

## Plan to attend the General Membership Meeting Thursday, April 16th

*By Nora Gessert*

On April 16th we will hold our Spring General Membership meeting. There are so many concerns in the neighborhood from traffic calming to residential standards and challenges to revitalizing Livernois, the latter will make the UDCA even more attractive to potential new residents. As of this issue we have commitments from the Department of Neighborhoods to talk about what our neighboring communities are doing around traffic calming and residential standards, from the Mayor's Office to discuss his plans for revitalizing neighborhoods via a vibrant business districts, and our new State Representative will offer his views on neighborhood stabilization. It will be a very informative meeting. Plan to come at 6:30 for light refreshments followed by the meeting at 7 pm. See the full page flier in this newsletter for location.

### In this Issue

Letter from the President	2
Meet the New Board	5
University District Development Corporation	6
What is a Special Assesment District?	7
The Beautifiction Committee New Plans for 2015	7
Reminder: Solid Waste Collection Days	7
Situational Awareness	8
Block Captains Corner	8
Community Safety Updates	9
Displaying your UDCA yard sign	10
Save the Date!	10
UDCA Residential Standards	11
New Meters on Livernois will mean increased rates	11
Help Needed!	12
Participating Merchants	14
Membership form	16
Security Patrol Invoice	17
UDCA Directory	18
Block Captains	19



# Letter From The President and Community Report



In the University District, being a member of the community for almost 12 years puts me in the middle age category. We have so many residents that have been here 20+ years and, recently we are seeing a surge in new, younger families. With new residents come new energy and ideas on how to make our community even better. It is an exciting time for the University District Community Association (Association) and this year will bring new and exciting programs to our community. The first couple months have been an experience for me as I learn all that the volunteers are doing for the community. I am looking forward to the year ahead and working for the community and with the committees.

First, let me ask that if you are not a member, please join today (See membership chart below). The Association led by the membership committee has done herculean work to increase membership – our major source of revenue – and to ensure that there are tangible benefits to membership. Some benefits may seem small like the refrigerator magnet, which I routinely refer to for important numbers and trash dates. The saving from the vendor discount program, improved welcome packets and new exterior members, signs all add up. Residents and visitors are also greeted with planted flowers and fresh mulch from the Beautification committee. In the face of record snow fall last year where would we have been without snowplowing? We set a goal of achieving 600 members to provide all planned services and programs in 2015.

A **Big Shout** out to the Block Captains who keep us informed, and Radio Patrol and Subscriber Patrol. All three efforts combine to keep us safer in our community. Did you know that our crime rate rivals suburban areas like Grosse Pointe? More importantly in 2015, the Association goal (See 2015 project list) in collaboration with its community partners is to continue to work hard to get the rate lower along with looking for ways to calm vehicle traffic in our community.

Another benefit of the community is the Residential Standards committee that works behind the scenes to address the violations in the community. Their challenge is the need to work within the confines of the city government. Having said that, they get a remarkable amount of issues addressed without most of us ever knowing. A small but impressive group of volunteers who have frankly a thankless job, but one they do with energy and diligence. The goal in 2014 was to implement a new reporting process. Now that that goal was achieved, my goal is to work closely with various entities to increase enforcement of those standards. Some of the highlights accomplished in 2014:

## Major Highlights for 2014

### **Beautification:**

- Decorating and maintaining planters on McNichols and Seven Mile
- Mulch at Gesu playground

### **Membership:**

- Increased membership by 20%
- Held two “Meet and Greets” for new residents
- Expanded Merchant Discount Program
- New exterior membership signs

### **Residential Standards:**

- Implement new residential standards violation reporting process

### **Traffic Calming:**

- Completed community survey

### **Block Captains**

- Increase in the number of Block Captains and Co-Captains (92% of Blocks have a Block or Co-Captain identified)

### **Marketing and Public relations:**

- Two feature interviews for UDCA representatives

### **Community Safety**

- Decreased crime rate

### **Community Development**

- Improved occupancy rate
- Increased property values

### **Events:**

- Held annual Garage Sale
- Ice Cream Social
- Held Semi-annual Home Tour attended by approximately 500 guests
- Held two annual meetings
- Over 20 Blocks participating in the “Building Stronger Blocks” initiatives

YEARLY MEMBERSHIP Summary by Street (02/01/2015)											
Street	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
Belden	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-		
Birchcrest	31	***	50	59	55	52	29	46	70		
Fairfield	70	70	55	72	69	69	38	62	69		
Muirland	75	85	58	71	75	59	46	72	74		
Oak Drive	37	51	21	60	49	37	27	52	55		
Parkside	57	46	10	64	64	57	39	70	92		
Quincy	4	4	2	6	5	6	4	6	5		
Santa Mar	1	2	1	3	2	3	2	2	2		
7 Mi/Other	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	3	2		
Warrington	56	53	8	63	55	42	41	50	65		
Wildemere	49	50	9	70	68	60	35	65	77		
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>600**</b>	<b>TBD</b>
* 29 members for 2015 pre-campaign											
**Projection											

The Association's Communication Committee is vital to the community and is in the process of reorganization as our previous Chair's tenure was over and she stepped down (Thank you Sarah James! Your work was superb and you set a high bar for quality). The Communication Committee is responsible for the newsletter, emails blasts, Facebook, twitter, and is open to creative ways to reach residents. During 2015 the Committee will be piloting use of E-Newsletters and Robo calling (Text and Voice) system for special announcements and procedural and policy issue associated with their use.

