

Lights, camera, accountability

Southfield Police department unveil sweeping new body cam initiative

Walking for a cause

Southfield walks against domestic violence

Safe & Secure

Southfield Fire Chief Johnny Menifee
achieves new career milestones

CONTENTS

C15 MAG OCT 2020



ON THE COVER

- 5 **POLICE BODY CAMS**
In an effort to boost “trust, legitimacy and transparency,” the Southfield Police Department has launched a body camera initiative for officers on duty. The move is historic for the City of Southfield as it is one of the first municipalities in the region to adopt the program.

SAFE & SECURE

- 8 **FIRE CHIEF MENIFEE**
Southfield Police Chief Elvin Barren interviews Fire Chief Johnny Meniffee to talk about some of the latest happenings in the Fire Department in addition to discussing recent milestones and achievements reached by him. Also discussed are upcoming collaborative events between the Police & Fire Departments.

ONE ON ONE

- 11 **SOUTHFIELD SCHOOLS**
Southfield Public Schools superintendent Jennifer Martin-Green is profiled in a recent installment of Southfield Cable 15's hot new public affairs show, "One on One." In the segment, Martin-Green discusses the district's virtual learning plans.

DEPARTMENTS

- 14 Southfield Chamber hosts Restaurant Week
16 October Library activities
18 Southfield Career Center job tips
20 Southfield Human Services Update
23 Janine Murray Tribute

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A busy October in Southfield

WELCOME TO THE OCTOBER EDITION of C15 Magazine! We trust that everyone is staying safe and healthy despite the recent global pandemic.



In this issue, we spotlight the Police Department's recent unveiling of their new body camera initiative, which looks to promote accountability as it relates to policing and protecting the rights of citizens and residents. The unveiling represents a very timely and proactive strategy based on the climate of the country and its perception of law enforcement and police brutality.

In our multi-column "Safe & Secure" block, we examine the recent *Domestic Violence Walk* as well as celebrate a recent accomplishment by Fire Chief Menifee. We also present an extensive *Q & A* with Southfield Schools superintendent Jennifer Martin-Green along with articles on the Chamber of Commerce's Taste of Southfield/Restaurant Week and upcoming Human Services and Library activities.

As always, we are committed to providing the best in community based programming that keeps you informed about what's going on in Southfield. Please continue to tune in to the channel and happy reading of the latest edition of the magazine.



Lisa Hawkins

City Cable 15 Executive Producer
& Operations Manager

FEATURE STORY



TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

How the City of Southfield Police Department issued a game changer in local law enforcement through the introduction of its body camera initiative.

By Chris Campbell

It is now the policy of the Southfield Police Department that all interactions between the public and any of its 126 sworn officers will be captured on a body-worn camera.

A new era was ushered in by way of a press conference held outside the Public Safety building as Southfield Police Chief Elvin Barren announced a sweeping body camera initiative that would take effect immediately.

Moving forward, all of the city's police officers will now be equipped with body camera devices that will further embrace the mantra of accountability and community trust promised by Barren when he took over as Chief of Police a little over a year ago, but also proactively quells growing concerns in light of national incidents of police brutality and misconduct that have captured media attention.

The monies to acquire the Axon Body Cameras were obtained through forfeiture and general fund sources and call for \$1.5 million to be paid over a period of 5 years.

"We're very excited about this day," said Barren. "The Southfield Police Department already has a great relationship with the community, and what better way to enhance community trust than by being totally transparent by letting them see the full range of law enforcement with their own eyes (through the lens of the body cameras.)"

Barren says that the policy calls for the cameras to be activated whenever an officer has an interaction with the community. "When an officer arrives on a scene his or her camera will be automatically activated either manually or

"Acquiring body cameras enhances community trust, manages perceptions of police legitimacy and transparency, and change behaviors on both sides of the camera, so if there's anything questionable, we will be able to show the video." - Southfield Police Chief Elvin Barren

through a Bluetooth device," said Barren.

