

MAYOR'S MEMO

News of Interest to Southfield Residents from Mayor Ken Siver

DTE pledges to improve service delivery in Southfield

Mayor holds 4 meetings with DTE officials to address power outages

Granted, Southeastern Michigan was hit hard with a series of severe storms over the summer and into the fall that caused a disruption in electrical power delivery.

In particular, the mid-August storm which saw many mature trees uprooted or snapped in half created a massive power outage in the city. Frustrating residents and business owners alike was the slow response to restore service.

But the loss of power also hit residents on sunny days with little or no wind. The reason for non-storm-related outages was due to old, failing equipment.

Last spring DTE undertook tree trimming in the city, principally in areas below Ten Mile Road. However, Mayor Siver contends that DTE tree trimming standards are lacking. Typically, trees are trimmed on either side and just below the power lines. The mayor has pushed the utility to go wider and lower, particularly if tree trimming is only undertaken every six or seven years.

Further the Mayor suggests removing at ground level fast growing "weed" trees (i.e. mulberry, Chinese elms, etc.) that can grow six to ten feet a year.



Mayor Ken Siver outlines the issues Southfield residents have had with electrical service delivery this year with DTE CEO Jerry Norcia (second from right) during a 90-minute neighborhood walk. City Administrator Fred Zorn (left) joined the conversation along with DTE tree trimming supervisor.

Another problem for residents is clearance of limbs on service lines that connect their home to the power grid. DTE has said it does not trim trees on private property/trees not in the right-of-way.

Private tree trimming contractors are reluctant or refuse to trim trees with power lines running through them. This places homeowners in a "catch-22" situation. With a waiver granted by property owners, DTE will clear service lines.

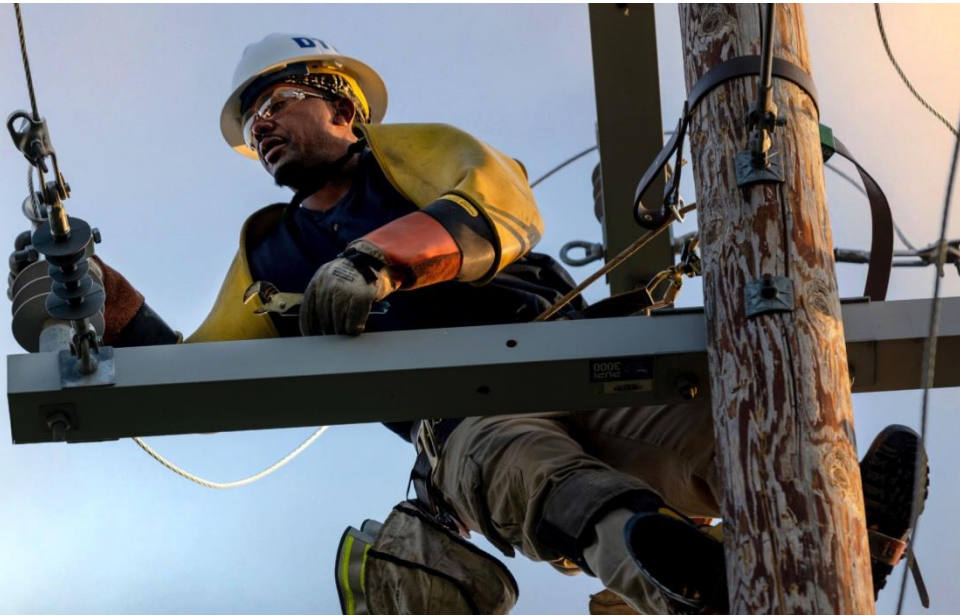
The meetings the DTE officials have proved to be fruitful. Mayor Siver has received commitments

from DTE to greatly increase tree trimming in the city and to make a significant investment in equipment replacement.

Overall, DTE has increased its tree trimming budget by \$70 million for Metro Detroit, will hire 200 additional line persons and is holding classes to train people interested in working as a tree trimmer.

The pledges to improve service and reduce loss of power Mayor Siver has received from DTE are outlined in the pages that follow. The mayor will continue to monitor the utility's progress.

