

# udca

University District  
Community Association

Winter 2016

PO Box 21483  
Detroit, MI 48221



*Happy Holidays*



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### **Receiving UDCA emails?**

sign up for our emails at [www.udcaonline.com](http://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](http://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.



# 2016 UDCA Major Accomplishments

- 2016 HOME TOUR – Record breaking attendance; over 700+ and the highest profits of any home tour since inception
- Membership Safety Whistle program: hundreds of whistles distributed to members with 2016 paid membership dues
- Increased Block Captain participation
  - Newly established “Block Club Appreciation Program” that recognized and rewarded block captain volunteers
- Over 40 new resident families attended the “3rd Annual New Residents Meet and Greet”
- 15% increase in UDCA membership over 2015; membership has more than doubled since 2012 (membership dues for 2017 are now being accepted)
- Re-established UDCA Social and Senior committees
  - Social Committee sponsored an event on the Avenue of Fashion that was attended by over 60 residents whereby over 50 pounds of “Dress for Success” professional attire was donated to a local non-profit.
- Successful Belden Park community clean up
- Established SAD Exploratory Committee
- Increased neighborhood compliance with city ordinances through the UDCA Residential Standards committee
- Launched Secondary Employment Traffic Calming Pilot Program-October 2016
  - Over 80+ traffic related tickets written as of November 2, 2016
  - 10+ vehicles impounded
  - 3 traffic warnings to UDCA residents

The UDCA Board would like to thank all of you for your membership, involvement and participation in our events to make this the best community in the city. We appreciate your comments and feedback and look forward to serving you in the new year.







*Fall Colors  
in the UDCA*

# Home Tour Committee Salutes Five All Stars!

*by Kelda London, Chairperson*

Sixteen years after the UDCA Home & Garden Tour was started by two (2) Birchcrest residents, Jerome Raska and Robbin Yelverton, owners of Blumz Florist, the 2016 Tour earned the title of the “Most Successful Tour, Ever”....the most money and the most glam. The Five 2016 homes in which the residents spent countless hours, money, and energy into executing a “home run” performance on September 11, 2016, are indeed our Home & Garden Tour All Stars! They are: 1). Kipreyll Fowler. 2). Brenda Goss Andrews, 3). Bruce Nicely and David Gregory, 4). Kristine and Charles Longstreet, and 5). Veronica Dostal and Mary Tomich. Included in the Home and Garden Tour were Gesu Catholic Church on West Mc Nichols and All Saints Episcopal Church on West 7 Mile. From 10:00 A.M. until 6:00 P.M., the University District was crowded with residents, visitors, long waiting lines, and excitement about our Home Tour which was engineered to amaze. The University District was alive and buzzing with anticipation.

The five families who participated, followed the process from the beginning to the end and understood the seriousness of their commitments would be fraught with strategic planning and hard work. Their resolve to portray their lovely homes and the University District, in such an elegant light, made UDCA residents and metro-Detroiters extremely proud. Blumz Florist was extra proud, and proved it by giving each homeowner a gorgeous floral arrangement to enhance their interior designs. University District is very fortunate to have Raska and Yelverton as residents.

A greatly deserved standing ovation is in order for the Home Tour Committee. Chaired by Kelda London, the members are: Jannie Warren Green, Betty Davis, Brenda Goss Andrews, Theresa Henige, Lisa Jones, Kathy Bauer, Mary Ferris and Rosa Stephens. We could not have been successful without the invaluable assistance and support of Roger Short, Frank Benedict, Tom Bauer, Mary Leonard, Jason Misleh, Dave Marquardt, Greg O’Neal and Lucious Gunn.

Tons of thanks to all docents, the UDCA Board Members, Block Club Captains, our sponsors, media outlets, Gesu and All Saints Churches, UDCA residents, families and friends, and Metro-Detroit visitors. We also want to add a special recognition to Elegance by Design, for hosting a wonderful reception for the



homeowners. Each of you played an important role in making our 2016 Home Tour extremely successful! If you would like to show your home or garden for the 2018 Tour, or be a member of the committee, please contact Rosa Stephens at (313) 864-7849.



