

MAYOR'S MEMO

News of Interest to Southfield Residents from Mayor Ken Siver

Prepare now for Michigan presidential primary, Feb. 27

Michigan's presidential primary has moved up from the second Tuesday in March to the fourth Tuesday in February.

Here's what Southfield voters need to know about voting in the 2024 presidential primary election:



After submitting an absentee ballot, voters can also check the status of their ballot online at michigan.gov/vote. If it's closer to Election Day, it's recommended to return an absentee ballot directly to the clerk's office or at a dropbox.

EARLY VOTING

In Southfield the early voting period will start on Saturday, Feb. 17—nine days before Election Day. Sunday, Feb. 25th is the last day of early voting. Early voting takes place in Room 115 of the Parks & Recreation Building, 26000 Evergreen Road.

Early voting hours are as follows:
Feb. 17-25 -- 8:30am to 4:30pm
Feb. 22 -- noon to 8pm

ARE YOU REGISTERED?

You must be registered to vote to partake in Michigan's presidential primary. If you're unsure if you're already registered to vote, you can check your registration status by visiting the Michigan Voter Information Center at michigan.gov/vote. The Michigan Voter Information Center also contains information on finding your polling location, how to request an absentee ballot, and more. Voter registration can be done online or in person up through Election Day.

MULTIPLE WAYS TO CAST YOUR BALLOT

Besides voting at the polls on Election Day, Southfield voters have other options to cast their ballots. Voters can request and return an absentee ballot, or take advantage of early, in-person voting.

Absentee ballots can be submitted in person at the Southfield City Clerk's office, at a secure dropbox before Election Day, or be returned through the mail.

To obtain an absentee ballot, registered voters can apply online at michigan.gov/vote up to 5pm on the Friday, Feb. 23. Voters can also pick up an absentee ballot at the clerk's office, or request that an application be mailed to them. Monday, Feb. 26, at 4pm is the deadline to request an absentee ballot in person at the clerk's office.

MICHIGAN HAS A CLOSED PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

Michigan has a closed presidential primary—meaning that voters have to select which party's primary ballot they plan to mark. Or stated another way, voters will be given a ballot with only one party's candidates for the presidential primary.

CANDIDATES

Candidates on the Michigan presidential primary ballot are:

(Note: some candidates have dropped out of the presidential primary race. Their names still remain on the ballot.)

Republicans

- Ryan L. Binkley
- Chris Christie
- Ron DeSantis
- Nikki Haley
- Asa Hutchinson
- Vivek Ramaswamy
- Donald J. Trump

Democrats

- Joseph R. Biden Jr.
- Dean Phillips
- Marianne Williamson

Southfield gains 2 new food markets—1 large, 1 small

Grocery shopping just got better in Southfield. Two new markets have opened.

After years of negotiations, Costco officially opened its Business Center on Jan. 25 at the corner of Northland Drive and Northwestern Hwy. Service Drive. The 162,000 square foot store carries 2,904 items, most in larger bulk quantities than a regular Costco. The Southfield location is the first Business Costco in Michigan.

Southfield Costco shoppers will not find a bakery, deli, liquor shelf, or gasoline station at this location. There are also fewer varieties of some products as this Costco is geared toward supporting convenience stores, restaurants, and hotels.



On opening day, customers stream into Southfield's Costco at 7am

Tiger Market opened earlier in January at 27522 Northwestern Hwy., just north of I-696 at Telegraph Road. It is adjacent to New Seoul Plaza restaurant. While featuring many Asian foods, Tiger Market carries, fruits, vegetables, meat, and dairy products.

Tiger Market is open from 9am to 9pm, seven days a week. Southfield Business Costco is open 7am to 6pm, Monday through Saturday and from 8am to 5pm on Sundays.

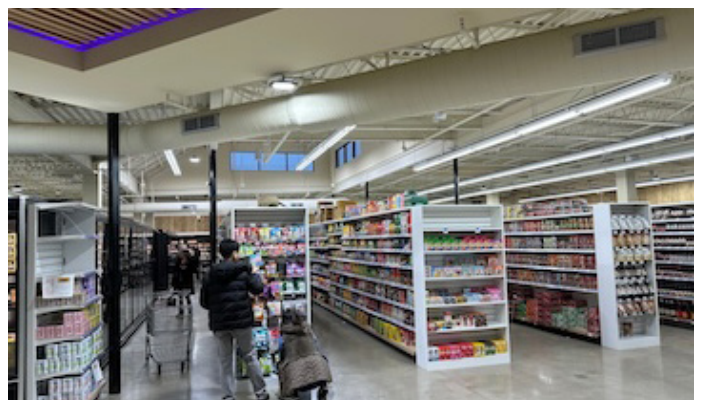


Councilwomen Yolanda Haynes and Coretta Hogue take preview tour of the new Costco with General Manager Todd Smith as Business Development Director Shelly Freeman looks on.

