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University District
Community Association

Spring 2016

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Receiving UDCA emails?

sign up for our emails at www.udcaonline.com to receive information on upcoming events and news around the neighborhood.



Keep up with UDCA meetings, events, bulk pick-up and recycling days, and more by visiting our UDCA calendar on our website. www.udcaonline.com/calendar

The University District NEWSLETTER is published in March, June, September, and December. Its purpose is to inform residents of activities and matters of common interest and concern. Residents are encouraged to submit articles and advertisements. The NEWSLETTER retains the right to edit articles and refuse publication.

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www.udcaonline.com

Letter From The President

by Gregory B. O'Neal



Having been elected as President of the UDCA Board, it is my honor to serve this community and its residents along with our other elected board members and dedicated volunteers who lead various community projects.

At our January Board Workshop, liaisons were identified for each community project. I would like to acknowledge and thank the residents who support this community by paying their dues and encourage those who have not yet done so to pay your 2016 dues as soon as possible. I also want to acknowledge Kelda London the chairman for the 2016 Home & Garden Tour and Brenda Goss Andrews, the UDCA board liaison for this incredible event coming this summer.

I look forward to meeting all of you at the next General Membership meeting on April 7, 2016 at 6:30 PM at Gesu Social Hall located at the lower level of Gesu School. We will have Melvin “Butch” Hollowell, City of Detroit General Council, addressing the new local zoning ordinance on the Medical Marijuana facilities and the city’s planned enforcement.

Once again I look forward to serving you,



2016 UDCA Membership off to a Good Start!

by Your UDCA Membership Committee

We are happy to report that membership is off to a strong start for 2016. The Membership Committee has worked very hard to provide residents value with the membership packages, The packages include a refrigerator magnet with key neighborhood information, a member discount card that can be used with our merchant partners for discounts, and new this year, we have launched a Neighborhood Safety Whistle Program. The program includes a special Safety Whistle with every paid membership. To our knowledge, we are the only community in the Detroit area that has such a program. Our 12th Precinct Police Partners, Captain Kenneth Balinski and our Neighborhood Police Officer (NPO), Officer Tania Anding, are aware of the program and are excited about the implementation. The Safety Whistles are distributed to paid members after the member signs a brief agreement acknowledging receipt and some basic guidelines for responsible use. As of this writing, we have distributed over 175 whistles to the community.

By now, all paid members should have either picked up their membership packages at one of several pickup dates held at Gesu earlier this year or have had their membership packages delivered to their homes. If you have recently paid and have not received your membership package you can retrieve them at the General membership meeting on Thursday April 5. Safety Whistles must be picked up in person. For your reference, we have included a copy of the Safety Whistle agreement in this newsletter. If you have missed all of our pickup dates and cannot attend the General Membership meeting, please contact your block captain or UDCA membership committee to receive your whistle. You can reach the membership committee at membership@udca.info.

And remember, if you don't have a 2016 magnet on your fridge you haven't paid. (or your fridge is not magnetic☺)

Welcome to the University District's SAFETY WHISTLE DEFENSE Program.

As a Paid member of the University District Community Association you are automatically eligible to receive a whistle and enroll in the program.

WHISTLE DEFENSE is a low tech, high value program that has been used effectively around the country to improve community safety and reduce crime.

To do your part for safety:

- Keep your whistle handy
- Blow your whistle when you see suspicious activity that neighbors should be aware of
- Blow your whistle in response to a neighbor's whistle
- **CALL 9-1-1** for emergencies, when a crime is in progress, if police, fire, or EMS assistance is needed.
- **Call 313-447-0003** to reach any patrol on duty at the time.

Other points to keep in mind:

- You don't need to confront anyone; you can whistle from a window or door of your home
- Watchful neighbors are often the best at preventing crime because they know what isn't "normal." Spreading notice fast increases the value of those watchful eyes, and whistle blowing is a fast, effective, inexpensive way to notify those nearby.
- Whistles alert well behaved visitors to the neighborhood and they immediately become more watchful.
- The "bad guys" are put on notice that people are watching and present an obstacle to their criminal activity. Most prefer to take their business elsewhere. They also seem to tell other people to avoid such areas.

If you are accosted on the street:

- Blow the whistle
- Call the police as soon as possible

If you fear trouble on the street:

- Run toward the middle of the street
- Blow your whistle
- Call the police

If you see trouble on the street:

- Blow your whistle
- Keep a safe distance
- Call the police

If you see trouble from your home:

- Call the police. Give your address and tell them the nature of the problem
- Open a window and blow the whistle

If you hear a whistle:

- Call the police. Report location and the nature of the trouble
- Blow your whistle
- Move carefully in the direction of the first whistle-----continue blowing.

Do NOT play police officer.

- Don't get hurt.
- Stay out of the professional's way.
- They are trained to handle problems.
- Alerting them is your role in community policing.

Tell kids about your whistle.

- From a child's perspective, a whistle is a great toy.
- And while there are toy whistles, your SAFETY WHISTLE is not one of them.
- They are safety tools and should be respected as such.



Additional whistles can be purchased through your membership committee for \$5:00. You may contact them at membership@udca.info.

Dog Walking Etiquette

Walking your dog can be a way to relax or a chore, but it can also be full of potential etiquette faux pas. Modern Manners Guy has 3 tips to make sure your neighborhood walks with Fido don't become a breeding ground for bad manners

Tip #1: Not Everyone Loves Your Pet

My dog is the perfect example of “man's best friend.” He never leaves my side, flips out when I walk in the door, and loves nothing more than for me to give him attention. I've had him since he was 2 months old (he's now a robust 8-year-old) and have loved him to pieces ever since that day. However, I know very well that not everyone is as fond of my pet as I am. He's a beagle with a howl that can wake up everyone in the neighborhood. If you have food around you, chances are he's going to think it's his. Anything that is paper will surely suffer his wrath, and be ripped into little shreds. And when I take him for a walk, I know that he can pull me like an Alaskan dog sled team, so I have to keep him on a tight leash.

