



Wayne County Commissioner Joseph Palamara

County News Bulletin • District 15 • Fall 2016

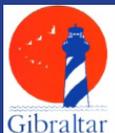
A newsletter for constituents of
Ecorse, Gibraltar, Grosse Ile Township, River Rouge, Riverview, Southgate, Trenton and Wyandotte.

2-Year Budget Set For Approval

Joseph Palamara
Wayne County Commission



City of
Ecorse



City of
Gibraltar



Grosse Ile
Township



City of
River Rouge



City of
Riverview



City of
Southgate



City of
Trenton



City of
Wyandotte

Dear Downriver Resident:

My colleagues and I on the Commission are continuing to work with the executive's office in approving a two-year comprehensive budget aimed at continuing the progress of the last fiscal year and seeking to strengthen the foundation for the county's long-term fiscal stability.

As chairman of the Commission's Committee on Ways and Means, I have been listening closely to the concerns of all county department heads in their quest to meet the needs of all Wayne County residents, especially those in Downriver communities. I want to commend my colleagues in asking the pertinent questions, listening closely to the responses and sharing thoughts and ideas on how to become more efficient and better serve residents and businesses throughout the county.

The budget before us is for fiscal years 2016-17 and 2017-18 and totals \$1.5 billion for each year. Building on the county's fiscal stabilization, this two-year budget focuses on an emphasis in investing in public safety and technology.

This is county government working together and living up to its potential, and I am confident both sides will reach an agreement that will appropriately serve the residents of Wayne County.

Sincerely,

Joseph Palamara
Wayne County Commissioner

River Rouge traffic flowing smoothly again

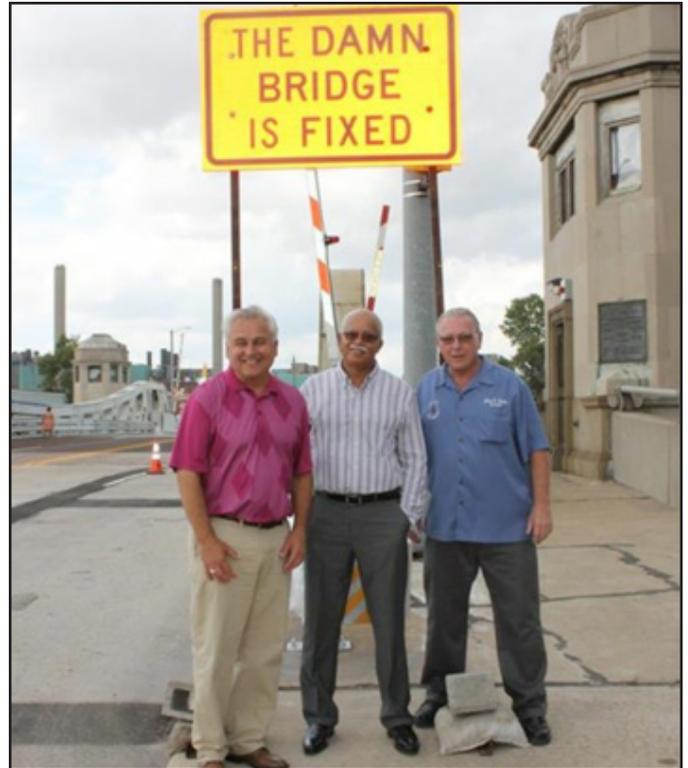
Commissioner Joseph Palamara joined Wayne County Executive Warren C. Evans and River Rouge and Ecorse officials, business owners and residents in a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Aug. 12 to mark the reopening of the West Jefferson Avenue Bridge.

The drawbridge, renamed the Jefferson Bascule Bridge, had been closed since 2013 when it was damaged as a result of operator error.

“The closure of this bridge for the past three years has created a great deal of frustration for residents and negatively impacted businesses serving Downriver communities,” Palamara said. “The reopening of this bridge will pave the way for some normalcy in the neighborhoods, as well as the business districts.”