Costco has hired 51 people from the community and Tiger Market, 17.



Tiger Market, on Northwestern Highway at Telegraph, is adjacent to New Seoul Plaza



Sfild celebrates African American History Month with series of events

Southfield will host a series of events throughout February in recognition of African American History Month. See city web site for further details.

African American History Month Kick-Off Event – Saturday, Feb. 3 – 4-8pm

This free event suitable for ages 12 and up will feature the Black History 101 Mobile Museum, a discussion with its founder Dr. Khalid el-Hakim and actor Ralph Carter (Michael on *Good Times*). Also included, fashion show, Impulse Dance Academy, and Black-owned Business Marketplace in the Pavilion.

Walk Through History Display – Feb. 1-29

This display will feature signs highlighting influential African Americans throughout Southfield and in world history.

Conversation & Cocktails – Saturday, Feb. 12 – 7-10pm

Conversations & Cocktails will feature Alex Goss & Detroit Soul Rhythm Band performing R&B and Soul music from the 70's, 80's, & 90's as well as spoken word hosted by Joel Fluent Greene. Cash bar and food available for purchase; \$15 per person.

African American Movie Night – Friday, Feb. 16 – 7pm

Featuring the 2022 documentary *Is That Black Enough for You?!* in the Pavilion. The film, written and directed by Elvis Mitchell, examines the history, craft, and legacy of African American cinema. Rated R; free admission; refreshments available for purchase.

The Secret Society of Twisted Story Tellers Friday, Feb. 23 – 6pm

This year's show features Emeline King, Monica Morgan, Rodney Pearson, and Viakim Royster-Weary and host Satori Shakoor. Pre-glow at 6pm; performance from 7-9pm; \$15 per person

Conversations in Fiber Art Exhibition – Opening Reception Thursday, Feb. 15 – 6:30pm

The Southfield Public Arts Commission will host the opening reception for the exhibition of nine Michigan-based artists—April Anue, Boisali Biswas, Dorothy Jett-Carter, Cassandra Harris, Patricia L. Millender, Dolores Slowinski, Mandisa Smith, Toya Thomas, and Najma Wilson. Free; City Hall Lobby.

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Black History Mysteries - All Month

The library will feature a mystery for families to solve. Participants can come to the youth desk and receive a clue sheet then make their way through the youth room to find the answers.

Book to Screen: The Color Purple – Wednesday, Feb. 14 – 6:30-7:30pm

The library will host a discussion of *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker—1985 & 2023 films

African American History Open Mic Celebration – Saturday, Feb. 10 – 1-4pm

Attendees may showcase their talent and enjoy the creative performances of others! Original spoken word by individuals and groups are welcome and encouraged! Food, vendors, music, and more at the library! Pre-registration is required to perform/content PG-13

Maureen's Mesmerizing Book Buzz – Tuesday, Feb. 13 – 5:30-6:30pm

A fun and informative book-talk at the library, celebrating dozens of books written by African American authors, books about the accomplishments of African Americans, and African American history. Teacher-Librarian Maureen will introduce titles recommended for ages 9 - Young Adult, share a brief summary of each.

Tuesday Evening Book Club – *The Violin Conspiracy* by Brendan Slocumb – Feb. 13 – 6:30pm

Book discussion

Achievement: A Celebration of Black Innovation, Invention, & Leadership – Feb. 26 – March 22

This traveling display from the Automotive Hall of Fame recognizes the contributions African Americans have made to the automotive industry.

Hearing the Story with author Jean Alicia Elster – Wednesday, Feb. 28 – 6:30pm

Award-winning author and 2017 Kresge Artist Fellow Jean Alicia Elster will share details at the library of how the oral history tradition within her family formed the backbone of the narrative and plot of her Ford family historical fiction trilogy volumes *Who's Jim Hines?*, *The Colored Car*, and the recently published *How It Happens*. Copies of the books will be available for sale and signing.

Grant funds SmartBurner installation at Woodridge Apartments

Fire Chief Johnny Meniffee secured a grant from the Michigan Bureau of Fire Services and MI Prevention for the purchase and installation of SmartBurners at Woodridge Senior Apartments on Grodan Drive.

