

# MAYOR'S MEMO

## News of Interest to Southfield Residents from Mayor Ken Siver

### Council adopts balanced 2018-19 General Fund budget after eliminating several positions

On June 18 the City Council adopted a \$74.1 General Fund budget for the coming fiscal year. Until recently, the budget had an \$800,000 hole which was finally remedied with the elimination of a number of positions and a reduction in overtime. City Council made the cuts in order to balance the budget.

City revenues increased by 5.3 percent, attributable to rising property values and increases in Building Department inspection fees and state aid. State shared revenues will rise by \$237,000 over last year. However, state aid remains far below what it was a decade ago. Meanwhile, revenues in the building department are expected to increase by \$900,000 due to increased inspections and a rise in construction permits. At the same time, revenues from the 46<sup>th</sup> District Court have continued to decline due to fewer tickets being written.

Public safety continues to be the largest

portion of the budget, representing 61 percent or \$45 million of General Fund expenditures. Conversely, millages and reimbursements tied to public safety only generate \$31.7 million for operating the police and fire departments and dispatch services. The General Fund covers the difference.

Property taxes continue to be the chief source of city revenue. Sixty-five percent of all General Fund revenue is derived from local property taxes, with 11 percent coming from fees and reimbursements and nine percent from state aid. The remaining funds are generated by sanitation, the 46<sup>th</sup> District Court and interest.

The loss of property value following the Great Recession hit the city hard. In 2007, Southfield's taxable value was \$3.6 billion. In 2017, while inching upwards, stands at \$2.47 billion. It will not be until 2030 that taxable values will return to the level of 2007. Proposal A and the Headlee Amendment work to restrict increases in taxable values.

### Southfield Community Coalition to host Community Yard Sale Saturday, July 14

The Southfield Community Coalition will host the 2nd Annual Community Yard Sale on Saturday, July 14 from 9am to 2pm in the south parking lot of the Southfield Municipal Complex, 26000 Evergreen Road. The rain date will be July 15.

The Community Yard Sale is open to all members of the Southfield community. Residents can rent yard sale space individually or in groups for \$25 each. Vendor applications must be submitted by July 9 and can be downloaded at [www.southfieldcommunitycoalition.org](http://www.southfieldcommunitycoalition.org). The sale is open to the public with free admission and parking. For more information, contact the Southfield Community Coalition at [southfieldcmntyco@gmail.com](mailto:southfieldcmntyco@gmail.com).



## City to GFL: Get your act together!

The trash hauling service provided by Green for Life (GFL) has been less than stellar. Over and over, numerous problems have been reported regarding trash pickup, from leaving trash and/or recycling behind to skipping entire blocks to dropping cans in the road or blocking driveways. Issues with the company's service came to a head this spring with tree branch removal and chipping.

City officials met with the management of GFL to air poor service concerns. That meeting was followed with a hearing before the City Council in early June. It appears that lack of training and supervision are at the root of the company's service delivery issues. GFL management pledged to improve its performance. The situation continues to be monitored by city staff.

The normal collection of downed branches that accumulated over the winter met up with an ice storm, followed by a wind storm followed by spring yard cleanup. Neither GFL or the city had the capacity to meet the demand. The Southfield Public Works department attempted to hire outside contractors. None were immediately available. The situation has greatly improved but continues to lag.

Homeowners are reminded to follow these rules for tree debris.

1. Place branches (2" to 8" in diameter) butt end to the street.
2. Tangled messes of branches will not be picked up.
3. Piles of twigs will not be picked up as they clog the chipper. Twigs and small branches should be placed in yard waste cans or bags.
4. Tree services are to remove and dispose of tree limbs and trunks and not leave them for the trash contractor.
5. Tree root balls will not be picked up.

GFL reports two signs that the economy has improved—the volume of trash collections is up considerably and there is a shortage of truck drivers in general. GFL is hiring drivers. A good driving record and a CDL are required.

Homeowners have noted that refuse and recycling are collected at odd times on trash day. There are several reasons for this. The drivers are coming to Southfield from Sterling Heights. Traffic and road closures are factors. Drivers also may experience wait times at landfills and the recycling center.

