

# MAYOR'S MEMO

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

## Police Chief Barren outlines new crime prevention, reduction strategy

The Southfield Police Department has adopted the Community Harms/Directed Policing Model. This approach encourages the police department to be creative in implementing strategies related to behavioral health, environmental issues, substance abuse, traffic accidents and youth.

Police Chief Elvin Barren, with citizen input, developed a list of community harms that include domestic violence, traffic safety, active shooter preparedness, youth engagement, substance abuse and Northland/Eight Mile/Greenfield police presence.

Prevention, awareness and enforcement strategies are key components of reducing harms. Further, partnerships have been strengthened with agencies and organizations to aid police response and community outreach. These partnerships include: The Haven, Southfield Domestic Violence Group, Traffic Improvement Association, the Southfield Public Schools, the Southeast Michigan Trafficking & Exploitation Crimes Task Force, Southfield Chapter of My Brother's Keeper, Southfield Community Anti-Drug Coalition, among others.

Sadly, incidents of domestic violence are all too common in Southfield—occurring almost daily. Since 2017, the Southfield Police Department has responded to 1,500 domestic violence calls. The department plans to organize community outreach efforts to reduce these situations. All officers are receiving training in handling these calls and in performing “danger assessments.”

Under Chief Barren a newly formed Traffic Safety Bureau has been implemented in response to accidents and citizen complaints of speeding and ignoring the loading and unloading of school buses, stop signs and traffic lights.

In conjunction with the Southfield Fire Department, the SPD has been hosting Active Shooter Response events to train citizens on techniques designed to increase their chances of survival. Sadly, mass shootings have become all too common in America. Southfield Police officers have had extensive training in how to respond to these events.



***Flanked by community members and Deputy Chief Nick Loussia, Police Chief Elvin Barren outlines the Directed Policing Model for implementation in Southfield at a recent press conference.***

The SPD has three School Resource Officers who work daily in the schools with Southfield youth to further the development of meaningful relationships. These officers are involved in numerous mentoring activities including personal safety, bullying (cyber and physical), driving safety tips, bicycle safety, career days, social media safety, etc.

Southfield hotels and massage parlors are being monitored for criminal activities involving human trafficking or prostitution. The SPD conducts annual inspections of massage parlors.

In partnership with the local and county anti-drug coalitions, the SPD is working to build healthy communities for youth and families through education, support and counseling to lead to a reduction in substance abuse. Additionally, the Southfield Fire Department is offering free Narcan training to community members on the use of the Intra-Nasal Narcan overdose reversal drug. Officers and fire fighters have been trained in the same.

And, finally, as the redevelopment of the Northland area continues, the police department will establish a presence in that area of the city with a new police station. The department also has three Community Policing and Crime Prevention officers who work with residents and businesses.

## March 10 Presidential Primary ballot also includes 2 millage renewals

Besides casting a vote for a Presidential candidate, Southfield voters will be asked to vote on two existing millages—one for operations of the Detroit Institute of Arts and the other for operations of the Southfield Public Schools—that are set to expire.

The ballot language reads as follows:

### **SOUTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS OPERATING MILLAGE RENEWAL**

This proposal would restore, replace and extend the authority of the Southfield Public Schools to levy up to 18 mills for general school district operating purposes on taxable property in the School District to the extent that such property is not exempt from such levy and would restrict the levy on principal residences (owner occupied homes) to no more than 16.9698 mills.

If approved, this proposal would restore the authority of the School District to levy the statutory limit of 18.00 mills on non-homestead (principally industrial and commercial real property and residential rental property) which currently expires after the School District's 2020 tax levy, and allow the district to continue to levy the statutory limit of 18 mills on non-homestead property in the event of future Headlee rollbacks of up to 2.00 mills. Under existing law, the School District would levy on principal residence property only that portion of the mills necessary to allow the School District to receive the full revenue per pupil foundation allowance permitted by the State.



File photo

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be imposed on taxable property in the Southfield Public Schools, County of Oakland, Michigan, be increased to 20.00 mills (\$20.00 per \$1,000 of taxable value), of which not more than 16.9698 mills may be imposed on principal residences, for ten (10) years, the years 2020 to 2029, inclusive, to provide funds for operating expenses of the school district? This millage would raise approximately \$42,309,000 in the first year of levy.

### **DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS OPERATING MILLAGE RENEWAL**

In 2012, the electors of Oakland County approved a 10-year millage to provide County residents with services



DIA Rivera Court

from the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) through the Oakland County Art Institute Authority.

As a result of the millage, the DIA provides Oakland County residents with free K-12 school field trips including free transportation, free senior group programming with free transportation, and unlimited free general admission. To ensure transparency, the DIA submits to an annual independent audit and posts financial reports online.

