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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello residents of UDCA,

The summer of 2022 has been a good time to be a member of the University District Community Association. The Special Assessment District (SAD), after several false starts, was approved by City Council in June 2022. Thank you to Sid Bailey and Mary Tomich for getting SAD into the end zone! The first home tour after the pandemic of 2020 was a great success. People were looking for social interaction that was missing to a large degree in the years 2020-2021. I could see it in the neighbor's and visitor's smiles as they lined up to buy tickets for the tour. Thank you Dinah Dittman and Lisa Jones, and all of the home tour volunteers, for all your hard work!

During the year we also received grant funds from Congressman Elect Shri Thanedar as our State Representative. These grants were used to provide flowers in the planters on Six and Seven Mile and flowers on Curtis and Livernois. There are plans in the works for Bird and Butterfly Gardens in several locations in the District - stay tuned. Thank you to Congressman Elect Thanedar and his staff.

Also, the UDCA Board would like to acknowledge and welcome the arrival of Father Lorn Snow, as the new administrator at the Gesu Parish. We look forward to the revival of the long relationship UDCA shared with the Parish.

As we look toward year-end, the General Resident Meeting will be held on December 13th, at 6:00pm and it will be face-to-face as we did last year. We have secured the Gesu facility for the meeting and hope that we will have a great turnout as we did last year. Thank you, Father Lorn.

The theme of the General Membership is volunteerism. At this meeting we are planning to have Councilmember Angela Calloway honor three block captains for their many years of service.

Please, as the fall and winter approach, remove all vehicles from our streets when notified by the City or UDCA so sweepers and snow plow vehicles can effectively get their jobs done. Please notify Residential Standards of any "abandoned" vehicles (not moved in a 48-hour period) that you see in our neighborhood.

As we look to 2023, the UDCA is planning a dinner-dance and other great social events. Please stay tuned for more details.

Thank you all for your support of the UDCA and look forward to a great wrap up of 2022!



ROGER SHORT UDCA President 2022

WILBERT FRANKLIN SMALL, JR



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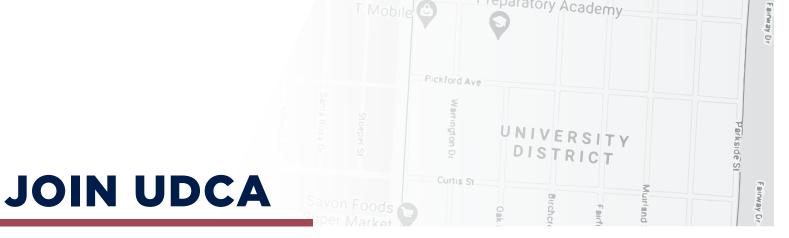
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UPDATES TO UDCA MEMBERSHIP DUES

For years, the optional but encouraged \$60 annual dues have allowed the UDCA to provide amazing social events, this newsletter, snow plowing, and much more. With the introduction of the Special Assessment District, all households will contribute funds for snow plowing, security and mosquito abatement via their tax bill. The UDCA still encourages all residents to pay their annual dues so we can continue to fund events like the Home Tour, Harvest Fest, and our biannual meetings. Additionally, your dues contribute to beautification efforts in the neighborhood, communication, and more. Please continue to pay your UDCA dues so we can continue to enjoy so many of the things that make our neighborhood great.

