

CITY OF DETROIT

SCOTT BENSON'S NEWSLETTER



S P R I N G • S U M M E R 2 0 2 3

Letter from the Councilman

Dear Third District Residents,

Thank you for allowing me to lead and serve as your councilmember. We made it through another winter and as spring emerges, we turn our attention to outdoor activities and opening our residences for warm weather fun. I am really excited to share a number of activities and resources that help to improve the quality of life for our 3rd District residents.

There is lots of activity going on in the district and this year residents will see an expansion of the Farwell Recreation Center with a new gymnasium, the completion of a mural and the reconstruction of six tennis courts at the Farwell Tennis Center. The Amazon Fulfillment Center will be hiring soon and jobs start at \$19 per hour with medical benefits starting immediately. Go to, <https://detroitatwork.com/amazon>, to get information on how to apply for one of these jobs. The new transit hub will be opening soon at the old state fair grounds, and we will see new park renovations at Lasky Playfield.

This year I am proud to announce that my Wealth Generation Task Force recommended our Efficient Transfer of Wealth program to the mayor, and it has been adopted and funded using American Recovery Act dollars. This program will help to untangle title for residents that live in homes that have been in their families for generations, but the deeds do not reflect the current owners. If you or someone you know is in this situation please use the link below, go to the Tangled Title link and someone will contact you with specifics on how the program can help <https://detroitmi.gov/government/mayors-office/state-city>.

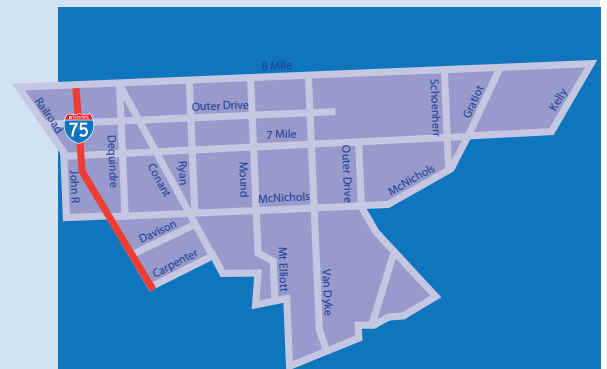
Again, I thank you for allowing me to serve as your Detroit City Councilman and I look forward to our continued growth and prosperity.

Yours in service,

Scott R. Benson
3rd District City Councilman



"My mission is to enhance the quality of life in District 3."



**City of Detroit
DISTRICT 3**

Parental Leave



The City of Detroit is proud to announce the implementation of a Paid Parental Leave program effective January 1, 2023. This initiative, spearheaded by Councilman Scott Benson, places us among many progressive municipalities that recognize the value of supporting new parents during a crucial time in their lives. Eligible employees who are full-time, civil service or regular appointed, and in good standing, may receive up to six weeks of Paid Parental Leave for the birth,

adoption, or foster placement of a child. To be eligible, employees must be active and have worked at least 1250 hours during the 12 months prior to the life event.

This benefit runs concurrent with FMLA, and if an employee exhausts their FMLA, they will still have six weeks of Paid Parental Leave to use. Leave must be taken on a continuous basis. The process to apply for Paid Parental Leave is simple. Eligible employees can complete and submit a

Parental Leave Request Form to absenceleavemgmt@detroitmi.gov or apply online at <https://myleavecod.presagia.com/iZoneWeb/>.

The implementation of Paid Parental Leave is a huge benefit for new parents, and we are proud to offer this support to our employees. We believe that this program will have a positive impact on our workforce and will help to attract and retain top talent in our city.

Neighborhood Beautification Program



Councilmember Scott Benson joined other elected officials and community groups to celebrate the 34 recipients receiving the City's Neighborhood Beautification Program (NBP) grants. The new program gives Detroit groups from \$500 to \$15,000 to help improve and beautify their blocks. This year, almost \$500,000 will be awarded to winners all over the city, including every Council district.

The NBP grants provide funding for Detroit-based neighborhood associations, block clubs, faith-based organizations and nonprofits that currently own the property where they want to carry out a project. The program was created to support three types of projects:

clean-up activities, community gardens, and public spaces and activities.

The funds can be used to fuel creative ideas, spark neighborhood revitalization, or strengthen connections between neighborhood-based groups. The City of Detroit will provide resources to allow the eligible organizations and residents to become actively engaged in the health and well-being of their community and to encourage residents to get involved in making their neighborhood better.

For those hoping to beautify their community but do not own the land, the Neighborhood Beautification Program will assist organizations with purchasing or leasing vacant

lots owned by the Detroit Land Bank Authority. Up to 50 projects a year will receive funding.

The next application round opens early next year, and organizations will be able to apply then at waynometro.org/neighborhood-beautification-grant. For more information, residents can e-mail Wayne Metro at NBG@waynometro.org or call (313) 388-9799.

