

MAYOR'S MEMO

News of Interest to Southfield Residents from Mayor Ken Siver

Juneteenth

celebrate freedom

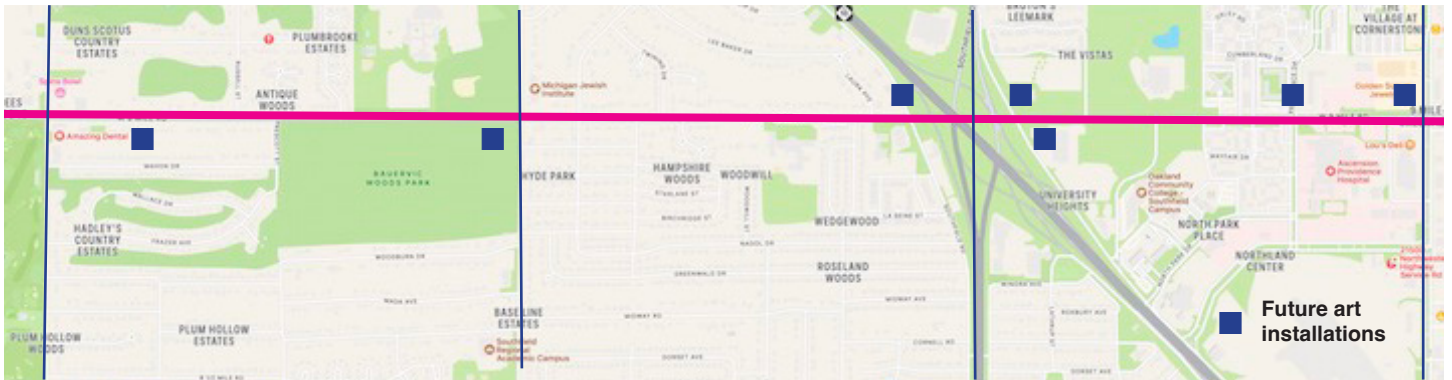
Southfield observes Juneteenth with week's worth of activities

Once again, the City of Southfield is celebrating Juneteenth with a week-long celebration with history, music, entrepreneurship, entertainment, and more. All events are open to the public and free of charge, unless otherwise indicated.

A schedule of the week's activities follows:

- June 12** – Flag raising ceremony recognizing Juneteenth Week in Southfield – Front Circle of City Hall – 5pm
- June 12** – Mayor/City Council Joint Resolution declaring the week of June 14 to 21 Juneteenth Week in Southfield – Council Chambers – 6pm
- June 14** – Centropolis Young Entrepreneurs Pitch Event – Lawrence Tech Buell Building Atrium – 1-5pm
- June 14** – Dr. Kordilla Noble book talk at the Southfield Public Library – 6:30-8pm – *A Study of Leadership Development, Self-Efficacy & Career Readiness Among African American/Black Women*
- June 15** – Juneteenth Senior Luncheon – Room 115 Parks & Recreation – \$20 for residents – Noon-1:30pm
- June 15** – *Born Free & Equal—Michigan's Colored Regiment – The story of the Civil War 1st Michigan Colored Regiment/102nd US Colored Troop* – discussion by Maurice Imhoff – Southfield Public Library – 6:30-8pm
- June 16** – Juneteenth Art Exhibit at Umoja Fine Arts Gallery – 16250 Northland Drive #102 – 5-9pm
- June 17** – Juneteenth Art Exhibit at Umoja Fine Arts Gallery – 16250 Northland Drive #102 – 1-6pm
- June 17** – Mayor's Juneteenth Walk – Front of City Hall – 2.5 miles – 10-11:30am
- June 17** – Southfield Parks & Recreation Juneteenth Jubilee – Performances taking place all afternoon and evening including Spoken Word hosted by Joel Fluent Greene, Impulses Dancers, Levey Middle School Marching Band, Step Show, music by DJ Deezy D, yard games and an outdoor concert with Wee Bone at 7pm. Also included are food trucks and the Black Vendor Market place – 4-9pm
- June 19** – Juneteenth Brunch and Scholarship Program at D'bo's Restaurant (28595 Northwestern Hwy.) sponsored by the Pearls of Wisdom Foundation and the Southfield Chamber of Commerce saluting local small businesses – 11am to 1:30pm. Advance tickets required thru Southfield Chamber. \$40.
- June 21** – Jazz & Blues Concert at the Southfield Public Library – 6-8pm

