

BUILDING D4 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Monthly Newsletter



ISSUE 2 1/3/2023



GET TO KNOW US

WHO WE ARE

BD4C is a 5013c community based non-profit. Our board consists of stakeholders and long-standing community members, who collectively share a goal to develop and preserve a sustainable affordable single family home community on the east side of Detroit. Community building is our motto.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to empower the community with a unified voice, rid the community of blight, drug activity and all other crime. We work to create jobs and renovate existing homes and dwellings to develop a sustainable environment. Building a environment that will embrace change so our community is never displaced.

MILESTONES & PARTNERSHIPS

- Successfully formed Strength in Unity, a neighborhood organization, rallying the community for heavy engagement.
- Effectively established a community partnership with the Detroit Land Bank.
- Closely partnered with CSV Construction, a local small business.

Donate to Support

www.buildingd4community.org/donate



Strength in Unity highlights

CHEERS TO THE NEW YEAR!

Voted BEST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION of 2023

Before we leave 2023 behind, we want to praise Strength in Unity Neighborhood Association for being nominated as The Best Eastside Association. We thank the community for the votes, we also thank Donna Givens of ECN for such a great event. Here are some highlights:



Strength in Unity
JANUARY 2024
Virtual Meetings

- Jan. 17 7pm Community at large Monthly Meeting
Meeting ID: 88000550096
- Members and Associates Bi-weekly Meeting Jan. 10 7pm
- Jan. 24 7pm Members and Associates Bi-weekly Meeting

COMING SOON

- INTRO TO CHESS PROGRAM-MARCH
- MOVIES NIGHTS-MAY
- AFTER SCHOOL AFFAIR-JUNE

Why do you volunteer? we want to hear from you. Send in a letter along with a picture of you in active service, sharing your reasons for volunteering. We will share your letter and photo in our next issue.

. Send it to:

volunteer@buildingd4community.org

2023 Donors

TERRY W.	MATTHEW F.
DENNIS P.	BILL S.
ROSE J.	CHRISTOPHER S.
LOUISE	DANYELLE P.
ARLITA G.	MICHAEL W.
RAYMOND R.	KENNAN R.
AQUANETTA Y.	SIOBHAN G.
ENDRE S.	GAIL & PAUL L.
	SHARITA P.

Our donors made it possible to fund all of Strength in Unity events of 2023. We Thank you for your support!

Join our volunteer committee
or
donate your labor of love at a
single event.

Email us :

volunteer@buildingd4community.org



Connect, serve and support commu
events

Microgreens Anyone?



BD4C is excited to announce the development of a self-sustaining community operated microgreens farm. Urban farming There are currently over 10 acres of a variety of organically grown fruits, vegetables and municipal plants, developed and operated by community members such as Dazmonique Carr. Dazmonique is the founder of Deeply Rooted Produce, a Mapleridge community based urban farm. Owning and operating over an acre of land, Daz produces fruits and veggies that she deliveries to community members. Learn more on how to support at www.deeplyrootedproduce.com.



DAZMONIQUE CARR
FOUNDER OF DEEPLY ROOTED

What are Microgreens?

Microgreens are young vegetable greens that grows 1-3 inches tall and takes about 1-3 weeks from when the seeds are sown. They are grown similar to regular vegetables but are harvested earlier than their mature leafy greens. They are not sprouts nor are they baby greens. Microgreens are younger versions of vegetables such as kale, broccoli and red cabbage. A great thing about microgreens is that you can grow them year-round, even with artificial light. Microgreens vary in taste, which can range from neutral to spicy, slightly sour or even bitter, depending on the variety. Generally speaking, their flavor is considered strong and concentrated.

Health Benefits

Don't be fooled by these tiny greens. According to the American Chemical Society, the immature plants of red cabbage and kale have higher nutrient levels than mature plants and were richer in substances like glucosinolates and sulfur-containing compounds that may offer protection from cancer.

Community Benefits

The project will increase the promotion of healthy eating habits by educating and introducing new foods. Agriculture workforce training that will lead to careers and jobs for Mapleridge community members. Increase of community engagement through the development of a focused enterprise. **Stay tuned for updates on this awesome project!**



COMMUNITY MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Raymond K. Richardson has lived in Mapleride community for over 30 years and has served on the front line of Detroit Fire Department for 28 of those years. Recently retired, ray sought out ways to be more involved with his community. "I've seen this community go from thriving with schools and stores to a war zone. From the early to mid 90s, drugs and gangs plagued us and it was downhill from there." Raymond was one of the first to join the neighborhood organization. "From the first meeting I knew that I wanted to be part of the mission. I help out when and as much as I can. I just want to live in a safe community."