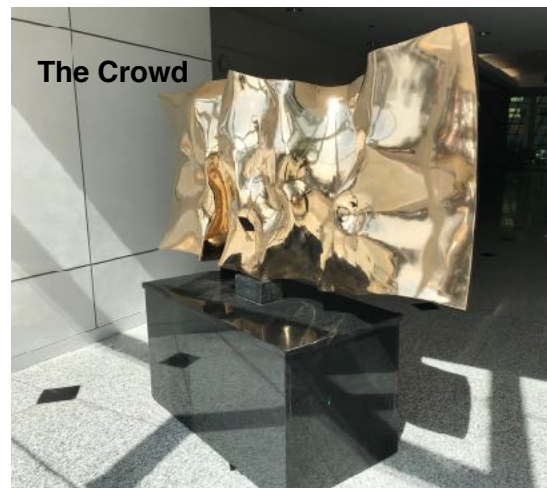
## 2 more sculptures go on display

Two more pieces from the Northland Art Collection have now been placed for the public to enjoy. *The Prophet* by Sorel Etrog is out of storage and has been placed in the south, front garden of City Hall. *The Crowd* by Gio Pomodoro has been leased to Transwestern Realty and is on display in the lobby of the 2000 Town Center Building.

*The Crowd* is a large indoor sculpture. There was no space in city facilities to accommodate it. Transwestern, which operates the Town Center complex, agreed to lease the piece with the approval of the Public Art Commission and the Southfield City Council.

On the horizon are the restoration and placement of the *Peacock* by Walter Kraft, that once graced the Peacock Court at Northland, and *Moby Dick* by Joseph Anthony McDonnell.

The 18-piece Northland Art Collection was secured through a loan following the closure of the mall in April 2015. The loan was repaid through private donations



and funds are still being raised to restore and place other pieces from this historic Mid-Twentieth Century collection. For further information on the collection or to make a tax-deductible donation, contact the Mayor's Office. Checks payable to the non-profit Friends of Southfield Public Arts.



## Annual Southfield Garden Walk slated for June 24, 2-5pm

The Southfield Parks and Garden Club (SP&GC) will sponsor the 12th annual Southfield Garden Walk on Sunday, June 24 from 2-5pm, showcasing ten of the finest gardens in the Ravines neighborhood located near 9 Mile and Inkster Road.

Check-in will be at 22500 Lake Ravines Drive in the Ravines neighborhood. A tour shuttle bus will make continuous loops at each garden stop including transportation to and from the check-in area. Tickets are \$10 per person and may be purchased in advance from Garden Club members, at the Mayor's Office or on the day of the walk.

The Southfield Parks and Garden Club is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that works to keep Southfield beautiful. A grass-roots, city-wide organization, members assist with various curb appeal initiatives to beautify yards, neighborhoods, parks and other public spaces throughout Southfield.

The club also operates Emmanuel Community Farm that grows and harvests fresh, organic produce that is donated to Forgotten Harvest. Proceeds from the garden walk support the club's charitable outreach.

For tickets or more information, call Garden Walk Co-Chairs Mayor Ken Siver at (248) 796-5100 or Gloria Hardy at (248) 354-4120, e-mail [hardygbHOSTA@comcast.net](mailto:hardygbHOSTA@comcast.net).

## Nominate green thumbs for Community Pride Award

Nominations are open for the annual Southfield Community Pride Awards program sponsored by the City of Southfield and the Southfield Parks & Garden Club. Residents are encouraged to nominate individual homeowners, condo and apartment complexes, churches, schools and/or businesses that have done a great job in maintaining their yards or grounds.

Nominations are being accepted until 5pm on Friday, June 29. Winners in the various categories will be announced in September and honored at a ceremony at City Hall.

Nomination forms are available in the lobby of City Hall or may be downloaded on the city website. Click on "City Departments" and then click on "Community Relations." The nomination form can be mailed to Community Relations Department, City of Southfield, 26000 Evergreen Road, Southfield 48076 or emailed to [lcarr@cityofsouthfield.com](mailto:lcarr@cityofsouthfield.com).





## City hosts variety of summer events, concerts

Commemoration of the City of Southfield's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary continues all summer long with a series of events and concerts. Residents are encouraged to turn out to join the fun!

