



You Voted, and We Counted!

Welcome Your NEW UDCA BOARD

by Sid Bailey, III, UDCA Parliamentarian

The UDCA welcomes two new Board members and one Board member returning from hiatus. We also congratulate 3 re-elected Board members and the 2014 Executive Committee.

As part of our annual exercise in democracy, the UDCA membership elected five UDCA Board members this past November. Their three year terms began on January 1st, 2014. Among those five candidates receiving the most votes, three were sitting Board members and two had never served on the Board (a touch of new blood!). Congratulations to returning Board members: Gregory O'Neal, Sharon Vlahovich and Rainy Hamilton. And welcome to our newest UDCA Board members, David Beaumont and Clarence Gayles! Returning to the UDCA Board is Lenora Koyton who was appointed to complete the term of Tamar Jeffery, who resigned in September.

With our optimism in starting these new terms on your UDCA Board of Directors comes a sad farewell to outgoing Board members, Raymond Womack, Tamar Jeffery and Angela Gardner-Street. Angela's work on the Youth Committee and Raymond's efforts on our Membership Committee will be missed indeed. We look forward to their participation in other ways as we all work to move the University District forward.

It's a TEAM EFFORT!



Congratulations

to returning Board members:

*Rainy Hamilton
Gregory O'Neal
Sharon Vlahovich*

And welcome to our newest UDCA Board members,
*David Beaumont
Clarence Gayles
Lenora Koyton*

Get to know your new Board members on pages 2 and 3!

LOOKING AHEAD

- UDCA MTG APR 3
- BLOCK CAPTAIN MTG APR 12
- BULK TRASH APR 24
- SUMMER NEWSLETTER CONTENT DUE APR 30

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BOARD MEMBERS
through Dec 31, 2014

Gregory O'Neal
President

Clarence Gayles
Vice President

Thomas Bauer
Secretary

Roger Short
Treasurer

David Beaumont
Block Captain Chair

Sidney H. Bailey III
Parliamentarian

Henry Conerway

Nora Gessert

Rainy Hamilton Jr.

Sarah James

Lenora Koyton

Valerie McPhaul

Ken Sanders

Mary Tomich

Sharon Vlahovich

The UDCA Board meets at 7 PM on the first Tuesday of each month (except Jul and Aug) at Gesu Community Center (17180 Oak Drive).

Everyone is welcome!

You can drop in to observe a meeting, or contact the president or vice president to be put on the Community Voices agenda.

See page 15 for contact information.

Meet your new and re-elected board members!

David Beaumont
UDCA Block Captain Chair



My work experience includes over 25 years working in the fields of education, training, and human services. I hold a Doctorate in Higher Education Administration with a specialty in Urban Planning and Economic Development. I have a Master degree in Counseling and Bachelor's degree in psychology from Eastern Michigan University. My professional interests include social justice and its impact on the economic development of regional economies.

Through a combination of volunteer and work history, I have served on and/or had a leadership role on 18 non-profit boards with extensive experience in friend and fund raising. I am currently employed at Central Michigan University and am the Parkside block 2 co-block captain, and newly elected UDCA Block Captain Chair.

I have resided with my wife (Nora Gessert) and two cats (Bonnie and Clyde, aka OC) in the University District for eleven years. I'm the father of two girls and have three grandsons.

Clarence Gayles
UDCA Vice President



I was born and raised in this community and attended Gesu Catholic School from kindergarten through 8th grade. I am also a proud graduate of the University of Detroit Jesuit High School where I learned the importance of giving back to the community and continue to live by the school motto of striving to be a "man for others."

I returned to Detroit after attending Jackson State University and worked for the Detroit Public School System. After working on several campaigns and with non-profit organizations, my connections to the community led me to serve as the District Director to Former State Senate Minority Leader, Samuel "Buzz" Thomas.

When I started my family, I knew there was nowhere else I wanted to raise my daughter than in this community and was excited to buy a house in University District in the spring of 2012. Our family has since grown and we have two young daughters — Kennedy, 2 and Hudson, 7 months.

Rainy Hamilton
UDCA Board Member



It is hard to believe that I've lived in the University District for 20 years! Time flies when you're having fun, and it's been a dream-come-true to live in our neighborhood.

I have served as a UDCA board member for all but a few of those 20 years. I believe in actively participating to make our neighborhood better. As a native Detroiter and graduate of the University of Detroit Mercy School of Architecture, my service has included board positions and I've provided leadership in many areas including development of our mission statement and in the paving of Curtis from Parkside to Livernois. Curtis was once a gravel road, no curb and gutter and full of potholes that damaged many vehicles.

I am the founder and owner of Hamilton Anderson Associates (HAA) a Detroit based architectural and landscape architectural firm. Through HAA, I contributed design services to Gesu School for the creation of the Gesu Green. My home on Parkside was also displayed during the 2008 Home and Garden Tour.

Lenora Koyton
UDCA Board Member



I am a 22 year resident of the University District, and very much enjoy living here. I am retired from the Detroit Public Schools where I was an elementary school teacher for over 32 years.

Before retiring I served as the School Facilitator for the School Development Program at my building. That position allowed me to expand my abilities and see the workings of a school from a different perspective.

After retirement I worked for many years as a Language Arts Coach for Wayne RESA. I enjoy being busy and participating in my community. I have previously served on the UDCA board and on several community committees including The Home Tour, Beautification, Community Yard Sale, and UDCA Historical Research Committees, both before, during, and after my tenure on the Board. It is my desire to see the University District continue to thrive and grow and I would be honored to serve this community again as a member of your Board working toward that goal.

Gregory O'Neal
UDCA President



I have been on the UDCA board serving as the current President and past Chairman of the Block Captains. The Board has introduced the membership drive that included the ice cream social at GESU school park; block club party incentives and membership incentives. It has been important that the residents know the value of paid membership in the UDCA.

I hope my leadership has encouraged neighbors to step up and get involved. I insure that my focus will be to incorporate new vibrant leaders to get involved and serve our community to the best of their abilities. And I will give full support to programs that help our neighbors have the best lifestyle experience.

I have lived on Birchcrest Block 8 since 2008 with my wife Sandra and our five daughters, although we are now down to one daughter in the house! We enjoy the University District because we have social events together, its walkable and it's just the best and safest place to live inside of the City of Detroit.

Sharon Vlahovich
UDCA Beautification Chair



I have been serving on the UDCA board for the past few months as a fill in for an elected member who had to resign. It has been a great pleasure to see the work of this group up close.

