm
Starting Saturday Aug 10th at 7 a.m. - 8 a.m.
14403 Cedargroove
Grab your yoga mats and join us as we "get up get active get moving."
All levels and ages are welcome.
Yoga is a great way to start your day along with mental and physical health.
"HEALING THE COMMUNITY, ONE STRETCH AT A TIME"

DETROIT LAUNCHES NEW OVERDUE WATER BILL PAYMENT PLAN

On July 30th Detroit announced the launch of a new water bill payment plan for residences, businesses and non-profits behind on their water bills. The new program, called EasyPay, is designed for all water users regardless of income. It replaces DWSD's 10/30/50 program, under which many consumers still struggled to make payments. The EasyPay program is a 36 month bill paydown process that requires a small \$10 payment to register and then divides the remaining past due amount into 36 equal monthly installments that will be added to your monthly water bill. The city hopes to enroll 30,000 DWSD customers in the program by October. The program payments are interest free and participants are protected from shutoff and penalties as long as they are making their payments. To enroll call 313 267-8000 and say EasyPay or go through the DWSD portal at CSPortal.detroitmi.gov. Note that this new program does NOT replace the existing LifeLine program for low-income households. However that program is income-based, leaving out at least 60,000 Detroit water users that have past due water bill balances. DWSD has also announced that it will hold 8 town hall meetings to discuss the program, which will also offer an excellent opportunity to discuss Detroit's high water rates with the Department. The first is August 8th from 4 – 8 pm at Second Ebenezer Baptist Church, 14601 Dequindre St.

DETROIT SOLAR PROJECT CORRECTION

Last month this newsletter discussed the status of the Detroit Solar Project. It was brought to our attention that our discussion was unclear on a couple of points. DTE is not partnering with LightStar, as we reported, rather DTE and LightStar received separate contracts for separate locations. They will be independently working on project develop. In addition, neither of the developers will own the land. It will be leased from the City under long term leases.