

# MAYOR'S MEMO

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

## City to host town hall on deer overpopulation Sept. 22

Love Southfield's wildlife or revile it? Southfield residents appear to be very divided over the issue of the city's ever growing deer herd.

Many homeowners complain that there are just too many deer and that they are destroying their landscaping. This common complaint is voiced with frustration and resignation over why spend time and money on landscaping only to have it destroyed by the deer herd.

Additionally, the understory of new growth in the city's nature preserves has been devastated by deer. Forests need to regenerate as older trees decline. Deer eat saplings and bucks kill young trees by rubbing their antlers on bark, ripping open the tree. Bucks do this to mark their territory before the annual fall rut.

Conversely, there are those residents who say they love seeing Southfield's wildlife. Some maintain the deer were here first and that we humans need to coexist with them.

To get a better understanding of how to address the deer herd, the City Council created a Wildlife Commission several years ago to study and address the issue. The Wildlife Commission has been collecting data and is executing an educational campaign on the deer herd.

A town hall will be held on September 22 at 6pm in the auditorium of the Library. This session will feature a report from the Wildlife Commission on its findings and guest speaker Chad Stewart, a deer, moose and elk management specialist with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The town hall is planned to provide residents with a deeper understanding of deer over-population and how to address it. The other reason for the town hall is to prepare residents to vote on the issue in the November 8th General Election. The ballot will contain a non-binding advisory question to measure community's attitude on culling the deer herd.



### **Deer Population Town Hall September 22 at 6pm Library Auditorium**

No action will be taken immediately should the majority of voters favor culling the herd. In fact, the City Council could decide to do nothing as there are significant costs with deer reduction. Or, plans could be developed for a safe way to reduce the herd. Should the herd be culled, no one should expect that deer will cease to exist in Southfield. They are here to stay.

With the exception of an occasional attack on deer by a pack of coyotes, their only predator is the automobile. Every year there are scores of deer/car accidents in Southfield. Mild winters have contributed to growth of the deer population. In the annual count the city has recorded as many as 80 in a square mile. Overpopulation is not good for the deer.

In the meantime, the city continues to encourage homeowners to landscape with deer resistant plants and shrubs. Deer are known to have sensitive palates. If hungry enough, they will eat just about anything. When vegetation is plentiful they avoid plants with strong aromas (such as marigolds or geraniums) and fuzzy foliage (such as zinnias).

## Exciting new developments advance in city

A Business Costco, Tesla Service Center and a mixed-use retail/residential center on Evergreen are moving off the drawing boards and closer to reality. Additionally, an adaptive reuse is planned for the vacant Victor Center office building on Northwestern Highway.

Contour Companies' Northland City Center project has been expanded with a Costco Business Center. Earlier this year, Contour acquired and demolished the former Vibe Credit Union building at the corner of Northland Drive and Northwestern Highway. This purchase added three additional acres to the Northland City Center development.

The Costco Business Center will be located on that corner. This version of Costco offers expanded options for food, beverages and supplies for restaurants, convenience stores, hotels and other businesses. Although there are currently 23 Costco Business Centers in the country, this will be the first in Michigan. Costco Wholesale memberships will be valid at the Business Center.

City Council is set to approve an amendment to the Northland Overlay Development District Master Plan in the near future, which will give Costco the green light to begin construction. It is expected this warehouse will generate approximately 300 new jobs. The design of the Costco, as well as other new buildings on the site, will reflect the look of the former Hudson's Department Store.

Tesla Motors has selected



**Rendering of Costco Business Center coming to the Northland redevelopment. BELOW: Rendering of Tesla Service Center planned for Telegraph Road, the first in Michigan.**



Southfield for its Electric Vehicle Research, Testing, Repair and Maintenance facility. Pending a rezoning request, a currently vacant site on lower Telegraph Road will be retrofitted for Tesla. This will be the company's first such facility in Michigan.

Middlepoint Investments, LLC has broadened its vision for the redevelopment of the 8.15 acres across from City Hall. The company has requested an amendment to the Overlay Development District Master Plan and Agreement. Middlepoint is calling for greater density

with more housing units and first floor retail. Additionally, two parking structures are planned to accommodate the density. Planned are three five-story buildings which will contain live/work spaces and a one story retail building.