My husband and I are both transplants to Michigan. We have lived in the UDCA for just over ten years. I am a member of Gesu Catholic Parish and work as a librarian at the Parkman Branch of the Detroit Public Library.

I am excited about the opportunity to serve a full term on the Board as an elected member. I am interested in maintaining and improving the communication between neighbors. One of the strengths of our neighborhood is how we share information on security issues and resources to help us take care of our historical homes. I see this as an excellent way to also build relationships with each other.

I will be taking on the role of Beautification Chair this year and look forward to working with all of you to keep our neighborhood beautiful!



Email Sign Up

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UDCA EMAILS?
SIGN UP FOR
OUR EMAILS AT
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TO RECEIVE
INFORMATION ON
UPCOMING EVENTS
AND NEWS AROUND
THE NEIGHBOR-
HOOD.**



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BULK
PICK-UP AND
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AND MORE
BY VISITING OUR
UDCA CALENDAR
ON OUR WEBSITE.**

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Meet the 2014 UDCA Executive Board

by Sid Bailey, III



Every January, the UDCA's Board of Directors elect new officers. At our January meeting *Gregory O'Neal* was re-elected **PRESIDENT**, *Clarence Gayles* was elected **VICE PRESIDENT**, *Thomas Bauer* was re-elected **SECRETARY**, *Roger Short* was re-elected **TREASURER** and *David Beaumont* was elected **CHAIR OF BLOCK CLUB CAPTAINS**. *Congratulations to our new Executive Committee!*

After reading the above, I'm sure you'll agree that given the newest and returning members of its leadership team, we have yet another reason to be optimistic about our community. **And if you're not a UDCA member, JOIN.** You have to pay (dues) to play (vote). Make your vote counts. Let your voice be heard. It's only 8 months to the next election!

Feel free to contact our new Board and Executive Board members and congratulate them on their recent win. And contact any board member to offer your support, ask questions, share concerns, and especially to volunteer for one of the UDCA's many projects and committees. Board contact information is included at the end of this, and every, newsletter and on our web site. And remember: our monthly Board meetings are open to all members of the District. **This means YOU!**

UDCA Board Terms Status as of January 2014

Name	Consecutive Terms Served	Year Current Term began	Year Current Term Expires
Sidney H. Bailey III	4	Jan 2013	Dec 2015
Thomas Bauer	1	Jan 2012	Dec 2014
David Beaumont	1	Jan 2014	Dec 2016
Henry Conerway	2	Jan 2013	Dec 2015
Clarence Gayles	1	Jan 2014	Dec 2016
Nora Gessert	2	Jan 2013	Dec 2015
Rainy Hamilton Jr.	2	Jan 2011	Dec 2013
Sarah James	1	Jan 2012	Dec 2014
Lenora Koyton	1	Jan 2012	Dec 2014
Valerie McPhaul	1	Jan 2013	Dec 2015
Gregory B. O'Neal	1	Jan 2011	Dec 2013
Ken Sanders	1	Jan 2012	Dec 2014
Roger Short	2	Jan 2013	Dec 2015
Mary Tomich	1	Jan 2012	Dec 2014
Sharon Vlahovich	2	Jan 2014	Dec 2016



Calling on all UDCA Craftspeople and Artists

At the last Home Tour, we introduced an Art Exhibit with about 15 residents' art work and crafts on display. The event was very successful and showed the wealth of talent and creativity in our community.

We plan to have our second Art Exhibit at the 2014 Home Tour. The types of crafts can be photography, art work, metal work, glass work, wood working, quilting, crocheting, knitting, jewelry, restoration projects (trunks, etc.) and any other type of art or craft you would like see at the exhibit.

If you are interested in participating, please call Ed Stuckey at 313-345-3671 or email edstuckey@comcast.net.

Membership is rising to record numbers!

The membership committee is extremely excited about the neighborhood's response to our 2014 membership package. We are well on our way to having a **record number of members** for 2014. It is clear that the **UDCA is reenergized!**

New families are moving in, home vacancies are going down, and participation in the community and on the board is rising. Regardless of what the national media tries to portray about Detroit, we know that premier neighborhoods like the University District are resilient and strong.

Even though we plan to set a record this year for participation, as of this date we have less than half of the residents paid. It is important for the numbers to be better. We understand that everyone may not have the time to become involved in a big way, but we should, all of us, support the community we live in by paying our UDCA dues.

We offer a GREAT incentive for paid membership with our **MERCHANT DISCOUNT PROGRAM** – check out our growing list of participating merchants on the UDCA website .

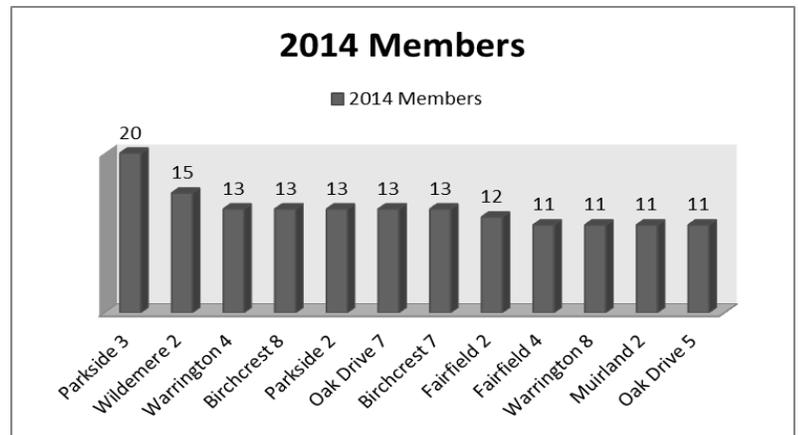
Another incentive that is being offered this year is that any block that has at least 90% membership (of occupied homes) will receive a \$10 discount next year. Check out the top 10 Blocks as of Jan 31, 2014. One block has qualified with 100% participation! Several are close. **WOW!**

See your block captain if your block is not listed — your block still has a ways to go. Chances are if you don't have the 2014 magnet, with important numbers and dates displayed on your refrigerator, you haven't paid! We realize that most residents have intentions to pay and just get sidetracked, or busy or forget. But let's, as a community, try to make it a priority to support each other by making our dues payment. Don't be the one person keeping your block from reaching their goal.

 **Parkside Block 3**—thanks for setting an example for the neighborhood! We are sure you won't be the only block at 100% when the year is over.