June 24	<b>Southfield Garden Walk</b> ; 2-5pm, Ravines Neighborhood
June 27	<b>Family Fun &amp; Safety Night</b> ; 5-9pm, Civic Center Front Lawn
June 28	<b>Badges &amp; Books</b> ; 4-6pm, Southfield PD in Greenfield Kroger parking lot
July 10	<b>Gazebo Concert Series begins</b> ; 7-8:30pm, Burgh Historic Park on Tuesdays
July 12	<b>Eat to the Beat Concert &amp; Food Truck Rally</b> ; 11:30am-2pm, City Centre Plaza
July 14	<b>Community Coalition Yard Sale</b> ; 9am-2pm, Civic Center south parking lot
July 16	<b>Park It at the Burgh</b> ; 6-10pm; concert & movie, Burgh Historic Park
July 21	<b>Rhythm &amp; Rhymes Concert</b> ; 4-9pm, Civic Center front lawn
July 26	<b>Badges &amp; Books</b> ; 4-6pm, Southfield PD in Greenfield Kroger parking lot
August 5	<b>Summer VegFest 2018</b> ; 11am-5pm, Civic Center front lawn
August 7	<b>Primary Election</b> for County, State and Federal offices, 7am-8pm
August 9	<b>Eat to the Beat Concert &amp; Food Truck Rally</b> ; 11:30am-2pm, City Centre Plaza
August 10	<b>Kimmie Horne Jazz Festival</b> ; 6-10:30pm, Civic Center front lawn
August 11	<b>Kimmie Horne Jazz Festival</b> ; 4-10:30pm, Civic Center front lawn
August 16	<b>Motown Memories with Motor City Playback</b> ; 7-9pm, Civic Center front lawn
August 22	<b>Senior Appreciation Night</b> ; 5:30pm, Burgh Historic Park
August 30	<b>Badges &amp; Books</b> ; 4-6pm, Southfield PD in Greenfield Kroger parking lot

### Volunteers sought to work Kimmie Horne Jazz Festival

The Kimmie Horne Jazz Festival will be coming to the front lawn of the Southfield Civic Center on Friday and Saturday, August 10 and 11. The two-day event will feature the dynamic Ms. Horne, niece of the late great Lena Horne, and eight other performers.

There is no charge to attend the festival, however VIP parking on Civic Center grounds will cost \$10. The parking fee will help to defray the cost of the festival and also serves as a fundraiser for the Friends of Southfield Public Arts.

Friends of Southfield Public Arts is a non-profit organization that is funding purchase, restoration and placement of public art in the city.

Volunteers are needed to help with the festival. If you are interested in serving as a concert volunteer please contact the Mayor's Office (248.796-5100) to sign on. Volunteers will receive a parking pass, refreshments and a T-shirt for assisting at the event.



***Kimmie Horne performing with her brother at the 2017 Kimmie Horne Festival***

## Know your candidates in the August 7<sup>th</sup> Primary Election

Southfield City Clerk Sherikia Hawkins has mailed absentee voter request forms for those wanting to vote absentee in the August Primary Election. Anyone wishing an absentee ballot must apply to receive one. Contact the City Clerk's Office if you have not received an application. Phone: 248.796.5150 or download online at [cityofsouthfield.com/City Clerk/Election Information/Absent Voter Application](http://cityofsouthfield.com/City Clerk/Election Information/Absent Voter Application).

### ***Be prepared to vote for one candidate in each office***

R - Republican D – Democrat L - Libertarian

#### **Governor**

Brian Calley (R)  
Patrick Colbeck (R)  
Jim Hines (R)  
Bill Schuette (R)  
Gretchen Whitmer (D)  
Abdul El-Sayed (D)  
Shri Thanedar (D)  
Bill Gelineau (L)  
John J. Tatar (L)

#### **US Senator**

John James (R)  
Sandy Pensler (R)  
Debbie Stabenow (D)

#### **US House of Representatives**

Marc C. Herschfus (R)  
Brenda L. Lawrence (D)

#### **State Senator – 11<sup>th</sup> District**

Boris Tuman (R)  
Crystal Bailey (D)  
Jeremy Moss (D)  
Vanessa Moss (D)  
James Turner (D)  
James Young (L)

#### **State Representative - 35<sup>th</sup> District**

Theodore Alfonsetti III (R)  
Kyra Harris Bolden (D)  
Lisa Cece (D)  
Vincent Gregory (D)  
Alex Meyers (D)  
Michael Poole (D)  
Katie Reiter (D)

#### **County Commissioner – 17<sup>th</sup> District**

Jeremy Minkin (R)  
Yolanda Smith Charles (D)  
Nancy Quarles (D)

#### **County Commissioner – 21<sup>st</sup> District**

Janet Jackson (D)  
Richard Van Camo (R)

***REMINDER: Southfield Photo Prize Finalists now on display at City Hall***

#### **MAYOR'S MEMO**

The Mayor's Memo is an occasional newsletter produced by Mayor Ken Siver and not done at city expense. The Memo provides city news & updates to residents. To subscribe, send an email to [srosenburgh@cityofsouthfield.com](mailto:srosenburgh@cityofsouthfield.com). Feel free to pass this newsletter on to others.



***Come  
Celebrate  
With Us!***