Additional features of the body cameras include: 1) GPS tracking to locate an officer; 2) video buffering; 3) automatic redaction that distorts face, license plate or other identifying information for privacy purposes if video is released to the media; 4) citizen assist app for people to share videos, photos and/or audio with police as part of an investigation.

Barren said that the initiative was fully supported by all officers, all police unions and affiliated parties and that the incorporation of the body cams will strengthen its already strong ties with the community and take the department to the next level.

"The dash cams on police vehicles will still exist, but the body cams add an



Picture 1: Police Chief Barren pictured with a body cam device; (2) Picture 2: Chief Barren pictured with Deputy Chief Nick Louissia and Councilman Daniel Brightwell. (3) Press conference shot of Chief Barren introducing the Police body camera initiative. Photos: Southfield Multimedia Services.



additional layer with less limitations,” according to Barren. “Dash cams only record from a patrol car, while the body cameras can accompany an officer away from the vehicle.”

Content from the body cameras are stored in the cloud and can’t be deleted and as such changes behaviors on both sides of the camera. Barren sees it as a way to better gather evidence collection and show the whole story of what goes on at a scene.

The Axon body-worn cameras are designed to be mounted on any uniform worn by Southfield police, from tactical patrol to administrative leadership.

“Acquiring body-worn cameras enhances community trust, manages perceptions of police legitimacy and transparency, and what it does is change behaviors on both sides of the camera, so if there’s anything questionable, we will be able to show the video,” said Barren. “If we need to

improve our tactics, we’ll make those adjustments. If we need to defend our actions, we will show the video, as well, to let the community know in full transparency what happened and what we’re doing to manage the result of that incident.”

On hand for the historic press conference were city council members Michael Ari Mandlebaum and Daniel Brightwell.

“I think it’s a wonderful tool. I think we, the Council and the City make sure our officers are equipped with the latest tools, and this is an excellent tool for law enforcement,” Brightwell said. “With everything that’s going on, we want to be transparent and well equipped and trained.”

To see the full video of the press conference, visit the Southfield Multimedia Services YouTube page as well as the Facebook page.

City makes a statement in Walk Against Domestic Violence

By Chris Campbell

The City of Southfield recently hosted the “2020 Walk to Raise to Awareness of Domestic Violence,” beginning and ending at the Southfield Municipal Campus at 26000 Evergreen Road, and spanning 2.5 miles.

The event coincided with the month of October designated as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and is presented in collaboration with the Southfield Police & Fire Departments, 46th District Court, HAVEN Oakland, Southfield Domestic Violence Group and the Dr. Martin Luther King Task Force and sponsored by 411 Therapy.

The event kicked-off with a press conference prior to both scheduled events to announce the City’s new strategy to address and reduce the impact and occurrence of domestic violence.

For more information, call Southfield Police at (248) 796-5500 or call HAVEN of Oakland County at (248) 334-1274 or its business line at (248) 334-1284.



Elvin Barren is the Southfield Chief of Police



Check out a brief pictorial that captures a few scenes from the walk. Then check the channel for broadcast of walk coverage and then visit the Southfield Multimedia Services Facebook and YouTube pages.

Identifying the telltale signs of domestic violence and abuse

By Chris Campbell

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Domestic Violence is a major issue in the US and around the world, and many nonprofit organizations work tirelessly to provide critical support and services to victims.

Every year, more than 10 million men and women in the US are subjected to Domestic Violence. Its impact can be felt far and wide.

Some of the signs of domestic abuse, such as physical marks, may be easy to identify. Others may be things you can easily explain away or overlook—say, chalking up a friend's skipping out on an activity you once enjoyed together as being due to a simple loss of interest.

Domestic abuse can happen to anyone regardless of their social, educational, or financial status. While red flags aren't always proof that someone is being mistreated in this way, they are worth knowing. Many who are abused may try to cover up what is happening to them for a variety of reasons, and it goes without saying that these individuals could benefit from help.

