

August 2013 – District 3 Newsletter

From the Desk of Councilwoman, Mary Pietila

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Office Hours by Appointment
Thursday and Fridays



Happy August District 3 Residents.

In July, shortly after the newsletter was distributed to those living in precincts 7 and 8, I received a phone call from a Gentleman, a resident of District 3, who has been active in the district and is interested in taking on the responsibility of the Chairing District wide meetings...It would be done on a grass roots basis...as there is no reason for a CDC with the Federal HUD monies being handled by the County's Economic Development Department. Several years ago, District residents met as the East West Baldwin Neighborhood, collectively with the CDC as a good majority were CDC members. I did tell Greg, I would mention it in the Newsletter for August, and if you're interested you can contact me and I will forward the list of names and phone numbers to him. He and I will work together to get it started. It would depend of course, on how many are interested. We have had CDC meetings up until April of 2013 on a monthly basis, in which few attended, :(the CDC Vice Chair moved out of the area in January 2012 which left me in the position of putting the meetings together and conducting them which was not how the By-laws were written... The Chair person resigned in October of 2012 completely. In April, due to conflicts and tight scheduling, those in attendance knowing we were not complying with the By-laws took a vote to dissolve the meetings and asked that I continue keeping them informed with the monthly newsletters. Whichever the Residents as a whole would like, I am happy to comply with, but I do need to hear from you, if you have a preference.....my contact information is above.

There was a company interested in a developing a Waste Disposal Transfer Station, (Not a Landfill, all sorting would happen inside of a structure) on the property which was once the Kennett Road Landfill.... The Planning Commission denied it at the July 3rd meeting and again at a special meeting on July 30 after some changes were presented. Based upon the ZONING: R-1, ONE-FAMILY DWELLING DISTRICT & M-1, LIMITED INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT TO M-2, GENERAL INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT, The district was not notified as this falls in Councilman Carters District. The Planning Commissions July 30th decision is not a final decision, at this time, the Investors have a period of time to appeal and the EM has changed some Zoning ordinances in the recent past, in which he or the Mayor may still make a positive ruling, on the city's behalf, which might not be such a negative. I say this because; although it is zoned R-1 One -Family Dwelling District it was a landfill in the past, it may not pass the MDEQ standards for housing and it would continue to sit vacant .

But that could be a plus for District 3 as I heard the Rizzo organization may be interested in The Fiero plant., of which the north end is partially vacant . This development would bring income to the City, they would be paying income taxes, I don't know if they would be leasing or buying the building, so the question of property taxes is still open... however, some residents would have jobs, as the company did state they would employ City of Pontiac residents... there would be additional income with a business license, the business would only operate Monday to Friday 9-5. If in the Fiero plant, the roads are already in place, Conversation can be introduced to not use Kennett, but to stay on Baldwin or Montcalm to Dixie all Class A roads. As I have already raised the concern of them traveling down W. Kennett in the residential neighborhood to which they responded no Left hand turns would be made onto Kennett Road from the landfill.

I took the time to tell you about this in such depth, so you will be familiar with what maybe coming to District 3 in the event the developers choose not to appeal, and go with the other option of a building in our district. I am interested in hearing your thoughts. If you would like to express them...

Well the primary is over... and if you haven't heard the two Mayoral Candidates are Mayor Leon Jukowski and Dr. Deidre Holloway Waterman.

I heard from the ladies at the polls there were questions as to whether or not I was running, yes I am along with Colleen Kavanaugh, that election will be on November 5th, at the same time as the Mayors and the Library Board.

District Three, we have always had an issue with voters coming out, but we only had 271 votes.... That's including absentee votes...and if I take the total number of votes 4371 and divide it by 7 that number is 624.42. I did that just to see how low our vote would be this election and share that concern with you. We often ask why we don't get the attention other districts do... maybe it's because we don't show we are as interested as other districts, and our votes show as well as the attendance of our meetings. I would like to challenge you all, to see if we can make a difference in the vote totals in November. Mrs. Hawkins our City Clerk stated at Thursdays meeting... she's quite embarrassed when she has to meet with other clerks to go over the elections and she's the only one who is reporting on single digit totals, if you were to ask, just one person to accompany you to the polls,, that would be raising the vote total... We now have time to register voters if you know of anyone 18 years or older that is not a registered voter... they can either register at City Hall, Secretary of State on Perry, or call me, I'll come to the home to register them..... Let's show our city, WE DO CARE....

Tuesday, I had the opportunity to talk with several residents of District 3 who expressed a concern regarding code violations. They are right there are many different types of code violations, Some which were mentioned in particular:

1. Business out of the home, if you are performing a service, and you are collecting payment, if you don't have a business license from the City of Pontiac, not just the State, you are in violation of City Ordinances.
2. If structure is being built on the property, check with Building and Safety, to see if a permit has been pulled or you need to pull one, if you are the property owner ordinances have changed in which case you may be over the limit as well.
3. Any Major "maintenance" such as a roof or window replacement needs a permit. Permits are to be placed in the window visible to the public.
4. The City of Pontiac has three types of homes. **1.** Homestead, which means the home owner lives in it. **2.** Rental, anyone other than the Homeowner lives in it, (including a family member) and **3.** Vacant. All three Are to be recorded with Building and Safety in regards to which category it is... Rentals are the worst, many Landlords feel they can move someone in, but don't follow up with the City departments. These are the homes which need to be registered and inspected to ensure they are up to code. In which case, many are not. You wonder why, let me give you an example. Not so long ago NET did a raid on a house, which had been leased for thirteen days. No inspection was made. Yet a grenade was found... No one knows who it belonged to and the landlord or City officials could not testify it was the tenants, as there was no inspection prior to the move in
5. Overgrown weeds and grass, If it's taller than 8 inches, it's overgrown.... Trees if they interfere with clear walking on the sidewalks.

If you see any of the above mentioned issues ongoing. You can call Building and Safety, @ 248-758-2800 and report it.... Leave the complete address, House number and Street name...or you can call me with the information and I will turn it in. ☺

And my Favorite; Semi Truck Cabs parked on a street with weight limits posted. The cabs overextend the weight and contribute to the damage of the road.... You can call dispatch @ 248-858-4950 and have a deputy tag it.

There is ongoing road construction in the City, both on the North and the South sides... Joslyn road bridge south of Walton and the Orchard Lake Road Bridge east of Beaudette Park and undergoing construction and those roads are closed completely until done, Possibly until mid September, When they are completed, the Bridge on University will be worked on, although the road will not be closed completely, there will be a lane shift, and we thought it was hard with the work on Dixie in Waterford..., have you noticed the Road Commission changed the light at Dixie and W. Kennett, that everyone was after our City to correct... That intersection is not a Pontiac intersection, but a Waterford one, it now has a yellow turn light on Dixie, makes waiting a lot shorter.

Have a great August.

Mary.