# Neighborhood GEM

*by Asenath Andrews*

We are fortunate to be living in a time of great regard for history and in the midst of making history. For those of us who have grown up (and are old enough) in the neighborhood or the area we have seen Livernois when it was known as the “Avenue of Fashion” and now we see Livernois as a part of the Detroit 2nd renaissance neighborhood revitalization.

There are many “GEMS” in Detroit and one right on the Livernois. It is Art in Motion, a ceramic studio and gallery. I was fortunate enough to be included in their initial mailing. Excited to see what it was all about I just stopped in. It is a treasure filled place owned and operated by Marlynn KAY Willingham. Kay as her friends and some students call her, grew up in the neighborhood and graduated from Cass Tech, and went to University of Detroit for both undergraduate and graduate school. She has worked at the world renowned “Pewabic Pottery” as a teacher and docent for 10 years. (There are examples of Pewabic pottery decorating some homes throughout the University District). She brings all of that experience and love for the arts to us.

Kay is a patient and skilled teacher. Last summer she offered an internship to a developmentally delayed student. Art in Motion offers beginning, intermediate and advanced classes in ceramics. You can learn to create masterpieces functional and decorative on the pottery wheel or hand build them. If you're interested in building tiles as decorative one of a kind pieces for your home or more practical pieces as trivets, teapots, cups, or mugs. If it can be made of clay you can do it at Art in Motion.

My cousins and I get together for potluck dinner once a month and instead of meeting at someone's home we met at Art in Motion. We brought in our own dinner and spent the evening painting glaze on bowls and mugs and plates as we ate and laughed and explored our artistic side. You are welcome to have Art parties at the studio. I've seen a group of kids having a birthday party there. The great part is they designed and painted their own party favors. Chuckie Cheese step back.

Kay has expanded the gallery offerings to include 5 artists in residence and a massage therapist. So after you've worked out on the wheel for a couple of hours you can go upstairs and get a massage. Now you tell me if it's a GEM or not.



I have tried to stop giving “things” as gifts. I try to give experiences instead. Right now the shop is offering a special ½ off 4-week independent study class for \$80 to all University District Residents. Bring your newsletter to register. All classes include open access to the studio Wednesday –Saturday 11:-6: Isn’t there someone who you know who would appreciate an opportunity to wake up their brain, stimulate that latent artist, and delight in a creative adventure in clay? If so call or text 313-980-1265 or email Kay at [artinmotiondetroit@gmail.com](mailto:artinmotiondetroit@gmail.com) to register them or yourself or both. I don’t think you will regret it.

Hopefully we will feature a different Neighborhood GEM in each newsletter. If you have suggestions please email me Asenath Andrews [atzenathandrews@gmail.com](mailto:atzenathandrews@gmail.com)

GO FORTH AND CREATE!



*Mayor Michael Duggan and store owner.*

# 10 Tips To Prevent Your Car From Being Stolen

*by Brenda Goss Andrews*

## **Don't Make It Easy for Car Thieves**

Try to make your vehicle less attractive to car thieves. If a car thief can steal or vandalize your car quickly; the more attractive your car will be. Anything you can do to slow down car thieves or vandals will make your vehicle a less appealing target.

## **Listed below are 10 Tips to keep your vehicle safe.**

1. Keep your vehicle locked at all times; including while driving and while in your driveway or on the street. **NOTE:** Statistically vehicles that are unlocked are stolen or vandalized more than vehicles that are locked.
2. Never keep your car running and unattended. **NOTE:** Never leave babies or children unattended in running or even locked and unattended vehicles for ANY reason.
3. Avoid leaving valuables (computers, phones, weapons, packages, purses, brief cases, money, medical equipment and the like) in plain view, visible to passerby. It is wise and prudent to bring valuable items into your home or office and not leave them in your vehicle. **NOTE:** A locked trunk will not protect your valuables if your vehicle is stolen.
4. When parked, roll up all the windows, close sunroofs and replace top on convertible vehicles.
5. Install an anti-theft device or automatic tracking device on your vehicle. **NOTE:** Most insurance companies will give you a discount on your insurance if you have anti-theft devices on your vehicle.
6. Thieves generally work under the cloak of darkness. If out, park in a well-lit place or an attended parking garage. While at home ensure your home and driveway is well lit. **NOTE:** Talk with your neighbors and ensure everyone's home and driveway is well lit. Dawn to dusk or motion lights may also be helpful and efficient.
7. Do not leave spare vehicle or house keys in your vehicle.
8. Do not keep driver license, vehicle registration, vehicle title or insurance documents in your vehicle. **NOTE:** If your vehicle is stolen, these



documents will be needed to make a police report. Additionally, if a thief steals your car and is pulled over by the police, they then have necessary documents to possibly convince law enforcement that they were given permission to drive the vehicle.