Physical Signs of Domestic Abuse

If someone is being physically abused, they will likely have frequent bruises or physical injuries consistent with being punched, choked, or knocked

down—and they'll likely have a weak or inconsistent explanation for these injuries.

It's also common for someone to try to cover up the physical signs with clothing. For example, you may notice that someone you care about is wearing long sleeves or scarves in the hot summer. Wearing heavier than normal makeup or donning sunglasses inside are also common signs of domestic abuse.



How Abuse Causes Behavior Changes

If you notice that someone who was once outgoing and cheerful has gradually become quiet and

withdrawn, it could be a sign of domestic abuse.

Although victims may not talk about the actual abuse, they might refer to the abuser as "moody" or having a bad temper. They may reveal that the partner is particularly bad-tempered when drinking alcohol.

Sometimes, the fear a victim of abuse experiences is so intense they feel paralyzed to make decisions or to even protect themselves or their children. When the fear gets to that point, they will even turn down help offered to them by friends, family, or even professional protective services.

If you or a loved one are a victim of domestic violence, contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233 for confidential assistance from trained advocates.



Q & A with Southfield Fire Chief Johnny Meniffee

Q & A by Chief Elvin Barren

Southfield Fire Chief Johnny Meniffee recently celebrated 27 years of employment with the city, 4 years as Fire Chief. He recently celebrated another milestone – that of being named President of the Southeastern Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs.

The prestigious organization offers educational and networking opportunities to fire chiefs and fire service

Question: Describe how education has impacted your progress in the Fire Department?

Meniffee: Coming up the ranks has really helped, especially sitting on the union executive board in terms of understanding how the process works. Having a Master's Degree in Information Technology with a minor in Homeland Security and Emergency Management has really helped me in today's Fire Service. I'm a gradu-

“If you like rewarding work and being challenged and doing something different everyday and if you want to serve, you can make a good living and have a good feeling by serving in public service.” - Chief Johnny Meniffee on what he would say to those contemplating going out for the Fire Service.

professionals while advocating for them on a state and national level.

Question: How long have you been Fire Chief?

Meniffee: Four years as Chief. I started out as a cadet in 1993, got my badge for firefighter in May of 1994 and have been climbing the ranks and trying to do my best ever since.

ate of Eastern Michigan staffing command which is made up of a bunch of other fire officers who aspire to be fire chiefs and that's what they groomed us for.

The class is a year-long, and you have to deal with a budget, buy vehicles, do press conferences, complete

a serious research project, etc., so they prepare you for the next level. I am greatly humbled to have this position and I don't take it lightly. Its an honor to wear this badge. I was mentored by numerous great fire personnel from Southfield.

Question: Talk about past Southfield Fire Chiefs mentorship of you.

Menifee: The late Chief Rowley who saw potential in me and told me things to do to better myself. I also had Chief Healy before him who also saw something in me and gave me great advice. I took their advice to heart, and that was instrumental in why I'm a Chief today.

Question: Tell us about your Presidency of the Michigan Fire Chiefs Association.

Menifee: I'm a member of the southeastern Michigan Fire Chiefs Association, which is a part of the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs.

Right now, I'm the sitting President of the association which represents 70 Fire Chiefs in Michigan. It's a great organization and its Fire Chiefs are looking to better the overall fire service. We deal with legislators up in Lansing and encourage them to better things on the state level to help our firefighters.

Question: What else does the group do?

Menifee: We work with the state fire marshall on the training council and with the mandatory training certifications for fire fighters. We also look at the budget and things that will affect the fire service. We try to put things in place to help all of us.



Southfield Fire Chief Johnny Menifee has recently enjoyed several milestones - 1) reaching 27 years in the Southfield Fire Service; 2) his being newly elected as President of the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs; and 3) making his 4 year anniversary as Southfield Fire Chief.

Question: What would you say to persons who may be interested in becoming part of the fire service?

Menifee: If you like rewarding work and being challenged and doing something different everyday, you can make a good living and have the satisfaction of serving in public service.

