

Volume 9, Issue 1 • Spring/Summer 2011

# SOUTHFIELD

*The Official City of Southfield Newsletter & Activities Guide*

## *Living*

**Southfield Maintains High  
Community Standards**

**Water Quality Report**

**P&R Spring/Summer  
Activities Guide**

**Southfield**  
the center of it all™

## ELECTED OFFICIALS

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT

**Myron A. Frasier**

COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM

**Joan Seymour**

CITY COUNCIL

**Donald F. Fracassi**

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**Sidney Lantz**

**Kenson J. Siver**

**Linnie Taylor**

CITY CLERK

**Nancy L.M. Banks**

CITY TREASURER

**Irv M. Lowenberg**

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

**James G. Scharret**

26000 Evergreen Road

P.O. Box 2055

Southfield, MI 48037-2055

**(248) 796-5000**

**www.cityofsouthfield.com**



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*Southfield Living* is published biannually for all Southfield residents and businesses by the City's Community Relations and Parks & Recreation Departments. Please send your comments or suggestions for the City newsletter portion to: The Editor, *Southfield Living*, Community Relations Department, City of Southfield, 26000 Evergreen Road, P.O. Box 2055, Southfield, MI 48037-2055, or via e-mail at: [mmanion@cityofsouthfield.com](mailto:mmanion@cityofsouthfield.com).

The City of Southfield's intent is to operate its programs and services, so when viewed in their entirety, they are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with a disability. To ensure equally-effective communication, upon request, the City will provide auxiliary aids and services, such as sign language interpreters, Braille-translated material, large-print documents, etc. Advance notice is required. To make arrangements, contact the City Clerk's Office at 248/796-5150 (voice) or 248/354-4831 (TDD). *Southfield Living* Editor: Michael Manion | P&R Activities Guide Editor: Stephanie Kaiser

COVER PHOTO: *Spring tulips in bloom at City Hall* | PHOTOGRAPHED BY ROBERT ORTOPAN



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## City of Southfield remains focused on maintaining high community standards

Despite decreasing revenues, the City of Southfield remains committed to upholding high community and appearance standards through strict code enforcement and community policing efforts.

“The City of Southfield makes every effort to educate new (and existing) residents regarding the City’s high community appearance standards and city codes,” commented Mayor Brenda Lawrence. “The City’s Neighborhood & Information Center provides new residents with welcome packets that contain a wealth of community and city information regarding city codes, services, schools and other resources. Southfield also has a very active network of neighborhood associations, with 87 homeowners groups and 45 condominium associations representing residents’ collective interests. We take a very proactive approach to maintaining our curb appeal and other community standards here in Southfield.”

Southfield launched the “Eyes on Southfield” program in 2007 to enable residents to notify the City with ease when a code issue is observed. Residents may simply call (248) 796-EYES (3937) 24 hours-a-day, seven days-a-week to report code issues or violations. With an increased focus on curb appeal, the Southfield Code Enforcement Department responds to most complaints within a 24- to 48-hour time period. Code Enforcement Officers also canvass the City seven days-a-week to monitor the condition of Southfield homes and neighborhoods. In addition, the City relies on the “eyes and ears” of the entire community to report any obvious or significant appearance issues. When an issue exists, code officers inform the resident or business of the problem and educate them on how to correct it. If another violation occurs at the same property, the home or business owner is issued a civil infraction and must appear in court.

The City of Southfield recently reinstated two Community Police Officer (CPO) positions through a U.S. Department of Justice COPS Hiring Recovery Program (CHRP) grant. “Community policing is solving social ills before they become law enforcement concerns,” commented Southfield Police Chief Joseph Thomas. “These officers are out in the community working with residents to resolve problems peacefully through mediation and conflict resolution before



they become potential criminal issues.”

The Community Police Officers work closely with crime prevention, school liaison, and D.A.R.E. officers as well as other City departments such as Code Enforcement, Community Relations and Public Works to maintain open lines of communication. Their efforts are community-based, focusing largely on quality-of-life issues, peaceful conflict resolution and mediation. The officers meet and build relationships with residents, businesses, neighborhood associations, and other community groups to resolve problems before they escalate into potential law enforcement matters.



## Southfield Volunteer Day

Volunteers are needed to clean, paint, rake, plant and prune throughout Southfield on Saturday, April 16 from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Work will take place this year at the joint campus of Southfield High School and University High School Academy, the Southfield Fire Department Headquarters, Pioneer Cemetery and the historic Code House. All work sites are in the vicinity of Ten Mile & Lahser Roads. Volunteers should report to the lobby of the Southfield High School Media Center (24675 Lahser Road). Workers are asked to bring rakes, brooms and wheelbarrows (if possible). Other tools will be provided such as materials and gloves. Each participant will receive a free T-shirt, continental breakfast and snack. All volunteers should dress for the weather and work.

