

MAYOR'S MEMO

News of Interest to Southfield Residents from Mayor Ken Siver

Voters to consider amending Southfield City Charter Nov. 7

The Southfield City Council has placed two amendments to the City Charter on the Nov, 7th ballot as voters to consider appointing both the City Clerk and City Treasurer.

Currently the only requirements for a person to run for clerk or treasurer are to have lived in Southfield for a year and be a registered voter.

The Council and Mayor agree that this is strictly a responsible business decision as these positions require a great deal of knowledge and expertise.

BALLOT PROPOSAL #1

Shall the Charter be amended by amending Sections 5.2, 5.9 and 6.1 to change the City Treasurer from an elected to an appointed position, to take effect in November 2025 or upon the vacancy of the office, whichever occurs first?

BALLOT PROPOSAL #2

Shall Charter Sections 5.2, 5.9 and 6.1 to change the City Clerk from an elected to an appointed position, to take effect in November 2025 or upon the vacancy of the office, whichever occurs first?

Q & A on Proposed City Charter Amendments

What are voters being asked to amend in the Southfield City Charter?

Change the charter from electing the City Clerk and the City Treasurer to making them appointed positions.

Why is this change being recommended by the City Council and Mayor?

The responsibilities of both Clerk and Treasurer have increased greatly and become much more complicated over the years. The laws governing elections have undergone great changes. Federal regulations for municipal finances have tightened. There are many more requirements placed on local governments. City funding sources and taxation matters are much more demanding. Secondly, the qualifications for office are very minimal.

What are the current qualifications for City Clerk and City Treasurer in the Southfield City Charter?

There are only two qualifications: 1) candidates must have lived in Southfield for one year; and 2) Candidates must be a registered voter. Neither of these speak to the capability to hold office.

When was the language in the Southfield City Charter written as to the qualifications for clerk and treasurer?

In 1958. At the time the city's budget was under \$2 million and there were fewer than 20,000 registered voters. Today, there are 63,500 registered voters and the city's budget is over \$215 million.

Do most Michigan cities have elected clerks and treasurers?

No. Eighty-five percent of Michigan municipalities with charters have appointed clerks and treasurers.

To whom do elected clerks and treasurers report to?

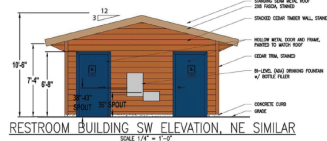
They only report to the voters. They do not report to the city administration, mayor, or city council.

What recourse do the voters have if an elected clerk or treasurer has committed acts of malfeasance in office?

Voters can launch a recall campaign or appeal to the governor to intervene.



ANALOGOUS PHOTO — SEE PLAN FOR PROPOSED LAYOUT AND ELEVATIONS FOR PROPOSED COLORS



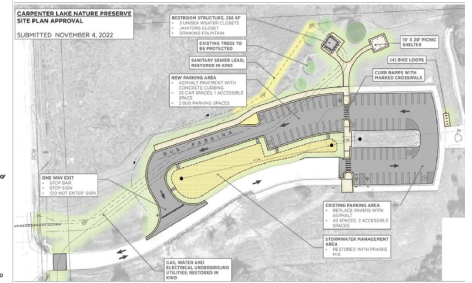
RESTROOM BUILDING SW ELEVATION, NE SIMILAR SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"



ANALOGOUS PHOTO — SEE ELEVATIONS FOR PROPOSED COLORS



PICNIC SHELTER SE ELEVATION, NW SIMILAR SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"



Carpenter Lake Nature Preserve undergoes major improvements

Infrastructure improvements began at Carpenter Lake Nature Preserve in August, located on Ten Mile Road just east of Inkster Road.

Phase 1 of the project includes improvement of the parking lot as well as construction of a small shelter and all-season restroom facility.

The project is funded in part by a \$600,000 Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) Michigan Enhancement Grant to enhance the utilization of the nature preserve and public open spaces.

The Carpenter Lake Nature Preserve Improvement Project’s scope of work includes:

- Expansion and improvement of the parking lot
- Provision for the gas and electric services at the site
- Construction of a small classroom size open air shelter for nature programs (with a capacity for 25 participants)
- Construction of all season restroom facility.

The re-opening of Carpenter Lake Nature Preserve is tentatively scheduled for the end of October 2023. City officials and contractors will determine at that time if the park will reopen to the public prior to Phase 2 construction, or if it will remain closed until the total project is completed in spring of 2024.

