

Councilman Scott Benson's Newsletter

FALL/WINTER 2017

Letter from the Councilman

My Dear Detroiters,

Fall is upon us—the leaves will be changing and we'll start preparing our homes for the cold weather of winter. While much of our activities will be moved indoors it's a good time mark your calendar for a number of 3rd District activities which are listed below:

1. October 11th – 3rd District Community Resource Fair from 5pm – 7pm
At Farwell Recreation Center, 2711 East Outer Drive, Detroit, MI 48234
2. December 8th – Bingo with Benson from 11am – 3pm at Heilmann Recreation Center,
19601 Crusade Street, Detroit, MI 48205

One of my key goals is to keep you fully informed about the resources and services that can help you and your family. This is why we have dedicated this issue to providing a comprehensive resource listing for various services around the city, from how to save money on utilities to providing a full spread map on all of our local bus routes along with key transportation information.

As we continue to work together, remember that I want to hear from you. Please give me your feedback on how my staff and I can improve services and better work on your behalf. To keep fully abreast of all the 3rd District activities, please sign-up for our new text service. Text message subscribers receive immediate information about home repair grants, events, emergency services and fun City activities. Most recently, we gave away Tigers tickets, free rain barrels and on-the spot information for senior grants and free events—perks that were only available to text subscribers. Yes, being a 3rd District resident has its privileges! Don't miss out. It's easy and the instructions are on the back of this newsletter.

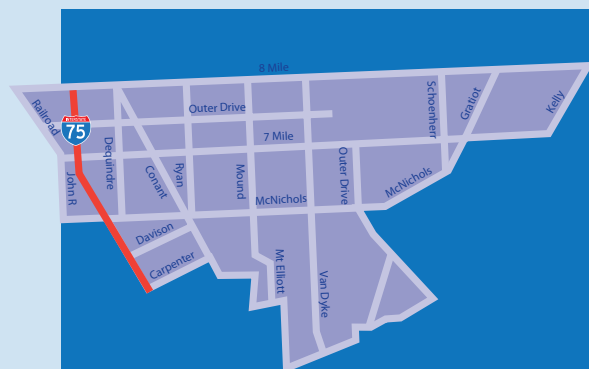
Yours in service,



Scott R. Benson
3rd District City Councilman



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



**City of Detroit
DISTRICT 3**

Detroit's First Mother's Room Opens in The 3rd District!



Detroit's first lactation lounge and mother's empowerment hub opened in the Matrix Center in late August. The new space, The Mother's Room—a place to nurse and nurture—is a welcoming and inviting room for all mothers, which, in addition to being a place to breastfeed or pump, will also host pop-up parenting classes, support groups, health screenings and to offer other resources for mothers.

Councilman Scott Benson and Dr. Joneigh S. Khaldun, executive director of the Detroit Health Department, led the ribbon cutting ceremony, along with representatives from Henry Ford Health System and breast pump maker, Medela USA, who are both key sponsors of the room. Medela has provided a hospital-grade breast pump and other ongoing nursing supplies, that are available to nursing moms using the room.

The lactation lounge, also called the Mother's Empowerment Hub, is a project of the First Food Friendly Community Initiative (3FCI), a three-year pilot project in the Osborn community funded by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation. Last summer, as part of the program, nine local moms were trained to design and execute interventions that they determined would help better support breastfeeding in their community. They participated in a 4-week paid internship to work in their 3rd District community

implementing their ideas, which included getting restaurants, stores and other businesses to display, "Breastfeeding is Welcome Here" signage—over 43 businesses signed up. Also, on their wish list: a community lounge for breastfeeding.

"I am proud to see the vision of Detroit's own community moms come to fruition," says Kimberly Seals Allers, director of the 3FCI project and a national infant health advocate who spearheaded The Mother's Room effort.

