



## DISTRICT 5 NEWSLETTER

from COUNCIL MEMBER MARY SHEFFIELD



January, 2015

[www.detroitmi.gov](http://www.detroitmi.gov)

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**

#### **Nothing in life is free! (at least for Detroiters)**



The Administration authored a resolution for Council approval which reprograms unused Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. The amendment to the Annual Action plan for years 1996-2014 allows money to be leveraged to increase the overall amount of dollars available for home repair. However, the reprogramming would eliminate the Home Repair Grant program resulting in only a Home Repair

Loan program. Knowing the current financial condition of many of District 5 residents, Council Member Sheffield could not support reducing funds for Grants by one cent. The measure passed by a vote of 7 to 1 with Member Sheffield as the only dissenting vote - which she proudly stands by. As a result, Council Member Sheffield is committed to identifying funding for Home Repair Grants in the future.

[Click to read the resolution and Member Sheffield's statement](#)

## Cleared for Landing!



On November 25, Council Member Sheffield and the City Council voted unanimously to approve **Orleans Landing**, a nearly \$60 million mixed-used development that will revitalize a currently vacant area on the riverfront in District 5. The project will include 30 townhomes and 248 apartments, with 20% priced at affordable housing rates. Councilwoman Sheffield has been a strong champion of the project because she recognizes the importance of repopulating the City and providing quality affordable housing for District 5 residents.

## Keeping Up with the Councilwoman

*Touching the District!*

**Brewster-Wheeler Recreation Center**



Councilwoman Sheffield has been committed to trying to save the historic Brewster Wheeler Recreation Center. When the community contacted her office about getting the City to board up the once booming center she didn't hesitate to spring into action. She began contacting the administration and City departments but found no quick solution. Thus, she joined members of the community and other Brewster Wheeler supporters and began boarding up the building with no help from private sources or the City. Currently, she is awaiting information on the responses from the Request for Proposals to develop the site. Stay tuned for more information.

### **Day of Service and Giving**



In the spirit of giving thanks, Councilwoman Sheffield embarked upon a day of service. The day started with serving breakfast to those in need at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen located in District 5. The entire District 5 staff served breakfast and prepared food for dinner service later that day. While at Capuchin Kitchen, the Councilwoman met a young woman and her children and decided to adopt the family for the Christmas holiday. Later that day, the Councilwoman secured five donated turkeys from local businesses and personally delivered them to five families in need of food for Thanksgiving Day. The Councilwoman was both inspired and grateful for the opportunity to serve District 5 residents.

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

---

## **Live in District 5**

*"Conversations with the Councilwoman"*





Despite the worst weather this fall, last month's Light Up District 5 Conversation with the Councilwoman was a huge success. Nearly 100 people braved the elements and came out to share their concerns and learn about the problems and plans for public lighting in Detroit. The Councilwoman provided comment cards to all the participants to get more information on residents' lighting concerns. The next installment in the series will be **January 21, 2015, 6pm-8pm**, and is the District 5 Action Plan edition. It will be held at the **Metropolitan United Methodist Church** at 8000 Woodward Ave. Detroit, MI 48202. Please plan to attend and share your ideas, thoughts and concerns to help shape the plan for District in 2015.

[Click here for more info about Conversations with the Councilwoman](#)

### *District 5 Thrives*



MACC Development is a faith-based District 5 non-profit corporation founded by Mack Ave Community Church which embodies the spirit of Detroit. Their vision is: "seeking the holistic revitalization of Detroit's 48214 community, block by block, neighbor by neighbor." Their programs

MACC



include MACC Housing, MACC Legal, MACC Lit and MACC Sports. One of MACC Development's major planned initiatives is called the Commons.

The Commons will be located in an abandoned commercial building and will offer a coffee bar, doubling as a community meeting space, and a coin laundry facility. Councilwoman Sheffield secured a private donation from a major Detroit-headquartered business, to assist MACC development with their endeavors. She also encourages residents to please get involved, volunteer and donate to this wonderful organization and effort.

