

MAYOR'S MEMO

News of Interest to Southfield Residents from Mayor Ken Siver

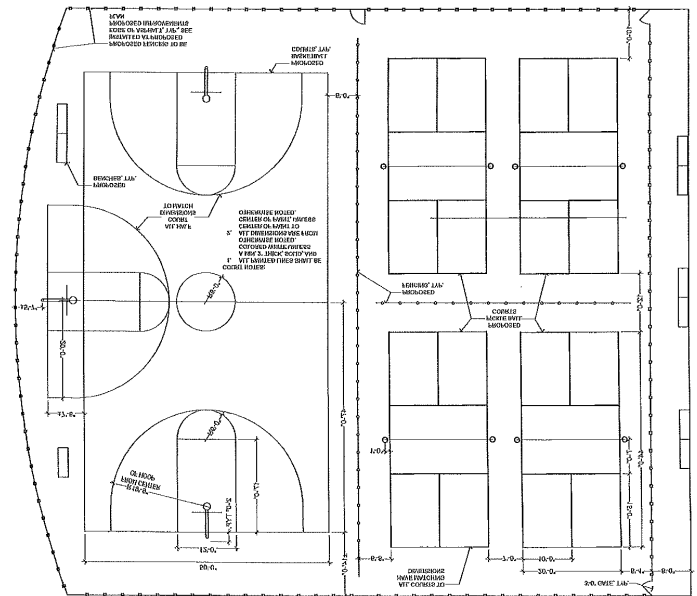
Major improvements coming to 5 city parks this year

Upon the recommendation of the Parks & Recreation Commission, the City Council has approved improvements to five city parks.

Miller Park (Webster between Southfield Road and Rambling Road) will see the installation of pickleball/basketball courts and an asphalt paved walking trail around the existing ball fields. These improvements will cost \$524,280.

Simms Park (Wiltshire between Glasgow and Pierce streets) will see the installation of pickleball/basketball courts and an asphalt paved walking trail around the perimeter of the park. These improvements will cost \$546,724.

Playground equipment will be replaced at Bedford Woods Park (Between Lathrup & Webster streets north of Edwards); Freeway Park (over I-696 at Greenfield and Lincoln roads); and Civic Center Park (behind the ice arena). The contract for the new playground equipment was awarded to Penchura, LLC



Rendering of pickleball/basketball courts for Miller and Simms parks.

of Brighton in the amount of \$787,500. The existing playground equipment is approximately 25 years old.

Mayor Siver to present Southfield 2022 State of the City address

Mayor Kenson Siver will present his annual Southfield State of the City address on March 23 and 31. The address will feature updates on housing, business developments, Northland redevelopment and public art and placemaking.

The March 23rd presentation will be a ticketed luncheon sponsored by the Southfield Chamber of Commerce. This event will take place at the Regency Manor Banquet Center (25228 W. 12 Mile Road, Southfield) beginning at 10:30am with business networking. Tickets are \$100 for Southfield Chamber members and \$150 for non-members.

The luncheon will also include a panel discussion with Mayor Siver and City Planner Terry Croad, Public Arts Commission Chair Delores Flagg and Chief Operat-

ing Officer of Contour Companies David Dedvukaj. Other speakers will be Lathrup Village Mayor Kelly Garrett, Marelli North America Senior Vice President Gene Spektor, Providence Hospital President & CEO Roland Cruickshank and Lawrence Technological University President Dr. Tarek Sobh.

On March 31 Mayor Siver will repeat the 2022 State of the City Address at 7pm in City Council Chambers (26000 Evergreen Road). This presentation is non-ticketed, free and open to the public.

The 2022 Southfield State of the City address will also be broadcast on City Cable 15 for Comcast subscribers and over AT&T Uverse. Dates and times of the rebroadcast have yet to be announced.

Financial aid available for residents in tax, utility arrears from the Michigan Homeowner Assistance Fund

Homeowners who are delinquent on their property taxes and have had difficulty paying homeowner association dues, house insurance, broadband services and utility bills may apply to the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) for assistance.

The state has allocated \$242.8 million to aid homeowners who have experienced financial setbacks directly related to the COVID pandemic. The eligibility for these funds is not strictly tied to lower income persons and only covers arrears from January 21, 2020 to the present.

