

MAYOR'S MEMO

News of Interest to Southfield Residents from Mayor Ken Siver

Voters have options for casting their ballot in Nov. 5th Election

The Southfield City Clerk's Office is gearing up for a large turnout in the November General Election. Voters have several options for voting.

In person on Election Day – November 5

Polls will be open on Tuesday, November 5th from 7am to 8pm.

Absentee voter applications

To request an application for Absent Voters Ballot, visit the City Clerk's Office at City Hall, 26000 Evergreen Road; contact the City Clerk's Office at (248) 796-5150, or download a copy of the application for Absent Voter Ballot. Please be sure to sign and print your full name and address on the application form.

The City Clerk's Office will be open from 8am to 4pm on the Saturday prior to Election Day to accept and process Absent Voter Ballot Applications.

Absentee Ballots issued on the Monday prior to the Election must be voted on-site by 4pm; they cannot leave the Municipal Building per State Election Law. All Absent Voter Ballots must be returned to the City Clerk's Office by 8pm on Election night in order to be counted.

In person Early Voting available this month thru Nov. 3 in Southfield!

Early Voting for Southfield residents regardless of precinct will be available from October 26, 2024 to November 3, 2024 from 8:30am to 4:30pm in Room 115 of the Parks & Recreation Building. Early voting will also be available for all Southfield precincts at Oakland County's regional site: Waterford Oaks Activity Center, 2800 Watkins Lake Road, Waterford, MI.

Note precinct polling place temporary changes

Voters in Precincts 4 and 5 (Vandenberg School); 11 and 12 (Adler School); 13 and 14 (Beth Yehudah School); and 25 and 26 (Stevenson School) have been temporarily relocated due to school issues. Vandenberg School is closed, and Adler had been

closed for remodeling. Voters in these four precincts will vote at Southfield City Hall in the Pavilion (26000 Evergreen Road).

Stevenson School is closed for renovations this year. Voters in Precincts 25 and 26 will vote at Birney K-8 School (27225 Evergreen Road @ 11 Mile).

Beth Yehuda School (formerly Schoenhals School) is no longer available. Voters in Precincts 13 and 14 will vote at Thompson K-8 School (16300 Lincoln Drive).

Don't fall for election scams

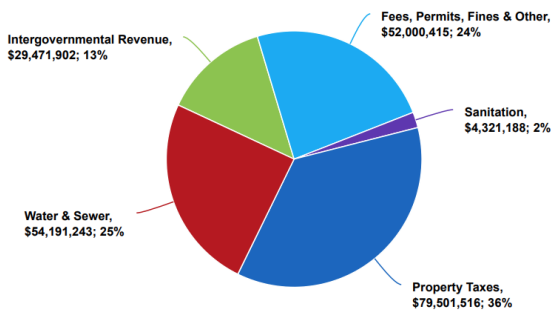
The City of Southfield Clerk's office has been alerted by the police department of a scam targeting voters. Scammers are attempting to collect credit card numbers and Social Security numbers by posing as election officials. Please be aware that the Clerk's office NEVER asks for this information for voting purposes. In another scam, calls or texts are made stating the election is Nov. 6. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Clerk's office directly at (248) 796-5150.

What is on the ballot besides presidential race?

The following offices are on the General Election Ballot, plus one millage question:

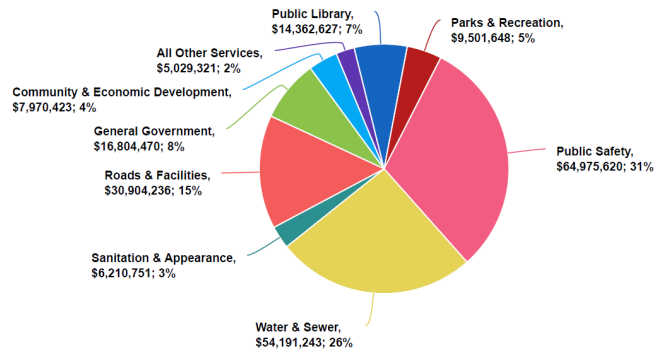
- United States Senate
- United State House of Representatives
- State House of Representatives
- State Board of Education
- **Oakland County Positions:** Executive, Clerk, Treasurer, Sheriff, Prosecutor, Water Resources Commissioner & County Commission
- **Board of Governors** for Wayne State, MSU & UofM
- **Judges:** Michigan Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Circuit Court, Probate Court & 46th District Court
- Oakland Community College Board
- Southfield School Board
- Oakland County Parks & Recreation Millage

