



Resources and News for the Lower Eastside

In these challenging times, we committed to providing factual, up to date information about Coronavirus in our community and the City at large.

[Send Us Tips or News Here](#)

Taxes on the Go - In Person

FREE VIRTUAL INCOME TAX SERVICE

For those with annual household incomes up to \$57,000



Make an appointment

- Schedule an appointment to bring in your tax documents. Your appointment will take about 30 minutes.

Bring in your tax documents

- Your intake specialist will ask you a few questions, scan your documents, and make sure all your information is correct.

Go about your day

- An IRS certified tax preparer will work on your tax return after you leave.

Review

- Within 14 business days, your return will be completed and you'll receive a call letting you know your return is ready. An IRS certified tax preparer will then review and finalize the return with you.

Return delivery options

- We'll mail your completed tax return to the address you provided OR
- We'll send your completed tax return, via an encrypted link, to the email address you provided.

2021 Virtual Tax Partners

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Eastside Community Network | • Matrix Human Services |
| • Focus: HOPE | • SER Metro - NWAC |
| • Goodwill Flip the Script | • SER Metro - Michigan Ave. |
| • Goodwill Greater Detroit | • U Snap Bac |

Call Accounting Aid Society for details at 313-556-1920!

**Accounting
Aid Society** SINCE 1972



By appointment only! We are not accepting any walk-ins. You will be required to do a health screening and a face mask must be worn at all times, no exceptions! Only the taxpayer(s) will be allowed into the building.



Join us every other Thursday for

AFTER THE CAP & GOWN

Don't miss this week's **After the Cap & Gown** meeting!

WHEN: Thursday, February 11, 2021 | 6PM

TOPIC: Saving + Investing | Presentation by Anne Harpe, PNC Bank

LINK: <https://wayne-edu.zoom.us/j/98323757379?pwd=WmZlZGhPV29NS0ZXRlQvK2E5SUJlZz09>

For more information please contact Tanya Aho, Director of Youth Development at taho@ecn-detroit or 313-331-3469.



APPEAL YOUR PROPERTY TAXES FOR FREE!

Call or text: (313)-438-8698 or
Email: Law-PropertyTax@umich.edu

Online Application: <https://app.propertytaxproject.com/detroit>

The City of Detroit illegally inflates the property taxes of most homes worth \$50,000 or less. The University of Michigan Law School can help appeal your property taxes FOR FREE! Contact the Property Tax Appeal Project, file an appeal, and get your property tax bill reduced.

Call or text: (313)-438-8698 or Email: Law-PropertyTax@umich.edu

Take the 5 minute air quality survey here.

Participate in an interview study!

COMMUNITIES CONQUERING COVID



COVID-19 has affected Black and Latino communities more than others in America. We would like to hear your thoughts about COVID-19 and ways to decrease the burden of this crisis.

Who can participate in this study?

Volunteers who are:

- 18+ years of age
- African American, Black, Hispanic and/or Latino
- Comfortable speaking English or Spanish
- Living in Genesee, Kent, Washtenaw, or Wayne County. We will do 10 interviews per county.

What will you do if you participate in this study?

Participate in a 1-hour interview by phone or video call.

What will you receive for volunteering?

You will receive a \$50 gift card for your participation.

If you have questions or want to sign up:

Call: 734.647.0699

Or email: c3covid19@med.umich.edu

Get in touch today!

Help us understand how COVID-19 is affecting your community, and what can be done to make things better.

Study title: "The Fierce Urgency of Now": Communities Conquering COVID (C3)



MICHIGAN MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



Historic King
Solomon Baptist
Church

HUM00190371

Last updated: 1/11/21

**City expands
alley cleanup program to
2,000
locations for 2021**



detroitmi.gov



RAISE YOUR VOICE

Create messages and media
Inspire your community
to conquer COVID-19

Give a shout out to the everyday people
who are protecting themselves and others
from COVID-19.

TakeTheMic.org



Get **\$10**
for your first entry
Prizes up to
\$500

Enter by
February 8
Deadline Extended!