This is a great opportunity for service clubs seeking a spring project, high school students in need of community service credits, or anyone who wants to help improve their community.

To volunteer, call the Southfield Pupil Registration Office (248) 746-7601 ext. 3. For additional information or to sign on as a sponsor or donor, call Councilman Ken Siver, Southfield Public Schools Deputy Superintendent at (248) 746-8565.

## 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Rouge River Clean Up

Share in the commitment to maintain a clean water system by volunteering for the annual Rouge River Clean Up on Saturday, June 4 from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Adults, teenagers, teachers, students, naturalists, contractors and local businesses have an opportunity to improve the environment and everyone is encouraged to take part in this important initiative.

Registration is at Beech Woods Recreation Center, just south of Nine Mile Road on Beech Road. For more information, call (248) 796-4806.

### SOUTHFIELD STANDARDS, *Continued*

The Southfield Police Department, in conjunction with Southfield homeowner's associations, launched Operation GOT M in 2005 to encourage residents to contact the police department with any complaints relating to three specific issues: traffic, loud music and littering. If any of these three violations are observed, residents can call a non-emergency line at (248) 796-GOTM (4686) and leave a voicemail message with any information they can provide. Pertinent information includes: location, license plate number, vehicle description (color/make/model), and a description of the driver. The caller should leave a name and contact number; however, anonymous complaints are also accepted and investigated.

Operation GOT M is monitored by the Police Department and all calls are logged to track repeat offenders. If enough information is received, the alleged violator will be sent a letter from the police department advising them that a complaint has been made involving their vehicle. Three complaints involving the same vehicle will result in personal contact from an officer who will take the appropriate enforcement action. Operation GOT M contributes directly to the quality of life Southfield residents expect and enjoy. Residents are reminded that the program is a non-emergency line for traffic, loud music and littering only. If immediate police service is needed residents should still call 9-1-1.

The Southfield Police Crime Prevention Bureau provides residents and businesses with a number of resources dedicated to educating the community about security awareness

and to increasing home and business owners safety and security by increasing their knowledge. The Police Department offers a free security survey to all Southfield residents and business owners. Officers will inspect homes or businesses and make recommendations regarding the security of the premises. Officers survey the physical aspects of the property, including doors, windows, lighting and landscaping. They also evaluate the operational practices of businesses.

The Southfield Police Department Neighborhood Watch Program allows for greater involvement by the residents and Homeowner Associations in the city. The Southfield Police Department believes that a strong, active Homeowner's Association provides the backbone needed for a strong, viable program. The Crime Prevention Bureau works with all Southfield neighborhood associations to seek residents' assistance in keeping a watchful eye. Free crime prevention presentations and educational materials are also provided to any resident or business in the City of Southfield.

The Southfield Police Department's P.R.I.D.E (Pooling Resources in Defense of our Environment) program empowers the Police Department and P.R.I.D.E. community and business members to take full advantage of available resources and communication networks between the Police Department, private security agencies, building/property managers and others. More than 130 members from the public and private sectors attend informal meetings that are conducted monthly at various locations throughout the

—Continued on next page

**SOUTHFIELD STANDARDS**, *Continued*

City. Discussions include an emphasis on the importance of crime prevention through environmental design, security system reviews and sharing information about crimes.

Every resident and business owner has a vested interest in maintaining property values by keeping Southfield safe, clean and attractive. The City of Southfield is committed to working with residents and businesses to keep Southfield beautiful.

Residents are reminded of the following community appearance standards:

- Weeds and grass must be cut on a regular basis. Lawn grass should not exceed eight-inches in length.
- Trash is not to be placed at the curb before 4 p.m. the evening prior to collection. Refuse is limited to 60 pounds of material and must be placed in plastic bags or waste containers no larger than 32-gallon capacity. All containers must be removed no later than noon the day following trash collection.
- Yard waste must be placed in approved paper yard waste bags or in a rigid container clearly marked 'yard waste.' Yard waste in plastic bags will not be accepted. Yard waste includes leaves, grass clippings, branches, brush and other organic material only.
- Unlicensed or inoperable vehicles may not be parked outside of a garage. The repair of vehicles is not permitted on residential property.
- Outside storage is not permitted, except in industrial zones. Outside storage constitutes anything placed outside that is not in immediate use. Outside storage of recreational vehicles, snowmobiles, boats, travel trailers and mobile homes exceeding 20-feet in length is not permitted and must be stored offsite. Recreational vehicles, boats and travel trailers less than 20-feet in length may be stored in the backyard only.
- Buildings must be maintained according to City code regulations, including no peeling or weathered paint, cracked or broken glass, fallen gutters, litter or debris, or other maintenance issues.

Southfield residents are encouraged to report any potential code or appearance issues by calling the City's special "Eyes on Southfield" hotline at (248) 796-EYES (3937). Residents should call the Police Department's Operation Got M hotline at (248) 796-GOTM (4686) to report any traffic, noise or littering complaints. Together, we can keep Southfield attractive, safe and secure!