There's no greater feeling than being useful and making a difference. This job allows you to fulfill the need to be a part of something bigger than ourselves. We look for people who are honest, willing to work and want to accomplish something. If you're built like that, then this (Southfield) is definitely the place for you.

To watch Chief Barren's Safe & Secure interview segment with Fire Chief Menifee, watch City Cable Channel 15 or view the segment on-demand on the Southfield Multimedia Services page on both Facebook and YouTube.

This year has presented many unprecedented challenges as educators try and decide how to maintain high quality learning options for their students. Southfield Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Jennifer Martin-Green recently appeared on Southfield Cable 15's new show One-On-One to discuss some of the goals and objectives of the district.

Q: The global pandemic has made numerous educational institutions rethink remote and virtual learning. You're starting the year off with a virtual learning environment. What data/considerations will determine when students and faculty can physically return?

A: We looked at numerous options and plans in advance of the school year. However the team determined not to bring students back for face-to-face learning. We are in a remote

out to each household to ensure that they all have connectivity. We have expanded the hotspots that were provided to us by United Way and gifted funds by a number of partners who want to support our children in the district. We now have enough Chromebooks for each student for the fall season. And we are looking to provide our teachers with all the equipment they need to create the asynchronous learning opportunities for our students.

Q: Talk about your team and how they've risen to the challenge of these unprecedented times.

A: I have one of the most amazing teams in education. We recently re-structured the district by creating support teams to provide full wraparound support services for families. They have stepped up to provide food distribution, Chromebook distribution, summer learning packets, delivering food

“My advice would be to follow your passion, follow your dream. That is where you will find the enjoyment in what you do. Associate with individuals who are successful in your field and then stay in touch with them. Stay connected.” - Dr. Jennifer Martin-Green on what advice should offer those wanting to become educators

start, moving to a hybrid platform, which entails every child working in a virtual capacity until the health conditions improve, and once they do, they will return to the building for face-to-face instruction beginning with our early and special learners and gradually extending to everyone returning in a safe manner.

Q: How have you ensured that students have the connectivity tools needed for learning?

A: We have conducted numerous surveys with our families and reached

to families homes who are in need or simply calling and making what we call “sunshine calls” or wellness calls. They have made sure that everyone is well during this time of isolation from human contact.

Q: Before coming to Southfield, you enjoyed leadership tenures in Detroit, Oak Park, Ypsilanti and various other school districts. Briefly discuss one or two of your most-proudest achievements.

A: I have enjoyed a 25-year tenure in education. My greatest success has



Photo still from Dr. Jennifer Martin-Green's appearance on the new public affairs interview show "One on One with Chris Campbell." Photo: Southfield Multimedia Services

been rapid turnaround in senior high school settings. I was fortunate to partner with likeminded individuals and close the achievement gap in decreasing the drop out rate and increasing the graduation rate. When that happens, you change the trajectory of a child's life and the life of their family.

Q: In lieu of recent national events, diversity and inclusion has come to the forefront. How do you promote diversity and inclusion in Southfield Public Schools?

A: I'm watching a number of institutions hire a diversity person, but in Southfield Public Schools, diversity, equity and inclusion belongs to all of us within the organization. That is part of the fabric of SPS. We don't look to a single person to ensure that everyone has equitable opportunities. In Vandenberg Elementary, we have 30 languages that are spoken, so we embrace and celebrate the differences that we have and we let our students have a voice and tell them that their voice matters.

Q: What advice would you have for young women of color who are contemplating careers in education?

A: My advice would be to follow your passion, follow your dream. That is where you will find the enjoyment in what you do. Associate with individu-

als who are successful in your field and then stay in touch with them. Stay connected. I still talk to those who mentored me because we all learn from each other. They still have a lot to offer.

Q: What is one major takeaway you want students and parents to glean from our interview? Moving forward what direction do you see Southfield Public Schools headed?