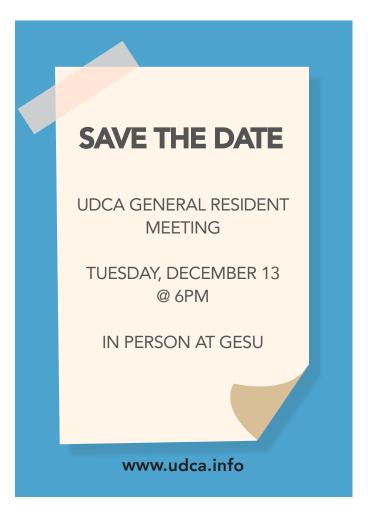
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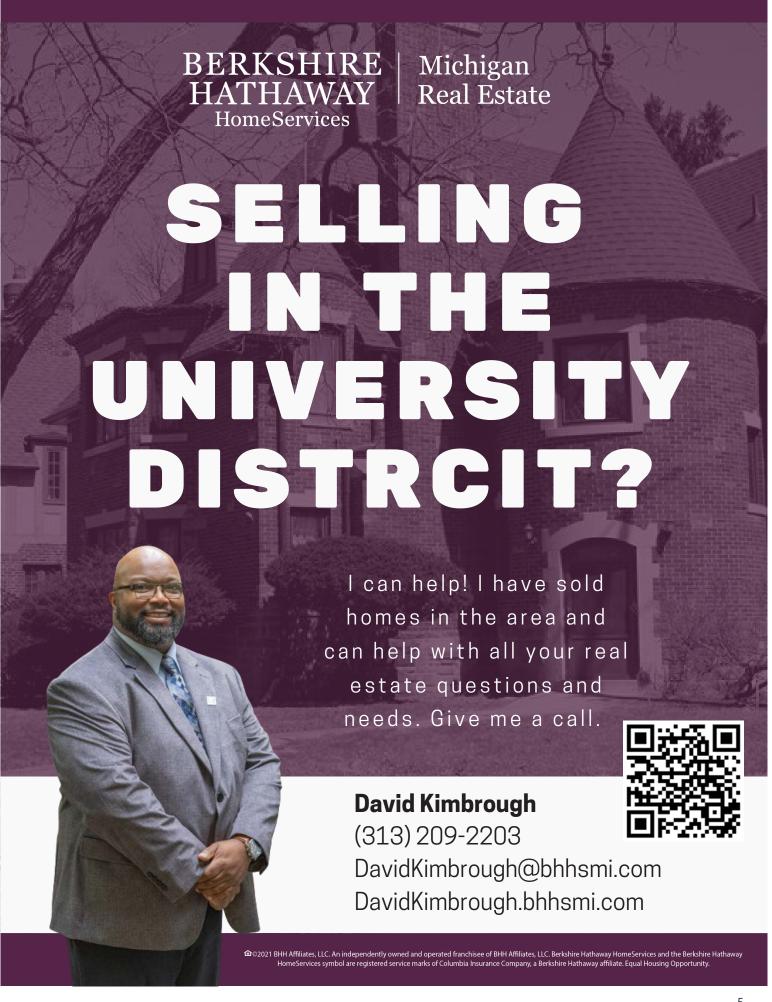
- simply go to https://www.udca.info/newmember/
and pay, and you'll be automatically enrolled in annual
payments. We've recently changed membership
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payments, please navigate to our website and pay your
2023 dues so you are enrolled again.

If you prefer to pay by cash or check, simply email **communications@udca.info** and we'll ensure the Membership Committee gets in touch with you.

And if you'd like to volunteer on the membership or SAD committees, please email us and we'll get you connected with these teams.

THANK YOU FOR CONTINUING TO SUPPORT THE UDCA!





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After cancellation in 2020 due to COVID-19, the biennial University District Home Tour took place on Saturday, September 10th from 10:00am - 6:00pm. We create this event every two years to share the love of the neighborhood and of Detroit and its residents. All Saints Episcopal Church graciously hosted the start of the tour, lending us their lawns and parking lot all day.

"The University District community was thrilled to welcome visitors to take a guided walk through seven beautiful, architecturally diverse homes in one of Detroit's most historic neighborhoods," said Roger Short, President of the UDCA Board of Directors. "The University District Home Tour literally opens the doors to private homes, lovingly restored and preserved, so that visitors have a truly special opportunity to see period details as well as respectful renovations."

Seven households on Parkside, Fairfield and Wildemere opened their homes this year to show how to live in modern times with an older home.

