

Dear Detroit,

Dear Neighbor,

It is my privilege to serve you and every Detroit resident as your Council Member At-Large. I know our seniors have worked hard their entire lives and continue to play active roles in our communities.

In the short time I have been in office, I have made issues affecting our seniors a priority on the four committees I serve on: Public Health & Safety, Internal Operations, Budget Finance, and Audit & Rules Committee. You deserve a city that is safe, affordable, and doing its part for you. With this newsletter and my continued hard work, I hope to provide you with resources and information to help make that a reality.

As a lifelong Detroiter, I know that for our city to truly thrive, all our neighborhoods and residents must be part of its revitalization and benefit from the new opportunities that come with it. That's why I started the Returning Citizens Task Force, a community partnered initiative to help formerly incarcerated Detroiters reintegrate into society and become active, contributing members of our community.

As the daughter of a 30 year DPS teacher, working for the Recreation Department, and being an educator myself at Millennium High School, I have seen the struggles our underprivileged and "at risk" youth face. It is vital that we provide them with better support and the opportunities to succeed.

My background in labor organizing and leadership showed me firsthand some of the most important issues to Detroiters, such as pensions, health care, wages, work conditions, and workplace disputes. These experiences are what I bring to my position as your Council Member every day and are part of the reason I am so dedicated to working my hardest for you.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me anytime at 313-224-4248 or by email at councilmemberayers@detroitmi.gov.

Sincerely,



Janee' L. Ayers
Council Member At-Large
City of Detroit



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Janee L. Ayers

2 Woodward Avenue, Suite 1340
Detroit, MI 48226
(313) 224-4248 (office)
(313) 224-1524 (fax)



Recreation

Detroit seniors are staying active with activities at recreation centers all over the city. Below are some of the activities offered:

Butzel 10500 Lyndon
Detroit, MI 48238 (313) 628-0990

Aerobic classes
Fitness classes
Piano lessons
Arts/Craft classes

Young 2751 Robert Bradby Dr.
Detroit, MI 48207
Phone: (313) 628-0995
Walking club

Williams 2751 Robert Bradby Dr.
Detroit, MI 48207
Phone: (313) 628-0995

Monday

11-6:30pm -Senior game room
11-1pm -Golf lessons
1-3pm-Men's Basketball
1-3pm-1step 2 step

Tuesday

11-6:30pm - Senior game room
11-1pm - Walking club

Wednesday

11-6pm Senior Game Room
11-1pm Golf lessons
11:30-2pm - Ceramics class
1-3pm- Men's basketball
1-3pm Movie day
1-3pm 1step 2 step

Thursday

11-6:30pm- Senior Game Room
11-1pm Walking club
11:30-1:30pm Sewing class
11:30-1:30pm Crotchet/Knit club
1-3pm Ladies basketball
1-3pm Bingo
11-6:30pm Senior game room
11-1pm Walking club
11:30 - 3:30pm Bridge club
Monday - Friday 12-1:30pm Food and Friendship

Patton 2301 Woodmere
Detroit, MI 48209
Phone: (313) 628-2000

Water aerobics
Walk for life
Table games
Drawing 101
Dance/hustle
Arts and crafts
Fitness
Bingo
Zumba
Tai chi
Drawing
Special events like Belle Isle, Meijer Trip, and Movie Day

Northwest 18100 Meyers
Detroit, MI 48235
Phone: (313) 578-7500
Seniors in motion
Computer class
Table games chess

Lasky 13200 Fenelon
Detroit, MI 48212
Phone: (313) 628-2030
Adult basketball
Game room games

Heilmann 19601 Crusade
Detroit, MI 48205
Phone: (313) 224-9334
Activity camp lessons
Adult open swim
Water aerobic
Kayaking

Farwell 2711 E. Outer Dr.
Detroit, MI 48234
Phone: (313) 628-2028
11:30am-3:30pm Senior program
Chair aerobics
Ceramics
Ballroom dancing
Sewing
Crotchet

In addition, the Detroit Recreation Department had their 32nd Annual Senior Olympics on June 13-15 featuring activities like golf, billiards, volleyball, bowling, hustle dance, tennis, swim, arts & crafts, baking, basketball free throw, frisbee toss, horseshoes, table tennis, softball, and track.

