Winter 2019

Your Wayne County Commissioner...

Irma Clark-Coleman
Serving the people of the 5th District

2019 will be a busy year for the new County Commission

This is the first newsletter of my new term on the Wayne County Commission and I want to begin by expressing my deep gratitude to you, my constituents, for granting me a fifth term as your representative.

It will be a busy year as construction begins on our county’s new Criminal Justice Complex and we continue our progress in keeping the county moving forward financially.

This year also brings me a new role as chair of the Wayne County Commission’s Committee on Public Safety, Judiciary and Homeland Security, as well as membership on the commission’s Special Committee on the Criminal Justice Complex and on the Committee on Audit and Committee on Government Operations.

I am honored to have been selected by newly elected Wayne County Commission Chair Alisha Bell to lead the Committee on Public Safety, Judiciary and Homeland Security, especially at such a critical time in our county’s history.

The committee holds twice-a-month meetings to review matters involving the sheriff’s department and prosecutor’s office as well as the Wayne County court system, including circuit, juvenile and probate courts.

The new criminal justice complex will include a 2,280-bed jail, sheriff and prosecutor staff and administrative offices, a criminal courthouse and

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Turkey dinners brighten holiday for 300 families

Commissioner Irma Clark-Coleman’s 12th annual holiday meal program again brought Thanksgiving joy to more than 300 Detroit families who otherwise might not have been able to enjoy a hearty holiday dinner.

Grateful families received their dinner baskets Nov. 20 at Living Waters Church after previously registering through the church.

Sponsors generously provided each family with a frozen turkey and a basket containing canned vegetables, mashed potatoes and other Thanksgiving side items as well as a cake and frosting mix.

Many families also received $25 Kroger gift certificates.

“Even though the economy is improving, not everyone has benefitted and I’m grateful so many sponsors joined us again this past year,” Commissioner Clark-Coleman said. “It’s a reminder of what Thanksgiving is all about.”

The program will continue for 2019. An announcement containing this year’s details will be issued by the church and Commissioner Clark-Coleman’s office in the days leading up to Thanksgiving.

Commissioner sworn in for 5th term

CLARK-COLEMAN, from Page One

a juvenile detention facility. Work on that project is expected to continue throughout the coming year and be completed in 2022.

The Committee on Audit reviews reports on all county departments and activities. The Committee on Government Operations reviews county government practices. The schedule and agendas for all committee meetings can be found on the county website, www.waynecounty.com.

As always, I am interested in hearing your concerns and comments on any county issue. Feel free to call me at (313) 224-0942 or contact me by email at iclark@waynecounty.com. Here’s to a great 2019!
Commissioner Irma Clark-Coleman is active in events and community projects throughout District 5. Clockwise from right, she presents a resolution of recognition to Garland Hardeman of Russell Woods, meets with John Mitchell, former newsletter editor for Oakman Boulevard Community Association and receives a community service award from Detroit District 2 Manager Kim Tandy. Also shown is the pergola which Commissioner Clark-Coleman helped secure for Russell Woods Park.
This year marks the 100th anniversary of Wayne County Parks, the first county park system in Michigan.

Wayne County Parks traces its history to a 1919 land donation for what is now Elizabeth Park in Trenton. The parks system steadily expanded since then with the development of Hines Park, the Holiday Nature Center and, in recent years, the Wayne County Family Aquatic Center at Chandler Park and Inkster Valley Golf Course, among many other attractions.

“I'm delighted to help celebrate the 100th anniversary of our outstanding parks system,” Commissioner Irma Clark-Coleman said.

Wayne County Parks receives funding through the county parks millage.

That millage not only supports the county parks system but also allows county commissioners to direct money to local park improvement projects within their districts. Through the millage, the Commissioner has supported such projects as playground equipment, fencing, picnic tables and benches at Lollo Park, a pergola at Russell Woods Park and a play pad at Farwell Field.

Wayne County Parks is currently getting ready for its spring and summer schedule of events. Event updates will be posted on its website, www.waynecounty.com/departments/publicservices/parks-recreation.aspx.

In honor of its 100th anniversary, Wayne County Parks has also created a page where residents can share their special memories of the parks system. That page is available through the parks website.

Wayne County parks information is also available by calling (313) 224-7600.

Celebrating a happy 100 years for Wayne County Parks

Commissioner Irma Clark-Coleman helped secure funding for renovation of Lollo Park, through the Wayne County Parks Millage, which voters reapproved in 2016.

Winter shelter remains available for homeless

If you or someone you know is homeless and needs shelter during this period of cold weather, help is available through March 31 at these locations:

- **Cass Community Social Services**, 1534 Webb, 4 p.m. to 8 a.m. for parents and children. Call (313) 883-2277. For emergency transportation, call (313) 424-2202.
- **Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries**, 3535 Third Ave., 24 hours a day, for men only. Call (313) 993-6703.
- **Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries**, 3840 Fairview, 24 hours day for women and children only. Call (313) 331-8990.
- **Lake Ridge Villages**, 15941 Fairfield, for men, women and children. Call (313) 345-4310. For emergency transportation, call (313) 778-0694.

