

MAYOR'S MEMO

News of Interest to Southfield Residents from Mayor Ken Siver

Southfield's auto-related tech firms growing, expanding

Southfield's portfolio of tech companies tied to the auto industry is expanding. New companies have arrived, and existing businesses are growing. Here's a partial run down:

Veoneer was spun off from AutoLiv last year and has consolidated its operations in a new 179,300 square foot building on American Drive. This move represents an investment of \$25 million in the new building and over \$60 million in furniture, technology and equipment.

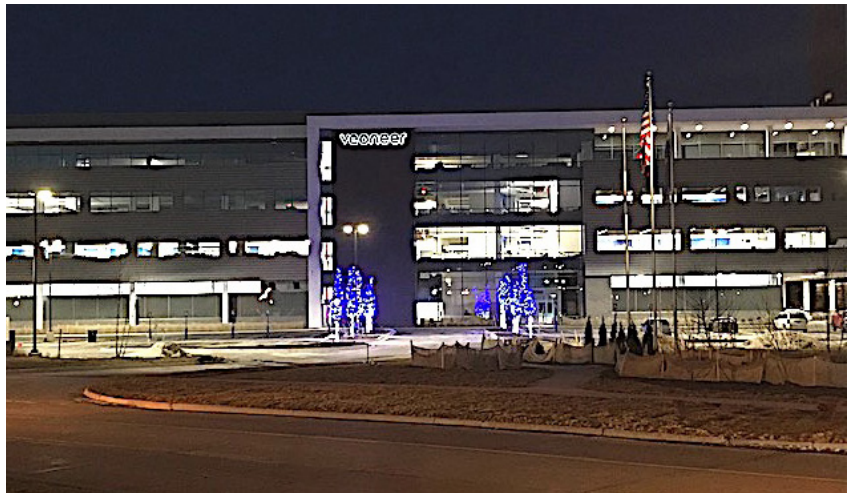
The company will be hiring up to 250 new employees as it continues to develop systems for driver safety, brake control and autonomous driving.

Amazon has teamed up with Southfield's **P3** consulting technology company to make it easier for automakers and suppliers to integrate the Amazon Alexa assistance tool in their vehicles.

Configit, Inc., a business solutions tech company, recently selected Southfield over other competing cities (Atlanta & Chicago) for its product development team. Configit's virtual tabulation technology assists companies in solving the most complex configuration challenges while providing a user-friendly interface and transparency in business functions.

LEAR recently began a partnership with Gentherm Inc. for the joint development of thermal seating solutions to optimize vehicle heating and cooling systems. Gentherm specializes in thermal management technologies while Lear specializes in passenger seating and auto electronics.

Technosoft has opened its Digital Transformation Center of Excellence in the Oakland Towne Square building. The company delivers projects that assist businesses with digital technologies such as blockchain, robotic process automation and data science. Technosoft has 4,400 employees spread across the



Veoneer moved into its newly constructed headquarters on American Drive in February.

globe.

Sasken opened its Automotive Center of Excellence on Telegraph Road this winter. Sasken delivers software solutions for automotive customers. Chief among its customers is DENSO.

DENSO has added a software-based solutions component to its hardware expertise. More specifically, DENSO has created a connected services department that advances the company's focus on automated and connected driving.

Multimatic Sales & Marketing, located on American Drive, has announced an expansion of its Southfield office and will be moving to larger headquarters in the city to accommodate a larger work-force.

Multimatic provides customers with stand-alone structural analysis, integrated component and subsystems development and, for low-volume applications, the design, engineering and development of complete vehicles. Multimatic serves the global automotive, aerospace and consumer product industries.

The company plans to make a \$5.4 million capital

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City gearing up for 2019 road construction season

Unfinished projects from 2018 expected to be complete by June

The orange barrel season will soon be upon us. Plans are moving forward to \$40.7 million in road, sewer, water main and sidewalk construction.

This year more focus will be placed on neighborhood streets. The following neighborhoods will experience infrastructure construction:

- Washington Village Neighborhood
- North Hampton Neighborhood
- Green Dolphin Neighborhood
- Bonnie Acres Neighborhood
- Canterbury Gardens Neighborhood
- Southfield Village Estates Neighborhood

Additionally, work will take place on Sherfield Street, Southwood Street, Case Avenue and Rosemond Street in residential areas. The southbound Northwestern Highway service drive between Evergreen and Nine Mile is also slated to be repaved.

Oakland County has announced that it will be repaving Lasher Road from 8½ to Ten Mile Road and conducting spot repairs on Ten Mile between Greenfield and Evergreen roads. Additionally, the county plans to make some repairs to concrete at the 12 Mile and Southfield Road intersection.

