



CCNDC

3535 Cass Ave.
Detroit, MI 48201
(313) 831-0199

Building Neighborhoods One Block At A Time

Spring-Summer 2006

Cass Corridor pitches in for Motor City Makeover

On May 6, CCNDC hosted a clean-up site and joined thousands of other Detroiters for the annual the citywide Motor City Makeover. Motor City Makeover is an annual spring cleaning effort for the entire city of Detroit. About 20 volunteers helped pick up loads of trash and haul away bulk materials in the Chinatown/lower Cass Corridor area. Thanks to all volunteers for assisting!



Brainard Essay Contest Winner!!

Evelyn Coves' is the winner of the Brainard Residents Essay Contest that was featured in our last newsletter. Read Evelyn's essay on Page 3 about why she believes that Cass Corridor is the heart of Detroit.

Congratulations, Evelyn!
Evelyn is pictured with her daughter Ajane Smith, age 2.



Greening of Chesterfield



New plants and flowers for Chesterfield planted by volunteers

Chesterfield Apartments: A new addition to quality, affordable housing in the the Cass Corridor

Nearly 100 community members, developers, city officials and residents attended the March 23 Chesterfield Apartments Open House.

Featured speakers included representatives from City Planning Commission and the Mayor's Office, as well as State Representative Marsha Cheeks.



Located at 3566 Cass Ave. at MLK Blvd.

The historic Chesterfield was built in 1912, during a time when the population in Detroit was booming. By the 1980's the building had fallen into disrepair and abandonment. In 1993 CCNDC acquired the Chesterfield and sought support from the Detroit Housing Commission and the Michigan State Housing Development Authority to rehabilitate the structure. In 2004, CCNDC was awarded low-income tax credits, which were purchased by WNC & Associates to provide the equity for full rehabilitation. Nearly \$2.3 million went towards rehabilitation of the interior, preserving much of the original brick and hardwood.

Today, the Chesterfield offers 24 one-two bedroom units. In collaboration with the AIDS Partnership Michigan, several units will be designated to provide independent-living units for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Contact Pinnacle, AMS for availability of Chesterfield units at (313) 831-2878, 3535 Cass Ave.



CCNDC Board Chair George Bonkas and State Rep. Cheeks.

CCNDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

George Boukas
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Betty Bennett
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Teri Bennett
Member

Geraldine Dudley
Member

Victor Lloyd
Member

Snapshots Around the Neighborhood

A.



C.



B.



A. Brainard residents enjoy each other's company at the Brainard Open House in April.

B. Volunteers help with planting day at Brainard St. Apartments in May.

C. Youth learning to fix bikes at Back Alley Bikes.

LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO



HOLD AN EVENT?

Book the CCNDC Community Center!

- Located at 3535 Cass Ave., in the same building as CCNDC and Pinnacle, AMS offices.
- Approximately 3,000 sq. ft.
- Birthdays, showers, concerts, educational forums

Contact 831-0199 for more information.

I Love to See You Smile ©

By Malika (Odessa) Davis, Resident
mothermalika@yahoo.com

I love to see you smile
I love to see the smile upon your face
When you smile, it makes me feel good inside
And I'm glad you are a member of the Human race.

I know you have ups and downs
But don't let your problems make you wear a frown
Remember, happiness and sadness goes around
And as long as we keep moving with grace
And keep a smile on our face
Some positive reason for living can be found.

Smile! Laugh! Live! People, hey!
It's the dawning of a new day
Enjoy the air, the earth and the sunshine
Know that the Creator gives us gifts that are divine
Feel the wind upon your face and smile
I am glad you are a member of the Human race.

I love to see you smile
I love to see the smile upon your face
When you smile, it makes me feel good inside
And I'm glad you are a member of the Human race.

Essay Winner:

“The Cass Corridor is the heart of Detroit because...”

by Evelyn Covas, Resident

“The Cass Corridor is the heart of Detroit because it has kept so many people alive.”

When you think about the heart in the body you think about it pumping blood to the rest of the body through vessels, organs and veins. To me, Cass Corridor does just that. Cass Corridor is known for the various kitchens that supply the homeless or struggling families with food, shelter, and clothing. The things that people need to survive. This is what the heart does, KEEP YOU ALIVE! Cass Corridor has definitely been one of the communities that has never given up and has kept many alive. It continues to build homes that low income families can reside in, provide a place where people need medical help, and provides places you can receive an education no matter how old you are.

“The Cass Corridor is the heart of Detroit because it is one of the oldest yet newest places around.”

In the early 1960's Cass Corridor was known as one of the roughest spots around. People wouldn't come to the neighborhood for fear of been robbed, raped or even killed. Today you look at Cass Corridor (now known as Midtown) and all you can say is, “Wow! I can't believe how much this place has changed.

Cass Corridor has one of the best high schools in the city of Detroit which is Cass Tech, as well as one of the best universities which is Wayne State. Cass Corridor also has some of the finest places to dine or be entertained such as Mario's, Detroit Symphony, The Masonic Temple, and many more great attractions and theaters. There is a feeling of being safe now where people freely walk down the street with their children. Bad people (like the villains) had given the community a bad name but good people (somewhat like heroes) didn't give up on the community and begin to save the community by building buildings and relationships with the neighbors. Everyone looks out for one another like they did back in the days where the crime rates were low and you could leave your front door open for a bit of a breeze from the summer day's heat.