Thank you to the four new Board members who had stepped up (See their BIO and photos enclosed). This year new energy in the Association has spun off a resurgence in both the Youth and Social committees. In short, great things are happening but progress can only go so far. The Association needs You! Sign up today. The form is in every issue of the newsletter and is always online at [www.udcaonline.com](http://www.udcaonline.com). Our plans for 2015 were developed as of the Board's annual retreat.



## UDCA 2015 Goals

### Criteria for selection of initiatives and projects

- **Reach – broad impact**
  - Impact UDCA members' quality of life
  - Stronger voice in the UDCA's surrounding communities
- **Safety**
  - Decreased crime rate
  - Traffic Calming
  - Increase perception of safety in the community
- **Market/PR neighborhood**
  - Strengthen the perception of the University District as a great place to live and do business
  - Branding UDCA as the safest community in the City.
  - Increase occupancy rate of businesses and homes
  - Decrease violations of residential standards
- **Impact on Association**
  - Increase general membership and volunteering members and others
  - Ensure High probability of successful outcome (doable)
- **Clear measures of success**
  - Quantitative (Numbers)
  - Qualitative (Stories and pictures)
- **Strengthen relationship with partners and stakeholders**
  - UDCC
  - Radio Patrol
  - Subscriber Patrol
  - Other community based organization
- **Cost/demand/benefit**
  - Introduce new projects and initiatives
  - Increased fund balance
  - Diversification of revenue streams

### **Board Project Lead** **2015 Projects Selected**

1. Traffic calming (R. Hamilton)
2. Youth (M. Ramsey-Heath and V. McPhaul )
  - a. Partnership with K-12 institutions
  - b. Youth Roundup event
3. Residential standards (S. Bailey and F. Benedict)
4. Social (M. McGreal and, R. Short)
  - a. "Meet and Greet"
  - b. To be determined
5. Beautification (S. Vlahovich and T. Bauer)
  - a. Flower planting and "spruce up" efforts
6. Seniors' Initiative (G. O'Neal and H. Conerway)
7. New member outreach (G. O'Neal and T. Bauer)
8. Communication (B. Goss Andrews and D. Beaumont)
  - a. Block Captains
  - b. Social Media
  - c. Website
  - d. Email Blast
  - e. Newsletter
  - f. Increase use of technology
    - i. Voice mail
    - ii. Robo blast text/voice)
    - iii. E-newsletter
9. Elections (S. Bailey)
10. Garage sale (L. Koyton)
11. Office of the President (N. Gessert)
  - a. Host two membership meetings
  - b. External outreach and advocacy
  - c. Community based organization coordination
  - d. Strengthen UDCA's leadership and volunteer pipeline

So for the year ahead as President, my goal is to support the committees and work to provide programs to our community, within a more efficient budget adding to the reserve fund balance. (See below a summary of 5 years expense and revenue summary). Although we never had to dip into our reserve fund balance, spending only what we take in is good financial sense. The Board continues to identify ways to reduce costs in 2015 while still expanding support to committees, activities and programs.

### **Summary of Revenue and Expense Activities 2010 - 2014**

Year	Revenue	Expenses	Total added Fund Balance
2010(HT)	47,327	32,045	15,327
2011	15,313	39,887	(24,574)
2012(HT)	31,381	28,518	2,865
2013	38,713	33,183	5,530
2014(HT)	35,957	40,188	(4,231)
<b>2010-14</b>	<b>186,691</b>	<b>173,819</b>	<b>12,872</b>

(HT) = Home Tour year

If you have ideas or are interested in getting involved, call a committee chair, board member or send me a message (NoraGessert@yahoo.com).

### **The 2015 UDCA Executive Board**

Every January, the UDCA's Board of Directors elect new officers. At our January meeting **Nora Gessert was elected President, Gregory O'Neal was elected Vice President, Thomas Bauer was re-elected Secretary, Roger Short was re-elected Treasurer and David Beaumont was re-elected Chair of Block Club Captains.** Congratulations to our new Executive Committee!!

After reading the above, we are 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. Please contact our new Board and Executive Board members and congratulate them on their recent win. Or, contact any board member to offer your support, questions, and 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!

# Meet the New Board

By Sid Bailey III, UDCA Board Member and Chair Election Committee

The UDCA welcomes three new Board members and one Board member returning from hiatus. We also congratulate two re-elected members. The following UDCA members were elected to the Board in the November election:

- Thomas Bauer
- Frank Benedict
- Brenda Goss Andrews
- Malika Ramsey-Heath
- Lenora Koyton

Their 3 year terms began on January 1st, 2015. Also new to the UDCA Board of Directors is Megan McGreal. Megan was also among the field of our 12 candidates in November's election and was appointed to fill a Board vacancy. Her term will end on December 31st, 2016.