A: We always have the students and families best interests at the forefront. We base all our decisions on data before we make a recommendation to the board of education. We provide a well-rounded learning experience for our students. We want them to know that from an academic and health and wellness perspective, we all share the same goal and that is have high academic scholars leaving our campus and moving onto various avenues of excellence.

To view the full interview with Dr. Jennifer Martin-Green, visit the Southfield Multimedia Services YouTube page and click under the One-On-One video featuring Dr. Green.



Dr. Jennifer Martin-Green in the Superintendent of the Southfield Public Schools District.

Chamber restaurant week and Taste of Southfield showcases area culinary community

By Jason Blanks

Southfield's rich culinary community was recently on full display during its Restaurant Week 2020. The event was sponsored by the Southfield Area Chamber of Commerce and was quickly followed by another of its signature experiences, the Taste of Southfield.

The events provided a great platform during the COVID-19 global pandemic for eateries to display their culinary wares in a social-distanced, non-contact way that celebrated the city's rich tradition in the culinary arts.

A key Restaurant Week feature included a chef competition that took place at the Great Lakes Culinary Center in Southfield and featured judges Mayor Ken Siver; Mariana Hernandez, corporate and foundation relations officer at Lawrence Tech University; and Ray Moulden of the Moulden Allstate Agency.

The grand prize winner received a private chef tutorial at Great Lakes Culinary Center, which is a unique experience that would delight anyone who considers themselves a "foodie" because of the many insider tips, tricks and useful information that was shared. Other prizes include an Amazon Alexa, membership to the Southfield Area



Jason Blanks is the Executive Director of the Southfield Area Chamber of Commerce



The Southfield Area Chamber of Commerce's Restaurant Week brought out the best of the area's culinary community who competed in various competitions that raised the visibility of local restaurant groups.



Southfield Multimedia Services crew was on hand to capture the filming of various aspects of the Southfield Chamber's Restaurant Week.

Chamber of Commerce, a Family Fun Pack for Nerf Wars, restaurant gift cards and more.

Another wonderful feature to this year's festivities was the *Community Day Bag*. Participants were invited to stop by the Southfield Chamber office to receive a bag of special offers, promotions and giveaways. Included in the bag were personal stories and pictorials from participating restaurants as well as exclusive offers to various eateries and culinary establishments.

An intriguing aspect of the package was the \$5 special Restaurant Week button that patrons could show at participating restaurants and receive a mystery prize.

Overall, the events proved to be a wonderful respite and distraction from the challenges of the Coronavirus global pandemic and helped to strengthen the already strong ties between Southfield residents, businesses and its area culinary community.

The event(s) were pre-recorded by Southfield Cable 15 staff and are airing on the channel. To view special on-demand clips, visit the Southfield Multimedia Services Facebook and YouTube pages or view on the channel. To learn more about the Southfield Area Chamber of Commerce, visit southfieldchamber.com.

Southfield Library offers virtual programming options during Coronavirus pandemic

By Dave EwIck

Library staff have been focused and engaged in upgrading the aspects of the facility to ensure a safe and healthy return, along with establishing virtual programs that patrons can utilize in the interim. Here are some of the programs offered during the month of October:

URBAN FICTION BOOK CLUB MEETING

This month's selection is "Last Chance" by Darrien Lee. The book is available on e-book and audio book on Hoopla. The library also has the paper copy you can pick-up at the drive-up window. Call the fiction desk to order the book for pick-up at (248) 796-4200. Email Jesse Cleary adult librarian at jcleary@southfieldlibrary.org to get an invite to the meeting. If you have any question feel free to email. The event takes place September 30, 7:00 - 8:30 pm.



Dave EwIck is the Director of the Southfield Public Library

WALK IN THE PARK THURSDAYS

The library is teaming up with Parks and Recreation for a variety of in-person outdoor programming that will feature fitness,

freebies and plenty of fun! This is for families with children of all ages. The next round of "Walk in the Park" takes place Thursdays, October 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29, from 9:00 - 10:00 am. The location changes weekly. For location details view the Parks and Recreation Online Brochure.