9. Consider having your car's vehicle identification number (VIN) etched on each of your vehicle's windows. This helps make your vehicle unattractive to thieves, especially professional car thieves.
10. Lastly, do not attempt to confront a car thief or carjacker. Call the police (911) immediately especially if the crime is in progress and give as much information as possible on your vehicle the thief or thieves or getaway vehicle. **NOTE:** Let the police know if you have security cameras that may have captured footage of the car thief.

***“IF YOU SEE SOMETHING; SAY SOMETHING”  
BLOW YOUR UDCA WHISTLE!***

Brenda is a retired Detroit Police Deputy Chief who has lived in the University District since 1992.

# A Fall/Winter Checklist from Radio Patrol

As winter approaches and we are all busy preparing, winterizing lawnmowers and checking snowblowers, radio patrol members take this time to remember things we have learned to do for safety—our own and our neighbors'. Let us share our list with you for everybody's benefit.

**LIGHT THE NIGHT:** Having a porch light on in front sends several signals--somebody lives here, and is probably home and watching. Skip this address! Dark streets provide good areas for people behaving badly and we don't want to encourage the bad guys so turn on your front light. If you are adding lights, new options are more energy friendly than older lighting. Police departments frequently recommend motion detector lights on the side and back of your property.

**STORM DRAINS:** If there is a storm drain at your curb, you have the responsibility to keep the grate free of leaves and other debris. This helps with flood prevention and with snow runoff. If the drain is plugged below ground, the Residential Standards Committee can help you get it cleaned.

**YARD WASTE:** The date varies depending on snow, temperature, as well as the calendar, but around Thanksgiving or early December, Advanced Disposal stops the yard waste pickup until spring. When we end up with those dozens of bags at the curb all winter, we create big problems with traffic, with parking, and with snow removal. We also run the risk of some expensive tickets. Any bags must be paper leaf bags, not plastic. Christmas trees get picked up in January—watch the date so you don't miss it...some years you only get one chance.

**SNOW STORM READY:** Maybe your block captain could use help placing the snowplow guide poles before the ground freezes. [There is a theory that the markers might scare the snow since the years we have had the best markers, we've had the least snow. . .worth a try and a laugh at least], **AND BE READY TO PARK OFF-STREET IF THE PLOWS ARE COMING!**

**FIRE HYDRANTS:** When snow accumulates, adjacent neighbors can keep us safer by keeping a three [3] foot area clear on all sides so that firefighters can swing those big wrenches and open the hydrant to fight the fire.



□ **LAWN FURNITURE, LADDERS, ETC.:** When we put them up for the winter it helps if they aren't available as climbing tools to burglars—leave them out of reach in a garage, chained down, whatever keeps them from burglar use.

□ **SECURITY CAMERAS MONITORING OUTSIDE?:** Radio patrol is happy to register your camera so we can check back with you if there is an incident in your area. Our favorite result was in identifying a burglary ring for the police department with a registered camera's recording.

[Email us at [radiopatrol@udradio-patrol.org](mailto:radiopatrol@udradio-patrol.org) to register].

□ **CARS:** For several years now, the crime most often seen in our neighborhood is all about the cars—theft of cars, stripping of cars, vandalizing of cars, theft from cars. We know that cars are dramatically safer in garages. [We know of two thefts of cars from garages in ten years—and the door wasn't shut in one of those cases. Cars have been stolen from the streets as often as several times a month when a theft crew has been “working” this neighborhood. For a long time Fords were most at risk here—especially Focus and Fusion. Now some Chrysler products are at increased risk in our neighborhood putting us closer to city-wide patterns.

If you can't park a car in the garage, you'll do better if you don't have anything visible that somebody might want—no laptops, no tablets, no cell phones, no charger cords, no money, no briefcases, no leather jackets—you get the idea. Use a Club, or the upgrade, Doctor Hook. Lock your car and ***“curb” your wheels***, turning them sharply to the curb, or in the driveway, to the side that would create the biggest problem for somebody wanting to pull your car to the street.

