

MAYOR'S MEMO

News of Interest to Southfield Residents from Mayor Ken Siver

Southfield's new police chief Elvin Barren is on the job

Southfield's new police chief Elvin Barren was sworn in on Monday, July 29 and went right to work. Chief Barren thanked the city for its confidence in him and those involved in the interview panels.

He offered special thanks to Acting Chief Brian Bassett who led the department since last September following the resignation of Eric Hawkins. Hawkins took the position of Chief of Police for the city of Albany, New York.

Prior to his appointment in Southfield, Chief Barren was a member of the Detroit Police Department (DPD) for 21 years. His last position in the DPD was Deputy Police Chief. His responsibilities included management of eight major crime fighting units in the force with a staff of 1,100 police officers and a yearly budget of \$137 million. He has over 12 years of command experience.

Chief Barren holds an Associates of Science degree in Law Enforcement Administration from Wayne County Community College, a Bachelor of Science in Public Administration from Central Michigan University and is currently completing a Master's degree in Criminal Justice from Bowling Green State University.

Mr. Barren is also a graduate of the Senior Management Institute for Police and has completed training at the Police Executives' and New Chiefs' School, sponsored by the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police.



Chief Barren also completed the Leadership in Counterterrorism Program sponsored by the FBI and has completed several other training and leadership development programs.

Following a lengthy vetting process which included public interviews of four finalists, City Manager Fred Zorn recommended Barren for the post to the City Council. The Council approved his appointment at its meeting of July 15.

***Home values
increase in city;
Southfield in top ten
nationally of suburbs
with greatest gains***

**78.2 % home value increase
over last five years**

Business Insider, an American financial and business website, has listed Southfield in the top 25 suburban communities in the United States to experience the greatest increase in median home value over the past five years.

While 12 of the 25 suburbs listed are in Florida, others named are in Georgia, Illinois, Texas, New Jersey and Washington. Southfield comes in tenth place with a 78.2 percent rise in median home values since 2014. *Business Insider* lists the median home price in Southfield at \$177,100.

Since the mortgage crisis and Great Recession, the city has worked hard through a variety of programs and partnerships to improve home values and reduce the number of rental homes. For most, their home is their largest single investment.

Kimmie Horne Jazz Festival returns to Civic Center front lawn Friday, August 9 & Saturday, August 10

After a highly successful festival last August, the Kimmie Horne Jazz Festival is back by popular demand.

Ms. Horne will be joined by eight other artists for the two-day festival which will feature food trucks, boutique vendors and a beer and wine tent sponsored by the Southfield Chamber of Commerce.

This year's festival will also include a Jazzy Roll Bike Cruise. Registration for the Jazzy Roll Bike Cruise will begin at 10am on Saturday, August 10 at the Southfield Public Library.

Kimmie Horne will perform both days, headlining the festival on Saturday. Additionally, Saturday's event will include a special presentation honoring a legendary artist with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

The festival is free and open to the public. Please bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating.

Parking will be available on

KIMMIE HORNE

FESTIVAL











FRIDAY AUG 9TH

5PM DJ VERNON ENGLISH
 6PM 496 WEST BAND
 7PM ERIC WATSON
 8PM DAVE BENNETT
 9PM CHARLES & GWEN SCALES
 10PM KIMMIE HORNE

SATURDAY AUG 10TH

2PM DJ VERNON ENGLISH
 3PM TRICIA JONES
 4PM CALVIN BROOKS
 5PM RALPHIE ARMSTRONG
 7PM LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARI
 8PM BEN SHARKEY
 9PM KIMMIE HORNE

JAZZY ROLL BIKE CRUISE:
SATURDAY
AUGUST 10TH 10AM

9 HOLE GOLF OUTING:
SATURDAY
AUGUST 10TH 9AM

26000 EVERGREEN RD.
SOUTHFIELD, MI.

Our Sponsors















VIP PARKING \$10.00

Proceeds go to the Friends of Southfield Public Arts

the Southfield Municipal Campus for \$10 in both the north and south parking lots and in front of the Municipal Campus on the corner of Evergreen Road and Civic Center Drive.

The parking fee helps underwrite the cost of the concert and supports the Friends of Southfield Public Arts. Food will also be available for purchase.

2019-20 road, water, sewer projects advancing

Work is underway on three, two-year projects in several neighborhoods,

In the **Bonnie Acres, Freddie Grays & Canterbury Gardens** neighborhoods (between Catalpa and Twelve Mile Road and west of Greenfield) resurfacing of black top roads, spot repair of concrete roads and some storm sewer work to address drainage issues has begun. This \$12 million project will be completed by fall 2020.

Sherwood Village & Southfield Village (Ten Mile & Greenfield) are undergoing the second phase of a major project to separate the combined (storm and sanitary) sewer that has served these neighborhoods since their inception. The city is installing separate storm and sanitary sewers in an effort to avert basement flooding in the event of a major rain event. New water mains and concrete streets will be installed once the sewer work is completed. This project is expected to cost over \$40 million once the third and fourth phases are completed.