Jazz & BLUES @ YOUR LIBRARY MUSIC SERIES

This month's Jazz & Blues @ Your Library features the musical group Delta Twins, October 21, 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Admission is \$5 and \$3 for Friends of the Library members. No charge for children under the age of 12. Tickets can be purchased at the door with cash or online (includes credit card service fee).

VIRTUAL PRESCHOOL & STORYTIME

Little ones will laugh, dance, sing and enjoy stories while their grown-up parents gain knowledge on how to keep the fun going at home. Families



DRIVE UP WINDOW SERVICE

Drive-up window and phone service recently opened up. Patrons can now pick up their library materials in a safe and touch-less manner. Here are the following Library departments contact information.

- 1) General at (248) 796-4200
 - 2) Youth at (248) 796-4240 or youth@southfieldlibrary.org
 - 3) Fiction, large print, movies and music at (248) 796-4260 or adultref@southfieldlibrary.org
 - 4) Non-fiction and business start up books at (248) 796-4280 or adultref@southfieldlibrary.org
- Patrons can request up to 5 items per day per library card.

Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 11am - 7 pm and Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 11am - 5pm

will be able to customize their story time by choosing from short videos posted weekly at 11:15 am on Thursdays on the library's website (www.southfieldlibrary.org), Facebook and YouTube pages. Sessions will be posted September 17 - November 5.

WHAT'S MY TITLE - A READER'S ADVISORY GAME SHOW

Everyone's favorite library-based game show is back! Join the youth librarians (and maybe the occasional guest!) the last Wednesday of the month, October 28, 3:00 - 4:00 pm, on Facebook to play along as the librarians guess book titles based entirely on random clues and vague hints. Episodes will also be available on the Southfield Public Library web site (www.southfieldlibrary.org) and YouTube page after their initial airing.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Online resources continue to be available at www.southfieldlibrary.org. Users can access the Library's Home Page at www.southfieldlibrary.org for online resources anytime. For further information, please call the Guest Services Desk at (248) 796-4224.

BOOK RETURNS

Currently, book drops are open for returns. When books are returned, they are quarantined for 72 hours before being put back on the shelf.



3 JOB SEARCHING TIPS DURING CORONAVIRUS ERA

As companies move to remote work to fight the coronavirus pandemic, you may be wondering about the best approach to take when searching for a job. Here are three tips:

1. Get Comfortable Networking Online

Events will be cancelled for a while, so you'll need to find a new networking strategy. Seek out like-minded professionals online and ask about virtual events. Look for professional groups to join on Facebook and LinkedIn. Get ready to ace a virtual informational interview or networking chat by practicing with a friend. Make sure you know how to angle the camera so the person you're meeting with can see your entire face, not just your forehead or your left eye.



Lisa Straske oversees Southfield's Michigan Works! Career Center

Once you've mastered the technology, invite professional contacts to meet for a virtual coffee.

2. Gather Intel

The COVID-19

crisis can provide a unique glimpse into company culture. Take note of how leadership deals with this emer-

gency and treats its employees by following the company on social media and watching for any media coverage. Set up Google alerts for the companies you want to work for and listen to investor calls. When you do interview with them, you'll be able to demonstrate that you understand the concerns leadership has and the specific knowledge you have to help the company achieve its goals.

3. Boost Your Skills

Now is the perfect time to work on bolstering your qualifications. Analyze job descriptions by listing each required skill and experience. Then consider whether you have that exact skill, if you have the skill but haven't used it in a few years, or if you're lacking the skill entirely. Use that information to determine what you need to brush up on to make yourself an even better candidate when the job market picks up again.

During an economic slowdown, it's important to focus on what you can control—improving your skills and reaching out to your network. You can lay the groundwork now so that when the crisis is over you have opened doors and rekindled relationships.

