

# Southtown Business Edition

Live · Shop · Work · Worship

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For more information on how your business can benefit and to participate in the Southtown Alliance, please contact:

Deborah Chivis at  
301-2727 or

[chivisd@neighborhoodventures.org](mailto:chivisd@neighborhoodventures.org)

## Southtown Alliance Collaboration Celebrates One Year of Existence

The Southtown Alliance Collaboration (STAC) will celebrate its One Year Anniversary on November 17th at the Grand Rapids Urban League. *There is much to celebrate!* STAC was created to gather business owners and community leaders together to address challenges facing Southtown businesses. With over 40 members, STAC trained 115 people in eleven (11) trainings, published the first Southtown Business Directory, distributed 4000 newsletters, & assisted with cooperative marketing for the region.

### STAC Annual Meeting

Monday, Nov. 17, 9:00 AM–12:00 PM

Grand Rapids Urban League—745 Eastern Ave.

*Free Breakfast Provided*

Presentation Topics: End of Renaissance Zones, Economic Bailout & its Affects on Neighborhood Businesses

RSVP to Deb Chivis at [chivisd@neighborhoodventures.org](mailto:chivisd@neighborhoodventures.org) or 301-2727

## Southtown Directory is Here!

The much anticipated Southtown Business & Community Directory is printed and available at your local Southtown business. The directory is the premier information source for the Southtown micro-region with up-to-date listings of all Southtown businesses and community organizations. For more information please contact: Rebekka Kwast, Neighborhood Ventures, 550-3538 or [kwast@neighborhoodventures.org](mailto:kwast@neighborhoodventures.org)



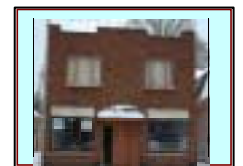
## Southtown Retail Properties



950 Wealthy St. SE  
Grubb & Ellis  
(616) 774-3500



58 Hall St. SW  
Five Star Real Estate (Cascade)  
(616) 977-7790



1316-1318 Madison Ave  
Silveri Company  
(616) 949-6168

## Madison Square Corridor Improvement District

The designation of a Corridor Improvement District (CID) in Madison Square is well on its way. The CID will use tax-increment financing to capture a portion of property taxes to improve the business district. On Oct. 9th, area business owners and residents conducted a walking audit of the district to gather preliminary ideas for the future CID. Additionally, the South East Community Association (SECA) and Calvin College, Urban Economic students surveyed residents and business owners throughout Madison Square for input.



Business owners walk the streets of MS Business District

### *Tell us how Madison Square should be improved!*

Community Visioning Session  
Wednesday, Oct. 22  
Urban Beanery/Life Quest  
1155 Madison Ave.  
6:00-7:30 PM

Consensus Building Session  
Thursday, Nov. 13  
Urban Beanery/Life Quest  
1155 Madison Ave.  
6:00-7:30 PM

## NV Launches New Website: Check out the Southtown Page!



[www.neighborhoodventures.org](http://www.neighborhoodventures.org)

Neighborhood Ventures (NV) has launched their new website. The website is an excellent resource for small business owners and organizations to advertise and make announcements. Also check out the Southtown page for recent news, programs, and trainings available in Southtown. For advertising opportunities, news articles or to learn more about how NV's website can work you, please contact: Sylvia Harris at 550-1504 or [hariss@neighborhoodventures.org](mailto:hariss@neighborhoodventures.org).



### Welcome AmeriCorps Member: Sylvia Harris

Welcome Sylvia Harris, the newest AmeriCorps member at Neighborhood Ventures. Sylvia comes to Neighborhood Ventures from *Our Community's Children* at the City of Grand Rapids, where she helped coordinate a city-wide afterschool collaborative and advocated for policy for youth and children. She is excited to be working with area businesses and to be a part of the innovative developments going on in Southtown.

## We Make Our Own Places: Madison Square Signage & Recognition Plaque



Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) awarded Neighborhood Ventures the opportunity to develop a place-maker sign in the Madison Square Business District. The project will be community led and will increase public identity and pride in Madison Square. Artwork from local schools and a recognition plaque of longstanding community leaders will also be included.