SmartBurners allow for cooking to take place without the threat of a fire starting. Built for electric coil stoves, the burners have a built-in thermostat that prevents the stovetop from reaching fire-causing temperatures. The product has been installed in more than 250,000 housing units across North America without a single cooking fire being reported.

“Cooking fires are a growing concern for aging Michiganders who may be living on their own,” said State Fire Marshall Kevin Sehlmeier. “With the installation of SmartBurners, we can improve the ability of these populations to live by themselves safely and for longer.”

Nationally, cooking fires are the leading cause of household fires. For aging populations, the risk of death in these fires only increases. Over the past four years, Chief Meniffee reports, the Southfield Fire Department responded to 165 kitchen fires. Several of these fires resulted in death and significant property



Volunteer installs SmartBurner while a Woodridge resident looks on. Installation took only minutes to switch out burners. The heating element switches off when overheated.

damage.

The installation took less than ten minutes and came at no cost to Woodridge residents. An educational session was held to guide residents through the implementation process.

Local VFW post honors Police Chief Elvin Barren

Southfield Police Chief Elvin Barren was recently honored with the First Responder of the Year award by Women’s Auxiliary of Southfield VFW Post 2645.

He was selected for this award for the many improvements that he has made to the Southfield Police Department and for his visibility in the community. A veteran of the United States Navy, Chief Barren served 21 years in the Detroit Police Department prior to being appointed chief in Southfield five years ago.

Under his watch Chief Barren implemented the “Duty to Intervene” policy that requires officers to step in if they witness excessive force by a fellow officer. The installation of body cameras is among other improvements in the department made by the police chief.



Genora Ewegbemi, award dinner co-chair with Barbara Seldon, presents Chief Barren with First Responder of the Year Award.

Council, Total Living Commission honor Delores Flagg



City Council President Ari Mandelbaum and TLC Chair Deborah Walton Medley present Delores Flagg (center) with the 2023 Greg Kennedy Community Service Award,

The Southfield City Council confirmed the Total Living Commission’s (TLC) recommendation of Delores Flagg as the 2023 recipient of the Greg Kennedy Community Service Award, which honors residents for outstanding community involvement.

Ms. Flagg is a long-time Southfield resident who taught art in the Southfield Public Schools for 19 years before her retirement in 2008. As an art instructor, Flagg motivated her students and helped them develop their artistic talents.

Ms. Flagg is also a recipient of a Milken Foundation Educator Award for extraordinary service to youth.

In her retirement, Ms. Flagg creates opportunities for youth and budding artists as an advocate for the arts. She gives hours of volunteer time to the following organizations: Chair of the Southfield Public Arts Commission; Vice-Chair of the non-profit Friends of Southfield Public Arts; volunteer coordinator for the Kimmie Horne Jazz Festival; member of the Detroit Urban League; National Basketball Retired Players Association; Southfield Anti-Drug Coalition, Rhonda Walker Foundation; and the Southfield Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Task Force.

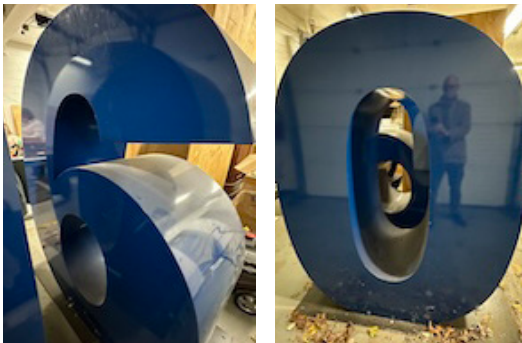
As chair of the Arts Commission, Ms. Flagg coordinates the quarterly art showcases in the lobby of city hall. These showcases feature local artists, providing visibility of their work while enhancing this common area of the municipal building. She also coordinates the installation of public art across the city and fundraises for the purchase, installation, and restoration of city art.

“Delores Flagg is an extraordinary person who gives a great deal of herself to make a real difference in the community,” commented Mayor Dr. Ken Siver. “She works tirelessly to bring about positive change to improve the quality of life for the residents of Southfield. She is greatly deserving of this award as she truly embodies the work, spirit, and voluntarism of Mr. Kennedy.”

The Greg Kennedy Community Service Award was established in 1999 to honor the legacy of community activist Greg Kennedy by encouraging other residents to engage in public service.

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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.