With our optimism in starting these new terms on your UDCA Board of Directors comes a sad farewell to outgoing Board members, Mary Tomich, Sarah James and Ken Sanders. Among Mary's efforts are launching the Traffic Calming Committee and providing her IT expertise in support of several UDCA projects, including as a member of the Residential Standards Committee. Sarah, kept the UD and beyond informed as Communications Committee Chairperson (Newsletter, email blasts, etc.). Ken produced our last 2 UDCA Golf Outings and last year's new neighbor welcome at La Dolce Vita. We thank them for their service. Each will be missed indeed. We look forward to their participation in other ways as we all work to move the University District forward. It's a Team Effort! Now, a few words about and from the newly elected Board members:



## **Frank Benedict**

*Now that my two daughters are grown and I am easing into retirement I have more time and the desire to once again formally aid the Association in its continuing mission to enhance the assets of the neighborhood through my 26 plus years of experience in Contract Administration and Facilities Management with the City of Detroit's Water and Sewerage Department.*

*Thank You for this opportunity to be of service.*



## **Brenda Goss Andrews**

*My goal is to use the experiences I have gained as part of DPD and, now as a real estate agent to improve our community and enlist the services I am affiliated with to make the UDCA an even greater place to live.*



## **Malika Ramsey-Heath**

*I know that every neighborhood has a fabric. It is so wonderful to live in a beautiful, well-maintained, and safe neighborhood. I want to become a more integral part of the fabric of this neighborhood, ensuring that it maintains its unique character and is able to benefit from the City's resurgence. The importance of the relationship between neighborhood residents, businesses, and schools cannot be overstated. My desire is to become an active team member to bring all of these elements together in a holistic way.*



## **S. Megan McGreal**

*I want to serve on the Board of Directors for UDCA because I'm passionate about ensuring that University District is a fully occupied neighborhood that continues a legacy of camaraderie, safety and community values. I will use my knowledge of community incentives and combine it with experience of generating fun, family-driven events to bring in residents to fill the few homes that are currently unoccupied in our neighborhood. I want to reach out to surrounding neighborhoods to generate positive marketing materials for our combined communities. My goal is to bring the message of the benefits of University District to new potential residents by serving on the Board of Directors and increasing my understanding of and impact on the neighborhood.*

# University District Development Corporation

*By David E. Beaumont, Vice President University District Development Corporation*

The University District Development Corporation (UDDC) along with its parent organization, the University District Community Association (UDCA), has been working to develop and implement strategies to improve the quality of life of residents in the University District community. The focus of this effort has been on maintaining an urban pocket designed to ensure community growth and prosperity that contributes to the desirability of the area to live, as well as increase business, shopping options and property values.

In early December the UDDC submitted a proposal to the Kresge Foundation requesting funding to develop a plan to enhance the borders of the neighborhood through the design and construction of connecting streetscapes along the arteries of McNichols and West Seven Mile Road from Livernois east to Woodward and Hamilton respectively. The plan would beautify the borders of Palmer Woods, Sherwood Forest, University District, and Martin Park supporting a sense of the area as one of the premier residential communities in Southeast Michigan.

The streetscapes improvements are envisioned to create attractive landscaped walkways including decorative pavers, pedestrian lighting, street furniture and landscaped areas with decorative trees, shrubs and flowers complete with irrigation. Safety will be enhanced as strategies effectively calming vehicular traffic and allowing shorter pedestrian crossing distances. Additionally bike paths are envisioned connecting the pathways established on Livernois to the north through

Ferndale. The paths will connect at Livernois and provide a direct pathway to Palmer Park and Woodward. The ultimate goal is linking to the M1 Railway.

These improvements align with the recommendations of Detroit Future City, the SEMCOG plans and the UDCA committee on Traffic Calming initiative. The streetscapes will link to the landscaped median improvements on Livernois, currently underway. The proposed streetscape improvements along W. McNichols will tie into the University of Detroit Mercy campus, Livernois and the proposed McNichols Education, Medical and Creative Corridor to the west. The improvements will further enhance and connect the corridor to Hamilton and Woodward improving the transportation and non-motorized connections to future phases of the M1 Rail.

The Corporation along with the Association recognizes the important need to identify and lead the use of innovative strategies to support the development of the University District as a desirable community. This type of project makes it critical that the UDCA and UDDC partnered with stakeholders that exist in the proposal project area whose missions are to support household growth, prosperity, and maintaining of a highly desirable area to visit and live. The Corporation will work with the Association to solicit input from the community stakeholders through surveys such as the Traffic calming committee efforts, focus groups; and soliciting feedback at UDCA and other community meetings.

## FYI

*From UDDC Board*

The University District Development Corporation home safety project donated 40 Smoke detectors in December 2014 to be used in welcome bags distributed to new residents in the community.

**The University District Development Corporation meets every second Tuesday of the month at Gesu Community Center at 5:30 pm, the public is welcomed**

The University District Development Corporation (Corporation) is a nonprofit 501(c) (3) organization located in the University District area of northwest Detroit. The Corporation was established as a tool of the University District Community Association (Association) in May 2011 to provide financial resources to further improve the University District and surrounding areas. The Corporation is organized on a non-membership, Directorship basis.