Sincerely,

Your UDCA Membership Committee



Count of 2014	Block Number								Grand Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Belden		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Birchcrest		8	10	8	9	2	13	13	63
Fairfield	4	12	10	11	9	6	6	4	62
Muirland	6	9	11	9	6	7	5	9	62
Oak Drive	2	1	2	5	11		13	6	40
Parkside	5	13	20	9	6	5	10	6	74
Quincy		4	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Santa Maria	2		—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Warrington		8	5	13	4	5	6	11	52
Wildemere	6	15	6	6	5	6	7	8	59
Grand Total	25	70	64	61	50	31	60	57	418



Why Support Your Block Captain?

by David Beaumont, UDCA Block Captain Chair

The genius of the block captain movement is that it identifies leaders who understand what an association is trying to say, and then figures out a way to say it. You can make free flu shots available, even take them to the home or workplace, but most people won't accept them unless it is explained by someone they trust. To believe it, you first need the word of a respected local leader. The U.S. Army is built around its sergeants in the same way, to insure effective communications and things get done..

During hot summers in Philadelphia, it was possible for hundreds of seniors to die of heat prostration because they were confused by dehydration and did things which made matters worse for themselves. The block captains were ideally situated to know who was in danger, who hadn't appeared outside in a day or two, and thus who might need to be forced to drink water or go to an air conditioned shelter.

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health found that training and providing information to the block captains on how to recognize the signs of trouble fit nicely into the Health Department's ability to reduce the death total. By mobilizing the Block Captains, only seven people died of heat prostration that following year.

One of the major roles of your University District Community Association (UDCA) Block Captains is maintaining two-way communication to keep their block informed and to impact local decisions. The Block Captains of UDCA are self-identified, de facto Army captains, who are our neighbors. Their attitude is that *Stronger Blocks Build Stronger Communities!*

Block Captains have a deep appreciation for how a strong association built by strong

blocks helps to protect and increase our property values. The typical focus of a Block Captains' meeting is to pick a community problem, and solve it, including issues like residential standards, crime, and better Board communication.

How can residents help their Block Captain?

- Work with your Block Captain to achieve residential standard goals.
- Attend block functions and share ideas for improvements to the block and neighborhood.
 - Join neighbor alert communications systems to distribute vital information to neighbors pertaining to criminal activity and other concerns that develop in the area.
 - Provide the neighborhood communications systems (website, newsletter, Facebook, email blasts, etc.) with information on job and scholarship opportunities particular for young adults and youth available to our residents—especially those offered by area businesses and by government programs.
- Help our seniors gain access to information concerning community programs promoting health, safety, and strategies for remaining independent in their homes.
- Join the UDCA by paying your dues.
- Set a good example.

“One of the major roles of your University District Community Association (UDCA) Block Captains is maintaining two-way communication to keep their block informed and to impact local decisions.”

If you don't respect your community, no one else will!

Don't Know Who Your Block Captain Is?

See page 23 for a list of Block Captains and contact information.

If the captain's spot is vacant, please consider becoming your block's captain!

Next Block Captains' meeting: SATURDAY, APRIL 12 9AM Gesu Community Center

The Joys of Being a Block Captain

by *Lucius Gunn, Block Captain, Parkside block 3*



wealth of knowledge about the UDCA's history. I have a neighbor who knows the stock market and has given me a wealth of knowledge about stock trading. I have a neighbor who has season tickets to the Lions and we can critique their play once a week. I've discovered that one of my neighbors is a bike rider and we have ridden together with the people for Palmer Park on Thursday nights in the summer.

As I travel through the neighborhood, I am always tickled when I ask people, "Do you have a block captain?" or "Do you know your block captain?" When they tell me "No", or "I don't know", or "We don't have one", I talk to them further and find out they do indeed know some of the residents on their block, and they do care about the neighborhood.

But when I say, "You know what, you would make a great block captain!", they invariably tell me, "Oh no, I'm too busy", "I don't have enough time", or "I wouldn't know what to do", etc. It tickles me because that's totally opposite from my experience as being a block captain.

My experience of being a block captain for at least the last 14 years is much different. It has not been time consuming for me! It has not been a lot of work! Although I do know block captains that do far more than I do (and are probably better block captains than I am!), we do have a very good and effective block club.

For me, being a block captain has been enjoyable and a blessing! I would wager that there is only a handful of people reading this letter that know everyone on their block by name. The last time that was true for me was when I was ten years old!

While being a block captain, I have tried to have at least two block meetings a year, one of those being our annual Christmas Potluck. This year was our 10th annual. I've met all the people on our block through these potlucks. We all pay our UDCA memberships dues at the potluck. It works for us. Other blocks do it differently, and that's ok. Residents come and go, but we always welcome new neighbors and I have found that people move in this area because they are looking for a sense of community, and all have embraced our potlucks. We have a very diverse block, which is probably true of most blocks in our community.

We have seniors, young families, white collar, blue collar, retired, business owners, singles and married couples. We know how to get in touch with anyone and look out for everyone. If not for being block captain, I may never have discovered that my neighbor plays racquetball as do I. He has invited me to the DAC on more than one occasion to play. I would have never found out that a neighbor breeds fish and has multiple aquariums. Now she gives me advice on how to keep my aquarium up to par. I would have never found out that my neighbor makes the most delicious Jello casserole that she brings to the potluck.

I have neighbors who have been in the UDCA for as long as anyone and have a

I really could go on, but my point is that I have been enriched deeply by my being block captain. I clearly remember my first block meeting. I had never done anything like this before, but I had a young family and cared about the block they would be brought up in. I passed out flyers saying let's have a block club meeting to discuss the concerns we have in our block. At that time I had lived here for at least 5 years.

That Sunday when people came over, there were people I had never seen before! In more than five years, I didn't even recognize them! I hope that's not true on your block. It has changed a lot since then. At the end of that meeting we said we need to name a block captain, and the rest, as they say, is history.

We have such a great block! I know there are several blocks in the UDCA that don't have a block captain at all, and many that have block captains in name only. Some block captains have served the community well and are looking for someone to take over, some may just need a co-captain, but whatever the case may be having a block captain is a win-win for me, you, and your block!



“YOU”DCA:

Meet and welcome a new UDCA Neighbor each issue

Amanda, Oliver, Miles, and Jack Lobley
WARRINGTON, block 8



Amanda and Oliver (originally from London, England), arrived in Michigan following a week long road trip from Long Beach, CA, driving a U-Haul, towing their car and transporting a dog, 2 cats and a two year old, Miles!

They initially rented a house in Livonia but decided fairly quickly that if they were to live here for only a few years (Oliver was relocated through work), they wanted to live in Detroit and be a part of the solution to the problems that the city has experienced for a number of years.