Friedman Real Estate has requested a rezoning for the vacant Victor Building on Northwestern Highway, just east of Telegraph. Formerly the long-time home of the Plante Moran accounting firm, the building would be retrofitted for self-stor-

**CONTINUED on PAGE 3**



## NEW DEVELOPMENTS

*Continued from Page 2*

age. Additionally, an assisted living facility and medical office building may be developed on the site.

Unrelated, but another sign of improvements in the area are the construction of a new gourmet market on the former Copper Canyon Brewery site and the conversion of a five-story, former hotel building behind the Best Western Premier Hotel on Telegraph at I-696 and the Lodge Freeway.



***Rendering of the proposed adaptive re-use of the former Victor Office building on Northwestern Highway (center) with a medical office building and an assisted living center. Rezoning is pending for this development.***

## City Administrator Zorn receives MEDA top honor

Southfield City Administrator Fred Zorn, CEcD received the 2022 President's Award from the Michigan Economic Developers Association (MEDA) on August 24 at their annual meeting held at the Book Cadillac Hotel Detroit.

"MEDA is proud to add Fred to its list of President's Award recipients and looks forward to his continued commitment to the Association for years to come," said 2022 MEDA Board President Samantha Seimer, who is Vice President, Economic Development for AKT Peerless Environmental Services.

Administrator Zorn has been a member of MEDA for 21 years and is an outstanding leader in the field. He has always been active, creative, and willing to use State and Federal economic incentives to develop millions of dollars in underutilized or contaminated sites in the communities in which he has worked.

During his role as Director of Economic Development at the city of

Taylor, he was instrumental in the City's receipt of the Livability Award from the Conference of Mayors in 2003 and was at the forefront of using PA 381 to spark revitalization of adopting over 40 Brownfield plans.

In Southfield, Mr. Zorn was the driving force in fitting together the public/private redevelopment of the former Northland Mall among many other successful redevelopment projects.

Mr. Zorn was appointed as the Southfield City Administrator in 2014. Appointed by and reporting directly to City Council, he is responsible for the City's daily operations, preparing the annual municipal budget, conducting studies and making recommendations on City operations to City Council.

The City Administrator also directs the administrative staff, appoints most management employees with City Council's confirmation, and ensures enforcement of all City laws and ordinances.



***City Administrator Fred Zorn wins 2022 Economic Development honor.***

The President's Award is given annually to members that have provided a substantial contribution to MEDA. The annual meeting is MEDA's biggest education and networking event of the year.

The conference includes educational sessions covering the most important economic development topics and issues of the day as well as several networking opportunities.

## City to co-host walks to bring awareness to domestic violence; Take stand against hate

*September 18 -- 10am -- Against Hate  
October 2 -- 11am -- Domestic Violence*

Residents are urged to show their support for two issues the city is backing—ending hate and bigotry and domestic violence. Walks are planned for each.

The Walk Against Hate sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League and the walk to Raise Awareness of Domestic Violence are scheduled for Sunday, September 18 and October 2, respectively.

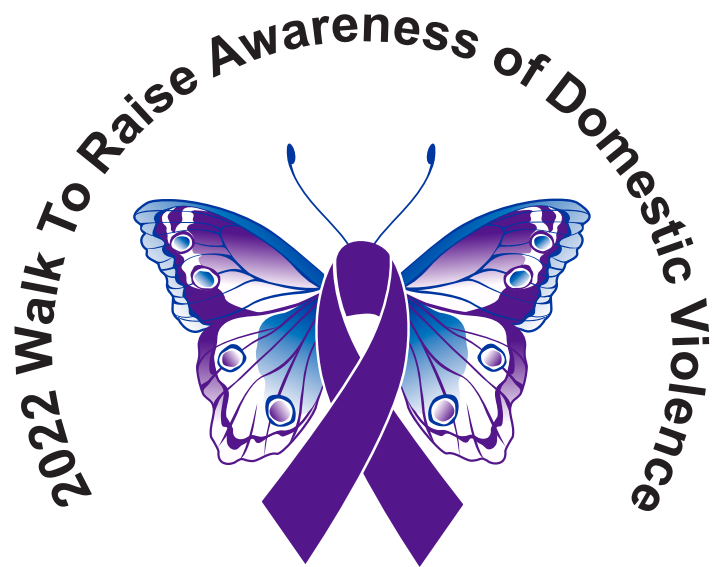
Over the past seven years there has been a rising tide of open bigotry, hate speech, homophobic fear mongering and antisemitism. Southfield has a long history of being a welcoming community. To stand up against all manner of hate, join the Walk Against Hate that will kick off at 10am on the 18th from the front lawn of city hall. The walk route is less than three miles and will make a loop from the municipal campus to Northwestern Highway and back.