Neighborhood Happenings

NEW BUSINESSES

MORNINGSIDE CAFE 16369 SUITE C E. WARREN

NEIGHBORHOOD GROCERY 500 MANISTIQUE

TERRI'S CAKES 16311 E. WARREN

COMMUNITY EVENTS & RESOURCES

Saturday Classes
 At The Haven Family Center
 14609 Park Grove Street, Detroit, MI
 Saturdays Beginning January
 Bring your own personal exercise elements, if you prefer.
 Bring an apron for cooking class!
COST IS \$5 FOR EXERCISE GROUPS AND \$35 FOR COOKING CLASS
ABOUT THIS SERIES:
 Join us for classes that help you achieve wellness through fun exercises, making products and cooking foods from scratch. Everything will be made without chemicals, preservatives, aluminum or microwaves.
CLASSES INCLUDE:
 ✓ Making Natural Beauty Products
 ✓ Wellness Cooking
 ✓ Exercise: Hula-Hoos, and Rebounder (Mini-Trampoline)

212.632.3488 | thehavenfamilycenter.org | thehavenCF@gmail.com

Detroiters For Tax Justice meeting on Saturday, January 6 at Noon at the Main Library, first floor Galleria.

Deeply Rooted Produce is closed for reflections and renovations until the week of January 15th and will resume regular delivery services then.

WINTERFEST 2024
 TAKEPART IN FREE #FUNNINTHED
 KEMÉNY RECREATION CENTER
 1001 & POPLAR STREET
 DETROIT, MI 48202
JAN 13 1PM-5PM
 FIND YOUR FUN! DETROIT4GOOD/NEVENTS

Nominate a Community Member

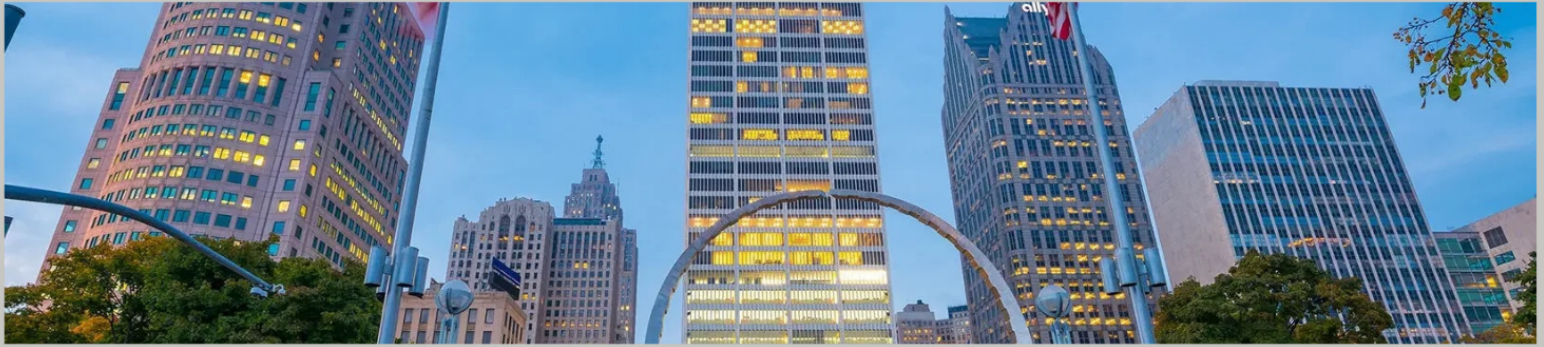
Send your submission to:
BD4CNEWSLETTER@GMAIL.COM.
 Include a photo and short paragraph highlighting their contributions to the community.

BE A PART OF THE CHANGE!

Keep up with us:

@BUILDINGD4COMMUNITY
 @STRENGTH_IN_UNITYD4

DETROIT HOT TOPICS



LVT PLAN

IN MAY OF 2023 DETROIT MAYOR MIKE DUGGAN AND SEVERAL LOCAL STATE REPRESENTATIVES PROPOSED A NEW AND NOVEL PROPERTY TAX PLAN FOR DETROIT. THE LAND VALUE TAX (LVT) WOULD TAX ONLY THE VALUE OF THE LAND, UNLIKE CURRENT THE CURRENT TAX SYSTEM THAT TAXES BOTH THE VALUE OF THE LAND AND VALUE OF IMPROVEMENTS ON THE LAND. IF ADOPTED DETROIT WOULD BE THE LARGEST CITY IN THE U.S. TO IMPLEMENT AN IDEA ESPOUSED BY THE 19 TH CENTURY ECONOMIST HENRY GEORGE, WHO ARGUED THAT TAXING THE VALUE OF LAND ONLY IS THE MOST EFFICIENT SOURCE OF PUBLIC REVENUE. YOU CAN LEARN MORE ABOUT HIS PROPOSED TAX SYSTEM IN HIS BOOK PROGRESS AND POVERTY, PUBLISHED WAY BACK IN 1879. POLICY MAKERS AND ECONOMISTS ARE DRAWN TO SEVERAL THEORETICAL BENEFITS OF THE LVT. ONE OF THESE FREQUENTLY CITED BY THE MAYOR IS AN INCENTIVE TO DEVELOP RATHER THAN HOLD LAND FOR SPECULATION. IN THEORY THIS IS BECAUSE PROPERTY TAXES WILL BE BASED SOLELY ON THE VALUE OF THE LAND AND NOT ON IMPROVEMENTS TO THE LAND, WHICH SHOULD ENCOURAGE LAND OWNERS TO DEVELOP THE PROPERTY TO MAXIMIZE ECONOMIC RETURNS WITHOUT CREATING A HIGHER TAX BURDEN. IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT THERE IS NO ACTUAL EVIDENCE THAT LAND SPECULATION WOULD BE SLOWED BY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LVT. LAND SPECULATION IS A MAJOR PROBLEM IN MAPLERIDGE AND OTHER UNDERDEVELOPED DETROIT COMMUNITIES, WITH SEVERAL WELL KNOWN SPECULATORS CONTINUING TO ACQUIRE AND HOLD SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF PROPERTY WITHOUT ANY DEVELOPMENT OR IMPROVEMENTS. THESE SPECULATORS ARE ROUTINELY TAX DELINQUENT, BUT ARE ABLE TO CONTINUE PURCHASING PROPERTY THROUGH THE WAYNE COUNTY TAX AUCTION PROGRAM DESPITE A STATE LAW THAT PROHIBITS PROPERTY TAX DELINQUENTS FROM PURCHASING PROPERTY THROUGH THE AUCTION. SPECULATORS SIMPLY SET UP NEW COMPANIES TO BUY PROPERTY, EASILY CIRCUMVENTING THIS LEGAL PROHIBITION. IN AN ARTICLE IN BRIDGEMI.COM, THE WAYNE COUNTY TREASURER ACKNOWLEDGED THIS PRACTICE AND THE FACT THAT VERY FEW TAX DELINQUENT OWNERS HAVE BEEN BARRED FROM AUCTION PURCHASES BECAUSE IT IS DIFFICULT TO DETECT. GIVEN THIS TYPE OF CONTINUOUS TAX AVOIDANCE ACTIVITY WITHOUT CONSEQUENCES, IT IS HARD TO IMAGINE THAT THE LVT ALONE WILL PROVIDE THESE SPECULATORS WITH ANY INCENTIVE TO DEVELOP PROPERTY REGARDLESS OF ANY POTENTIAL TAX SAVINGS. A NEW STATE LAW IS REQUIRED IN ORDER FOR THE CITY TO CHANGE IT'S PROPERTY TAX SYSTEM TO THE LVT. SEVERAL EFFORTS TO PASS A LAW FAILED IN LATE 2023. THE LEGISLATURE IS EXPECTED TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL AGAIN IN EARLY 2024. IF A LAW IS PASSED ALLOWING THE TAX CHANGE, THE DETROIT CITY COUNCIL WILL THEN NEED TO APPROVE A CITY BALLOT PROPOSAL ADOPTING THE LVT AND THE CITY VOTERS WILL NEED TO APPROVE THE BALLOT PROPOSAL IN ORDER FOR IT TO BECOME LAW. FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT DETROITMI.GOV.