## Advertise your business in the 2012 Southfield calendar

The award-winning City of Southfield Annual Report/Calendar is mailed to every residential and business address in the City. Thousands more are included in information packets distributed throughout the year to prospective new residents and businesses. The calendar advertising insert is an excellent way to reach more than 78,000 Southfield residents and 9,000 businesses for one extraordinarily low price! The return on the investment in a calendar ad reaps dividends throughout the entire year.

Reserve your ad soon—space is limited! Call Southfield Community Relations today at (248) 796-5130 for more information.

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## Basement Flooding Legal Notice

Any resident experiencing an overflow or sewage back up should contact the Water Department at (248) 796-4850. After hours, the message will advise you to call (248) 796-4899 or you can call the Police desk at (248) 796-5500 to be put in touch with the supervisor on call.

Under Public Act 222, any resident having experienced an overflow or back up of a sewage disposal system or storm water system, must file a written claim with the City within 45 days after the overflow or backup was discovered or in the exercise of reasonable diligence, should have been discovered. Notice should be mailed to the Office of Management and Budget at the City of Southfield. Failure to provide the required notice to the City will limit your rights under the law. For more information, contact the Office of Management and Budget at (248) 796-5260. The source of the back up must be the City sewer. Problems caused by the property's plumbing are the homeowner's responsibility.

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## Income Tax Assistance

Volunteers from the Accounting Aid Society will provide free assistance with income tax preparation for low-income Southfield residents every Wednesday through April 6 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Southfield Parks & Recreation building.

The service is available by appointment only to residents whose annual income is \$25,000 or less for individuals or \$50,000 or less for families. To make an appointment, call Southfield Human Services Department at (248) 796-4540.

**SUPPORT GOOD HEALTH  
& THE ENVIRONMENT**  
*at the*



**EVERY  
THURSDAY**  
**JUNE 2-OCTOBER 13**  
**3 - 7 P.M.**

***Located at the corner of  
Greenfield Road &  
J.L. Hudson Drive***

The Farmer's Market provides locally grown vegetables, fruits, flowers, plants, jams, salsas, breads, gourmet cheeses and wines sold by the farmers who produce them every Thursday (rain or shine) June through October. The market offers free parking and admission in addition to a large variety of fresh, locally grown produce.

**For more information,  
call Southfield Cornerstone  
Development Authority at  
(248) 796-5196 or visit  
[www.southfieldfarmersmarket.net](http://www.southfieldfarmersmarket.net).**

## Southfield Flower Day May 21

The City of Southfield will host the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Southfield Flower Day on Saturday, May 21 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. on the front lawn of City Hall, 26000 Evergreen Road. The event is sponsored by the Mayor and City Council to promote curb appeal and the beautification of Southfield. Many varieties of flowers, plants and vegetables will be offered for sale from several local vendors. For more information, call Southfield Community Relations at (248) 796-5130.

## Southfield City Cable 15 News

City Cable 15's Electronic Bulletin Board is your connection to all things Southfield. It is cablecast on Channel 15 between programs to keep residents informed about everything from City Council meetings to community events. Tuning in is yet another way you can stay connected to what's happening in Southfield.

### *"Dinner with the Doctor"*

Now improving one's health is as easy as turning on Channel 15. One of our newest shows, "Dinner with the Doctor," is a health program sponsored by St. John Providence Health System that features a different medical issue every episode. Doctors have explained how to cope with menopause, dealing with hair loss and managing diabetes. Upcoming shows will focus on stress management, senior balance and fall issues, and stroke prevention.

## Southfield seeks nominations for 2011 Community Pride Awards

The City of Southfield and the Southfield Parks and Garden Club is seeking nominations for the 2011 Community Pride Awards, which honor individuals, multi-residential complexes and neighborhoods that have gone the extra mile to beautify their community. Residents are encouraged to nominate their neighbors, neighborhoods, family, friends, and even themselves. Public buildings such as schools, churches and synagogues may also be worthy of recognition, and residents are encouraged to nominate them as well.



A team of judges will tour neighborhoods and select a list of winners in August. All winners will be honored by the mayor and city council prior to a council meeting in October. Nomination forms are available at Southfield City Hall's Neighborhood and Information Center, located at 26000 Evergreen Road, or they may be downloaded from the City's Web site at [www.cityofsouthfield.com](http://www.cityofsouthfield.com). Nominations must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Monday, August 1, 2011. For more information, call the Neighborhood and Information Center at (248) 796-5140.



## Southfield Police programs keep community Safe & Secure

The Southfield Police Department offers several free programs and services to City of Southfield residents to help keep the community Safe & Secure.

**Home Security Survey** – The Southfield Police Department will have a crime prevention specialist evaluate your home with you and make security recommendations specific to your needs. This service is free-of-charge to Southfield residents.

