

# UDCA NEWSLETTER

Fall 2024 | Issue 001

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## OUR NEW HYBRID FORMAT!

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home's value.

313-410-1149  
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[@jtarealtors](https://www.instagram.com/jtarealtors)



WELCOME BACK TO OUR

# UDCA NEWSLETTER

Dear University District Neighbors,

As we bask in the warmth of a soon-ending summer and revel in the beauty of our vibrant community, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you who support the University District monetarily and through volunteerism. Your economic support helps to fund community events, beautification projects, and keep a steady communication cadence with residents. Offering your time to help complete community initiatives is hard work that does not go unnoticed, and it is a fantastic way to stay connected to one another. These efforts are invaluable and help to maintain the positive culture of our neighborhood.

The culture of the University District is well rooted in the relationships with our neighbors. I encourage you all to take full advantage of the opportunity for life-long friendships that exist in the University District. Make an effort to get to know new neighbors who have recently moved in. A friendly hello or a small gesture of kindness can make a world of difference as they settle into our neighborhood. Let's show them the warmth and camaraderie that makes the University District so special.

Finally, let's also take advantage of the remaining summer days. Our neighborhood is bursting with opportunities for enjoyment and relaxation. From taking an early evening stroll, or attending events on the Avenue of Fashion, to activities at our surrounding parks, there is something for everyone to enjoy. As you'll read more about in this newsletter, our signature event, the University District Home Tour is coming up quickly and is an amazing way to spend your Saturday on September 14th.

Thank you once again for your continued support and dedication to the University District. Here's to the rest of a wonderful summer filled with joy, connection, and a strong sense of community! Warm regards,

Erin Moss Ferguson  
UDCA President

[president@udca.info](mailto:president@udca.info)



**“Make an effort to get to know new neighbors who have recently moved in. A friendly hello or a small gesture of kindness can make a world of difference as they settle into our neighborhood.”**



# This season in the University District

## August

- 10** Fun Fitness with Neighbors  
1PM Saturdays @ Belden Park  
Aug 10, 17, 24, Sept 7, 14  
[Sign Up Here!](#)
- 26** Back to school!  
DPSCD & Gesu

## September

- 14** UDCA Home Tour  
[Buy Your Tickets Online at Eventbrite Here!](#)
- 21** Palmer Park Harvest Festival  
[peopleforpalmerpark.org/events](http://peopleforpalmerpark.org/events)  
for More Info
- 30** UDCA Board Elections  
Candidate Deadline  
[Apply to Become a UDCA Board Candidate Here!](#)

## October

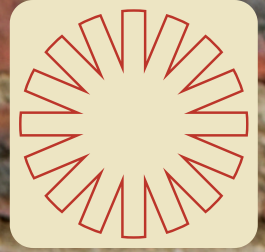
- 5** UDCA Fall Harvest Fest  
17304 Parkside St  
Details Coming Soon





# BE THE CHANGE YOU WANT TO SEE IN UD

By Aniebiet McCloud



**A**s a Block Captain you are the liaison for your neighbors, keeping them informed and connected with UDCA information. Effective communication and friendly engagement are the most important aspects of what we do.

Other Block Captain Responsibilities:

- Meeting your neighbors, creating a sense of community on your street
- Maintain a contact sheet for neighbors for a smooth flow of neighborhood-related updates and events
- Organize Annual Block Activities to increase neighborly engagement
- Relay opportunities for neighborhood improvement to the UDCA Board via the Block Captain Chair

## **Interested in Becoming a Block Captain?**

We have a few open Block Captain positions we are looking to fill. If you are considering becoming an integral part of University District and increasing neighborly connection, we are looking for you! Stay tuned for updates on the upcoming Block Captain Interest Event!