Working to Improve Reliability in Southfield

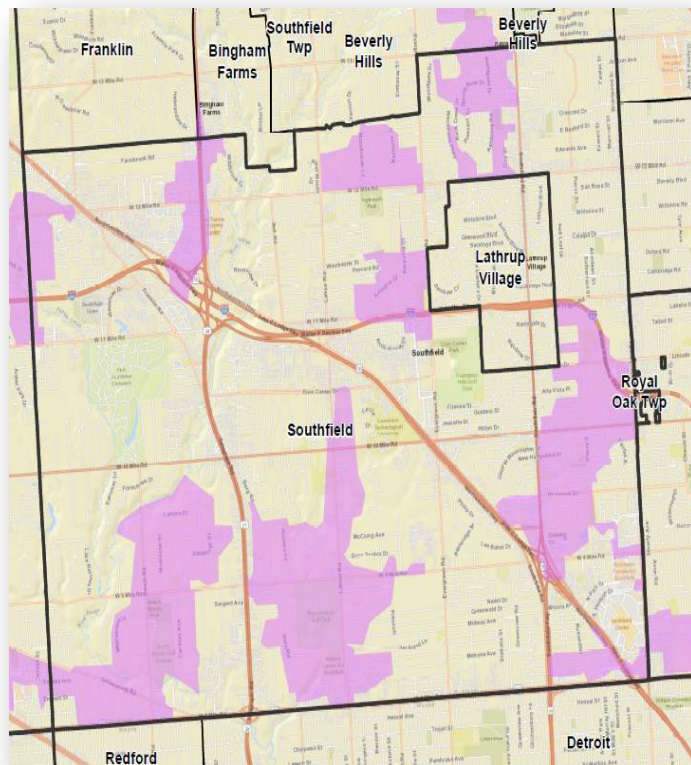


We are committed to improving electric reliability and have accelerated infrastructure work across Southeast Michigan, including in Southfield.

Southfield communities have experienced outages due mainly to tree-related damage or interference caused by the back-to-back storms that hit Michigan this summer. DTE is focusing improvement efforts on the hardest-hit areas.

30 of the 72 electrical circuits in Southfield are being addressed in 2021.

Pink areas in the map show the areas served by circuits we are currently improving. (A circuit consists of equipment that delivers electricity to customers in a designated area.)



Working to Improve Reliability in Southfield

Update: Nov. 5, 2021



Tree Trim Progress

- DTE has completed evaluation of all trees in the planned 2021 trimming areas of Southfield.
- 40% of trimming has been completed, which equates to 12,800 trees trimmed. Remaining work will be complete by the end of the year.
- On average, DTE customers have seen reliability improve by 67% in areas where enhanced tree-trimming has been complete.



System Improvements

- We are upgrading eight electrical circuits serving nearly 10,000 customers.
 - 50% have been completed; 100% will be complete by year end.
 - Improvements include: new poles and crossarms, sectionalizing to reduce size and impact in the event of an outage, replacing defective/old equipment, installing animal guards.
- We are also upgrading substation equipment serving much of Southfield. Nearly 17,000 customers will see greater reliability from this work.



In the Community

- We held a Southfield Open House on 10/28/21 at Civic Center Park to share our accelerated work in progress.
- DTE met with the superintendent for Southfield schools to discuss partnership and communication plans moving forward.
 - Reviewed reliability at various schools in the district.
 - Discussed opportunities for community members to join skilled trades with DTE or our partners.

DTE

Working to Improve Reliability in Southfield




We are connecting with our customers through social media



- We leverage several of our social media channels including Facebook and NextDoor to inform customers in Southfield about the work happening and planned in their neighborhoods.
- In addition, we also have a Community page on empoweringmichigan.com which is updated as new information becomes available for the community.

DTE Energy
Communications Associate Jack Reynolds • 1 min ago



This past week, a DTE crew replaced a utility pole and had to restring some power lines after a semi-truck got caught on some lines while driving through Southfield. First, the crew de-energized the downed lines to make the area safe for the public and then began working on repairs to restore power to the nearby residents. Thankfully, no one was hurt during the accident or repairs.

For more information on reliability work happening in Southfield, visit our Southfield community page: <https://empoweringmichigan.com/working-to-improve-reliability-in-southfield/>

Reliability work happening in Southfield - Empowering Michig...
empoweringmichigan.com

DTE Energy
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Attention Southfield customers
See how we're working to improve reliability in your area, including timelines and project benefits for your community.



Get updates about work happening in your community

Mayor confirms commitment to affordable housing

Mayor Siver, in partnership with Habitat for Humanity Oakland County, the Southfield Non-Profit Housing Corporation and the Southfield Growth Corporation, will continue to build affordable housing in the city.

This partnership saw the construction of six new homes on vacant lots in existing neighborhoods this year. Additional new homes are expected to be constructed in 2022.



Friends and family members of a Habitat client gather with Mayor Siver and staff of Habitat for Humanity Oakland County (right) at the key transfer ceremony upon the completion and sale of this new home.



13 homeowners served by 'Rock the Block' this fall
The partnership initiated by Mayor Ken Siver with Habitat for Humanity Oakland County returned for the 7th time this fall to assist homeowners with home and yard repairs. Over 100 Southfield residents have been helped through this volunteer program.

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

Mayor's BIG RAKE enters 6th season

The annual BIG RAKE for senior and handicapped homeowners continues this year. Upcoming dates are November 20 and December 4.

Senior residents may still sign up for the program but are cautioned that weather and the number of available volunteers may limit yards raked.

Anyone interested in volunteering to rake yards or sign up should contact the Mayor's Office, (248) 796-5100 or (248) 796-5103.



A team of Lawrence Tech students, giving the Blue Devil salute, pose in front of a yard that they cleared of leaves on Nov. 13th as part of the 2021 BIG RAKE.