Nine Mile Corridor Project for Connectivity, Placemaking & Recreation Southfield Phase I - Greenfield to Lahser Roads



9 Mile Corridor to take on renewal, new significance

A multi-jurisdictional initiative is underway to revitalize Nine Mile Road from I-75 to I-275 in southern Oakland County. Termed the Nine Mile Corridor for Connectivity, Placemaking, and Recreation, the project is being funded through various grants from the State of Michigan, Oakland County, Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), and other sources.

Along with Southfield, the cities of Hazel Park, Ferndale, Oak Park, Farmington, and Farmington Hills are participating.

One goal is to increase the health and wellness of residents along the corridor. When complete, the Nine Mile Pathway will connect with the Dequindre Cut on the east to the north/south pathway along I-275 in Novi on the west.

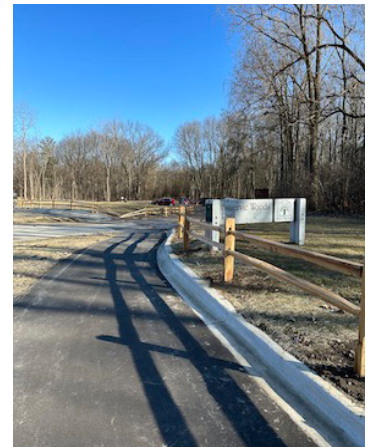
Another goal is to revitalize the corridor for economic growth viability. An example is the first phase of work done in Oak Park from Coolidge to the Ferndale border. This stretch on Nine Mile has been totally transformed. With the Northland City Center project progressing, an important link from Nine Mile will connect to this massive new development.

In Southfield, the first phase of the Nine Mile Corridor project encompasses Greenfield to Lahser roads. Pathway construction began last year with a half mile segment from Evergreen to Prescott. The next section will be Prescott to Lahser. Nine Mile between Evergreen and Lahser is slated for repaving in the near

future along with lane reductions.

With the completion of each pathway segment, streetscape improvements follow. These include landscaping, benches, trash receptacles, directional signage, public art, and more.

To improve the entrance to Southfield at Nine Mile and Greenfield, Lawrence Tech has donated a new entrance marker. (Currently, there is a small “Southfield City Limits” sign.) A trailhead is planned for Bauervic Woods Park along with other park improvements.



LEFT: New pathway in Oak Park east of Coolidge Hwy. **RIGHT:** New pathway in Southfield along Bauervic Woods Park which is part of Phase I of the Nine Mile Corridor project.

Lawrence Tech is donating new Welcome to Southfield signage for the corner of Nine Mile and Greenfield.



2023 Southfield elections set for Aug. 8, Nov. 7

Charter amendments on November ballot for Clerk, Treasurer

Southfield voters will be asked to go to the polls on Aug. 8 to narrow the field of candidates for City Clerk. On the primary election ballot are four candidates to fill the remaining two years of the unexpired term of former Clerk Sherikia Hawkins.

The candidates are Gabi Grossbard, Janet Jackson, Jay Reid, and Barbara Seldon. The two candidates who receive the highest number of votes in the primary will face off in the November General Election. The term will expire in November of 2025.