# What is a Special Assessment District?

By: David E. Beaumont, UDDC Vice President

Michigan **Public Act 287 of 2011 § MCL 117.5i**, as amended authorizes neighborhoods in Detroit to improve their individual areas by sharing the cost for enhanced crime prevention, snow removal and/or mosquito abatement services. The state law says:

*“Whether or not authorized by its charter, a city with a population of more than 600,000 may provide by ordinance a procedure to finance by special assessment the provision by private contractors of snow removal from streets, mosquito abatement and security services. The ordinance shall authorize the use of petitions to initiate the establishment of a special assessment district. The record owners of not less than 51% of the land comprising the actual special assessment district must sign the petitions.”*

Each neighborhood interested in implementing a SAD will go through its own petition process, as outlined in the ordinance to request that a SAD be created in their specific area. Community organizations & neighborhood groups representing all geographic areas in Detroit are currently working together to support the SAD legislation so that it can be implemented in the near future. The following features have gained broad appeal among the various neighborhood groups because of the flexibility of the new ordinance.

- SADs typically increase property values for homeowners, which in turn, increases tax revenues for municipalities.
- Unlike the voluntary dues and service fees collected by many neighborhood associations, participation in the SAD will be mandatory for residents of neighborhoods that elect to create a SAD. A small assessment per household will generate sustainable annual funds. These funds may be used to hire private security patrols, purchase security-related equipment, and/or contract out snow removal services. The results will be better service delivery for less money, in most neighborhoods.
- Identified services will supplement, not replace city services. Likewise, there will be no loss of revenue to the city of Detroit.
- Variations of the SAD funding model are used in other cities in Michigan and across the country. Allowing SADs in Detroit will provide Detroit neighborhoods with a proactive strategy that is based on other highly successful programs.
- Each neighborhood will identify which services are needed. The neighborhood residents will customize their programs to meet their needs.
- The SAD ordinance provides a consistent, sustainable source of funding for key quality of life services.

## The Beautification Committee New Plans for 2015

by Sharon Vlahovich, Chair

The Beautification Committee has already begun to make plans for a beautiful summer. On Saturday, May 16 (tentative date) we are planning a clean-up of the Walker - Stennis Orchard at Belden Park. And on Saturday, May 30 we will be planting flowers at the entrances to our neighborhood.

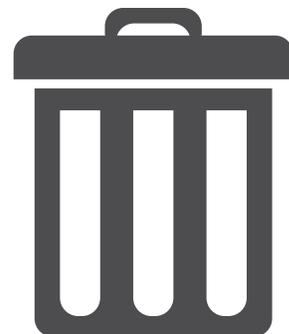
If we have 20 folks sign up to plant flowers, we should be done in a couple of hours. If we have 40 folks sign up, it should only take one hour! You can sign up at the Annual Meeting on April 16th or by calling Sharon at 313-34-1547 or sending an e-mail to [s\\_vlahovich@yahoo.com](mailto:s_vlahovich@yahoo.com).



## Reminder: University District Solid Waste Collection Days

- Trash pickup: Thursday, every week.
- Recycling pickup: Thursday, every other week. (Same week as Bulk)
- Bulk pick up: Friday, every other week. (Same week as Recycling)

Regular yard waste pick up returns in the spring. The schedule, once published by Advanced Disposal, will be posted here! Go to [udcaonline.com](http://udcaonline.com) for the most current collection schedule and other events in the University District.



# Situational Awareness, what it is and why you should practice it.

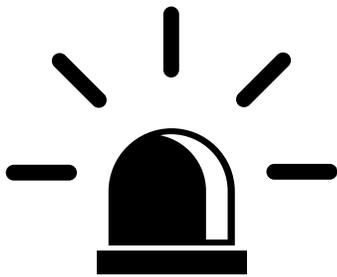
*By Tom Bauer, UDCA Board Secretary*

When training for incident management and working in Firefighting and EMS I learned a concept called situational awareness. What is it and what does it mean? Why should someone not working in potentially hostile or hazardous environment be concerned with situational awareness?

The answers are simple. Situational awareness is simply the practice or habit of being aware of the situation and environment you are in. When working as a paramedic or police officer a person may have to walk into a home unaware of who is in the home and what their intentions are. In an upscale neighborhood with good socioeconomic climate the situation does not immediately imply a safety concern. But, what if the officer is walking into a known drug or gang house? Officers must develop a habit of watching their surroundings, the people in the area and the dynamics or changing dynamic of the environment. You must be aware of the conditions and people (seen and unseen) in the vicinity surrounding you. I have practiced this throughout my career and we should practice it in our private life.

For a resident of the University District situational awareness is very applicable. Think of the environment you are in and what potential hazards exist. Are you in a parked car at night? Is that car visible from a commercial street? Are there overgrown bushes blocking your view? Do you know who's lurking around looking for an opportunity to commit a crime against you? A person, who comes home at night, sits in the car talking on the phone or the guy who walks home from the liquor store at night had better be watching their surroundings continuously. It is easy to get caught up in a conversation and lose track of who is sneaking up on you or following you. If you practice situational awareness you know who's sneaking up on you much sooner. (Perhaps keep driving until the call is done) Keep your eyes open and your attention divided between what you are doing and what is happening around you.

If you are alive you are a potential crime victim. Living in the city makes the potential even greater, even here at home in your own driveway. I can think of three incidents involving neighbors who were at or near their homes and ended up being victims of crimes involving guns. Please be aware of what's happening around you at all times and try not to become a victim.



**BLOCK CAPTAINS  
NEEDED!**  
for  
**WARRINGTON,  
blocks 2 and 3,  
and  
BELDEN,  
block 1**

## Block Captains Corner

David E. Beaumont, Block Captains Chair

**Thanks** to Detroit Area Council on the Aging (Stacia Little, Block Captain Block 7 Parkside helped to navigated the system for us) for provide guest speaker on Medicaid Issues at the December Block Captains' meeting and Lila Labbil, (UDCA Resident) for providing information regarding the water shutoffs in the city at February Block Captains' meeting.