ALL FUNDS REVENUE
2024-2025



Total Revenues = \$219,486,264

All Funds Expenses
2024-2025



Total Expenditures = \$ 209,950,339 (excludes duplicating transfers of \$9,535,925)

City Council adopts \$210 million budget for 2024-25 fiscal year

In June the Southfield City Council adopted the operating budget of \$210 million for the 2024-25 fiscal year.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- Property taxes represent 61% of General Fund Revenues and 36% of all revenue funds.
- Projected taxable value is \$3,157,576,313 which represents an increase of approximately \$183 million or 6.2% over the 2023-24.
- The millage rate decreased by 0.8405 mills, dropping to 26.7174 mills.

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- State shared revenues increased by approximately 2% compared to the prior budget year.
- At \$60.4 million, Police and Fire services continue to be the largest General Fund expenditure, making up approximately 60% of the General Fund expenditures, an increase of \$4.0 million over the prior year.
- Proposed infrastructure Investments total approximately \$34.3 million based on available funding.



Lahser Woods Parks has a new and improved pathway for walkers and bicycle riders. The path extends from Lincolnshire on the west to Lahser Road on the east. An expanded parking lot is also in the works.

Lahser Woods Park is located about a half mile north of Eleven Mile. It is convenient for those going to and from Stevenson School, Young Israel of Southfield, and American House of Southfield.

New path for people, den for dogs at Lahser Woods Park

Lahser Woods Park is undergoing a number of improvements now and in 2025. In September the city replaced and expanded the walking path in the park. The original path had badly degraded.

By next spring construction will begin on the creation of Southfield’s first dog park. Residents have been requesting a space for dogs at a city park for many years.

The dog park will be in two parts—separate, fenced spaces for small and large canines. Users of the dog park will have to purchase a membership and their dogs will have to be licensed by the city and have had their vaccinations.

Membership will include a fob to enter the dog enclosures. Also included in the Lahser Woods Park improvements will be an expansion of the parking lot with designated handicap spaces.



DTE tree trimmers work high above the electric power lines clearing limbs.

DTE notes progress in improving service to Southfield residents

The Mayor and city administration continue to press DTE about the reliability of its service delivery in Southfield. In a recent meeting with various staff from DTE, the company said that it is committed to reducing power outages by 30 percent while cutting outage time in half by 2029.

DTE noted the following investments in Southfield:

- Since 2018, it has trimmed nearly 300 miles of trees growing close to power lines and equipment in order to reduce electric outages during storms.
- Tree trimming is now on a five-year cycle. Further, 98 percent of Southfield has had tree limb clearing.
- DTE has replaced 60 power poles, upgraded 107 locations with defective pole top equipment, and improved nearly seven miles of overhead lines.
- DTE installed multiple smart grid devices called “re-closers” on power poles to help quickly identify damage locations that cause outages and can reroute power.

Civic Center to lose scores of trees to maintain gas pipeline easement

Mary Thompson and her brother James, and their descendants before them, farmed the land for well over 100 years that became the Southfield Civic Center. In 1913, Mary and James granted an easement for a petroleum pipeline to cross their property.

The pipeline was buried underground, and the Thompsons continued to work the land above. Farmers like the Thompsons had good and bad years depending on the weather and the state of the economy. Easements for pipelines gave them extra revenue that could tie them over in lean times and/or provide funds to invest in their farms. The easements are typically fifty-foot wide—25 feet on either side of the buried pipe.

Fast-forward 111 years. The pipeline at the Civic Center, which runs from Port Huron to Toledo, continues to operate. It cuts across Southfield in a diagonal direction from northeast to southwest. It should be noted that there are hundreds of underground pipelines crisscrossing Michigan. They are safe unless disturbed.

Earlier this year Energy Transfer, which owns the pipeline, notified the City of Southfield that it will conduct routine maintenance of the easement and the transmission line below.