After a few hours driving around, they came across the University District and realized that this was where they wanted to live! They bought a house and moved in April 2013, with Jack joining the family in June.

They say of the neighborhood, "We love it here! Our neighbors are wonderful, so welcoming, and the sense of community is like nothing we've ever experienced! We enjoy the social events, UDCA support, and really value the Security Patrol! We are so pleased to live in an area where our neighbors are as invested in the community as we are."

As Livernois Avenue and Palmer Park experience somewhat of a revival, we can only hope that the neighborhood continues to thrive and those empty houses get bought by new families who, like us, want to become active members of the community!"



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UDCA Resident Opens Detroit Fiber Works on the Avenue of Fashion



lease. Now we're just looking forward to the weather warming up so that we can welcome more of our neighbors into the shop. We want to create a space where everyone feels welcome, and we hope to enhance the Avenue with beauty, style, and grace."

Detroit Fiber Works is a new gallery, gift boutique, and creative center at 19359 Livernois, just south of Outer Drive, right next door to another brand new business, Good Cakes and Bakes. This welcome addition to our neighborhood is co-owned by Mandisa Smith and Najma Wilson, who have strong ties to The Avenue of Fashion and the UDCA community. Mandisa and Najma are both University of Detroit Mercy graduates, and Mandisa is a UDCA member who has lived on Birchcrest Drive since 1986.

"Detroit Fiber Works is really a miracle!" says Mandisa. "Neither of us has owned a storefront before, but thanks to the REVOLVE Detroit competition last year, which was aimed at revitalizing The Avenue of Fashion, we got this amazing opportunity to "pop-up" on Livernois from October through December. The response from the community so far has been really positive, and that gave us the confidence to sign a long-term

At Detroit Fiber Works, you will find adornments for body and home. Though the focus is on fiber, DFW stocks a wide range of interesting items: one-of-a-kind, handmade, wearable works of art, home accessories, wall art, jewelry, items designed by Detroiters, like Detroit Snob Tees and Detroit Cuffs, as well as handmade soaps and the most amazing body butter called Butter Love ("The Best Butter Your Body Ever Had"). The owners say they want Detroit Fiber Works to be your first stop when you're looking for the perfect gift for yourself or someone special.

Detroit Fiber Works also hosts "Fabulous Fiber Art Parties" where fiber art techniques are taught in a fun-filled, no-pressure atmosphere. Guests are invited to bring refreshments (including wine for those over 21), and have a good time learning felting, printing, stitchery, knotting, and more. Sessions usually last about two hours and everyone goes home with something fabulous and unique.

Find Detroit Fiber Works on Facebook or at detroitfiberworks.com. Phone: 313-610-5111 or 313-457-3431. Open Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 11-7, and Sunday from Noon-5



BULK PICK-UP Tuesday, April 24

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Senior Citizens 911 Profile Agreement



The Detroit Police Department is firmly committed to providing professional service to all residents. However, in an effort to improve our service delivery model for our senior citizens (65 years of age or older) the Detroit Police Department will be implementing a new service: Senior 911 Profile. This service will allow our senior citizens to have their individual profiles stored in our 911 database and provide critical care information to the 911 call-takers in the event of an emergency situation. This should improve the call taking, dispatch and emergency response process.

If you would like to take advantage of the Senior 911 Profile Agreement, please download or print out the agreement available online on the Detroit Police Department website or pick one up at our 12th Precinct.

The profile can be faxed to (313) 596-1610. Please include a copy of your Michigan State I.D. or Driver's License. The profile can also be hand delivered to any Detroit Police Department Precinct/District. However, if someone else is dropping off the profile for you, you must include a copy of your Michigan State I.D. or Driver's License with your profile.

12th Precinct
1441 W 7 Mile
Detroit, MI 48203
(313) 596-1200
Captain Kenneth Balinski

Senior Safety Tips and Safety Meeting Announcements

John H. Autrey, Vice President University District Patrol Organization



*From the Desk of Captain, 9th Precinct, Darwin K. Roche
Detroit Police Department, Community Liaison Office*

To increase safety while you are out shopping, in a restaurant, or out walking consider the following tips:

- When in a parking lot, on a sidewalk and while in a store, be aware of your surroundings and the location of your purse. Make sure it is closed shut and held in a way to discourage purse-snatchers and pickpockets.
- Pay attention to the people and cars around you.
- Do not leave any valuables visible from the car windows. It is safer to have those items in the trunk. Remember to always lock your car doors.
- Panhandlers have to follow the law when asking for money in the street. They are not allowed to stop you or impede your path of travel.
- Try to walk with confidence and purpose. Walk facing traffic in the middle of the sidewalk. Walk in well-lit areas. It's wise to carry a flashlight after dark.
- Limit wearing expensive jewelry.
- Carry a whistle to summon help if needed.
- Having a cell phone may also be helpful, but do not make cell phone conversations that may distract you from your surroundings.
- Never carry your social security card in your wallet. This is considered the gateway to your identity. Leave it locked away at home or in a safe deposit box until you need it to conduct business. Check other cards that you carry in your wallet, as some of them may contain your social security number, too. Examples are your Medicare card, insurance cards, or even driver's license.
- Do not keep charge receipts in your car. Identify thieves would much rather have your personal account information than your car stereo.
- Photocopy both sides of all credit cards and keep this information in a safe place. If you loose your wallet, you'll have the account numbers and phone numbers at your fingertips.
- Eliminate extra cards you don't use. This way, if you have a theft, you won't have to notify as many entities. Write a letter to close unused accounts or ask for an "Account Closed per Customer's Request" form.
- Cut up old credit cards. Carry no extra personal identifiers such as Social Security card, birth certificates, passport, etc.
- Report lost or stolen cards the moment you realize you are not in possession of the card. This will limit your liability.
- Review your bills and bank statements promptly. If you find any charges or debits that you never made, contact the bank or company immediately.
- Monitor your accounts online frequently. You can discover problems more quickly than if you wait for bills or statements to come in the mail.
- Secure personal information in your home, especially if you have roommates, employ outside help, or are having service work done in your home.

For additional information on upcoming meetings sponsored by the Detroit Police Department contact: John Autrey @autrey@aol.com or (313) 727-4194.



University District Security Patrol
 PO Box 312891
 Detroit, Michigan 48231

Security Patrol Invoice

Invoice Date:

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

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

Thank you.

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

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

Coverage periods: *3/31* *6/30* *9/30* *12/31*

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

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

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

For Office Use Only: Check Number Deposit Date Payment Date v1.0

Return with payment

Invoice Date:



“Best on Show” is Back

by Mary Leonard, UDCA History Project and former Garden Club Chair

The UDCA awards contest for front yards returns again this May and June.