**The Block Captains meet every even month (April, June, August, October and December) second Saturday of the month at Gesu Community Center at 9:00 am. All neighbors are welcome.**

Please check out the updated list in this newsletter for changes and additions to the BC list. Please note we have a trend of more Co-Block Captains. **WANTED: BLOCK CAPTAINS FOR WARRINGTON, BLOCKS 2 and 3, and BELDEN, BLOCK 1!**

# Community Safety Updates

By Mary Jo Smith, University District Radio Patrol

In recent months various projects have been started or moved to a next step in the process.

- In the 12th Precinct, Captain Balinski invited all the **clergy to create a council**. One of the first items on their agenda was to look at what assistance they could provide in cases of domestic violence. As other types of crime are diminishing, reports of domestic violence are increasing. Looking at the problem with a different perspective may help in addressing this problem. Captain Balinski is also working on some other coordinated efforts to reduce domestic violence. Those details will be available later.
- The impediment to a **special assessment district ordinance**, the tax foreclosure rates throughout the city, has been dealt with and the public hearing process initiated. By publication date, an ordinance might be on the books. This ordinance would allow neighborhoods to assess themselves for additional snow removal, security, or mosquito abatement.
- Our NPOs [Neighborhood Police Officers] are, at long last, getting the [computer] tablets that will enable them to be even more effective when they are out in the neighborhoods. Our NPO, Officer Tania Anding now has her department cell phone number in addition to the office number. She can be reached at 313-618-0767c or at 313-596-1221o. She has been very clear that she enjoys working with neighbors and that she really likes to keep busy. The NPOs work primarily with “quality of life” issues, not police emergencies.
- One pattern that has been noticeable city wide is the increase in auto thefts on Sunday /Monday nights. It appears that the thieves believe that once you are home and park your car Sunday, you’ll stay in getting ready for the start of the workweek and won’t notice them starting their workweek before you do. Again, cars on the street are most at risk, those in the driveway less so. Cars in the garage almost never get stolen. Ford Focus and Fusion continue to be very popular with thieves.
- Crime rates continue to drop. In our neighborhood the rates are so low, that percentages may fluctuate wildly. If you monitor the rates, it helps to also keep track of the numbers of reports.

With the drop in crime citywide, the police department is now beginning to place more emphasis on **prevention** since the demand for response is not so frequent. Are you doing things to make yourself a target and invite criminal behavior? Do you

- Leave your car with the engine running while you are in the house keeping warm? Unless you have auto start, or

some other remote system, you are inviting auto theft. [With the remote starts, you might get a broken window as thieves check].

- Sit in the car at night? You can make the situation more inviting for carjackers if the engine is running and you are distracted--talking on the phone, texting, visiting with the friend you are dropping off, etc. Essentially every carjacking in our neighborhood has been late at night with a distracted driver and opportunists looking for a car. Additional note: Carjackers are among the most violent of criminals; unless you value your car more than your life, cooperation gives you a much better chance of survival.
- Make sure you park on the street even when you have safer locations like the driveway, or better yet, the garage? Do you offer incentives to thieves by displaying your possessions inside the car?
- Help burglars by keeping your exterior lights off? Does the interior always look dark at night?
- Suggest that you don’t care about possessions because your yard looks so uncared for? Advertisements left out and snow not shoveled from walks, Courvilles and recycling bins left out hours or days after pick-up are all notices to burglars that maybe you won’t mind letting them take the computers, TVs and jewelry.
- Advertise your brand new giant flat screen TV by providing video on the street at night? Did you put that box out there for all to see? [...and you know that box won’t get picked up unless you break it down and put it in the recycling bin!]

While it is true that most of things are perfectly legal to do [failure to shovel snow or meet the requirements of trash disposal are exceptions] we all need to consider what avoidable risks we choose to assume.

Remember, too that our senior neighbors and those with health issues can register with 9-1-1. The forms are available on line thorough the city website, [www.detroitmi.gov](http://www.detroitmi.gov). Search for 9-1-1 and the Senior Profile Agreement will come up as an option. If you do not have internet access, call our 12th Precinct Community Policing Office at 313-596-1221 and ask about getting a copy. The fire department is particularly interested in knowing when a resident is on oxygen; knowing that in advance can make a difference in a fire. Be sure to register oxygen users for their safety as well as the rest of the household.

Light the night, and don’t forget to keep fire hydrants clear in those late snow storms.

# SAVE THE DATE!

The new UDCA social committee is planning a kick off event Thursday, April 19th. Plan to attend a great event at the 1917 Bistro (19416 Livernois) from 5-7 pm which is open to all residents! Light refreshments and complimentary appetizers provided. Dinner and drinks are available at a discount.

## Displaying Your UDCA Yard Sign: Helpful Tips

*Luke Gunn, Membership Committee Chair*

Have you paid your 2015 UDCA membership dues yet? Our membership package contains a wonderful yard sign this year, as a special thank you for your commitment to the UDCA.

Displaying your UDCA yard sign is an easy and fun way to show your support for our neighborhood. Finding the right location to display your sign is important, too.

