



2022 Newsletter



NWSCDC Staff at Green Tech Station

NWSCDC ORGANIZATION NEWSLETTER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from E.D. • P. 2

Lending Stories • P. 3

Green Tech Station • P. 4

MMSD West Basin • P. 6

Promise Zone Bike Ride • P. 10

Decorative Crosswalk • P. 13

WELCOME

NORTHWEST SIDE NEWS

Welcome to NWSCDC's newsletter! 2022 was a year filled with community engagement and events, new business lending clients, in addition to continued investment in environmental projects.

NWSCDC has served the economic development needs of Milwaukee communities since being founded in 1983. The organization exists to create economic opportunities, build partnerships and strengthen communities on the Northwest Side of Milwaukee.

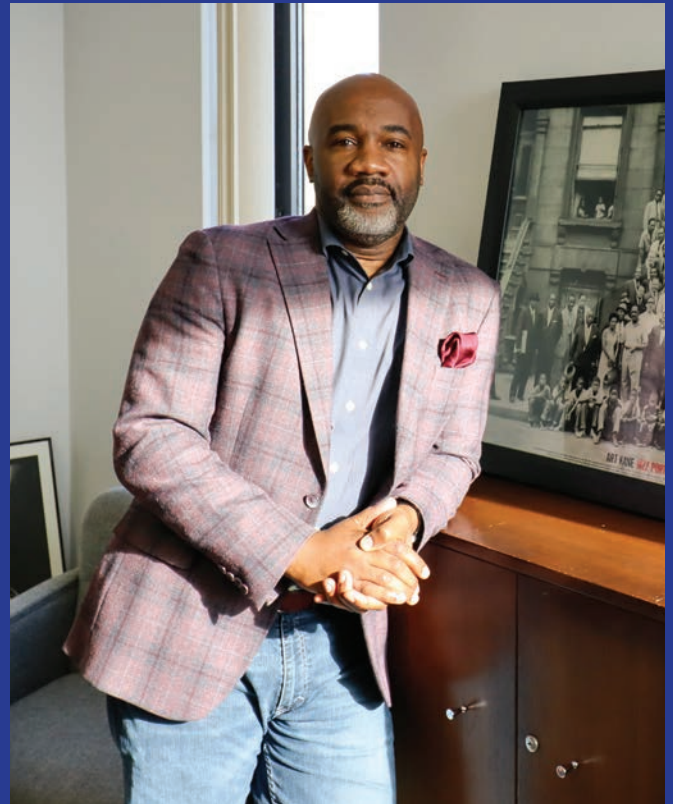
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MESSAGE FROM THE E.D.

WILLIE SMITH

As the new year is upon us, we look back at 2022 with admiration for all of our community members, business lending clients, and partners. Without their support and continued engagement, NWSCDC would not be able to achieve as much as we do within a given year. We celebrate the new relationships that have formed and the growth we see in our small business community. Each year presents new challenges and opportunities for innovative solutions.

We reflect on new and exciting loan closings that include supporting a franchise acquisition, a solar focused business, a daycare facility, a women-owned cleaning company, among others. Each business serves as an anchor in our community, offering jobs and neighborhood stability. The passion our business lending clients have for success is inspiring, as they display positive growth in the City of Milwaukee.



December 19th, 2022

Community engagement is at the heart of the work we do at NWSCDC. Building relationships and fostering long term partnerships leads to sustainable development. Through community events, we are able to share information about the organization with residents and connect them to the resources they are most interested in. 2022 was a year full of fun community events focused on exercise, healthy food access, environmental sustainability, homeownership, and violence prevention.

Green Tech Station also had a fantastic year, welcoming more than 400 visitors to the space and hosting the Citywide Arbor Day celebration. We are eager to show off the new additions to the space, including solar panels, walking paths with educational nodes, additional trees, artwork, and more.

We begin the new year with optimism and motivation, to continue leading the transformation of the Northwest Side of Milwaukee into a preferred destination for businesses and residents.

BUSINESSES

LENDING STORIES

NWSCDC leverages resources to support business owners along their own unique journey towards entrepreneurial success.

Craft Beverage Warehouse

Craft Beverage Warehouse is a craft beer packaging material distributor and has been a NWSCDC business loan client since 2020. The company has experienced significant growth over the past two years, expanding services to now include direct-to-can digital printing. The NWSCDC Team had the privilege of touring the facility at the Century City Business Park and seeing in-person the company's new digital printing machine all the way from Germany! Click [HERE](#) to learn more about Craft Beverage Warehouse.