Get creative! We accept everything from raps and dances to short stories and paintings. Whatever you think will inspire your community.

There are two categories of entry: **Written Word** or **Other Media**.

Get a \$10 Visa gift card for your first entry in each category. Submit as many times as you want.

Judges will choose the top entries from each category, then the community will vote for the winners. The 1st place winners will receive \$500.

Contest closes on February 8, 2021.
Must be 18 or older to enter.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH WEEK 1 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The City of Detroit is launching a **year-long celebration of Detroit arts and artists**. The initiative, called **Undeclared: A Celebration of Detroit's Contributions to American Excellence**, kicks off on February 1.

The Office of Arts Culture and Entrepreneurship (Detroit ACE) will ask creators to submit programming and performances for a monthly showcase highlighting the breadth and depth of exceptional talent in our city in fine arts, music, spoken word, theatre, film, culinary arts, fashion and more. We also will plan a variety of other projects to give our artists a chance to shine. Mayor Mike Duggan will kick off the UNDEFEATED celebration when he interviews Detroit native and N.Y. Times best-selling author ALICE RANDALL about her novel "Black Bottom Saints" at 7 p.m. on February 1.

FEB. 1

7 P.M.

Mayor Mike Duggan will kick off Black History Month – and our Undeclared celebration by interviewing Detroit native and NY Times bestselling author **Alice Randall** about "Black Bottom Saints."

FEB. 2

NOON

The celebration continues with an intimate look at the history of African American dance in Detroit with **Debra White-Hunt** and a special performance by the 35-year-old Detroit-Windsor Dance Academy that she runs.

7 P.M.

Detroit ACE will spotlight Detroit's rich history in theatre with a special performance at 7 p.m.

FEB. 3

NOON

On Wednesday, ACE will honor African-American culinary traditions as Chef Godwin, Chef Phil Jones, Chef Omar and cannabis expert Chef Nikki prepare African and African-American cuisine.

6:30 P.M.

We will honor Detroit's historic sites and treasures by screening a film featuring local historian and tour guide **Jamon Jordan**.

7 P.M.

In the evening, we will celebrate spoken word, poetry and rap – and celebrate late Detroit Poet Laureate **Naomi Long Madgett** – with a special performance.

FEB. 4

We will salute the African American origins of jazz and celebrate fine and digital arts and film with a **VIRTUAL ART EXHIBIT** of paintings, sculptures, photographs and mural commissions, accompanied musically by some of Detroit's best sound artists. All day, culminating with a **7 p.m. jazz concert**.

FEB. 5

Noon

We will honor Detroit's excellence in architecture and design.

7 p.m.

We will celebrate fashion and the best of Detroit blues, Neo-soul and R&B.

FEB. 6

The music celebration will continue with a set featuring Detroit's best hip-hop, techno and rock in a day-long virtual concert featuring African-American artists, culminating in a comedy show featuring local comics.

FEB. 7

3 P.M.

The City will host a tribute to Detroit's African-American classical and operatic genius followed by a gospel concert, featuring Detroit choirs.

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON
DETROITMI.GOV/ACE

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**ALL LEVELS & AGES
WELCOME!**

JOIN US WEDNESDAYS AT 4:00 PM FOR

EASTSIDE COMMUNITY YOGA!

*Led by Certified Yoga Instructor **Lynette Smith***

Through the gentle, slow flow techniques in our yoga class you can:

- *Increase your health and wellbeing*
- *Manage and reduce your stress*
- *Improve your breath capacity*

WINTER 2021 DATES:

1/20 | 1/27 | 2/3 | 2/10 | 2/17 | 2/24 | 3/3

VIRTUAL CLASS ON FACEBOOK + ZOOM

FACEBOOK: @ECNDetroit

ZOOM LINK: <https://bit.ly/ECNcommunityyoga2>



Help

IS JUST A PHONE CALL AWAY

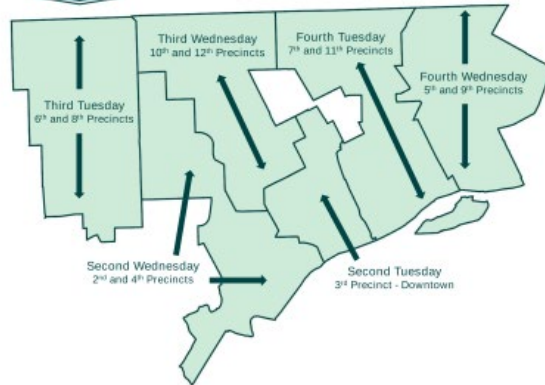
Genesis**HOPE**
WeCARE Help Desk
313.731.2048

- Unemployment
- Food Assistance
- Emergency Cash
- Home Repair Grants
- Senior Wellness Checks
- Utility Payment Assistance
- Furnace/Boiler Replacement





2021 Detroit Police Department Virtual Community CompStat Meetings



The Detroit Police Department Virtual Community CompStat Meetings will be held monthly, beginning at 4pm, according to the day noted on the map

Use the following link to join the Community CompStat meeting:
<https://cityofdetroit.zoom.us/j/82793057842>

OR

Call one of these numbers and enter the Webinar ID:

312 626 6799
267 831 0333
301 715 8592
346 248 7799
213 338 8477
253 215 8782

Webinar ID:
827 9305 7842



CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

**The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD)
and our partners have programs to assist you.**

WRAP (Water Residential Assistance Program)

You may be eligible for a monthly \$25 bill credit, up to \$700 toward your past-due balance and minor home plumbing repairs of \$1,500 on average. Eligibility is based on income. A four-person household with a combined income less than \$52,400 every year, for example, meets the income qualifications. Call Wayne Metro Community Action Agency at 313-386-9727 to see if you qualify and to apply.

10/30/50 Plan

No income restrictions to apply. Make a deposit of 10%, 30% or 50% of your past due balance. The remaining balance is spread across 6-24 months. Call **313-267-8000**, visit www.detroitmi.gov/paymywaterbill and register your account.

Are you a Veteran?

Through the Soldiers and Sailors Relief and Michigan Veteran Trust Fund, Veterans and their spouses may obtain emergency financial assistance to avoid a water service interruption. They also offer other emergency utility assistance. Call **313-224-5045** for more details.

MDHHS Emergency Services

The Michigan Department of Health & Human Services has emergency financial assistance available for qualifying low-income households. Call **2-1-1** or visit www.mibridges.michigan.gov to learn more.

Other Assistance Partners

Human Utility at www.detroitwaterproject.org

The Heat and Warmth Fund (THAW) water assistance at **800-866-8429** or www.thawfund.org

United Way for Southeastern Michigan at www.unitedwaysem.org or call **2-1-1**

June 2020

WE CAN HELP.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL

313-267-8000
www.detroitmi.gov/DWSD

Looking for
information on
**Starting a
Marijuana
Business?**



**VISIT US
ONLINE**

DetroitMeansBusiness.org/HomeGrown

Detroiters interested in obtaining one or more recreational marijuana licenses can now take the first step to be certified as a Legacy Detroit before license applications open April 1.

Accounting Aid Resumes Tax Prep in a Virtual World

VITA ACE - ACCESSIBLE, CONVENIENT AND ELECTRONIC

VITA ACE is a safe and reliable way for Accounting Aid Society to prepare your federal, state and city tax returns without in-person contact and at no cost. Using a secure, IRS-approved software, VITA ACE lets you use your smartphone, tablet, or computer's camera and email address to upload your tax documents and electronic signature - without leaving your home.

VITA ACE is limited to most families and individuals with incomes up to \$56,000. If you meet this criteria, you'll need to have the following items:

- ☐ Smartphone, tablet or computer with a working camera
- ☐ A valid email address you can access on the device you've selected from above
- ☐ Identification and tax documents - for a complete list of what you'll need, click [here](#).



