

DETROIT FOR LIFE



SUMMER
2024

INSIDE

- Motor City Match Assists Business Owners
- Parks and Rec Centers Improvements
- City Programs Repair Roofs and Provide Down Payment Assistance
- Employment Assistance Available
- And More!



This issue of the **Detroit For Life** newsletter provides information on City programs and initiatives that improve how you live and where you live.

Because you live in Detroit, there are a myriad of programs if you want to open a business, gain employment, pursue a career, get home repairs, get assistance in buying a home, earn free college tuition and so much more!

BUSINESS SUPPORT

FORMER NBA PLAYERS AND FAMILY CREATE ONE-OF-A-KIND CAFE IN HISTORIC DETROIT NEIGHBORHOOD

What do you get when you mix NBA players, a close-knit family, a great idea and Motor City Match? CRED Café!

In December, former NBA players and siblings, Joe and Jordan Crawford, and their family opened a unique business in the Rivertown neighborhood: a coffee shop by day; a speakeasy with a bar and lounge by night; and an event space for 75. The business, financed in part by a \$60,000 **Motor City Match** grant, is at 6340 E. Jefferson Avenue.



After seeing café-bar establishments as they traveled playing basketball abroad, the brothers shared the idea of transforming their family-owned event space with their parents, Joe and Sylvia, and younger brother, Jalen. Sylvia Crawford is the café's president and CEO. "Our story is one of passion, commitment and a genuine desire to contribute to Detroit's growth," she said.

Motor City Match aids individuals seeking to become business owners. Learn more at www.MotorCityMatch.com

IMPROVEMENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

MAYOR SURPRISES HELEN MOORE BY NAMING A CENTER IN HER HONOR



The City is renaming the former Dexter Elmhurst Recreation Center after longtime beloved Detroit community activist, Helen Moore. Mayor Mike Duggan surprised Moore with the renaming announcement during his 2024 State of the City address. Construction of the \$13.6-million center is expected to be completed in late 2025 and will include indoor sports facilities, community rooms, kitchen space for events and classes, and an outdoor park. The **Helen Moore Community Center** is among several recreation centers to be renovated or newly constructed using federal funds. They include Farwell Recreation Center gymnasium, Adams Butzel Complex, Coleman Young Recreation Center and the Chandler Park Athletic Fieldhouse.

DODGE FOUNTAIN IN OPERATION AFTER EXTENSIVE RENOVATIONS

The beloved iconic **Dodge Fountain** in Hart Plaza is all aglow and flowing again. Renovations at Hart Plaza kicked off last fall using \$9 million in federal funds. The evaluation and restoration process took several months, including removing metal panels from the fountain's dome, and repairing jets, lighting, and plumbing before reassembling the structure.



LET'S GO OUTSIDE!

The City is spending \$119.3 million to renovate and beautify parks.

Balduck Park has a new dog park, picnic shelter, accessible playground and walkways. At **Greenview Wadsworth**, there's a new playground, basketball court and walking loop. **Rogell Park**, the former golf course, will become a 98-acre park with pathways and seating areas.

Since March, more than 5,600 walkers and 2,900 bikers have used the **Joe Louis Greenway**. Construction is underway on 2.2 miles, and work on 2.4 more miles begins this summer.

HOUSING SUPPORT



MORE THAN 500 NEW ROOFS INSTALLED THROUGH RENEW DETROIT

More than 500 new roofs have been completed as part of the \$45-million **Renew Detroit** home repair program targeting senior citizens, veterans, and disabled residents.

Barbara I’Ron applied for the program when it was launched and was thrilled to be accepted. “I appreciate this roof repair, and everything was done so nice,” said I’Ron. “I have lived here since 1987. This is a blessing and I thank you.”

Mayor Duggan said, “In partnership with Detroit City Council, we created the Renew Detroit program to make sure long-term Detroit seniors were not forced to leave their home because of a leaky roof they could not afford to replace on their retirement income.”

The Renew Detroit program will provide home repair for 2000 homeowners and has reached capacity.

THEY’RE STILL KISSING THEIR LANDLORDS GOODBYE

The **Down Payment Assistance Program** is making the American dream of home ownership a reality for hundreds of Detroiters. Since March 2023, 434 residents have purchased homes, many for the first time. Makayla Jackson, 20, received the maximum in downpayment assistance, \$25,000. Jackson says her main motivation to buy a home was her son and “me not paying rent anymore!” The City is spending \$19 million on the program. For more information, go to www.detroitdpa.org.



CITY PROGRAM HELPS RESIDENTS WITH BASEMENT PROBLEMS

The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department's (DWSD) **Basement Backup Protection Program** (BBPP) is providing special services to eligible households in 11 Detroit neighborhoods.

To date, \$6.4 million in federal funds have been allocated to this program. DWSD has completed Phase 1, spending \$2.4 million on 324 backwater valve installations. The team is now working on Phase 2, with \$4 million allocated mostly for installation work in the Jefferson Chalmers neighborhood.