**Personal Safety Presentations** – The Southfield Police Department will have an officer meet with your neighborhood association to present information on personal safety and awareness. These techniques can be applied at home, at work or while you are out in the community.

**Operation Identification** – Operation Identification is a burglary prevention program for homes and businesses. The Operation Identification Program

involves marking and recording property as a means of discouraging burglary and theft. Items are marked with an identifying number, photographed, and then recorded on a property inventory sheet. Once completed, the home is provided ‘**Southfield Police Operation Identification**’ decals to post on windows and doors around the home. Properly marked and recorded items are not as valuable to a thief as they increase the risk of arrest and prosecution, and they assist law enforcement in identifying the rightful owner of the property. Electric engravers to engrave durable items are available through Southfield Crime Prevention.

**Neighborhood Watch** – Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention program that enlists the active participation of residents in cooperation with law enforcement to reduce crime, solve problems, and improve the quality of life in your area. In this program you

will get to know and work with your neighbors and learn how to:

- Recognize and report crimes and suspicious activities;
- Protect yourself, your family, and your property;
- Protect your neighbor’s family and property, and;
- Identify crime and disorder problems in your area and work with police department personnel to solve them.

If you are interested in any of these programs, please contact the Southfield Police Downtown Station at (248) 796–5400.

The Web site [www.citizenobserver.com](http://www.citizenobserver.com) is also available to all residents to get weekly crime reports, crime prevention tips, alerts, and a monthly newsletter. There is also an Anonymous Crime Tips section for residents to report crime or other suspicious activities.

### City Treasurer’s News...

IRV LOWENBERG, *City Treasurer*

## Southfield Residential Homeowner Property Tax Breakdown

### Two tax bills are issued each year payable to the City of Southfield:

July 1 - The City/School (summer) tax bill is issued. *This bill is payable through August 31 without penalty;* and

December 1 - The County/School (winter) tax bill is issued. *This bill is payable through February 14 without penalty.*

### Taxes are based on the Taxable Value

In Michigan, when a property is sold, the capped value is dropped and the state equalized value becomes the taxable value. This may result in a higher tax for the new owner than paid by the previous owner. For more information, contact Southfield City Treasurer Irv. M. Lowenberg at (248) 796-5200.



# CITY CLERK'S NEWS

*Nancy L. M. Banks, City Clerk*

## Election News 2011

### Election dates for 2011:

- Special Election – May 3
- City Primary – August 2
- City General Election – Nov. 8

**As in all elections, the polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. on Election Day.**

### Offices and items to be elected this year:

- City Council (4 Seats)
- Southfield Public Schools Board Members (3 Seats)
- Birmingham Schools Board Members (2 Seats)
- Oak Park Schools Board Members (3 Seats)
- Charter Amendment Millage Proposal

### The last day to register to vote:

- April 4 – for the Special Election
- July 5 – for the City Primary
- October 11 – for the City General Election

Michigan election law states that you must be registered to vote 30 days prior to an election. If you are not registered to vote in Southfield, please visit the City Clerk's Office or any Secretary of State Branch Office.

## Absent Voter Information

The City Clerk's Office maintains a "permanent" Absent Voter List. If you are eligible to request an Absent Voter

Ballot and want to avoid waiting in long lines, you can also request to be placed on a permanent Absent Voter list. (Simply download the form from the City's Web site or call the City Clerk's Office.) Prior to each election, residents whose names are on the Permanent Absent Voter list will automatically receive an Application for an Absentee Ballot. If you choose to sign onto the permanent list, you can still vote in person at any given election simply by not returning the absentee application for processing.

### To request an Absent Voter Ballot you must be:

- 60 years of age or older;
- Physically unable to attend the polls without assistance of another;
- Appointed a precinct worker in a precinct other than the precinct where you reside;
- Expect to be absent from the community which you are registered for the entire time the polls are open on election day;
- Cannot attend the polls because of the tenets of your religion;
- Cannot attend the polls because you are confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial.

Any eligible registered voter not on our Permanent Absent Voter List, and who wishes to receive an Absent Voter Ballot, may request an Application by contacting the City Clerk's Office at (248) 796-5150 or download a copy of the Application form from our Web site. (Please be sure to sign and print your full name and address on the Application form).

## Passport Applications

The City Clerk's Office is a Passport Application Acceptance Facility, authorized by the U.S. Department of State to accept and process applications for U.S. Passports. U.S. Passports are issued only to U.S. citizens or non-citizen nationals.

All U.S. citizens traveling by air to or from Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean and Bermuda, are required to have a U.S. Passport! The option of a Passport Card is now available to expedite entry and document processing at U.S. land and sea ports-of-entry. The Passport Card is not valid for international travel by air. The Card is designed for the specific needs of border resident communities.

U.S. citizens interested in applying for a U.S. Passport Book or Passport Card must submit proof of citizenship, such as a certified birth certificate, a previous U.S. Passport, Naturalization Certificate or Report of Birth Abroad; plus identification such as a valid Driver's License, Naturalization/Citizenship Certificate, or official Military Identification Card; plus two recent 2" x 2" photos on white or off-white background, and the appropriate application fees.

