

MAYOR'S MEMO

News of Interest to Southfield Residents from Mayor Ken Siver

Mayor presents 2019-20 budget to City Council

On May 13, as required by the Southfield City Charter, Mayor Kenson Siver presented the proposed 2019-20 budget to the Southfield City Council. After the review and adjustments, the Council is expected to adopt the budget for the coming fiscal year on June 17th. The Council has a budget review study session planned for May 30.

General Fund revenues for 2019-20 are projected at \$78.25 million, up by \$4.1 million from the current year. The revenues are based on a taxable value of \$2.56 billion. (Prior to the Great Recession the city taxable value was \$3.5 billion.) This budget is driven exclusively by the revenues that are available and will not require a draw from the city's fund balance. In other words, the city is presented a balanced budget that includes modest cost-of-living increases for city staff.

The economic recovery of Southeastern Michigan has not directly benefited municipal governments as local units of governments rely primarily on property tax levies to fund operations and programs. Local revenue generation is limited by both Proposal A of 1994 and the Headlee Amendment to the Michigan Constitution.

The proposed breakdown of General Fund spending for the 2019-20 fiscal year is as follows:
Administration & General Operations -- \$25.79 million
Police & Fire -- \$45.75 million
46th District Court -- \$3.95 million
Sanitation -- \$2.77 million

Additionally, the proposed, non-General Fund expenditures for 2019-20 include:

Facilities Maintenance -- \$4.28 million
Library -- \$7.66 million
Local Streets -- \$7.96 million
Major Streets -- \$9.67 million
Motor Pool -- \$4.14 million
Parks & Recreation -- \$6.68 million



**2019-20
Southfield
General Fund
Budget is
balanced;
City finances
in good order**

City Council, Mayor set top goals for the coming year

Under the leadership of City Council President Lloyd Crews, Southfield elected officials and administration sat down in March to pinpoint key goals for the year ahead.

They are:

- Re-develop the EverCentre property (8.15 acres across from the civic center) as a vibrant, mixed-use, pedestrian-friendly development within five or six years.
- Create a successful, revitalized Beech Woods Park facility and park strategy within one year. (The Beech Woods golf course is closed for the year to analyze making major repairs to the course. Further, to determine what other investments should be made at this facility.)
- Develop a marketing and communications plan for the City of Southfield within 12 months.
- Revitalize the former Northland Center site with the first phases of mixed-use developments within five years. (Several development offers are in the works.)
- Provide a variety of housing options and choices in the city for all age ranges. (The city wants to attract younger families while retaining older residents with new housing options.)
- Complete the water and sewer bond within three years.



Rendering of the new Truck-Lite headquarters to be built at Civic Center Drive & Northwestern Highway.

Truck-Lite coming to Southfield; Building new headquarters

Southfield’s portfolio of auto-related companies just went up a notch. Truck-Lite, of Falconer, New York, has decided to relocate its headquarters to the city.

City Council recently approved the company’s site plan for the construction of a 40,000 square foot, 42-foot-tall building on the 37-acre site on the corner of Civic Center Drive and Northwestern Highway. The building will house the company’s administrative offices and a new technology center.

This site was formerly occupied by Bendix Corporation Research Laboratories. The 1955 office building was torn down decades ago and the property has since remained vacant.

Truck-Lite, with manufacturing facilities in New York, Pennsylvania, Mexico and Great Britain, produces lighting systems for trucks and cargo trailers and other truck related products. The company selected Southfield because of its central location in Southeastern Michigan and to be in close proximity with other auto-related suppliers.

When fully operational in Southfield, Truck-Lite expects to have 100 employees working in the city.



**Mayor, City Clerk,
Chamber
President
to visit Japan**

The Japan Foundation, located in Tokyo, has extended an all-expenses paid, one-week visit to Japan to Southfield Chamber of Commerce President Tanya Markos-Vanno, City Clerk Sherikia Hawkins and Mayor Kenson Siver.