Work is scheduled to begin in **Washington Village** (west of Northwestern Service Drive and north of Nine Mile) in mid-August. Streets will be milled and a new layer of asphalt will be applied once new water mains are installed.

The Road Commission of Oakland County (RCOC) has three projects in Southfield this summer. Lahser Road between 8 ½ Mile and Ten Mile was milled and received a new coat of asphalt. The same for stretches of Twelve Mile Road east and west of Southfield Road. Work is currently underway on Ten Mile Road between Evergreen and Greenfield. RCOC is totally rebuilding the east bound lanes of Ten Mile between Evergreen and Southfield roads. Spot concrete repairs will be made on the west bound lanes of Ten Mile. This work should be concluded by November.

The cost of the repairs to the two-mile stretch of Ten Mile is \$3.2 million. The city of Southfield's share of the cost is \$1.2 million and coming from the 2014 Road Bond fund.

The repaving of Southbound Northwestern Service Drive from Evergreen to Nine Mile has been delayed.



Prep for drainage work in Freddie Grays subdivision

Originally bid in May, this partially federally funded project came in 28% over budget. The decision was made to re-bid the project. In July new bids were received of which the winning award is \$4.325 million. The federal contribution will be \$1.4 million. A new pathway from Civic Center to Nine Mile is being funded through a state grant, Metro Act funds, Lawrence Tech and the Southfield City Centre Advisory Board.

Projects completed this year include Winchester Street, Case Avenue, Middlesex, Coral Gables, Nine Mile (between Lahser & Berg Road) and Northbound Northwestern Service Drive (between Southfield Road and Lahser).

2020 Road projects in planning stages

The long-awaited resurfacing of Nine Mile Road between Beech Road and Inkster is on the schedule for 2020. Federal funds have been secured for this project. Civic Center between the Lodge Freeway and Lahser and Franklin Road between 12 and Northwestern are also slated for 2020.

Beech Road from Eight to Ten Mile is scheduled to be milled and repaved in 2021.



Construction has begun on a new paved walking/jogging path at Catalpa Oaks Park.

Catalpa Oaks Park adds new walking/jogging path

Catalpa Oaks Park, part of the Oakland County Parks & Recreation system, is adding a new walking/jogging path around the perimeter of the park. Catalpa Oaks is primarily used by soccer leagues.

The new path is mostly on the top of the berm that surrounds the soccer fields. The path is approximately one mile long. Oakland County has been making improvements to Catalpa Oaks. Several years ago, restrooms and a picnic shelter were constructed. The park is located at the corner of Greenfield Road and Catalpa Street.

Grandstands rise at LTU

Construction continues on the next phase of the Lawrence Technological University Stadium Complex at the corner of Northwestern Service Drive and Ten Mile Road. Grandstands, with a seating capacity for 2,300 fans, are under construction this summer. Also, to be added are restrooms and a concession stand.

Completion of the project is expected before football season begins in September. Football returned to Lawrence Tech last fall after a 72-year absence. The LTU Blue Devils are in Division II of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. The team's first home game this coming season will be played at noon on Saturday, September 7 against St. Xavier University of Chicago.

The grandstand construction follows the installation of an artificial turf playing field, a scoreboard and field lighting two years ago. The stadium complex



Grandstands are the latest addition to the Lawrence Tech Stadium Complex.

and football program are not being financed through student tuition, but rather through donations and sponsorships. The next phase, as funding becomes available, will include a field house and visitor seating.

Deadline nears for casting vote in Southfield Photo Prize

The City of Southfield is sponsoring the 3rd annual Southfield Photo Prize competition and outdoor exhibition to showcase the City's natural and architectural beauty. Over 100 submissions were received and initially reviewed by the Total Living Commission which selected the top 25 finalists that will be on display and eligible for public voting until August 30, 2019.

The community is encouraged to visit the public exhibition to view all of the photos which have been enlarged and placed on display on city hall and the Parks & Recreation building.

To vote, simply log on to www.cityof-southfield.com and click on 'Photo Prize 2019' under 'Highlights' on the homepage. Select your favorite photograph from the drop-down menu below and then click 'Submit' at the bottom right of the page. You may only vote for one entry per IP address. Additional votes from the same IP address will be ineligible. The photograph that receives the most overall votes will be announced at an awards ceremony in September and featured in the City's 2020 calendar. Other finalists may also be featured in the calendar and other city marketing materials.

For more information, call Community Relations at (248) 796-5130 or visit www.cityofsouthfield.com.



Photo finalists are on display outside the P&R building.



Fountain restoration moves toward completion

The redesign and restoration of the Southfield Public Library Fountain is expected to be completed by mid-August. Spring rains delayed waterproofing the base of the fountain.

This project is being financed with donations provided to the Friends of Southfield Public Arts. Barton Malow is donating the capstone and concrete walkways around the fountain. The fountain features the Moby Dick sculpture that formerly graced Northland Mall.

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