In other words, I know exactly what I have on my hands and I recognize that he's not the best trained dog in the world. So, I adapt my handling of him to make sure he doesn't bother others. Does this seem self-evident to you? To me, too. And yet, I'm constantly shocked to see people who think that their dog is superior—to everyone! They let their precious pup run free, as they slowly walk 10-20 yards behind. Why? Oh because, their dog stops on command.

Newsflash: He won't! At least not necessarily. And probably not always.

Just because you love your dog, doesn't mean that everyone else would also enjoy a sloppy kiss or paws on their shoulders. Remember: Your dog is your best friend, no one else's. It's improper to assume that he is loved by everyone in the neighborhood. So keep him close, leashed, and don't allow him to run up (or onto) others. And if someone wants to pet him, they will ask.

Another newsflash: People don't HAVE to love your dog. I know, crazy!

Tip #2: Use a Leash

As I said in Tip #1, I've never understood why people think their dog can go leash-free in a residential neighborhood. Just the other day, I'm cutting the lawn while my daughter is on our swing and a large dog comes storming around the back, running up and down the lawns. Granted, this dog looked harmless, but it totally caught me by surprise and scared my daughter. A dog (like a person) can change its mind faster than a child at a toy store, and it's

not a good idea to assume that your dog will always listen to you and think before he acts. As well, what's to stop that furball from thinking that ice cream cone in your child's hand should be theirs? Trust me, my dog wouldn't think twice about it.

Leashes were not invented as a fad. They are not just some crazy device to hold back a dog's love for freedom. They are used to keep your pet, and others around you, safe. One time my dog got loose from me and it took me 20 minutes to finally chase him down. He loved every minute of the escape, but thankfully no one was having a picnic. If they were, it would have been ruined by a manic beagle. If you want your dog to run free and feel the wind through his wagging tail, then get a fence. Or take him to a park that allows just that.

Tip #3: Clean Up

The other day, I was walking my dog and saw a neighbor walking his. I gave a neighborly "Hi" and a wave, right before I bent down to pick up my dog's waste with a plastic bag. The neighbor's dog had the same idea. But when he was done, the neighbor just kept on walking...leaving the waste right there on the sidewalk!

Even worse, I happen to know that this person is a repeat "dog poop" offender! And what's worse than that, this same person allowed their dog to lift his furry leg and relieve himself onto someone's trash can. UGH! So now, this "neighbor" (if we can call him that) has allowed fecal landmines to lie across our neighborhood and didn't blink when his dog "fertilized" a neighbor's property. So wrong.

If your dog has to go #2, use a plastic bag. That's it; no options. Pick it up, tie it up, and dispose of it either in a public trash can or in your own, NOT in your neighbor's. I know, I know, it's SUCH a burden, but come on folks, you chose to have a dog, you knew the consequences. Did you expect it to poop sunshine and flowers? Not only is it disgusting not to pick up your dog's waste, but it inevitably ruins someone else's day. Everyone has stepped in dog poop some time in their life and NEVER has anyone said, "Great! My lucky day!" So, show your neighborly manners and keep your dog's waste where it belongs—in the garbage.



Could the Next Block Captain Be You?

by Val McPhaul



Who We Are and What We Do

Block Captains are the point of contact for neighbors to stay engaged and informed about our community. Neighborhoods that are united are generally a safer place to live. As a Block Captain you are a paid member of the UDCA. We meet bi-monthly on the second Saturday from 9:00-11:00 AM.

Our Role

A well-connected neighborhood is a safe neighborhood. Block Captains should organize annual or bi-annual events, and may partner with other BCs to co-sponsor events. Social events and gatherings encourage neighbors to get connected.

Our Mission Statement and Goals

We agree to respond to email, text, and voicemail from our neighbors in a timely manner. We respect and support each other's efforts, and appreciate the understanding that Block Captains are all volunteers who take time from their careers and families to serve the community. People want and need to be acknowledged: Our goal is to recognize fellow neighbors for positive efforts, and say "thank you" for random acts of kindness. WE can be the change we want to see in the world! Let us all commit to making the UDCA a great place to live!



Please Join Us in 2016 as a NEW CAPTAIN ON THE BLOCK!

There is no better way to get to know your neighbors. Who knows - you may even make a new friend! If you are interested in participating, please contact Valerie McPhaul.

Val McPhaul

Block Captain Chair, 2016

valmcphaul@aol.com

248.747.2499

Current Vacancies as of February, 2016

Warrington Block 2&3

Fairfield Block 2&4

Birchcrest Block 5&6

Next Meeting: Saturday, April 9, 2016

You are welcome to drop in!

There's a new car in town!

It's the University District Patrol Car

by Sidney H. Bailey, III

Your University District Patrol starts the year with a new focus. Not just a new focus on improved service, increased membership and improved customer/subscriber satisfaction. But a BRAND NEW 2016 FORD FOCUS!!! (TA DA!!). As you probably know our previous patrol vehicle (a white Ford Ranger) was in and out of service frequently over the last several months. As such, funds that could have been used to increase our winter hours even more, went to repairs. The acquisition of our new red patrol car allows UDP to operate more efficiently by restoring control of our operating costs. The new car returns us to reliable patrol presence without interruptions and eliminates confusion as to which car is patrolling on a given night. One easily recognizable vehicle to identify (again, it's RED). Our thanks to those who made the new patrol vehicle happen (you know who you are). And a very special thanks to our fellow UD resident, Mark O'Bryant of Bob Maxey Ford, Inc., 1833 East Jefferson, Detroit, MI 48207, (313-420-1102, www.bobmaxey.com). He gave us a great deal as we're sure he will for you. So, make him your first call when you're car shopping!

