

Celebrating Women's History Month & Southfield's Growing Business Community

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Women's History Month is celebrated each March to honor women's contributions throughout American history. We are proud to recognize the impact of women entrepreneurs and the organizations that support their leadership and success.

National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO)



NAWBO supports women business owners through networking, education, and public policy advocacy. Their programming connects entrepreneurs with peer support and leadership development opportunities while amplifying the voice of women in business.

Learn more: nawbo.org

MWF



MWF (Michigan Women Forward) provides access to capital, mentoring, and financial education for women and minority entrepreneurs. Through microloans, training programs, and one-on-one support, the organization helps small businesses launch, stabilize, and grow.



Learn more: miwf.org

Business Resources at the Southfield Public Library

The Southfield Public Library's Small Business Start-Up Center is your one-stop hub for planning, launching, managing, and financing a business.

On the library's 3rd level, you'll find:

- A curated small business book collection
- Dedicated collaboration space for meeting with partners
- Access to powerful online research tools

Small Business Source: Available remotely through the Michigan eLibrary.

Get step-by-step guidance for starting and growing your business, including:

- Business plan development
- Start-up forms and Michigan-specific requirements
- Marketing strategies
- Bookkeeping basics
- Professional presentations and expert insights

Reference Solutions: Access at the library or remotely with a Southfield Library Card.

Research millions of current businesses with:

- Company data
- Sales revenue and employee information
- Advanced searches by geography, industry, and financial metrics
- A new business database to track areas of economic growth

Gale Courses: Free for Southfield and Lathrup Village residents with a library card.

Choose from nearly 300 instructor-led, six-week online courses, including:

- Business communication
- Marketing
- Software skills
- Project management
- Nonprofit management



Explore these resources and more to take your business to the next level!
www.southfieldlibrary.org

Michigan's First Panda Express "Home" Opens in Southfield



Southfield marked a major milestone on February 17, 2026, celebrating the grand opening and ribbon cutting of Michigan's first Panda Express "Home" concept, located at 29185 Telegraph Rd and held during Lunar New Year — a fitting symbol of growth, renewal, and prosperity.

The redesigned prototype blends contemporary architecture with cultural elements inspired by Chinese heritage, creating a warmer, more elevated dining experience.

By selecting Southfield as the first Michigan location for this next-generation concept, Panda Express reinforces the City's strength as a prime destination for national brands investing in innovation, customer experience, and long-term growth.



Councilman Daniel Brightwell and Councilwoman Yolanda Haynes join Semir Ponjevic of Panda Restaurant Group and staff at the 2/17 event



Southfield Business Recognition Program

On February 9, 2026, the City of Southfield launched its first Business Recognition at the regular City Council meeting, inviting businesses that partnered with the City for ribbon cuttings and grand openings between August 2025 and January 2026. Each business received a Certificate of Appreciation and was formally introduced to City Council.

Moving forward, businesses that partner with the City to coordinate ribbon cuttings or grand opening events will be invited on a quarterly basis as part of this ongoing recognition initiative.



Upcoming Business Events & Opportunities

march 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

3/4: 23rd Annual East-West Business Connection (APACC).

3/12: Chaldean Chamber Industry Outlook (Chaldean American Chamber of Commerce).

3/18: Exporting: Using Agents and Distributors Webinar (Michigan SBDC).

3/19: Local Government Policy and Practice Webinar Series: Data Centers and Michigan's Electric Utilities (MSU Institute for Public Utilities).

3/24: Entrepreneur Expo and Pitch Contest (National Entrepreneurs Association) and NEW Speed Networking Event

Southfield Legacy Businesses: We Want to Hear From You

Has your business been located in Southfield for 40 years or more?

We also recognize that many businesses have helped shape Southfield for decades. The City is exploring the development of a **Southfield Legacy Business Recognition Program** to honor businesses that have been located in Southfield for 40 years or more. Legacy businesses would be formally recognized at a future City Council meeting.

If your business meets this milestone, we would love to connect with you.

✉ Email the Business & Economic Development team at smulally@cityofsouthfield.com to express your interest.

Let's celebrate both the businesses that are growing today and the businesses that built Southfield's foundation!



Local Innovation Spotlight: Nexora Analytics

From Restaurant Operator to Tech Platform Founder

Are you a restaurant franchise looking to scale smarter, improve operations, or strengthen your growth strategy?

Southfield entrepreneur Harish Upputuri, co-owner of Savvy Sliders at 26336 Northwestern Highway, has launched **Nexora Analytics**— a technology-driven platform designed to help restaurant franchises streamline operations, implement scalable systems, and plan for sustainable expansion.

Drawing from hands-on industry experience, Nexora Advisory transforms practical restaurant knowledge into strategic tools that support long-term franchise growth.

This is another example of how Southfield business leaders are leveraging local success to build innovative solutions that reach beyond brick-and-mortar.

🔗 [Learn more: nexoraadvisory.com](https://nexoraadvisory.com)

