BUILDING D4 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Monthly Newsletter

ISSUE 2 FEB/3/2024

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MOTOR CITY MATCH ROUND 25 WINNERS!

A total of 23 new storefronts are now located throughout the city of Detroit. Here in District 4, we have Savoy Restaurant, owned by Jai Lee Dearing. He is no stranger to the restaurant world. True Detroiters surely know all about Berts Marketplace down in eastern market. currently operated by his father Bert Jr. Savoy has an extensive wine and champagne menu that pairs quite well with their upscale food menu. They have live Jazz for entertainment and top-quality Steaks and Seafood. All the jazz you need is right here at the Savoy. Be sure to add them to the date night list. Conveniently located at 17131 E. Warren.

Next, we have Little Minds Enrichment Center. Founder and Co-founder Juanita and Shay Moton moto is "shaping little minds one child at a time." The dynamic duo aims to provide quality childcare for low to moderate income families with children ages 10 months to 5 years of age. After school programming for ages 5-12 will also be available. Programs will include STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts Math). Something that may make them very popular with the community is that they offer childcare on Saturdays. They are not in operation as of yet but were awarded \$50,000 to help them open those doors as soon as possible. Their business is located at 12518 Hayes. Looking forward to the grand opening.

Last but certainly not least, we have the Whittier Bodega who was awarded \$50,000 and is located at 11001 Whittier who are currently in the design phase. They plan to operate as a neighborhood grocery/convenience store for household and cosmetic items. For full list of grant recipients visit Detroitmi.gov.



Jai Lee Dearing Founder of Savoy



Juanita & Shay Moton Little Minds Enrichment Center

Have You Noticed?

Be prepared to soon be bedazzled while driving through local corridors in Districts 3 and 4, as 14 businesses in 3 areas have received funding to enhance the visual appeal of their storefronts. Locations are Gratiot/Liberal, Gratiot/Mcnichols and Houston Whittier/Kelly. the G7 facade Improvement Program funding has been provided to upgrade signage, exterior lights and window repairs. Creating a more pleasant aesthetic pleasure to the business district. This program aims to make the corridors more vibrant and walkable. Do I smell bike lanes coming? The future is looking bright for Districts 3 and 4 small businesses and communities.



Beautification Grant

Grants are currently being provided to Detroit based neighborhood associations, block clubs and partnering organizations that currently own vacant lots or wish to lease lots from the Detroit Land Bank (up to 4) to carry out projects in your community. Projects can range from clean-up activities, community gardens to public space improvements. Grant amounts range from \$500-\$15,000. The application opened on January 15, 2024, and will close on February 23, 2024. Visit waynemetro.org for complete details.

Get to know BD4C by visiting our website:

www.buildingd4community.org

Donate to Support



BUILDING D4 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



EVENTS & PROGRAMS

- SCHOLASTIC CHESS PROGRAM-APRIL 20, 2024
- STREET SPRING CLEANING-APRIL
- MOVIE NIGHTS BEGIN-MAY
- SUNRISE YOGA-JUNE
- FUNDRAISING DINNER-JUNE
- AFTER SCHOOL AFFAIR-JUNE
- BACK TO SCHOOL EXTRAVAGANZA-AUGUST
- MAPLERIDGE YOUTH OLYMPICS-AUGUST
- LOVE FEST-SEPTEMBER
- MOVEMENT WITH KIM YOKLEY-NOVEMBER

To volunteer as an individual or a group at up-coming events, contact our volunteer coordinator Ms. Bobbie: (313)575-2182. Come have fun while being of Service.