The University District Patrol (UDP), your subscriber based security patrol, started 2016, not only with a new Ford Focus, but with a set of service based objectives for 2016. These are:

- Improved service (more predictable response times, follow up calls by guard if there are conflicts due to serving other subscribers)
- Expanded guard performance evaluations (tied to year-end bonus)
- A subscriber feedback program (surveys regarding service and suggested improvements)
- Increased membership (we've set out to significantly increase membership, building on our 2015 membership drive. This will allow an increase in patrol hours year round. Twenty new subscribers = one additional patrol hour)

Now, back to the new red car. With roughly 13% of the UD residents supporting the UDP, the Board was forced to finance the new vehicle. Retiring this debt as early as possible, while maximizing patrol hours, is a major goal of the UDP Board. To this end, we're launching a Debt Retirement Campaign (a.k.a., burn the note).



Our last vehicle (Ford Ranger) was purchased in 2009 with the help of many extremely generous donations from over 50 UD residents. Thanks to them again! We hope to meet and exceed that mark!

As part of this campaign you'll be able to designate how we use your donation. It can go to the Focus note, new grill lights/beacon, Weather Guard type winter floor mats, high lumen flood/flashlight, vinyl wrap (the writing on the side of the vehicle), snow shovel, emergency road kit, tablet, etc. Or, you can bid to "name that car". Yes, you can name our new patrol vehicle. (fine print: some restrictions apply, losing bids will be applied to other operating or materials costs). Watch your mailbox, email and our website, <http://universitydistrictpatrol.org>, for details and updates on this campaign. Thanks in advance for your support, whether you're a subscriber or not.

Remember, the UDP is less than \$1/day. Sign up using the form in this newsletter. Or go to our website to make your next subscription payment, read Patrol Board meeting minutes and more.

A Day in the Life of a Traffic Enforcement Officer

by Jason Misleh, Communications Chair, UDCA



As part of my duties with the UDCA Board of Directors, I get to read and hear about the gripes we have in the neighborhood. In order to help the board understand the problems residents are facing as well as the problems our resources are facing in helping resolve them, I've decided to take one issue each quarter and live a life in the day of someone involved. This quarter, I rode with a police officer from Detroit's 12th Precinct for 8 hours.

I started the day out by arriving at DPD at 8am. Officer Ambrous and I got suited up with bullet proof vests, signed a release form, talked to the Captain and Sergeants, and finally received our assignment for the day.

Officer Ambrous is part of the 12th Precinct's Motor Enforcement Unit. This means that the officer is assigned only to traffic details in the patrol area and does not respond to calls for service unless it is life or death. For today, we're going to be assigned to the University District, doing only traffic, all day long.

The first few hours of the morning were relatively slow. By now, it's 10am. Officer A and I have been driving around the University District looking for violations for the last hour. We start talking about his job and life as a Detroit Police Officer. He loves what he does and he loves the city he does it in. I was SO AMAZED to hear how much the police officers actually knew about our neighborhood, neighbors, problem areas, etc.

The real purpose of this interaction is to show residents how police work works. In my case, I spent 8 hours with a police officer. We did not leave the borders of the University District one time. We only found five traffic violators. While we all know that these things happen on a regular basis, there is no way for a police officer to sit in one spot all day and there is no way for a police officer to see all spots all day.

I brought up a suggestion from a neighbor—about sitting on a cross street and watching stop signs for 5-8 blocks—to be more efficient. The police officer explained that while he could see people running a stop sign from 5-8 blocks away, it presents a safety issue when trying to stop them. The police are not going to go 60 MPH in the neighborhood to stop someone for a traffic violation. It's dangerous and unrealistic. Not to mention, against department policy.

Here's what we did all day:

Time of Incident: 10:30 AM. Violation: Stop Sign.
Location: Muirland/Margareta. Disposition: Ticket.
Residency: University District. Time Cleared: 10:42 AM.



Time of Incident: 11:00 AM. Violation: Speed.
36/25. Location: Parkside/Margareta. Disposition: Ticket. Residency:
University District. Time Cleared: 11:14 AM.

Time of Incident: 11:36 AM. Violation: Stop Sign. Location: Parkside/
Clarita. Disposition: Ticket. Residency: University District. Time
Cleared: 11:55 AM.

Time of Incident: 12:00 PM. Violation: Stop Sign, Suspended License.
Location: Fairfield/Curtis. Disposition: Ticket/Tow. Residency: Non
University District. Time Cleared: 1:16 PM. This particular stop took a
really long time to handle. Not only did we have to arrest the driver, we
had to search the car, tow the car, and process the ticket and tow. It took
over an hour.

Time of Incident: 1:30 PM. Violation: Speed. 38/25,
Stop Sign Violation. Location: Parkside/Santa Maria.
Disposition: Ticket. Residency: Non University District.
Time Cleared: 2:00 PM. This stop was a little lengthier
as well. The computer in the car was having trouble
verifying this person's proof of insurance. We had to
call the driver's insurance company to verify coverage.



Time of Incident: 2:15 PM. Violation: Traffic Crash. Location: Birchcrest
and Six Mile. We were dispatched to a crash blocking lanes of traffic.
Two vehicles had to be towed from the scene. Cleared: 3:30 PM.

I hope you take the time to notice a few things. First and foremost, as expected, fifty percent of our incidents were neighbors. I hope you take some time to tell your neighbors to slow down and drive properly here... In fact, someone who's VERY vocal online about how people drive in the area was stopped and ticketed while I was in the police car. You know who you are...



I would like you to also notice how time consuming each stop is. Ten to fifteen minutes on average. Having to tow a car and arrest someone takes around 2 hours. And finally, responding to a traffic crash was another hour and fifteen minutes.