(Above): Inside Craft Beverage Warehouse. (Below): Myron Smith photographed inside of his business.

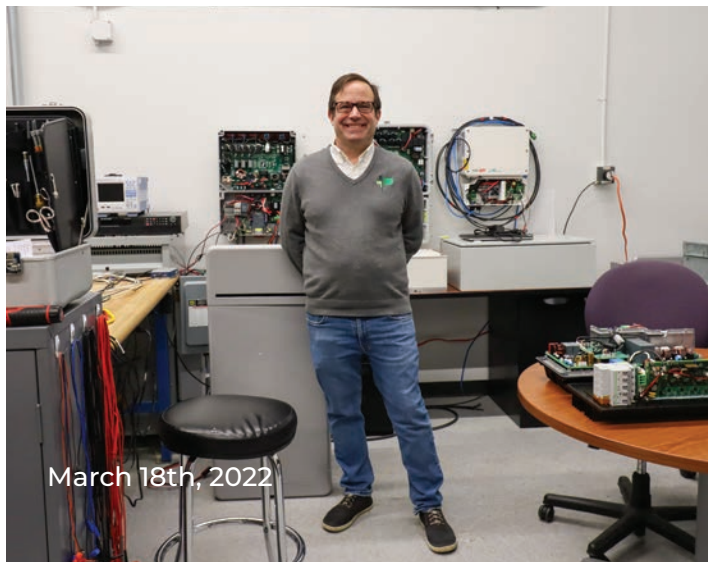
Midtown Culver's



NWSCDC, in participation with Westbury Bank, provided financing to support the purchase and acquisition of a Culver's franchise. Owner Myron Smith began working for Culver's as an employee in the early 2000's and is now the proud owner of the 5501 W. Fond du Lac location on Milwaukee's North Side. This Culver's has significant community support, servicing about 300,000 Milwaukee County residents a year. It is businesses such as this that provide quality service and job opportunities for local residents. We are proud to support each of our business clients in pursuing their goals for the future.

Present Power Systems

NWSCDC closed on a loan to Present Power Systems during the first quarter of 2022. Present Power Systems develops power electronics for solar energy storage to help large manufacturers make their batteries smaller and function at a higher level of efficiency. Present Power Systems founder, Jason Katcha, is passionate about the work he does and has a core mission of making solar power more accessible for people everywhere to install in their homes. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.



(Above): Jason Katcha stands in his work space on the second floor of the Century City Tower building.

Pepper Pot Jamaican Cuisine

On April 11th, NWSCDC staff members attended a soft opening event for business client, Pepper Pot Jamaican Cuisine. The sit-down restaurant is located in the heart of the Bronzville Neighborhood, found at: 2215 N Doctor M.L.K. Jr Drive. Be sure to add Pepper Pot Jamaican Cuisine to your list of Milwaukee restaurant destinations! Visit Pepper Pot's website [HERE](#) to view the menu and reserve a table.



(Above): NWSCDC Executive Director: Willie Smith, Business Owner: Dwight Jackson and NWSCDC Business Consultant: Julious Hulbert are photographed at Pepper Pot's Soft Opening event.

PLANNING & PUBLIC SPACES

GREEN TECH STATION (GTS)

GTS Events

Green Tech Station embarked on another exciting year in 2022. NWSCDC was honored to host the City's Arbor Day Celebration at Green Tech Station on April 29th, where 26 new trees were planted with the help of scholars from HOPE Christian School: Semper.





(Above): Students listen to Mayor Johnson’s Arbor Day speech at GTS.

(Right): Wilniesha Smith, Reflo’s Intern & Outreach Coordinator, presents information to Doors Open Milwaukee participants at GTS.

For the second year in a row, Green Tech Station participated in Historic Milwaukee Inc. Doors Open Milwaukee. In total, 86 visitors stopped at GTS on September 24th.

NWSCDC was happy to welcome groups throughout the year to explore green technologies, volunteer their time and participate in educational walking tours.



(Above): New wood chips are placed for walking paths at GTS. (Below): StormGUARDen installation.



GTS Notable Highlights

GTS has experienced a metamorphosis over the last few years, with new additions being added to the site in phases. In July, 24 solar panels were installed on the roof of the pavilion, generating 8.88 kilowatts of power.