"Mothers in Michigan have a legal right to nurse anywhere and everywhere, but they also deserve a clean, welcoming space to nurse privately if they choose. Knowing they can breastfeed easily in their community helps breastfeeding continue longer and increases the health benefits to mothers and babies," said Kiddada Green, founding executive director of the Black Mother's Breastfeeding Association (www.blackmothersbreastfeeding.org), which provides at-home support and breastfeeding "clubs" throughout Detroit.

"I am proud to see the 3rd District lead the way for all of Detroit to become First Food Friendly and more supportive of breastfeeding for healthier moms and babies," said Councilman Benson

Go to Facebook.com/MothersRoomDetroit for details on upcoming events.


Detroit 0% Interest Home Repair Loan Program

The Detroit 0% Interest Home Repair Loan Program launched in March 2015 is a city-led partnership between the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), Bank of America and the City of Detroit.

The program provides loans to Detroit homeowners ranging \$5,000 to \$25,000 to complete home repairs and resolve health & safety issues such as lead. Homeowners have ten years to pay back the loans, which are provided at 0% interest. That means homeowners pay back only what they borrow.

This is a public-private commitment focused on revitalizing Detroit's neighborhoods. Eligibility criteria includes: 560 credit score, 45% debt-to-income ratio and 150% loan-to-value ratio.

For information on the program please visit www.detroithomeloans.org or contact (313) 265-2928.



EXAMPLE

\$45,000
Total Household Income
45% debt-to-income ratio = \$1,687 per month in debt payments (bills)

150%
House Must Appraise at Minimal \$16,500
loan-to-value ratio = \$25,000 loan

\$25,000
divided by a \$16,665 home's appraised value = 150% loan to value ratio

\$25,000
loan equals
\$208.00 per month for ten years.

Get Your Home Ready for Winter With These 10 Tips

Winter is coming! Save money and energy in your home with these simple weatherizing tips.



1) Clean Gutters

Prevent leaky roof or water damage to the interior or exterior of your home.

2) Replace Furnace Filters

- Dirty furnace filters reduce the air quality in home.
- Replace every three months.

3) Furnace Tune up

- Keep your furnace clean, lubricated and operating efficiently.

4) Check Exterior Furnace Exhaust Vent (High Efficiency Furnace)

- Check and remove bird's nest, if necessary.

5) Prep your windows

- Check for leaks by feeling around windows for cool air during a chilly, fall day.
- Caulk around windows, if necessary.

6) Check your doors

- Check for weatherstripping on the side and bottom to prevent draft in home.

7) Install Programmable Thermostat

- Automatically adjust heat temperature in the home for energy efficiency.

8) Check and Clean Dryer Vents (interior and exterior)

- Remove lint after each use to prevent build up.

9) Replace batteries in Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

- Every year in Fall.

10) Clean Chimney

- Check and remove bird's nest, if necessary.



ENERGY UTILITY & WATER ASSISTANCE

Home Energy Supports

If you are a Wayne County resident, our Home Energy Supports program can provide you with assistance in paying past-due utility bills including electricity and gas (or other deliverable fuels such as home heating oil). We can also provide guidance to help you get your utility services restored if they have been shut off.

HOME ENERGY SUPPORTS

Wayne Metro's Weatherization Assistance Program is a free program that is funded through the Department of Energy. This program provides energy assistance to income-eligible homeowners and renters in Wayne County.

Water Residential Assistance Program (WRAP)

WRAP funding is available to eligible, low-income residential customers of the Great Lakes Water Authority service area providing bill assistance, conservation, and self-sufficiency initiatives. City of Detroit residents who are not eligible for WRAP assistance can enroll in the DWSD 10/30/50 Payment Plan. The plan allows for customers to pay down arrears by spreading them across future payments. For more information please call 313.267.8000 or visit www.detroitmi.gov/dwdsd.

Information & Referral Services

The Wayne Metro Connect Call Center can help you navigate the information and referral resources that are available to help you. please contact the Wayne Metro CONNECT^(TM) Call Center between the hours of 9:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday – Friday (excluding holidays).