Here are some helpful ideas on where to place your UDCA yard sign:

- Next to your porch steps
- Among front of the house landscaping
- Next to your security sign

Yard signs can be easily installed using the sturdy, metal ground stake. Simply choose your sign location, and push the stake into the ground until your sign is about one foot tall.



The hard winter ground may make installing your sign difficult now, but that's ok—we can't wait to see everyone's signs sprouting like flowers this spring!

**Jeffrey C Gisstennar**  
Associate Broker

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"Customer Service Is Our Top Priority!"

## UDCA Residential Standards

By: Evelyn Foreman

It is hoped that all residents will pay the \$60 (or did pay \$50 before December 30, 2014) UDCA Annual 2015 dues soon. One of the benefits we derive from these dues is the snow shoveling of our neighborhood streets which are not a part of the main thoroughfares that the city shovels unless the snow is Really Deep. We do not want to wait for the snow to get Really Deep. I have lived in this community 18 years and I have never seen the City of Detroit remove snow from our 52 block area unless there is a school building involved. However, **some residents could help us get more for our money if they would remove their cars so our contractors can do a better job removing the snow.**

We are observing problems with residents who are not putting out and removing trash, recycle containers, bulk items, and leaves on schedule. Fines for some of these problems range from \$100-\$1500. If you have a neighbor who violates these schedules and he/she does not appear to be aware of this your assistance might be appreciated by him/her. If you are a resident who is not aware of the schedule, you have several options:

- You can read the Residential Standards document available from any block captain or go on the [www.udcaonline.com](http://www.udcaonline.com) website to obtain these.
- You can ask a block captain.
- You can ask a neighbor.
- You can contact Advanced Disposal at 844-233-8764.
- You can e-mail Advanced Disposal at [DetroitMIResidential@AdvancedDisposal.com](mailto:DetroitMIResidential@AdvancedDisposal.com).
- You can check the websites at [www.detroitmi.gov/dpw](http://www.detroitmi.gov/dpw) or <http://www.advanceddisposal.com/mi/detroit/detroit-residential-collection>
- You can check this newsletter

Please remember to wait until **after 6 p.m. the night before trash pick up to put out** trash, recycle containers, bulk, etc. and remove the empty containers by **9 p.m. the day of pickup. If you are going on vacation, perhaps a good neighbor will remove your cans. Police have stated that thieves often see trash containers left out as an open invitation.**

Residential Standards is planning to meet with someone from the city regarding some blocks which are leaving trash cans out for several days after pickup. This means some people have fewer parking spaces and have unsightly smelly cans on their streets. We moved into the UDCA in hope of a better environment. Hopefully everyone will pull together to assure that this remains a reality as we seek to enhance our property values, comforts, and aesthetic appreciation of this community.

udca

## New Meters on Livernois Will Mean an Increase in Rates

By: Evelyn Foreman

Presently, efforts are being made to have the current parking meters on Livernois from 6 Mile to 8 Mile replaced with the current technology of other Michigan Communities to help maintain and enhance our business district. In case you are not aware of it, meters in our area impose a risk to our district for the following reasons.

- **The \$1.00 an hour charge is an increase of .50 cents more per hour than our close suburban districts** (i.e. Ferndale's 9 Mile business district meters) and only allow 2 hour maximum. Try telling your hairdresser that she has 2 hours and no more to get you in and out. Mozell's Salon has lost customers due to ticketing.
- The coin operated meters on Livernois **do not offer the convenient charge card option** if one has no coins or not enough coins. How many of us automatically have so many coins at any given time?
- In addition to these inconveniences, meter maids reportedly **have stepped up the ticketing** and the price of tickets has reportedly doubled. Not having gotten a ticket myself, I am hearing about \$40 tickets.
- Larry Swygert and the Avenue of Fashion Business Association have mounted an e-mailing/phone calling campaign. A number of us were to attend the February 2, 2015 City Council meeting where our meter issues were on the agenda. However, weather caused that meeting to be canceled. Therefore, I am including the e-mail information so we might join our business community as concerned residents in complaining about **this inequity compared to other Michigan Communities**. We do not need boarded up store fronts on Livernois.

**Scott Benson**

[sokolya@detroit.mi.gov](mailto:sokolya@detroit.mi.gov) • 313-224-1206

**Brenda Jones**

[Bjones\\_mb@detroit.mi.gov](mailto:Bjones_mb@detroit.mi.gov) • 313-224-1245

**George Cushingberry Jr.**

[cushingberryg@detroit.mi.gov](mailto:cushingberryg@detroit.mi.gov) • 313-224-4535

Please spread the word in this community and among those you know to voice their concerns. We have been fighting to hold our community together through some difficult times since the mortgage crisis and need the city to recognize a need to assist and not hinder us in our goals to move forward.



## HELP NEEDED!

*By Nora Gessert*

The newsletter is one method of communicating to the neighborhood. It gets to every resident whereas we know our email list is mostly comprised of members (we also know many do not have email). Getting articles are the easy part. Most of the committees write more than enough. We need someone who will gather the articles and any advertising we get and pull it together to send to the printer. If you have design skills, great! We will use them. If you would be willing to be the person to gather up the documents, standard content, ads and such and prepare them for submission to the printer give the communication committee a call or an email.