New paths were constructed on the site, that will support field trips and visiting groups as they walk, learn and discuss their findings at GTS.

A StormGUARDen was installed on the pavilion’s downspout in August. The system can hold up to 225 gallons of water, equivalent to 4.5 rain barrels. Native plants are placed in the center of the StormGUARDen to effectively use the rainwater and provide natural beauty.

In October, GTS received an exceptional addition to the site: two 7 ft sculptures, created by Artist, Glenn Williams. The sculptures pay homage to African water vessels, with the words “ Water is an Ancestor” and “Water has no Enemies”.

Anyone interested in scheduling a field trip or tour at Green Tech Station, please contact NWSCDC Planning & Community Development Manager, Sarah Bregant: sarah.b@nwscdc.org

(Right): Sculpture installation at GTS.



WEST BASIN STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Community Engagement

(Right): Signage from the former Bee Bus Line is visible from N. 35th Street at the MMSD West Basin.



NWSCDC had a fantastic time engaging with neighbors at the MMSD West Basin over the course of 2022. Throughout the year, the public contributed input and offered their opinions on the design of the West Basin, through conversations at events and three online surveys. Community responses were collected and incorporated into the latest rendering design seen below. Construction of the West Basin is scheduled to begin in 2024. Click [HERE](#) to visit MMSD's West Basin website page for more information.



(Left): A July rendering of MMSD's West Basin design plans including community space and parking. Amenities on site include a boardwalk, play area, sledding hill, walking path, half basketball court and outdoor sitting space. The final design will be ready later in 2023.

West Basin Events

NWSCDC hosted four seasonal events at the West Basin in 2022, beginning with a Winter Festival on Saturday, February 26th. Despite the frigid temperatures, neighbors showed up to play games, roast marshmallows, drink hot cocoa and build in community. In total, 32 individuals were present at the event. Nearby Nature Milwaukee provided snowshoeing lessons to youth present at the Winter Festival.

WINTER



On Saturday, May 21st, NWSCDC hosted a Spring Festival at the West Basin. MMSD, Milwaukee County Parks and Clean Wisconsin were present at the event, connecting with residents and sharing their resources. Providers Taking Action (PTA) arranged a food station at the event, where neighbors could purchase food, with proceeds going towards PTA's work with local childcare businesses. Teens Grow Greens generously offered an array of free plants for individuals to choose from, just in time for the spring planting season.

SPRING



(Above): NWSCDC Board President, Bernadette Karanja and NWSCDC Board of Directors Program Committee Chair, Yvonne McCaskill. (Below): Games, resources and good conversation at the MMSD West Basin.



SUMMER



On Saturday, July 23rd, NWSCDC celebrated a Summer Festival at the West Basin. Clean Wisconsin, MMSD and the Fresh Coast Interns were on site sharing information about the West Basin Stormwater Project, rain barrels and rain gardens. Attendees were able to paint sun catchers and partake in coloring activities. Nearby Nature Milwaukee brought a kayak and a tent, sharing conversation on ways we can all connect with nature more often.

SKATE NIGHT



In partnership with the Milwaukee REC Wacky Wheels Skate Bus, NWSCDC hosted a Skate Night in August at the MMSD West Basin. In total, 160 people attended the event. Chef Arty, business owner of Arty's Sweet Talk Cupcakes, provided delicious food for neighbors to enjoy. MMSD tabled at the event and spoke with residents about the West Basin Project.

(Above & to the Right): Skate Night provided a space for children and adults, experienced and inexperienced skaters, to come together and enjoy an activity with one another.



FREE PUMPKIN FRIDAY



October 7th, 2022



October 7th, 2022

On October 7th, NWSCDC hosted a Free Pumpkin Friday event at the MMSD West Basin. A total of 150 pumpkins were scattered throughout to create a pumpkin patch at the site, where families could choose their favorite to take home. Residents had the opportunity to discuss the West Basin Project with MMSD who was tabling at the event. A large canvas was displayed for neighbors to draw on, with the prompt: "I'm excited to ____ at the West Basin." Participants left the event with a goodie bag filled with treats, fall recipes and pumpkin carving ideas.