They put many hours into making sure that their homes and yards were "ready for company" and looking fine. The homeowners on this year's tour included: Lisa & Nick Cunningham; Debbie Dendel; Rainy Hamilton, Jr.; Jean Ingersoll & Danny Gough; Amy Lange & Michael Shore, Jim Orlando; and Heather & Joe Vercellino. They wrote narratives for the Tour Book, sharing their experiences in discovering features and "hidden gems" in their houses, and decisions made about restoration, preservation and renovation. Their care and attention to detail really impressed the 650 people who toured the homes.

Betty Davis, Docent Team Leader, commented "The homes are unique and beautiful, for sure. During the Home Tour, the Docents placed in each room, make being in the home an extra special experience for the guests. They share not only the room's architectural details, but also anecdotes and histories of the people who lived there."

There were several "firsts" this time:

- UDCA piloted the use of Facebook ads, both to promote the Home Tour and to test how the ads might build awareness of UDCA overall.
- Social media and earned media (including a feature on Fox2Detroit News!) helped to spread the word, and get people making plans to visit Detroit.
- Eventbrite facilitated online ticket purchases; 464 tickets were sold electronically and 39 through phone orders. (The day of the event, another 207 people showed up and purchased tickets!)
- People for Palmer Park, Detroit Public Theatre,
 University of Detroit Mercy Theatre shared information about their community-based work
- Charitable donations were received from Detroit-based corporations and foundations, including AAA, DTE, ALDI, Trader Joe's and Michigan First Credit Union
- New and Long-Time Avenue of Fashion business advertised in the Tour Book, including Pequeño Cantina, Mike's Fresh Market, and Baker's Keyboard Lounge
- A Health & Safety Supplies table was placed at Registration, and everyone was given free face masks, hand sanitizer, and shoe covers for the tour, as well as water to stay hydrated along the route

And we preserved successful practices of prior University District Home Tours:

- Experienced volunteers orienting new volunteers
- Knowledgeable docents in the homes on the tour
- Block Captains engaged in making sure residents knew of the event
- UDCA Board support and involvement
- Reasonable ticket prices
- Warm and gracious hospitality in the University District
- Neat and clean neighborhood sidewalks and front yards

"The beautiful weather this year helped to make it a successful day, thanks to many University District resident volunteers who worked together over a six-month time period. Planning started in April, confirming the homeowners/homes on the tour, reaching out to recruit volunteers, sponsors and partners, and putting pieces in place to have a safe and healthy event.

There was extra effort across the neighborhood to clean up after a major windstorm that caused tree damage, blocked streets, scattered debris and caused a power outage 10 days before the Home Tour. Altogether, 100+ people gave 1,300+ hours of their time to create and deliver the event, which raised about \$4,500 for UDCA. If you calculate the dollar value of the volunteers' time, it's over \$35,000 (the value of a volunteer hour in Michigan is \$28.35, according to the nonprofit research organization, Independent Sector). We absolutely could not have done this without the homeowners, volunteers, neighbors and sponsors all pulling together," declared Dinah Dittman, Co-Chair of the University District Home Tour 2022.

Outreach to other Detroit historic neighborhood organizations and communities of interest helped to yield those very good results; people were so excited to know that the University District Home Tour was back on for 2022. Some people traveled many miles to participate: they enthusiastically shared the stories of their journeys. A couple of Facebook Historic Home Group friends - an interior designer, from Chicago and an architect from Cleveland - met up in Detroit (the first time they'd been here) specifically to attend the Home Tour. Fellow Michiganders from Charlevoix joined their friends from Ann Arbor to spend the day in Detroit, after going on the Home Tour. And others, who live nearby now but used to live in the neighborhood, came back to see friends and family and reconnect with the community, as well as to tour the homes.

