

Commissioner Kay Beard Retires



Long time commissioner Kay Beard retired in March after serving for more than 30 years as a Wayne County Commissioner (District 12, Livonia, Westland). Beard, 86, was ordered to step down by her doctor, but she has indeed left her mark on the lives of residents in her district and on the Commission itself. She was a mentor to me and many other commissioners and she will be missed by us all. Kay Beard has set the standard for all elected officials as she served her district, and sat on various social service boards and committees. I wish her all the best in her life after politics, she has indeed earned it.



Community Meetings

Cadillac Boulevard Navarre Plus Block Club
3rd Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m.
Sanders Memorial AME Annex (Pennsylvania & Mack)

Chandler Park Neighborhood Association
2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m.
13031 Chandler Park Drive

Detroit Area Residents East (D.A.R.E.)
4th Wednesday of each month
D.A.R.E. Community Place, 11222 Morang
Call (313) 833-6230

Eastside Unity Association
4th Tuesday of each month from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.
St. Jude's for Boys Home, 15255 Mayfield

Eastern District Police Station Community Relations Monthly Meeting
1st Wednesday of each month from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Samaritan Center Cafeteria, 5555 Conner

Morningside Community Organization
2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
Christ United Methodist Church, 15932 E. Warren

Organize Neighbors East (O.N.E.)
Last Tuesday of each month (except for January, July, August, and December)
Meetings are held from 6:30 – 9 p.m.
St. Philomena's, 4821 Marseilles

Riverbend Community Association
4th Tuesday of each month from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Precious Faith Church, 2642 Anderdon

Southeast Waterfront Coalition
3rd Thursday of each month from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
14628 E. Jefferson Ave.

Word Search

Find the hidden words

Find the following hidden words:

Chandler Park, Ravendale, Timbuktu
Academy, Southeastern, Finney,
Denby, Jeba, Coney Island, Operation
Get Down, Samaritan Center,
Usnabac, Wayne County,
Commissioner Parker, Vote, Obama,
Creekside, Warren Conner

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IN THE COMMUNITY

My community office is located at the Samaritan Center, 5555 Conner, Suite 3222, Detroit, MI 48213. Please feel free to contact Diania Penermon at 571-2333 to discuss community-related activities and issues.



Wayne County Commissioner • 2nd District

Bernard Parker

600 Randolph, Suite 416, Detroit, Michigan 48226 (313) 224-0882 • Fax: (313) 963-0018 • Spring 2008
For additional information visit www.bernardparker.com

Dear Neighbor:

It is my pleasure to serve you for another year, and 2008 is going to be a banner year for District 2. I am confident that together we can enhance the quality of life in our district. I am looking forward to working with you to make 2008 our best yet.

I am continuing to advocate for prevention services for African American males between the ages of 18-35. With a startling 35% of this population falling behind when it comes to income, employment, and education, it is obvious to me that the crisis of the African American male persists. I have formed the African American Males in Crisis Task Force (AAMICTF), to create solutions and lobby for funds to assist African American males in crisis. The condition of this population has not improved since we highlighted this issue more than two years ago, yet Wayne County and the State of Michigan spends over \$200 million on correction (incarceration and imprisonment) and less than \$15 million on prevention services. I feel that it is time for us to rethink this way of conducting business and offer help to those in need before they enter the corrections system. I am pleased that Wayne County Executive has implemented the expungement program that the AAMICTF suggested, and thus far the response had been greater than initially projected. **See page 3 for more details.**

Another issue that I will be focusing on this year is the importance of living healthier lifestyles in our communities. Diabetes and heart disease are two of the leading causes of death among African Americans. This is partially due to poor diet and lack of physical activities. Within this newsletter I have included some valuable information on how a few small lifestyle changes can go a long way to improve your health. As an elder that has recently experienced some health challenges, I am personally applying several of these changes into my own life. I am planning a District 2 Run/Walk in the very near future. Feel free to give my office a call to assist with the planning of this event.

I am very concerned about our educational system in Detroit. I am currently working with DPS Superintendent Dr. Connie Calloway to develop new and innovative strategies to change the way we educate our children. Although the statistics regarding the graduation rate of DPS students are debatable, we can no longer accept our children being shortchanged out of their future. Our children deserve better. It is time for Detroiters to support radical changes in our school system. Remember, if you keep doing what you been doing, you'll get you what you always got!

