

MAYOR'S MEMO

News of Interest to Southfield Residents from Mayor Ken Siver

Fall completion of some road projects in doubt

A state-wide labor dispute that stalled progress on almost all road and sidewalk projects for three weeks is over (for now). Michigan Infrastructure & Transportation Association and the Operating Engineers Local No. 324, working on road construction projects around the state, have agreed to return to work this week. The two sides reached a good faith agreement to negotiate a new contract this winter.

What this labor stoppage means for Southfield projects is unclear as of this writing. Many of the Southfield projects were on a tight schedule as is. City Engineer Leigh Schultz expects to have revised progress schedules on completion dates for each project next week. The city website's road project pages will be updated after contractors submit revised schedules. (See [Departments/Engineering/Construction Projects](#))

As of Monday, October 1:

Nine Mile between Lahser & Telegraph — Dan's Excavating is back on site with both road and bridge workers and dealing with rain delays.

Eleven Mile between Arlington & Bell — Dan's Excavating is mobilizing equipment and workers have returned with rain delays.

Safe Routes to School Project — Angelo lafrate Construction has returned to complete sidewalk installation in the Ten Mile/Greenfield area. Its first order of business will be to get the three driveways replaced that were removed prior to the labor dispute.

Section 12 Spot Concrete (Bedford Woods & Pinewood Manor) — Work in these neighborhoods is mostly complete! Several punch list items and restoration clean-up will continue for a couple additional weeks.

NB Northwestern Service Drive between Southfield Road & Lahser: As of September 2, concrete removals got back underway. Progress overall is



Southfield drivers have had a long wait for the much needed Northwestern Service Drive reconstruction.

slow. If the weather cooperates, the contractor is hoping to get Evergreen/Ten Mile intersection opened back up around October 17. This will eliminate most of the barrels on Evergreen and alleviate traffic congestion in the area. The contractor remains unsure if this job will be 100% complete this year.

Section 15 (Winchester & Evergreen Trail) — The first layer of asphalt has been placed on Winchester from Lahser to Devonshire, including the roundabout. Water main work continues in the Evergreen Trail subdivision. The contractor is confident all work will be completed this November.

Lockdale Street — Progress thus far has been largely unaffected by the lockout. Asphalt road paving is expected to start during the second week of October.

The labor agreement between the two parties expired last May. Negotiations stalled resulting in the work stoppage.

Numerous honors bestowed on Southfield staff, city

Recently, the City of Southfield has won a spate of recognitions from various entities in planning, communications, economic development and beautification.

3CMA Savvy Awards Competition — The 2018 Southfield Calendar/Annual Report won the Award of Excellence for the fourth consecutive year in the category of “Photography-Published Multi-Image.” This competition is sponsored by the City-County Communications & Marketing Association (3CMA). The 2018 city calendar, produced by the city’s Community Relations Department, included several images from the 2017 Southfield Photo Prize Competition. Credit for the calendar goes to Michael Manion and Elizabeth Lawson.

Keep Michigan Beautiful Awards (KMB) — Southfield is the recipient of two recognitions this year from KMB. The grounds and gardens at the Burgh Historical Park have won the 2018 President’s Award, KMB’s highest honor. The park is maintained by the Southfield Parks Services Department. Much credit goes to Laurie Dillon the groundskeeper at the park. Additionally, the city’s initiatives to save the Northland Art Collection and the addition of art in the Evergreen Road roundabouts, Northwestern Highway Service Drive (the Red Pole Park) and at the Thompson Farm (Pioneer Family II) were recognized with a KMB Michigan plaque which recognizes outstanding projects which enhance community appearances and life.

Michigan Planning Association (MAP) 2018 Competition — The vision for the redevelopment of the former Northland Center property won a Planning Excellence Award for Economic Development Planning. The award was presented to the City of Southfield and OHM Advisors, consultants on the project, in Grand Rapids in September. Additionally, Southfield City Planner Terry Croad was recognized for 30 years of service to the American Planning Association.

Michigan Economic Developers Association (MEDA) Awards — Southfield Business & Economic Development Director Rochelle Freeman was selected by the MEDA for its prestigious Medalist of the Year Award. The Medalist Award recognizes those who have made outstanding contributions to economic development in Michigan, dedication to economic growth in their community of responsibility (Southfield) and a proven record of achievement for an extended period of time. Additionally, Ms. Freeman was hon-



Michigan Economic Developers Assn. President Monique Holliday presents Southfield Business & Economic Development Director Rochelle Freeman with the Medalist of the Year & Sieghart awards.

ored by MEDA with the Robert Sieghart Award for Enthusiasm in Economic Development. The Sieghart award is presented annually to a member who embraces and understands the importance of economic development.

Ms. Freeman has been with the City of Southfield since 2005 and has been highly successful in attracting companies to Southfield and keeping them here. Networking and outreach are key factors to her success. In 2017 alone, Ms. Freeman helped create over \$244 million in investments and capital improvements to existing Southfield companies which is expected to create over 1,250 jobs in Southfield.

Among her many accomplishments, Ms. Freeman is involved in a host of local organizations to attract and retain businesses in Southfield. Her collaboration with Lawrence Technological University, Michigan Works!, Oakland County’s “SmartZone” and the Southfield Public Schools/Business Partnership Council, has helped fill business needs with student internships and employment opportunities. Southfield is “Redevelopment Ready” and “One Stop Ready” thanks to the leadership and involvement of Ms. Freeman to streamline the City’s policies and practices making Southfield more attractive to new businesses.



