

District Three Monthly Newsletter
September 2014

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Office Hours
By Appointment

Tuesday November 4, 2014 is Election Day!

Those who are registered to vote by October 1, 2014 will have the opportunity to make a significant change in the City of Pontiac, MI.



Not only will those who are registered vote for the: School Board Members, The Governor, Oakland County Commissioner, Your State and Federal Legislature, **but also for a new Home Rule Charter:** Which governs how your City Officials, operate in

the future, **IF that is how the majority of voters in this City Choose, or you can vote No** and continue to keep it as is, until a new Charter Commission is elected and presents another with amended changes. It is in your hands, either you can vote or sit by and watch others tell you how your City will be ran, with no input of your own. We talk about the lack of Democracy, but to not vote, one is giving up that democracy themselves. Either way, one vote, which could be yours, may be the difference.

I address the vote, in September, because with the Charter revision, There are some significant changes, you may want to alert family and friends of. 1. How you are represented by Council. Since the adoption of the Home Rule Charter, in 1982 and I believe with the Commissioners before them, each of the 7 Districts, has been represented by someone elected to Council, by the voters of the district. If the new Charter is voted in, **there will be 5 districts, represented by a resident of that district. That will be determined by which districts, have the highest percentage of voters, and 2 at Large, Completing a 7 person Council. At Large, members will be elected by a City Wide vote. Those candidates will run for the At Large position, and the 2 top vote getters will be elected to represent all areas of the city, not just one district. In the end, 2 Districts will not have a specific person representing them. This is Similar to how Detroit Council worked, until they changed.**

2. The election year will be changed to the year of other Governmental elections. One year later. Instead of 2015, the next City Election will be 2016.

Does it have to be this way? Only the votes will tell, but you do have an opportunity to vote NO, if that is how you feel, but the No votes have to outweigh the Yes.

Voter turn out in District 3 by record, is low. We have always been the lowest. Which is sad. If you can't make it to the polls, because you have an appointment, are at work, or school, call the Clerks office and ask for an Absentee Ballot Application, fill it out, return it and they will mail you a ballot to fill out and return by mail, but you have to be registered to vote, (this month) and call. 248-758-3200.

Did you know:

The old A & W location on Baldwin, will soon be opening as a take out restaurant, offering American and Chinese Cuisine. It will be named Lepi's; the owner is hoping to have it open by the end of September.

Jalapeno's will be expanding, by 700 feet and will be enclosing the outdoor café, with the expansion. They were in front of the Planning Commission on September 3rd and have their approval. It will look identical to the building already there, parking is adequate and Mr. Bautisto has been a great neighbor to District 3.

Unfortunately, because of the Council person, being removed from the Planning Commission seat in 2011; we do not know what is on the agenda until the end of the month, and with no more detail that what the Citizens see on the website. It's not the same as when John Bueno was our Councilman, and we knew at the monthly meetings what was happening 2 weeks in advance.

I am trying to attend the meetings, (the first Wed of the month) to share with you, what was presented, whether approved or disapproved pertaining to District 3.

Now Old Business.:

The property at 900 Baldwin is now owned by Rizzo Environmental Services, they closed on the sale the first of September. Once the MDEQ approves their operation plans, they will be presenting the site plans to the Planning Department and will appear in front of the Planning Commission, for site plan approval at which time they will present the plans as to specific layouts on how they will be using the property there will be City and Zoning Ordinances as to what materials, will be allowed, which will include the landscaping and hours of operation.

**** I have been thinking of how to keep the District 3 Residents informed, unfortunately the meetings have dropped off again. Recently I have had to undergo surgery and am still on the mobility restrictions. During this time, I know one of the continuing seniors from the District who attended our meetings has taken ill, and she was the driver to the meeting for others, which explains how attendance has dropped with the meetings, for some. The chairperson I hope is okay, as I am not able to reach him by either phone or email; but even though I do want to keep you abreast of what is happening, in the district and City as well and I thought perhaps its best to go back to the Monthly Newsletters, which were distributed in Numerous Ways in the past. Because of time limitations as to how long I can be on my foot, in a given hour. I will not be passing them out like I use to but, they can be accessed Online at the Website, picked up at City Hall, or if you call or email me with your address, I will mail it to you. But bulk Mailing Newsletters to district addresses, became quite expensive, as half were returned as undeliverable. I frown upon mailings if we don't know for certain residents are still in the house or even want the newsletter. ****

Two quick final thoughts.

1. School is back in session. Please be mindful of students walking this fall and winter. Whether you are in your car driving or at home, lets keep our eyes open and not let any strangers, get away with approaching our kids. If you have kids. Please stress to them, sidewalks are for walking on, roads are for crossing in the lines and at corners. Safety should always come first. Also, its not right to be littering on the way to or from home, papers belong in the trash not someone else's yard.

2 There have been some recent breaking and entering of homes. Where property has been taken and people hurt. If you see suspicious persons in your neighborhood, please don't hesitate to call the Oakland County dispatch. Our Deputies would prefer to come out for some strange looking guy, who may have a legitimate reason for being there, than have anyone hurt or property broken into. Their number is 248-858-4951, they will ask questions which they are relaying to the Deputies via computer.