The foundation invited the Southfield delegation as part of an international business exchange. They will be in Japan from May 19 to 25. The Southfield delegation will be meeting with the Japan External Trade Association, Japan Business Federation, DENSO Corporation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kariya Chamber of Commerce, among others.

Their visit will also include tourist sites such as the Tokyo Skytree, Ise-Jingu, the Imperial Palace and the Asakusa Temple.



Flower Day on Nine Mile set for May 18

The city of Southfield will co-sponsor the annual **Southfield Flower Day on Nine Mile** on Saturday, May 18 from 9am until 8pm at Southfield vendors located on Nine Mile Road just west of Telegraph Road.

Participating vendors will include 3D's Gardens located at 24850 W. Nine Mile Road and Lavin's Flowerland located at 24620 W. Nine Mile Road. Both nurseries will be offering special discounts to Southfield residents. A valid driver's license or other form of ID will be required to receive any discounts.

"Southfield Flower Day on Nine Mile provides the community with a great opportunity to shop for quality plants and flowers from several local vendors right here in town," commented Mayor Kenson Siver. "Why drive downtown for flowers when you can beat the rush and crowds locally? This is a great time for residents to purchase flowers to spruce up their yards and neighborhoods and support Southfield businesses."

The event is sponsored by the Mayor and City Council to promote curb appeal and the beautification of Southfield. Many varieties of annual and perennial flowers and plants will be offered for sale. Members of the Southfield Parks & Garden Club will also be on hand at each location offering free gardening tips and advice.

Gardeners don't despair, cultivate deer-resistant plants

With the arrival of spring, Southfield residents are ready to work outside. However, many a Southfield gardener has been ready to give up on yard beautification because of destruction by the local deer herd.

One can still have an attractive garden with plants that deer avoid. Believe it or not, deer are picky eaters. They generally avoid plants with strong odors such as marigolds and geraniums. They also will not eat plants with fuzzy leaves and stems such as zinnias. They prefer broad, smooth-leafed plants such as hostas.

Here are some suggestions for employing deer-resistant annuals:

Ageratum	Bachelor's Buttons	Dusty Miller
Ferns	Forget-me-Nots	Geraniums
Heliotrope	Lantana	Larkspur
Lobelia	Poppies	Marigolds
Nasturtium	Rosemary	Salvia
Snapdragon	Spiders (Cleome)	Verbena
Vinca	Zinnias	Sweet Alyssum

Suggestions for deer-resistant perennials include:

African Lily	Astilbe	Beebalm
Bishop's Weed	Black-Eyed Susan	
Bleeding	Buttercup	Carnations
Columbine	Coneflower	Coreopsis
Delphinium	Germander	Hens & Chicks



Deer are picky eaters that avoid many plants. Gardeners should cultivate plants deer don't like.

Horehound	Iris	Lavender
Lemon Balm	Lily of the Valley	
Lupine	Marjoram	Mint
Ornamental Grasses	Peony	Rhubarb
Russian Sage	St. John's Wort	
Sweet Williams	Yarrow	Yucca

Groundcovers such as Pachysandra and Barrenwort and shrubs like Boxwood, Red Elderberry, Weigela, Holly and Cotteoneaster are also deer resistant. (Note: When lacking choices, deer may eat just about anything.)

County Road Commission to make repairs to Ten Mile

City officials are quick to point out that Ten Mile Road is controlled by the Road Commission of Oakland County when receiving complaints about the condition of this major thoroughfare on the stretch between Greenfield and Evergreen. Southfield has been pressuring the county to do something about the road for years.

The good news is that repairs will be made this construction season to the tune of \$3.2 million. The frustration for Southfield officials is that the project is controlled by the county, yet the city is asked to pay slightly over a third of the repair cost.

Ten Mile was replaced about 40 years ago. The concrete on the west bound lanes between Greenfield and Southfield roads and the east bound lanes between Evergreen and Southfield roads failed many years ago. Drivers have been living with pot holes and patches for a long time.