Carpenter Lake Nature Preserve was acquired by the City of Southfield in 2003 and officially opened to the public in 2008. The 42-acre preserve is a protected natural area and green space reserved for the public’s enjoyment, study of nature and wildlife, environmental education programs and fishing.

The Preserve features nature trails with interpretive signage, trailheads, numerous benches, and easily-accessible fishing and viewing platforms. The Preserve is located on Carpenter Lake, a six-acre

impoundment of the Ravines Branch of the Rouge River. Most of the parkland is wooded with mature deciduous forest and an abundance of wildlife.

Several years ago and several years in the making, the Boulder Garden at Carpenter Lake was added to the park. This project was a one million dollar gift to the city of Southfield by Bingham Farms attorney Marshall Lasser.

Earlier this year interpretive signage was placed in the Boulder Garden to explain the rocks and minerals placed in the installation and where they came from. The Boulder Garden has become immeasurably popular with children.



Crane lifts boulder into place

Southfield Police Department honors officers, staff, citizens

Members of the Southfield Police Department were presented with departmental awards for heroic deeds, crime solving, life-saving, and good performance in the 2023 annual awards ceremony.

Officer of the Year Award went to Patrick McCormick. Officer McCormick risked his life to save the driver of a car that burst into flames following a crash at Eight Mile and Northland Drive. McCormick rushed to push back the inferno with a fire extinguisher to a point where he could free the driver from the car. He suffered burns while making the rescue.

Detective of the Year Award went to Dylan Hayes. Hayes was recognized by his peers for his dedicated efforts to solve crimes, collect data, and recover evidence in a range of criminal cases.

Police Chief Elvin Barren's Civilian Awards went to Carlile Jackson and Katrina Ross. Jackson stopped at the above mentioned car fire and ran to get another extinguisher. Ross witnessed a carjacking in which an elderly driver was taken hostage. She called 9-1-1 and then followed the carjacker at a distance to allow police to catch up and make an arrest.



Deputy Chief Aaron Huguley, Chief Elvin Barren, and Deputy Chief Jeffrey Jagielski honor Detective of the Year Dylan Hayes

Walks planned to bring awareness to issues of hate, domestic violence

Southfield will again host the Walk to Bring Awareness of Domestic Violence. The walk, supported by the Southfield Police and Fire departments, the 46th District Court, the Southfield Domestic Violence Group, The Haven, Southfield Public Schools, Roadmasters Corvette Club, Chaldean Chamber of Commerce, Huntington Bank, and many others, will be held on Sunday, October 1. The program begins at 11am in the front circle of City Hall. A two-mile walk follows.

Domestic violence is a world-wide societal problem. It is the number one crime in Southfield. Sadly, hardly a day goes by that the Southfield Police are not on a domestic violence run.

The Anti-Defamation League of Michigan and the City of Southfield will host the Third Annual Walk Against Hate on Sunday, October 22 at 2pm. The roughly two-mile walk will start on the front lawn of City Hall.

The ADL is a global leader in exposing extremism and fighting hate. Its mission is to create a world where no one or group suffers from bias, discrimination, hate.

The community is invited to participate in both walks and take a stand against domestic violence and hate. Both walks are free and open to all.



Southfield Police Officer of the Year Patrick McCormick is congratulated by Deputy Chief Jeffrey Jagielski and Chief Elvin Barren

Johnny Menifee named Fire Chief of the Year

Southfield Fire Department Chief Johnny Menifee has been named 2023 Chief of the Year by the Great Lakes Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs at the organization’s annual meeting in Kansas City.

The award recognizes fire department executives for exemplary performance based on leadership, innovation, professional development, integrity, public service, and contributions to fire service.



Fire Chief Johnny Menifee

Chief Menifee joined the Southfield Fire Department as a cadet in 1993. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from Sienna Heights College and a Master’s in Information Technology with a concentration in Homeland Security and Emergency Management from Eastern Michigan University. He successfully completed staff and command officer training and

graduated from the National Fire Academy for additional job preparation.

Currently, Chief Menifee serves as the president of the Southeastern Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs. He is active in community affairs and several local charities. In addition, he developed a firefighter cadet training program in the Southfield Public Schools. The intention is to train high school students for a career with the fire department,

Southfield Fire Dept. retains ISO 2 rating

The Insurance Service Office (ISO) rates fire departments across the country. After review of a fire department’s effectiveness, it issues a rating that insurance companies use in part when calculating fire insurance.