To learn more and get involved with MACC Development click here

## News You Can Use

### *Angels Among Us*

 The graphic is a light blue rectangular box with a white border. At the top, it says "Councilmember Mary Sheffield" in white text on a dark blue background. On the left, there is a logo for "NEIGHBORHOOD ANGELS" showing two stylized figures, one grey and one pink, holding hands. Below the logo, the text reads "Helping District 5 seniors with snow removal" in blue and pink. On the right, there is a photo of Councilmember Mary Sheffield with her arms crossed. Below the photo, a white rounded rectangle contains the following text: "While winter can be challenging for everyone in Detroit, it can be especially difficult for the elderly, who may not have the ability or resources to remove snow from their property. We're looking for individuals to serve as **DISTRICT 5 NEIGHBORHOOD ANGELS**, who agree to help elderly citizens and residents with physical challenges during the winter. The goal of the program is match volunteers with residents needing assistance with snow removal."

Last winter and in the beginning of Council Member Sheffield's first term, she received numerous calls from distressed seniors trapped in their homes with no way to clear the snow from their sidewalks and driveways. While she helped them all, she wanted to be even more responsive and let the senior and disabled community know someone cares, and the great residents of District 5 stand ready to serve their

community. In late spring/early summer of 2014, the Councilwoman announced she would officially start the Neighborhood Angels Program which is designed to help those with physical challenges maintain their property for aesthetic and safety purposes. With that said, she is also making the clarion call, for all those interested in volunteering through the Neighborhood Angels program to contact her office at (313)224-4505.

[To learn more about the Neighborhood Angels Program click here](#)

### *Help Those in Need*

## Sisters of Christian Love

Sisters of Christian Love, located in District 5, is a group of nuns lead by Sister Judie Ann Ruggirello that feed and clothe the homeless on a daily basis. During this holiday season, they are asking the community for donations to help the homeless. Councilwoman Sheffield, in partnership with Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, has agreed to organize a clothing drive in District 5. More specifically, she is requesting those with the desire and means to donate thermal wear, socks, gloves and hats for men and women. Gently used clothing and blankets will be accepted and appreciated as well. Donations can be made at the District 5 office, located inside the Butzel Family Center, or Councilwoman Sheffield will arrange for a member of her staff to pick up items. Please join the effort to help those in need.

[For more info about Sisters of Christian Love click here](#)

## *Blood Is Thicker Than Water*



January is **National Blood Donor Month**. While high rates of sickle cell anemia and lupus prevail in the black community, often requiring blood transfusions, experts say African Americans currently donate less than one percent of the country's blood supply. Thus, Council Member Sheffield felt it was imperative for her to raise awareness. Despite being uncomfortable with syringes and the sight of blood she has also agreed to donate blood herself at the **North American International Auto Show Blood Drive, January 17-19 & 24th, 2015**. She would like to encourage all of District 5 and the rest of the City to do the same. After all, God forbid, the life you save could be your own or a loved one if either of you need a transfusion in the future.

To find a Blood Drive near you click here

## *Now Hiring, Apply Within!*





The City of Detroit, in partnership with the Greater Detroit Building Trades Council and Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation, will hire up to 150 Detroit residents between the ages of 18-21 years old to secure vacant school buildings. If you are interested, please visit the Detroit Employment Services Corporation page Grow Detroit's Young Talent.

Also Council Member Sheffield is looking for interns to serve in her legislative and community offices. All students ages 15-20 are encouraged to email your resume or letter of interest to [councilmembersheffield@detroitmi.gov](mailto:councilmembersheffield@detroitmi.gov) .

[For more info on Grow Detroit's Young Talent click here](#)

[Join My Mailing List](#)



This newsletter is brought to you by the office of Council Member Mary Sheffield to keep District 5 and City residents informed about the issues important to them.  
Copyright © 2014. All Rights Reserved.

[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to [councilmembersheffield@detroitmi.gov](mailto:councilmembersheffield@detroitmi.gov) by [councilmembersheffield@detroitmi.gov](mailto:councilmembersheffield@detroitmi.gov) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



Council Member Mary Sheffield - District 5 | 2 Woodward Ave. | Suite 1340 | Detroit | MI | 48226