A project of the Beautification Committee, the awards recognize homeowners and tenants whose landscaping efforts contribute to the University District's reputation as a elite place to live.

Any University District resident may nominate a front yard for consideration, including your own. If you walk in the neighborhood (or if your dog walks you), please consider nominating your favorites. **Call Mary Leonard at 313-345-8036 or email UD-CAGardens@gmail.com.** We'll get permission from the homeowner to enter them in the contest and photograph their yard from the public right of way.

We need volunteers to assist with canvassing every street and block, to help photograph, and to act as preliminary judges to arrive at 20 finalists. To participate, contact us as above. We'll welcome your help. It's fun and good exercise.

The top 20 finalists will be visited at the end of June by a trio of Master Gardeners and a professional landscaper who make the choice of our Top 10 winners for the year. All 20 finalists receive certificates and signs to display their status for the rest of the season. The Top 10 also receive a prize.

The “Best on Show” 2014 schedule is as follows:

- MAY 20-JUNE 15** Volunteers walk the neighborhood, nominate; homeowner permission requested
- JUNE 1-17** Entered homes are photographed
- JUNE 21** Volunteer judges select Top 20
- JUNE 28** Expert judges visit all Top 20, select Top Ten
- JUNE 29** UDCA President, Beautification Chair and volunteers present signs and award certificates

As in past years, prior Top 10 winners are not eligible for nomination for the next three years, only because they are the best and we want to give some others a chance! Here are the prior winners – enjoy what they've done.

2011

- 18224 Oak Drive *Darryl & Denise Dugans*
- 18460 Fairfield *Preston West*
- 18503 Muirland *Margit Ervin*
- 18270 Wildemere *Terri Randall & Dale Randall*
- 18501 Wildemere *Mary Farris*
- 17324 Parkside *Kathy & Tom Bauer*
- 17505 Parkside *Rainy Hamilton*
- 18024 Parkside *Pat Murray & Jim Edwards*
- 18235 Parkside *Sharon Harper-Lee*
- 18265 Parkside *Bill Lee*

2012

- 19001 Warrington *Shirley Northross*
- 18114 Oak Drive *Edna Adams*
- 18615 Oak Drive *Donna & Otis Milhouse*
- 17565 Muirland *Denise Wright*
- 18045 Muirland *Judy & Jack Betts*
- 18600 Muirland *Edward & Anita Thomas*
- 17166 Wildemere *Kip Fowler*
- 18625 Wildemere *Virgil & Connie Spight*
- 18945 Wildemere *Ines de Jesus*
- 18465 Parkside *Joann Labostrie*



Beautification: Handing Over the Shovel!

by Tom Bauer, UDCA Secretary and former Beautification Chair

They say it takes a village to raise a child. Well, it also takes a community to make a neighborhood, and ours is no exception. The efforts to beautify the University District have always been a community volunteer effort and the best results over past years have come from those projects which involved the most people. Beautification always comes up as one of the top areas of concern in member surveys.

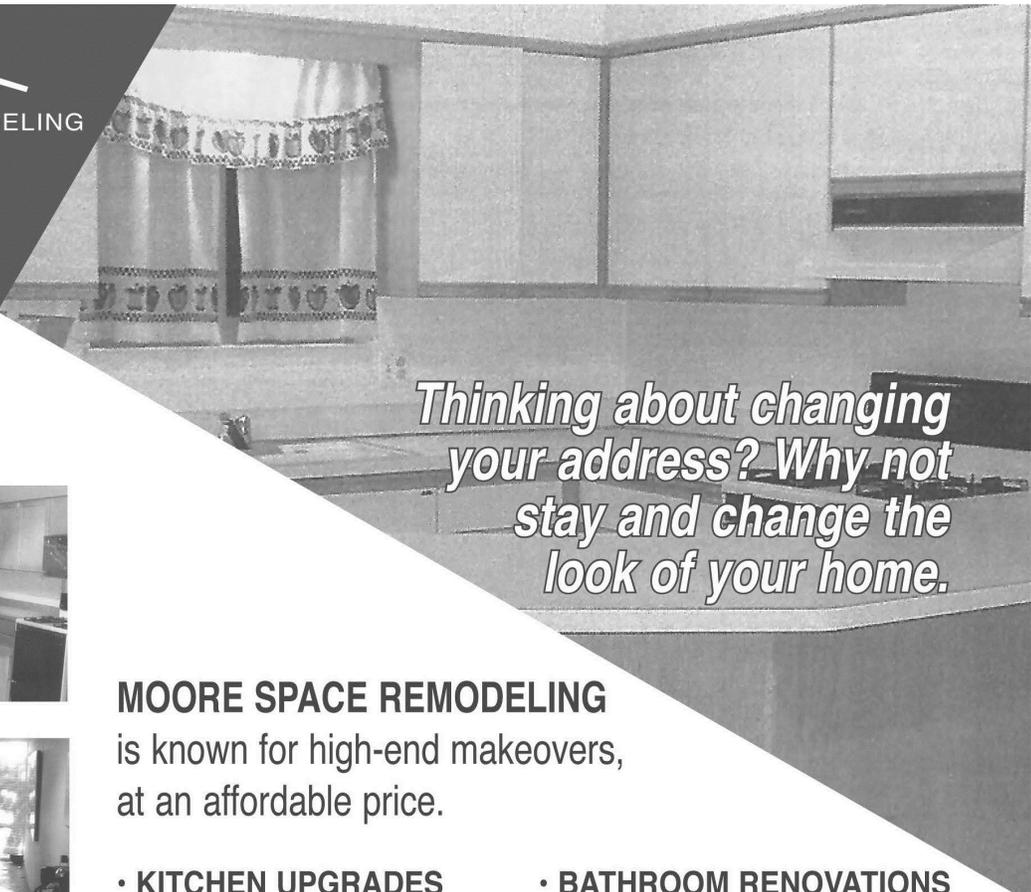
Some of us may have noticed a drop off in the projects completed last season and you would not be wrong. The last years of projects have gotten smaller and the results have lessened. Having been on the beautification committee for at least 5 years and chairing the committee the last 3, I have learned that I can no longer do the job the justice it deserves, and hence the lack of results. Returned Board member Sharon Vlahovich has stepped up to take on this role! Thank you, Sharon. I am confident that you will do a fabulous job!