While you think about that and how long these things take, I would like you to remember... this police officer was pulled OFF the dispatch board and was only doing traffic in our neighborhood. Demanding that DPD have an officer dedicated to our neighborhood, let alone your street or block, is impossible for a few reasons. First of all, finding violations is not as easy as you think. Secondly, there are other things going on in the city. Finally, these officers have to do all of the stuff we did on this ride along PLUS answer regular calls for service during the day.

I hope this gives some quick insight into what DPD has to do to keep us happy. They're trying, but resources are limited and even when they aren't, as you can see, making ONE traffic stop can take hours to complete. Please don't continue to think that the police just pull people over, hand them a ticket, and go on their way. It's much more involved than that.



Beautification Update

One of the best ways I know to get through the dark, cold days of winter is to make fun plans for the warmer days that are coming. And of course, we all know the most fun is when we join in together! In that spirit, the UDCA Beautification Committee would like to invite our UDCA neighbors to join us in making plans for spring! We know we will plant flowers in the pots along Seven Mile Road and under each of the four UDCA signs that border our neighborhood. But what else would we like to accomplish? Perhaps a perennial plant swap? Or taking part in the annual Motor City Makeover? Come to our planning meeting on April 14 at 7:00 pm in the Gesu Community Center. Can't make the meeting? Keep an eye on the Facebook page and the calendar on the UCDA website for details as they are decided.



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University District Community Association Membership Information

*Membership is open to all University District Residents!
Your support is essential to our community.*

Your dues support a number of initiatives and projects in our neighborhood, including, but not limited to:

- UDCA emails and special notices (Please provide your email address on your membership form to be included in this service)
- Quarterly newsletters
- UDCA Website (<http://www.udca.info>)
- Community interest workshops
- Merchant partner discount program
- Snow plowing in the winter
- Beautification projects around the neighborhood in the summer
- Handsome signs identifying our community
- Most of all, the satisfaction of being part of the stabilization of your most valuable asset- Your Home.

Join Today. Visit <http://www.udca.info/join> or fill out the form on the back of this page!

Membership Dues are \$60.00 per year. Members who pay prior to January 1 receive an early bird discount of \$10.00. In addition, members who chose recurring billing also receive a discount of \$10.00. These discounts may not be combined.

For information about membership and billing, you may email membership@udca.info or contact the UDCA Information Line at 313-318-7498.





University District Community Association Membership Payment Form = \$60.00

Please complete this form and submit it with your payment.

Interested in supporting the UDCA? Please check the area(s) that best suit your interest!

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beautification | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety / Security | <input type="checkbox"/> Home / Garden Tour |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Block Captain / Block
Cub | <input type="checkbox"/> School Partnership | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social and Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Projects | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter / Website /
Social Media /
Communications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Society | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Activity Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Residential Standards | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Garage / Yard Sale | |

UDCA Property Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Year you Moved Here: _____

UDCA Resident Contact Information (Fill in for at least one resident and please print)		
First Name	Last Name	Cell Phone
		Email

Payment Options: You can pay your membership dues online by visiting <https://www.udca.info/join>, or fill out the form below and send it to **UDCA, PO Box 21483, Detroit, MI 48221**.

Amount Submitted: \$ _____ **Payment Type:** Check Money Order Cash
Check or Money Order Number: _____

CREDIT CARD AUTHORIZATION FORM:

Card Type: Visa MasterCard Discover American Express

Credit Card Number: _____ **Exp Date:** ____/____

Billing Address: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Name on Card: _____ **Authorized Signature:** _____

Would you like to be placed on recurring billing? If you select recurring billing, you will receive a \$10.00 discount and we will automatically charge your card every year to renew your membership. Yes No

Administrative Use Only: Rec By: _____ Rec Date: _____ Dep Date: _____
 Web Activation By: _____ Web Activation Date: _____

What is a Special Assessment District?

Some of us may have heard of a Special Assessment District (SAD) or may be more familiar with it than others but the one sure thing is that we are going to hear the term more and more often in the coming months. Some communities have adopted the expression NBD, Neighborhood Benefits District but they are the same.

This June, with the effort of a city wide coalition Detroit's City Council amended Chapter 18 of the City Code of Ordinance creating the Special Assessment District. I had the pleasure of representing the UDCA in this coalition and speaking to our city council on our behalf. The amendment is titled "Special Assessments for Snow Removal, Mosquito Abatement and Security Services" and that is just the title! The ordinance is 23 pages long and I and a few other members of the UDCA are studying it and developing a knowledge base which will determine if this is good for our neighborhood and if so how to implement it. An example would be to increase our security to 24 hours a day and provide more snow plowing. Wouldn't that be great!

The function of a SAD is to provide a means of neighborhood enhancement through increased security, snow removal and mosquito abatement or any of the three. By majority rule we would impose an additional assessment on ourselves, collected with your property taxes and then returned to our neighborhood, which we would then spend at our will on the services above or any one or two of them. The dollar amount and who in our neighborhood would administer it, e.g. UDCA board, would be determined before it is implemented and our entire plan would have to be developed and approved by the city.

Right now there are many questions people have asked. The foremost of them is how hard the city is going to make it for us to get our money back. Not more than two months from collection the city will forward the money. I have also been asked what effect this would have on our existing organizations. The intention is not to eliminate our two patrols but to enhance them, especially the Subscriber Patrol (www.universitydistrictpatrol.org) which provides our current paid security patrol. The radio patrol would hardly be affected at all and would continue to operate in the amazing way they always have. The UDCA

would spend less money on snow plowing making more funds available for projects like beautification or traffic calming. With 1,200 homes in the district, about 40% paying UDCA dues and less than 20% paying subscriber patrol dues we are not doing all we can to maintain the best quality of life for ourselves and the neighborhood. Imagine the changes we could make with 100% participation in security alone!