NORTH SIDE POP-UP FARMERS MARKET

NWSCDC hosted the 3rd Annual North Side Pop-up Farmers Market on Tuesdays in August. Five markets throughout the month took place at three North Side locations including: Ascension All Saints Family Health Center, Century City Business Park and the MMSD West Basin. Products at this year's markets included: fresh produce, honey, salsa, fresh pressed juices, lemonade and coffee beverages, Popsicles, popcorn, t-shirts, poems, children's books, kombucha, bakery and desserts, plants, handmade soaps and candles, and flower bouquets. MKE Elevate, a part of the City of Milwaukee Health Department, tabled every Tuesday to support the promotion of healthy foods and lifestyles in unison with the mission of the North Side Pop-up Farmers Market.



August 2nd, 2022



August 23rd, 2022



WATERMARKS



NWSCDC is grateful for a partnership with City As Living Laboratory (CALL) and their local Milwaukee project, WaterMarks. NWSCDC convened monthly meetings with residents, partners, and stakeholder organizations throughout the year to share project updates and continue planning. On May 14th, a community workshop was held for residents to learn more about the project and share their opinions. A water marker will be installed at Green Tech Station and Melvina Park within the 30th Street Industrial Corridor area. The water markers will change colors when rainfall is expected, to notify residents to reduce their water usage. Learn more about the project [HERE](#).

(Above): Reflo's Milwaukee Water Stories Project Manager, Michael Timm, leads a discussion about water capacity of bioswales at the future redesigned Melvina Park.

PROMISE ZONE BIKE RIDE

On Saturday, June 4th, NWSCDC presented the 5th Annual Promise Zone Bike Ride. Bublr Bikes provided free bike rentals and DreamBikes conducted on-site bike repairs and mobile repairs along the ride. The 7 mile bike ride began and ended at Garden Homes Park, with multiple highlight points throughout the route. The group stopped at a number of locations, with presenters stationed at each spot to share information. These opportunity sites included: the MMSD West Basin, The Oasis, an outdoor mural by local artist Ammar Nsoroma, the Lincoln Creek Parkway and pedestrian bridge, the 20th Street trail project, Weber's Greenhouse with Teens Grow Greens and Daq Shack.



(Left): Event participants bike through the Rufus King Neighborhood along the route. (Right): The group visits the MMSD West Basin.



(Above): 2022 Promise Zone Bike Ride group photo in the Old North Milwaukee Neighborhood.



JOE LOUIS GREENWAY - DETROIT, MI

In June, NWSCDC had the opportunity to visit Detroit and experience the Joe Louis Greenway. Thanks to Rails-to-Trails, NWSCDC joined a number of Milwaukee and Chicago based organizations to learn from Detroit's success in developing a trail system from an old railroad corridor. The experience helped build momentum in building a strategy.

NWSCDC staff members had a phenomenal time meeting residents, advocates, and project partners while touring neighborhoods along the Joe Louis Greenway and learning about the trails system in Detroit. We got the chance to join one of the D-Town Riders Bike Club Monday evening Soul Roll Detroit events! NWSCDC is excited to be a part of the work on catalytic trail projects here on the North Side along the 30th Street Corridor railroad tracks. We send a big thank you to Rails-to-Trails Conservancy and the SmithGroup for hosting us!



(Above): Biking the Soul Roll Detroit.



(Above): A group photo taken during a Detroit Neighborhood bus tour.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

LINCOLN PARK WINTER HIKE



On January 15th, NWSCDC participated in a winter hike at Lincoln Park with Nearby Nature Milwaukee. Despite the frigid temperatures, the event had a great turnout of people interested in exploring all that Lincoln Park has to offer.

MPD DISTRICT 7 EASTER EVENT



On Sunday, April 11th, NWSCDC participated in the Milwaukee Police Department-District 7 Easter Event. The organization provided an informative resource table and craft table. Local youth were able to color Easter eggs and participate in an Easter egg hunt throughout Kops Park.

TAX PREPARATION

February 18th, March 18th and April 8th NWSCDC partnered with VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) based out of Riverworks Development Corporation to provide free tax preparation to more than 50 Milwaukee residents. This offering has proven to be invaluable in helping to answer tax questions and complete both past and current tax returns. Residents promptly scheduled appointments to take advantage of the opportunity to meet with a knowledgeable tax professional.