Please take the time to read and think about the excerpt from Senator Barack Obama's speech on race relations. W.E.B. Du Bois said that 'the problem of the twentieth century is the color line,' and unfortunately, the United States has yet to fully address this issue. I am hopeful that Senator Obama's insights, and the response of so many people to those insights, are taking all of us a marked step toward realizing Dr. Martin Luther King's dream. As a member of New Detroit Inc., I am pleased that we are taking a proactive role in improving race relations. Give me a call or email if you wish to learn more about these efforts.

As you read the interesting and informative articles in this newsletter, please don't forget to look at the back of this newsletter for a schedule of important community meetings. As always, I look forward to working for you this year. Feel free to contact me at (313) 224-0882 to discuss any issues or suggestions regarding District 2. WE are District 2.

Your Commissioner,

Bernard Parker

Words of Wisdom from Barack Obama

(Excerpt from March 18 speech on race)



Throughout the first year of this campaign, against all predictions to the contrary, we saw how hungry the American people were for this message of unity. Despite the

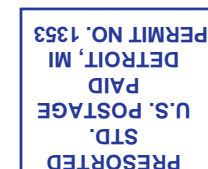
temptation to view my candidacy through a purely racial lens, we won commanding victories in states with some of the whitest populations in the country.

Contrary to the claims of some of my critics, black and white, I have never been so naïve as to believe that we can get beyond our racial divisions in a single election cycle, or with a single candidacy - particularly a candidacy as imperfect as my own.

But I have asserted a firm conviction - a conviction rooted in my faith in God and my faith in the American people - that working together we can move beyond some of our old racial wounds, and that in fact we have no choice if we are to continue on the path of a more perfect union.

For the African-American community, that path means embracing the burdens of our past without becoming victims of our past. It means continuing to insist on a full measure of justice in every aspect

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of American life. But it also means binding our particular grievances - for better health care, and better schools, and better jobs - to the larger aspirations of all Americans — the white woman struggling to break the glass ceiling, the white man whose been laid off, the immigrant trying to feed his family. And it means taking full responsibility for own lives - by demanding more from our fathers, and spending more time with our children, and reading to them, and teaching them that while they may face challenges and discrimination in their own lives, they must never succumb to despair or cynicism; they must always believe that they can write their own destiny. In the end, then, what is called for is nothing more, and nothing less, than what all the world's great religions demand - that we do unto others as we would have them do unto us. Let us be our brother's keeper, Scripture tells us. Let us be our sister's keeper. Let us find that common stake we all have in one another, and let our politics reflect that spirit as well.

For we have a choice in this country. We can accept a politics that breeds division, and conflict, and cynicism. We can tackle race only as spectacle - as we did in the OJ trial - or in the wake of tragedy, as we did in the aftermath of Katrina - or as fodder for the nightly news. We can play Reverend Wright's sermons on every channel, every day and talk about them from now until the election, and make the only question in this campaign whether or not the American people think that I somehow believe or sympathize with his most offensive words. We can pounce on some gaffe by a Hillary supporter as evidence that she's playing the race card, or we can speculate on whether white men will all flock to John McCain in the general election regardless of his policies.

We can do that. But if we do, I can tell you that in the next election, we'll be talking about some other distraction. And then another one. And then another one. And nothing will change. That is one option. Or, at this moment, in this election, we can come together and say, "Not this time." This time we want to talk about the crumbling schools that are stealing the future of black children and white children and Asian children and Hispanic children and Native American children. This time we want to reject the cynicism that tells us that these kids can't learn; that those kids who don't look like us are somebody else's problem. The children of America are not those kids, they are our kids, and we will not let them fall behind in a 21st century economy. Not this time.

This time we want to talk about how the lines in the Emergency Room are filled with whites and blacks and Hispanics who do not have health care; who don't have the power on their own to overcome the special interests in Washington, but who can take them on if we do it together.

This time we want to talk about the shuttered mills that once provided a decent life for men and women of every race, and the homes for sale that once belonged to Americans from every region, every region, every walk of life. This time we want to talk about the fact that the real problem is not that someone who doesn't look like you might take your job; it's that the

corporation you work for will ship it overseas for nothing more than a profit. This time we want to talk about the men and women of every color and creed who serve together, and fight together, and bleed together under the same proud flag. We want to talk about how to bring them home from a war that never should've been authorized and never should've been waged, and we want to talk about how we'll show our patriotism by caring for them, and their families, and giving them the benefits they have earned.

I would not be running for President if I didn't believe with all my heart that this is what the vast majority of Americans want for this country. This union may never be perfect, but generation after generation has shown that it can always be perfected. And today, whenever I find myself feeling doubtful or cynical about this possibility, what gives me the most hope is the next generation - the young people whose attitudes and beliefs and openness to change have already made history in this election.