The rating is derived from an assessment of how well-equipped a department is to put out fires. ISO ratings range from 1 to 10, with Class 1 being the best. Positive ratings help attract businesses to Southfield and can lead to highly favorable insurance rates for commercial and residential properties. The ISO 2 rating keeps Southfield in the top 1.5 percent of communities in Michigan and in the top 5 percent nationally.

City approves more contracts for neighborhood street resurfacing

In June, with the approval of the 2023-24 budget, additional funds were allocated for the resurfacing of neighborhood streets. On the same evening contracts were let in the amount of \$10.1 million.

Work being done, soon to begin, or for next spring are as follows:

Concrete repairs in **Sharon Meadows Neighborhood** and on Wildhern, Preswick, and Ashley Court.

Sherwood Village East water main and road replacement Includes Woodvilla, Shervilla Place, Adrian Road, Altavista Drive, and Goldwin between Woodvilla and Lathrup. More of this neighborhood is slated for water main and road replacement in 2024. Six inch water mains are being replaced with eight inch mains.

Mill and overlay of black top on Friar Lane, Ravine, Edgemont (north of Ten Mile), Lindenwood Lane,



New water mains being installed at Woodvilla & Alta Vista

Tuller Court, Murray Crescent, North Greenway, South Greenway, and Beechaven. The contractor is expected to work on these streets starting in late September. Weather will be a factor in how much of this work is completed this fall. If not completed this fall, work will resume in the spring of 2024.

The **Code House Neighborhood** (Briarbank, Dunbar, and Charter) is slated for repaving in spring 2024.

Southfield wins awards for branding guidelines, Photo Prize

The City of Southfield was selected as a winner for two different categories of the City-County Communications and Marketing Association (3CMA) 35th annual national Savvy Awards Competition. The City’s updated Branding & Graphic Design Standards won the 3rd place, and the 6th Annual Southfield Photo Prize won the 2nd place nationally.

The exact award designations, offered in the categories of ‘Publications: Style and Branding Guide’ and ‘Most Creative Activity with Least Dollars Spent’ for Photo Prize in the population group 50,000-140,000, were announced on September 7th at the 3CMA Annual Conference in Orlando, FL.

The City of Southfield’s Branding & Graphic Design Standards outline the process involved in creating the City’s distinctive brand image with a consistent theme

and coordinated elements. Southfield’s Branding & Graphic Design Standards help to ensure a cohesive brand identity and image that is consistent across all city departments, platforms and audiences. The City’s Branding & Graphic Design Standards were produced entirely in-house by the Community Relations Department.

The 6th Annual Southfield Photo Prize and Art Competition was developed to showcase the natural and architectural beauty of the city while also creating an exciting outdoor public art exhibition.

The Savvy Awards are held annually in cooperation with the National League of Cities to recognize outstanding local government achievements in communications, public sector marketing, and citizen-government relationships.

FALL CALENDAR

- October 1** - Walk to Raise Awareness of Domestic Violence - 11am - City Hall
- October 9** - Indigenous People’s Day - City Office & Library closed
- October 18** - Jazz & Blues at the Library - 6:30pm
- October 22** - Walk Against Hate - 2pm - City Hall
- October 28** - Early voting begins in the Southfield Pavilion
- October 28** - Household Hazardous Waste Day - 9am to 2pm at 8 Mile /Mapleridge Recycling Center
- October 31** - Beech Woods Driving Range closes for the season
- November 1** - Outdoor park restrooms close for the season
- November 4** - Mary Thompson Community Garden closes for the season
- November 7** - General Election for City Council and City Clerk - 7am to 8pm

Southfield to offer early voting for November 7th election

Last year Michigan voters overwhelmingly approved “early voting” in our state by an amendment to the Michigan Constitution. Voters have the right to cast their ballots early and in person. Early voting allows a voter to cast a ballot before Election Day in an experience similar to voting on Election Day. During the early voting period, voters are issued a ballot and can then insert their ballot directly into a tabulator at their early voting site

The law only requires early voting in state and federal elections. However, local communities can offer it if they so choose. Southfield City Council approved early voting for the upcoming November 7th local election.

Early voting for all Southfield precincts will be available in the Southfield Pavilion from October 28 to November 5, 2023 from 8:30am to 4:30pm with the exception of Thursday, November 2, 2023 from noon to 8pm. Early voting will also be available for all Southfield precincts at Oakland County’s regional site: Waterford Oaks Activity Center, 2800 Watkins Lake Road, Waterford, MI.

Voters in Michigan can register to vote up to and on Election Day, including during the early voting period. For additional information go to <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections/voting/early-in-person-voting>

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.