



# DISTRICT 5 NEWSLETTER

from COUNCIL MEMBER MARY SHEFFIELD



March, 2015

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Welcome to the latest District 5 Monthly E-Newsletter, updating residents and the District 5 community on the latest City Council actions and happenings across the District. The newsletter will provide important informational resources for you and your neighbors. As always, it is an honor and privilege to serve the residents of District 5 on City Council.

## **On the Council Table**

**Homelessness Taskforce meeting**



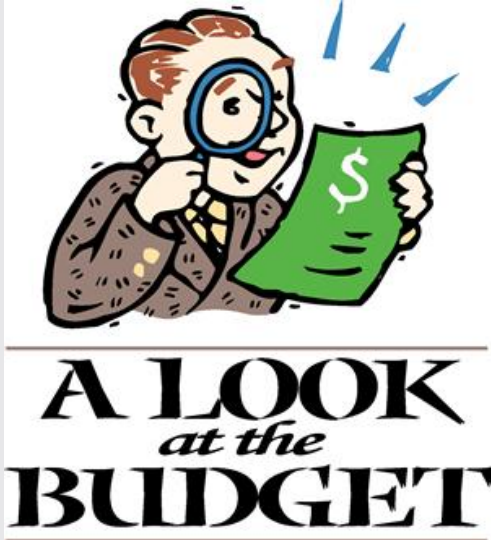
For the first time the City, State, County, and Federal Government along with leading agencies and community groups gathered to address the issue of homelessness. The meeting convened by Councilwoman Sheffield set a precedent for the City of Detroit's future involvement in addressing homelessness. Over 75 subject matter experts converged on City Hall for this historic event. The night was marked by a moving presentation given by Pathways to Housing, a New York based organization nationally renowned for its work on homelessness using the "Housing First Model." The next taskforce meeting is set for Wednesday, March 25th at 3:30pm.

[Click here to watch the task force meeting!](#)

[Click here for Detroit News Article](#)

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*It's Budget time!*



On Tuesday February 24th, the Detroit City Council was presented with a four year budget. Councilwoman Sheffield's major priorities are ensuring the continuance of the CDBG Home Repair Grant Program and making sure the residents are not paying for side lot maintenance when it's not the City's responsibility . The budget hearing is scheduled to take place on Friday, March 6, 2015 at 4:30 P.M. in the City Council chambers. The Councilwoman encourages all District 5 residents to come down have their concerns heard.

*Home Repair Grant Fight.....Right is Right!*



During the Planning and Development Budget Hearing, Council Member Mary

Sheffield served notice that she was intent on ensuring that the Home Repair Grant program remained available for Detroiters in need. The Councilwoman requested the matter be placed in the Executive Session and explored further. She also began discussions with Mayor Duggan, and she is confident that with his help she can find funding and methods for helping residents who need the program. Stay tuned for more information as solutions are developed.

## **Keeping Up with the Councilwoman**

### *DABO 32nd Annual State of the Race*



Council Member Sheffield attended DABO's 36th Annual State of the Race with special guest Dick Gregory. She was honored to receive the Charles Neal Award of Merit for bringing hope, vision, and excellence to Detroit. She expressed her gratitude for the role and impact that DABO has had in her life. Her grandfather established the organization and her father continues to carry the torch of its leadership.

### *Celebrating Black History- LEAD BELLY STYLE!*





In celebration of Black History Month, the Smithsonian Channel and Comcast held an exclusive screening of the epic documentary celebrating the life of the legendary LeadBelly at the Charles Wright Museum. LeadBelly endured racism, poverty and early hardships, but impacted music genres of every kind while inspiring generations of musicians. Council Member Sheffield brought greetings on behalf of the City of Detroit and District 5. You can catch the documentary on the Smithsonian Channel.

### *Detroit Young DEMS "turn up" for progress!*



In celebration of the Michigan Democratic Convention, Councilwoman Sheffield held a mixer for Young Dems to unite elected democrats from all over the state. She felt it was important for elected officials to come together and get energized for the next presidential election. In attendance was special guest Congresswoman Brenda

Lawrence! Councilwoman Sheffield is committed to getting more involved with the Democratic Party to help deliver resources to Detroiters.