Make sure to check out your local rec center for more information and to try something new!

Senior Rides

The primary provider of transportation in the city is the Detroit Department of Transportation (DDOT). Metrolift provides complementary paratransit service through the city for people with disabilities.

One of the biggest nonprofit transportation providers is the Eastside Community Resource Center, which has a substantial transportation program, including a grant from Specialized Services. It primarily covers the eastside of Detroit, providing demand response and contract transportation services. Its contract services include a grant from Area Agency on Aging 1A to provide demand response transportation to seniors throughout the city. It also contracts with many local senior centers to provide group transportation. Many senior centers also provide limited transportation to their clients for trips to the center and errand trips in the area.

DDOT has also been working to make improvements and are rolling out some of these changes soon. "Fresh Wagon", a new program based on discussions at community meetings

on the lack of accessibility to fresh produce in the city will be a nonstop bus every Saturday to Eastern Market from various neighborhoods. The Crosstown route will be extended to Telegraph, Schaefer will be extended to Dearborn and Greenfield will be extended from Northland to 9 Mile and OCC and Providence to make it easier for those who have to wait for transfers. Dexter, 8 Mile, 7 Mile, Jefferson and Michigan Avenue will become 24 hour routes. DDOT is also working on increased accessibility of the Wayne State/Medical area from Jefferson and an alternate Joy Road route to Downtown and has a grant application in the works for a streetcar along Jefferson. Wait times are expected to decrease, such as down to 15 minute intervals for busy routes like Dexter.

Contact:

Eastside Community Resource Center, (313) 521-1900.
CAUSE (West side), (313) 897-6500.
Detroit Area Agency on Aging 1-A: (313) 446-4444; Website:
<http://www.daaa1a.org/DAAA/>.
United Way: Dial 2-1-1

Senior Housing

Low income senior housing in downtown Detroit is about to get a lot better! In March, a pair of Detroit based developers bought two affordable senior housing buildings, the Industrial and Stevens apartments, north and south of Grand River Avenue on Washington Boulevard.

The developers, The Roxbury Group, along with the Invest Detroit Foundation, a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-qualified non-profit, bought the Industrial and Stevens apartment buildings and were also responsible for the historic restoration of the David Whitney Building.

Together, the buildings will offer 165 units of senior affordable housing downtown, where there are only two other downtown Section 8 buildings remaining: the Himelhoch Building and the Washington Boulevard Apartments.” Given the scarcity of available properties in the area and rising property values and rents, it is critically important that these remaining affordable properties be protected and improved.” said David Blaszkiewicz, President and CEO of Invest Detroit. Stacy Fox, principal of the Roxbury Group, said “We knew and felt that if we didn’t step in and get these properties under control, they could well go the way other Section 8 properties have gone, which is market rate,” she said. “It was

important to maintain them for their intended use. I really believe in that mission and really look forward to raising the quality of life for these residents by upgrading these properties.”

Upon acquisition, the developers are undergoing a \$10 million project in building renovations including “improvements to all major building systems (heating, cooling and electrical), residential unit finishes and appliances, the lobbies and common areas, rehabilitation of elevators, window repair, roof repairs, as necessary, and exterior masonry repair and restoration.” The developers stated that neither building has had “significant renovation since their original development into housing and both have experienced substantial deferred maintenance in recent years.” In addition, they plan on activating 9,000-square-feet of ground floor retail space, a few blocks from Woodward Avenue.

The Industrial State Bank building will be renamed the “Louis Kamper”. The Stevens Apartments will not be renamed. The buildings were nearly at full occupancy before the purchase and will stay that way according to Roxbury and Invest Detroit, but keep a look out for a great opportunity on a place to live!

Summer Tax Deferment

Payment of Summer and Winter property taxes may be deferred for qualified senior citizens.