For more information or if you having interest in serving on the planning team contact: Sylvia Harris at (616)550-1504 or harriss@neighborhoodventures



## Franklin/Eastern Business District Clean-Up

Twenty-five Calvin College freshman hit the streets in early September to clean up the Franklin/Eastern Business District. The students picked up trash along Eastern, talking to business owners and residents along the way. Student Katelyn Buisman said, "I really enjoyed the street clean up for the chance it provided to meet people. I really learned the importance of small actions and how they build on each other to have a much larger effect on a community." Special thanks to Urban Family Ministries for use of their space.

*Looking to start a business?  
Need assistance to help your business survive?*

Free Business Consultations with SCORE. Call for appointments: NV Offices, 301-2727

**SCORE**  
Counselors to America's Small Business

## Open for Business: Shop Southtown!

### Exclusive Gear

950 Wealthy St. SE  
Kicks, Clothes, & More!  
(616) 862-7800

### Winner's Beauty

1316 Madison Ave. SE  
Beauty Supplies & Hair Braiding  
(616) 246-8009

### TA Property Maintenance

1245 S. Division Ave.  
Snow Removal, Lawn Care, & More  
(616) 452-5682

### Crudup's BBQ & Catering NEW LOCATION!

1117 Wealthy St. SE  
American, Cajun & African American Cuisine  
(616) 241-5535

# Southtown Calendar

*All meetings & events are free & open to the public!*

**Monday, Oct. 20**  
**Southtown Alliance**  
**Steering Committee**  
NV Offices  
949 Wealthy St.  
9:00—9:45 AM

**Wednesday, Oct. 22**  
**Madison Sq. CID**  
**Visioning Session**  
Urban Beanery/Life Quest  
1155 Madison Ave.  
6:00—7:30 PM

**Thursday, Oct. 23**  
**Market Your Business: Website**  
**Training**  
Eastern Ave. CRC  
514 Eastern Ave.  
9:00 AM—12:00 PM

**Wednesday, Nov. 5**  
**Neighborhood Business Awards**  
Wealthy Theater  
1130 Wealthy St.  
5:00—8:00 PM

**Thursday, Nov. 13**  
**Madison Sq. CID**  
**Consensus Building Session**  
Urban Beanery/Life Quest  
1155 Madison Ave.  
6:00—7:30 PM

**Monday, Nov. 17**  
**Southtown Alliance**  
**Annual Meeting**

*Free breakfast provided!*

Grand Rapids Urban League  
745 Eastern Ave.  
9:00 AM—12:00 Noon

**Friday, Dec. 5**  
**Design 1st Clinic**  
Home Repair Services  
1100 S. Division Ave.  
9:00 AM—12:00 PM

For more information contact Sylvia Harris at [harriss@neighborhoods.org](mailto:harriss@neighborhoods.org) or 550-1504

## Neighborhood Ventures' Southtown Renaissance Project

**NEIGHBORHOOD VENTURES**, a non-profit economic and community development organization, has launched the Southtown Renaissance Project (SRP) to aide development efforts in Southtown business districts. It is part of a larger collaborative effort of seven (7) community partners to grow and improve the region. Services offered by Neighborhood Ventures through the SRP include:

**FREE BUSINESS ASSESSMENTS & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:** Free business assessments and consulting for business management, finance, startup, relocation and improvements for current or perspective neighborhood business owners or commercial building owners.

**DESIGN 1<sup>ST</sup> CLINICS:** Clinics held with architects to provide neighborhood business owners or commercial building owners with architectural designs for their facades at low costs.

**FACE FORWARD FAÇADE GRANTS:** Neighborhood business owners or commercial building owners can receive up to \$4,000 in grant monies for exterior renovations & improvements to commercial buildings.

**CLEAN-UP EFFORTS:** Quarterly clean-ups held in business districts to beautify commercial areas.

For more information on any of these services, or to donate to these efforts, contact:  
Deborah Chivis: 301-2727 or [chivisd@neighborhoodventures.org](mailto:chivisd@neighborhoodventures.org)



**bolstering Business . creating Community**

Thank you to Southtown Renaissance Project Founders:  
LISC· City of Grand Rapids CDBG· Steelcase Foundation

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Grand Rapids, MI 49506  
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E-mail: [info@neighborhoodventures.org](mailto:info@neighborhoodventures.org)