

MAYOR'S MEMO

News of Interest to Southfield Residents from Mayor Ken Siver



Cost per Ticket
\$75

Southfield
the center of it all™

Fantoni

Tickets available at Mayor's Office,
via Paypal or Zelle:
SFLDPublicArts@gmail.com

For information call:
(248) 796-5100

ART & VINTAGE

Fashion Show

May 16th, 2025
7-9 PM

Skyline Club 28th Floor
2000 Town Center
Southfield, Michigan

HONORARY HOST
Selma Blair
actress

Vintage Fashion Show returns to Skyline Club by popular demand

Actress and activist Selma Blair returns to her Southfield roots to serve as the honorary host of the this year's benefit Vintage Fashion Show.

Proceeds support public art projects in the city.

Vendors, art, wine & cheese, and a DJ will be on hand as members of the Southfield A&T Dance Team model classic clothes from the mid-20th century.

Tickets are \$75 or \$150 for a meeting with Ms. Blair. Clothing is on loan from Fantoni Vintage Clothing of Berkley, MI.



View of the Middlepointe development looking west from Evergreen Road.

Major commercial project receives \$131.8 million state support from Michigan Transformational Brownfield Plan

The development by Middlepointe Investment Group planned for the 8.15 vacant acres at the corner of Civic Center Drive and Evergreen Road just received a major boost with a \$132 million state grant. The project will include three multi-story, mixed use buildings, plus a parking deck with ground floor retail.

The five-story buildings will include 577 residential units with a mix of market rate, affordable, and workforce housing. Additionally, 42,000 square feet of commercial and retail space and two pocket parks and a pedestrian greenway linking the site to the Southfield Civic Center is planned.

The property formerly had three, two-and-a half story office buildings built in the 1960s. The buildings were torn down in 2009. Middlepointe purchased the property four or five years ago.

Brownfield plans are under the authority of the Michigan Strategic Fund Board, an entity that promotes economic development. The fund assists communities in the remediation and redevelopment of obsolete

and blighted properties. The former office buildings were not energy efficient, had dated interiors, and issues with mold.

At this time no date for the start of construction has been announced. However, the site is in need of soil removal as well as removal of debris left underground from the earlier demolition. Other site preparations are needed prior to construction, as well.

“This is more than a redevelopment project—it’s a rebirth,” Mayor Ken Siver said. “The Middlepointe project will bring much-needed residential density, economic development, and walkability to our City Centre. It is a transformative investment in our future and a shining example of how a public-private partnership can reshape communities in profound ways.”

Retail and restaurants on Evergreen Road will benefit from increased population in the area. Furthermore, the density of this project will provide the Southfield City Centre with more of a downtown feel.

Patronicity Crowd Funding halfway to goal of \$50,000

Support needed for economic development lighting project

As of this writing, with 17 days remain- ing, donations to the **Let There Be Light Gateway** project stand at \$29,510. Through its Patronicity pro- gram, the Michigan Economic Development Corp. will match

\$50,000 if \$50,000 in local donations are reached by May 22. This inter- section improvement project will add decorative, multi-colored lighting to underside of the bridge that spans Eight Mile Road and Greenfield.

The project is intended to capitalize on the millions of dollars that has been invested in the area over the past several years. The renewal of the former Detroit West Armory site in Oak Park and the former North- land Center, as well as strip centers on Greenfield Road, have ignited a rebirth. More needs to be done in the area. Changing the look of the intersection will attract further rede- velopment.

This project is spear-headed by the Eight Mile Boulevard Association in conjunction with the cities of South- field, Detroit, and Oak Park.

The Eight Mile Bridge over Green- field and the Lodge Freeway has a rather industrial look. Currently, there is no lighting under the bridge. At their shared border, the three cities want to give the gateway a more welcoming and appealing look.

The Eight Mile Boulevard Association was formed in 1993 by the commu- nities that border this major Detroit area thoroughfare, The association has a record of improvement projects on the north and south sides of the road, as well as in the median.

TO DONATE GO TO:
Patronicity.com/projects
Scroll down to:
Let There Be Light Gateway.
View Video, click on donations
Thank You!



Join us in giving the intersection of **Eight Mile & Greenfield** roads a new look. We are adding an artistic touch to the overpass with multi-colored lighting to take the bridge from drab to bright. **Let there be light!**

The **Eight Mile Boulevard Association** and the cities of **Detroit, Oak Park,** and **Southfield** have launched a crowdfunding campaign in cooperation with the **Patronicity Program** of the **Michigan Economic Development Corporation.**

Running from **March 24th to May 22nd**, we have sixty days to raise **\$50,000**. When we reach **\$50,000**, **Patronicity** will match it with and additional **\$50,000**.

DONATION LEVELS		DONOR APPRECIATION
\$25	Spark	8 Mile Boulevard Bookmark
\$50	Flashlight	8 Mile Boulevard Bookmark
\$100	Incandescence	8 Mile Boulevard Pin
\$250	Fluorescent	8 Mile Boulevard T-Shirt
\$500	Halogen	8 Mile Boulevard T-Shirt & Pin
\$1,000	LED Leader	One free ticket to the Fall 2025 luncheon
\$2,500	Civic Torchlighter	Two free tickets to the Fall 2025 luncheon & name on donor plaque
\$5,000 - \$10,000	Civic Beacon	Two free tickets to the Fall 2025 luncheon & name on donor plaque & 8MBA website

TO MAKE YOUR DONATION:

Go to patronicity.com/lettherebelightgateway or eightmile.org & click project link.