Take the Traffic Calming Pledge. University District residents are the people most often blowing through stop signs, speeding, talking on phones, texting while driving. [If you need more copies, radio patrol will provide them]. Improving our habits makes us all safer and spares us the tickets issued by the extra police presence in the neighborhood. [Increased traffic enforcement comes to us through UDCA dues and the Traffic Calming Committee].

□ **NOTIFYING OTHERS: POLICE AND NEIGHBORS [WHISTLES, PATROLS, EMAIL, BLOCK CLUB]:** Our 12th Precinct Captain Sroka often says that “if you don't report it, it didn't happen.” For the police that is how it works, because unless we tell them of an incident, they won't know. If you don't think you should call 9-1-1, but you think police attention would be good, or you are worried about something, you can make a police report, not

*Continued next page...*

an emergency, by phone at **313-267-4600** [TCRU, Telephone Crime Reporting Unit] You can contact radio patrol and we can pass the information along without involving 9-1-1. Call us at **313-447-0003** before 7:00 PM. If you call, leave a message if you don't get us immediately...sometimes it takes a lot of rings to reach us if calls are being forwarded. Sometimes we are already on the line with another neighbor. At night, you can ask the subscriber patrol to let us know, or email us anytime at [radiopatrol@udradio-patrol.org](mailto:radiopatrol@udradio-patrol.org). The 12th precinct is concerned with the problems related to cars and will soon be letting us know about some other things they are doing to address the problem.

Don't forget to let the police know. We get way too many calls from people who don't call the police. They certainly won't do anything when we don't clue them in. Be sure to notify the patrol[s] along with the police.

**USE YOUR WHISTLE.** Muirland, Block 8 recently had a late night problem with an apparent assault on a young woman. It appears that harm was averted when alert neighbors blew their whistles. Also let your block club know of any problems. The more eyes and ears we have in our neighborhood—especially when we share what we know—the safer we are.

As a general reminder, most of our rare burglaries happen in the daytime, during the workweek. Many times the burglars go to the front door and knock or ring the bell to see if anyone is home. You don't have to go to the door, but it is a really good idea to make it clear that somebody is home and watching. Sometimes it is fun to be creative with the response to that bell or knock.

□ **VOTE:** It isn't just the nation, state, city, county holding elections this fall. New members will be elected to the UDCA board. Dues paying members of UDCA help determine our future by selecting board members. We encourage everyone to pitch in and help—pay UDCA dues, subscribe to University District Patrol, volunteer with radio patrol, get involved with your block club. You can also contact radio patrol if you have any questions.

So now we'll make sure we have snowmelters and go find the cocoa, mulled cider, or other winter warm-up beverages of choice. A good winter to all!

# We Had a Great Year!

## *2016 Membership Highlights:*

**The Safety Whistle Campaign was a great success.** We provided Safety Whistles to all UDCA paid members. June 4th was our neighborhood test day, witnessed by several local media outlets including WDIV, WWJ-Newsradio and WXYZ.

**The New Resident Meet and Greet** provided a warm welcome to our newest UDCA families. Held in a long-time resident's charming backyard, old and new residents ate, drank and got to know one another on a warm Sunday afternoon in August. We have an explosion of little ones in the neighborhood – it was great for the kids to connect while the adults mingled.

**We had a record Membership Year in 2016!** As of mid-October we had over 600 members which is roughly half of the UDCA households. Membership has increased every year since 2012, and we're looking forward to a better 2017.

Thanks to all that made 2016 a great year for UDCA Membership – we're looking forward to bigger and better in 2017 - remember, WE are the UDCA.