Lisa Jones, UDCA Board Member and Co-Chair of the 2022 event, remarked, "As notable as the architecture is here, when people ask me, 'What makes the University District so special?' I tell them it's the people who live here and have made conscious choices to be part of this wonderful community. Some residents have lived here 50+ years, and some have just moved in. We appreciate everyone in this diverse and vibrant community."

Planning for the 2024 University District Home Tour will start in April 2023. If you think you might like to be involved, please email UDCAHomeTour@outlook.com.



































Your annual \$60 UDCA dues help fund many incredible events in our community, and the annual Harvest Fest celebration is no exception.

This year, we were grateful to also welcome sponsorship from JTA Realtors and Phlebotomy Express. Their generous support helped fund a bounce house, petting zoo, hot dogs, donuts, cider, and an amazing DJ that kept the party going all afternoon. A big thanks goes out to UDCA Board Members Kesha McKinney for leading this event and Joann Roberts for offering her beautiful yard for the fest. Can't wait to do it again next fall.

feetinal



























UPDATE FROM OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMMUNITY DISTRICT SCHOOL:

PALMER PARK PREP

We've had an exciting start to the 2022-23 school year at our neighborhood DPSCD school, Palmer Park Preparatory Academy. We began the year with a lengthy waitlist of families from the neighborhood and beyond interested in attending Palmer Park Prep. The district responded by adding a 5th Pre-K/K classroom. The school now has 10 Montessori classrooms that serve students through grade 6, and will be adding a 7th-8th grade classroom next year as it continues with the plan to be a wall-to-wall Montessori school within the next 5 years.

The students and staff are excited to return to a bit of normalcy after the last couple years. The UDCA also is serving as fiduciary for a \$45,000 grant to improve the outdoor space at the school. Over the year the PTA, led by University District resident Brandy Mitchell, will be looking to the neighborhood for additional support. Here are some ways you can support the students and staff at Palmer Park Prep:

- Make a financial donation or join the PTA:
 https://palmerparkpta.memberhub.com/store
- Get registered as a volunteer with the district and volunteer at the school
- Write a note to the staff and students expressing your appreciation of their hard work

If you are interested in learning more about any of these opportunities, please reach out to **communications@udca.info.**















ABOUT PALMER PARK PREP:

Palmer Park Preparatory Academy, "Home of the Premiers," offers a unique academic balance with an exceptional Montessori and traditional learning experience for students.

PreK-6th Grade Montessori Program is designed to allow our students to explore, learn and blossom independently at their own pace.

Traditional 4th - 8th grade program provides students access to engaging, innovative curricula such as EL Education, Eureka, Schoology, and Zern.

We embrace the district's blueprint Whole Child Commitment, promote overall student wellness, and foster positive behavior in many ways, including counseling services, and proven practices like calm classroom, PBIS, and Restorative Justice.

PALMER PARK PREPARATORY ACADEMY WEBSITE:

www.detroitk12.org/palmerpark

PARENTS OF PALMER PARK PREP FACEBOOK PAGE:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/parentsofP3A

TWITTER:

@AcademyPalmer

For enrollment information or info about how you can get involved/volunteer with the school, email the school staff:

Principal Christa Reeves, christa.reeves@detroitk12.org

Vice Principal Marion Minnis, marion.minnis@detroitk12.org

Dean of Culture Willie Jenkins, willie.jenkins@detroitk12.org









As businesses bounce back from the pandemic, University District residents are fortunate to have a wide variety of new and refreshed businesses to enjoy.

Among them:

WELCOME HOME YOGA & WELLNESS

Welcome **Home Yoga & Wellness**, co-founded and owned by partners Robyn and Melissa Childers opened in October. The couple wanted to offer a place in the neighborhood where everyone feels welcome to practice yoga and find comfort, connection and wellness.

In addition to a variety of yoga classes, it offers a diverse array of massages.

"We have yoga classes for everyone," says Robyn, who teaches and runs the yoga side of the business. "If you can breathe, you can do yoga."

It opened in what was formerly, the once-popular B.Siegel department store. "We saw an opportunity to turn blight into an asset for the community," Robyn says.