Some things we know are that the funds would be collected universally throughout the defined neighborhood and can only be used for security, snow and mosquitos. We are able to determine the amount of assessment and our chosen neighborhood organization would be responsible for managing the funds and accountability of the funds. The city has several requirements which are designed to control the funds and how they are used. The University District Community Association has established a committee to study the ordinance, develop a plan and determine if this is a good choice for us and if so implement the establishment of a SAD. We currently have six members including Radio Patrol and Subscriber Patrol. If you would like to learn more or are interested in helping the committee feel free to contact me personally or do a google search on Detroit Special Assessment District.

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Meet the 2016 UDCA Board of Directors!

The UDCA welcomes two new Board members, and congratulates four re-elected members. (Yes, I know that's six and only five seats become vacant each year, but read on). The following UDCA members were elected to the Board in the November election:

Henry Conerway
Bryon Knuth
Valerie McPhaul
Roger Short
Sidney H. Bailey III

Their 3 year terms began on January 1st, 2016.

Also new to the UDCA Board of Directors is Rise' Pinkston. Rise' was also among the field of our 8 candidates in November's election and was appointed to fill a Board vacancy at the November Board meeting. Her term will end on December 31st, 2017.

With our optimism and gratitude in starting these new terms on your UDCA Board of Directors comes a sad farewell to Board members who left the Board during, or at the end of, 2015; Nora Gessert, Lenora Koyton and David Beaumont. Among Nora's many contributions during her second stint on the Board was Chairing the 2014 Home Tour Committee and successfully leading our Association as President during 2015, the year we attained our highest membership total. Lenora chaired our Annual Garage Sales and Dave was one of our most organized and successful Chair of the Block Club Captains. We thank them for their service. Each will be missed indeed. We look forward to their participation in other ways as we all work to move the University District forward. It's a Team Effort! Now, a few words about and from the newly elected, re-elected or appointed Board members:

Sidney H. Bailey III: I've been a University District resident for 26 years, a Block Captain for over eighteen years and a UDCA Board member

for twelve years. During my Board terms, I've led the UDCA Board Election Committees, Bylaws Committees, served on the Residential Standards (RSC), Safety & Security and other Committees. The RSC's work, among other success, lead to the Detroit Water & Sewerage Dept.'s vactoring (cleaning) our catch basins last summer, at long last. This has reduced street flooding in the UD. I serve as Parliamentarian at the Board meetings. I've enjoyed my volunteer work on, and support of, many other UDCA activities and projects (e.g., Home Tour Trolley Conductor) as well.

I've brought some of my professional project management experience (33 years as an engineer for the City of Detroit) to my work on the Board - to its betterment, I believe.

My wife (still a City employee), step-daughter and are committed to the community. We love our UD home (It's the one where you'll get treats and tricks at Halloween, free cannas in the spring and one of those adorned with lights, lights & more lights during the Christmas holidays). I joined the Board because I wanted to do my part to maintain and improve our homes, neighborhood and the quality of life across the UD. It takes all of us, the residents, Block Captains, the Board and other UD based organizations working together. I continue to be impressed by the talent, hard work, dedication and enthusiasm of the other Board members. The Board has been successful, but there's always more to do. I hope to have the opportunity to continue my work on the Board in advancing the interests of the University District during a fifth term.

Henry Conerway: Serving our neighborhood has been an enlightening and enriching experience. I have enjoyed the opportunity to use my thirty plus years of experience as a Nursing Home Administrator in my role on the UDCA Board in the areas of physical plant operations, landscape and grounds, management, security, customer service and marketing initiatives. Additionally, I have personally enjoyed the opportunity to meet and work with so many of our neighbors.

I consider myself a lifelong Detroiter, having moved here from Memphis as a young child. I attended the Detroit Public Schools and graduated from Wayne State University. I am a member of Plymouth United

Church of Christ. I am also a forty-two-year member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and currently active in the Detroit Alumni Chapter. I am a thirty-year resident of the University District. My wife, Terri and I have raised our two children in our home on Warrington Drive and have always looked forward to retirement here as well. My family has enjoyed the beauty of and security of our neighborhood since 1981. My wife, my children and our parents (who lived with us for the last three years of their lives) felt safe and secure in our home in our neighborhood. Now that our parents have passed on and our children have moved on, I want to continue working with the UDCA Board. I am interested in and passionate about maintaining our community, our jewel, that my family and I have so enjoyed.

I look forward to continuing to be of service to our neighborhood and the City of Detroit in a third term on the UDCA Board.

Bryon Knuth: Detroit is where I have lived, worked, played, served, and worshiped for over 15 years. It is where my wife Monife and I are raising our two boys, Caleb, our nine-year-old and Elijah, our six-year-old.

Though I was born and raised 52 years ago in Northern Michigan; in and around the Cadillac area, and moved to Oakland County in 1983, living in several different communities, it is Detroit I call home. Nine years on Fairway Drive where I also served on the Board of the Detroit Golf Club Estates Homeowners Association for several years and the last six years here in the University District.

Monife and I will be married 10 years in May of 2015 and have established many great friendships in and around this great community. Monife, a Fighting Tiger from TSU, born in Pontiac, and owner of her own Travel Agency, NiaLordz Travel, and myself, a Bulldog from Ferris State, met 13 years ago when we worked together at a firm in downtown Detroit. It was through our common interests in food and my particular skill in barbecuing ribs that I was able to convince that wonderful woman she should be interested in getting to know me even better. (The way to a heart through the stomach also works on women.)

Professionally, I have been a financial advisor for over 25 years and currently hold the position as Branch Manager for Ameriprise Financial, where I manage over 20 other financial advisors and staff, while also working with clients to manage, grow and protect their wealth through investment and insurances. I hold the CRPC designation (Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor) which is earned through the College for Financial Planning.

Besides the cooking and food, I alluded to earlier, (we love the restaurants Detroit has to offer), golf, bowling, fishing, hunting, traveling and anything to do with our boys are our favorite hobbies.