Increasing walkability is a city goal. In that regard, sidewalk repairs, replacement and installation will take place this season along the south bound Northwestern Service Drive between Civic Center Drive and Nine Mile. A state grant and financial support from Lawrence Technological University will underwrite much of the sidewalk installation.

Projects that were not completed last year due to weather-related construction delays and the month-long labor dispute will be completed this spring. The top coat of asphalt will be laid on Winchester in early June.

Both the Nine Mile bridge replacement (between Lahser and Berg Road) and the Northwestern Highway Service Drive between Civic Center Drive and Lahser are expected to be completed before June 30.



The reconstruction of Winchester Street will be completed with a topcoat of asphalt this spring. Pictured here is the new roundabout at Devonshire.

2019 State of the City set for March 21

Mayor Kenson Siver will give his fourth annual State of the City address on Thursday March 21 at 7pm in City Council Chambers.

The Mayor will highlight progress from the past year in infrastructure, housing, commerce, the arts and more plus a look forward to new developments in the year ahead.

A reception will follow the address in the lobby. An open invitation is extended to all.

TECH COMPANIES, *Continued from Page 1*

investment, of which \$3.5 million is personal property. This includes the largest testing simulator in North America and other technology, furniture, fixtures and leasehold improvements.

Truck-Lite, an automotive safety lighting supplier, has announced plans to move its headquarters from New York to Southfield with the intention to create 95 jobs and invest \$4 million. The company is relocating here to be closer to the supply chain and qualified talent. Truck-Lite manufactures and distributes lighting products for cars, heavy-duty trucks and military vehicles. It is proposing to build an office building on Northwestern Highway, just north of Civic Center Drive.

Southfield Neighborhood Revitalization program tackles blight

Besides fully renovating tax foreclosed homes and selling them on the open market to qualified homeowners, the Southfield Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative (SNRI) demolishes houses that are beyond repair and a blight on the neighborhood. In its three years of existence, the SNRI has demolished 18 houses.

Typically, the cost of renovation far exceeds the market value of the property. Many times the homes have mold, lead and asbestos hazards. The properties are a blight on the neighborhood and are removed. As of February, the SNRI, funded by the Southfield Non-Profit Housing Corporation, has spent \$769,174 in home demolitions. No tax dollars have been expended.



It is costly, but the Southfield Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative is committed to strengthening the city's neighborhoods. Sometimes that means demolishing blighted properties. These are three of the 18 homes demolished.



HOW TO SUBMIT TO PHOTO PRIZE

Submissions must be e-mailed as an attachment to PhotoContest@cityofsouthfield.com by Friday, May 10, 2019.

Submissions may also be mailed on a CD to the Community Relations Department, 26000 Evergreen Road, PO Box 2044, Southfield, MI 48037.

City seeks entries for 3rd annual Photo Prize

The City of Southfield is sponsoring the 3rd annual Southfield Photo Prize to showcase the natural and architectural beauty throughout the city while also creating an outdoor public art exhibition.

Submissions will be initially reviewed by the Total Living Commission that will select the top 25 entries that will be displayed and eligible for public voting. Finalists will then be enlarged and displayed outside on city hall and the parks & recreation building for public viewing and voting. The community will be encouraged to visit all of the entries and to vote online for their favorite installation.

Finalists will be posted on the city's website (www.cityofsouthfield.com) for judging by the public from June 10 – August 30. The photo that receives the most overall votes will be featured in the City's 2020 calendar with a photo credit. Other finalists may also be featured in the calendar and other city marketing materials.

Volunteer opportunities, memberships available in local support organizations

Southfield is indeed fortunate that a number of residents step up to provide assistance in improving the quality of life in our city. Your time and your financial support for the following organizations help make Southfield the great place it is.

The following organizations are seeking volunteers and/or membership/ financial support:

The Southfield Historical Society

– The Historical Society manages for the city the Mary Thompson Farm House on Evergreen Road and the Southfield Historical Museum at the Burgh Historic Park. Tours, displays and special programs are hosted by the society. Meetings are first Wednesday of the month at 4pm at the Mary Thompson Farm House. (July & August meetings are at the museum.) Annual memberships: \$10 individual; \$8 students & seniors; \$25 family; and Business \$50. Historical Society Contact: City of Southfield, PO Box 2055, Southfield 48037 or HistoricSouthfield@gmail.com



The Southfield Parks & Garden Club

– The club hosts the annual Southfield Garden Walk each June, operates the Emmanuel Community Farm, conducts yard make-overs for elderly and handicapped residents, a fall plant exchange, litter patrols and gardening education. The Emmanuel Farm, hosted by Emmanuel Lutheran Church, raises organic vegetables that are donated to Forgotten Harvest.