SOLAR ARRAYS

THE CITY OF DETROIT IN CONJUNCTION WITH DTE ENERGY IS PROPOSING TO CONSTRUCT 6 LARGE SOLAR ENERGY FARMS WITHIN THE CITY'S RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS AS PART OF ITS EFFORT TO MEET ITS RENEWABLE ENERGY GOALS. THE PROPOSED PROJECT WILL REQUIRE 250 ACRES OF CURRENT RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY AND ULTIMATELY SUPPLY 33 MEGAWATTS OF SOLAR ENERGY TO THE DTE ENERGY GRID, WHICH THE CITY CLAIMS IS EQUIVALENT TO THE ELECTRICITY NEEDED TO OPERATE 127 MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS. WHILE THE CITY CONTENDS THAT IT WILL PLACE SOLAR FARMS ONLY IN COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE CHOSEN TO SUBMIT SOLAR FARM PROPOSALS AND IS WORKING DIRECTLY WITH THOSE COMMUNITIES, THE COSTS AND BENEFITS TO THE CITY'S CITIZENS AT LARGE HAVE RECEIVED VERY LITTLE ATTENTION. CONSEQUENTLY, COMMUNITIES SUCH AS MAPLERIDGE THAT HAVE OPTED OUT OF THE PROGRAM COULD EASILY END UP WITH UNWANTED SOLAR FARMS NEARBY OR ADJACENT TO THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS. IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT NO CITY RESIDENTS WILL RECEIVE POWER DIRECTLY FROM THESE SOLAR ARRAYS OR CREDITS ON THEIR ELECTRIC BILLS. COMPENSATION TO HOMEOWNERS IN THE SELECTED COMMUNITIES WILL BE LIMITED TO HOME ENERGY IMPROVEMENT AND REPAIR PROJECTS THROUGH THE FEDERAL AND STATE SOLAR POWER NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAM. RESIDENTS IN THE COMMUNITIES THAT SUBMITTED PROPOSALS MUST PROVIDE WRITTEN SUPPORT BY JANUARY 31, 2024. CONTRACTOR REPORTS EXPLAINING PROGRAM DETAILS, INCLUDING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS, ARE DUE FEBRUARY 15 TH, 2024 AND THE SIX CHOSEN LOCATIONS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN MARCH OF 2024. CONSIDERING THESE SHORT TIME FRAMES, A LOT OF CRITICAL INFORMATION REMAINS UNKNOWN OR UNDISCLOSED AT THIS TIME. NO DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH, OR COMMUNITY IMPACT STUDIES HAVE BEEN RELEASED AND IT IS STILL UNCLEAR HOW THESE PROJECTS WILL BE OPERATED, SECURED, AND EVENTUALLY CLOSED AT END OF LIFE. DETROIT IS NO STRANGER AT JUMPING INTO WHAT SEEMS TO BE A GREAT IDEA WITHOUT ADEQUATE PLANNING OR EVALUATION. IN 1989, DESPITE SIGNIFICANT COMMUNITY OPPOSITION, THE CITY CONSTRUCTED A HUGE TRASH INCINERATOR THAT NEGATIVELY IMPACTED SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOODS FOR 20 YEARS. MORE CURRENTLY, THE JEFERSON-CHALMERS COMMUNITY HAS EXPERIENCED SERIOUS ODOR, AIR POLLUTION, AND TRAFFIC IMPACTS FROM THE NEW STELLANTIS JEEP ASSEMBLY PLANT DESPITE PRE-CONSTRUCTION ASSURANCES THAT THE FACILITY, SUPPORTED BY \$12 MILLION IN CITY TAX DEFERMENTS, WOULD NOT NEGATIVELY IMPACT THE COMMUNITY. ULTIMATELY, RUSHING INTO LARGE SCALE PROJECTS IN RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES WITHOUT ADEQUATE STUDY, DISCLOSURE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CAN HAVE SERIOUS DETRIMENTAL IMPACTS. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE STATUS OF THE SOLAR ARRAY PROJECT VISIT DETROITMI.GOV.

REDISTRICTING

WHY IS REDISTRICTING NECESSARY? ACCORDING TO THE CONSTITUTION, IT IS REQUIRED THAT EACH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WITHIN A STATE CONTAIN AN APPROXIMATELY EQUAL NUMBER OF RESIDENTS AND EQUAL ACCESS TO POLITICAL REPRESENTATION. THIS IS TO HAPPEN EVERY 10 YEARS. RESULTS OF 2020 CENSUS SHOWED A HUGE POPULATION DIFFERENCE AMONG SEVERAL COUNCIL DISTRICTS, URGING THE REDRAWING OF THE DISTRICTS BOUNDARIED TO MAKE THEM MORE EVEN. DECEMBER 16, COUNCIL WOMAN JOHNSON PRESENTED MARCEL TODD, DIRECTOR OF CITY PLANNING COMMISSION THOROUGHLY PRESENT THE FINAL 4 MAPS. CITY COUNCILMEMBERS WILL DECIDE ON TWO THEN SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING TO APPROVE A NEW MAP. COMMUNITY LEADERS AND MEMBERS OF DISTRICT 4 ARE FAVORING MAP 3, WHICH ADDS REGENT PARK AND ALSO KEEPS THE 9TH PRECINCT IN DISTRICT 4. TO SEE ALL PROPOSED MAPS GO TO DETROITMI.GOV.