The Road Commission will not be performing a total reconstruction of Ten Mile. Instead, the worst sections of concrete will be replaced.

The Road Commission of Oakland County will also mill and replace the blacktop on Lahser Road between 8 1/2 Mile Road and Ten Mile. Lahser, Telegraph, Southfield, Greenfield, Eight Mile and Twelve Mile are under county jurisdiction.



Ten Mile Road, looking east of Evergreen, has been in very poor condition for years. Ten Mile, an Oakland County Road, will have failed sections of concrete replaced this construction season but not a total rebuild. A third of the cost will be borne by Southfield.



NOT ACCEPTABLE



YES!

Residents reminded to properly place branches, sticks at curb

Homeowners are reminded to place twigs, sticks and small branches in cans or bags for yard waste collection.

Twigs, sticks, small branches and vines will not be picked up at the curb if left in piles as they jam the wood chipper.

The city has purchased additional equipment for tree limb removal so as to speed up collections of the same. Please place tree limbs butt-end facing the curb to assist Public Works staff with efficient pick-up.



Annual Memorial Day program set for Friday, May 24

The City of Southfield will host its annual Memorial Day program at 9am on Friday, May 24 in City Council chambers. The public is invited to attend.

As part of the ceremony, the City and the Southfield Veterans' Commission will include short remembrances or tributes to military veterans, particularly World War II, whether living or deceased to recognize their service to our country.

Tributes may be made in person or interested parties may submit photos and information in advance for inclusion in a pre-prepared presentation.

To participate, please submit a photo (preferably in uniform) as well as the veteran's name, rank, military branch and where they served (if applicable) to lcarr@cityofsouthfield.com. If you would like to present in person, please call Southfield Community Relations at (248) 796-5130 to sign up.

Meanwhile the Police Memorial program will take place on May 17 at 10am in front of City Hall.

MAYOR'S MEMO

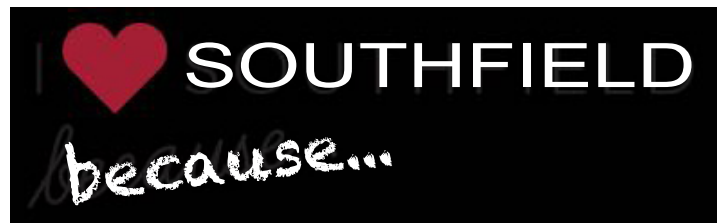
The Mayor's Memo is an occasional newsletter produced by Mayor Ken Siver and not done at city expense. The Memo provides city news & updates to residents. To subscribe, send an email to rosenbergh@cityofsouthfield.com Feel free to forward this newsletter on to others.

Southfield launches "I heart Southfield because..." social media campaign

What do you love about Southfield? We want to know! The city of Southfield is launching the "I heart Southfield because..." social media campaign to learn first-hand what our residents and business people love about our great city.

Simply visit <http://bit.ly/iheartsfld> or head to the front desk of the Municipal Campus to fill out an "I heart Southfield because..." card and tell us what you love about Southfield. We'll be sharing the responses on social media so keep an eye out for your answer.

For more information, contact Community Relations at (248) 796-5130.



Community Coalition to host city garage sale July 13

The Southfield Community Coalition will host the 3rd Annual Community Yard Sale on Saturday, July 13 from 9am to 2pm in the south parking lot of the Southfield Municipal Complex, 26000 Evergreen Road. The rain date will be July 14.

The Community Yard Sale is open to all members of the Southfield community. Residents can rent yard sale space individually or in groups for \$25 each. Vendor applications must be submitted by July 5 and can be downloaded at www.southfieldcommunitycoalition.org.

The sale is open to the public with free admission and parking. For more information, contact the Southfield Community Coalition at southfieldcmmtyco@gmail.com or call Southfield Community Relations at 248.796.5130.