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(313) 759-7057

## SPECIAL ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Gregory O'Neal,<br>UDCA President<br><a href="mailto:gonealgroup@att.net">gonealgroup@att.net</a><br>313-806-2726         | Cheryl Anderson-Small<br>Resident at Large<br><a href="mailto:cas@ausetcenter.org">cas@ausetcenter.org</a><br>313-270-7717                     |
| Bryon Knuth<br>UDCA Vice President<br><a href="mailto:btknuth@att.net">btknuth@att.net</a><br>313-670-7360                | John Autrey<br>President University District Patrol<br><a href="mailto:autrey@aol.com">autrey@aol.com</a><br>313-727-4194                      |
| Thomas Bauer<br>UDCA Secretary<br><a href="mailto:TABauer@ymail.com">TABauer@ymail.com</a>                                | Mary Jo Smith<br>President, Radio Patrol<br><a href="mailto:radiopatrol@udradio-patrol.org">radiopatrol@udradio-patrol.org</a><br>313-862-3754 |
| Roger Short<br>UDCA Treasurer<br><a href="mailto:shortsgateway@comcast.net">shortsgateway@comcast.net</a><br>313-549-3775 |  |



# Get your Discounted 2017 UDCA Membership by 12/31/2016

## *2017 UDCA Membership Drive is Underway*

We are now accepting payment for the 2017 UDCA Membership, which runs from 1/1/2017 – 12/31/2017. Dues are only \$60/year but if paid by 12/31/2016, we offer a \$10 discount, so dues would only be \$50!

Membership dues support neighborhood beautification, snow plowing, community website, quarterly newsletter and much much more.

We'll be accepting 2017 DUES at the December General Membership Meeting, 6:30 PM Thursday, 12/1/2016 at Gesu School. Check out the UDCA website and local neighborhood signs to confirm location. You'll be able to collect your 2017 Membership packet at the meeting so mark your calendars and plan to attend!

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## Keeping Our Neighborhood Beautiful

*by Sharon Vlahovich*

The Beautification Committee would like to send out a very big thank you to all the neighbors who helped out this past season. Neighbors tended the small gardens under our association signs at Fairfield and Seven Mile as well as at Santa Maria and Livernois. Savon Foods tended the flowers on the edge of their parking lot. The Committee would especially like to single out those neighbors who jumped in to help with watering the planters along Seven Mile in August. And a very special thanks goes to our neighbors who watered the flowers along McNichols, everyday, all summer long! Mr. & Mrs. King, your dedication was a benefit to us all. Thank you all very much!



# 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<br>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 /<br>Social Media / |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Activities            | <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Society   | Communications  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Residential Standards        | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning             | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Activity Committee                |
|   | <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      |
|  |           |            |

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**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: \_\_\_\_\_

# Advanced Disposal Fall/Winter Schedule

by UDCA Residential Standards

Fall is upon us and here are a few reminders for the coming seasons:

**YARD WASTE** is collected from April –mid November. According to DPW, our last collection date will be either November 4th or November 18th depending on weather conditions. As we know, all the leaves will not have fallen after last collection. Bags will tear once weather conditions change and spillage will occur making our community unattractive. As you may or may not know, any yard waste left at curbside after last pick-up is in violation of City Ordinance. The cost for the first offense is \$100 and increases for subsequent offenses.

Options:

- Should the UDCA hire a contractor to collect yard waste after Advanced Disposal's last pick up of the season? Are you willing to pay for this service? Let your Board know your wishes, since the City will not change its position on extending this service.
- Yard waste can be dropped off at DPW year round. Our closest location is at 19715 John R. The hours are: Spring- Fall: 10:30 am – 6pm; Lunch Hour: 2:30-3:30; Winter Hours: 8:30-4pm.

**BULK TRASH** is a year round service. The collection schedule is every other Friday.

Courvilles (regular/recycle): The schedule remains the same. Holiday collection is always delayed a day, i.e.: Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day etc. If you are uncertain about when to set out your trash, you can contact Advanced Disposal on their website: [AdvancedDisposal.com/DetroitResidential](http://AdvancedDisposal.com/DetroitResidential) or call: (844) 2-DETROIT (233-8764). If you are an UDCA member, except for holidays, check the refrigerator magnet (2016) that shows collection schedule. Most residents have been placing and removing containers at designated times. **Thank you.**

## Related Items

- Sidewalks: snow should be removed from sidewalks within twenty-four (24) hours after snow or ice has fallen or formed.
- If there is an uplifted sidewalk on your property due to trees on City



property, notify the City’s Street Maintenance Department. An inspector will render an assessment. If it is the City’s fault, the repairs are free.

- Fire Hydrants should be free of snow in case of fire.
- Keep sewer drains clear of leaves, snow, and other debris
- House Numbers should be visible from the street for emergency vehicles.

Note: Additional information can be found on the UDCA Online Website under Residential Standards Guide.