The club is also a member of the Michigan and National Garden Clubs. Annual dues are \$36. The club meets the first Tuesday of the month (March to October) at 7pm in Parks & Recreation Building.

Parks & Garden Club Contact: Pat McLamore at 248.227.2812 or patmclamore@sbcglobal.net

The Friends of the Southfield Public Library

– The Friends enhance the services of our library including the purchase of items beyond the scope of the library's budget, seed money for new services and collections and promotion and use of the library. In addition, the Friends sponsor various library programs and special events, such as the Jazz & Blues@Your Library series, Battle of the Books, the Spell Bowl and many more. The Friends also operate a used book store just off the lobby.

Membership is \$20 per year. The Friends Board meets on the third Wednesday of each month. Friends of SPL contact: 26300 Evergreen Road, Southfield 48076 or call (248) 796-4397 or southfield-friends263@gmail.com

The Friends of Southfield Public Arts

– Working with the Southfield Public Arts Commission, which meets the third Tuesday of the Month at 5:30pm in the Building Department, the Friends of Southfield Public Arts raises funds for the purchase, restoration and placement of public art in the city.



The Friends' current focus is on the Northland Art Collection and the restoration and reimaging of the Southfield Public Library Fountain.

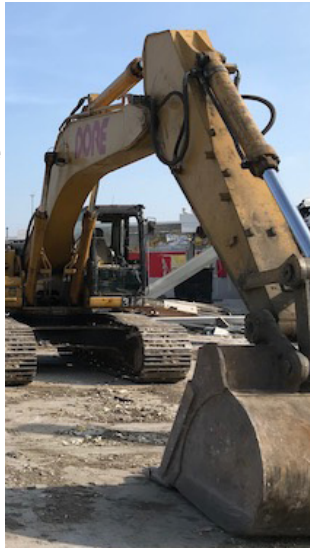
Annual memberships: \$15 students & seniors; \$25 individual; Household \$40; Business \$100; Sustaining \$150; Contributor \$500; and Benefactor \$1000 plus. Friends of Southfield Public Arts contact: Mayor's Office, 26000 Evergreen Road, Southfield 48076 or call (248) 796-5100.

All four of these organizations are registered 501(c).3 non-profits. Contributions are tax deductible.

2019 to see major announcements on Northland redevelopment

It may not appear that a great deal is happening as one drives past the former Northland Mall, but steady progress is being made on the redevelopment of this 115-acre property.

The Firestone Tire & Service Center at Northland Drive and Greenfield was demolished last fall. Another property acquisition was made with the purchase of the former Montgomery Ward/JC Penny Auto Service Center on Greenfield. It was important to purchase this long vacant building as it was tied to a ten-acre parking easement on mall property. Over the last year, 32 of the 33 easements tied to the property were dissolved. In order to re-develop the property, old easements had to be removed to gain clear title. Asbestos abatement is nearing completion, as well.



Negotiations with Ascension Health/Providence Hospital have been frustratingly slow. The hospital is desirous on expanding its campus southward onto Northland property. Providence is in need of auxiliary medical spaces, parking, housing and medical offices. Internal matters at the hospital and with its parent company have caused several plans dissolve. Currently, the first medical building proposed for JL Hudson Drive has been scrapped.

However, several other development deals are shaping up. Announcements for at least two projects are expected to be made this spring. Also moving forward is the next phase of demolition of the mall. It was

hoped that an adaptive reuse of the Hudson's building could be found. Quite a few developers have been out to look the building over, but nothing has materialized. Unless, someone comes forward soon, the building will be slated for demolition. Bids for demolition of the mall are being finalized.

Library fountain repair progresses

There is a good reason why the fountain at the Southfield Public Library has not worked for ten years. Besides an impractical design for Michigan weather, the project is very complex ... and expensive.

To date, the inner workings (pump, wiring, controls, etc.) have been replaced. The downsized ring wall of the fountain has been raised and the Moby Dick sculpture, by Joseph Anthony McDonnell, has been restored and placed.

What remains to be completed is the capstone for the ring of the fountain, demolition of the lagoon to the north of the ring, filling in the lagoon and landscaping the site. All of this work is being financed through private donations. Funds are still needed to complete the work so that the smaller fountain with Moby Dick spouting water will be operational by summer.

Donations may be made to the Friends of Southfield Public Arts, in care of the Mayor's Office, City of Southfield, 26000 Evergreen Road, Southfield 48076. Or, via PayPal at SFLDPublicArts@gmail.com

Moby Dick was rescued from Northland Center after the mall closed in April 2015.



Restored Moby Dick at the Southfield Public Library

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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 srosenburgh@cityofsouthfield.com Feel free to pass this newsletter on to others.