

MAYOR'S MEMO

News of Interest to Southfield Residents from Mayor Ken Siver

Southfield receives 2025 Metro Marvels livability award

The city of Southfield received a sixth place rating of most livable cities in the Detroit metro area in a study done for the Empire Realty Group that specializes in attracting transplants to our region.

The goal of the Metro Marvels award program is to celebrate cities that are actively creating more beautiful, inclusive, and livable communities while strengthening civic pride.

“Communities thrive when people care—not just about what happens in their neighborhoods, but about how those neighborhoods look, feel, and function. Beauty isn’t a luxury—it’s infrastructure. It’s identity. It’s civic energy made visible,” the report maintains.

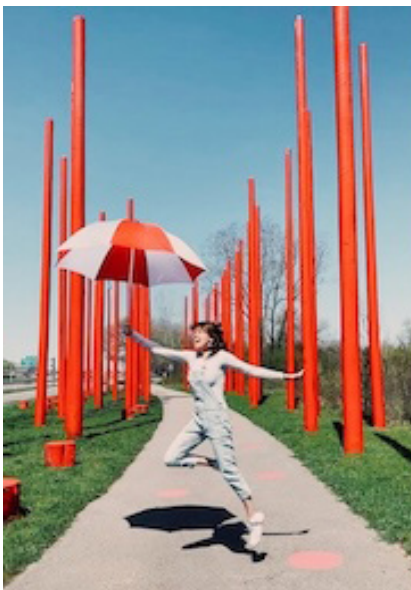
The communities that made the Metro Marvels top 20 list this year were rated on parks & greenspaces, community events & engagement, walkability & street cleanliness, local business support, public art & murals, inclusivity & family friendly planning, and sustainability efforts.

Sustainability includes trail networks, green infrastructure, recycling programs, and environmental planning.

The ratings, the report states, are not just a list of winners. “It’s a showcase of what good looks like. Further, it is a celebration of beauty, vision, and civic excellence.” Metro Marvels spotlights the shared belief that well-designed, well-loved communities have the power to uplift people, strengthen local pride, and drive lasting change.



Striving on Central Park Boulevard



Southfield: Most Improved Municipality 2025 Metro Marvels Report

“Once known more for office parks than public spaces, Southfield has undergone a major civic reinvention. In 2025, it takes home the Most Improved Municipality honor for its visionary updates to public infrastructure, green space, and urban aesthetics.

“The Evergreen Road Streetscape project is a standout—transforming a car-dominated corridor to a pedestrian-friendly boulevard with bike lanes, public art, lighting, and stormwater landscaping. The instruction of the Red Pole Park, a bold and colorful interactive art installation, brought new life to underutilized land drawing families and photographers alike.

“In addition, Southfield has increased trail connectivity, linking its neighborhoods to schools, the library, and recreational hubs. These upgrades aren’t just beautifying—they’re rebranding it as an inclusive, active, and arts-forward place to live. Southfield’s leap in livability earns this year’s Most Improved Municipality.”

State review of Southfield Police Dept confirms best practices

In a recent review by the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) found that the Southfield Police Department is in complete compliance with all standards and best practices.

The intent of the MCOLES assessment process is to ensure that law enforcement agencies comply with the selection, training, and employment standards of law enforcement officers in Michigan so that communities can trust that all Michigan police agencies meet the established standards.

The compliance review includes:

- Employee history records
- Comprehensive background investigation
- Continuing professional education
- Response to domestic violence
- Active violence response
- Audiovisual equipment/policy for custodial interviews
- Active-Duty firearms training records & policy

MCOLES review focuses heavily on providing guidance towards completing a comprehensive background investigation of police officer candidates (prior to hiring) and filling the requirements of Public Act

128. Public Act 128 specifies that police departments maintain complete records on officers and share that information with other agencies when requested.

“The reviewed (personnel) background investigations all meet current standards,” stated MCOLES Standards & Compliance Officer Joel Allen. “For department employment, multiple law enforcement databases and third-party person searches are conducted. Credit history and tax documents are also collected. All required standards compliance documents are collected and held within the employee’s files,” Allen said.

A comprehensive background investigation helps shield agencies from making poor hiring decisions. The process helps prevent agencies from hiring officers who have struggled with integrity issues while employed as a law enforcement officer in Michigan.

“The agency (SPD) meets or exceeds the current standards in all areas reviewed. Discussions with (department) personnel and a review of the agency’s records, training plans, and policies reveal that the department is professionally managed and makes great efforts to employ officers who uphold the desired law enforcement standards,” Allen said.