## **CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Aniebiet McCloud - Block Captain Chair  
562-225-5330 [annie.mccloud3@gmail.com](mailto:annie.mccloud3@gmail.com)

Peter Wolf - Block Captain Co-Chair  
313-415-0479 [pwolf2511@comcast.net](mailto:pwolf2511@comcast.net)





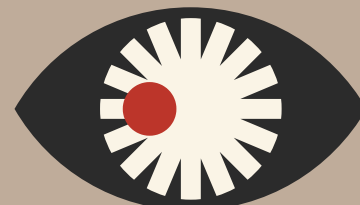
# Make an impact **JOIN THE BOARD**

The University District Community Association (UDCA) Board is seeking candidates interested in fulfilling the mission of the Board for a 3-year term that begins in 2025. One third (5) of the Board members' terms expire each year to ensure that stability and consistency on the Board is maintained while providing the opportunity for inclusion of new members and perspectives.

To be eligible to run and serve on the Board, a resident must be a current paid member of the UDCA and remain a paid member throughout the three-year term. Board members attend a monthly meeting and the semi-annual General Membership meetings, vote on issues, attend UDCA-sponsored social functions, serve on at least one committee and report on activities as required, and represent the Board to the community. Board members are also encouraged to submit articles to the newsletter. **Service entails approximately 5 hours per month from each Board member.**

**Applications are due by September 30, 2024.**

**Apply to become a**  
**UDCA Board Candidate here!**  
**[udca.info/about-us/elections](https://udca.info/about-us/elections)**





Home Tour visitors can appreciate historic details throughout all 6 featured homes

# 2024 UDCA HOME TOUR

Are you ready to experience the charm, history, and unique character of one of Detroit's most beloved, historic neighborhoods? **Mark your calendar for Saturday, September 14, 2024, 10am – 5pm**, when the University District will be on full display as it showcases six of its most beautiful homes. We are thrilled to invite you to this biannual event that epitomizes the very best of our neighborhood's architecture and community spirit.

By Home Tour Co-Chairs Lisa Jones & Dinah Dittman  
Photography by Jason Willis



# Explore Historic Homes with Modern Flair



## Glimpse into the Past, Present, and Future

Step back in time and soak in the elegance of Detroit's rich architectural history. Our Home Tour features a selection of historic homes that blend old world charm and modern style. Each property tells a unique story and offers a glimpse into Detroit's distinguished past and the present owners' visions. Imagine wandering through rooms with original hardwood floors, crown moldings, and tasteful renovations that bring together the old and the new.

## Meet the Dreamers Behind the Homes

This isn't just a tour of houses; it is a chance to meet the passionate homeowners (your neighbors) who are inviting us into their homes to celebrate the splendor of the University District. As you tour the homes and walk through the neighborhood, you will feel the energy, dedication and spirit that makes this community so special. Through profiles written by each of the owners, and the docents who will be your tour guides, you will witness how the homeowners have preserved the soul of their homes while adding personal touches that make each home truly unique.

## Immerse Yourself in Our Community

Beyond the beautiful homes, this tour offers an opportunity to immerse yourself in our community. Enjoy delicious treats from food vendors that will be stationed in the neighborhood, discover (and re-discover) the local businesses along the revitalized Avenue of Fashion, or simply hang out and have a good time.

**Buy tickets at  
Eventbrite.com here!**

## Volunteers Needed!

Forty volunteers are needed on September 14, in 2-hour shifts, from 8AM-6PM to staff Registration and other duties. To volunteer, please email [udcahometour@outlook.com](mailto:udcahometour@outlook.com) or call or text UDCA at 313-318-7498.

# GET TO KNOW A NEIGHBOR

Stories and Photography by Miranda Suman

**A community like ours is created  
with diversity at its core.**

The University District embodies one of the most racially, economically, spiritually, and socially diverse neighborhoods in all of Metro Detroit. We want to celebrate that diversity by featuring two neighbors each season in our newsletter, long-time residents of our community and new ones.