They also had a personal reason for wanting to be in the area. One of their first dates was a picnic at nearby Palmer Park.

To help ensure yoga is accessible to everyone, they will offer scholarships offering free unlimited yoga to 10 people annually.

Welcome Home Yoga & Wellness, 6375 W. 7 Mile Road, Suite 103. www.welcomehomeyoga.com | 313-917-7579

BARKS FIFTH AVENUE

Barks Fifth Avenue offers luxury clothing and accessories for dogs. Owner Candace Williams opened it in April after noticing an increasing number of people walking their dogs along the Avenue of Fashion. She had long worked there alongside her mother, Paulette Williams, who owns Teasers Boutique, which is next door. Paulette Williams shop, which specializes in women's clothing, has been on the Avenue of Fashion for 15 years.

"I've always been into fashion; now I just have a new focus," daughter Candace Williams says.

Barks Fifth Avenue offers shirts, hats, coats and jackets, among other items for dogs. There's even a doggie fitting room.

Additionally, it offers grooming for dogs.

Barks Fifth Ave., 19359 Livernois www.barksfifth.com, 313-731-1800.

MOTOR CITY BREWING WORKS

Motor City Brewing Works reopened in October after being shut down by the pandemic. It offers a wide variety of beers brewed at its main location in Midtown Detroit. But it also offers an assortment of sandwiches, burgers, pizza and other food.

Eventually, it plans to brew beers at the Livernois location in an area visible from the street, said manager Zach Massad.

In addition to cozy indoor seating, complete with a fireplace; there's an outdoor courtyard, available when weather permits.

Motor City Brewing Company, 19350 Livernois motorcitybeer.com | 313-832-2700, Ext. 2

PEQUEÑO CANTINA

Pequeño Cantina offers an authentic taco and tequila bar. It celebrated its one-year anniversary in October.

It prides itself in selling fresh food and drinks. "Everything is made in-house; nothing is canned," says manager Jaclyn Slater. "Nothing is canned!"

17

The name "Pequeño" is Spanish for little and the décor captures the charm of a little Mexican restaurant.

Pequeño, 19329 Livernois https://b-hconsultinginc.com/pequeno/ | 313-422-9088

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RENOVATED LOCKEROOM

CARRIES ON TRADITION OF LEGENDARY GREAT GATHERING SPOT

BY CASSANDRA SPRATLING

When the pandemic shut down businesses for almost two years, it was a blessing in disguise for Angela Wright, best known as DJ Lynda Carter, who has owned the Lockeroom on Livernois since 2018. She used the down time to transform the popular spot into what it was meant to be when it opened almost four decades ago.

"The Lockeroom was intended to be a bar for sports enthusiasts," Carter says. "The closure gave me an opportunity to bring that vision to life—to create a space in the neighborhood that's a true authentic sports bar."

The Lockeroom has long been a popular place for city leaders, police officers, and white collar and blue-collar workers. "We just took it up a notch," Carter says. "It's a neighborhood legacy bar known for good people, good cocktails, sports and good food."



Carrying on the tradition of a great gathering spot in the neighborhood was important to Carter because she lives here and cares about the community. She's been a resident of the University District since 2009.

Among the attractive renovations are eye-popping red and black furniture, a mural that features her and other longtime workers and customers, and a three-panel silver backsplash along the back walls. A wall was knocked out in the front to create an opening onto Livernois that lets fresh air in and-- when weather permits-- extends seating to the outdoors. Additionally, there are big screen and small screen TV's everywhere inside so sports fans are guaranteed not to miss a play, no matter where they're sitting in the establishment that seats close to 90 people.

Also new since its September 17 reopening is a Lockeroom food truck parked beside the building that features the club's new red and black logo. Among other tasty treats, the food truck serves burgers, catfish bites, and a vegan chicken sandwich named in her honor, the Lynda Carter. Speaking of names, there are several drinks that pay homage to Detroit, including a University District drink composed of two rums, melon liquor, Blue Curacao, pineapple juice and sour mix.