Also, we need Block Captains on Warrington blocks 2 and 3 and Belden Block 1. Contact David Beaumont if you are willing to assist! Thank you!

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OVER WITH  
FRIENDS AND  
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NOW IS THE  
TIME TO  
CALL AND  
MAKE THE  
MOVE!



**RONALD STRINGER**  
University District Resident, Real Estate Consultant  
313-743-7580 | rstringer@cbwm.com  
294 E Brown Street, Birmingham, MI 48009



# Participating Merchants

One benefit of membership is participating in the member discount program, These merchants will give the following discount to CARD CARRYING UDCA MEMBERS ONLY!

Eric's I've Been Framed Shop **16527 Livernois Ave, Detroit, 313-861-0263**

15% off Custom Framing ~ Includes Frame, Glass, Matting, Mounting, and Fitting  
www.ericsevenbeenframed.com

Professional Racquet Service **19444 Livernois Ave, Detroit, MI 48221, 313-863-1880**

10% off Specific Services and Apparel ~No Discount at PRS Annex

House of Morrison Shoe Repair **18933 Livernois Ave, 313-861-0240**

10% off Services ~ www.morrisonsshoerepair.com

La Dolce Vita Restaurant **17546 Woodward Ave, Detroit 48203, 313-863-0331**

Tuesday-Friday ~ 2nd Entrée 50% off ~ Lunch Only

Tuesday-Thursday and Sunday ~ Free Appetizers ~ Dinner and Nights Only

Dexter Quality Dry Cleaners **13201 Dexter Ave, Detroit 48238, 313-520-1626**

25% off Paid in Advance ~ free Pick-up/Delivery with 10 items or more ~ 1 hour advance notice for delivery ~ Credit and Debit cards accepted

Trade Winds **17521 Livernois Ave, Detroit 48221, 313-342-0708**

10% off Wines, Any Brand

Goldfinger Training, LLC **313-806-2726**

10% off CPL Certification Class ~ One free hand gun cleaning per household

MCS Multimedia Southfield Research Park **21683 Melrose Ave, Bldg T 248-336-2529**

10% off any order (up to \$599) up to 10 orders ~ Not valid with any other discount or special  
www.mcsmultimedia.com

Palmer Park Golf Course **19013 Woodward Ave, 48203, 313-883-2525**

20% discount for the remainder of the 2015 season. Pure Golf Fore Life, Private or group lessons ~ Buy 5 lessons get one free ~ 586-719-9321

Blumz...by JRDesigns ~ Floral and Event Design ~ Check Blumz website for locations

www.blumz.com

Vogue Vintage Vintage Home Décor **23622 Woodward Ave, 248-546-1555**

15% discount off any purchase over \$50.00

www.voguevintage.net

GreenBliss Lifestyle +Wellness Store **19437 Livernois Ave, 313-651-5740**

15% All UDCA Residents w/Membership Card

Sat-Wed 10-6pm ~ Thurs & Fri 10-8pm

## UDCA MERCHANT PARTICIPATION PROGRAM

Membership has its rewards show your card and save!

Membership Card MUST be presented to receive discount.

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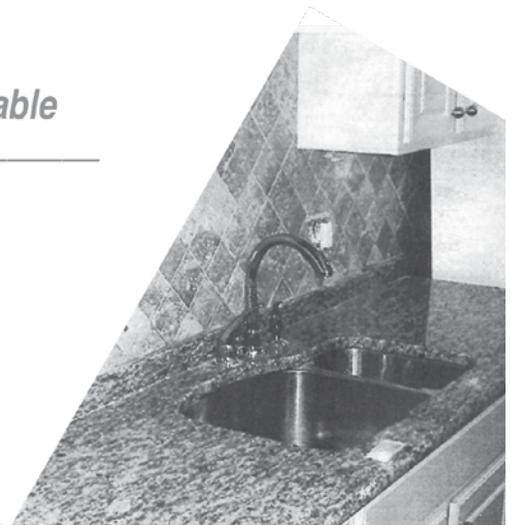
- PLUMBING (back-ups, leaks)
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Univrsity District Community Association

2015 Annual UDCA Invoice (Jan 1, 2015 - Dec 1, 2015)

**\$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 12/31/2014**

*(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 Contract Information (Fill in for at least one resident- Please PRINT)**

First Name	Last Name	Cell Phone	Email

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: \_\_\_\_\_

**Univrsty District Security Patrol  
PO Box 21041  
Detroit, Michigan 48221**

*Invoice Date:* March 20, 2015

**Security Patrol Invoice**

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

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

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

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

	3 Month Payment	6 Month Payment	9 Month Payment	12 Month Payment
<i>Extends your coverage to:</i>	06/30/15	09/30/15	12/31/15	03/31/16

Renewal Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Payment Option:** 3 Months \_\_\_\_\_ 6 Months \_\_\_\_\_ 9 Months \_\_\_\_\_ 12 Months \_\_\_\_\_

**Expiration Date:** 06/30/15      09/30/15      12/31/15      03/31/16

For Office use only: Check Number  Deposit Date  Payment Date

**Return with Payment**

*Invoice Date:* March 20, 2015

# UDCA Standing Committees & Board Liason Contacts

## BEAUTIFICATION

Sharon Vlahovich, *Chair*

## COMMUNICATIONS

Brenda Goss Andrews, *Chair*

## ELECTION

Sidney H. Bailey, III, *Chair*  
Board Elections  
Bylaws, Policies, etc.

