

Harmony & Literacy

In Harmony Café Sweets and More, at 12041 Dexter Ave., Detroit is up and going strong. The new owners Keyona and Tye Barnes are hosting The Literacy Lounge for both elementary school children and middle/high schoolers. Join them first Saturdays.

Brilliant Detroit Looking for Contractors Who Care

Early this year, the Russell Woods-Sullivan Area Association partnered with Brilliant Detroit to bring to the neighborhood programming for children 0-8 to be school ready, healthy and stable. In the summer Brilliant Detroit purchased the home at 4203 Sturtevant to house this programming, and now it needs licensed and certified contractors, including RWSA residents who fit those standards, to makeover the surprisingly preserved residence on Sturtevant's southwest corner. For qualified applicants, this is a paid opportunity from Brilliant Detroit.

For more information, contact Vice President Lezlie Robinson at 810-588-0221 and submit your resume along with your license/certification to her email address to be forwarded to the appropriate person: ldr5868@gmail.com. The target project completion date is sometime in 2023.



NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

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QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

DATES:
January
April
July
October

Support RWSAA When You Shop Amazon--for FREE

The Amazon Smile Income Program is a simple, *easy* way to support Russell Woods-Sullivan Area Association (RWSAA), a charitable organization, every time you shop, *at no cost to you*. A little bit can make a big difference. **Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from customers' eligible Amazon purchases to the RWSAA.**

1. Place order in shopping cart on Amazon Smile
2. Purchase product/stream or download if digital
3. Select RWSAA as your charitable organization
4. Pay

We appreciate your support.
Happy holiday shopping!

The Association Needs You

Russell Woods-Sullivan Area Association is seeking general volunteers to complete neighborhood projects when they arise. Consider signing up and giving an hour a month to the project of your choice! More information coming soon; if you'd like to let us know you're interested in volunteering, please email RWSAA Corresponding Secretary Anne Bradley at board@rwsaa.org.

Block Presidents

Join or start a block club for your block. The American Rescue Plan Act has afforded block clubs the opportunity to receive grant funding up to \$5,000. Become a block club president/captain and make our community great. Contact Melvin Chunev at 41moody@gmail.com.

Detroit's Water Affordability Plan is Here

The Detroit Water & Sewerage Department recently announced its first income-based water affordability plan. To see if you qualify, including for erasure of your water bill balance and being on a plan for a low as \$18 per month, visit detroitmi.gov/rental or contact Wayne Metro at waynemetro.org or by calling 313-386-9727. For more information, visit: detroitmi.gov/rental or Wayne Metro at: waynemetro.org or by calling 313-386-9727.

Next General Meeting:
Wednesday, December 7, 6:30

THE RUSSELL WOODSMAN

FALL 2022

The Summer Youth Enhancement Program

The Summer Youth Enhancement Program that the Russell Woods-Sullivan Area Association sponsored at the Diehl Boys and Girls Club of Southeastern Michigan was a success with more than 60 children participating. Long-time RWSAA member Mary McKissic led this program with more than half a dozen skilled instructors she recruited who provided math, reading, life and social skills to attendees. Attendees also had recreation time. Students and staff received lunch daily with some meals catered by our own Vice President Lezlie Robinson. President Melvin Chunev was on hand daily. The two-week program ran from 9am-1pm Monday through Friday August 8-19, 2022. Registrants also received a one-year membership to the Boys and Girls Club, courtesy of the Association.

Brilliant Detroit Backpack Giveaway



Delonie and Calvin delivering "stuffed" backpacks from Brilliant Detroit.

We would like to thank Brilliant Detroit Co-Founder Cindy Eggleston, Brilliant Detroit Volunteer Engagement Manager Aryeh Perlman, and the volunteer delivery guys Delonie and Calvin for their contribution of 50 backpacks. In addition, thank you to Linda Evans, Marini Lee, Lezlie Robinson, Tracey Taylor, and Elizabeth Youngblood who volunteered to distribute the stuffed packs.

Detroit Promotes Landlord Responsibilities

To combat the challenge of negligent landlords, the City of Detroit has been promoting its standards for those property owners in the City, including the need for a Certificate of Compliance in addition to having a Certificate of Registration. Obtaining a Certificate of Compliance requires successfully passing an inspection by the City or the City's qualified third-party inspector and obtaining a Lead Clearance Report. The Certificate of Compliance means the property is safe to be occupied. For more information about this or other landlord responsibilities, visit www.detroitmi.gov/rental.