District 4 Community Advisory Council (CAC)

The Community Advisory Council petition was filed in district 4 October of 2019, by Scotty Bowman. District 4 is the second CAC formed; the other is District 7 The CAC's consist of five board members voted in and two appointed. CAC's were readopted to assist Detroit going from "at large" to broke up into districts. They will almost act as a liaison, to communicate for the community to the mayor and council members. In an attempt to bring the citizens closer to government. They are given 1 meeting with the mayor a year. The council must include one member over 65 and one youth member, who can serve 1-year terms for as long as they are elected. Other members serve 4-year terms. All candidates must live in their districts for at least one year to be elected for a seat. Members must officially meet at least once per quarter. The meetings must be held at donated locations in the district they represent, and council members are mandated to attend these formal meetings. While the CAC member have no formal power and are not paid, their duty list is very extensive. One major duty is assisting groups, agencies, businesses and residents in community problem solving. The list goes on and on. Under the charter's mandate, the CAC organize community meetings at different locations. Holding community discussions on topics such as community problem-solving, resource allocation and delivery of programs and services. District 4 CAC has recently teamed with The Peoples Platform to help create and facilitate workgroups, that will contain both CAC members and D4 residents. The groups are expected to focus on assigned interest areas to identify issues, preparing to present organized concerns to city council and the mayor. D4 CAC meets every second Monday of the month at 7pm, as requested by the residents. To see the full list of duties or to learn more about D4 CAC visit Detroitmi.gov.



Left to right: Scotty Boman & Andre Spivey



Left to right: Dennis Bryant, Rose L. Jones, Chairperson Adrian L. Green, Sandra Turner-Handy Senior Representative, Jocelyn F. Harris & Rhonda Diaz. Youth not present.



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 to: volunteer@buildingd4community.org

ISSUE 2 FEB/3/2024 Microgreens Anyone?



Proposed Land Location in Mapleridge Community

All About The Benefits

Environmental benefits

Microgreens require less space and water than their Micros counterparts. are often grown with hydroponic or aeroponic systems, using less water than traditional farming methods. They can be grown year-round and harvested in 1-2 week, allowing to be produced on demand and in smaller quantities. Having this type of control reduces the amount of food waste that can occur when large quantities of produce go un-eaten or spoil before eaten. A small but mighty plant all around.

December of 2023, BD4C debuted a proposal to our neighborhood organization, Strength in Unity, to develop a Microgreen farm. The community has given full support and looks forward to the addition. The project requires 8 parcels of land. The proposed site sits on the corner of Chalmers, runs 4 parcels down Troester and 4 parcels down Cedargrove. The land is currently owned by the Detroit Land Bank. While we partner with Wayne State University, BD4C will purchase the land and create a public space to host free events for the community throughout the entire time of our design phase. We appreciate the assistance of the DLBA, and the support of Council Woman Johnson and our District 4 Deputy Manager Eboni Deberry.

Nutritional Benefits

We all know leafy greens in our diet is the key to healthy eating. Microgreens can contain far more nutrients than their fully grown counterparts. Red cabbage microgreens contain 6 times more vitamin C and vitamin K than mature cabbage. Because they are so nutrient packed, some studies have shown microgreens reduce inflammation, improve digestion and even lower the risk of chronic Lower environmental disease. impact and higher health benefits. Sounds like a win.

Community Benefits

The benefits are endless but here are a few BD4C will make happen. Heavy promotion of better health in District 4 by exchanging microgreens for work at the farm, bartered supplies or selling a cost. Operating the farm as a business to create job training opportunities for our local high schools. Children need to know how to grow food. This enterprise will further the agenda of Strength in Unity which is to unify the community through fluent increase and sustainable community engagement. Last but not least, taking once blighted unproductive land and turning it into a beautiful facility the entire community can be apart and proud of. Stay tuned for updates on this awesome project!





BUILDING D4 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2 FEB/3/2024



Raymond K. Richardson has lived in Mapleridge 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." Ray's dedication to the community is so admirable. He volunteers and holds a spot on our vacant home committee.

NEW BUSINESSES

MORNINGSIDE CAFE 16369 SUITE C E. WARREN

NEIGHBORHOOD GROCERY 500 MANISTIQUE

TERRI'S CAKES 16311 E. WARREN

BE'SHROOMED FARMS 16555 HARPER

FEBRUARY 2024 EVENTS & PROGRAMS



Nominate a Community Member.