Detroit has built the neighborhood into a community that comes together to discuss today's issues, celebrates the holidays (known to some people as the holydays), and also to break bread together. I think that everyone who remembers Cass Corridor as it once should come see how the heroes of the community have saved it.

Summer Social Hours for Neighborhood Youth!

This summer, CCNDC will be hosting summer drop-in hours for neighborhood youth every Tuesday starting on July 11, from 2-5pm. Activities will include arts & crafts, gardening, biking and other outdoor activities.

While the drop-in hours are aimed at CCNDC families and residents, we will not turn away non-CCNDC youth who are seeking positive activities. There is no cost to participate.

This is a grassroots initiative aimed

at bringing together the community to provide positive experiences for youth. Thus, we are also looking for adult volunteers who are interested in helping implement the program and build relationships with youth. Contact Michelle or Gwen at CCNDC (313) 831-0199 if you would like more information.

Drop-in Location: CCNDC Community Center, 3535 Cass Ave. Entrance off Brainard St.

CCNDC STAFF

Patrick Dorn
Executive Director

Ruth Taylor
Office Manager

Jozefa Hypnarowicz
Office Assistant

Bob Zinser
Housing Consultant

Clayton Harris
Michael Knight
Maintenance

Michelle Lin
Community Dev. Specialist

Karen McLeod
Ansonia Mgr.

Dave McLeod
Vernon Murphy Mgr.

PINNACLE, AMS MANAGEMENT STAFF

Rachel Dorn
Business Manager

Dave Kujawa
Maintenance Manager

Christine Wilson
Assistant Manager

Ali Clegg
Leasing Consultant

Kristy McCarthy
Certification Specialist

Zac Dotson
Quentin Greenlee
Maintenance

James Deel
Grounds Keeper

Nate Rucker
Mt. Vernon Mgr.

Keep Our Community Safe and Clean

POLICE DISTRICT - CENTRAL

4747 Woodward Ave.
(313) 596-1300

Report Abandoned Vehicles

(313) 596-5110

For emergencies, dial 9-1-1

Neighborhood Happenings

CCNDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Every second Tuesday of each
month, 4:30-6:30pm
3535 Cass Ave.
(313) 831-0199

BACK ALLEY BIKES

Bike Reuse/Repair Shop

Entrance off MLK between Cass
and 2nd.
(313) 879-5073
Drop-in hours: Tuesdays 5-9

RECYCLE MIDTOWN

Drop-off recycling

Every second Saturday, 10am-2pm
4444 2nd Ave www.midtown-
downtown.com

HARDCORE DETROIT

Breakdancing, b-boys and b-girls
Practices Mondays and Wednes-
days, all ages welcome, 7-10pm
3535 Cass Ave.
@ CCNDC Community Center

MIDTOWN ALLIANCE

Coalition of residents and busi-
ness owners to address crime and
cleanliness in our neighborhood.
Meetings are also attended by the
precinct captain and his team.
Every second Wednesday, 7pm, @
Mario's on 2nd Ave between Willis
& Alexandrine

DETROIT SUMMER

Monthly Community Potlucks

Every second Thursday of each
month, 6-9pm
3535 Cass Ave.
@ CCNDC Community Center
Free, bring dish to share
(313) 438-2254

Community Gardening with Detroit Summer

Help grow veggies!
Call Jenny (313) 438-2254

Adult Education & Employment

RESOURCE TO EARN A GED

Northern High School
9026 Woodward Ave.
Registration begins in August
Call (313) 852-1089 to register

A.C.C.E.S.S. JOB FAIR

July 12, 2006
9:00 am - 1:00 pm
6451 Schaefer Rd., Dearborn
Over 30 employers participating

Focus: HOPE

Career Training
Admissions: (313) 494-4300
<http://www.focushope.edu>

DETROIT WORKFORCE NETWORK SER Metro

9301 Michigan Ave., Detroit
(313) 579-4925

Networking Service

**Do you own your own business?
If the answer is yes, share your
information with us to promote
your services!**

CCNDC will be compiling a list of
local businesses and services in an
effort to encourage the community
to support local businesses.
Contact Michelle by August 31,
2006 if you would like to be listed.
(313) 831-0199
mclin.ccndc@gmail.com
Subject: Networking

Contribute to the Next Newsletter!

**CCNDC is always looking for new
ideas to include in our newsletter.
Our goal is to provide a commu-
nication tool that will benefit the
community.**

Contact us and tell us what you'd
like to write, or offer any sugges-
tions on how to make this newslet-
ter better!

Call: (313) 831-0199
Email: mclin.ccndc@gmail.com

CCNDC Mission Statement

The Cass Corridor Neighborhood Development Corporation was established in 1982 and serves to enhance the quality of community life for all residents in the Cass Corridor. We provide the rehabilitation and building of decent, safe and affordable housing; promote economic opportunities for community residents; and foster a spirit of community and mutual support in the neighborhood.