Application fees for a Passport Book are \$110 for adults 16 years of age or older; \$80 for minors 15 years of age and younger, payable by check or money order to the U.S. Department of State. There is also a \$25 execution





fee required for each application, payable by cash, certified check or money order.

Application fees for a Passport Card are \$30 for adults and \$15 for minors, payable to the U.S. Department of State. An execution fee of \$25 is also required. (When applying for both the Passport Book and Card at the same time, only one Execution Fee of \$25 is required).

Routine applications take 4-6 weeks to process; expedited applications are processed within 2-3 weeks from the date received by the Passport Agency, for an additional \$60 (payable by check or money order). Express mail service is available for an additional fee.

Southfield residents, business persons and visitors are welcome to apply for a U.S. Passport at the City Clerk's Office. The City Clerk's Office accepts passport applications Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

## Protect Your Personal Identity

Identity theft is ranked No. 1 consumer fraud complaint. Identity theft occurs when someone has stolen a name, credit card, social security number, birth date, or other piece of personal information.

The City of Southfield, in partnership with Southfield Public Schools and Iron Mountain Records Management, Inc., will offer free consumer shredding of documents, the equivalent of 2 copy paper boxes on Saturday, April 9, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., at the Southfield High School parking lot located at 24675 Lahser Road, at Ten Mile Road.

Consumers may bring personal documents such as tax returns, medical records, credit card statements, bank checks, and more, to be securely destroyed by Iron Mountain's mobile shredding truck. A fee will be charged for three (3) or more boxes.

## Garage Sale Permits

Spring marks the beginning of the garage sale season. Southfield residents may sell used personal property such as clothing, garden tools, toys or other second hand items customarily found in and about the home. The term garage sale also includes reference to Basement Sale, Attic Sale, and Estate Sale.

The Southfield City Code allows residents to hold a garage sale once every six months. Residents may obtain their garage sale permits from the City Clerk's Office. The cost of the permit is \$5 which also includes one (1) sign with wire stand. One additional sign may be purchased for an additional \$2 fee. These permits are valid for five (5) consecutive days, issued at least six months apart, and may not be apportioned to run over two weekend periods. Items for sale must be sold between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Garage sale signs can be placed on private property with the permission of the property owner. **VALID GARAGE SALE SIGNS FOR 2011 ARE BLUE.** Garage sale signs cannot be placed in any public right of way, generally described as an area where street signs, traffic signs, fire hydrants and utility poles are located, and those areas that span from the sidewalk to the roadway surface. Any garage sale signs located in the public right-of-way will be

removed by the City and discarded.

For more information on obtaining a garage sale permit, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (248) 796-5150.

## Solicitor Permits

The spring and summer seasons bring an increase of solicitors in the residential areas. A solicitor is any person who goes door-to-door on private property for the purpose of offering or selling goods or services, or to request a contribution of funds for political, charitable, religious or other non-commercial purposes.

No person shall solicit within the City of Southfield without first obtaining a permit issued by the City Clerk's Office. Legitimate solicitors have been approved by the Police Department.

Other than veterans or solicitors within three miles of their residence who solicit for educational, charitable, religious or youth organizations, all persons must first obtain a City permit. The City permit, complete with name, address and photo of the permittee, must be worn and visible while the individual is soliciting or peddling in the City.

Solicitation activities are permitted between the hours of 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. It is unlawful for any person to conduct solicitation activities where the property owner or legal occupant has posted a sign bearing the words "No Solicitors," "No Solicitation," or words of a similar nature. Let's keep our city safe. Call the police department if you see someone soliciting in your area who is not licensed by the City of Southfield.

**CITY OF SOUTHFIELD****2010 CONSUMERS ANNUAL REPORT ON WATER QUALITY****ATTENTION: THIS IS AN IMPORTANT REPORT ON WATER QUALITY AND SAFETY**

The City of Southfield, The Southeastern Oakland County Water Authority and the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) are proud of the fine drinking water they supply and are honored to provide this report to you. The 2010 Consumers Annual Report on Water Quality shows the sources of our water, lists the results of our tests, and contains important information about water and health. We will notify you immediately if there is ever any reason for concern about our water. We are pleased to show you how we have surpassed water quality standards as mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ).

**About the System**

The City of Southfield purchases water from the Southeastern Oakland County Water Authority (SOCWA) at fourteen locations. SOCWA provides Detroit water through its member distribution systems to a population of 210,000 within a 56 square mile area. Current members are: Berkley, Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Birmingham, Clawson, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak, Southfield and Southfield Township.