[Southfield's 1st dog park to open this summer](#)

Park improvements underway at several locations

Southfield Parks & Recreation has numerous improvement projects underway that will be completed soon or in the months ahead. These improvements are contained in the Parks & Recreation Master plan of 2022-2026.

Evergreen Hills Golf Course continues to undergo various upgrades. This year the bridges and cart paths are being replaced. Construction has delayed the spring opening of the golf course, but work is expected to conclude shortly.

A severe storm destroyed the **fishing dock at Carpenter Lake** last year when a tree crashed onto it. The new dock will be slightly larger and will have improved handicap accessibility and safety features.

Southfield residents love their dogs. Southfielders have long requested a dog park for their pooches to roam. Southfield's first dog park is under construction at **Lahser Woods Park**. Lahser Woods has been an underutilized and passive park since its inception. With the addition of the small and large dog runs and enlarged parking lot, the 16-acre park will still have considerable open space. Last summer, the walking paths at Lahser Woods were replaced. Path lighting will be installed later this year.

Residents wishing to use the Lahser Woods Dog Park will have to pay a fee and their dogs will have to be vaccinated and licensed. Entrance to the dog runs will require a membership fob. More information on using the dog park will be forthcoming.

Oakland County property owners pay slightly over a half mil annually for county parks. For years, most of this assessment went to the large metro parks in northern Oakland County. Under the leadership of County Executive David Coulter, funds have shifted to south Oakland County for park improvements and facility expansions. Locally, that includes funding for improvements at Catalpa Park and a major redesign of Beech Woods Park.

Oakland County Parks & Rec is funding a new children's playscape, an additional picnic shelter, walking paths, year-round lavatories, a second entrance to **Beech Woods Park**, and expanded parking.

And finally, for seniors, a corner of the Southfield Pavilion will be carved out for senior adult activities.

Southfield Mayor's Memo



Dog Park at Lahser Woods Park should be completed in mid-summer. Stakes show where fencing will be erected. In the distance an expanded parking lot is under construction.



A new playscape, parking, and picnic shelter are under construction at Beech Woods Park with funding from the Oakland County Parks & Recreation Board.

Right: Cart paths receive new pavement.

A lounge, café, and game space are planned, along with comfortable furniture. This project is partly grant funded.



Southfield City Council appoints new fire chief, deputy fire chief

Following the retirement of Fire Chief Johnny Meneff in March, the City Council approved the appointment of Joey Thorington to lead the Southfield Fire Department. Additionally, the Council approved the appointment of Mark Jackson as deputy fire chief. Deputy Fire Chief Antonio Macias continues his duties in that capacity.

Fire Chief Thorington comes to Southfield from South Lyon where he has served as fire chief for the past three years. Prior to that Thorington was with the City of Dearborn's fire department for 27.5 years. He rose through the ranks there to become deputy chief.

Prior to Dearborn he was with the Norton Shores and White Cloud fire departments and was a paramedic in Muskegon.

Thorington holds a master's degree from Eastern Michigan University and a bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University. In addition, he has command certification from EMU, Executive Fire Officer certification from the National Fire Academy, and numerous certifications including advanced paramedic, trauma, and pediatric life support.

Deputy Chief Jackson comes to Southfield from the city of Detroit's fire department. Since his start with that department in 1999, Jackson rose through the ranks where he reached the rank of lieutenant. Jackson's appointment fills a second deputy position in the Southfield Fire Department. He holds bachelor and master's degrees from Cleary University and All-Hazards Incident Management Training from the US Fire Administration.

His Detroit experience also includes liaison to Homeland Security, emergency management response, hazardous materials technician, city-wide evacuation planning, and severe weather response planning.



City Council members look on as new Fire Chief Joey Thorington (left) and Deputy Fire Chief Mark Jackson (right) are sworn in on April 28th.

Mayor Kenson Siver to deliver annual State of the City address on June 5th and 12th

Mayor Kenson Siver will deliver his annual State of the City address twice in June. The first presentation from 2-5pm on Thursday, June 5th is a ticketed event at Lear Corporation Headquarters at 21557 Telegraph Road, Southfield. Cost is \$50. Advanced registration is required. No walk-ins will be permitted due to corporate security requirements.

Purchase tickets online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2025-city-of-southfield-state-of-the-city-address-tickets-1321802509889>.

Mayor Siver's presentation, "Measuring Southfield's Successes," will focus on economic development, housing and infrastructure, public safety, redevelopment, community placemaking, and public art. The address will also include Mayor Siver's overview of the past year as well as his vision for the coming year and beyond. Immediately following the Mayor's presentation, enjoy a lively networking reception featuring a light buffet of appetizers and hors d'oeuvres.

The State of the City address will be repeated on Thursday, June 12th at 7pm in City Council Chambers. This event is free and open to the public.

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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 bastrop@cityof-southfield.com. Feel free to pass this newsletter on to others.