The bridge had been idled since May 2013, when an operator lowered it onto a 670-foot freighter passing underneath.

Insurance proceeds covered most of the \$16.7 million in bridge repairs.



Commissioner Palamara (left) joined County Executive Warren C. Evans and River Rouge Mayor Michael Bowdler at the reopening of the West Jefferson Avenue Bridge.

Meals on Wheels will keep rolling seniors' way

Recent efforts by Commissioner Joseph Palamara and Wayne County Executive Warren C. Evans will ensure that the county's Meals on Wheels program continues to deliver nutritious meals to needy seniors.

Funding for the program in Downriver and western Wayne County will be made possible by a \$390,000 proposal submitted by the administration in its 2016-17 and 2017-18 fiscal year budgets. “I appreciate the

administration's assistance in working closely with those Downriver communities, and I am grateful for the acknowledgement on how well we worked together to preserve full funding for Meals on Wheels,” Commissioner Palamara said. “It is a very worthwhile program and good government to maintain the program at a reasonable and healthy level.”

The program serves approximately 2,400 homebound seniors. Meals are delivered to 41 sites by some 1,000 volun-

teers.

“Commissioner Palamara and I agree that the Meals on Wheels program is important for Wayne County's seniors,” Executive Evans said. “We appreciate Commissioner Palamara's support and commend him for his efforts to secure the funding necessary for this program to continue over the next two fiscal years.”

Seniors can learn more about the Meals on Wheels program by contacting the Wayne County Senior Services Division at 734-727-7357.

County resolution urges repeal of state fireworks law

A resolution introduced by Wayne County Commissioners Joseph Palamara and Gary Woronchak, calling for the repeal of the state law that allows the widespread sale and use of commercial-grade fireworks, was unanimously approved by the full Commission on July 21.

Commissioner Palamara said the complaints from residents in his district have increased each year since the state eased restrictions on fireworks, starting in 2012.

“This is a case where Lansing is just not listening to the people who are most affected by changes in the law,” said Palamara, who served in the state House for many years before becoming a county commissioner. “I don’t think anyone realized when they made the change just how much it would affect neighborhoods, and the push back it would get from residents.”

Palamara introduced the resolution along with Commission Chairman Woronchak.

“I hear from more and more residents every year that they don’t want these fireworks in their neighborhoods, set off on days and at times that



aren’t allowed under the law,” Woronchak said.

Added Palamara: “The new practice of allowing purchase and use of commercial-grade fireworks is just in its fourth year, so it’s still early enough to put the genie back into the bottle and repeal the law.”

The Legislature approved the so-called Fireworks Safety Act in 2011, which legalized the sale, distribution and use of a wide variety of commercial-grade aerial fireworks that were previously prohibited in Michigan. It was approved by wide margins in both the House and Senate, with the argument that it would bring tax revenue into Michigan.

County Parks Millage Renewed By Voters

Wayne County voters in August decisively approved the renewal of a tax funding county parks, including Trenton’s Elizabeth Park, and distributing money to communities for improvements in their parks, as well.

The proposal, approved by 76 percent of voters, will continue the millage through 2020 and is expected to generate \$9.9 million next year. The parks levy is just under one-quarter of a mill and will appear on winter tax bills.

A mill is \$1 of tax for every \$1,000 of a property’s taxable value and in approximate terms, the tax costs \$12.30 per year on a home that is worth \$100,000.

“All eight communities that comprise the Commission’s 15th District have received funds



Elizabeth Park in Trenton will see future improvements, thanks to renewal of the parks millage.

from this millage for various capital improvements at local parks in the last several years,” Commissioner Joseph Palamara said.



WAYNE COUNTY COMMISSIONER

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DISTRICT 15 NEWSLETTER INCLUDES

- Two-year budget set for approval
- West Jefferson Bridge reopens
- Meals on Wheels set for seniors
- County urges repeal of fireworks law
- County parks millage renewed



Commissioner Palamara chairs the Commission's Committee on Ways and Means, which has been conducting budget hearings for fiscal years 2016-17 and 2017-18.