Becoming A Paid Member

Russell Woods-Sullivan Area Association (RWSAA) is an historic, all-volunteer community association which was incorporated in 1958 as a Michigan non-profit (501(c)4) organization and is now a 501(c)3 organization. The leadership team, known as the executive board, is composed of President Melvin Chunev; Vice President Lezlie Robinson; Corresponding Secretary Anne Bradley; Recording Secretary Rebecca Mathew; Treasurer Clyde E. Jones Jr.; Members-at-Large Mikel Bresee and Genevieve Douglas; block captains; and chairmen of the RWSAA standing committees as outlined in its bylaws: Finance, Programs, Publicity & Publications, Membership, Zoning & Health, and Public Safety.

The Executive Board meets every third Monday, 6:30 pm. All residents are encouraged to attend these meetings.

Let your voice be heard! Be active in community affairs by becoming a paid Association member. Membership dues are only \$30/year. Paid members are allowed to vote on RWSAA business matters. Meetings are open to all Russell Woods-Sullivan residents.

General Membership meets every first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm. (Except January and February.)

Contact Membership Chair Shirley Dixon (313.348.6337) or visit russellwoodssullivan.org to join online and become a paid member. All paid members will automatically receive our weekly "What's Up in the Woods" newsletter with upcoming events, reminders, and community updates.

Wisdom Citizen Gives Historical Perspective

To give some perspective to current day Russell Woods-Sullivan Area Association programs, wisdom citizen and immediate past program chairman Mary McKissic gave the following account:

In June 1988, Dr. Joseph Hayden, Russell Woods-Sullivan Area Association president, appointed me to serve as chairman of Park Committee/Special Programs. Under my leadership various bands, starting with Jimmy Wilkins, gave jazz concerts; our own Marion Hayden played the bass with her all-female jazz band Straight Ahead; Kasuku Mafia played reggae; and calypso music was also played. Gospel choirs introduced by GodSounds sang under a large tent. Our neighbor Michael Rhoads played jazz and Joseph Walker Williams provided vintage music. We had African dancers, a fashion show, and the City of Detroit Recreation Department provided many activities, including the Puppetmobile, Swimmobile and recreation rovers. Residents Walter Dean, Earnest Tanks, Georgetta Jackson and Ron Bennett were in charge of the Citizen Radio Patrol. Thanks to then-resident Don Vest, Black United Fund (BUF) provided grant funding. This three-year grant responsibility was passed to me to continue for the next two years.