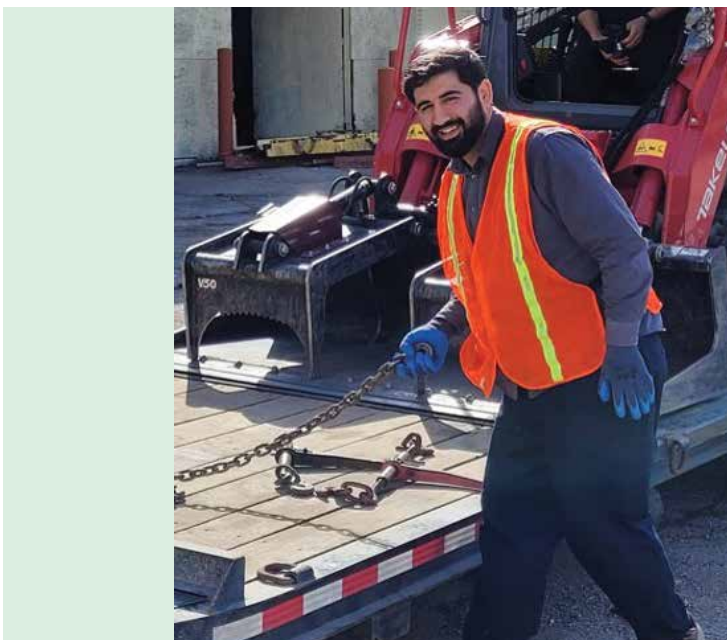
EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE

SKILLS FOR LIFE AIMS TO CHANGE DETROITERS' LIVES

It's a life-changing program for Detroiters looking to earn a GED, gain career and job training skills, all while being paid to beautify the city. The **Skills for Life** program pays Detroiters to learn new job skills while removing educational barriers to employment. Residents in the program get paid as part of the team that cleans the city.

Sadar Wali Azmon, a former interpreter with the U.S. Air Force, enrolled in the program in 2022. He's been working with the City of Detroit's General Services Department while receiving training. And Tiffany Webb, a mother of 4, started the program as a laborer in March 2023 and, within a year, became the Team Lead, earning a CDL and a GED. Webb finished at the top of her class in operating heavy equipment.

To date, 303 residents have completed an occupational training program, and 751 completed a career readiness program. Learn more at <https://detroitatwork.com/>.



GET TUITION FREE COLLEGE. THAT'S A DETROIT PROMISE!

Preston Welborne applied for the **Detroit Promise** Scholarship to follow his passion for media production and journalism at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. "I want to advance my skills in the production industry and short films. I love working with people here, and this is where I want to be," he said.

The Detroit Promise Scholarship makes dreams like Preston's possible by covering tuition costs. To qualify, you must live and study in Detroit throughout high school. Sign up today for the Detroit Promise Scholarship and take the first step toward your future!

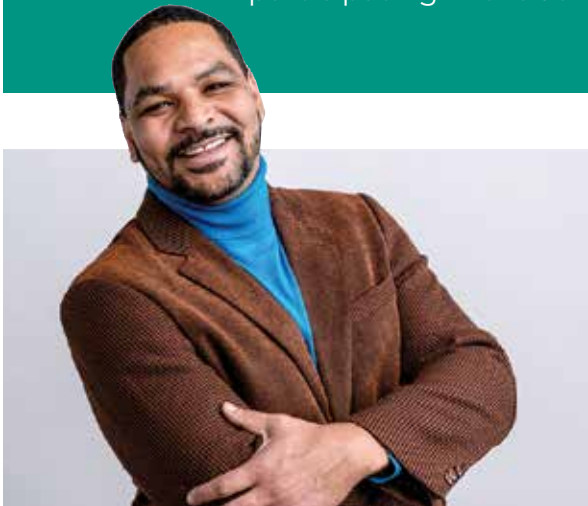
To learn more, go to <https://detroitpromise.com/>.



RESIDENTS ARE GETTING A JUMP START ON EMPLOYMENT

Detroit is helping residents succeed in returning to the workforce through the **JumpStart** program. More than 1800 Detroiters have enrolled in JumpStart, a program that's designed to ensure long-term employment success for those who have been out of work for six months or longer. It includes job-readiness and skills checkup, job training, financial literacy coaching, employment, and one-on-one support with a community mentor.

Participants also receive a monthly stipend over 18 months to help with transportation, child care, and other life expenses. More than 1,500 residents are participating in the JumpStart program, which has reached capacity.



PROJECT CLEAN SLATE. RECLAIM YOUR LIFE

Stephen Erter was one of many who signed up for **Project Clean Slate**. "I can't say thank you enough to Detroit for having my back," he said. "When I was unemployed, Detroit gave me an opportunity to start over. Project Clean Slate changed my life, I don't know where I would be without it. It gave me back my life."

Project Clean Slate offers Detroiters with felonies a second chance by helping to expunge their records. This free program removes barriers to employment, housing, and education. Take the first step toward a brighter future by joining Project Clean Slate today! Looking for a second chance, go to detroitmi.gov/projectcleanslate.

ADDRESSING CRIME

\$10-MILLION SHOTSTOPPERS COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM IS WORKING

Through the Community Violence Intervention Program, three of the six community-based organizations saw a significant drop in violent crime in their neighborhoods from February - April 2024.

Three of the **CVI groups** saw
VIOLENT CRIME DROP
between

**30%-
70%**

allowing them to
earn performance bonuses.



Force
Detroit
67%

New
Era
53%

Detroit
Friends
& Family
33%

Based on the program's success,
the City will add two new groups.

Crime in non-CVI areas
citywide dropped by

23%

COMMUNITY GROUPS TRANSFORM VACANT LOTS THROUGH NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM

Oh, that's beautiful! The City is continuing to support community groups in the work to beautify neighborhoods through the **Neighborhood Beautification Program**. Associations, block clubs, faith-based groups, and non-profits are awarded up to \$15,000 in grants for beautification projects.

Tammy Black says the program is helping groups across the city reclaim their neighborhoods.

Through the first two rounds, 100 grants have been awarded.





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Learn more about City services by visiting detroitmi.gov/neighborhoods or scanning the QR code to download the *Department of Neighborhoods Resource Guide*.



Learn more at detroitmi.gov/detroitforlife