Homeowners with household incomes less than 150% of Area Medium Income may apply. Grants of up to \$25,000 may be awarded per household. Funds will be paid directly to the county treasurer for taxes, utility companies for water, gas and electric bills and to other entities. No monies will go to applicants.

Governor Gretchen Whitmer has designated the Michigan State Housing Development Authority as the operating agency to set up the Michigan Homeowner Assistance Fund (MIHAF) program. To apply, go online to the MSHDA website.

Who Is Eligible?

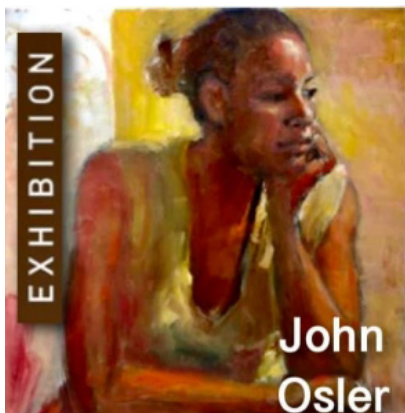
- Homeowners with household incomes less than 150% of Area Median Income (AMI)
- Homeowners who own and occupy the property as their primary residence
- Homeowners must have and explain a financial hardship directly related to COVID-19 on or after January 21, 2020

Up to \$25,000 Grant Per Household for:

- Delinquent mortgage/housing expenses, including property tax and insurance escrow shortages
- Delinquent land contract payments, mobile home consumer loan payments or mobile home park lot payments
- Delinquent property taxes
- Delinquent condominium/homeowners' association fees
- Delinquent homeowners insurance,
- Delinquent utilities, gas, electric, water, sewer
- Delinquent Internet broadband services

Program questions please call Customer Service 844-756-4423 or email MSHDA-HO-HAF-Program@michigan.gov

Selected works of John Osler on display at City Hall



The Southfield Public Arts Commission has launched an exhibit of the artwork of local artist John Osler. Twenty-seven of Osler's evocative works are on display in the main lobby of City Hall through July.

The exhibition kicked off with a special artist reception to celebrate Black History Month on February 25. The lobby is open Monday – Friday from 8am to 5pm. The original artwork is also offered for sale to the public.

Osler worked as a national advertising photographer for 30 years prior to his return to painting. He has the rare ability to capture the spirit of his subjects and is fascinated by the rich experiences he learns from their shared stories, conversations and laughter.

Osler's works are featured in collections throughout the country, as well as in Europe and New Zealand. He has won gold medals in the distinguished Scarab Club shows and spends his time painting in Detroit, France, and New Orleans. View Osler's paintings, photography and portraits at JohnOsler.com.

For more information, contact the Mayor's Office at (248) 796-5100 or John Osler at (313) 886-4728.

Northland redevelopment making steady progress



This is the Phase I model of Northland City Center. Ground has been broken for the first two buildings on Greenfield (lower right side). The former Hudson store is in the top center.



The remains of the former JC Penney's department store are shown above. Contour Companies is recycling steel, aluminum, concrete and asphalt at the site.

If you have driven along Greenfield Road below Nine Mile it is clearly evident that a great deal of progress has been made on the redevelopment of the former Northland Center property.

Contour Companies acquired the property last July. Since then, the former mini-police station, the auto service center and the JC Penney's department store have been demolished. Additionally, the interior of the center has been gutted. The original 1954 portions of the mall (including the basement) and the JL Hudson's store will remain and re-purposed for housing, retail, entertainment and commercial uses.

As this edition of Mayor's Memo goes to press, the foundations of two, five-story buildings facing Greenfield Road are being poured. These buildings will contain first floor retail with apartments above and resident amenities.

Additionally, Contour has acquired the former Vibe Credit Union building on the corner of Northwestern Service Drive and Northland Drive. This building will be demolished to make way for a business Costco. Emagine Theater has also signed on to become part of the new Northland City Center.

The former JL Hudson Store will become Hudson City Market with food, dining, entertainment, home furnishings and retail on the lower floors and a boutique hotel and loft penthouses on the upper floors.