# Belden Park Clean Up A Success!

*by Phylicia Thomas*

My family and I moved to the University District November 2015. It was difficult leaving our Riverfront highrise apartment, but we had just had a baby in June and needed more space. We were looking for the perfect rental as a starter home for our growing family, and found it on Belden Street, a quaint, quiet street with a park. I grew up near here and attended Hampton Middle school as a child. My family owns a hair salon on 7 mile west of Livernois where I worked during high school, so I consider this area to be my stomping ground, my 'hood', so I was glad to be back and raise my little one here.

Belden Street is unique to the neighborhood. It is a very narrow street that only runs for two blocks and has homes on only one side. Block 1 contains only two homes and Belden Park and Block 2, my block, only has five homes. Instead of having other homes facing ours across the street, we face the back of the



homes on Fairfield. As Fall turned to Winter, then Spring, I began to notice that leaves that had fallen onto the street when we moved in were still there, and not much Spring cleaning was going on along the fence line across the street. I began to wonder who was responsible to maintain the area across the street behind the homes on Fairfield. There were areas where the weeds, trees, and bushes were so overgrown that they reached halfway into the street. We couldn't even drive down our own street without the risk of getting our cars scratched, or having to reverse back down because there was no way to pass another car. This became a hinderance also for those visiting the park. There were also other areas of concern. Starting at the corner of McNichols, there is an abandoned commercial building and 2 consecutive lots that aren't often cleaned and maintained and are sometimes used as dumping grounds. At the corner of Santa Maria & Belden there is a poorly maintained apartment building with falling tree limbs along with overgrowth and debris covering the sidewalk. Then also on Block 2, we have a vacant lot that I have never seen get cut or trimmed. It just seemed very overwhelming to think that the few of us who live on the street would have to also clean and maintain all of these problem areas.

All of these elements together created a breeding ground for suspicious

activity on our street. My neighbors & I have witnessed everything from dumping trash, drinking, smoking, and other drug use. People would park & “hide out” and do God knows what in their cars or even use the park for doing their deeds. As a member of the UDCA, I reached out to our board on several occasions only to find out that this had been an ongoing problem for years and that area along the fence line belonged to the Fairfield homeowners and couldn't be altered without permission. I was told that notices were sent, however not much



changed. Finding a stolen or abandoned car was not an uncommon sight and that was finally when I had enough. I spoke out on our Nextdoor online app about a car my husband found parking in the center of our street on bricks, wheels gone and windows busted hidden behind the overgrowth. This created a conversation about the problem and sparked an organized Belden St. Clean up Day on August 27th. The problem was so outstanding that it would require a huge effort from many of us working together to get it done. This was years and years of overgrowth, dirt, and debris. From the online conversation and feedback that Fairfield Block 1 Captain gathered from neighbors, I found that there were many different perspectives that contributed to the condition of Belden St. Some viewed Belden St as an alley, many didn't know of our street's existence, some were unable physically or financially to improve the back area, and a couple people didn't care. Overall, I think the issue was 'out of sight, out of mind.'



*Continued next page...*



I want my street to be just as beautiful and walkable as other streets in the neighborhood that I admire. Maintaining the back of our homes is just as important as maintaining the front, especially when it affects others quality of life. Organizing this clean-up helped to get one huge step closer. I was elated to see and meet so many wonderful neighbors that Saturday morning and what a transformation in such a short amount of time. Though there was a lot accomplished there was still more to do, so we scheduled a 2nd clean-up on October 1st that got rained out and postponed for the following Saturday on the 8th. We had a much smaller turn out but thanks to a few great donations and committed neighbors we able to put another dent into the task at hand. I am hoping now, in my new role as Belden Street Captain, that

we can implement Spring and Fall annual clean-ups that can also spread out to other areas of neighborhood, including Blocks 1 & 2 west of Belden, our neighborhood public school Palmer Park Prep Academy, and Belden Park. I am interested in forming a group of those who would like to be involved and work with Palmer Park Prep, so that can once again become a desirable place to send our children. Also a group to help maintain and improve Belden Park is needed. I would love to see our community host events in the park.

Together as a community we can really make change. All it takes is neighborly friendship, communication, involvement, and teamwork. If I could make this change for my street being a resident of the community for less than one year, and while pregnant with baby #2, imagine what we can accomplish by organizing and implementing our common goals.