# GET TO KNOW A NEIGHBOR

## BOBBIE JOHNSON



Bobbie at her piano with a portrait of her created by her grand-niece, Tracy Crump

### NEIGHBOR FAST FACTS

#### Years as a UD Resident

54 Years on Wildemere

#### Family Raised in UD

5 children & many others who stayed in her home

#### Career & Hobbies

Retired Detroit Public Schools  
Special Ed Teacher &  
Pianist & piano teacher  
Poetry & Writing  
Genealogy & Scrapbooking

At soon to be 91 years old, Bobbie Johnson has been a beloved fixture in our community for over 50 years. Her University District journey began in 1970 when she, her husband, and their five children moved to the neighborhood.

Bobbie's early years were marked by her dedication to both education and music. She started her teaching career in her hometown of Grand Rapids and then later in Detroit as a Special Education teacher at Detroit

Public Schools and taught piano lessons on the side. Her musical influence and encouragement can be seen in her family members, with several of her children and grandchildren becoming professional musicians, artists, writers, athletes, and entrepreneurs as adults.

Throughout her life, Bobbie's home has held profound significance for her family. Affectionately calling it a "revolving door," she recalls a constant flow of friends and family who have called it home over the years, "They were always welcome here, and I love that they felt at home and safe."

The walls of her home are filled with artwork. Her collection began with pieces from her brother and world-renowned realist painter, Paul Collins, and now has grown to feature works from her many artist children and grandchildren. This collection symbolizes her and her family's artistic legacy and her nurturing and creative spirit.



One of Bobbie's greatest joys has been the diverse and vibrant community around her. She values the mix of all ages, races, and beliefs that characterize her neighborhood. Her enduring love for her home and the relationships she has built reflect a rich, fulfilling life that continues to inspire those around her.

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*Have a neighbor you'd like to nominate for our next newsletter?  
Email [communications@udca.info](mailto:communications@udca.info) about your nominee!*



# GET TO KNOW A NEIGHBOR GEORGE MIKLA & KHAYMAN JONES



George and Khayman pose with portraits of themselves painted by Khayman

## NEIGHBOR FAST FACTS

### Years as a UD Resident

2 Years on Muirland

### Hometown

George: Detroit Metro

Khayman: Cincinnati, Ohio

### Career

George: Technical Director

Khayman: DPSCD Teacher K-12

In 2022, George and Khayman received an intriguing call from close friends: “Are you interested in being our next-door neighbors?” Their friends had bought a home in the University District a year earlier, and the neighboring house was up for sale. A few months later, George and Khayman had the keys and began working on needed repairs. The house required a kitchen and both second-floor

bathrooms to be redone before they could move in.

George splits his time between Los Angeles and Detroit, working as a freelance technical director in the live sports broadcast industry. He spends much of his workday directing cameras for live NFL, PGA, and NCAA events and has earned several Emmy Awards for Technical Directing. Although he often works in LA, Detroit has always felt like home, as George grew up in SE Michigan.

Khayman, originally from Cincinnati, moved to SE Michigan with his family at 17 and attended Wayne State University. He now works as a K-12 art teacher at DPSCD. Khayman enjoys painting and constantly picks up new art skills like watercolor, ceramics,

and recently, crocheting, to teach his students. After recent crochet classes, his students received an invitation to showcase their work at the DIA’s Student Exhibition.

George and Khayman love the strong sense of community in the University District and the camaraderie that comes from maintaining an historic home. “I love the ability to bring revitalization to the city we love by investing in it ourselves,” George shared.

In their free time, George and Khayman love traveling, with George always bringing his drone to capture beautiful footage. Back at home, George tends to a vegetable and herb garden, while evenings are spent enjoying time with their close friends and now next-door neighbors.

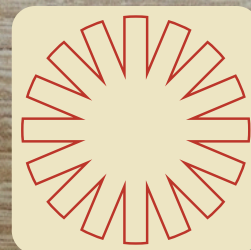


George working in the control room during a live PGA Event. Photo By George Mikla



# EMPLOYER MATCH & VOLUNTEER GRANTS

By Dinah Dittman



**D**id you know that your employer may match your gifts of money and time to help organizations you care about, including UDCA?