Sadly, almost every day someone is arrested in the City of Southfield for Domestic Assault. In fact, it is the number one crime in the city. We all know that violence is never the answer. Yet, it seems to be a hard lesson for some people to learn.

The Walk to Bring Awareness to Domestic Violence is led by the Southfield Police Department and the 46th District Court. A broad coalition of sponsors including the Southfield Domestic Violence Group, HAVEN, the Southfield Fire Department, Family Assistance for Renaissance Men, the MLK Task Force, Southfield Public Schools, Roadmasters Club and others have joined the cause to educate the community about this issue.

The Third Annual Walk to Bring Awareness to Domestic Violence will be held at 11am on October 2. This walk will wind through neighborhoods east of city hall. To participate, walkers must register at <http://walkto-raiseawarenessofdvdv.9migroupinc.com>.

Both walks are free to join. Donations, however, are welcome.



*Victims evolve and soar like a beautiful butterfly, when released from the oppression of domestic violence*

## On the November 8 Election Ballot

### **Deer Herd Advisory Question**

Do you support the reduction of the deer herd in the City of Southfield by humane, lethal means with the intent to engage local partners and ensure that donation of meat, deemed safe where feasible, is made to local foodbanks and similar organizations?

Yes No

### **Southfield Public Schools Bond Proposal**

*Condensed version of the ballot language below. For complete text go to [www.southfieldk12.org](http://www.southfieldk12.org)*

Shall the Southfield Public Schools borrow the sum of not to exceed \$345,000,000 and issue general obligation unlimited tax bonds for the purposes of paying for the cost of the following:

- Remodeling, equipping, re-equipping, refurbishing school buildings & facilities
- Erecting & furnishing additions to school buildings
- Acquiring & installing instructional technology
- Preparing, developing & improving school sites

Yes No

*The annual debt millage to retire all outstanding bonds will result in a debt millage tax increase from 2.30 mills (currently) to 5.56 mills (an increase of 3.26 mills).*



## ‘Remember Them’ display honors lives lost by vigilantes, excessive force

The City of Southfield will display St. David’s Episcopal Church’s “Remember Them: Interactive Memorial of Violence Against People of Color for Reflection and Change” on the lawn of the Southfield Municipal Campus outside the Southfield Public Library, 26000 Evergreen Road.

The “Remember Them” memorial, aimed at raising awareness and inspiring action to further racial and social justice, will open with a dedication ceremony on Friday, September 23 at 11am and will be on display until November 23.

“Too many people of color have suffered for too long,” commented Mayor Dr. Ken Siver. “We cannot stand by in silence as people of color continue to suffer under unequal systems of justice, economics, education, and housing. While we are very thankful that these heinous acts have not been committed in Southfield, this interactive installation is designed to remind us of the injustices of the past while inspiring collective action to bring racial equality to our nation.”

“Remember Them” includes headstones of well-known, and not so well-known victims of racial violence and injustice, including George Floyd, Medgar Evers, Sandra Bland, and Breonna Taylor. The installation also includes a 100-page book, authored by M. Jane Roberts and published especially for the occasion, with one page devoted to each victim to help visitors understand the stories behind the names. Copies of the book will be available to view in the Southfield Public Library and Parks & Recreation Building.

“We invite everyone in Metro Detroit to come out and spend some time here, to learn and contemplate our past and our future,” added Fr. Chris Yaw, one of the installation’s organizers.

The installation is open every day from dawn until dusk until November 23. For more information, contact the Mayor’s Office at (248) 796-5100 or visit [www.cityofsouthfield.com](http://www.cityofsouthfield.com).



**Remember Them display - Sept.23 - Nov. 23**

### 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@cityofsouthfield.com](mailto:bastrop@cityofsouthfield.com). Feel free to pass this newsletter on to others.

Parishioners of St. David’s Episcopal Church, located at 16200 W. 12 Mile, serve meals at Crossroads Soup Kitchen in Detroit, regularly send medical personnel to Haiti, mentor students at nearby Vandenberg World Cultures Academy, visit residents of St. Anne’s Mead Senior Community, host homeless guests through the South Oakland Shelter, and assist at the Detroit Rescue Mission.