Applications open for Neighborhood Beautification Fund grants (detroitmi.gov)

Read the story at Neighborhood Beautification Program grants (detroitmi.gov).

NSO celebrates completion of Detroit Healthy Housing Center



City and state leaders, along with the local community, have celebrated the completion of the Neighborhood Service Organization's Detroit Healthy Housing Center, which marks a key step in the fight to end chronic homelessness in southeast Michigan. The center is a 56-bed facility that pairs emergency shelter with wraparound health care and support services, and it's the second and final phase of NSO's Healthy Housing Campus, a \$22 million comprehensive site aimed at offering an innovative approach to stop homelessness.

The Detroit Healthy Housing Center focuses on those experiencing homelessness, including those medically at risk, offering transformative health and social services for its residents and community. It helps these unhoused individuals transition into permanent housing, with a 17-bed medical respite program for post-hospitalization in Detroit. The 360 Neighborhood Wellness Center, a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic, is also integrated into the center and offers primary care, behavioral health, and dental services open to the public. The center offers a holistic, first-of-

its-kind approach to pair access to healthcare with efforts to end homelessness, which will relieve stress on the system of care in Detroit. NSO's president and CEO, Linda Little, noted that "Equity is about meeting people where they are to address their needs. Our healthy housing approach is created to do just that."

The first phase of the Detroit Healthy Housing Campus, the Clay Apartments, opened in September 2020. The two-story, 42-unit affordable housing complex in the McDougall Hunt neighborhood offers one-bedroom apartments for single adults. Thirty percent of the units are designated for individuals with complex medical conditions. The apartments are 100% occupied and offer permanent supportive housing, which includes supportive services to address the economic, health, and social barriers to stability.

The Detroit Healthy Housing Campus was funded through a combination of public and private funding, including a \$4.1 million Community Development Block Grant-CARES from the City of Detroit's Housing & Revitalization Department. Other key funders include the Ballmer Group, Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Bollinger Foundation Inc., The Carls Foundation, DMC Foundation, Gregory Terrell, The Kresge Foundation, KLA Foundation, Rocket Community Fund, Metro Health Foundation, and Total Health Care Foundation.



8,000 Summer Jobs for Detroit Youth →



**GDYT application
portal open until
MAY 31**

Grow Detroit's Young Talent to provide summer jobs for 8,000 youth ages 14-24

The ninth year of Detroit's summer work experience program, Grow Detroit's Young Talent, has launched with a goal to provide over 8,000 summer employment opportunities for Detroit youth ages 14-24. In 2022, over 8,000 Detroit youth were employed through the program, and it's the eighth straight year of exceeding the program's target of 8,000. The target budget for GDYT this year is \$13.8 million, a portion of which will come from more than \$12 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds appropriated for the program last year. The registration portal will remain open until May 31, 2023.

The program was launched in 2015 and has been managed by the City of Detroit's workforce agency, Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the program has continued to operate at full capacity every summer. The program is supported by a large number of both big and small companies in the Detroit metro area, as well as major national corporations such as JPMorgan Chase. The program is also supported by the Skillman Foundation, which has historically been one of the most engaged in supporting the goals of Grow Detroit's Young Talent and advocating for youth opportunities in general.

The 2023 program will introduce new enhancements, such as further embedding conflict resolution and problem-solving into the program, incorporating additional financial literacy training, and including additional consumer education to assist young adults who utilize social media in correctly identifying issues that concern the public as well as how to protect themselves. Detroit youth interested in a summer job can apply at GDYT.org, and organizations interested in becoming a sponsor or providing summer work experiences for Detroit youth may also register at the GDYT website.

Motor City Match awards more than \$1.3 million to support 32 Detroit businesses

The Detroit Economic Growth Corporation (DEGC) awarded over \$1.3 million in grants to 32 new and existing Detroit businesses through Motor City Match's 21st round. The funds will support entrepreneurs in establishing new brick-and-mortar businesses and help existing businesses make physical improvements to their buildings.

The businesses include a community-owned grocery store, a training hub for construction trades, a production and education facility for a national fashion brand, and many restaurants, bakeries, and personal

care services. The 17 new businesses receiving grants are distributed across 15 Detroit neighborhoods. A total of \$965,000 in grants was awarded to 17 new businesses to open a brick-and-mortar location in the city, while another \$341,000 was given to 15 existing businesses for improvements to their current space, thanks to funding from the American Rescue Plan Act. Additionally, 48 businesses received technical assistance through the program's Business Plan, Develop and Design tracks.

Since 2015, Motor City Match has

awarded over 1,600 businesses, resulting in 143 new brick-and-mortar businesses currently operating in the city. The program has leveraged ARPA funding to increase the number of grants and scope of services available. The quarterly grant pool has been increased to \$1 million for new businesses, while \$250,000 in grants is available for existing businesses operating in the city for at least one year.