HOMEBUYER WORKSHOPS

On the last two Tuesdays in March NWSCDC partnered with Brenda Brown, CRA Loan Officer/Assistant Branch Manager, for Great Midwest Bank, introducing approximately 20 residents to the essentials of how to purchase their first home. The home buying workshops were a hybrid format via Zoom and in-person at the NWSCDC Offices. After participating in the home buying workshop, community members were offered a confidential one-on-one meeting with Ms. Brown to determine what each individuals' next steps would be to achieve their goal of homeownership.

In May, NWSCDC organized a community cleanup along N. 27th Street in the Garden Homes Neighborhood. Volunteers met outside of the Century City Tower building and embarked upon a morning of neighborhood beautification.

NWSCDC BIG CLEANUP



(Above): Volunteers, Clean Wisconsin and NWSCDC gather for a photo before the cleanup begins.

LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE MKE

NWSCDC joined numerous community partners to pilot a neighborhood cleanup campaign: Love Where You Live MKE. The initiative was designed to encourage neighborhood beautification and promote community pride. A kickoff event took place on May 14th.



SAMUEL CLEMENS DECORATIVE CROSSWALK INSTALLATION

On May 23rd and 24th, NWSCDC partnered with Samuel Clemens Elementary School to paint a decorative crosswalk at N. 36th Street & W. Hope Avenue. The crosswalk design was created by Mr. Larry Williams, who teaches at Samuel Clemens. We were grateful for the help of the talented Clemens 1st graders who painted the paw prints with enthusiasm. We hope the crosswalk is a lasting symbol of school and neighborhood pride while also making the street safer.



GET FIT WEDNESDAYS

Throughout the warmer months of 2022, NWSCDC partnered with Ascension Family Health Center and Nurse Jenny, to provide weekly group workout classes. The outdoor classes took place every Wednesday near the garden. Activities included: aerobics, stretching and a group walk around the track at Ascension.



DRIVE THRU JOB FAIR

NWSCDC had the opportunity to join a number of organizations presenting a Drive Thru Job Fair series for the second year in a row. The job fairs were designed to connect with residents in a safe, convenient way and share available job opportunities. The job fairs were sponsored by: City of Milwaukee, City of Milwaukee Common Council - City Clerk, DirectConnect MKE, Employ Milwaukee, NWSCDC, Milwaukee Urban League, State of Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, Ross Innovative Employment Solutions, UMOS, and Milwaukee Public Schools.



Credit: Jaquilynn Huff, Familia Dental

DENTAL CLINICS

NWSCDC partnered with Familia Dental to provide free youth dental clinics in North Side neighborhoods in 2022. Dental exams were available for ages 21 and under. Two clinics took place in two different locations, including the Lincoln Park and Arlington Heights Neighborhoods.

SAMUEL CLEMENS RAIN GARDEN

On June 1st, NWSCDC partnered with Clean Wisconsin to provide a rain garden demonstration and maintenance activity at Samuel Clemens Elementary School. Participants had the opportunity to learn about native plants and stormwater management practices.



June 1st, 2022



June 1st, 2022

ART IN THE PARK

In June, NWSCDC had the opportunity to be a part of the Century City Triangle Neighborhood Association's annual Art in the Park program. Hosted at Melvina Park, youth and neighborhood elders participated in art activities. This year's participants designed and painted peace posts, with a focus on the environment. Clean Wisconsin shared lessons on green infrastructure and native plants to participants.



STOP THE VIOLENCE: WALK/RUN FOR PEACE

On Saturday, September 10th, NWSCDC hosted a Walk/Run for Peace throughout Milwaukee's North Side Neighborhoods. The event was kicked off with words from NWSCDC Executive Director, Willie Smith and the City of Milwaukee Office of Violence Prevention Director, Ashanti Hamilton. Nurse Jenny, from Ascension Family Health Center on Villard Avenue led a short warm up and stretch prior to the walk. Approximately 60 participants walked the 3.9 mile route throughout the Garden Homes, Old North Milwaukee, Lincoln Park and Rufus King Neighborhoods. Organizations focused on violence prevention tabled at the event, connecting individuals to resources.



AWARD FROM RESIDENTS FOR CHANGE

On October 27th, Residents For Change Neighborhood Association leader, Leatha Morris, presented NWSCDC with a Sponsorship Award. The organization supported the block watch club in their 2022 Health and Wellness Fair. NWSCDC greatly appreciates each one of our community partners.





The Team at NWSCDC sends a special thank you to the residents we serve, project partners and funders who all helped make 2022 such a memorable year!