**POSITION: Producer/
Director
City Cable 15
City of Southfield**

JOB DUTIES:

- Work with City Departments and other end users to conceptualize, develop, and coordinate production of various on-going City events, informational programs or shows, entertainment and special event programming.
- Executes and/or directs others in performing necessary production and post-production duties, such as equipment set-up, camera operation, editing, audio mix, and graphics creation using a variety of specialized equipment.
- Directs camera shots for video productions; assists with scripts, sets, and equipment needs for studio and remote productions.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent in Telecommunications or a related field preferred.
- Four years recent professional experience in digital video production and operation of a variety of digital video, audio, and lighting equipment.
- Non-linear editing and Adobe product experience on a Mac platform a must.

APPLY AT: City of Southfield, Human Resources Department, 26000 Evergreen, Southfield MI 48076

Applications may also be downloaded from www.cityofsouthfield.com. Completed applications can be emailed to: sfldjobs@cityofsouthfield.com

**POSITION: Clerk II
Public Works
City of Southfield**

JOB DUTIES

- Answer incoming telephone calls and assist the public regarding water billing and public works concerns such as high water bills, pot-holes, and/or missed trash, etc. Refer non-routine inquiries to appropriate staff.
- Download and reconcile bank auto payments for water billing.
- Processes work orders/requests and schedule appointments for water billing or miscellaneous public works calls.
- Complete water billing processes including generating reports, data input, and generating bills; data entry for work orders/requests.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- Must be high school graduate or equivalent with minimum of two (2) years clerical experience, with emphasis on customer service.
- Proficiency in data base management, familiar with Microsoft Office products (Word, Excel, Outlook).
- Must be proficient with Eden, Lucity, GIS, and BS&A software.

APPLY AT: City of Southfield, Human Resources Department, 26000 Evergreen, Southfield MI 48076

Applications may also be downloaded from www.cityofsouthfield.com. Completed applications can be emailed to: sfldjobs@cityofsouthfield.com

Program funding

The *Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act* (CARES Act) provides critical assistance through HUD's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program to address community needs resulting directly from the pandemic.

Approximately \$76,000 in CDBG COVID funds will support the housing relief program to sustain housing for low-income residents and prevent homelessness in Southfield.

ELIGIBLE USE OF FUNDS

Direct payments will be made to the landlord or property manager, mortgage company or utility company on

- Rent payment (includes land contract payments, mobile home lot rent, late fees, court costs)
- Mortgage payment (includes homeowner association fees)
- Utility payment (gas, electric, water and sewer)

Residents of communities participating in the Water Residential Assistance Program (WRAP) must apply to WRAP for water assistance.



Rhonda Terry manages Southfield's Human Services division.

Michigan Prescription Discount Cards

Michigan Prescription Card is a free statewide prescription assistance program available to Michigan residents. There are no restrictions or eligibility requirements-anyone can use the card regardless of age, income, or preexisting conditions. Please contact the Human Services Department to pick up your card.

Southfield Covid relief efforts still available

There are still applications available for Covid relief funds to assist with rent, mortgage and various other bills. Applications will be accepted until funds are expended.

The city of *Southfield's Rent, Mortgage & Utility Relief Program* provides a one-time grant for an eligible household to pay up to three months of past-due rent, mortgage and utility payments due to a temporary job loss, reduction in work hours or other income hardship caused by the COVID pandemic.

Relief assistance is limited to \$2,500. This program is designed to assist low income households whose gross household income is less than 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI) as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).



Goodfellows need help with *No Child without* a Christmas initiative

C15 Mag Staff Reports



The Southfield Goodfellows' annual drive to provide food, clothing, and gifts for low-income families in our community is facing a great challenge this year due to the COVID pandemic. In addition to the families that usually need help, there are even more families whose hardships have been made worse.

The pandemic has necessitated the cancellation of the annual Goodfellows newspaper drive, further reducing available resources (funds, volunteers, and gift/toy donations).

This year (so that families and volunteers are safe), gift cards will only be provided to low-income families. Donated gift cards will only be given to families (that were approved via their completed applications) by drive-thru pickup appointments.