A Matching Gift Program is a type of corporate philanthropy. Please ask the organization you work/worked for if they have a charitable matching gift program. If so, you can double your financial support to UDCA and other 501c3 nonprofits. For example, if you are an employee or retiree that pays \$60 to UDCA for a membership, and your employer offers a Matching Gift Program, the employer's \$60 matching gift goes straight from them to UDCA to support our neighborhood events and meetings. We thank them, and acknowledge you, for the gift.

Some employers, such as Bank of America, Ford Motor Company, General Motors, and Rocket Companies, also offer a Volunteer Grants program that gives money to nonprofit organizations where the employees volunteer their time. The process of asking for the grant is usually easy and online.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR  
QUESTIONS, PLEASE EMAIL US AT  
[COMMUNICATIONS@UDCA.INFO](mailto:COMMUNICATIONS@UDCA.INFO)**





Photo by Jason Willis

# WHAT'S NEW ON THE AVE

**Article By**  
Cassandra Spratling

**Photography by**  
Miranda Suman  
(unless otherwise noted)

One of the major bonuses of living in the University District is its offering of a diverse array of businesses in walking distance of home. And they just keep getting better - from a bakery that sells hand-packed ice cream to a shop specializing in vintage housewares.

Here are a few of the new businesses, all locally owned by Detroiters and most along the historic Avenue of Fashion:







## Lily's & Elise Tea and Coffee House

19037 Livernois  
[www.lilysandelise.com](http://www.lilysandelise.com)

This tea and coffee house is still in its soft-opening phase, but it's already attracting quite a buzz for its charm and comfy atmosphere. Go for its wide variety of teas, sandwiches or variety of home-made pastries. But leave your devices at home.

Owner Kimberly Elise, a certified tea sommelier, grew up enjoying high tea with her mother. Discouraged that there were few places to enjoy a good cup of tea, she decided to open her own place after training that took her to seven states and London.

"Tea is warm, comforting and it reminds me of home," says Elise, a native Detroit. "It's also social. You sit alone or sit around with friends or loved ones and enjoy a good conversation."

In fact, this authentic French café is a WiFi-free zone, to encourage the increasingly lost art of conversation. So, go to connect with people, not your devices.



Lily's & Elise Tea and Coffee House has created a whimsical interior space.

## Alexander Nicole Nail Lounge

19323 Livernois  
[www.thealexandernicole.com](http://www.thealexandernicole.com)

Get your manicures and pedicures in a classy setting at this full-service nail salon. Owner Brandi Cook, a resident of the neighboring Bagley

community, wanted to create a luxury experience at an affordable price point without sacrificing proximity to the local community,

**"I believe in circulating the dollar within the community as much as possible,"**

says Cook who describes herself as a passionate Detroit.

The name of the lounge comes from the middle names of her two children. It fits because it has the kind of upscale vibe evident at the salon, which opened earlier this year.





A delightful selection of architectural elements fills Salvage Garden on W. McNichols Sink photo by Salvage Garden



## Salvage Garden

3135 W. McNichols Rd.  
(at Wildemere)  
[www.salvagegarden.com](http://www.salvagegarden.com)

Owners Lise and Sean Saint James, both historic preservationists, are avid about maintaining the beauty of many of Detroit's historic homes. It's why they began collecting doors, chandeliers and other fixtures they'd find tossed on curbs around the city. Eventually, it was too much stuff to keep in their home so they opened their shop to offer vintage architectural salvage goods on a sliding scale price point.

Looking for an old door, a unique glass door knob, missing parts to an old toilet or tiles from an original kitchen? You just might find it here.

The couple still scrounges around for goods, but as word gets around, people have also begun donating items. They

don't buy items, because at this point the business makes just enough to cover rent and utilities on the building that's a short drive from the couples' home in the Dexter/Linwood community. Have an old wooden window you need restored? Sean can help with that too.

You can learn more about their work by watching reruns of "Cheap Old House" and "Who's Afraid of a Cheap House" on HGTV or streaming on Discovery Plus.