Organizing and planning beautification projects requires someone who loves our neighborhood enough to recruit and organize volunteers, hold an occasional planning meeting and implement the projects planned by the committee. I will still serve as a member and liaison to the Board of Directors and handle budgeting and record keeping.

The role of Beautification Chair is very rewarding, and this is an essential committee. This committee can help make the University District continue to stand out in our city, and think of all the gardening you get to do on someone else's dime! Please contact Sharon if you're interested in joining the committee, and she can get busy planning the 2014 beautification projects. Sharon's contact information is on the website and in the back of this issue.



Yardeners, start your engines!



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Thursday, March 6, 2014

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. – Nataki Playhouse and TOUR 19176 Northrop; Detroit, MI 48219

Parking is available in the school parking lot located on the east side of the building between
Northrop and Houghton.

Please use the main entrance on Northrop to enter the building

Call for details 313.531.3720, ext 21 or ojackson@nataki.org

www.nataki.org

UPCOMING Open House Dates:

- Thursday, April 3, 2014 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.



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TLAIB Rashida *for* State Senate ✓ 2014



...it's about us!

Dear Neighbor,

We would like you to meet our current State Representative Rashida Tlaib, who is now running to be your next State Senator. For the past six years, Rashida has worked tirelessly to elevate quality of life for our families in Detroit and the Downriver cities of Ecorse and River Rouge, and now you have an opportunity to have one of the strongest advocates in Lansing represent you and your family.

We have never had an elected official take such a hands-on and accessible approach to serving our families, and this is why we have overwhelmingly supported her. Whether it's personally preparing income taxes for residents at her unique Neighborhood Service Center or chasing illegal metal scrappers out of our neighborhoods, she has always demonstrated an unwavering commitment to protecting our best interests. When special interest groups like the Ambassador Bridge Company and the billionaire Koch Brothers tried to take advantage of our families, Rashida had the courage and strength to fight back.

Once you talk with her, we trust you will want to support Rashida and her effective approach to public service because **we deserve no less.**

Sincerely,

Friends of Rashida Tlaib
Friends of Rashida Tlaib

Meet Rashida! *Join Us*

Golden Gate Cafe:
Saturday | March 8th
3:00pm - 5:00pm
(Appetizers provided)
18700 Woodward Ave.
Detroit, Mi 48203

Good Cakes & Bakes
Saturday, March 22nd
5:30pm - 8:00pm
(Desserts will be served)
19363 Livernois Ave. (between
7 Mile Rd. and Outer Drive)
Detroit, MI 48221



Call: 313.297.8800 or Click: RashidaTlaib.com

University District
Community Association
2014

HOME & GARDEN TOUR

Save the Date!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2014
11 AM to 5 PM

Plan to attend the *2014 University District
Community Association Home & Garden Tour!*



We have 6 homes confirmed, as well as gardens we all dream about. The *Art Shows*, added in 2012, was a huge success and will return again. Our homes get better every year!

Tickets will be \$15 in advance and \$18 at the door. We will have the Wyandotte Trolley, food trucks are planned, and surprises await.

For more information, contact the hotline at 313-318-7498, go to the website www.udcatour.com, contact Nora Gessert, tour chair, at noragessert@yahoo.com or 734-395-1693.



Save the Date and invite your friends.

The UDCA Home & Garden Tour is THE best home tour in Detroit!

University District Community Association

PO Box 21483 Detroit, Michigan 48221 • udcaonline.org

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Association Board of
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*Residential Standards
Committee*

Chair: Odell Bridges

*Vice Chair: Evelyn
Foreman*

Dear University District Neighbor:

The University District Community Association (UDCA) is very pleased that so many new residents have moved into our neighborhood within the past few years. We welcome each of you. It occurred to us, however, that some residents, whether new or established *may not be familiar with the practices, standards and guidelines* that have been in place in this neighborhood (and in the City of Detroit) for many years.

For this reason, the UDCA Board established a Residential Standards Committee (RSC). The RSC has identified and developed a set of Residential Standards compiled from previously issued communications and City of Detroit publications. (The RS have been published and distributed, are available online, etc.). A summary list of the standards is inserted in this newsletter, entitled "**Summary of University District Community Association Residential Standards.**" Please note: this is not an exhaustive list, but a summary of the standards.

Going forward, as the UDCA RSC members are notified of deviations from these standards, a friendly letter will be sent to the applicable homeowner. We are confident that identified issues will be addressed promptly. If not, additional contacts will be made. In the rare case that issues are not addressed, the matter will be referred to the City Of Detroit or other authorities having jurisdiction.

The inserted list will also serve as your reporting tool. If you see a violation of one of the UDCA Residential Standards, simply check the box next to the standard that has been violated, note the address of the violation and mail to the UDCA Board, attention Residential Standards Committee, PO Box 21483, Detroit, MI 48221. The process is COMPLETELY ANONYMOUS. From that point, the UDCA Board will handle the matter.

Thanks in advance for helping to maintain the beauty, character and quality of life in the University District.

Best regards,



Your University District Community Association Board

The Mayor's Neighborhood Plan

by Mary Jo Smith, UDCA Radio Patrol President

M

ayor Duggan has announced a ten point plan to strengthen Detroit neighborhoods.

He intends to restructure delivery of city services in some interesting new ways. Along with the new council will be a new Department of Neighborhoods, with a district manager for each of the council districts. Charlie Beckham will head the department.

The mayor intends to use the district structure to develop more effective working relationships between the city and community groups, particularly neighborhood associations and block clubs. The current combination of block clubs and community association existing in our neighborhood is the sort of organization hoped for city-wide.

A big part of the initiative is to restructure the operations of the agencies with enforcement powers and through the restructuring produce better results. With a return to consistent code enforcement, he sees the restructuring as cost effective, essentially self supporting. The city will adopt the seizure process in the fight against drug houses, which Mayor Duggan used when he was the prosecutor.

In the rebuilding process, Duggan seeks to coordinate efforts of the overlapping land bank programs, crack down on illegal scrappers, use incentives to encourage people to move from sparsely populated areas, and to re-develop commercial/business districts. He wants to streamline and strategically use the demolition process. He intends to require bank participation in these efforts.

The plan, Every Neighborhood Has a Future, is available on the UDCA website, www.udcaonline.com.



Save on Your Property Taxes

by Tom Bauer, UDCA Secretary

Di

do you know that we who live in the University District can qualify for some property tax relief?

The City of Detroit has a program that provides partial property tax relief for people who purchased their home after January 1st of 1997 and have invested at least \$500 in improvements. This program is called the Neighborhood Enterprise Zone (NEZ) program and is administered by the city's Assessor's office.