Make an appointment:

[Click Here](#)

OR

Call 1-844-806-5780

HOW IT WORKS

- Schedule a phone appointment through this simple [online form](#) or by calling 1-844-806-5780. You'll need to answer a few questions first to make sure VITA ACE is the right tax preparation choice for you.
- Gather your [tax documents](#) and smartphone, tablet or computer before your scheduled phone appointment.
- During the date and time you selected for your appointment, an Accounting Aid team member will call you to help you use your device camera to share your tax documents to a secure link. The team member will send you an email with the upload link during your phone call, so you can upload your documents while they remain on the phone with you.
- After collecting your documents, Accounting Aid's IRS-certified tax team will prepare and review your tax return.
- Within a week, we'll call you to let you know your tax return is complete and ready for your electronic signature. Once signed, we'll electronically file it for you and it will be processed by the IRS.

3031 W. Grand Blvd., Suite 470, Detroit MI 48202

(313) 556.1920 info@accountingaidsociety.org accountingaidsociety.org



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Wayne Metro CARES

Relief & Recovery Services

In an effort to respond to the immediate needs of Wayne County residents, Wayne Metro is implementing our CARES Relief & Recovery Services. Through this new initiative, residents may qualify for assistance in the following areas:



Food & Income Support

Distributing food, formula, diapers, wipes & Personal Protection Equipment.

Water & Energy Assistance

Providing residents with financial assistance towards energy & water utilities.



Emergency Plumbing Repair

Provide plumbing repairs that will resolve the immediate emergency with access to water services.



Rent & Mortgage Assistance

Providing rental assistance & help towards mortgage payments.



Property Tax Assistance

Offering Property Tax Assistance, which can help reduce property taxes.

Funeral Assistance

Providing financial assistance towards burial and cremation services.



Who Qualifies?

- 200% of Poverty
- Layoff, Decrease in Hours, Recipient of Unemployment
- Child in Head Start or have a child receiving free or reduced lunch
- Receipt of benefits through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Service (MDHHS).
- Benefits to include but not limited to: SNAP, TANF, SDA, Medicaid and childcare benefits
- Current enrollee in other assistance programs (Ex. WRAP, MEAP, HUD programs) that currently have income guideline restrictions

200% Federal Poverty Chart

Number of Household Members	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Income Limit	25,520	34,480	43,440	52,400	61,360	70,320	79,280	88,240	96,600	100,980

How to Get Help

Please visit www.waynemetro.org/CARES or call the **Wayne Metro CONNECT Center** at (313) 388-9799.

The CONNECT Center hours are Monday-Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Programs will vary based on community.



Wayne Metropolitan
Community Action Agency

www.waynemetro.org/CARES • (313) 388-9799

COVID-19 Testing

Any Detroiters Can Now
Get Free

COVID-19 Test

Appointments Still Required
for Testing at Fairgrounds



www.detroitmi.gov/coronavirus

Beginning May 20, any Detroit resident can get a free COVID-19 test at the State Fairgrounds

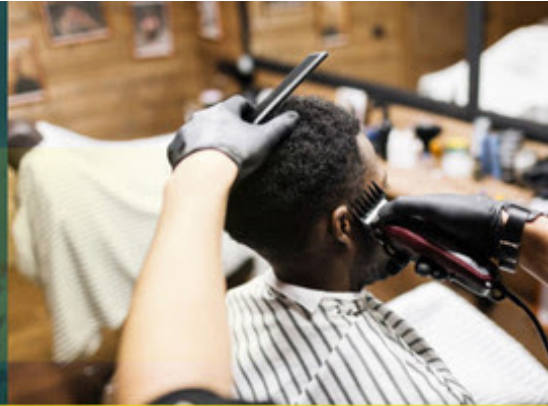
Residents will need to make an appointment and have identification when they arrive for the test. However, **they won't need a doctor's prescription or to be experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.** Residents should call (313) 230-0505 to schedule an appointment. For Identification, residents can use:

- Driver's License

- State or City ID
- Documents showing their address in last 30 days, such as a utility bill, pay stub, lease agreement or credit card statement

**City offers free rapid
COVID-19 testing to**

**Detroit salon &
barber shop employees
and independent
contractors**



www.detroitmi.gov/coronavirus

City offers free rapid
COVID-19 testing to
**restaurant and
bar owners
and employees**



www.detroitmi.gov/coronavirus

Resources



FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION

30 lbs of Nutritious Groceries*



Monday, January 11, 2020
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm



Northwest Activities Center
18100 Meyers Rd.