To continue to provide revenue to the DIA, which will allow these DIA services for the residents of the County to continue, the Art Institute Authority is permitted by law to seek a renewal of the millage at a rate of no more than the current 0.2 mill (20 cents per \$1,000 taxable value) on all real and personal property in the County. Revenue from this millage will be disbursed to the Art Institute Authority and then transferred to the DIA as permitted by and for the purposes set forth in Public Act 296 of 2010. It is estimated that if approved and levied, this millage renewal would generate approximately \$13,600,000 in 2022.

Do you approve the renewal of the 0.2 mill on all taxable property located within the County for a period of 10 years from 2022 through 2031?



### ***Antique armoire for sale to benefit city public art***

An antique, walnut armoire, measuring approximately 7 feet tall by 4 feet wide has been donated to the Friends of Southfield Public Arts. The mirror on the front door and rear panel of the armoire are replacements. This fine piece, with lower drawer, is for sale for only \$400. Anyone wishing to view or purchase the piece should contact the Mayor's Office at 248.796.5100.



## Service awards recognize 2 outstanding Southfield women

In December Rosemerry Allen was named the 2019 recipient of the Greg Kennedy Community Service Award, the city's top citizen honor. In January, Millie K. Hall received the Southfield Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service Award from the MLK Task Force.

Mrs. Allen has been active in the Southfield community for decades. When her three children attended the Southfield Public Schools, she held leadership roles in the local PTAs and in the Southfield Area Council PTA. She is the long-time president of the Tamarack Trail Civic Association. Since 2002, she has served on the Southfield Parks & Recreation Board. She is an active member of the Southfield Historical Society, the Southfield MLK Task Force, the Southfield Police Citizen Advisory Board and is a volunteer on the Southfield Citizen Emergency Response Team.

Mrs. Hall serves as the president of the Metro-Detroit Chapter of the Co-



**Millie Hall (center) is the 2020 recipient of the Martin Luther King Community Service Award. With her is Dorothy Dean, chair of the awards committee, and MLK Task Force Founder Barbara Talley.**

**At Right, Mayor Siver presents the Greg Kennedy Community Service Award to Rosemerry Allen.**

alition of Labor Union Women and is co-chair of the National CLUW Health and Wellness Committee. She is an active member of the Detroit Chapter of the A. Phillip Randolph Institute and the Michigan Equal Pay Coalition. She volunteers and fundraises for the American Heart Association and



the American Cancer Society. Among other volunteer activities she has given her time to the Detroit Branch of the ACLU, Michigan Citizens Action and AIDS Partnership Michigan. Her award was conferred at the annual Southfield Martin Luther King Peace Walk and Program.

## Census 2020: Everyone counts in Southfield!

The United States Census is mandated by the Constitution to count the populations of states and territories every ten years.

The 22nd US Census will be held on April 1, 2020. Census data is the basis for apportionment of the House of Representatives and state and county legislative districts. Most importantly, it guides state and federal revenue sharing for roads and public infrastructure, public safety, schools, hospitals, social services and a myriad of other programs. Medicaid alone accounts for 58 percent of census-guided funding.

Residents are reminded that the Census count impacts revenues the city receives not for one year but for ten. For Southfield that equates to millions of dollars over the next decade.

Residents will begin receiving notices in the mail to



complete the 2020 Census in mid-March. This mailing will include all of the information that every resident needs to respond to the Census online, by phone or in the mail by April 1, 2020. It is vitally important

that every Southfield resident participates. College students are counted in the community where they reside while attending school. Southfielders who have vacation homes or travel frequently are counted in Southfield as that is their principal residence.

Census workers will never ask for bank or social security information. All information collected in the Census, including addresses, is confidential and protected by law. The Census Bureau cannot share respondents' answers with the FBI, IRS, CIA, Welfare, Immigration, or any other government agency. No court of law or law enforcement agency can find out respondents' answers.

For further information, visit [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

## US Department of Interior approves historic designation for Northland Gardens

In late January, the United States Department of Interior announced that Southfield's Northland Gardens neighborhood is now included on the National Registry of Historic Places.

This announcement follows the earlier approval by the Michigan State Historic Preservation Board for national consideration. Mayor Siver won a grant from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in 2017 to study classic Mid-Century Modern neighborhoods in Southfield. SHPO evaluators selected Plumbrooke Estates and Northland Gardens for consideration.

An extensive study and inventory of homes in both neighborhoods was conducted by the historic buildings division of Quinn Evans Architects of Ann Arbor. Those findings were presented to SHPO in January 2019.

"Historic neighborhood designations improve property values," Mayor Siver said. "They also add a certain distinction and identity to the area."