And, what about her adopted name—Lynda Carter. She took it from the star of the '70s TV show Wonder Woman. And, like the fictional heroine, she's a fearless warrior woman committed to making the world a better place.

You'll find Carter jamming behind the DJ booth from 4 to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays. Working as a DJ sparked her interest in opening her own club. She opened her first in 2011, The Mix Bricktown in downtown Detroit.

"It's my life's passion," she discovered. "You know how God gives you an assignment. Mine is to facilitate people enjoying their life, whether it's by DJing or these bars."

She refuses to categorize music played at The Lockeroom. "It's just great music that crosses genres," she says.

The Lockeroom caters to the mature clientele-- 35 and up. "It's a place where people have good memories, or come to make good memories," she says.

The Lockeroom, 18290 Livernois, is open daily, from 2 p.m. to midnight every day, except Saturday and Sunday when it opens at noon.

HOUSING AND PROPERTY TAX ASSISTANCE



If you cannot pay your taxes for financial reasons, you may be able to reduce or eliminate your current year's property tax obligation with the Homeowners Property Exemption (HOPE).

You may be eligible for financial assistance (up to \$25,000) to pay for taxes, homeowner's insurance and specific utilities through federal and state assistance programs specifically for homeowners. In Detroit, to qualify, an individual's income needs to be under about \$79,000 per year.

Wayne Metro Community Action Agency, is equipped to help people navigate these assistance programs. Visit their website to learn more: https://detroithope.timetap.com/#/

This social service agency helps homeowners with the application process for funding. If homeowners are also eligible for other assistance/subsidy programs, the agency can help with that, too.

The Michigan Homeowner Assistance Fund (MIHAF) was created through the COVID-related American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The federal government allocated money for Michigan to administer. The Wayne Metro Community Action Agency focuses specifically on Detroit homeowners, since there are additional resources available for Detroiters that other cities don't have. Detroit is receiving these resources because of past inequities in property tax administration.

If you need assistance making payments on your mortgage/escrow, property taxes, utilities, orl internet, reach out to the Wayne Metro Community Action Agency to see if they can help.

WAYNE METRO COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY

PHONE: 313.388.9799 TTY: 7-1-1

EMAIL: WMCONNECTCENTER@WAYNEMETRO.ORG

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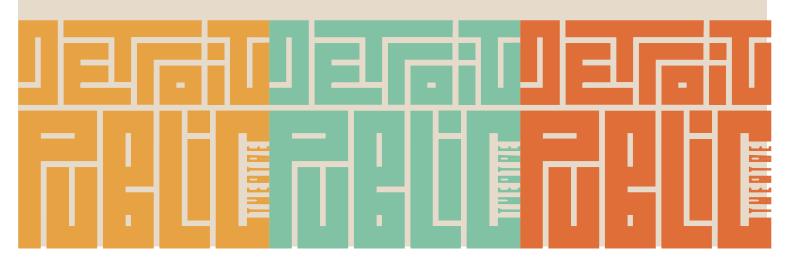
THE PECULIAR PATRIOT

By Liza Jesse Peterson February 8 - March 5

PASSING STRANGE

By Stew and Heidi Rodenwald April 19 - May 21

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WELCOME DETROIT MERCY PRESIDENT DONALD B. TAYLOR

Our Community Association (UDCA) welcomes the new president of University of Detroit Mercy, Dr. Donald B. Taylor.

Prior to joining Detroit Mercy on July 1 of this year, Taylor served eight years as president of Cabrini University, a private Roman Catholic University in Radnor Township, Pennsylvania, near Philadelphia. During his tenure as president at Cabrini, he focused on strategic initiatives to strengthen the Catholic liberal arts education experience for the University's diverse population of undergraduate and graduate students, while also focusing on partnerships and programs. He also played an instrumental role in helping Cabrini transition from a college to a university in 2016.