HELPING OUR COMMUNITY DURING URGENT TIMES OF NEED

Thank you for making us your only stop for meals! We love serving our community and we want to ensure all families wishing to receive meals can do so. Families and individuals in need of food are encouraged to attend an upcoming drive-up distribution provided by Gleaners Community Food Bank.

- **~30 pounds of groceries**—Items like milk, fresh fruits, vegetables, lean protein and other shelf-stable items.
- **Drive-up or walk-up**—Stay in your vehicle, and groceries will be placed into your trunk. Walk up guests without vehicles or those without a trunk are welcome to obtain groceries from a self-service table. If walking, please be prepared to carry the groceries or have a cart.
- **No appointment needed**—You do not need to bring identification or proof of eligibility to receive food.
- **Increasing safety**—If you wish to pick up for another household you may do so without their presence in the car.

Together with Gleaners Community Food Bank, we are taking all necessary precautions to distribute food safely.



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

**Food items may vary by distribution site*

Every other Monday from 2pm - 4pm Gleaners is doing free food distribution to support families in need! Visit the Northwest Activities Center on the dates below to receive 30 lbs of free groceries.

Dates: 2/8, 2/22, 3/8, 3/22, 4/5, 4/19, 5/3, 5/17, 6/14



Genesis**HOPE**
WeCARE Community Solutions

Farm-to-Family

FOOD BOX GIVEAWAY

EVERY WEDNESDAY
10am - 2pm

Starting February 3, 2021

Genesis Lutheran Church
7200 Mack Avenue, Detroit, MI 48214
(Mack & E. Grand Blvd. across for Swanson's)

Additional Food Resources

- [Forgotten Harvest](#)
 - [For People 60 & Over: Request a Delivery, Meal, or Friendly Reassurance](#)
-

Coronavirus Information



HOW TO PUT ON, USE, TAKE OFF AND DISPOSE OF A **MASK**

1



Before putting on a mask, wash hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water

2



Cover mouth and nose with mask and make sure there are no gaps between your face and the mask

Avoid touching the mask while using it; if you do, clean your hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water

3



Replace the mask with a new one as soon as it is damp and do not re-use single-use masks

4



To remove the mask: remove it from behind (do not touch the front of mask); discard immediately in a closed bin; wash hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water

detroitmi.gov/coronavirus



World Health
Organization



What should I do if I have COVID-19 symptoms?

Call your doctor if you're showing symptoms of fever, cough and shortness of breath...

-AND- Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19.

-OR- Have recently traveled from an area with widespread or ongoing community spread of COVID-19.

Learn more at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus.

10 ways to manage respiratory symptoms at home

If you have fever, cough, or shortness of breath, call your healthcare provider. They may tell you to manage your care from home. Follow these tips:

1. **Stay home** from work, school, and away from other public places. If you must go out, avoid using any kind of public transportation, ridesharing, or taxis.



6. **Cover your cough and sneezes.**



2. **Monitor your symptoms** carefully. If your symptoms get worse, call your healthcare provider immediately.



7. **Wash your hands often** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



3. **Get rest and stay hydrated.**



8. As much as possible, **stay** in a specific room and **away from other people** in your home. Also, you should use a separate bathroom, if available. If you need to be around other people in or outside of the home, wear a facemask.



4. If you have a medical appointment, **call the healthcare provider** ahead of time and tell them that you have or may have COVID-19.



9. **Avoid sharing personal items** with other people in your household, like dishes, towels, and bedding.



5. For medical emergencies, call 911 and **notify the dispatch personnel** that you have or may have COVID-19.



10. **Clean all surfaces** that are touched often, like counters, tabletops, and doorknobs. Use household cleaning sprays or wipes according to the label instructions.



CS 315822-4 03/12/2020

For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19