Enterprise zones were created by state legislation intended to provide support to the distressed areas. If your property is approved, the city will assign you a second parcel ID number separating the house from the land itself and on the parcel which includes the house, you will have about 13 mil reduction in the tax rate. The relief only applies to the part of your property value which applies to the house. Hence, the separate parcel numbers and, yes, you will receive 2 tax bills each spring and fall instead of 1. This author is saving about \$800 each year that I qualify. The certification lasts 15 years

In order to qualify the house must be your principal residence and you do have to apply and get approved. The approval process involves the State of Michigan and takes several months so to get relief on your 2015 property taxes you need to apply early this year. To learn more, check the city web site under the finance division. It will take a little effort to locate and you need to know that our neighborhood is platted as "Golf Club Addition" even though that is not what we call it. If you can't find the information on line (it will take some effort) contact the city's Assessor's office by phone and request the application forms and information. You will have to apply in person and have a copy of your deed.

RADIO PATROL NUMBER (313) 447-0003

Report crime or suspicious activity — 24 Hours a day, 7 days a week

Want to stay tuned in on neighborhood safety?

Any resident may request to be added to the radio patrol's email group.

Simply email your request to radiopatrol@udradio-patrol.org.

LIGHT THE NIGHT!





Valentine's Day has come and gone, *but the UDDC is still looking for a little PASSION!*

The UDDC needs YOU! The University District Development Corporation, affectionately known as the UDDC, has big plans for 2014 and we want you to be a part of them. For those of you that don't know, the UDDC is the non-profit arm of the UDCA. As a 501c3, the UDDC can qualify for non-profit funding as well as offer donors a tax-break for all donations.



The University District Development Corporation is dedicated to building a stronger more prosperous future for the University District area of northwest Detroit through the development of residential neighborhoods and public spaces.

The UDDC board has recently transitioned from an interim status and now a regular board has been established. The current board has announced the 2014 initiatives which include blight reduction, beautification and neighborhood planning. Visit our website at: **WWW.UNIVERSITYDISTRICTDETROIT.ORG** for details and the latest updates.

Volunteers are a welcomed, needed, and appreciated addition to the UDDC, lending a hand in keeping the University District a great place to live!

SOME OF THE TALENT THAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR INCLUDES:

- Grant writers
- Web designers/developers
- UDDC boosters
- Fund raisers

We're also looking for a few passionate, talented board members that can help the UDDC forge ahead and make a difference this year and beyond. Is that you? If so, craft a brief bio, highlighting what you will bring to the UDDC and submit it online at www.UniversityDistrictDetroit.org.

Have more money than time? Please consider donating to the UDDC – all donations are tax deductible and your money will be well spent towards initiatives that support the UDCA neighborhood.

The UDDC holds regularly scheduled board meetings from 9 to 11 AM, the first Saturday of every month at the Gesu Community Center. Please join us if you can – we're looking forward to working with you to make a difference in 2014!

The University District Development Corporation

SPRINGTIME IN PALMER PARK



BIKING at Palmer Park!
EVERY THURSDAY beginning @ 7 PM beginning April 3!

Let's roll! Palmer Park bike rides are switching to Thursdays this season. Join the inaugural ride on Thursday, April 3. Meet at Palmer

Park pool parking lot off of Merrill Plaisance at 7 pm every Thursday through October.

Enjoy riding with a fun group of people through the trails in the historic forest, around the periphery of the park, and beautiful nearby neighborhoods. The group rides about 8 to 10 miles at a fairly leisurely pace, and feel free to join for part or all of the ride.

Email Henry at henryfordii@gmail.com for more information.

Join **People for Palmer Park's** email list **WWW.PEOPLEFORPALMERPARK.ORG** to keep up with all the spring recreation in the park, or follow on Facebook!

TAI CHI • YOGA • TENNIS • SPLASH PARK • BASEBALL • WALKING

PFPP MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND BOARD ELECTIONS

Save the date: SATURDAY, APRIL 5

SHOP WHOLE FOODS MIDTOWN on WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19 to support Palmer Park!

People for Palmer Park has been selected as the recipient for the Detroit Whole Foods' 5% Community Support Day for this quarter! **5% of sales on WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19** from the **Whole Foods in Midtown at 115 Mack** will be **donated to People for Palmer Park!** Do your shopping by from 8 AM to 10 PM on March 19 to support our park!



UNIVERSITY DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

2014 Annual UDCA Invoice (Jan 1, 2014 – Dec 1, 2014) \$60.00

Your Paid UDCA membership supports these benefits and services:

- UDCA e-mails and special notices (*Please provide your email address to be included in this service.*)
- Quarterly newsletter and website updates
- Community interest workshops
- Merchant partner discount program
- Winter - Snow plowed streets
- Summer – Beautification projects around and through the neighborhood
- Handsome signs identifying our community
- Most of all, the satisfaction of being a part of the stabilization of your most valuable asset – HOME.

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

- Communications** – Newsletter, Website, Outreach
- Membership** – Workshops, Merchant Program, Annual Membership Drive
- Neighborhood Booster** - Historic Designation, Residential Standards, Bi-annual Home & Garden Tour, Beautification, Zoning, School Partnerships
- Social** - Neighborhood Garage/Yard Sale, Dinner Dance, Family Activities, Youth Projects
- Security** - Block Captain/Club, Subscriber Patrol, Volunteer Radio Patrol

Make check payable to: **UDCA**

Mail to: **UDCA
PO BOX 21483
DETROIT, MI 48221**

\$60 ANNUAL DUES
*\$10 Early Bird Payment Discount:
Only \$50 IF RECEIVED BY 12/31/2013*

(Pay your membership fee **ONLINE** via PayPal* (with a small fee) at www.UDCAonline.com)

UDCA ADDRESS: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ Year you moved into the neighborhood _____

UDCA Resident Contact Information (Fill in for at least one resident – Please PRINT)			
First Name	Last Name	Cell Phone	Email Address

Amount Submitted: \$ _____ Check # _____ Money Order # _____ Other _____

Your canceled check is your receipt. \$35 fee for returned checks.

Thank You!

Administrative Use Only: Rec'd By: _____ Rec'd Date _____ Deposit Date _____

UDCA Resident Survey

Our goal is to continuously improve the UDCA membership experience. Please take a few minutes and tell us how we're doing and what we could do better. Your opinion counts! You are the UDCA!

What programs or services would you like to see the UDCA undertake? Check all that apply.