## You Baking Me Crazy

19126 Livernois Ave.  
<https://www.facebook.com/youbakingmecrazy/>

Sometimes getting laid off is a good thing. That was when Lynn Warren took a cake decorating class and had plenty of time to perfect her talent. One thing led to another and a cake business that she started from home grew into You Baking Me Crazy.

The shop offers a variety of pound cakes, including a vegan pound cake and margarita pound cake, an assortment of cupcakes, mini sweet potato pies, peach cobbler and more. Plus, it offers candied apples, an assortment of sandwiches and an ice-cream shop with 16 different flavors of handpacked ice-cream from the popular Ray's Ice Cream in Royal Oak.

Warren, who opened the shop with husband, Andre Warren, lives in nearby Green Acres. She said she began cooking and baking in middle school, and, when growing up she was the main cook for four younger brothers.



Lynn Warren of You Baking Me Crazy stands with one of her custom ordered cakes.





# WE WANT YOU BACK

By Septima Childress & Eric Childress  
Photography by George Mikla

This month, the UDCA is launching a "We Want You Back" campaign to households whose memberships have expired. People are busy, time flies, and memberships lapse. *We get it.*

A special outreach postcard will be sent in mid-August to about 500 households, asking for your renewed support and involvement. If your membership is current, you won't receive one of the postcards. You will receive a reminder letter about a month before your current membership expires.

All residents of the University District are asked to become UDCA members by paying \$60 per household every 12 months. That \$5 per month is less than a Starbucks coffee, and brings far more value to your community. The funding helps create an annual budget that supports neighborhood projects and events that make our community special. Your payment qualifies as a charitable contribution, for income tax purposes.

To renew or join and pay with a credit card, visit [www.udca.info/members](http://www.udca.info/members) . To pay by check or money order, mail the payment to:  
P.O. Box 21483, Detroit, MI 48221.

Whether you've lived here for many years or just arrived, you know that the University District is a friendly, diverse community with residents who are proud of our neighborhood. When you live in the University District, you are part of the history, culture and future of the great city of Detroit. If you have any questions, please email us at [communications@udca.info](mailto:communications@udca.info) or call or text the UDCA Membership Committee at 313.318.7498.

Thank you very much for your support. We truly appreciate you!





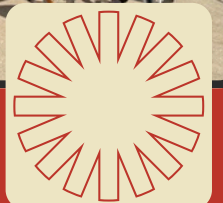
# This Summer in



Send your photos - having fun in the UD this Fall  
to be featured in next season's newsletter!

email | [communications@udca.info](mailto:communications@udca.info)  
or tag | [@udcadetroit](https://www.instagram.com/udcadetroit) on instagram









# Make an impact **UDCA COMMITTEES**

**Beautification  
Communications  
Elections  
Membership  
Residential Standards  
Safety & Security  
Seniors  
Social  
Special Assessment District  
Youth & Schools  
*and more!***

Keeping our community fun, beautiful, welcoming, safe, connected, and growing requires the engagement of hardworking & talented community members like you.







## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

My name is Miranda Suman, and I've lived in the University District for 7 years. As a UDCA Board member, I've volunteered to revive our seasonal newsletter, a top community request since it paused a few years ago.

We'll now distribute a printed mini-newsletter like this one seasonally, with a QR code and link to the full digital version online. This hybrid format helps to ensure everyone gets timely, direct community information, while still being able to experience the full newsletter, whether they choose to view from their phone, computer, or to print it themselves.


My priorities with this new newsletter have been to create a sustainable format with our limited volunteer resources and to maintain budget neutrality for the UDCA. This way, membership dues can support events that bring us together and highlight what makes our neighborhood special.

If you'd like to volunteer, contribute an article, or advertise in future newsletters, please contact us at [communications@udca.info](mailto:communications@udca.info)

Speaking of membership dues, please take a moment to [join or renew your UDCA membership](#) to support these important community initiatives.

