



DISTRICT 5 NEWSLETTER

from COUNCIL MEMBER MARY SHEFFIELD



July, 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

Water Under The Bridge?



On June 17, 2014, City Council voted to approve an 8.7% water rate increase. Council Member Sheffield was one of only two members who voted against the measure. She later cited she could not, in good conscience, raise rates at a time when DWSD has systematic problems and the level of service can be improved. The Councilwoman

also took into the account the difficult economic times Detroit families, especially our vulnerable residents, are facing. With the new rates, the average residential customer will pay a total of \$5.68 more per month for water and sewerage services.

[For more information on the water rate increase click here](#)

Let's Shake On It...



City Council recently approved a resolution authorizing the Detroit Land Bank Authority (DLBA) to establish community partnerships with non-profit organizations in an effort to spur development and speed up blight removal. Council Member Sheffield was actively involved in the process and authored amendments to the resolution. One of her amendments requires community partners to provide, in writing to the DLBA, it's process for selecting and endorsing bidders.

[For more information on DLBA Community Partnerships click here](#)

All Aboard!!!



On June 24, 2014, City Council unanimously voted to approve agreements to build and operate the M-1 Rail Project on Woodward Avenue (between Grand Blvd. and Larned). The approved agreement is for 30 years with two 30-year renewal options. Council Member Sheffield is hopeful this project will serve as a catalyst for development in the City and Region and place Southeastern Michigan once again among the country's most vibrant regions.

To read the M-1 Rail Operating Agreement click [here](#)

Keeping Up with the Councilwoman

Touching the District!



Council Member Sheffield hosted a 5th Grade Class from the Detroit Academy of Arts

and Science for a session of the Neighborhood and Community Services Committee which she chairs. The students were treated to a personal tutorial on the City Council process and a private question and answer session with the Councilwoman. It was easily the highlight of the Councilwoman's week.



The District 5 Community Office Open House was held in conjunction with the 12th Annual Family Health Fair and Safe Summer Youth Jam at the Butzel Family Center. It was a day of perfect weather and overall fun in the Sun. The Councilwoman and staff were there with information and hand-held fans for the adults and water guns, balloons and freeze pops for the youth. She felt right at home among the residents.



Council Member Sheffield was given the distinct honor of delivering the Commencement Address to the 2014 8th Grade Graduates of Woodward Academy, a fine school in the heart of District 5. In her speech, the Councilwoman shared her personal journey and challenged the graduates to seize the moment to seriously

focus on education and create their future.



Council Member Sheffield participated in the 2nd Annual "Silence the Violence" March held by the Church of the Messiah. She joined approximately 100 other concerned residents in an effort to reduce violence in the community. Realizing that public safety is the number one issue facing the City, the Councilwoman pledged to help boost efforts in District 5 to create a safer environment for all.

[For more photos of District 5 events click here](#)

Telling Our Story!



As a result of the controversial water shut-offs in the City of Detroit, CBC Radio's "As it Happens" show contacted Council Member Sheffield for her perspective. The Councilwoman said she believed access to fresh water was a human right and that

DWSD and the City needed to figure out ways to help customers who are unable to afford service.

Council Member Sheffield was contacted by WDET to share her thoughts on the privatization of garbage collection. As a matter of principal, the Council Member is against privatization having come from a family with deep roots in the labor movement. With that said, she admits it was a tough decision but she ultimately voted against the contracts citing the City's inability to began providing services again in the future, concerns over DPW employees' jobs and being at the mercy of the contractors after the initial contract period.

The Michigan Chronicle reached out to Council Member Sheffield to get her assessment of Mayor Duggan's first six months as the City's top official. The Councilwoman's statements gave the Mayor a glowing review primarily for keeping promises he made to attack blight, light the City, establish a real partnership with Council and get the City on a path out of Emergency Management.

To hear and read the Councilwoman's interviews click here

Live in District 5

"Conversations with the Councilwoman"

Conversations with the Councilwoman

Safety and Crime Prevention Edition

with Special Guest **DPD Chief James Craig**

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.

The graphic features a portrait of Councilwoman Mary Sheffield on the right, wearing a white blazer and a pearl necklace. On the left, there is a collage including a large police badge, a photo of two police officers, and a photo of a motorcycle.