Leasing of apartments is expected to begin next fall. Meanwhile, leases are now being accepted for neighborhood retail. Contact Friedman Real Estate for information. friedmanrealestate.com



Rendering of a Deer Brook condominium

Construction begins on Deer Brook condos

After a long delay, construction has begun on the 39-unit Deer Brook condominium development at Lahser Road and Duns Scotus.

Many of the units will have first floor master bedrooms. All will have two-car garages.

There is a demand for new condominiums in the city by residents who want to downsize from a single-family home, yet remain in Southfield. Sales information is not yet available.

Entries sought for 6th Annual Southfield Photo Prize

Get out your cameras and start clicking!

The City of Southfield is sponsoring the 6th Annual Southfield Photo Prize this summer to showcase the natural and architectural beauty throughout the city while also creating an outdoor public art exhibition.

The city is currently seeking qualified entries for the competition which will run from June through August. Submissions will be initially reviewed by the Total Living Commission that will select the top 25 entries that will be displayed and eligible for public voting. Photo finalists will then be enlarged and displayed outside on city hall and the parks & recreation building for public viewing and voting. The community will be encouraged to visit all of the entries and to vote online for their favorite installation.

Finalists will be posted on the City's website (www.cityofsouthfield.com) for judging by the public from June 6 – August 26, 2022. The photo that receives the most overall votes will be featured in the City's 2023 calendar with a photo credit. Other finalists may also be featured in the calendar and other city marketing materials. The photograph that receives the most overall votes will be announced at an awards ceremony in September in addition to prizes and gift certificates from local businesses for all of the top ten winners.

Criteria for Submission:

- Must live, work, worship or attend school in the City of Southfield;
- Original digital color photograph of Southfield landmark or other subject matter shot within the City of Southfield borders within the last calendar year in any season;
- Photograph must be high resolution: at least 300 DPI (Dots Per Inch) and submitted in JPEG, TIFF or

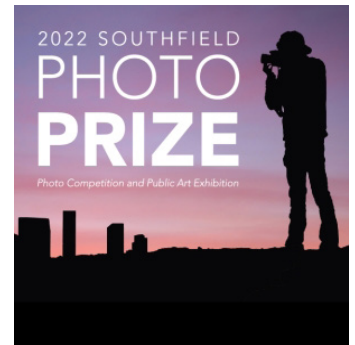
PDF file format under 5 MB (Megabytes) in size (which can be achieved with most cameras and phones);

■ The City of Southfield reserves the right to use all entries in marketing and other materials – expressly the City's 2023 calendar;

■ May submit up to three (3) total shots for consideration per person; and

■ Submissions must be e-mailed as an attachment to PhotoContest@cityofsouthfield.com by Friday, May 20, 2022. Submissions may also be mailed on a CD to: Southfield Community Relations Department, 26000 Evergreen Road, P.O. Box 2055, Southfield, MI 48037-2055.

Submissions that do not meet above criteria will not be eligible for the competition. For more information, call Community Relations at (248) 796-5130.



Road construction projects set to begin

The City of Southfield continues to upgrade local streets as another road construction season begins.

On the schedule this year are:

- Phase II of the reconstruction of Beech Road between Eight Mile and Ten Mile roads. A top coat will be applied to this stretch of Beech. Also included is the rebuilding of the bridge over the Rouge River below Ten Mile.
- Phase II of Section 35 street repaving
- Reconstruction of Shiawassee Road from Eight Mile to Inkster. This project will also include construction of a walking path on the south side of Shiawassee
- Continuation of replacement of sections of streets in Mt. Vernon Place Neighborhood
- Replacement of degraded sections of streets in Tanglewood Neighborhood from Fairfax to Pierce between 11 Mile and Catalpa
- Resurfacing of Berg Road from Eight Mile to Simmons
- Resurfacing of Eight Mile between Southfield Freeway and Greenfield Road
- Repair of the Eight Mile and Telegraph Road interchange

MAYOR'S MEMO

The Mayor's Memo is an occasional newsletter produced by Mayor Ken Siver and not produced at city expense. The Memo provides city news & updates to residents.

To subscribe, send an email to bastrop@cityofsouthfield.com. Feel free to pass this newsletter on to others.