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

> BE A PART OF THE CHANGE! Keep up with us: @BUILDINGD4COMMUITY @STRENGTH_IN_UNITYD4

DETROIT HOT TOPICS



THE MAYOR IS CAMPAIGNING TO GET LEGISLATION PASSED THAT WILL GIVE HIM THE POWER TO RAISE OR LOWER PROPERTY TAXES ON OWNERS BASED ON HIS VIEW OF WHETHER HE APPROVES OF THEIR USE OF THE PROPERTY.

IF YOUR PROPERTY IS DEEMED OK, A SMALL TAX CUT IS BEING PROPOSED, BUT IF IT IS NOT OK A "PUNITIVE TAX" INCREASE WILL BE ASSESSED, MORE THAN DOUBLING THE OWNER'S TAX BILL

IF THIS LEGISLATION PASSES, THE MICHIGAN CONSTITUTION REQUIRES THAT IT ALSO BE APPROVED BY DETROIT VOTERS. HENCE THE PROMISE OF A TAX CUT IS BEING MADE, TO PERSUADE VOTERS TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL IF IT SHOULD EVER GO TO THE BALLOT.

BUT THAT PERSUASION CAMPAIGN IS PUTTING OUT BLATANTLY UNTRUE INFORMATION IN ORDER TO WIN OVER THE VOTERS. THE MAYOR SAYS THAT HE WANTS TO JACK UP THE TAXES ON 400 "SCRAPYARDS" TO "DRIVE THEM TO THE SUBURBS."

DETROITERS FOR TAX JUSTICE (DFJ) FILED A FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST FOR THE LIST OF THE 400 SO-CALLED SCRAPYARDS AND GOT BACK A LIST OF 96 ADDRESSES WITH NO NAMES. A TEAM VISITED THESE SITES AND FOUND THAT 5 WERE OCCUPIED HOMES, 2 ADDRESSES DO NOT EXIST, 2 WERE DUPLICATES, A NUMBER WERE VACANT LOTS, ABANDONED BUILDINGS (LIKE PART OF THE OLD PACKARD PLANT), OR LEGITIMATE BUSINESSES UNRELATED TO BUYING SCRAP METAL. ONLY FOUR WERE ACTUAL SCRAP YARDS.

WHEN ASKED ABOUT THIS IN A PUBLIC MEETING WITH OVER 100 PEOPLE, THE MAYOR SHOWED A POWERPOINT SLIDE OF PARKING LOTS IN A DOWNTOWN ZONE AND TURNED TO THE AUDIENCE AND FIRMLY ASSERTED THAT "ALL THOSE PARKING LOTS ARE SCRAP YARDS!" AND THEN HE ADDED USED CAR SALES LOTS ARE SCRAP YARDS. HIS ATTEMPT TO COVER HIS ORIGINAL FALSE STATEMENT RESULTED IN MORE FALSE STATEMENTS.

BUT HE DID SAY THAT BY DRIVING OUT THESE BUSINESS OWNERS BY OVERTAXING THEM, THE CITY COULD SEIZE THEIR LAND, THUS ADDING TO THE 91,000 PARCELS THE CITY ALREADY OWNS.

THE MAYOR HAS ALSO SAID REPEATEDLY THAT DETROITERS PAY THE HIGHEST PROPERTY TAXES IN THE REGION. HE SHOWS A SLIDE THAT COMPARES THE NUMBER OF MILLAGES ON METRO AREA PROPERTY TAXES, WHICH IS HIGHER THAT THE SUBURBS. BUT WE PAY MUCH LESS PER MILL DUE TO LOWER PROPERTY VALUES, SO OUR PROPERTY TAXES ARE BY FAR LOWER THAN ALMOST EVERY SUBURB, ACCORDING TO AN MLIVE STUDY OF REGIONAL PROPERTY TAXES.