Thank you for your support and engagement with the community we all call home.

UDCA Board Member  
Newsletter Editor



We'd love your feedback on  
this newsletter and new format.

Please email [communications@udca.info](mailto:communications@udca.info) with your feedback.





# Important Numbers

**Detroit Police Department** 313-596-1200  
**12th Precinct**

**University District Hotline** 313-318-7498

**Volunteer Radio Patrol** 313-862-3754

**UD Security Patrol Car** 313-550-2085

**Abandoned Car Reports** Use [SeeClickFix](#),  
or the [Improve Detroit App](#)

**Neighborhood Police Officer** cell: 313-900-9853 (text preferred)  
**(NPO) Larissa Powell** email: [powell229@detroitmi.gov](mailto:powell229@detroitmi.gov)

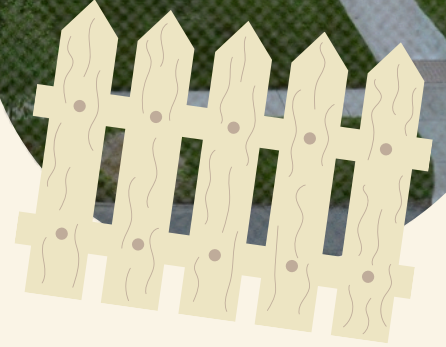
**Advanced Disposal** 844-233-8764  
**Waste Pickup**

**Stray Dog Hotline** 313-922-DOGS (3647)

**Police Telephone** 313-267-4600  
**Crime Reporting (TCRU)**



# 2024 UDCA Board of Directors



**President** Erin Moss Ferguson

**Vice President** Kesha McKinney

**Treasurer** Jena Baker-Calloway

**Secretary** Lisa Jones

**Residential Standards** Sidney Bailey, III

David Bammel

Dinah Dittman

Amber Hunt

Faye Knox

Aniebiet McCloud

Jennifer Peeples

Roger Short

Miranda Suman

Jay Taylor

Peter Wolf

## September 30th

is the deadline for for new candidates  
to apply for our UDCA Board Elections!

We are seeking community members  
who are eager to get actively involved in  
organizing and executing projects to  
improve our community.





## 2024 Information from the **City of Detroit** **Department of Public Works**

Use these guidelines to properly dispose of all waste to  
**prevent being ticketed** and **ensure items are picked up**.

# Curbside Changes started **June 3**

**NEW**

Trash,  
recycling,  
bulk, and yard  
waste will  
be picked up  
**WEEKLY**



**NEW**

You can  
now place  
**household  
renovation  
materials** at  
the curb



### **ACCEPTABLE**

Wood and lumber (bundle and remove nails, screws and staples)  
Cabinets (remove doors)  
Carpet and padding (bundle and remove staples and nails)  
Toilets  
Paneling (bundle or place in contractor bags, remove nails and screws)  
Tile (in contractor bags)  
Drywall (in contractor bags)  
Each item, bag and bundle must weigh less than 50 lbs.



### **NOT ACCEPTED**

Concrete, brick, asphalt and shingles  
Tires and other auto parts  
Metal poles and pipes  
Tree trunks  
Hazardous waste including asbestos and lead, liquids and paint (Drop off these items at the Hazardous Waste Facility, 2000 E. Ferry)



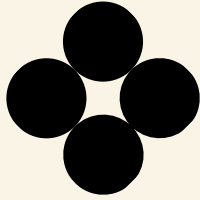
The image shows the interior of a wooden sauna. The walls, ceiling, and benches are made of light-colored wood. In the center, there is a Harvia electric heater with a metal mesh cover. Above the heater, there are two wooden shelves. The text "Every home is unique." is written in a white, cursive font across the middle of the image. A small, round, metallic object is visible on the left wall.

*Every home is unique.*

Let us market your  
home's best assets.

*jta*  
REALTORS  
Jay Taylor & Associates





**UNIVERSITY  
DISTRICT  
COMMUNITY  
ASSOCIATION**