

**Friends of District 3**  
**May Newsletter**  
**Councilwoman, Mary Pietila**  
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Were you aware that the Yapo Canter located at 26 Leanee Lane has a food distribution of various vegetables and non-perishable goods every Tuesday and Thursday! The Neighbors begin to line up at 10:00 and the people are able to serve themselves to what they want on a first come first serve basis, starting at 10:30 – 12:00 or when the food runs out. The food distribution is done at the back of the property on Marcy Court off of Leanee Lane. And this is open to all. There is minimum information that is collected, such as name, addresses and household size, 1 person families also qualify.

This month's recipe is an alternate, to a BLT, beings there is a recall on Romaine lettuce.

Try replacing the Lettuce with peeled cucumbers sliced lengthwise. Using the Bread of your choice, with Miracle Whip, to anchor the sliced cucumbers, adding tomatoes add bacon strips topping it off with another slice of bread

Residents have been asking about Yard waste pickup, 10 brown bags or a trash cans with Yard Waste labels, obtained from the DPU department will be picked up on your regular trash day, thru November 1. Sticks & branches must be bundled no larger than 18 inches in circumference and not longer than 4 feet.

With summer approaching, so do outdoor fires. Please remember if you are going to burn in the city, and many enjoy a nice fire with marshmallows or hotdogs, it has to be in a UL approved pit with a screen over the fire, not beside it or on the table. Per City Ordinances fire pits can be no closer than 15 feet from a structure.

We have had several fires already this year... but now is the season, where brush or tinder fires come into play, it's dry and winds will move those flames. 500 acres on Sunday spread to 8,600 by Monday, this last week of April, although that was in Arizona, fires know no boundary. On Tuesday May 1<sup>st</sup> we had a brush fire on the Rail Road Tracks, which run MLK behind the Bloomfield Town Homes on Woodward. These are just brush fires.

Structure Fires are just as damaging, and more heartbreaking, thankfully we are partners in Oak Way which is a Mutual Aid Program where on Saturday there were 9 trucks fighting a fire, yet the 3 communities that participate with Waterford Regional, Pontiac, Waterford and Lake Angelus, still had adequate coverage. I'm sure the owners of Happys Pizza or the plaza, didn't think a fire could be so damaging, although we had 9 Fire Trucks, (the first one on scene was that of Engine 3 Housed on Cass and Elizabeth Lake) Waterford Regional was fighting that fire some for days before it was all the way extinguished, it was too far gone, where the roof was collapsing before the Fire Department was able to hook up the hoses before the roof collapsed. Cause is still under investigation.

I want to put some thoughts out there, and would appreciate some feedback from the Residents of District 3; you can reach me most evenings at 248-499-4622.

In November 2016, the majority of voters voted for a Youth Millage, which Council has not levied yet, part of the reason is we made a statement, that we would not if we (the City) did not own a building that would meet all the needs.... We wanted rooms for Art, Reading, Computer classes, Room for MUSIC, BOTH Instrumental and Voice, Dance and to be inclusive of sports, Basketball, Football, Soccer. Wisner LLC has offered to rent us Wisner school, but at \$30,000.00 per month which equals \$360,000.00 with no basketball court.

At this time, I am leaning towards a no vote, but I definitely am looking towards direction from you, the residents in District 3. When this millage is levied it will increase your property taxes, no greater than 1.5% I am looking for the property and homeowners, responses more so than the renters, as renters do relocate and they do not pay property taxes. I am hearing from some, they are spread to the maximum already, as a good number are seniors living on a very fixed income. But am willing to listen to all. Again you can reach me in the evening at 248-499-4622.

In the past, Pontiac had Neighborhood Watch programs throughout the City. The late Mr. Melton and Mr. Ryden took pride in being able to say they were the first to start the Parkdale/Dresden Neighborhood Watch in 1994, with the guidance of SSgt Mike Daves. SSgt Daves is no longer working in Pontiac, and Mr. Ryden and Mr. and Mrs. Melton have all passed away, but that doesn't mean our neighborhood watch programs have to die too! We do have Community Police Officers with Deputies Francisco and Garrett, who are looking for people interested in starting a neighborhood watch program in the different neighborhoods, in District 3 as well as throughout the City. Deputy Francisco's office number is 248-409-7140.

A reminder, The Friends of District 3 have a monthly meeting, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 365 Baldwin, Jalapenos Restaurant, at 6:30 P.M.

The guests for the month of May, will be School Board President and a Candidate for the Michigan House of Representatives, Brenda Carter and the President of the Optimist Club, Mr. Theodore Buckner. Also the Regional Manager of North Hill Farms Mrs. Keisha Durfield will be present. We hope to see you there. ☺

I would like to remind you. Parking on the sidewalks interfering with the flow of foot traffic, may result in your being ticketed, as it is a violation of City and State laws. It also is not safe for kids on bikes or individuals in wheelchairs or using walkers.

I am going to close this month out with a reminder, when you hear a siren, or see flashing lights on an emergency vehicle, Remember, it's the law, and drivers have to pull over to the right hand lane.

Let's Continue to make our district a Safe Place to Live, Work and Play. Wishing you a safe May!  
Your Councilwoman, Mary Pietila