Be Healthy In '08



As many of you may know, there is a national health care crisis, with more than 46 million citizens having no health insurance, and another 38 million having inadequate insurance. Hopefully our next president will work to remedy this crisis, but while we're waiting we can take steps to live healthier lifestyles. Practice prevention instead of waiting until we're sick to take action. Here are some things you can gradually incorporate into your life to become a healthier you:

- Get enough sleep – preferably 8-9 hours of uninterrupted sleep goes a long way.
- Learn to manage stress.
- Eat a balanced diet including 5-7 servings of fruits and vegetables a day (The saying about an apple a day is true!)
- Exercise a little every day – This could be as simple as taking the stairs at work, going dancing, or just taking a walk. Whatever you choose to do, just be active.
- Drink at least 8 glasses of water a day.
- Quit smoking.

It is important that we take care of our bodies so in order to avoid costly, and in many cases, preventable visits to the doctor's office. Let's be healthy in '08.

Educate Our Girls about Their Bodies



At least one in four teen girls, or more than three million teens nationwide, has a sexually transmitted disease. This is according to the first-ever study of this age group. The highest overall prevalence is among black girls — nearly half the blacks studied had at least one STD.

HPV, a virus that causes cervical cancer, is by far the most common sexually transmitted infection in teen girls aged 14 to 19. That's compared to 20 percent among both whites and Mexican-American teens, according to the study by the federal Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention.

"High STD rates among young women, particularly African-American young women, are clear signs that we must continue developing ways to reach those most at risk," Dr. John Douglas, director of the CDC's division of STD prevention.

HPV can cause genital warts but often has no symptoms. A vaccine targeting several HPV strains recently became available, but Douglas said it likely has not had much impact on HPV prevalence rates in teen girls.

Chlamydia and trichomoniasis can be treated with antibiotics. The CDC recommends annual chlamydia screening for all sexually active women under age 25. It also recommends the three-dose HPV vaccine for girls aged 11-12 years, and catch-up shots for females aged 13 to 26.

Get screened by your doctor, or at the following locations:

Detroit Community Health Connection
13901 E. Jefferson
(313) 821-2591

Healthy Teen Community Care Center
611 Martin Luther King Blvd.
(313) 832-8060

CATCH Program Mobile Pediatrics



Do you need free immunizations, a physical, or hearing and vision screening? If so, look no further than the CATCH Program. This is a free program for children that are underinsured or receiving Medicaid. CATCH operates out of two District 2 Locations:

Peace Lutheran Church
15700 E. Warren
(Parish office Building)
(313) 882-0254
Service days:
Every 2nd and 4th Monday
10:30am – 2pm

To be seen for a physical you must sign in no later than 11am

Wolverine Human Services
2650 Dickerson (Community Center Building)
(313) 822-2400
Service days:
Every 1st and 3rd Monday
1pm – 4pm

To be seen for a physical you must sign in no later than 1:30pm

For more information call (313) 966-0626



African American Males in Crisis Task Force

On February 26, 2008, which marked the 33rd anniversary of the assassination of Malcolm X, the African American Males in Crisis Task Force reconvened after a brief

hiatus. I initially formed this task force in 2007, however when Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano decided against the One Stop Service Center that the group proposed, I had to regroup and develop a new strategy to achieve the original goals of the task force. In place of the a resource center for African American males in crisis, the County Executive has implemented the Second Chance Through Expungement Program or S.T.E.P, a program geared to assist folks to have one nonviolent felony expunged after five years of no offenses. While I certainly think that S.T.E.P. will benefit some, I feel that a more comprehensive program offering a wide array of services to young men in crisis would be more effective for our targeted population. Although our idea of a One Stop Service center was rejected, the problems facing African American males, including incarceration, recidivism, and an overall lack of resources persist. It is only right that we continue on and find new avenues to help brothers help themselves.



A Second Chance for Ex-Offenders

The Wayne County Executive has implemented the Second Chance Through Expungement Program, or STEP to help people that have made some mistakes in life. Through STEP, residents who have had only one, nonviolent conviction and who have lived a clean life for at least five years would be eligible to set aside that past conviction. For more information about STEP call (313) 833-4587.