Councilwoman Sheffield is excited to get back to "Conversations with the Councilwoman" after a month off for the District 5 Community Office Open House. **The next installment in the series will be the "Safety and Crime Prevention Edition" featuring Chief James Craig and will take place on Tuesday, July 29, 2014 from 6-8pm at Central Collegiate Preparatory High School (formally Central High) 2425 Tuxedo St. Detroit 48206.** There will be Neighborhood Police Officers and personal safety experts present for this very important dialogue and education. Hope to see you there!

For the flyer and photos of past "Conversations" [click here](#)

District 5 Thrives!



Thank God its summer time and for two fabulous District 5 businesses standing ready to help us "beat the heat." **River Breeze Dairy Freeze** located at 10800 E. Jefferson Ave. and **MooTown Ice Cream Shoppe** located in Eastern Market at 2461 Russell St. are mainstays in our community employing City residents and offering excellent ice cream and more. I encourage you to visit both establishments and treat yourself to a delectable treat. You just might run into the Councilwoman!

News You Can Use

Mowing 'Em Down!



The City of Detroit has begun cutting vacant lots. The first phase started on June 9, 2014 and will be completed on August 10, 2014. There are plans to make a second pass after completion of the first phase. Councilwoman Sheffield is in the process of establishing a Neighborhood Angels Program to supplement these efforts for seniors and the disabled. Stay tuned for details.

To the view the vacant lot schedule [click here](#)

Help Is On the Way!



As a result of a meeting with Wayne Metro, in which the Councilwoman expressed her concerns about residential water shut-offs, Wayne Metro successfully petitioned the Federal and State officials to redirect funding to assist customers on the wait-list

for assistance. Also, DWSD recently rolled out the Detroit Residential Water Assistance program to assist residents with maintaining water and sewerage service. These funds can be accessed through the non-profit organizations T.H.A.W. (The Heat And Warmth Fund) and W.A.V.E. (Water Access Volunteer Effort). Residents can call (313)267-8000 or (877)646-2831 to inquire.

[For more information on these programs click here](#)

EM Ends Future Pensions



The Emergency Manager issued Orders No. 25 and 26 which effectively ends pension accruals for current and future employees in the Police and Fire Retirement and General Retirement Systems, respectively. Kevyn Orr called a public hearing on June 24, 2014 and the orders took effect on June 30, 2014. Current and future employees, under the plan of adjustment, will be offered a defined contribution plan along the lines of a 401(k).

[For more information on the EM's pension orders click here](#)

♪♪ *Hot Fun In The Summertime....* ♪♪



The Detroit Riverfront Conservancy, of which Council Member Sheffield is a board member, recently opened the Mt. Elliott Park Water Park on the riverfront in the heart of District 5. The Chairman of the Conservancy, Matt Cullen stated "The park was designed with a playful water feature and amenities for all ages. The new park will be another huge draw for visitors and families to this growing world-class destination - the Detroit Riverfront." The park is beautifully landscaped, complete with fishing piers, winding walkways, LED lighting, restrooms and a café. It is located at 110 Mt. Elliott at the foot of Mt. Elliott and Wight Streets.

For information on the Water Park and Conservancy click [here](#)

Now Hiring, Apply Within!



Want to "protect and serve"? The **Detroit Police Department** is actively seeking applicants. According to the department, "We are working to hire 150 new officers immediately." In addition, many officers are retiring, which creates a great opportunity for career advancement for new officers. Become one of Detroit's Finest today, the City needs You!

For more information on how to apply 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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Forwarded by Midtown Alliance

And by 3rd Precinct Police/Community Relations Council

Per Leslie Malcolmson

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***"The question is not 'Can you make a difference?' You already do make a difference.
It's just a matter of what kind of difference you want to make during your life on this planet."
– Julia Butterfly Hill***

Hill is best known for living in a 180-foot (55 m)-tall, 1,000-year-old California Redwood tree for 738 days between December 10, 1997 to December 18, 1999. Hill lived in the tree, affectionately known as "Luna," to prevent loggers of the Pacific Lumber Company from cutting it down.

I will remember Troy Davis.....

I will remember Trayvon Martin.....

I will remember Rachel Corrie.....