Habitat for Humanity Oakland County organized two successful “Rock the Block” home and yard improvement sessions in the city. In August volunteers worked in Section 34 (Eight Mile & Evergreen) and in September in Bonnie Acres (12 Mile & Greenfield).

Bonnie Acres Neighborhood President and Habitat volunteer Greg Didierjean assists a neighbor with staining a deck.

Habitat, Oakland Rebuilding assist Southfield homeowners

The Southfield Housing Department has wrapped up the coordination of another round of home repairs and yard clean ups for 35 homeowners.

Partnerships between the city and Oakland Rebuilding Together and Habitat for Humanity-Oakland County have assisted Southfield residents for many years now.

Habitat Oakland held two “Rock the Block” work sessions in August and September that aided homeowners in the Bonnie Acres Neighborhood and Section 34 (Evergreen & Eight Mile). Lawrence Tech, Interfaith Council of Metro Detroit, neighborhood and Habitat volunteers and employees of Faurecia and Stonebridge Financial Partners worked on 20 homes. Painting, deck and fence repair, gutter cleaning, yard maintenance and numerous other projects were completed.

Oakland Rebuilding Together recruited volunteers from Eaton Corporation, Federal Mogul, Wells Fargo, Sears, Greenfield Presbyterian, Church of the Transfiguration, Center for Financial Planning, Oakland University, and Barton Malow worked on 15 homes.

The city is grateful for these continuing partnerships to assist residents in need of help with home upkeep.

The BIG RAKE returns; Volunteers needed

To assist our elderly and handicapped residents with fall yard cleanup, the Mayor’s office is once again organizing **THE BIG RAKE**.

Volunteers are needed to rake. Tentative dates for **THE BIG RAKE** are November 3, 10 & 17 and December 1 & 8. Hours are from 9:30am to 2pm. Other dates and times may be scheduled depending on need and weather.

The Lowe’s and Home Depot help sponsor this event with the donation of paper yard waste bags.

If you are interested in volunteering or know someone in need of assistance with yard cleanup, please contact the Mayor’s office by calling 248.796.5100 or send us an email at srosenberg@cityofsouthfield.com

In 2016, 250 volunteers turned out to rake leaves over five days in November. In all, 75 yards were cleared of leaves. In 2017, 350 volunteers turned out to rake 120 yards. Many of the volunteers came from Lawrence Tech and the Southfield Public Schools. On large properties raking is limited to front yards only.



Northland Peacock aloft once more

The Southfield Public Arts Commission and the Friends of Southfield Public Arts continue fundraising to restore and place sculptures from the Northland art collection.

The latest piece to be restored and placed is the Northland Peacock. The Peacock, by Arthur Kraft, graced the famous Peacock Court at Northland prior to the mall's 1974 enclosure. The Peacock was stored in the basement of the mall for 44 years. It now is on display in the circle in front of the Southfield Public Library.

To support the Friends of Southfield Public Arts, contact the Mayor's office, 248.796.5100.

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.

CITY BRIEFS

A Summary of Recent Actions

Police Union, Police Command Contracts

City Council approved a new contract with police staff. Police officers will see a retro pay increase of 3 percent for 2017; 2 percent 2018; and 2 percent for 2019.

Indigenous Peoples Day

City offices will be closed on October 8, Indigenous Peoples Day. Southfield will no longer observe Columbus Day and instead honor America's indigenous peoples by decree of the City Council.

DTE Grant

Southfield has won a grant from DTE in the amount of \$2,250 to plant trees in Catalpa Park.

New Animal Control Officer

Shannon Hamilton is the city's new Animal Control Officer. Officer Hamilton can be reached at shamilton@cityofsouthfield.com or 248.796.5410

Beaumont Boulevard

First Center Street (between Civic Center Drive and NW Service Drive) has been renamed Beaumont Boulevard. Beaumont Health is in the process of moving 3,000 of its employees into the former First Center Building.

Broker Contract Extended

City Council approved an extension of its contract with Friedman Brokerage Company for the marketing of the former Northland Center property.

CALENDAR

October 8 Indigenous Peoples Day

City offices closed

October 27 Household Hazardous Waste Day

9am to 2pm RRRASOC 20875 Mapleridge

November 4 Daylight Savings Ends

Set clocks back an hour

November 3 City Clerk's Office Open

Pick up or Return Absentee Ballots until 2pm

November 6 Election Day

Polls open from 7am to 8pm

November 9 Veterans Day Ceremony

11am in City Council Chambers

November 12 Veterans Day Observed

City offices closed

PLANT SALE AND *Swap*

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14 • 2-5 P.M.
MARY THOMPSON FARMHOUSE | 25630 EVERGREEN ROAD, SOUTHFIELD

Just in time for fall planting, the Southfield Parks & Garden Club will host a Plant Sale and Swap with plants available for trade and purchase. Participants can purchase donated plants or swap on a bring-one, take-one basis. The Mary Thompson Farmhouse will also be open throughout the event with free tours hosted by the Southfield Historical Society.



As a bonus ... come tour the Mary Thompson Farm House. Members of the Southfield Historical Society will be giving free tours of this historic Southfield home from 2-5 P.M.