Celebrating Black Genius in District 2



It is very common for folks to turn on the news or open the newspaper and find a negative story about our youth. However for positive stories about our young people, we need look no further than our own community. On March 6, 2008, Commissioner Parker hosted his 18th Annual Black History Contest at the

Samaritan Center. Students from Timbuktu Academy, Catherine C. Blackwell Institute, Duke Ellington Conservatory Academy of Music and Art, Marcus Garvey Academy, Detroit Merit Academy, and Guyton Institute participated and made this event one the most memorable contests in recent history. Students from all competing schools showed how well they were prepared as they often buzzed in with their answers before the moderator could even finish the questions! All of the students represented their schools well and parents had a chance to cheer their children on as they displayed their vast knowledge of Black History. While everyone that participated in the contest can be considered winners, there were prizes at stake. Prizes were awarded as follows:

- 1st Place – Natalie Williams (Catherine C. Blackwell Institute)**
- 2nd Place – Brandon Wilson (Catherine C. Blackwell Institute)**
- 3rd Place – Kyzale Moore (Marcus Garvey Academy)**

All winners were awarded savings bonds, and all participants received certificates. The event provided our young people an opportunity to show their knowledge and shine a positive light on the youth of District 2. The 2008 Black History Contest was a triumph, and we are looking forward to an even better turnout next year. Next time you hear a negative comment regarding today's young people, remember that all they need is a platform to be heard and a chance to show what they know. You could be living next door to a Black genius.

...More Black Genius



Commissioner Parker would like to recognize **two standout students from Southeastern High School, Jamesha Moore (Valedictorian) and Alisha Clay (Salutatorian).** Keep up the good work, congratulations! Much success to you in your future endeavors.

Don's forget to come out and cheer for Jamesha and Alisha at Southeastern's graduation Tuesday, June 10 at 10:30 am at Cobo Hall.

...And Still More Genius



With the consistent waves of negative publicity that Detroit Public Schools receive, it is important to celebrate the achievements of extraordinary students in the district. Denby Technological and Preparatory High School's Robotics Team beat out 12 schools in the FIRST Robotics Competition. The Denby Lego Robotics team consisted of 8 students from various grade levels charged with the task of building a robot from Legos,

programming the robot, and then having it compete against other robots in a Sumo wrestling competition. Although it was Denby's first time ever being in such a competition, they were able to handily dispatch their opponents and advanced to the World Competition to at Lawrence Tech. What is even more amazing about this feat is that the Denby Lego Robotics Team that they won the regional competition using borrowed equipment! It is amazing what our children can accomplish if given the opportunity.

Closing the Digital Divide with Seniors



If you are a senior in District 2, and you are interested in becoming more computer literate, then Commissioner Parker has the answer for you. **FREE** computer classes are coming soon to District 2. You can learn how to get an email address, utilize various Microsoft Office applications, and other important skills. In today's digital era it is important to possess basic computer skills if you don't want to get left behind. We are currently finalizing the fine points of this project, so keep your eyes open for more details.

District 2 Spotlight

With each issue of this newsletter Commissioner Parker will take the time to highlight individuals or groups that are doing great things in District 2. Our first Spotlight is on Charles O. Walker. Mr. Walker was born and raised on the East Side. He graduated from Southeastern High School and earned a Bachelor's of Science from Tuskegee University. He is interested in religion, sports, travel, and giving back through community organizations.

With over 20 years of retail management experience, Mr. Walker has displayed a keen mind for business and customer service. For the past four years, he has owned and operated a Save-A-Lot grocery store on Detroit's east side. Charles had always aspired to be a business owner, and eight years ago he took the initiative to contact Save-A-Lot Corporation and inquire about licensing. After deciding to pursue ownership of a Save-A-Lot store, Chares raised his own seed money and through hard work and sacrifice, opened his store on May 12, 2004. Charles' Save-A-Lot is located at 4703 Conner Avenue and operates as a discount grocery store. Charles is a shining example of what can happen if you plan your work and work your plan.

Aside from being an accomplished businessman, Charles has an interest in uplifting his community. He sits on the Board of Directors at Ravendale Center, and he raises funds for Gleaners Food Bank. Charles has also been a motivational speaker at local schools and businesses. Commissioner Parker salutes Charles O. Walker, and wishes him continues success. I encourage you and your family to shop at Save-A-Lot as often as possible, as we should support those that support us. See you there!

We Need Your E-Mail Address

As we move further into the Digital Age, we will be attempting to communicate and more through email. We will still be issuing print newsletters for the foreseeable future, but if you are interested in being added to our email address list and receiving digital updates about what's happening in District 2, send your email address to lfrance@co.wayne.mi.us, or fax it to (313) 963-0018. **In the subject line please add: Parker's Email List-Add Me.**