Your source water comes from the Detroit River (treated at the Springwells Plant), situated within Lake St. Clair, Clinton River, Detroit River, Rouge River, Ecorse River, in the U.S. and parts of the Thames River, Little River, Turkey Creek and Sydenham watersheds in Canada. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey, the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, and the Michigan Public Health Institute performed a source water assessment in 2004 to determine the susceptibility of potential contamination. The susceptibility rating is on a seven-tiered scale from “very low” to “very high” based primarily on geologic sensitivity, water chemistry, and contaminant sources. The susceptibility of our Detroit River source water intakes were determined to be highly susceptible to potential contamination. However, all four Detroit water treatment plants that use source water from the Detroit River have historically provided satisfactory treatment of this source water to meet drinking water standards. DWSD has initiated source-water protection activities that include chemical containment, spill response, and a mercury reduction program. DWSD participates in a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit discharge program and has an emergency response management plan.

If you would like to know more information about this report or to obtain a complete copy, please contact your local water department.

**How Do We Know the Water is Safe to Drink?**

Detroit Water and Sewerage Department facilities operate twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. The treatment process begins with disinfecting the source water with chlorine to kill harmful microorganisms that can cause illness. Next, a chemical called Alum is mixed with the water to remove the fine particles that make the water cloudy or turbid. Alum causes the particles to clump together and settle to the bottom. Fluoride is also added to protect our teeth from cavities and decay.

The water then flows through fine sand filters called beds. These filters remove even more particles and certain microorganisms that are resistant to chlorine. Finally, a small amount of phosphoric acid and chlorine are added to the treated water just before it leaves the treatment plant. The phosphoric acid helps control the lead that may dissolve in water from household plumbing systems. The chlorine keeps the water disinfected as it travels through water mains to reach your home.

In addition to a carefully controlled and monitored treatment process, the water is tested for a variety of substances before treatment, during various stages of treatment, and throughout the distribution system. Hundreds of samples are tested each week in certified laboratories by highly qualified and trained staff. Our water not only meets safety and health standards, but also ranks among the top 10 in the country for quality and value.

**Additional Information**

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.



**Contaminants that may be present in source water include:**

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

**Detected Contaminants Tables**

These tables are based on tests conducted by DWSD in the year 2010 or the most recent testing done within the last five (5) calendar years. They conduct many tests throughout the year; however, only tests that show the presence of a contaminant are shown here. The table on the next page is a key to the terms used in the tables.

<b>Key to Detected Contaminants Tables</b>		
<b>Symbol</b>	<b>Abbreviation for</b>	<b>Definition/Explanation</b>
<b>MCLG</b>	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
<b>MCL</b>	Maximum Contaminant Level	The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
<b>MRDLG</b>	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal	The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
<b>MRDL</b>	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level	The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
<b>ppb</b>	Parts per billion (one in one billion)	The ppb is equivalent to micrograms per liter. A microgram = 1/1000 milligram.
<b>ppm</b>	Parts per million (one in one million)	The ppm is equivalent to milligrams per liter. A milligram = 1/1000 gram.
<b>NTU</b>	Nephelometric Turbidity Units	Measures the cloudiness of water.
<b>TT</b>	Treatment Technique	A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
<b>AL</b>	Action Level	The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
<b>HAA5</b>	Haloacetic acids	HAA5 is the total of bromoacetic, chloroacetic, dibromoacetic, dichloroacetic, and trichloroacetic acids. Compliance is based on the total.
<b>TTHM</b>	Total Trihalomethanes	Total Trihalomethanes is the sum of chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform. Compliance is based on the total.
<b>n/a</b>	Not applicable	
<b>&gt;</b>	Greater than	

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the **Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.**

**Springwells Water Treatment Plant  
2010 Regulated Detected Contaminants Tables**

Contaminant	Test Date	Units	Health Goal MCLG	Allowed Level MCL	Level Detected	Range of Detection	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
<b>Inorganic Chemicals – Annual Monitoring at Plant Finished Water Tap</b>								
Fluoride	11/2010	ppm	4	4	1.19	0.72-1.19	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive, which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate	8/23/2010	ppm	10	10	0.25	n/a	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium	6/9/2008	ppm	2	2	0.01	n/a	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Selenium	6/9/2008	ppb	50	50	1	n/a	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.
<b>Disinfectant Residuals and Disinfection By-Products – Monitoring in Distribution System</b>								
Total Trihalomethane (TTHM)	Feb-Nov 2010	ppb	n/a	80	21.0	9.3-40.1	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	Feb-Nov 2010	ppb	n/a	60	11.2	4.4-19.6	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Disinfectant Chlorine residual	Jan-Dec 2010	ppm	MRDGL 4	MRDL 4	0.71	0.63-0.77	No	Water additive used to control microbes

<b>2010 Turbidity – Monitored every 4 hours at Plant Finished Water Tap</b>			
Highest Single Measurement Cannot exceed 1 NTU	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Turbidity Limit of 0.3 NTU (minimum 95%)	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
0.28 NTU	100 %	No	Soil Runoff
Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.			