Prior to serving as Cabrini's president, Dr. Taylor spent 22 years at Benedictine University in Lisle, Ill., where he served as provost and chief academic officer from 2008 to 2014, among other leadership roles. He was integral in the evolution of Benedictine University from a small, residential liberal arts college of 1,000 students to a comprehensive doctoral institution of more than 10,000 students with branch campuses in Springfield, IL, and Mesa, Ariz.

Dr. Taylor earned a B.S. in education and a Ph.D. in Cell and Molecular Biology from the University of Memphis and currently lives in University Commons with his wife, Lechia, and their son, Seth.

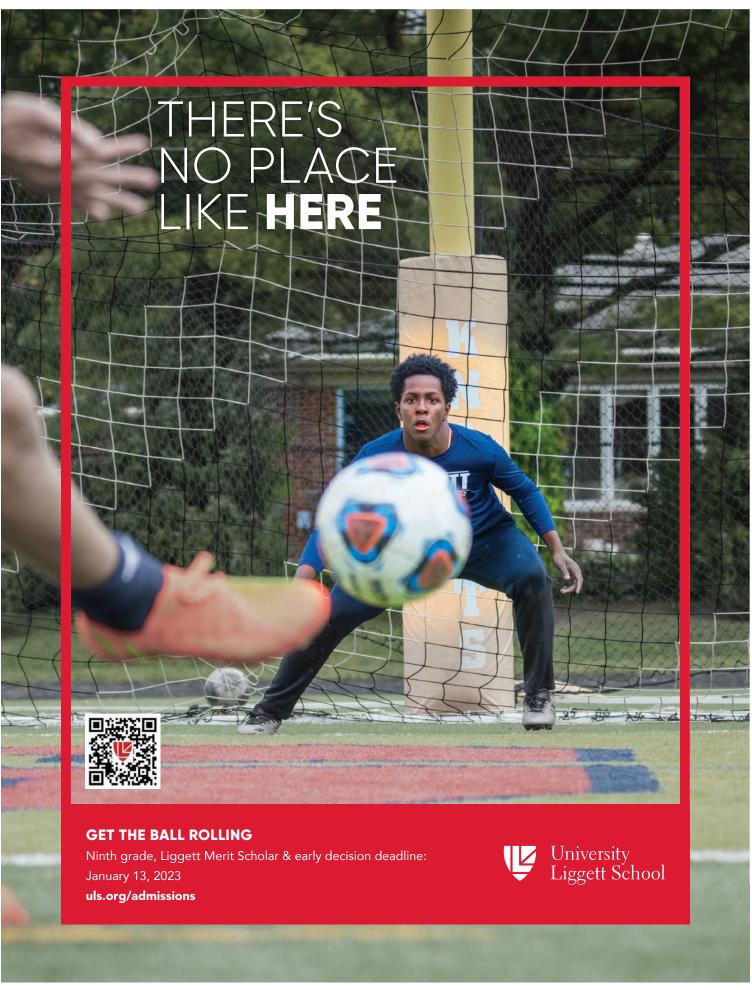
To learn more about Dr. Taylor, please visit https://www.udmercy.edu/about/news/articles/2022/07-01-new-president-donald-taylor-beginstenure.php.

2022 PALMER PARK PREP | **SUMMER CLEANUP**











men's or women's basketball game at Calihan Hall during the 2022-23 season.



CALIHAN HALL PASS

FREE ADMISSION for you and a guest to any men's or women's basketball game at Calihan Hall during the 2022-23 season.



CALIHAN HALL PASS

FREE ADMISSION for you and a guest to the men's basketball game and Winterblast on Feb. 4.











CATCH UP WITH MORE STORIES FROM THE UNIVERSITY DISTRICT ONLINE AT UDCA.INFO



As a resident and member of the UDCA Board of Directors, you can trust Jay Taylor to sell you home!

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