Northland Gardens was developed in the 1950s and '60s by the real estate arm of the Hudson-Webber Company. Hudson's wanted affluent residents in close proximity to its new shopping center. The neighborhood consists of 120 large, custom ranch homes.

"Because of the outstanding design quality of the houses in the neighborhood, the cohesiveness of the design character and the relative lack of intrusive, non-conforming elements and alterations, Northland Gardens meets the criteria for exceptional historic significance," Quinn Evans noted.

For years Northland Gardens has attracted successful professionals in medicine, law, business, sports and entertainment. Among those who at one time resided in Northland Gardens were Smokey Robinson of the Miracles, Otis Williams of the Temptations, Bobbie Smith of the Spinners and Motown lyricist and singer Eddie Holland, Jr.

Last fall, the Department of Interior listed Plumbrooke Estates (built 1961-64) on the National Historic Register.



## Remember, Educate, Celebrate P&R offers Black History Month series

The Southfield Parks & Recreation Department is presenting "Southfield Celebrates Black History Month" to observe the contributions and celebrate the history of African-Americans.

Local observances kicked off on Feb. 1 with the Black History 101 Mobile Museum and a lecture by museum founder Dr. Khalid el-Hakim in the Southfield Pavilion. The Black History 101 Mobile Museum is an award-winning collection of original artifacts of Black memorabilia dating from the trans-Atlantic slave trade era to hip-hop culture.

The month-long celebration will also include:

● **Black History Movie Night** on Feb. 7th at 7pm in room 115 with the showing of the documentary *13th* by director Ava DuVernay - Free

● **Conversations & Cocktails** event on Feb. 15th from 7 to 10pm in the Southfield Pavilion with cash bar and refreshments - \$10

● **The Spirit of Harriet Tubman**, written and performed by Leslie McCurdy - 6:30pm - Free

● **Between the Lines Coloring Café** - by illustrator Sherrie Savage sharing her natural hair journey - Feb. 22 from 1-4pm - Beech Woods Rec Center - Free

● **The Secret Society of Twisted Storytellers** - Feb. 28 with Pre-Glow at 6pm; Performances from 7-9pm; Cash bar and food for purchase; Southfield Pavilion - Tickets \$10.

For additional information on "Southfield Celebrates Black History Month" visit [www.cityofsouthfield.com](http://www.cityofsouthfield.com) or contact Southfield Parks & Recreation at (248) 796-4620.



## 2 new hotels cleared for construction on Northwestern Highway

Southfield City Council approved the rezoning of 5.6 acres on Northwestern Highway from Regional Center to Overlay Development District at its meeting of Jan. 27, clearing the way for construction of two new hotels.

The four-story hotels, a Staybridge Suites Extended Stay and Hampton Inn, will each have 112 rooms. Avanti Development of Bloomfield Hills expects to begin construction this spring.

The hotels will be located on vacant acreage north of Civic Center Drive in front of the Oakland Town Square Complex and Noah's Event Center. This development will sit back from the Red Pole Park and walkway. Joining the Truck-Lite headquarters currently under construction, the hotels will build out the land along that stretch of Northwestern.

Justin Winslow, CEO of the Michigan Lodging and Restaurant Association, reports that demand for new hotel rooms in the state will increase by 1.2 percent in 2020 and 1.6 percent in 2021.



***A Hampton Inn and a Staybridge Suites will be built side-by-side on Northwestern Highway north of Civic Center Drive.***



## Popular SFLD Photo Prize seeks entries

The 4th annual Southfield Photo Prize, showcasing the natural and architectural beauty of Southfield, is now seeking entries for the 2020 competition.

Deadline for entries is May 22. Submissions must be e-mailed as an attachment to [PhotoContest@cityofsouthfield.com](mailto:PhotoContest@cityofsouthfield.com). Submissions may also be mailed on a CD to: Southfield Community Relations Department, 26000 Evergreen Road, P.O. Box 2055, Southfield, MI 48037-2055.

Photos 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. Entries of the finalists will then be enlarged and displayed at city hall for public viewing and voting.

Finalist photos will be posted on the City's website ([www.cityofsouthfield.com](http://www.cityofsouthfield.com)) for judging by the public from June 8 – August 28. The photo that receives the most overall votes will be featured in the city's 2021 calendar with a photo credit. Other finalists may also be featured in the calendar and other city marketing materials. An awards ceremony will be held in September.

Contestants must live, work, worship or attend school in the City of Southfield. Complete contest rules are posted on the city's website. For more information, call Community Relations at (248) 796-5130.

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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 [srosenbergh@cityofsouthfield.com](mailto:srosenbergh@cityofsouthfield.com). Feel free to pass this newsletter on to others.