<b>2010 Microbiological Contaminants – Monthly Monitoring in Distribution System</b>					
Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Highest Number Detected	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	Presence of Coliform bacteria > 5% of monthly samples	in one month		Naturally present in the environment.
<i>E. coli</i> or fecal coliform bacteria	0	A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal or <i>E. coli</i> positive.	entire year		Human waste and animal fecal waste.

<b>2008 Lead and Copper Monitoring at Customers' Tap</b>								
Contaminant	Test Date	Units	Health Goal MCLG	Action Level AL	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Value*	Number of Samples Over AL	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Lead	2008	ppb	0	15				Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	2008	ppm	1.3	1.3				Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
*The 90th percentile value means 90 percent of the homes tested have lead and copper levels below the given 90th percentile value. If the 90th percentile value is above the AL additional requirements must be met.								

Regulated Contaminant	Treatment Technique	Running annual average	Monthly Ratio Range	Violation Yes/No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Organic Carbon (pip)	The Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal ratio is calculated as the ratio between the actual TOC removal and the TOC removal requirements. The TOC was measured each month and because the level was low, there is no requirement for TOC removal.				Erosion of natural deposits

**2010 Special Monitoring**

Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected	Source of Contamination
Sodium (ppm)	n/a	n/a	4.75	Erosion of natural deposits

Collection and sampling result information in the table provided by Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) Water Quality Division, ML Semegen.



## Important Health Information

### Lead

Since 1992, with the cooperation of many Southfield residents, DWSD has been testing homes with plumbing systems that may contribute lead to the household water supply. Our latest round of testing shows 0 out of the 14 homes tested has lead levels above the action level. If your home has a lead service line or piping that has lead soldered joints, you can take the following precautions to minimize your exposure to lead that may have leached into your drinking water from your pipes.

- Run your water for 30 seconds to 2 minutes or until it feels cold. This practice should be followed anytime your water has not been used for more than 6 hours.
- Always use cold water for drinking, cooking or making baby formula.
- Use faucets and plumbing material that are either lead free or will not leach unsafe levels of lead into your water.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Southfield is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from

the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

### People With Special Health Concerns

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than is the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791**.

### Cryptosporidium

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes Cryptosporidium, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Our monitoring indicates the presence of these organisms in our source water. Cryptosporidium was detected once, during a twelve-month period at our Detroit River intake plants. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Ingestion of Cryptosporidium may cause Cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people, infants

and small children, and the elderly are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.

### Questions?

Local Distribution: City of Southfield, Public Works Administration  
(248) 796-4880

Southeastern Oakland County Water Supply System – Water Authority offices: (248) 288-5150. Visit their Web site at [www.socwa.org](http://www.socwa.org).

Detroit Water and Sewerage Department – Water Quality Division at (313) 926-8127.

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality – Drinking Water and Radiological Protection Division – (586) 753-3755.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Safe Drinking Water Hotline: (800) 426-4791

Water quality data for community water systems throughout the United States is available at: [www.waterdata.com](http://www.waterdata.com).

### Other Monitoring

In addition to testing we are required to perform, our water system voluntarily tests for hundreds of additional substances and microscopic organisms to make certain our water is safe and of the highest quality. If you are interested in a more detailed report, contact the DWSD Water Quality Division at (313) 926-8127.

## Southfield Parks & Recreation wins 2010 MRPA Park Design Award for Carpenter Lake Nature Preserve

The City of Southfield Parks & Recreation Department has won the 2010 Michigan Recreation and Park Association (MRPA) Park Design Award for the City's Carpenter Lake Nature Preserve.

MRPA Design Awards are given annually to MRPA member organizations for outstanding work in the areas of facility and landscape/site design. The City won for the new Carpenter Lake Nature Preserve located on 10 Mile Road just east of Inkster Road along the Ravines Branch of the Rouge River in Southfield. The preserve features 42-acres of mature Oak-Hickory woodlands, forested wetlands and native meadows overlooking the beautiful five-acre Carpenter Lake. The preserve offers residents nearly one mile of nature trails, interpretive signs and trailheads, numerous benches and easily-accessible fishing and viewing platforms. Future plans for Carpenter Lake Nature Preserve include the addition of a new nature interpretive center that will provide environmental education programs and displays.

"It is an honor to be recognized by MRPA for the City's new Carpenter Lake Nature Preserve," commented Parks and



Recreation Director Bill Waterhouse. "Many elected city officials, staff and departments worked closely together to make the Carpenter Lake restoration and nature preserve a great success. It truly is a quiet retreat in the woods located right here in the heart of the city."

Founded in 1935, the Michigan Recreation and Park Association (MRPA) is a statewide non-profit association representing the parks and recreation industry.

## Southfield Parks & Recreation Director Bill Waterhouse wins 2010 MRPA Fellowship Award

City of Southfield Parks & Recreation (P&R) Director Bill Waterhouse was recently named as the recipient of the 2010 Michigan Recreation and Park Association (MRPA) Fellowship Award, the Association's highest honor.

