

June 2013 Newsletter for District B

*From the Desk of
Councilwoman Mary Pietila*

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248-758-3019
by appt Thursday & Fridays

Good June 2013 to you all;

Pontiac Phoenix is starting to rise once again!!!!

But first let me share with you,

That, although there was the unfortunate finding of a body in Terry Lake on Sunday May 25th, there is nothing to support the thoughts that Ms. Ransom was murdered in our district. At this writing, the Oakland County Sheriff's detectives have not made an arrest; However, Undersheriff McCabe has assured me that Pontiac Detectives are working on this case, with due diligence. The lead Detectives not only know the area, but were also recognized as Murder Detectives of the Year by Oakland County Sheriff, Bouchard. Kudos to Pontiac Substation, Capt. Tim Atkins, Recognized as the Sheriff's Commander of the Year.

Terry Lake and the park around it have always been a place of tranquility and relaxation, until this time; and I hope we continue to enjoy it. Remember as unfortunate as it is this is not the only murder in our city within a year or even at a park. Remember last fall, there was a body found by the rest rooms at Hawthorne Park, but activities there have not stopped. So let's not let those who took young Ms. Ransom's life create a lasting fear and preventing us from enjoying it.

In light of this murder, Colleen Kavanaugh has expressed a heightened interest in attempting to start some neighborhood watches. In the past on several occasions Tameka Ramsey, while with OLSHA and now with C.U.R.E. and Sgt. Mike Daves, (PPD& OCSD), with the support of Council and the Mayor's office, have attempted to establish Neighborhood watches throughout the City, however, it was received with little enthusiasm and never really took off, again. If you would be interested, you can contact her at 248-795-4715. (I have no issue in giving her phone number out as she did at the last City Council meeting).

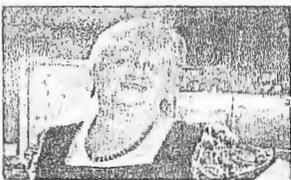
Now back to Pontiac is Rising....

We have had several Ribbon Cuttings in which Council has participated in this past month and a half. Three of them are

- ❖ April 26th, at the Ultimate Soccer Arena, the owners George and Tom have bought the property behind them@876 S. Blvd, from Racer Trust to expand what is already believed to be the largest indoor Soccer and Lacrosse Arena. They are expecting the completion to be by October 2014.
- ❖ On May 22nd there was a ribbon cutting at the old Pontiac Validation grounds along South Blvd and Franklin Roads. A Birmingham, MI entrepreneur will be purchasing the land and building a restaurant, members' clubhouse, 40,000-square-foot events center, outdoor amphitheater, one-mile test track and as many as 338 car condos. The condos are like large, climate-controlled garages with parking for multiple and loft space to entertain or lounge on a personal basis.
- ❖ This past Wednesday May 29th there was a ribbon cutting and the Pontiac Public Library, after months or renovations the library is open 100%. If you haven't been there lately, please take the time to stop by and see all the wonderful changes.
- ❖ In April I had the opportunity to meet with the organization which purchased the Ada Shelda Library, which we also know as the C.A.T.T office, in Council President Jones absence. Several individuals purchased the building with intentions of restoring it, so it may be used as an after school tutoring program for all children in the area. It will be named the Center for Solutions. A spin off on a program that is happening in Orion area now. So stay tuned for more details as they become available.

Just a Few upcoming events and notations including summer issues:

- ❖ Pontiac has been participating in a Woodward Avenue Rapid Transit Alternatives Analysis, WA3 Complete Streets Program, with another opportunity for discussion June 3, 4 and 5th with an all day public interactive engagement component as we talk about how Woodward may change in the near future.
- ❖ **Saturday, June 22, 2013** E.P.I.C (Every Person Involved Cares) is Sponsoring a Half Marathon and 5K walk/run. The monies raised will be used to send an inner city, at-risk and/or a special needs child to a summer camp. It will be held at the Pontiac Silverdome, you can find more event details at www.epiccares.org
- ❖ **Friday, July 12, 2013** District 3 will be doing a Terry Lake Cleanup as we as a North Kiwanis one. We have confirmed with WAMM that some of the probationers will be available to help. If you are interested in helping please contact me @ 248-758-3019 please leave a message, my office number is forwarded to my cell phone; or for the younger generation, even younger at heart, you can find me on face book at Mary Pietila . Where I have scheduled an event.
- ❖ On May 4th and 11th District 3 joined with the rest of the Districts to partake in the City Wide Cleanup which was announced at weekly meetings all through the month of April, and a few of District 3 residents came out, which is appreciated. We did the North end of Baldwin and WAMM assisted with Kennett Road.
- ❖ April 27 was District 3 and 4's day for a Rebuilding Oakland Together. District 3 had 8 homes which were recipients of renovations on from yard work to interior painting. What a difference it makes in the neighborhood.
- ❖ There is a curfew for children age 0-17 years of age. We have been talking, with Captain Atkins to amend the time for the 0-13 year olds, however as he pointed out, that may become more of a problem, as it is still light out at 9:00 which was the time in question. With that said, Curfew hours are: Children 12 and under need to be in by 10:00 p.m. — 6:00 a.m. unless the child is with an adult over 21 years of age and with parental consent. Ages 13-17 need to be in at 11:00 p.m. — 6:00 am unless with an adult 21 or older, with parent consent, or traveling to or from work. If you have a concern with violators the number to call is 248-858-4951; if the Deputies are called out and see there is a violation, they will be issuing citations to both the child violating and the parent. But you do have to call and give a description as well as an address where that child is.
- ❖ The city does have an ordinance which addresses Grass and Weeds, 248-758-2800 X 2 is the complaint line; the voicemail is checked several times throughout the day. However, please remember, there is a protocol which needs to be followed once a complaint is received, it needs to be verified, and then the owner notified and given time to correct the complaint, before the inspector can take anymore action which includes assigning it to a contractor before we can go on their property, as it is considered Trespassing. We also cannot bill them for the work the contractors do if we don't give them ample time.



Councilwoman's Thoughts

Just so you know; there have been questions as to whether or not I have done anything about the complaints of automotive repair being done in the garages. That answer is YES, however the inspectors have to catch the responsible party in the act of working on cars, or they cannot do anything about it, other than to ticket the vehicle for being unlicensed if it doesn't have a plate. More often than not, the work is being done after hours, evenings or weekends and Building and Safety works 8-5 Mon – Fri. In some instances the complaint has been turned over to another department; that department also covers all of Oakland County, not just Pontiac. But, if you truly question my response, feel free to contact building and safety who keep records of this type of complaint, ask if there has been a complaint filed with the address in question.

In closing, the attendance of citizens present at the monthly meetings has dwindled over the years and we have not seen the interest in resident participation and have not been in compliance with the Citizens District Council By Laws for some time. As a result, members of the body who have been setting aside that 2 hours a month to hear what is going on in the District and City, have voted to discontinue the monthly meetings. It was decided that I would set aside time to do a newsletter which would be mailed to those faithful who did attend for the past 3 years, and newsletters will be strategically placed throughout the district, beginning the second week of the month and mailed to the homes of those who were attending, if you would like one mailed, please let me know so you can be added to our list. Complaints can continue to be sent to me via email at MPietila@pontiac.mi.us or you can call the office number at 248-758-3019 between 9:00 and 5:00 p.m. Please don't forget about our Thursday night meetings at 6:00p.m. Every week at City Hall.

The weather has broken and I have begun to walk the neighborhoods again, I look forward to seeing you while I am out and about our District.

Mary