# *You Are Invited*

## *District 2 Meeting and Holiday Event*

***Kim Tandy***

Tuesday, December 13, 2016  
6:30pm To 8:30pm  
Northwest Activities Center  
18100 Meyers Road, Detroit

### **MEETING AGENDA**

1. Neighborhood Highlight Presentation: Greenacres
2. Business Highlight: Mikes Fresh Market, Ely's
3. Unsung Hero presentation - Maria Dickerson, Jim Ward, Ronald Lockett, Beverlyn Hilton, Gail Carr
4. Angels Night thank you presentation
5. DWSD representative

Refreshments will be served and a District 2 token for all that attend.



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# November 2016 Block Captain Committee Report

by Val McPhaul

We have 63 Captain & Co-Captains on my list to date, more than 15 new or reengaged Captains. We are always revising our list as some who volunteer drop off mid-way.

**MEET THE NEW BC: Phylcia Thomas** Belden Block 1&2, Amber Hunt Oak Drive Block 3 and Warrington Block3 New Captain & Co-Captian, **Deon Hamilton & Josh Speyers** and **Clarence Gayles** Fairfield Block 7. Please add these names to the BC contact list. Current BC's are our best recruiters, please if anyone knows someone who has what it takes to be a BC please provide me with their contact information and I will invite them to our next meeting. Saturday December 7th

**SNOW MARKERS** - have been made available to BC \*\*\*ALL BC SHOULD PICK UP THE ORANGE SNOW STICK MARKERS BEFORE THE FIRST FROST\*\*\*\*\*. The markers are available at 18606 OAK DRIVE Please approach the Margareta side door you will see the sticks there. ONLY 6 per block PLEASE

**ON TRACK** As a whole we are on track actively recruiting and getting new neighbors to be involved. Three of our newest BC's are new residents less than two years. Block Captains are holding more informational meetings, hosting block parties, street clean up, newsletters and other social events. We will continue to support efforts of the Membership, Social and other committees when requested. I look forward to the participation and support of our Board members and other committees when our Block Captains reach out.

We are creating a new Hand Book/Best Practices Manual for 2017. This will be a guide for the next Block Captain Chair; our final draft will be available in the spring 2017

*Be the Change!*

# *You Are Invited*

## *UDCA Annual Meeting & Holiday Dinner*

*Friday, December 2, 2016*

*6:30pm To 8:30pm*

*Gesu Catholic School*

*17139 Oak Drive, Detroit*

### *Guest Speakers:*

*Robert C. Vowels, Jr.*

*Director of Athletics*

*University of Detroit/Mercy*



*Commander Johnny Thomas*

*Twelfth Precinct*



*Police Officer Crystal Johns*

*DPD Secondary Employment*

# Mmm!

Fall/Winter Recipe's that'll warm you up!



## Veggie Curried Lentils

- 1 cup whole small green lentils, sorted and rinsed
- 2 ¼ cups low sodium broth (vegetable or chicken)
- ¼ cup white wine
- 1 tsp. course black pepper (freshly grinded)
- 2 tsp. curry powder (madras or hot)
- 2 tbsp. No Chop Vegetable Blend (you can purchase at Rocky's in Easter Market, or use an All Purpose (vegetable based) Seasoning)
- Salt to taste-

Add lentils, broth, wine and seasonings (except salt) to a sauce pan and bring to a rapid boil. Reduce heat to low, cover with a tight lid and simmer until tender and there is broth like liquid still in the pan, 30-35 minutes. Salt to taste and serve with crackers (flax crackers featured in picture)

Add toppings of your choice such as:

Caramelized onions, sautéed red peppers, cooked (sliced) sausage or chorizo, pine nuts, balsamic glaze or fried onions.

Recipe and Photo by: Elizabeth Mays

# Obama Pound Cake

by Asenath Andrews

MY family took what I've come to learn was a pretty typical summer trip. My mother was born in Marianna, Arkansas and my dad in Selma, Alabama. My mom moved to Detroit in 1922 when she was only four. My dad came here in his early 20's. But every Summer sometime in July they would pack up 4 kids and the occasional extra relative to travel "home". How the south could still be considered "home" was a mystery to my brother and me, but off we went "homeward" bound. My mother was the master of travel packing. I thought everyone traveled like we did. I also thought everyone began their trips in the dead of night. I was later to learn that the reason we had such a comprehensive though delightfully packed car and our nocturnal departure time were all related to the vicious and dangerous perils imposed on us by racism. But our car had 1 bleach bottle of soapy water, one of clean water, one glass bottle of drinking water, fried chicken (of course) grapes, apples, boiled eggs, homemade rolls and POUND CAKE sliced and individually wrapped in wax paper. And off we went.