Deferments must be applied for and approved by September 15.

If your application is approved, you will have until February 15 to pay your taxes without penalty and interest.

You may obtain a copy of the deferment application online or in Room 136 of the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center or by calling my office at 313-224-4248

General Deferment Eligibility

Seniors must be at least 62 years of age (applicants under 62, must be disabled and need verification from Social Security Administration) or eligible service person veteran, or eligible widow or widower (verification required)

Applicant must be listed on tax roll with city

Copy of photo ID

Must be your primary residence

Total household income less than \$40,00 for preceding tax year (verification required)

Solid Waste Discount

Note: Applications available on May 1st at the property tax customer service counter at 2 Woodward Ave., Ste. 136, Detroit, MI 48226 (313) 224-3560. Applications will be accepted at the property tax customer service counter May 1st—September 15th. Applications, if mailed, must be postmarked by September 15th.

SENIOR SOLID WASTE DISCOUNT ELIGIBILITY:

-Must be at least 65 years of age

-Applicant must be listed on tax roll with city

-Must be your primary residence on city records

-Copy of photo ID (front and back)

-Total household income must be less than \$40,000 (copy of 1040 Tax Form required as verification of income) OR must have application notarized on back to verify you are not required to file taxes and income is less than \$40,000 yearly for the preceding tax year

Safety Tips from Sheriff Napoleon



Hi,
I'm Sheriff Benny N. Napoleon. I have been your Wayne County Sheriff since 2009. My highest priority is public safety and improving the quality of life for all citizens, especially seniors. I'm particularly concerned about helping our seniors to stay safe and I visit with senior groups just about each week to share tips on being as alert as possible in your home and in the community. The following are some of the tips I share with them, which I hope will help you and those you know.

Tips for Staying Safe around your home:

While it sounds simple, we need to constantly be reminded that you should always be aware of your surroundings.

- **Monitor high bushes** where criminals can hide or jump out at you. Also, if you maintain your own lawn, lock your front and back doors so that someone does not enter while you are distracted with gardening.
- **If you live on the first level or your home has accessible windows on the first level, keep windows closed and locked** and make sure your apartment building doors are not propped open for anyone to enter without a key.
- **If you don't know a person at your doorstep or at your apartment door, don't let them in.**
- **If you own a gun, and some of you do, please make sure it is properly stored and locked in your home.** If you do not have a gun lock, they may be purchased at your local retailer that sells weapons supplies.

Hopefully these tips will help you to be safe and feel more secure in your home and the neighborhood as public safety is my highest priority.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B. N. Napoleon".

Best,
Sheriff Benny N. Napoleon, J.D.

Get Engaged. Watch Council Member Ayers Live.

Public Health & Safety

Monday 10 a.m.

Council Member Scott Benson, Chairperson
Council Member Janeé Ayers, Vice Chairperson
Council Member Raquel Castaneda-Lopez, Member
Council President Brenda Jones, Ex-Officio

Formal Session

Tuesday 10 a.m.

Internal Operations

Wednesday 10 a.m.
Council Member André Spivey, Chairperson
Council President Pro Tem George Cushingberry Jr., Vice Chairperson
Council Member Janeé Ayers, Member
Council President Brenda Jones, Ex-Officio

Budget Audit & Finance

Wednesday 1 p.m.
Council President Pro Tem George Cushingberry Jr., Chairperson
Council Member Janeé Ayers, Vice Chairperson
Council Member Gabe Leland, Member
Council President Brenda Jones, Ex-Officio



Planning & Economic Development

Thursday 10 a.m.
Council Member Gabe Leland, Chairperson
Council Member Scott Benson, Vice Chairperson
Council Member Mary Sheffield, Member
Council President Brenda Jones, Ex-Officio

Neighborhood & Community Services

Thursday at 1 p.m.
Council Member Mary Sheffield, Chair
James Tate, Vice Chair
Council Member André Spivey, Member

**Comcast 10, U-Verse Channel 99 and live stream at
www.DetroitMI.gov**