

MAYOR'S MEMO

News of Interest to Southfield Residents from Mayor Ken Siver

GFL suspends yard waste pickup; Brush chipping continues

Following the lead of trash haulers Waste Management and Republic Services, GFL Environmental has informed the city that effective Monday, April 13, 2020 it is suspending yard waste pickup.

The move comes over the strenuous objections of communities served by GFL. The suspension of yard waste pickup is indefinite. GFL and other waste haulers claim that due to the “stay-at-home” order the volume of household trash has greatly increased as people are dining at home and working on home improvement projects and spring cleaning.

Yard waste includes leaves, grass clippings, branches, brush and other organic material only. Residents are requested to please remove any yard waste bags or containers placed at the curb (other than branches/brush that can be chipped) until further notice of when GFL collection resumes.

Branch and brush chipping, performed by Southfield’s Public Works Department, continues on the regularly scheduled collection day. Branches and brush refuse must be placed with the cut ends towards the curb on the regular trash collection day. Depending upon

the amount of branches in your neighborhood, it may take longer than the designated trash collection day to dispose of them.

During the COVID-19 crisis, GFL is currently focusing their available collection capacity on the essential services of municipal solid waste and recycling collection and disposal.

In the interim, consider backyard composting of leaves, grass and small sticks. Please note that backyard burning of yard waste is NOT a safe or legal alternative.

Further questions regarding yard waste collection can be directed to GFL at (844) 464-3587. See page 2 for instructions on how to keep recycling workers safe.



Loose piles of sticks will not be picked up by Public Works. Small sticks jam the chipper.



Banners expressing Southfield’s appreciation for the Providence Hospital staff went up over the weekend on the pedestrian bridge over Nine Mile.

Southfield COVID-19 Update

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in Southfield continues to rise. As of April 11, there were 1,006 cases and 83 deaths reported. Confirmed cases have more than doubled since April 1. Please continue to observe safe practices and the Governor’s “stay-at-home” order.

Southfield 2020 Census Response Update

As of Saturday, April 11 only 53.5% of Southfield households had responded to the Census. Although the April 1st deadline has passed, it is not too late to respond. Call 844.330.2020 or go online to www.2020census.gov

Please feel free to forward this newsletter on to others in your circle.



Based on current knowledge, we are not dealing with a true airborne hazard. Droplets fall quickly to the ground or other surfaces where they remain. Touching those surfaces and then touching one's face is the true risk and should be avoided. What are those surfaces? They could be anything. Therefore, our workers should assume that all surfaces could be contaminated by COVID-19. This includes the waste, cart handles, truck body, door handles etc. Our workers are wearing gloves and washing and sanitizing their hands often to minimize the risk. At this time, we are not aware of any significant public health hazard from waste operations.

Message to the public:
PROTECT YOUR TRASH/RECYCLING WORKERS FROM COVID-19

✓ **Maintain social distance**



✓ **Carefully bag all waste**



✓ **Keep recyclables loose**



✓ **Put all bags and recyclables into carts**

✓ **Keep lids on cart to avoid littering**



✓ **If needed, rinse containers. Make sure all containers are empty and dry**

✓ **Place only program recyclables in your recycling carts or bins**

✓ **No plastic bags or tissues in recycling**

✓ **Put carts out on time and retrieve carts quickly**

✓ **Wipe down your carts, especially the handles and lids, once you placed them at the curb**



✓ **No medical sharps or syringes in recycling**

✓ **Place any medical sharps or syringes in a rigid plastic container, clearly label it "Sharps," seal it tightly**

✓ **Put the container in the trash**