God, family and the education of our children are most important to both Monife and I. We believe in the concept of “It takes a village!” and want that a part of our boys lives as well as the community we live in. It is right here in University District that we believe that can, will and does happen.

Valerie McPhaul: My family moved on Oak Drive in the mid - 1970’s. Back then block clubs were active, neighbors knew each other, and we all kept in touch. If the kids were acting out, a neighbor could just pick up the phone and call our parents to keep us in check (and they did). We had summer programs at the school (now P3). It was also a place where kids would gather for a game of baseball or bike riding. There were sounds of kids out playing, and having good clean fun. When night fell there was peace and quiet, as our time to go inside was governed by the streetlights. Growing up in the UD was good, it offered diversity, and a sense of safety and belonging.

I returned to the family home in 2008 with my daughter. Being back in the old neighborhood was great but there was no connection to the past. My family has always been of the mind set “don’t complain”, “be part of the change”. It was my second run as a Board member when I was elected. This has been a great experience as I have met so many amazing and wonderful people in the neighborhood. Many who I now call friends. I’m proud to be part of the change that is in place, as we see our neighborhood and the surrounding area experience a rebirth. We have new eateries and other businesses in our local area, lots of new families with children moving in It’s starting to feel like the old neighborhood again.

I enjoy greeting other neighbors out walking as I take my dog for walks. I'm always in awe of the beautiful homes; each one unique with its own personality and style, from the architecture to the landscaping that reflect pride and unique style of homeownership.

We are fortunate to live in a good community, one that has stood the test of time and has maintained its stability as well as our reputation as one of the nicest areas in the city. We are keeping "alive" this "American Dream" called community and home ownership.

I appreciate the opportunity to be part of all of this. I truly believe the value of our homes will be placed on this great community and not market value.

Let us all be involved, and make this a great place to live.

Risé Pinkston: I am a proud Detroit native. I moved to the University District in 1973. Currently, I serve as Birchcrest 2 Block Club Captain. I work in the Marketing Department at Costco Wholesale in Commerce. Through Costco, I am a member of the West Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce and previously served on the Board of Directors for the Redford Chamber of Commerce. I am actively involved in a number of community organizations and I am passionate about supporting education and performing arts programs for youth. I firmly believe it takes a caring and dedicated group of individuals to make a community shine. The UDCA serves as a vital resource for residents and community at large. I am happy to play a role in the continued success of this wonderful organization.

Roger Short: I have lived in University District for more than 30 years, but who is counting. I retired from the City of Detroit after spending twenty-five years in a variety of positions and now I am back at the City. I have been a financial supporter of the UDCA and participant at many of its fundraisers. The neighborhood has gone through several changes over the years, but we have managed to maintain a strong community organization and spirit.

I have been on the Board for six years as Treasurer and I hope to continue to serve in that capacity.

I saw the challenges of boarded up properties and increased criminal activity but the neighborhood has gone through this many years ago. Now I see homes being renovated and new neighbors moving in. We will survive as long as we are willing to sacrifice a bit of our time some of our financial resources and of course work together as a community.

Board Terms' status, as of January 2016

Board Member	Consecutive Terms Served	Year Current Term began	Year Current Term Expires
Brenda Andrews	1	Jan 2015	Dec 2017
Sidney H. Bailey III	5	Jan 2016	Dec 2018
Thmas Bauer	2	Jan 2015	Dec 2017
Frank Benedict	1	Jan 2015	Dec 2017
Henry Conerway	3	Jan 2016	Dec 2018
Rainy Hamilton	3	Jan 2014	Dec 2016
Bryon Knuth	1	Jan 2016	Dec 2018
Megan McGreal	1	Jan 2015	Dec 2016
Valerie McPhaul	2	Jan 2016	Dec 2018
Jason Misleh*	1	May 2015	Dec 2016
Gregory B. O'Neal	2	Jan 2014	Dec 2016
Rise' Pinkston**	1	Nov 2015	Dec 2017
Malika Ramsey-Heath	1	Jan 2015	Dec 2017
Roger Short	3	Jan 2016	Dec 2018
Sharon Vlahovich	2	Jan 2014	Dec 2016

*Jason Misleh was appointed to complete the term of David Beaumont

** Rise' Pinkston was appointed to complete the term of Lenora Koyton

Please join us on Nextdoor University District

Babysitter needed

Free kids bike!

Garage sale this Saturday

Car break-in!
See anything?

Anyone missing
a dog?



Nextdoor is the free and private social network just for University District neighbors. On Nextdoor, neighbors share crime and safety concerns, local events, recommendations, items for sale/free, ideas about how to make our neighborhood better, and more.

Our neighborhood is using a private online network called Nextdoor. Please join us to build a better neighborhood!

Please join us!

www.nextdoor.com/join
Code: JXCQFG

Don't miss out :)

Puffers? Not in Detroit!

by Mary Jo Smith, University District Radio Patrol

At the end of January, ABC national news addressed the nationwide “puffer” problem. They were not referring to issues with winter coats, but rather to the problem with cars started and left running to warm up while the drivers went back into their toasty buildings. One Colorado chief of police said stolen car reports in his city would be down 20% if people stopped leaving cars unattended and running.

A brief survey of Detroit officers [since nobody in Radio Patrol had ever heard “puffer” applied to cars this way] produced some other names. We heard things like “Gimme, freebie, stolen, and wanna-be—as in I wanna be stolen. Even the automatic keyless start systems carry some risks. Some of the less aware car thieves break windows, not realizing that the car won’t go without its key.

The very morning of the ABC story, on one short east-west block there were three cars left running and empty. The pedestrians reporting the cars were concerned, but after five minutes had to move on, hoping there would be no thefts.