One of the many many people who went to Washington D.C. to be eyewitnesses to the dream no longer deferred- The first inaugural ceremony for president Barak Obama, was a friend named Zena. She and 5 other excited, elated, anxious, thrilled women set off to be there in the midst. Zena called me and said "girl you know how our folks used to drive everywhere and how they ate all along the way? Well that's what we are going to do. In respect for our history I think we must have the ubiquitous POUND CAKE for the road." (Much of this talk and nod to history was to convince me to make the cake for their trek. - I was not fooled. But if I couldn't go at least I could honor the struggles of my parents, grandparents, great-grandparents and countless others by sending a "for the road" Pound Cake that has come to be known as OBAMA CAKE.

**Obama Cake** - This is a big cake and I sometimes make a small loaf and fill the bundt pan. All ingredients should be at room temperature

1 C BUTTER  
½ C solid shortening (I use Butter flavored Crisco)  
3 C sugar  
5 eggs  
3 C flour  
½ t baking powder  
1 C milk  
1 t each of vanilla extract, rum extract, lemon extract,  
butter flavor, coconut extract, almond extract

PREHEAT OVEN TO 330 DEGREES

Butter and flour pan/pans

Cream butter, sugar & shortening. Beat until light and FLUFFY. (this is really the secret to a texture that would pass any church kitchen inspection) Add one egg at a time fully incorporating each one. Sift flour and baking powder (if you don't have a sifter I use a whisk) Add flavors & extracts to milk Add 1/3 of flour mixture to butter sugar mixture beat only until it's incorporated add ½ milk flavor liquid beat to incorporate repeat ending with final cup of flour

Pour into prepared pans. Bake for about 50 -60 minutes or until a tooth pick comes out clean and it's golden brown. Cool in pan for 10 minutes turn out onto a cooling rack. Make the coffee, tea, lemonade, or milk and have a slice of warm cake. As you savor each bite remember your ancestors and toast to the legacy they left you.

Gild the Lilly? OPTIONAL LEMON GLAZE- put the Juice of 1 lemon ½ C sugar 2T water in a heavy bottom sauce pan bring to a gentle boil. Let it simmer until it is reduced. Brush on warm cake. It will harden when cooled to a light delicious glaze.



*Your home tour 2016 was inspiring & motivating!  
Just wanted to share how much I enjoyed your  
beautiful, thoughtful home. Thank you for sharing  
all your care, craft and unbelievable collections with  
tourists. Ashlee -- Parkside*

# -- 2016 --







*Thank you for opening your home during the University District Home Tour. Your home particularly touched us with the inspiring and thought provoking African American art and artifacts. Your placement of pieces made our appreciation for your home increase. Regards, Joe & De*

# Home Tour



*Was excited before I even entered your home I held up the line observing the art work going up the stairs (the McKinley is my favorite) Thank you for allowing your home to be on tour.*  
*Anonymous Visitor*

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*"...We never left Detroit  
behind; we just rebranded,  
renamed, and relocated."*

*-Ms. Elizabeth Mays*

# Help Wanted!

The Newsletter Committee is anticipating a fresh look in 2017.  
We need your assistance.



## Newsletter photographer

Are you kinda proud of the pictures you take? Are you able to capture the delight in the eyes of people? Be our community James Van Der Zee

## Graphic Designer

Have an eye? See layout? Understand balance, texture, color and people? Give us a hand.

## Staff Writers-

Wish you could contribute to the collective consciousness of our neighborhood? Have time to write about things of interest to our community, join us

## Newsletter advertising representative

Our publication needs to be self-sustaining. To do that, we need that go-getter who can sell ads and convince folks to support us.



Please contact Newsletter Editor **Brenda Goss Andrews**  
[bgossandrews@gmail.com](mailto:bgossandrews@gmail.com)



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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.

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