Besides the election for City Clerk, the November General Election will include the election of four City Councilpersons and the election of a Councilperson to fill the remaining two years on the term of Jason Hoskins. Hoskins resigned late last fall after successfully winning a seat in the Michigan House of Representatives. In all, five persons will be elected to City Council with the expiration of the terms of Nancy Banks, Daniel Brightwell, and Michael Mandelbaum and those of appointees Myron Frasier and Coretta Houge.

Proposed Charter Amendments

Additionally, the November ballot will include two proposed City Charter amendments. The amendments seek to change both the City Clerk and City Treasurer from elected positions to appointed. Elected clerks and treasurers have become a thing of the past in the vast majority of Michigan cities, villages, and townships. Of the 276 Michigan cities with charters, only 42 elect city clerks. All other municipalities appoint their city clerk. The same can be said for city treasurers.

Currently, the only qualifications to run for clerk or treasurer are being a registered voter and residency in Southfield for at least one year. The clerk and treasurer oversee two important departments in the city. Neither position reports to the city manager.

If these charter amendments are approved, both positions would be advertised and candidates vetted by the city’s Human Resources Department. The city administrator would then appoint the clerk and treasurer with approval by city council starting in November 2025.

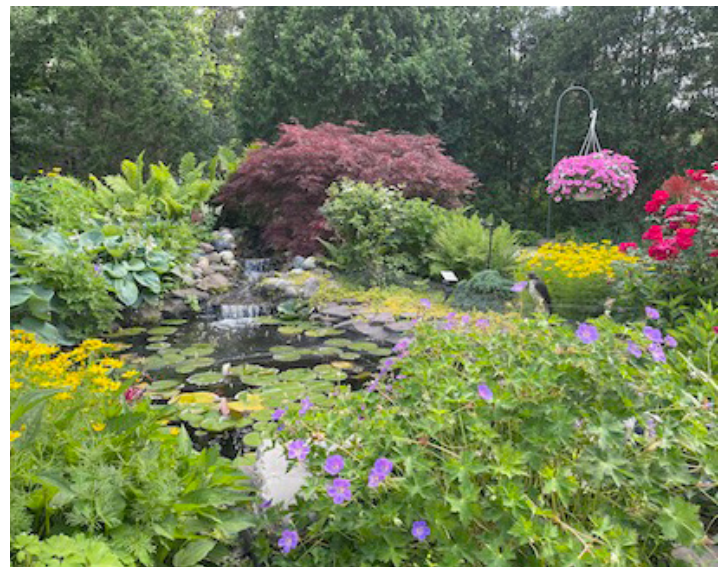
Southfield Summer Garden Walk set for June 18 featuring ponds

The Southfield Parks & Garden Club will hold its 16th Annual Garden Walk on Sunday, June 18 from 2-5pm. This year the Walk will take a new twist as a garden and pond tour.

Nine backyard ponds will be featured in four Southfield neighborhoods. A bus will shuttle participants from location to location or a map will be provided for those who wish to travel by private car at their own pace. The bus will leave from the entrance of the Parks & Recreation building at 2:10 and 3:10pm.

Tickets for the 2023 Southfield Garden Walk are \$10 and may be purchased on the day of the event or from the Southfield Mayor’s Office or members of the Parks & Garden Club.

The Southfield Parks & Garden Club originated the annual walk to showcase some of Southfield’s beauti-



Backyard ponds and water features require a fair amount of work but can be so attractive.

ful and unique home gardens and garden art, to offer tips and ideas to homeowners, provide information on annuals, perennials, shrubs and trees, and to promote Southfield’s neighborhoods and housing stock.

New study highlights economic impact of LTU

A new study reveals a significant increase in the economic impact of Lawrence Technological University between 2020 and 2022. LTU injected \$410 million into the regional economy in 2022, an increase of \$33 million in just two years. The impact on Southfield, Oakland County and Metro Detroit ranges from direct expenditures, including those from faculty, staff, and students to the impacts from alumni businesses and jobs created.