Residents can also visit any of the city’s recreation centers or any Detroit Public Library branch to warm themselves during normal operating hours.

Recreation centers include:

- **Adams Butzel**, 10500 Lyndon, 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. weekdays; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays.
- **Butzel Family**, 7737 Kercheval, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays.
- **Clemente Center**, 2631 Bagley, 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. weekdays.
- **Coleman A. Young**, 2751 Robert Bradby Drive, 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. weekdays; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays.
- **Crowell Center**, 16630 Lahser, 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. weekdays.
- **Farwell**, 2711 Outer Drive, weekdays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Heilmann**, 19601 Crusade, 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. weekdays; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Kemeny**, 2260 S. Fort Street, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. weekdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays.
Several programs are in place to help Wayne County homeowners having trouble paying their property taxes and at risk of losing their homes to tax foreclosure.

Financial help is available from the following sources:

• **Department of Human Services**
  Homeowners can visit their local DHS office to apply for help under the State Emergency Relief program. Contact information for all offices is available by calling the DHS main line at (313) 456-1000.

• **Step Forward Michigan**
  Step Forward is a state program that provides free, forgivable loans to help with overdue tax or mortgage payments. Information is available by calling (866) 946-4732 or visiting www.stepforwardmichigan.org.

• **Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS)**
  Help is available for those who qualify and is not limited to those of Arabic ethnicity.
  Additional information is available by calling (313) 842-7010.

Financial help is also available to military veterans through the following programs:

• **Michigan Veterans Trust Fund, Wayne County Office**
  Veterans with at least six months of wartime duty may qualify for financial assistance. To see if you qualify, call (313) 224-5045.

• **Wayne County Veteran Affairs (Soldiers and Sailors Relief Fund)**
  Veterans with any wartime service and an honorable discharge may qualify. To see if you qualify, call (313) 224-5045.
  All financial help is contingent upon qualifications and available funding.
  Those who believe they were wrongfully denied state emergency relief may be able to receive free legal help from one of these agencies:
  • **United Community Housing Coalition** - (313) 963-3310 (Detroit residents only).
  • **Michigan Legal Services** - (313) 964-4010.
  • **Legal Aid and Defender** - (313) 967-5555.

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The Wayne County Treasurer’s Office will host a series of Taxpayer’s Assistance Saturdays to give homeowners one-on-one guidance in avoiding foreclosure, including how to get into a payment plan, make a property tax payment and receive assistance from community partners.

The Taxpayer’s Assistance Saturday schedule is as follows:

• March 2 – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Wayne County Community College District Eastern Campus, 5901 Conner Street in Detroit. The meeting will be held in the Cooper Community Room.

• March 9 - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Wayne County Community College District Downtown Campus, 1001 W. Fort Street in Detroit. The meeting will be held in the Frank Hayden Community Room.

Additional information is available on the treasurer’s webpage, www.waynecounty.com/elected/treasurer/home.aspx or by calling (313) 224-5990.

**Treasure’s office offers help to avoid foreclosure**

Motorists who want to report the location of potholes or other problems on county roads can do any of these three things:

• Call 1-888-ROAD-CREW (762-3273) 24 hours a day.

• Visit www.waynecounty.com/departments/publicservices/roads/report-a-road-hazard.aspx and click on “report a road hazard online.”

• Use a smartphone to visit compass.waynecounty.com and click on the “hazard” triangle on the lower right corner. If you are near the pothole, Compass can capture the location via GPS coordinates.

If the problem is on a road not maintained by the county, the appropriate agency will be contacted.

For those who wish to follow up on the progress of a concern on a county road, be sure to have the incident number that was issued. That makes it much easier for DPS employees to track the issue.

The Wayne County Roads Division maintains about 1,440 county primary and local roads, and 462 miles of state trunk lines and freeways.

It has nine yards throughout the county and uses 144 trucks and pieces of equipment to maintain roads.
Welcome Shannon Guyton!

Commissioner Irma Clark-Coleman welcomed Shannon Guyton (right) to her commission staff in February. Guyton replaces Loretta France, who served Wayne County honorably for 21 years, including the last six in Commissioner Clark-Coleman’s office. Loretta left for a new career opportunity.

County parks programs are set for this spring

Maple Sugaring

Saturdays March 9 and March 16 - Cass Benton Park, 18005 Northville Road, Northville.

Two time slots, 10 a.m. or 12:30 p.m.

Advance registration and payment are required. $6 per child; $2 per adult. Call (734) 261-1990.

Marshmallow Drop

Friday, April 15 - Elizabeth Park, 4461 Elizabeth Drive, Trenton, 9-10 a.m.; Nankin Mills Park, 33275 Edward Hines Drive, Westland, 11 a.m. to noon.

Drops are based on age groups: 4 and younger, 5-7, 8 and older. Children are encouraged to bring their own baskets or bags. The event is free.