THE LEGISLATURE IS BEING HEAVILY PRESSURED TO PASS THIS LEGISLATION, BUT DFTJ HAS SHOWN LAWMAKERS THAT THE PROPOSED LAW IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL. THE MICHIGAN CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE IX, SEC. 3, SAYS THAT PROPERTY TAXES MUST BE BASED ON "CASH VALUE" OF THE PROPERTY AND THAT POLICIES MUST BE APPLIED "UNIFORMLY." THE BILL THAT WOULD ALLOW THE MAYOR TO DOUBLE TAXES ON SOME BASED ON HIS OPINION VIOLATES BOTH OF THOSE CONDITIONS, PERIOD. HENCE THE BILL IS STALLED.

DFTJ HAS PUBLICLY PROPOSED TO THE MAYOR THAT IF HE TRULY WANTS TO CUT RESIDENTIAL COSTS, HE COULD REPAY THE \$600 MILLION IN OVERTAXATION, A NUMBER THAT IS NOW MUCH HIGHER. AND HE COULD CUT MOST OF THE "DRAINAGE FEE" ON OUR WATER BILLS, WHICH HE HAS RAISED 450% IN SEVEN YEARS. EITHER OF THESE WOULD GIVE RESIDENTS MUCH MORE THAN HIS UNCONSTITUTIONAL PLAN. THE MAYOR CAN DO THIS ON HIS OWN, RIGHT NOW, IF HE WANTED TO. TO DATE HE HAS IGNORED THESE PROPOSALS.

WRITTEN BY RUSS BELLANT

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.

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

A MONTH AWAY FOR THE LOCATIONS TO BE CHOSEN FOR SOLAR FARMS AND LOTS OF LONG-STANDING RESIDENTS ARE FEELING "SOLD OUT" BY COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO ARE TAKING THE CASH AND LEAVING. SOME ARE EVENING QUESTIONING THE LACK OF TO TRANSPARENCY WHO SUBMITTED THE APPLICATIONS. SOME FEEL THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WAS BARE AND SEGREGATED. IT IS SPECULATED THAT THE INDIVIDUAL WHO SUBMITTED AN APLICATION FOR LASALLE COLLEGE PARK AREA, WAS INFLUENCED BY SOMEONE FROM THE MATIRX RECREATIONAL CENTER. NEEDLESS TO SAY, THIS IS A TOPIC THAT IS STILL SIMMERING.

FOR FULL DETAILS OF PROPOSAL VISIT DETROITMI.GOV

REDISTRICTING

WHY IS DETROIT REDISTRICTING NECCESSARY? ACCORDING TO THE DETROIT CITY CHARTER, EACH CITY DISTRICT MUST CONTAIN AN APPROXIMATELY EQUAL NUMBER OF RESIDENTS FOUAI ACCESS TO POLITICAL REPRESENTATION. DISTRICT BOUNDARY REVIEW IS REQUIRED EVERY 10 YEARS. RESULTS OF 2020 CENSUS SHOWED A HUGE POPULATION DIFFERENCE AMONG SEVERAL COUNCIL DISTRICTS, REQUIRING THE REDRAWING OF COUNCIL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES TO MAKE THEM MORE FVFN

THE COUNCIL MEMBERS HAVE WORKED DILIGENTLY ENGAGING WITH THE RESIDENTS WITHIN THEIR DISTRICST. COUNCIL WOMAN LATISHA JOHNSON HAS HOSTED SEVERAL ENGAGMENTS WITHIN THE LAST 2 MONTHS INFORMING AND ENGAING WITH THE COMMUNITY ABOUT THE MAP OPTIONS. JOHNSON RECENTLY UPDATED THE RESIDENTS AT THE 9TH PRECINCT LIAISON COMMUNITY MEETING ON FEBRUARY 1ST. STATING THAT COUNCIL WILL BE DELEGATING OVER THE MAPS IN THE COMING DAYS. IF NO DEFIINITE CHOICE IS MADE, THE MAPS WILL INDEED BE NARROWED DOWN TO TWO.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT REDISTRICITING OR SEE MAPS GO TO DETROITMI.GOV.

Honoring Black History Month





PEOPLES FREE FOOD ROGRAM