Above: Chief Barren with Patrol Officer of the Year Sgt. Andrew Majewski



Above Right: Chief Barren with Detective of the Year Samuel Hannum and Deputy Chief Jeff Jagielski

SPD honors officers at annual recognition night dinner

Police Chief Elvin Barren and the leadership command of the Police Department held its annual recognition ceremony in September to honor officers for excellent police work and bravery. The program also included video of harrowing situations officers face.



Lower Right: The Community Policing Team: Lieutenant Teresa Young, Sgt. Larry Tomasino, and officers Tim Simon and Steven Hendricks

Northland City Center readies model apartments

Model apartments at Northland City Center are ready for viewing pending the completion of building elevators this fall. The installation of the elevators has been delayed by a lack of sufficient electrical power to the site.

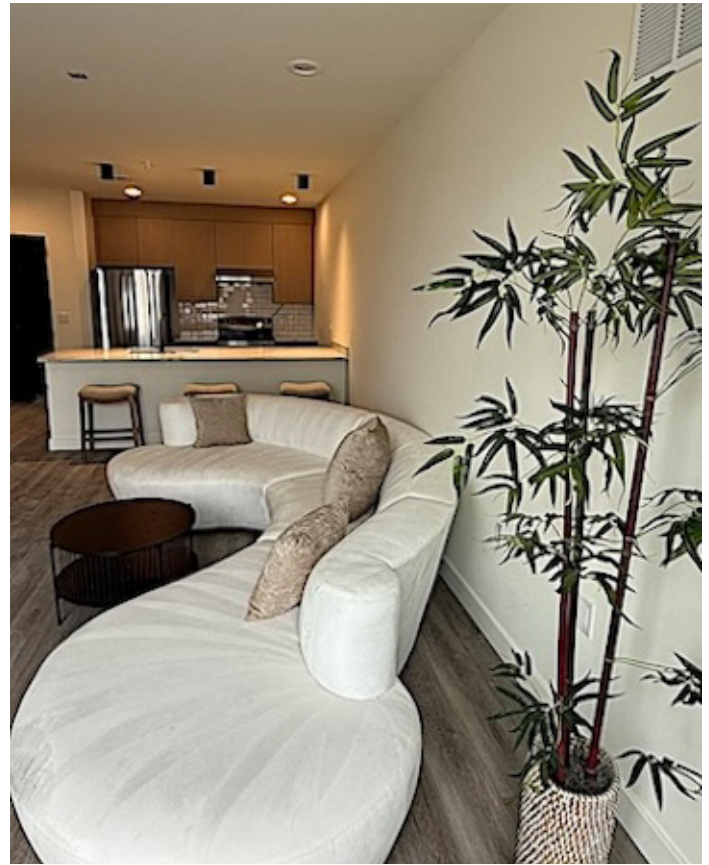
Supply chain issues held up the delivery of a necessary transformer. The transformer was installed a month ago. Full power is now in use.

There are a mix of one- and two-bedroom units and a limited number of three-bedroom/two-bedroom with den units. All units come with nine-foot ceilings, large windows, full kitchen appliances, washer and dryer, and walk-in closets. Apartment rents will be at market rate, starting at \$2,200 per month.

Meanwhile, the first-floor retail spaces in the first two buildings facing Greenfield Road are almost completely leased. The following are businesses have signed on:

- Privileged Kicks – high end sneakers and apparel store
- Braxton Grooming Lounge - hip modern barber shop
- Ship N Go - UPS & Fed Ex store
- La Marsa Middle Eats & Bowls
- City Center Café – sit-down restaurant
- Nora's Pizza and Pasta
- Victoria Nail & Spa
- Qdoba Mexican
- Brix Wine Bar

Ground is expected to be broken late this fall on the next two towers along Greenfield.



Ribbon cutting celebrating the completion of Northland area road replacements--North Park Drive, Foster Winter Drive & Rutland--and the receipt of a \$1.09 million grant from SEMCOG for the 9 Line pathway that will eventually connect to Northland City Center.



Investments in DDA near Northland contribute to economic revival of area

The Downtown Development Authority, City of Southfield, and partnerships with SEMCOG, City of Oak Park and the 8 Mile Boulevard Assn are helping to revitalize the southeast corner of the city.