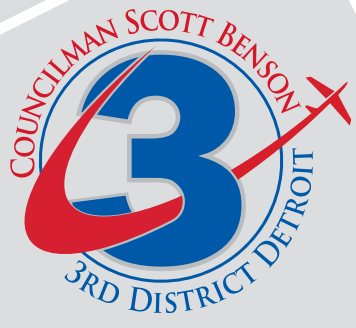
City of Detroit Residents:
(313) 388-9799

Out County Residents:
(734) 284-6999

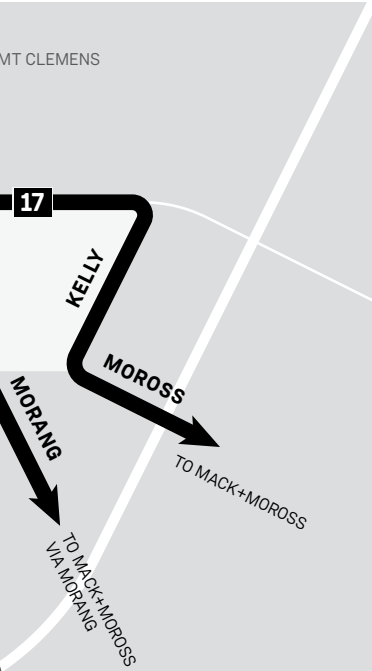
TTY: 1-800-649-3777



Transit Service in District 3



313.933.1300
detroitmi.gov/ddot



TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE

For detailed info, call **313.933.1300** or visit **detroitmi.gov/ddot**

Major Routes

17 Eight Mile	MON-FRI	4:15am - 1:45am	every 20-30 minutes
	SAT	5:00am - 1:30am	every 30-40 minutes
	SUN	5:45am - 11:00pm	every 55-60 minutes
34 Gratiot	MON-FRI	24 hours	every 12-20 minutes
	SAT	24 hours	every 15-30 minutes
	SUN	24 hours	every 25-30 minutes
45 Seven Mile	MON-FRI	24 hours	every 12-25 minutes
	SAT	24 hours	every 30-40 minutes
	SUN	24 hours	every 45-60 minutes
48 Van Dyke/Lafayette	MON-FRI	24 hours	every 20-30 minutes
	SAT	24 hours	every 30-40 minutes
	SUN	24 hours	every 50-60 minutes

Neighborhood Routes

- 7** Cadillac/Harper

- 9** Chalmers

- 10** Chene

- 11** Clairmount

- 12** Conant

- 13** Conner

- 23** Hamilton/John R

- 32** McNichols

- 38** Plymouth

- 40** Russell

- 43** Schoolcraft

- 95** Ryan Express

Totally New Services!

23 HAMILTON/JOHN R

New local service on John R, seven days a week.

95 RYAN EXPRESS

Express to/from Downtown for weekday rush hours.

Fresh Wagon

Direct service to Eastern Market on Saturdays!

BOARD AT FARWELL REC CENTER SATURDAYS AT 10:30AM!

REFLEX

598

Limited stops along Gratiot between Detroit and Mt Clemens.

\$1.50 Regular Fare Pay on the Bus!

CALL US FOR INFO ON PASSES AND REDUCED FARES

@RideDDOT

Get **TRANSIT** app for real-time info

313.933.1300
detroitmi.gov/ddot

Hours and times vary by route. Please see detailed schedules.



I-94 Modernization Project

Have you heard the latest about I-94?

Get the facts and give MDOT your input on the proposed design modifications.

MDOT is proposing a series of updates to the original 2005 design plan for reconstructing the I-94 freeway from I-96 to Conner Avenue.

The proposed modifications include:

- Better neighborhood connections
- More sidewalks and buffered bike lanes
- Better use of existing streets
- Fewer property impacts.