Youth Programs

Snow Removal

Community Cleanup

Beautification

Other _____

Educational Programs/Seminars

Representation in zoning cases

Local Merchant Discounts

Purchase & Renovate vacant homes

Senior Programs

Would you be willing to pay one fee for both UDCA membership and security patrol?

Yes or No _____

Comment _____

Do you have a Block Club? Yes or No _____

If yes, who is your Block Captain? _____

We upgraded the UDCA Website in August – have you used the website recently, and what do you think? _____

Please provide any additional comments to help make the UDCA better!

2014 BOARD MEMBER CONTACT INFO

GREGORY B. O'NEAL , <i>President</i>	806-2726
CLARENCE GAYLES , <i>Vice President</i>	982-2572
THOMAS BAUER , <i>Secretary</i>	586-945-7946
ROGER SHORT , <i>Treasurer</i>	549-3775
DAVID BEAUMONT , <i>Block Captain Chair</i>	734-417-8232
SIDNEY H. BAILEY, III , <i>Parliamentarian</i>	850-7797
HENRY CONERWAY	909-1026
NORA GESSERT	734-395-1693
RAINY HAMILTON	862-7200
SARAH JAMES	378-6458
LENORA KOYTON	323-350-9226
VALERIE MCPHAUL	248-747-2499
KEN SANDERS	205-9872
MARY TOMICH	861-0759
SHARON VLAHOVICH	340-1547
UDCA INFOLINE	318-7498
UDCA WEBSITE	www.UDCAonline.com

UDCA STANDING COMMITTEES & PROJECT CONTACTS

BEAUTIFICATION	Sharon Vlahovich, <i>Chair</i>
COMMUNICATIONS	Sarah James, <i>Chair</i>
ELECTION	Sidney H. Bailey, III, <i>Chair</i>
Board Elections	
Bylaws, Policies, etc.	
HOME TOUR	Nora Gessert, <i>Chair</i>
MEMBERSHIP	
Membership Drive	Luke Gunn, <i>Chair</i> 341-4866
Resident Welcome Package	Elaine Gilbert 864-5332
RESIDENTIAL STANDARDS	
SAFETY & SECURITY	
12th Precinct desk	596-1200
Abandoned cars	596-1200
Curfew violations	596-1200
EMERGENCY DISPATCH	911
Gangs (graffiti removal)	447-0003
www.NoMoreBrokenWindows.com	
Police reports by phone	267-4600
UD Radio Patrol	447-0003
Mary Jo Smith, <i>President</i>	862-3754
UD Subscriber Patrol	459-0770
Vacant House Registry	447-0003 (UDRP)
SNOW	Roger Short, <i>Chair</i>
SOCIAL	
Dinner Dance	Nora Gessert
Garage Sale	Lenora Koyton
General Meeting	Gregory B. O'Neal

UDCA BLOCK CAPTAINS

David Beaumont, *Block Captain Chair*



WARRINGTON

1 Shirley King	313-862-7313
2 TBD	
3 TBD	
4 Doris Walls	313-864-8630
5 Terri Conerway	313-861-7623
6 TBD	
7 Cynthia Banks	313-345-4278
Shirley (David)	
8 Northcross	313-863-8251

OAK DRIVE

1 Gesu	
2 Evelyn Foreman	313-861-9490
3 Toney Hughes	313-861-0287
4 TBD	
5 Selma Goggans	313-861-1223
6 P3A	
James & Kim	
7 Beasley	313-861-1568
8 Brenda Kokumo	313-646-4593

Quincy

1 Michelle Lowe	313-341-3841
2 John Hooper	313-864-9562

BIRCHCREST

1 Esther Epps	313-863-1235
2 Risé Pinkston	313-575-0930
2 Tammy Peoples	313-647 2365
3 Ev Belfon	313-341-1996
3 Vivian Gladden	313-341-0289
4 Lori Sanders	313-622-2127
5 Paula Green-Smith	313-861-6315
Reginald	
5 Cunningham	313-342-8755
6 Steven Ellison	313-862-7016
6 Vincent Smith	313-345-2898
7 TBD	
8 Bill Fennicks	313-8636123

BELDEN

1 TBD	
2 Jamie Ferguson	313-345-2578

FAIRFIELD

1 Jeff Stema	313-861-5858
2 Faye Knox	313-863-6011
3 Myron Watts	313-864-6763
3 Christina Harris	313-802-7032
4 Robert Hunter	313-863-5675
5 TBD	
6 Preston West	313-342-3356
7 Frank Benedict	313-342-7535
8 C. Smith-Arnold	313-862-1302

MUIRLAND

1 Beverly Thomas	313-864-8581
2 Pauline Robinson	313-863-1222
Sidney H. Bailey III	
3	313-862-2716
4 Judy Betts	313-862-0568
5 Robert Carpenter	313-861-0151
6 LaDonna Dean	313-342-4401
7 Gail Dorsey	313-864-7002
8 Sandra Complas	313-341-5962

WILDEMERE

1 Joyce & Akinya Khalfani	248-632-0907
2 Sheila Womack	313-864-4766
2 Odell Bridges	313-862-2551
3 Joyce Reid	313-342-3405
4 William Winston	313-862-4818
4 Ron Phillips	313-345-8244
5 Terri Randall	248-996-7081
6 Jim Zemboy	313-345-7227
Virgil & Connie Spight	
7	313-863-2406
8 TBD	

PARKSIDE

1 Tamara Perrin	313-342-6731
2 Kathleen Bauer	313-485-5451
2 Beaumont David	734-417-8232
3 Lucius Gunn	313-341-4866
4 Carl Chatman	313-345-5517
5 Rosetta McCamey	313-864-3915
Ed (Elizabeth Miller) Stuckey	
6	313-345-3671
7 Pearlie Falkner	313-864-5004
7 Stacia Little	313-340-0134
8 Steven Lett	313-739-6252
8 Ruthie Wiley	313-345-6969

Block numbers are listed in order from McNichols to Seven Mile Road.



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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.

Thank you to all of the writers, contributors, and advertisers.

UDCA Newsletter Project Team

Sarah James, *Editor, Designer, & Board Representative*
Mary Jo Smith and Nora Gessert, *Copy Editors*

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.

Sign up for the UDCA email list at
www.UDCAonline.com

**UNIVERSITY DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
SPRING COMMUNITY MEETING**

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

6:30 to 9 PM

GESU SOCIAL HALL

17139 Oak Drive (use Quincy Street entrance)

Guest Speaker: *Representative from Detroit Police Department*

EAT & GREET from 6:30 to 7 PM, UDCA UPDATE, REFRESHMENTS
Meeting is for **ALL** University District residents