

# MAYOR'S MEMO

*News of Interest to Southfield Residents from Mayor Ken Siver*



**Mayor Siver (right) visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus as reindeer look on at the Crime Stoppers of Michigan Drive Thru Holiday Event. Approximately 200 families attended the event which included food basket and toy donations, Parade Company floats and entertainment.**



**The Southfield Police Department, with the assistance of the Southfield Domestic Violence Group, the Southfield Public Schools, Take One Community Program and the Southfield Fire Department, organized a toy giveaway event for families with children ages 4 to 12 entitled "Holiday Sleigh of Giving." Over 300 families were served.**

## Southfield cares for those struggling from pandemic fallout

There is universal agreement that 2020 has been a very challenging year for all. However, many have come forward to assist those most impacted by loss of income and support. Even in a pandemic, Southfielders are making the holidays brighter.

The Southfield Human Services Department, headed by Rhonda Terry, leads the city's efforts to assist individuals and families in need. With the help of federal CARES Act funding, Ms. Terry has been able to offer grants directly related to the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic. The financial assistance covers rent, utilities, mortgage payments and food for qualified persons.

Prior to Thanksgiving, the Human Services Department distributed 130 turkeys donated by Korean Presbyterian Church of Metro Detroit, Midwest Independent Retailers Foundation and St. Mary the Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral of Southfield.

Fundraising for the Southfield Goodfellows annual holiday giving was curtailed by the pandemic. Nonetheless, Human Services coordinated a direct cash donation initiative and a raffle. The Goodfellows will assist 320 families with children and senior adults for a total of 870 individuals this month.

The Southfield Police Department, in cooperation with the Southfield Domestic Violence Group, hosted Holiday Sleigh of Giving. Approximately, 300 families received toys and gifts for children ages 4 to 12 in a drive-up event in front of the Parks & Recreation building.

Many others have stepped up as well, including food donations by Family Assistance for Renaissance Men, the Southfield-Lathrup Democratic Club, Gleaners, Forgotten Harvest, Crime Stoppers of Michigan, local churches and synagogues and others.

## City Council creates Wildlife Advisory Commission

Recently, the City Council appointed members to the new Wildlife Advisory Commission. This seven-member, citizen body will be responsible for developing and proposing to Council a wildlife management program.

The commission is charged with balancing the safety, health and welfare of residents and visitors to the City of Southfield and that of the wild animals in our midst. At minimum, it shall actively seek out and receive input from residents and others with concerns regarding wildlife in the city; work collaboratively with individuals of all points of view regarding wildlife; work collaboratively with wildlife commissions or similar organizations in nearby communities regarding wildlife in or near Southfield; and work collaboratively with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and other county, state and federal entities responsible for wildlife management regarding wildlife in or near the City of Southfield.

This advisory body was created due to complaints by residents about deer and more recently the rise of coyotes in Southfield. Residents opinions are split on the city's urban deer herd. Many enjoy seeing the deer roam in their neighborhoods, while others are frustrated by the damage deer cause to landscaping.

For the past several years coyote sightings have



***Deer have become very comfortable living in Southfield neighborhoods. Resident views vary. City Council seeks input on how to address wildlife concerns.***

become more frequent in Southfield. While coyotes shun humans and mostly forage at night, they have been known to attack small household pets.

Appointed to the Wildlife Commission were: Myron Frasier, Tiffany Gotcher, Jenelle Konstam, Michele Merritt, Joel Milinsky, Jennifer Ormond and David Sheaffer.

The commissioners will collect data on urban wildlife (such as deer/car accidents, population estimates) and consult with surrounding communities and wildlife management agencies. Ultimately, the commission will make recommendations to the City Council.



**Randy Scott**

## Southfield's Randy Scott's new album debuts at #1 on Billboard charts

Saxophonist, Southfield resident and Birney K-8 School instrumental music teacher Randy Scott has released his seventh solo CD. Entitled "Elevation," this album debuted this fall at #1 on the national Billboard charts.

Randy, a frequent performer at Southfield's annual Martin Luther King Peace Walk program, has performed on almost every major record label. He is a three-time winner of the nationally televised, "It's Showtime at the Apollo." He also played at the White House for Presidents Clinton and Bush.

Congratulations Randy!



## Annual Southfield MLK Day celebration goes virtual; Driving tour planned

The city of Southfield and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Task Force will host the Driving for Justice Peace Parade followed by a Virtual Commemorative Program on Monday, January 18 beginning at 9am at Hope United Methodist Church, 26275 Northwestern Highway.