Business activity in city on uptick; many new openings

Southfield has seen an uptick in business openings over the past six months. Here's what new:

Domino's Pizza	28803 Northwestern
DePuy Synthes Medical	21455 Melrose
AMOM Medical Massage	28446 Franklin
313 Parlor	23077 Greenfield
Goodwill Industries	28901 Greenfield
Amada Senior Care	25255 Southfield
Altimetrik	2000 Town Center
Southfield PT	23265 Northwestern
Revival Research	23999 Northwestern
Grand Lux Salon	29111 Greenfield
Details Pet Grooming	27202 Eight Mile
Gresham Smith	3000 Town Center
Motor City Academy	25435 Southfield
Midtown Smokehouse	26056 12 Mile
Five Below	23659 Greenfield
Saans Pilates & Wellness	29107 Northwestern
DermY Doc Institute	29592 Northwestern
Ichiban Go	28684 Telegraph
First Lady Bridal	19471 Ten Mile
Truth Venue	26750 Eight Mile
Designer Menswear	18211 Ten Mile
Motor City Scuba	29115 Greenfield
Devon Self Storage	27400 Northwestern
Arch Environmental	25510 11 Mile
Champions Forever	23661 Telegraph
Carley's Place	29187 Northwestern
Motor City Appliance Repair	24293 Telegraph
Mr. Closeout Furniture	29800 Southfield
Bloom Night Club	25080 Southfield
Wing Hong Restaurant	18203 Ten Mile
Kerby's Coney Island	25050 Northwestern
2JG Ventures	30707 Greenfield
Mobile Gas Station	28681 Northwestern
Unique Flooring & Design	22515 Telegraph
Manhattan Fish & Chicken	24030 Ten Mile
Vattikuti Ventures	2000 Town Center
Queen Spa	17105 12 Mile
Massage by Haden	17352 12 Mile
Massage by Nik	17360 12 Mile
We Care Adult Day Care	24724 Lahser
Shei Natural Hair Bar	28312 Franklin
Prime Diagnostics Lab	28300 Franklin
Culvers	29970 Southfield
Beauty & Glamour Med Spa	26771 12 Mile
Aruba Freeze	29705 Northwestern
Dollhouse Clothing	29555 Northwestern
Voitas (auto tech)	3000 Town Center
Lay Lai Clothing	18212 Ten Mile
Ross Dress for Less	23675 Greenfield
Paymore Electronics	29139 Southfield



Bar & Dog Park at 11 Mile & Greenfield



Gresham Smith Architecture 3000 Town Center



German Auto Tech firm opens office 3000 Town Center

Stellar Nails	26068 12 Mile
Barkside	15640 11 Mile
MacAllister Rentals	21700 Telegraph
Good Vibrations Spa	27766 Franklin
Serendipity Spa	28657 Northwestern

For further information on each business check out their website.

BRIEFLY

Matter & Metaphor Resonates exhibit now on display in city hall lobby

The latest quarterly exhibit of local artists' work is now on display in the main lobby of Southfield City Hall. The exhibit is sponsored by the Southfield Public Arts Commission.

Featured are a sampling of the works of Nina Ashraf, Saffell Gardner, Cheryl Haithco, Micherlange Hemsley, Jonathan Kimble, Robert Shefman, Mark Schlus-sel, and Dr. Rachelle Warren.

The exhibit is free and runs through the end of the year. Viewing times are during regular city hall business hours and on evenings when public meetings are held in City Council Chambers. Works may be purchased by contacting Chair of the Southfield Public Arts Commission Delores Flagg or the Mayor's Office, (248) 796-5100.

City Council retains Hobbs + Black to design new municipal swimming pool

City Council has approved a contract with the Detroit/Ann Arbor architectural firm Hobbs + Black to design a new aquatic center.

In June the Council set aside \$22.5 million for a new pool. The city's 50-plus-year-old pool was no longer operable. The new pool will be year-round and zero depth with several additional features including a splash pad and lazy river.

Yet to be determined is the exact location of the replacement pool. A study is being conducted on the feasibility of it being built where the old pool is located. If not, the pool will be constructed on the north side of the ice arena. The new facility will open in late 2026.

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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.



Painting by Saffell Gardner on display in City Hall lobby

OCTOBER CALENDAR

- 5 Walk to Raise Awareness of Domestic Violence -- Southfield Civic Center -- 11am
- 11 Social Security Education Workshop -- Maximize Your Retirement Income -- Library -- 10am
- 12 Pinktober Fest -- 5K Walk for Breast Cancer -- Parks & Rec -- 2-4pm
- 13 Indigenous Peoples Day -- City Offices & Library Closed
- 14 Indigenous Heritage Celebration -- Burgh Historical Park -- 5:30-7pm
- 15 Jazz & Blues at the Library -- 6:30pm
- 18 Boo Bash -- Parks & Rec Pavilion -- 1-4pm
- 20 Last day to register to vote by mail
- 25 Household Hazardous Waste Day -- Recycling Center at Eight Mile & Mapleridge -- 9am-2pm
- 25 General Election Early Voting begins -- Room 115 Parks & Recreation -- 8am-4pm
- 26 Police Department Trunk or Treat -- Southfield Pavilion -- 1-4pm
- 31 Last day for Beech Wood Driving Range