Attend the District 3 I-94 Roundtable Meeting: **Wednesday, Oct 18, 6-8pm.** Alkebulan Village 7701 Harper Ave, Detroit Mi, 48213.

Visit the I-94 Website: www.michigan.gov/94detroit

Send Project Comments and Questions: i94Detroit@gmail.com

Call the I-94 Communications Team: 313-230-1014



MDOT... working with you to create a better I-94.



NEED UTILITY ASSISTANCE?



United Way for Southeastern Michigan and DTE Energy have partnered to help make energy payments more affordable with DTE's **Low Income Self-Sufficiency Plan (LSP)**

This program allows you to make affordable monthly payments based on your income.

Other program benefits include access to dedicated Customer Advocates, self-sufficiency support, protection from shutoff, no future late payment charges and the reduction of your outstanding balance.

Did you know that LSP customers save an average of \$1,000 per year?

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR, LSP VALIDATION BEGINS NOW!

Apply online at <https://ispapp.liveunitedsem.org>

For more information, contact United Way for Southeastern Michigan at 844.598.7967 or visit LiveUnitedSEM.org/LSP



United Way 2-1-1 is free, confidential, anonymous, and available 24/7.

CALL 2-1-1 FOR:

- Emergency Shelter
- Food Pantries
- Day Care
- Rent and **Utility Assistance**
- Elderly Care
- Mental Health Services
- Health Resources
- Education & Vocational Training
- Disability Resource
- Drug & Alcohol Rehabilitation
- Domestic Abuse
- Counseling



211.UnitedWaySEM.org



Society Of St. Vincent DePaul Emergency Assistance

Food, Clothing, Furniture, Utilities

More Information Call 313-393-2930

Need to Lower Your Energy Bill? We're Here to Help.



Schedule a FREE Home Energy Consultation today.

A DTE Energy specialist will visit your home and conduct a FREE Home Energy Consultation. Find out where your home uses the most energy and identify things that you can do in every room to save energy.

We'll also install FREE energy-saving products that may include:

- ENERGY STAR® LED lightbulbs
- Energy efficient showerhead
- Kitchen and bathroom faucet aerators
- Hot water pipe wrap
- Nightlights

Get My Free Consultation by calling 866.796.0512

Multifamily Program Overview

The DTE Energy Multifamily Program offers two ways for multifamily building owners and tenants to save money on the utility bills.

Direct Install

The direct install approach offers FREE energy-saving products to eligible tenants. Tenants can receive up to 20 LED lamps for FREE!

Common Area

The common area approach offers incentives for energy-saving measures in common areas of multifamily buildings. Incentives are available for qualifying measures to help reduce the initial cost of the project.

Contact us to schedule your FREE energy assessment. Following the assessment, you will receive a Multifamily Savings Report that identifies if your property qualifies for "direct install" and/or common area upgrades. **To schedule an appointment, simply call our Energy Efficiency Contact Center toll-free at 866.796.0512.**

ENERGY STAR® Refrigerator Replacement Program

If your primary refrigerator was manufactured before December 2000 or is found inefficient based upon testing, you may be eligible to receive a new ENERGY STAR®-certified refrigerator to replace your existing one. Customers in multi-unit buildings also are eligible.

CRIME STOPPERS 1-800-SPEAK UP
ANONYMOUS CASH REWARDS



Councilman Scott Benson
 2 Woodward Avenue, Suite 1340
 Detroit, MI 48226

13560 E. McNichols
 Detroit, MI 48205



Join my text service by texting

“District3” to 555888

to receive up-to-date info on job opportunities, new resources, community services and events delivered directly to your cell phone.

Please sign up!

Councilman Scott Benson’s Staff

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Martell Bivings *Policy Analyst*

Terry Catchings *District Chief*

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Dominque Jordan *Intern*

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The 3rd District is Social!

Stay connected with your community. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!



@Scottinthe3rd



Councilman Scott Benson