



DISTRICT 5 NEWSLETTER

from COUNCIL MEMBER MARY SHEFFIELD



November, 2014

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

City Gets "School-ed"



The Administration submitted a proposal to City Council which would transfer 77 parcels of Detroit Public Schools' property to Detroit. The measure relieves DPS of its debt to the City for unpaid electric bills totaling \$11.6 million. City Council voted to approve the measure by a vote of 5-4. Council Member Sheffield opposed the

transfer due to many ambiguities associated with the properties, concerns expressed by DPS Board Members and the Cities inability to manage its own real estate and blighted commercial properties.

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

Decisions, Decisions, Decisions



Council Member Saunteel Jenkins announced her resignation effective November 7, 2014. Per the Detroit City Charter, Council shall appoint a replacement and a special election shall be held at the next general election not sooner than 180 days after the vacancy occurs. The appointment requires two-thirds vote of the members. The procedure to determine who is considered is being outlined by City Council, the Legislative Policy Division and Law Department. Anyone interested in the appointment must be a resident of the City for one year and will be required to submit an application and résumé. Council Member Sheffield has recommended Council discuss and vote, in an open meeting, to decide which candidates will be interviewed and considered further after reviewing the résumés. In the interests of fairness, she also proposed utilizing a "run-off" type voting system to determine who actually is appointed after the interviews are completed. Councilwoman Sheffield joined her colleagues in expressing their gratitude and best wishes to Council Member Jenkins.

[Click here for info on filling vacancies in the City Charter](#)

A New Day on the Horizon



Council helped the City clear the last major hurdle preventing the City from emerging from bankruptcy and restoring full power to Detroit's elected officials. An agreement between the City and FGIC (Financial Guaranty Insurance Company) was approved by City Council by a 9-0 vote. The agreement settles all claims that FGIC, the City's largest creditor, would have against City assets. The settlement calls for the transfer of certain assets such as Joe Louis Arena and the adjoining parking structure in exchange for the forgiveness of debts owed to FGIC by the City. On Friday, November 7th, the bankruptcy judge approved the plan of adjustment and the City will now be able to move forward.

[For more information on the FGIC settlement click here](#)

Keeping Up with the Councilwoman

Touching the District!

Occupy the Corner - Detroit



Councilwoman Sheffield closed out her initial Occupy the Corner - Detroit efforts with stops in the Dexter-Linwood and Woodward-Seward areas of District 5. At each corner she was joined by volunteers, media, neighborhood police officers and colleagues. They marched through some of the roughest parts of District 5 engaging, connecting with and empowering District 5 residents. Member Sheffield and the volunteers shared information about current job and apprenticeship opportunities, healthcare, energy assistance resources, foreclosure prevention and felony expungement. The effort was widely received and the Councilwoman is excited about kicking off the campaign with a full summer schedule next year.

21st Century After-School Program



Councilwoman Sheffield served as the keynote speaker for 21st Century After-School Program as they participated in the National Lights On! campaign in support of after-school programming. The 21st Century After-School program elects students to serve as members of a Youth Advisory Council. The YAC is made up of four students, elected by their peers to serve as leaders/representatives, from each of the 25 participating schools. After delivering her speech, Councilwoman Sheffield performed the swearing-in ceremony and the students proceeded to the riverfront with flashlights in celebration of the National Lights On! campaign which took place simultaneously throughout the country.

Angels' Night



Councilwoman Sheffield and staff helped to protect the streets of District 5 during Angels' Night. Detroit experienced fewer than 100 fires during the three day Angels' Night period. The City closed out this year's campaign with 97 reported fires of all types from Wednesday, October 29th through Friday, October 31st.

Friday Night Live



Councilwoman Sheffield "Turned Up" with the young adults of Saunders Memorial AME Church preaching a powerful word titled "The Time is Now". If you are looking for a place to worship, visit Saunders Memorial AME church at 3542 Pennsylvania St., off of Mack, under the leadership of Rev. Dwayne Gary.

For more photos of community events click here!

Live in District 5

"Conversations with the Councilwoman"

Conversations with the Councilwoman

Light Up District 5 Edition

with **The Public Lighting Authority, DTE Energy** and **The Public Lighting Department**

Join District 5 Councilwoman Mary Sheffield as she tours the district for intimate conversations about our city. Lets have REAL talk about the issues that matter to you, and the work that needs to be done to improve our communities.

Thursday, November 13 @ 5-7 PM

Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church
2080 W. Grand Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48208
RSVP by calling **313.224.4505**

Food and refreshments will be provided

Facebook: [MarySheffield CityCouncilDistrict5](#)
Twitter: [MsMarySheffield](#)
Hashtags: #Detroit #D5 #Conversations

"Conversations with the Councilwoman" is back and will address one of the City's most pressing and contentious issues - lighting. The "Light up District 5" edition will bring together the Directors of the Public Lighting Department (PLD) and Public Lighting Authority (PLA) along with representatives of DTE Energy to answer District 5 residents' questions. It will take place on **November 13, 2014 from 5 PM - 7 PM at Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church** located at 2080 W. Grand Boulevard. Join us and share your concerns with the Councilwoman and lighting representatives. **Please call (313)224-4505 to RSVP today!**

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

District 5 Thrives



Phyllis Judkins of the Northend Neighborhood Patrol reached out to Council Member Sheffield about plans to develop a putt-putt facility at the corner of Holbrook and Oakland Avenue. The initiative would employ and be run by the Youth of the community giving them hands-on entrepreneurial training. Ms. Judkins had been working for two years to cut through the City's red-tape and acquire the necessary property, to no avail. Councilwoman Sheffield brought the issue before the Planning and Economic Development committee and brought the Planning and Development Department (P&DD) to the table. As a result of her efforts, P&DD executed the purchase agreement and the Northend Neighborhood Patrol was able to meet a deadline to apply for a grant which would allow the project to go forward. Situations like this are exactly why the Councilwoman offered herself up to serve.

News You Can Use

Helping Hand for Homeowners



The U.S. government recently announced that disaster aid is available to Michigan residents and businesses affected by the flooding on August 11-13, 2014. Detroit residents must register with FEMA to apply for assistance. Calls previously made to the City of Detroit Homeland Security & Emergency Management, the Ombudsman's Office, and United Way do not qualify as registering with FEMA.

To register for FEMA assistance, citizens MUST DO one of the following by November 24, 2014:

- Call FEMA at 1-800-621-3362. The number also may be used for 711 or VRS.
- Apply online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov
- Hearing or speech impaired applicants should call 1-800-462-7585.

Both numbers are operational 7 a.m. - 11 p.m. (EST), seven days a week.

[For info on how to apply for FEMA aid click here](#)

Now Hiring, Apply Within!



Council Member Sheffield launched a **Jobs Tab** on her page on the City of Detroit's website. The tab will feature current employment and apprenticeship opportunities. The tab will be updated weekly to reflect new and current employment resources. Councilwoman Sheffield is excited about doing her part to put District 5 residents to work and meeting a critical need in the community.

To view Councilwoman Sheffield's Job Tab click here

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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.
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