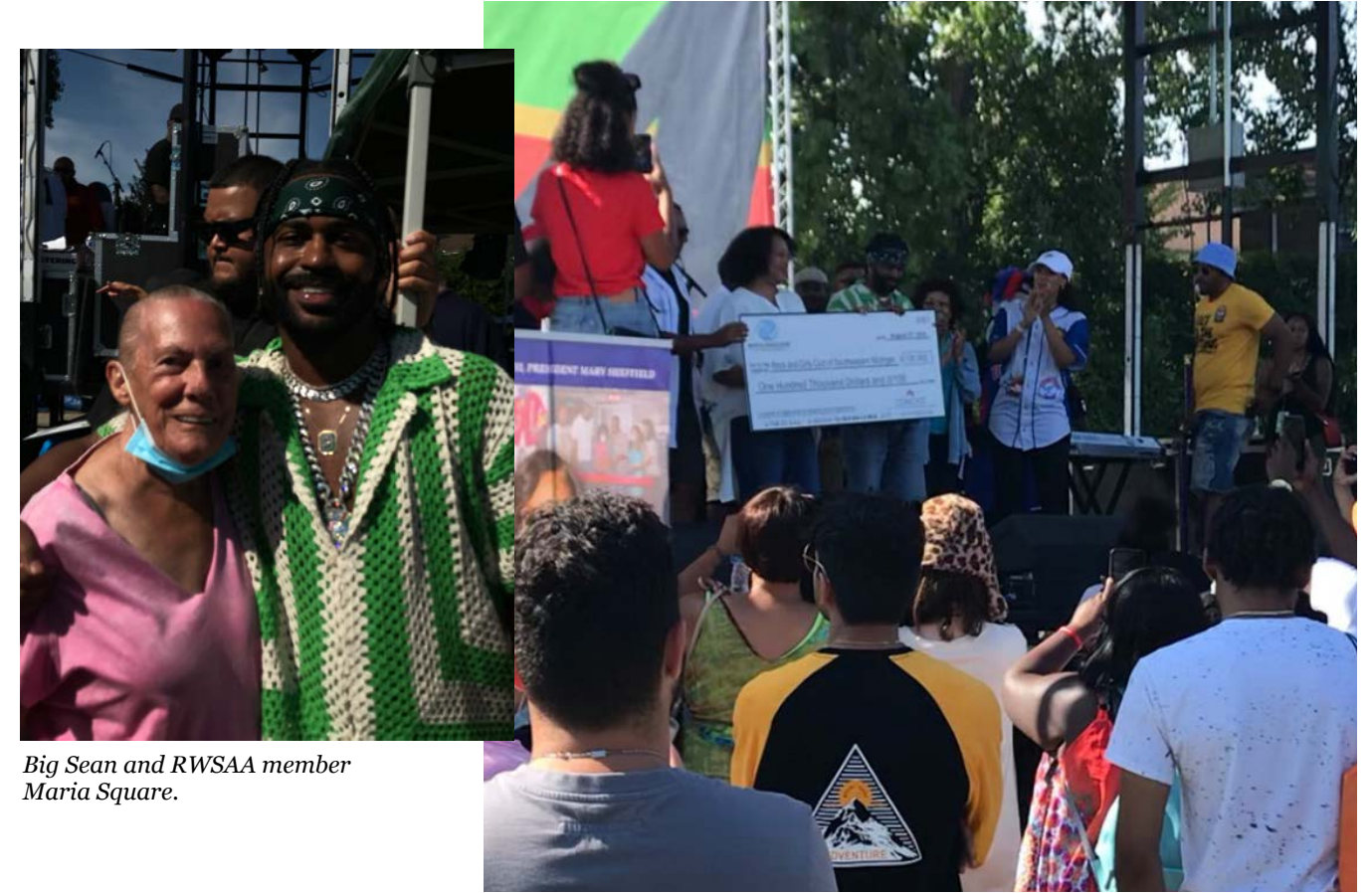
Marie Dean became our next president. She and I were successful in getting new sidewalks, electricity, and water fountains in the Russell Woods Park. As the result of the increased grant writing experience that I gained while serving, I successfully wrote grants for other programs and schools, including James Tatum Foundation for the Arts,

the Adult Education Program for Wayne County Community College, and an educational technology program for the Don Bosco Hall Sutton House.

Because of the pandemic within the last two years, we changed the Easter Egg Hunt, that long-time resident Jacque Nickerson started and conducted, to an Easter Event, so that the children would not have to hunt for eggs in the grass and this could be a healthy family event. With the support of the Social Justice Ministry of my church, we were able to have a dynamic program giving free jelly-bean-filled Easter eggs, free Easter baskets with a book and candy in each, free hard-cover books for everyone who attended and free raffle prizes.

Excellent past programs and people must be remembered. We miss seeing and hearing the parade of middle and high school student bands circling Russell Woods, singing Christmas carols in the park directed by Brazeal Dennard, director of the Brazeal Dennard Chorale, Dudley Randall, poet laureate and librarian, who founded Broadside Press Publishing Company in 1965, and Rev. Dr. Lawrence T. Glenn Sr., whose Broadstreet Presbyterian Church hosted our RWSAA meetings and was responsible for the annual parade in Russell Woods.

Again, thanks to you, our community, for your continued support. We look forward to forthcoming family fun, celebrations, activities and distribution of educational information with our programming.



Big Sean and RWSAA member Maria Square.

Council President Mary Sheffield presenting Comcast's \$100,000 donation to the Boys and Girls Club.

Department of Neighborhoods Event with Comcast \$100,000 Donation, Big Sean and Neighborhood Reps



"Stop the Violence Rally and March" with Councilman Durhal III, Captain Joy Hope, Police Chief White, and RWSAA V.P. Lezlie Robinson.

Little Ceasars Pizza for everyone.