Key findings by the numbers:

- \$410 million – total that LTU contributed in economic impact in Metro Detroit in 2022
- 21,982 – the number of LTU alumni in Metro Detroit
- \$382 million – revenue impact of LTU alumni-owned firms
- \$86 million – the amount that LTU has pumped into Metro Detroit in the last decade through building projects
- 2,195 – the number of jobs created in Metro Detroit because of LTU
- \$770 million – capital raised by Centrepolis Accelerator clients
- 95% -- of LTU graduates who are employed upon graduation
- Over 90% -- of LTU graduates remain in Michigan upon graduation

A Lawrence Tech degree leads to well-paid positions. LTU is the top Detroit Metro area university for highest alumni salaries. A survey of graduates revealed that the median salary ten-years after graduation stands at \$119,900.

The university has launched the Innovative Pathways Initiative (IPI) to provide greater student access to a degree or certification that will lead to more in-demand, high-wage technology-based jobs. Facets of the IPI are Dual Enrollment (for high school students), Early Middle College programs, and non-degree Professional and Workforce Development certificate and credential programs.

It is predicted that by 2028, the economic impact of Lawrence Tech will grow to \$594 million.

Southfield Mayor’s Memo



LTU's Taubman Student Center

BUSINESS NEWS



Pearls Event Center holds grand opening

The former Noah's Conference Center on Northwestern Highway adjacent to the Oakland Towne Square complex has reopened as Pearls Event Center.

The facility had been closed for several years. Under new ownership, Pearls is currently booking parties, weddings, meetings, and conferences for up to 225 people. The facility has a full liquor license. Catering is not provided.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tribute planned for community activist, former Councilwoman Barbara Talley

The Southfield Dr. Martin Luther King Task Force, the City of Southfield and a host of other organizations are sponsoring an appreciation tribute for Barbara Talley on Monday, June 26 from 4 to 5:30pm in the Southfield Pavilion at the Civic Center.



Mayor Siver & Barbara Talley

The event is free and open to all.

Mrs. Talley has a long history of civic and civil rights activism. The first African American elected to the Southfield City Council, Mrs. Talley served from 1983 until 1989. She promoted minority hiring in the city and later for fair housing in Metro Detroit. In 1985, she founded the Dr. Martin Luther King Task Force to promote the peace, brotherhood, and no-violence for all. The Task Force host the annual MLK Peace Walk since then.

Beyond Southfield, Mrs. Talley has been involved in numerous activities to promote world peace. She served as the executive director of Detroit Renaissance District Peace Center at Hope United Methodist Church. In 2008, she coordinated a peace mission to Liberia, West Africa and conducted workshops for teenagers who fought in the Liberia Civil War. She is the author of *Pathways for Interfaith Dialogue: An Innovative Model for Peace & Community Building*.

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.



Benefit for Friends of Sfld Public Arts at Umoja Fine Arts Gallery

Umoja Fine Arts Gallery and CEO and Gallerist Ian Grant extend an invitation to attend a fundraiser for the Friends of Southfield Public Arts from 5-7:30pm on Wednesday, June 28 at the gallery.

Light refreshments and a view of the current exhibition are included. Tax-deductible donations may be made to the Friends for \$50, \$75, and \$100. The funds raised are for the purchase and installation of public art on Nine Mile Road as part of the multi-city Nine Mile Connectivity Initiative. Donations may be made by cash, check payable to the Friends, or via PayPal at SFLDPublicArts@gmail.com

Umoja Fine Arts Gallery is located in the Crossroads Building, 16250 Northland Drive, Suite 102, Southfield.



City's newest sculpture honors Monarch Butterfly

Financed by the Southfield City Centre Advisory Board and the Southfield Public Arts Commission, the Monarch sculpture graces the pathway on the southbound side of Northwestern Highway in front of Eaton Corporation headquarters.

Later this spring Eaton Corp. will donate a butterfly garden to surround the art.

Southfield continues to layer on public art along its urban pathways.