The recommendation? Do not leave a car running with a key in the ignition. If you are in the car, be aware of your surroundings. Carjackers are a nationwide problem, and you don’t want to encourage it in our neighborhood. If you have a keyless or remote system, assess the other risks you are running when you have your car warming up on the street. It seems a lot warmer to get in a cold car than to drive a warm car with no window. And finally, don’t warm up your car in a closed garage! This is another technique observed in the neighborhood. We’d like to have everybody make it safely through the rest of the cold weather.



Courville, Yard Waste, Bulk, Hazardous Waste

by UDCA Residential Standards Committee

It has been brought to our attention, again, about the placement of trash. This article is to inform our new residents, as well as, our long standing residents about when and how to place your courvilles and other items at curbside. We are all proud of where we live and should be aware of the city ordinance, which applies to all of us. This information can be found under Municode.com/library/mi/Detroit/codes, Sec. 22-2-41, Sec. 22-2-42

Courvilles (black container)

trash is collected every Thursday. Container should be placed at curbside the evening before collection after 6 pm and removed no later than 9 pm the day of collection.



Recycle (blue container)

collection is every other Thursday. Clean items before placing in container. Displayed items of acceptability are shown on the container. Boxes should be broken down before placing in container.



Note: these containers cannot be stored at the curb, in the front yard or porch. In order to maintain an orderly and aesthetic appearance with the City and to prevent unauthorized encroachment on any street, sidewalk, alley, public property, approved containers must be placed so that they are not visible from the street. Sec. 22-2-43

Bulk

collected every other Friday. Bulk is solid waste that is larger than approved container or greater than (10) cubic feet. Bulk solid waste includes refrigerators, stoves, beds, cradles, furniture, water heaters, appliances and other heavy items. **Note: auto tires are no longer collected.**



Yard Waste

Yard Waste is seasonal. Schedule for “2016” has not been published by DPW. Their phone number is: (313) 224-3901. All yard waste (grass clippings, small tree branches, leaves, etc.) must be bagged in biodegradable paper bags. Dog waste should be carefully bagged and placed in approved trash container. **Note: yard waste in plastic bags will not be collected by Advance Disposal.**



Hazardous Waste

An appointment has to be made by calling (313) 923-2240 or (313) 876-0146. The facility is located at 2000 E Ferry St (I-75 and I-94 Interchange) which is open year round Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm to Detroit residents only free of charge. They can be found on the website under Greater Detroit Resource Recovery Authority (GDRRA). Below is just a few of acceptable items: paint cans/thinner/stripper, used batteries, medicine (expired)



Holiday Schedule – If any of the following holidays is on or before your collection day, service will be one day later: New Year’s Day, Martin Luther King’s Birthday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

The fee for first offense is: \$100, 2nd offense \$300, 3rd offense \$500, and 4th offense \$1,000



Urban League of Detroit
& Southeastern Michigan

1916-2016
Celebrating 100 Years
Celebrating 100 Years of Service

THE URBAN LEAGUE OF DETROIT AND SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN IS CELEBRATING ITS 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

**DID YOU ATTEND GREEN PASTURES?
DID YOU DANCE IN THE BALL ROOM?
DID DIANA ROSS DANCE IN THE BALL ROOM?
DID YOU PARTICIPATE AT THE URBAN LEAGUE?
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

**PLEASE CONTACT RUSELDA VILLANUEVA JOHNSON AT
RUSELDA.JOHNSON@DETURBANLEAGUE.ORG
OR CALL 313.831.5573**



“ Green Pastures played a great role. That was our first camping experience, because there were no camps for black children at that time....

There are a lot of stories about that camp that need to be told.”

– DR. JEAN ERNST MAYFIELD

We invite you to learn more about the Urban League.

We provide services to 70,000 individuals annually through our WIC program, College Club program and Mature Worker program.

www.deturbanleague.org

**Urban League of Detroit and Southeastern Michigan
208 Mack Avenue ♦ Detroit, MI 48201**



A Disturbing Trend

Radio Patrol officers regularly attend crime trend analysis meetings [COMPSTAT]. At recent meetings it has been quite striking to look at the lists of crimes. There are several lists of different sorts of assault. Recently at least 30% and as much as 50% of each category is some type of domestic violence. In addition to the problems this poses for the family in conflict, we see a spillover into the neighborhood. Some of the property damage crimes are directly connected to the family problems. An angry person damages the house, a car, or other property of the person targeted. In one series of cases lately, the next door neighbor's garage was broken into, to be used as a hideout. Another neighbor's front porch was used as the lookout position to see when the targeted woman came home.

Fortunately, newer resources are available to us. Counselors are available at the 12th Precinct. They can assist victims of domestic violence with planning an escape from the abusive household. They can make referrals to other resources. They can also help with filing personal protection orders. They have answers for many other questions. Radio patrol has assisted some blocks in assisting a threatened neighbor and we have learned some other techniques in protecting women at bus stops adjacent to our neighborhood.

There are resources available for victims. People nearby can help without making the situation more dangerous. Please see what you can do to keep the community safe.



Alfred L. Thomas, O: (313) 864-8581
Beverly A. Thomas, C: (313) 549-0418
F: (313) 864-0259
johnorabg@gmail.com
www.seacretdirect.com/abent
Info Bit: <https://vimeo.com/56940843>

Dead Sea minerals in SEACRET's complete line of skin care solutions can rejuvenate your face, body and soul.

Body wrap

Before
After

Responsible, Safe Gun Ownership

by Gregory O'Neal

After reading a couple of stories on NextDoor, I was disturbed by the carelessness of a few CPL holders in the neighborhood so I chose to write this to remind CPL holders of the law for responsible gun handling.

I have been an NRA certified concealed pistol license holder and instructor (CPL) for several years as well as a marksman for 30 years.