[For more photos of this events click here!](#)

## **Live in District 5**

### *"Conversations with the Councilwoman" Home Repair Edition*



Councilwoman held her monthly meeting focusing on Utilities and Home Repair Assistance with representatives from DTE Energy, The Heat and Warmth Fund (T.H.A.W.), Detroit Area Agency on Aging (DAAA), Wayne Metro Community Action Agency, and City Representatives in the areas of CDBG and Home Repair funding. While fully supportive of the new home loan program, Councilwoman strongly believes in the restoration of the CDBG Home Repair Grant program. The Councilwoman had yet another strong, popular and needed event for District 5 residents and over 100 people attended. Next month, Councilwoman Sheffield will engage Detroit's young people with the Youth Edition.

[Click here to watch the meeting!](#)

*District 5 Thrives*

## *D5 Spirit of Detroit*



Council Member Mary Sheffield presented District 5 Resident James Robertson with the "Spirit of Detroit" Award. Mr. Robertson's story gathered international attention when local media highlighted his amazing journey of walking over 21 miles per day as a part of his daily commute to work. The Councilwoman also joined her colleagues in recognizing Blake Polluck and Evan Leedy who started a Go Fund Me account that raised over \$350,000 to purchase a vehicle and help reduce the strain of Mr. Robertson's daily commute. Councilwoman Sheffield was inspired by the resilience of James Robertson and the generosity of Mr. Polluck and Mr. Leedy which helps to restore faith in humanity.

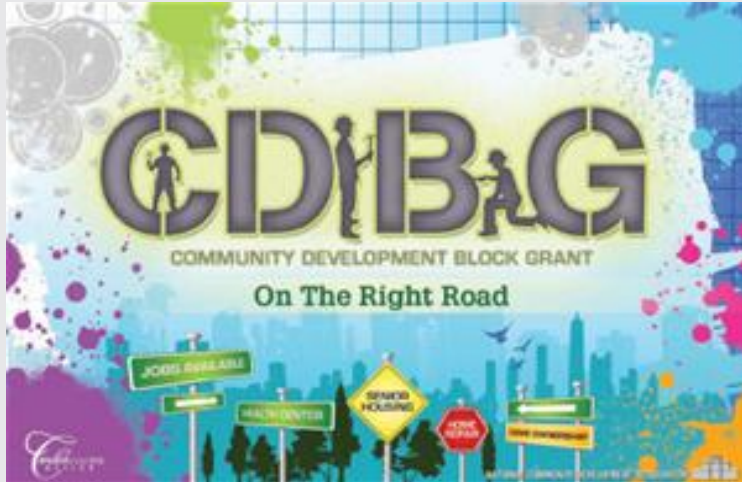
[Click here to watch the Channel 7 news story!](#)

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## **News You Can Use**

*Community Development Block Grant Workshops*





The time has come for non-profit organizations to apply for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Neighborhood Opportunity Fund (NOF) funding for the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year. All community organizations including neighborhood residents, business organizations, block clubs, human service organization, etc... who wish to participate in the development and implementation of either CDBG or NOF projects as advisers and/or operating agencies may submit proposals. The City Planning Commission will conduct 4 CDBG/NOF "Proposal Writing Workshops" on March 11th, 14th, 16th, and 19th. According to proposal criteria, a community group representative **must** attend a workshop to be eligible for funding.

[For more info and details for the workshops click here](#)

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*0% Home Repair Loan Program*





## 0% INTEREST HOME REPAIR LOANS

The Administration has created a pool of funds utilizing CDBG dollars and matching funds for foundations and banks to help residents with minor home repairs. The program boasts up to \$25,000 - 0% interest loans, for residents who apply and qualify, to make minor home repairs. There are some requirements such as minimum credit scores, property taxes must be current, the home must be insured and there are loan-to-value restrictions. Councilwoman Sheffield, in principle, is very supportive of the program and concept but she remains vigilant in her efforts to restore the Home Repair Grant funding for Detroiters who can't meet the requirements or afford to repay a loan even at 0%. Applications will be available after 12 P.M. on March 24, 2015.

[For more information on the Home Repair Loan Program](#)

### *Real Career Opportunities*

## Detroit Carpentry J.A.T.C.

Do you like working with your hands? Wish someone would pay you to learn a skill and pave the way for a nice-paying career? If you answered yes, I have just the thing for you! The program is a comprehensive 4-year program and offers vacation, holiday, pension and insurance benefits. Don't delay apply today!

[For more info on this Apprenticeship Opportunity click here](#)

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