Over the years, much of the Civic Center easement has filled with an overgrowth of trees. The weight of trees and their roots pose a hazard to the pipeline. Therefore, a large number of trees on the Civic Center property will



The stand of Honey Locust trees that grace the front of City Hall will be removed as part of pipeline easement maintenance. Replacement trees will be planted elsewhere on the campus.

have to be removed. That includes part of the wooded area east of the picnic shelters, beyond the ice arena. Unfortunately, it also includes the stand of Honey Locust trees in front of City Hall. (The pipeline wraps around the north and west sides of the main building.)

Energy Transfer will be removing the trees (including grinding the stumps) at its expense in the near future. The company will also provide replacement trees and shrubs to be planted elsewhere on the Civic Center property.

New trash 95-gallon carts debut for household waste only

As part of the new contract with the city’s refuse collection vendor Priority Waste, all single-family households should have received a new 95-gallon, hinged-lid garbage cart delivered directly to their home free of cost.

At present, use of the new carts is not required and residents may still use their own trash cans; however, contents cannot be more than 32-gallons or weigh more than 60 pounds as those cans must be manually placed into the truck. Residents who do not want the 95-gallon carts can ask Priority to take them back.

RED RECYCLING CARTS CONTINUE USE

Red recycling carts and/or the orange recycling bins continue to be used for recyclables. These carts are only provided upon request at no cost to single-family households who have not previously received one.

Residents should contact Priority Waste at (586) 228-



1200 or visit www.prioritywaste.com to order carts or for concerns.

YARD WASTE REMINDERS

Leaves, grass, sticks, small branches need to be placed in 32-gallon cans or paper yard waste bags. Yard waste in plastic trash bags will not be collected and cannot be composted.

Judging concluded, winners of the Annual Southfield Photo Prize recognized

Judging of the top 25 entries in the 8th Annual Southfield Photo Prize concluded on September 1st. The top three winning entries, as selected by those voting on line, are pictured here.

The 9th Annual Southfield Photo Prize competition is now open. Entries must be submitted by May 30, 2025. Subject matter must be shot within the borders of the City of Southfield. Entries must be original digital photographs. For additional information contact Community Relations.



First Place winner is Robert Schmidt (above)
Second Place winner is Darren Hood (below)



Third Place winner is Michael Beneson



Southfield’s public art collection grows with 2 new sculptures

Southfield has gained two new pieces of public art this year. Both sculptures were created by the Detroit Design Center—brothers Erik and Israel Nordin.

The Key is located at the corner of Northwestern Hwy. and Ten Mile on the campus of Lawrence Technological University. This piece was purchased and installed by the City Centre Advisory Board.

The new sculpture at the corner of Nine Mile and Beech roads on the grounds of Fire Station 2 is entitled *Brothers*. This piece was purchased by the Southfield Public Arts Commission. It is one of many enhancements to the Nine Mile Corridor Greenway Initiative which will include a six-mile pathway from Greenfield to Inkster roads. Parts of the pathway are already in place.

With the support of Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) and Oakland County Parks & Recreation, the Nine Mile Greenway when completed will include a continuous pathway from Hazel Park to South Lyon. The Greenway will include benches,



Brothers stands at the corner of Nine Mile & Beech roads on the grounds of Fire Station 2. The Key (right) is at the corner of Ten Mile and Northwestern on the campus of Lawrence Tech.

waste receptacles, bike repair stations, wayfinding signage, public art, and other amenities.

Since 2015, Southfield has secured approximately \$22.3 million (mostly in grant funding) for Nine Mile corridor improvements, which includes road repaving and engineering costs.

Rebuilding Southfield roads continues; Availability of funds is only limit

Thanks to the efforts of State Senator Jeremy Moss and State Representative Jason Hoskins, Southfield was granted \$4 million dollars from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation to replace North Park Drive and Foster Winter Drive.

Both of these streets in the Southfield Cornerstone District (DDA) and adjacent to Providence Hospital were in deplorable condition.



North Park Drive undergoes complete replacement



Darla VanHoey, Dr. Tom Mannino, and Mayor Siver accepting honor.

Historic barn wins state beautification award

EdgeRiver Farm barn on 12 Mile received the President’s Award from Keep Michigan Beautiful on Oct. 11. Dr. Thomas Mannino saved and restored the barn for modern use as a small events space.

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 Feel free to pass this newsletter on to others.