## HOME TOUR

Nora Gessert, *Chair*

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership Drive  
Luke Gunn, *Chair* 341-4866

Resident Welcome Package  
Elaine Gilbert 864-5332

## RESIDENTIAL STANDARDS

Residential Standards Chair  
Odell Bridges 862-2551

## 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*  
NPO Tanin Anding, *Officer* 618-0767c 596-1221o  
Police reports by phone 267-4600  
UD Radio Patrol 447-0003  
Mary Jo Smith, *President* 862-3754  
UD Subscriber Patrol 459-0770  
Vacant House Registry 447-0003 (UDRP)

## SNOW

Roger Short, *Chair*

## SOCIAL

Genevieve Jones, *Chair*

Garage Sale  
Lenora Koyton, *Chair*

General Meeting  
Nora Gessert

## UDCA INFOLINE

318-7498

## UDCA WEBSITE

www.UDCAonline.com

## Board Terms & Contact Info: January 2015

Board Member	Consecutive Terms Served	Current Term began	Current Term Expires	Phone	Email
Brenda Goss Andrews	1	Jan 2015	Dec 2017	313-910-3860	bgossandrews@gmail.com
Sidney H. Bailey III	4	Jan 2013	Dec 2015	313-850-7797	Pianoman.sbi@gmail.com
Thomas Bauer	2	Jan 2015	Dec 2017	586-945-7946	TABauer@ymail.com
David Beaumont	1	Jan 2014	Dec 2016	734-417-8232	dbeaumont7@hotmail.com
Frank Benedict	1	Jan 2015	Dec 2017	313-999-1434	benedict@dwsd.org
Henry Conerway	2	Jan 2013	Dec 2015	313-909-1026	swankhank@aol.com
Nora Gessert	1	Jan 2013	Dec 2015	734-395-1693	noragessert@yahoo.com
Rainy Hamilton	3	Jan 2014	Dec 2016	313-862-7200	rhamjr@earthlink.net
Lenora Koyton	2	Jan 2015	Dec 2017	323-350-9226	koyton@sbcglobal.net
Megan McGreal*	1	Jan 2014	Dec 2016	248-390-3580	sarahmmcgreal@gmail.com
Valerie McPhaul	1	Jan 2013	Dec 2015	248 747 2499	valmcpaul@aol.com
Gregory B. O'Neal	2	Jan 2014	Dec 2016	313-806-2726	Gonealgroup@att.net
Malika Ramsey-Heath	1	Jan 2015	Dec 2017	313-622-4238	attorneyheath@gmail.com
Roger Short	2	Jan 2013	Dec 2015	313-342-5675	shortsgateway@comcast.net
Sharon Vlahovich	2	Jan 2014	Dec 2016	313-340-1547	s_vlahovich@yahoo.com

# UDCA Block Captains

## Warrington

1 Shirley King	313-862-7313
2 David Beaumont (acting)	734-417-8232
3 David Beaumont (acting)	734-417-8232
4 Doris Walls	313-864-8630
5 Henry Conerway	313-861-7623
6 Jacqueline Bonds	313-862-8525
7 Cynthia Banks	313-345-4278
8 Shirley (David) Northcross	313-863-8251

## Quincy

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

## Oak Drive

1 Gesu	
2 Evelyn Foreman	313-861-9490
3 Toney Hughes	313-861-0287
4 Sara Wims	313-861-6152
5 Selma Goggans	313-861-1223
6 P3A	
7 James & Kim Beasley	313-861-1568
8 Brenda Kokumo	313-646-4593

## 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
5 Reginald Cunningham	313-342-8755
6 Steven Ellison	313-862-7016
6 Vincent Smith	313-345-2898
7 Jackson & Askew Frances	
8 Bill Fennicks	313-863-6123

## Belden

1 David Beaumont (acting)	734-417-8232
2 Jamie Ferguson	313-345-2578

## Fairfield

1 Jerome Chandler	313-663-1929
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 Bryan Massive	313-651-9043
6 Preston West	313-342-3356
7 Clarence Gayle	313-982-2572
8 C. Smith-Arnold	313-862-1302

## Muirland

1 Beverly Thomas	313-864-8581
2 Anne Richardson-Clay	313-492-8630
3 Sidney H. Bailey III	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
7 Aishah Mixon	313-434-8345
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
5 Roger Strayer	313-397-8018
6 Jim Zemboy	313-345-7227
7 Virgil & Connie Spight	313-863-2406
8 Mary Cocanougher	313-864-6186

## Parkside

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

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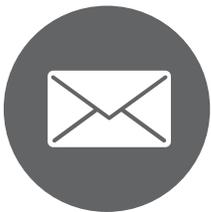
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**University District  
Community Association**  
[www.udcaonline.com](http://www.udcaonline.com)  
313.318.7498

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

Join our mailing list at  
[www.udcaonline.com](http://www.udcaonline.com)

udca  
Spring 2015



### ***Receiving UDCA emails?***

sign up for our emails at  
[www.udcaonline.com](http://www.udcaonline.com) to receive  
information on upcoming events  
and news around the neighborhood.



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

[www.udcaonline.com/calendar](http://www.udcaonline.com/calendar)

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

The NEWSLETTER retains the right to edit articles and refuse publication.