The 2021 theme will be: ***Justice Now: Injustice Anywhere is a Threat to Justice Everywhere.***

All pre-registered cars must arrive at Hope United Methodist Church by 8:45am to participate in the Driving for Justice Peace Parade. Vehicles should enter from the Civic Center/MLK Drive entrance where they will be directed to line up for the parade. The parade will depart from Hope United with a route through Southfield that ends at the Southfield Municipal Campus. All participants must wear face masks and stay inside their vehicles at all times.

The Virtual Commemorative Program will follow at 12 noon via cablecast by Southfield City Cable 15, YouTube and Facebook Live, in addition to being aired live through the City's website at <https://bit.ly/Cable15>.

The program will include the presentation of the 2021 MLK Community Service Award and the MLK Youth Service Awards.

Pre-registration is required by January 8, 2021 (or until all slots are filled on a first-come, first-served basis) and is limited to the first 250 vehicles. The Task Force is also selling MLK magnetic vehicle signs in advance for \$22.50 per sign. A fillable registration form with instructions for online completion and sign purchase is available on the MLK Task Force website at [www.mlktaskforcemi.org](http://www.mlktaskforcemi.org).

The MLK Task Force will also be hosting a MLK Day of Service food giveaway following the parade to provide free food for the community due to the continued strain on financial resources for many families. The food distribution will take place in the Southfield Parks and Recreation circular drive in partnership with Gleaners and other organizations that provide food for those in need.

For more information, call the MLK Task Force hotline at (248) 924-9MLK or visit [www.mlktaskforcemi.org](http://www.mlktaskforcemi.org).

## Visual symbol added to city's longstanding pledge for peace, brotherhood



**Three Peace Poles with the message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in 24 languages stand in front of city hall.**

Peace Poles were installed this fall in front of Southfield City Hall as part of an initiative by the May Peace Prevail on Earth International™, a global not-for-profit charity that develops and promotes peace activities for communities and youth.

The three Southfield peace poles state "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in 24 languages and even with the message in braille.

The May Peace Prevail on Earth movement is spread throughout the world by the tireless grassroots efforts of the individual members. May Peace Prevail, along with their affiliates Peace Pals International™ and the Goi Peace Organization of Japan, are members of the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

"Now more than ever before, we must all come together in a spirit of peace, love, mutual respect and understanding," remarked Councilman Lloyd Crews. "In Southfield, we value every person from every culture, religion, race and background and these new Peace Poles exemplify that in a way that I hope resonates with every resident and visitor. It is our collective prayer for peace not only in Southfield, but throughout the entire world."



***City's 25th anniversary was celebrated in 1983 with The City of Southfield sculpture by Melvin Leiserowitz.***

## New life, location for restored city sculpture

"The City of Southfield" sculpture by Melvin Leiserowitz celebrated the city's 25th anniversary in 1983. For many years it was tucked away on a hillside in the rear of the municipal campus.

Rusting and in need of reconditioning, the piece was dismantled when a water main broke underneath it. The Public Arts Commission recommended, and City Council approved, restoring and relocating it to a more prominent place on the campus.

After a complete restoration, it now rests on the inner front lawn of City Hall.

Prior to COVID, the Friends of Southfield Public Arts had commissioned renowned Detroit artist Hubert Massey to create an installation in Southfield. Unfortunately, the pandemic has totally disrupted the fundraising campaigns planned for 2020, as well as the cancellation of the Kimmie Horne Jazz Festival.

There is some good news, however. The Friends has a donor who will match, dollar for dollar, every donation made between now and January 11, 2021. These funds will go toward the installation of a Hubert Massey obelisk in the city.

Donations may be made payable by check to the **Friends of Southfield Public Arts**, c/o the Mayor's Office, 26000 Evergreen Road, Southfield, MI 48076 or by PayPal at [SFLDPublicArts@gmail.com](mailto:SFLDPublicArts@gmail.com). Donations are fully tax-deductible.

## Redevelopment of Northland inches forward

Contour Companies of Bloomfield Hills is continuing its due diligence before closing on the purchase of 97 acres of the former Northland Mall site. Meanwhile, the city is working with Contour on economic development incentives to help the project along.

Additionally, the City Council has approved an amendment to the existing Overlay Development District zoning for Northland to allow a Master Development Plan and mixed-use development. This is an important technical measure that will help advance the project.