Individual awards are presented to MRPA members who reflect the highest standards of the parks and recreation profession. The individual awards are the highest honors that the association awards. The Fellowship Award is presented to a member who has consistently demonstrated significant

investment, support and guidance to fellow professionals. Nominees must also be a member of MRPA, in good standing, for a minimum of 20 years to be eligible.

As Parks & Recreation Director, Mr. Waterhouse has overseen a staff of up to 44 full-time employees and almost 300 part-time/seasonal staff. He is responsible for over 150,000 square feet of facilities and 774 acres of park land and open space at 33 sites throughout the City. P&R facilities include the Southfield Sports Arena, Evergreen Hills and Beechwoods

golf courses, Beechwoods Recreation Center, Adult Recreation Center 50+, the Parks & Recreation building including the Southfield Pavilion, and the Burgh Historical Park.

Mr. Waterhouse has been an active MRPA member for 35 years in addition to serving on a number of committees in various roles. He has always showed significant support to the profession, the association, and most importantly, the residents of the City of Southfield.

# What's Happening in Southfield?

Spring | Summer 2011

- April 4 -** Yard Waste Collection begins (on your regularly scheduled trash day through November 25)  
**Spring Break Camp** (April 4-8), 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., P&R Building  
**Southfield Basketball Break Camp** (April 4-8), 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Beech Woods Recreation Center
- April 9 -** 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Southfield Shred Day, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Southfield High School parking lot
- April 16 -** Southfield 2011 Volunteer Day, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., Southfield High School Media Center  
Household Hazardous Waste Day, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., RRRASOC Center  
EGGS'travaganza, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Southfield Pavilion
- April 28 -** High School Battle of the Books, 7 p.m., Southfield Public Library
- April 29 -** SRO Productions "Doubt, a Parable" opens (runs April 29, May 1, May 6-8 & 13-15), The Burgh
- May 7 -** 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Fishing Derby, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., Rouge River (at Valley Woods Trail)  
Tennis Free for All, 10 a.m., Civic Center Tennis Courts
- May 14 -** Princess & Super Hero Party, 1 - 3 p.m., Southfield Pavilion
- May 21 -** 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Southfield Flower Day, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., City Hall front lawn  
7<sup>th</sup> Annual American Cancer Society Relay for Life, 10 a.m., Southfield High School Track
- May 24 -** Mayor's "Economic Development" Roundtable, 7 p.m., Southfield Public Library
- May 27 -** Memorial Day Ceremony, 9 a.m., City Hall
- May 30 -** Memorial Day (observed), City Offices & Library closed; *Rubbish collection delayed one day all week*
- June 2 -** Southfield Farmer's Market begins, 3-7 p.m., Corner of Greenfield & J.L. Hudson Drive (Thurs. thru Oct. 13)
- June 4 -** 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Rouge River Clean Up, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., Beech Woods Recreation Center
- June 6 -** Mayor's Walks begin (every Mon., Wed., & Fri. through July 29), 7 a.m., Inglenook Park
- June 7 -** Burgh Gazebo Concerts begin, 7 - 8:30 p.m., Burgh Historical Park (Tuesdays through August 23)
- June 9 -** Eat to the Beat Concert, 12 noon - 2 p.m., City Centre Plaza
- June 17 -** 9-Hole Steak & Ale Golf Scramble, 5 p.m., Evergreen Hills Golf Course
- June 18 -** Southfield Sports Arena Pool opens (plus free swimming lesson day), 1 - 8 p.m., Civic Center
- June 20 -** Summer Day Camps begin - Call (248) 796-4620 for more information.
- June 29 -** Family Fun & Safety Night, 5:30 - 9 p.m. (Outdoor movie begins at 9 p.m.), City Hall front lawn
- June 30 -** Family Pool Party, 5:30 - 9 p.m., Sports Arena Pool
- July 4 -** Independence Day, City Offices & Library closed; *Rubbish collection delayed one day all week*
- July 8 -** Junior/Senior Golf Appreciation Day, 9 a.m., Beech Woods Golf Course
- July 14 -** Eat to the Beat Concert, 12 noon - 2 p.m., City Centre Plaza
- July 30 -** 18-Hole Junior City Golf Championship, 9 a.m., Beech Woods Golf Course  
The Great Southfield Camp Out, 3 - 8 p.m., Beech Woods Recreation Center
- August 6 -** Southfield Open Golf Tournament, 9 a.m., Evergreen Hills Golf Course
- August 7 -** Southfield Open Golf Tournament, 9 a.m., Beech Woods Golf Course
- August 27 -** SumMore Fest, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., City Hall

Cut & Post



**SOUTHFIELD**  
Living

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Questions? Call (248) 796-5000 or visit  
[www.cityofsouthfield.com](http://www.cityofsouthfield.com)

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