Through 21 rounds of the program, 84% of the businesses are minority-owned, 74% are women-owned, and 69% are owned by Detroit residents.

Detroiters are shown how to access \$100M in adult scholarships



Five adult scholarship programs that will allow Detroiters to access a share of \$100m in funding from the American Rescue Plan Act. The funding is designed to help those who are unemployed or seeking training to move into a new job.

The scholarships are divided into five categories, offering assistance for residents at different stages of their career paths. The programs include "Learn to Earn" scholarships for residents who read below an 8th-grade level and "High School Diploma"

scholarships for those scheduled to graduate before 2018, who want to obtain their diploma or GED. There is also the "Skills for Life" scholarship, which offers job opportunities and training in a range of careers, including truck driving, information technology, and healthcare. In addition, the city offers 50 different career training scholarships, including programs in health care, logistics, skilled trades, and hospitality.

Finally, the "Jump Start" scholarship is available for any Detroiters who have been unemployed for at least the past six months, with enrollment open to receive assistance from programs like the Learn to Earn and High School Diploma programs. Detroiters who want to participate in the programs can find more information at DetroitAtWork.com/guide.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES			
	AGE	RESIDENT	NON-RESIDENT
UNDER 2	0-2	FREE	FREE
TODDLER	3-5	\$2	\$2
YOUTH	6-12	\$5	\$7
TEENS	13-17	\$7	\$10
ADULTS	18-59	\$10	\$20
SENIORS	60+	FREE	\$10
UNIVERSAL	6-59	\$25	\$35

OTHER FEES		
	RESIDENT	NON-RESIDENT
WEIGHT ROOM	\$30/6 MONTHS	\$45/6 MONTHS

SUMMER 2023

Farwell Recreation Center

2781 E. Outer Drive
 Detroit, MI 48234
 Phone: (313) 628-2028

Hours:
 Monday - Friday: 11:00am - 7:00pm

Heilmann Recreation Center

19601 Crusade
 Detroit, MI 48205
 Phone: (313) 224-9334

Hours:
 Monday - Friday: 8:00am-9:00pm
 Saturday: 10:00am - 6:00pm
 Sunday: Closed

Lasky Recreation Center

13200 Fenelon
 Detroit, MI 48212
 Phone: (313) 628-2030

Hours:
 Monday - Friday, 8:00 am – 9:00 pm
 Saturday: Closed
 Sunday: Closed

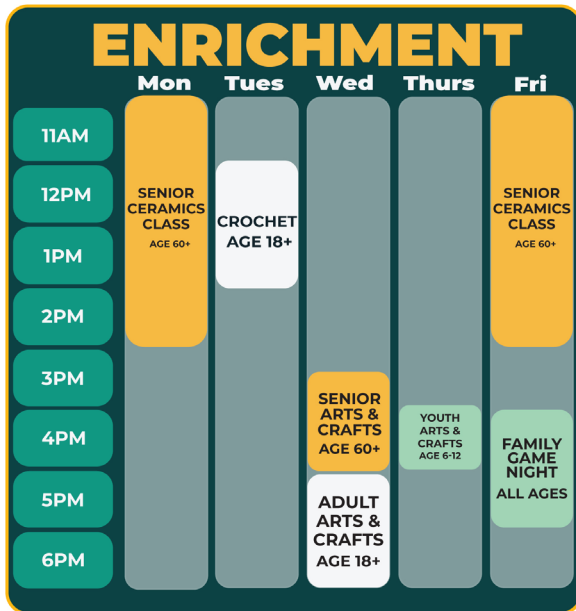
detroitmi.gov/recreation



General Services
 Department
 PARKS AND RECREATION
 DIVISION

RECREATION CENTER POLICIES:

- Children must have a valid membership card to participate.
- Children and teens must be with an adult and/or engaged in staffed activities.
- All gym activities require proper gym attire including clean gym shoes.
- Locks must be removed each day from the lockers.
- The City of Detroit is not responsible for any lost, stolen or damaged items.



*Schedules subject to change.

- SENIOR
- ADULT
- YOUTH

WEIGHT ROOM

11AM - 7AM Mon - Fri

GAMES, CARDS

11AM - 3PM Mon - Fri

5PM - 7PM Mon - Fri

COMPUTER LAB

3PM - 6PM Mon - Thurs

FOOD & FRIENDSHIP

12PM - 2PM Mon - Fri



General Services
 Department
 PARKS AND RECREATION
 DIVISION

detroitmi.gov/recreation



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Text 844.484.0772 to district3

Please sign up!



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Kerwin Wimberley	Senior Policy Analyst
Teri Bright	Policy Analyst
Terry Catchings	District Chief
Damian Mitchell	Community Liaison
Lubomyr Velychko	Legislative Intern
O'Najee Burrus	Legislative Intern

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www.detroitmi.gov

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Councilman Scott Benson



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