Closing on the property by Contour is expected by spring. Contour plans to develop the mall site in phases, starting with apartments on Greenfield. At the same time, it will begin the demolition of portions of the Northland complex that are not slated for adaptive re-use. To be demolished are the former JC Penney's store,

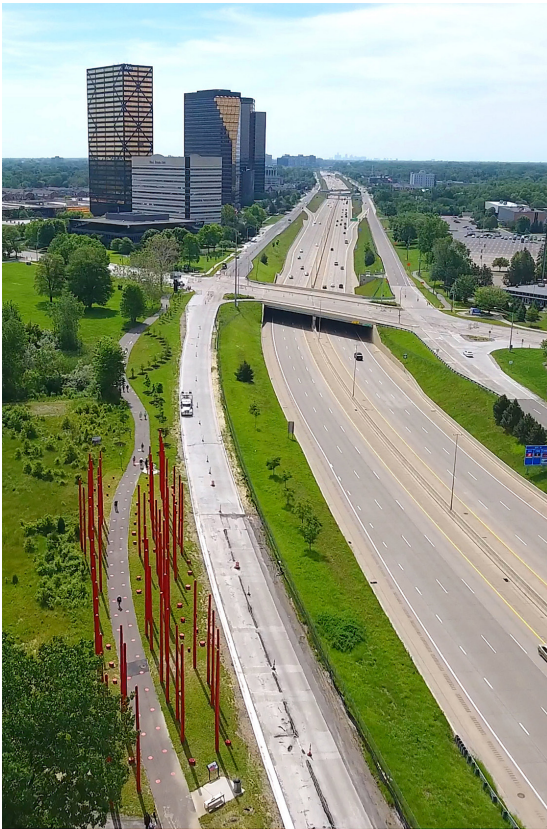


***Five-story apartment buildings will front Greenfield Road with first floor neighborhood retail.***

the 1974 enclosure of the mall and other additions that were not part of the original Northland. The first phase will include the construction of five-story apartment buildings which will mimic the design of the Northland Hudson's store. The apartments are planned with first floor neighborhood retail and rooftop amenities.

Contour's redevelopment master plan mirrors and exceeds the community vision for the Northland property that was developed in 2016.





***Walking and biking paths along Northwestern Highway Service Drive now extend from 11 Mile to Nine Mile. The Red Pole Park recently was recognized by the Michigan Chapter of the American Association of Landscape Architects.***

## Red Pole Park garners design award

Southfield's Red Pole Park recently received a General Design Merit Award from the Michigan Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (MASLA). The Red Pole Park was installed in 2017 after a fundraising campaign to match a \$50,000 Michigan Economic Development Corporation "Public Spaces/Community Places" grant.

"The Red Pole Park adds to the experience of walking and makes it a destination and not just a path," City Planner Terry Croad said.

Just before Thanksgiving the reconstruction of the southbound Northwestern Highway Service Drive from Evergreen Road to Nine Mile Road was completed. And, with it, the completion of the extension of the walking/biking trail. This addition expands Southfield's trail network from Civic Center Drive to Nine Mile.

The Southfield trails are featured as the cover story of MiSites, the quarterly journal of the MASLA. Southfield was developed around the automobile. In the development of the updated city master plan, "Sustainable Southfield," community members and local businesses expressed the need for a more walkable and connected environment.

The Southfield City Centre trail system is unique to most other places in that it does not follow a river or rails-to-trails development. It abuts the service drives of a major urban thoroughfare. Walkers and cyclists can now make complete loops between Evergreen, Lahser, Nine and 11 mile roads.

Besides the Red Pole Park, the pathways are marked with signage, benches, bird houses, trash receptacles and soon to be a series of panel art by Hubert Massey and murals on a retaining wall on the edge of the campus of Lawrence Tech.

## Southfield COVID-19 Update

Date	Sfld Cases	Sfld Deaths	State Cases	State Deaths
10/1	2,047	246	125,578	6,781
10/15	2,097	246	141,091	6,973
11/2	2,262	247	184,889	7,357
11/14	2,464	250	251,813	7,994
12/1	2,874	250	366,242	9,324
12/14	3,163	257	437,985	10,752

## 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 [bastrop@cityof-southfield.com](mailto:bastrop@cityof-southfield.com). Feel free to pass this newsletter on to others.

## COVID testing available Wednesdays at City Hall

The Oakland County Health Division is offering COVID-19 testing every Wednesday in the underground parking garage of the Southfield Municipal Complex.

### Testing requirements are as follows:

Appointment required. Call 800.848.5533  
Available to all adults age 18 and up  
Children 4 to 17-years-old must have symptoms of Corona Virus and be a resident of Oakland County or attend school in Oakland County

### Once you have an appointment, follow these instructions:

- Come at your appointed time.
- Only those individuals scheduled with an appointment will be tested.
- Bring a photo ID with you to the testing site.
- The test cannot be completed if pets are in the vehicle.
- The person(s) receiving the test must remain in their vehicle at all times.
- The test will be done by inserting a swab into the nose or mouth.

There is no medical care provided at the test site.

Test results will be provided within 3-5 days. The Health Division will contact you by phone.