Please review the following:

- You must be in immediate eminent danger to use your firearm. Examples are in instances of eminent rape or harm that can lead to death to you or someone else. These instances are the only instances in which a weapon should be drawn.
- Pulling your gun on someone because they are wearing red pants or because someone reported on a website that someone in red pants is suspected of committing a crime is not a good reason to brandish your weapon. This is illegal.
- It is also illegal to pull your gun and threaten to use it. This crime is called brandishing. Forget about what you've seen on TV. Television creates dramatic scenes to paint a picture in your mind (using your imagination). These scenes would be illegal in most real life cases. TV programs are not suitable for learning gun ownership laws and responsibility.
- You cannot fire warning shots. This is illegally discharging your firearm and it is extremely dangerous.
- You must be less than 21 feet from a subject for him or her to be considered within threat distance. If they are further, you must consider taking cover rather than using your weapon.
- You cannot use your weapon to protect property. For example, if someone is breaking into your car or garage, you cannot leave your house and attempt to stop them at gun point. This includes pets because pets are considered property by law.
- You cannot leave a safe environment and place yourself in a dangerous situation or environment on purpose.
- You cannot shoot someone in the back. You are not in danger if someone is running away from you.
- If someone is down or in a surrender position, you cannot shoot them.

The above listed items are to be used as a review, but responsible and legal gun use is not limited to this list. Contact a certified CPL instructor or a lawyer if you need a full review of Michigan Concealed Carry Laws..

Please be careful and mindful of responsible, safe, gun ownership.

University District Security Patrol
PO Box 21041
Detroit, Michigan 48221

Security Patrol Invoice

Dear Neighbor:

Thank you for joining the Security Patrol and becoming a paid member. Your neighbors appreciate your participation. As a member you enjoy many benefits including professional patrol service, escort service, alarm response, and vacation watching.

Please understand that this is an organization run by unpaid volunteers. We appreciate your cooperation and prompt payment. Please provide an email address and check out our website at www.udpatrols.com. For billing issues, please email billing@udpatrols.com. For general inquiries, please email subscribers@udpatrols.com or send us a letter.

For online banking, it is very important that you include the period that you are paying for in your memo line. You may also use PayPal and you can find the link on our website, www.udpatrols.com. Thank you.

Your Subscription Renewal Options	
Subscription Period	Price
12 Month Subscription	\$260.00
9 Month Subscription	\$195.00
6 Month Subscription	\$130.00
3 Month Subscription	\$65.00
1 Month Subscription	\$25.00

3 Month Payment 6 Month Payment 9 Month Payment 12 Month Payment

Extends your coverage to: **06/30/16** **09/30/16** **12/31/16** **03/31/17**

Renewal Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ #Months Paid (if not below) _____

Payment Option: 3 Months _____ 6 Months _____ 9 Months _____ 12 Months _____

Expiration Date: 06/30/16 09/30/16 12/31/16 03/31/17

For Office use only: **Check Number** **Deposit Date** **Payment Date**

Return with Payment

Traffic Calming Update

As many of you know, the University District continues to have a problem with people disregarding stop signs and/or the speed limit while driving in our neighborhood—all too often the same vehicle is responsible for both infractions. To address resident frustrations with this issue, a traffic calming committee was established and charged with identifying and managing the process to create a walkable, bike-able neighborhood that is safe for children.

Since 2015, the traffic planning committee has been meeting in support of its stated mission. An outcome of these meetings has been a series of initiatives, including an action plan. The action plan consists of major steps, not the least of which is determining the appropriate calming solution for the University District. The committee spent time identifying and summarizing traffic calming alternatives/options. Currently the options are:

- Cobblestone Intersections
- Planter Diverters
- Entry Point Closures
- One-way Streets
- Camera System
- Enforcement/DPD Secondary Service

What we envision is likely an appropriate combination of these alternatives. The next step is to finalize our recommendation and present it to the UDCA board for additional input/feedback. After that step is complete, we plan to schedule focus groups and/or meetings to get the community's input. After all, this change will impact everyone, hopefully for the better.

Naturally each option has a cost associated with it. Some options, such as DPD secondary service are more economical than, say, installing cobblestone/pavers at each intersection. At least one member of our committee has attended a grant writing workshop and will participate in the preparation of one or more grant proposals to procure funding. As needed, the committee will use additional resources to aid in crafting a compelling case for us to receive grant money to the project. The plan is to seek funding from both public and private entities.

All of this activity takes time. We will keep the community informed via newsletter articles such as this, as well as a blog on the UDCA web site. If you're interested in helping the committee, please contact Rainy Hamilton on the UDCA board. We have already compiled a list of names for those individuals who have already expressed a desire to help. As the project moves forward, those people will be contacted. We to create grant proposals to procure funding for the selected option

Save the Date!

Spring Social Hour

Sunday, May 22, 2016

5pm - 7pm

Join your UDCA Social Committee for our Spring Social Hour

Enjoy light refreshments and music
at the Pop-up-Shop on Livernois.

Other Upcoming Events:

Thursday, April 7 - UDCA General Membership Meeting

Saturday, August 6 – Ice Cream Social

Udca 2016 Home Tour

Date: September 11, 2016

Time: 10am To 5pm

Early Bird Special - Buy Tickets For \$15
at The April 7th General Meeting Only

Advance Tickets \$18

At Door \$20 (Day Of Event)

Home Tour Volunteers Needed.

Contact Udca At Events@Udca.info Or By Visiting Udca.info

Event Chairperson - Kelda London

Check out our new and improved website;

<https://udca.info>

Now you can check out the resident directory,
submit requests, pay your UDCA and UDP
memberships, and much more!

udca

PO Box 21483
Detroit, MI 48221

Spring 2016

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Detroit, MI
Permit No. 2761

**University District
Community Association**
www.udcaonline.com
313.318.7498

The University District strives to maintain and support the integrity of the neighborhood, provide communication of events and issues to its residents, promote a quality education in our local schools while maintaining health, safety, and happiness in a family friendly diverse community.

Join our mailing list at www.udcaonline.com