Southfield Goodfellows is seeking only monetary donations to purchase gift cards for low-income families and senior

citizens that live in Southfield and Lathrup Village. The Southfield Goodfellows works in partnership with the Southfield Human Services Department to identify senior citizens and families with school-aged children who require assistance during the holiday season.

To make a monetary contribution, please donate on our secure website at <http://www.southfieldgoodfellows.org/donateonline.html> or make a check or money order payable to Southfield Goodfellows and mail (early) to P. O. Box 2336, Southfield, MI 48037-2336.

For questions, please leave a message on our 24-hour voicemail at (248) 788-5899.

Visit southfieldgoodfellows.org to view their newsletter, find out how to sign up as a volunteer for upcoming initiatives and events as well as to learn about the organization's signature activities.

4 benefits to wearing a mask

By Cable 15 staff reports

During the 2020 Coronavirus pandemic, masks have played a significant role in slowing the spread of COVID-19. Though research on effectiveness is constantly ongoing, the CDC recommends anyone ages 2 and up to wear a mask to help prevent future infection.

However, not everyone feels comfortable wearing a mask. Here are some benefits of how wearing a mask can actually help those around you.

1. Prevent infected people from spreading the virus

Evidence has shown for those who are currently infected, wearing a mask greatly reduces the risk of spreading the virus to others. Since roughly 40% of those infected with COVID-19 are asymptomatic, facial coverings can help prevent further spread of the virus when you are unaware you even have it.

2. Offer effective protection when social distancing is not possible

Though it is recommended to stay 6 feet apart from others, it is not always possible to remain socially distanced. Maybe your job requires you to be in closer contact, or maybe you are traveling – in these cases, it's best to wear a mask to reduce the risk of COVID-19. But even in these

times, it is still highly recommended to wash your hands frequently, disinfect touched surfaces, and avoid touching your face.

3. Prevent respiratory droplets from traveling in the air

By exhaled breathing, sneezing, coughing, or even talking – we are releasing respiratory droplets into the air that land on other people. The person releasing the droplets will release fewer particles in the air if they are wearing a mask since the droplets are being trapped by the mask itself. A mask also helps the wearer avoid inhaling germs released by those droplets from others, because of the barrier the mask provides. The thicker the mask, the better the protection!

4. Reduce your own chances of catching COVID-19

In recent studies by the scientific journal, *The Lancet*, they discovered wearing a mask could reduce transmission of COVID-19 from 17% to 3%. So, if you choose to wear a mask, you are being less exposed to the virus – meaning, less coming in from others. By wearing a mask, not only can you help prevent yourself from becoming infected, but you also have a lesser chance of developing severe symptoms if you do become sick from the virus.





Longtime Cable 15 Staff Member Janine Murray passes

Southfield Multimedia Services recently lost longtime videographer/producer Janine Murray, who recently met an untimely death. Murray leaves behind a legacy of helping others and being a key cog in the operations of the Southfield Multimedia Services group (home of City Cable 15).

A graduate of Cass Technical High School, Murray was a devout member of her church and was often involved in activities related to her faith. In addition to her church activities, Murray loved to travel and was a frequent passenger of various cruise ships to numerous exotic destinations. She came to City Cable 15 nearly 20 years ago as a videographer and assisted in the filming of a plethora of regular series and specials over the years with the channel.

Having a well-rounded skillset and expertise in a variety of fields, Murray's role with City Cable 15 would expand to helping with the production of live shoots like City Council and being an essential crew member of the sports division of Southfield Multimedia Services.

Murray also handled many of the accounting items for the department including accounts payable, payroll and bill pay.

Murray was also an avid jazz fan and often assisted with the videography and filming of the Southfield Smooth Jazz fest during its heyday. Murray leaves behind a brother and joins her mother and father who preceded her in death. Southfield Multimedia Services salutes the life and legacy of Janine Murray.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE



IN THE NOVEMBER 3rd, 2020
GENERAL ELECTION



IS TOTALLY FUNDED
THROUGH CABLE FRANCHISE FEES
BY COMCAST AND AT & T