

MAYOR'S MEMO

News of Interest to Southfield Residents from Mayor Ken Siver



Seasons Greetings!

It has been another year of great progress in Southfield. As 2018 comes to a close, I wish all of you joyous holidays and a prosperous and healthy new year.

Ken

Council approves moratorium on recreational marihuana

On November 6, 2018, Michigan voters approved the Michigan Regulation & Taxation of Marihuana Act, a statewide ballot initiative.

Although the state has one year to put a commercial regulatory system in place, the City Council approved a 180-day moratorium on any approvals so that the Planning Department and Planning Commission may come up with regulations that are consistent, cohesive and sensible to present to City Council.

Thus, deliberations as to the appropriate zoning regulations for recreational marihuana establishments and review of all applications related to these establishments are deferred. At the conclusion of the moratorium the City Council may choose to opt-out of permitting growing and sales of marihuana. Under the new law, local governments have the right to opt out of approving businesses that cultivate and sell recreational marihuana.

Basically, the moratorium gives the city a “time out” to gather information and see what direction comes from the state. During this time it will not accept applications for recreational marihuana facilities.

It should be noted that anyone over the age of 21 is able to possess, use or transport 2.5 ounces or less of marihuana or 15 grams of marihuana concentrate. It would also be legal to “share or transfer without payment” up to 2.5 ounces of marihuana to another person over 21 years old. Further, it is now legal to grow up to 12 plants at home for personal use.

Under the medical marihuana regulations, the city of Southfield has not permitted the cultivation of marihuana and approved strict zoning ordinances greatly limiting dispensaries. Consequently, no medical marihuana dispensaries opened in the city. The City Council could consider approving licenses for marihuana testing and logistics facilities that are office uses and not open to the public.



Beaumont Health Systems moves into city

Hundreds of Beaumont Health System employees have moved into the former First Center office complex west of Lahser Road on the Northwestern Highway Service Drive.

To accommodate the surge of employees occupying the building, Beaumont is erecting two parking structures. By spring 2019, approximately 3,000 people will be working in its new operations center.

The former First Center Drive has been renamed Beaumont Boulevard.

Orange barrel season ends with unfinished projects

Now winding up its fourth year of a multi-year plan to repair/replace infrastructure and roads, Southfield is making steady and continuous progress. However, 2018 has been a frustrating year in the program. Late starts due to contractor work schedules, a three- to four-week labor walkout in September and lots of rain have delayed construction and caused a good deal of late-season scrambling.



The new bridge over Nine Mile Road between Lahser and Telegraph roads will not be finished until spring due to construction delays. Both the road and bridge have been lifted from previous levels. A new retaining wall has been added.

Three projects will not be completed this year. They are Nine Mile between Lahser and Telegraph, Northbound Northwestern Highway Service Drive between Southfield Road and Lahser and Winchester.

9 Mile: Bridge beams were placed in mid-November. The bridge deck will likely be poured in the next few weeks with winter protection, as needed. This will be too late in the season to complete road work adjacent to the bridge. The final course of asphalt for the road, outside the influence of the bridge, isn't likely to be placed either due to cold temperatures. Traffic barricades will remain in place on Telegraph to prevent east-bound 9 Mile traffic from entering the closure, so as to minimize the use of Berg Road as a detour.

11 Mile: Complete. In the next week or so, the City's on-call contractor will be installing new sanitary sewer on the north side of 11 Mile from Bell to 267' east of Bell, so expect additional activity in this area.

Safe Routes to School/Ten Mile & Greenfield: Sidewalks are all installed. The mid-block crossings and receiving ramps have also been completed. The mast arms for the HAWK signal at 11 Mile have very long lead times and are not expected until March 2019.

NB Northwestern Service Drive: A BIG push is on in the next two weeks to get asphalt leveling course

paved from Southfield to Civic Center Drive. The final course of asphalt isn't likely to be placed due to cold temperatures. Between Civic Center and Lahser, work will include the construction of a barrier wall on the freeway side, east of Lahser. Once this barrier wall is in place the left-turn lane approaching Lahser will be extended. Asphalt will be placed in this segment next year.

Section 15 (Winchester & Evergreen Trail): All water main work is expected to be completed shortly. Spot concrete work continues until mid-December. Winchester and Berkshire will not receive their final course of asphalt this year due to cold temperatures.

Lockdale: Final layer of asphalt is down; most sod is installed; ramp and sidewalk work at 12 Mile has been completed. Still needs striping, signage and restoration near 12 Mile.

Section 12 Spot Concrete (Bedford Woods & Pine-wood Manor): Was previously substantially complete but available budget allowed the contractor to add a few more pavement slabs.



**Above: Moby Dick undergoing restoration
Right: New, smaller fountain under construction**

US Census Bureau to begin hiring for 2020 count

The United States Census Bureau is hiring to fill temporary jobs with the upcoming 2020 count. This effort occurs every ten years—and has since 1790; today it is one of our country’s largest civil mobilizations. Jobs with the Census Bureau’s Chicago Region (which includes Michigan) are ideal opportunities for students, seniors, and those with other part-time work arrangements to earn some extra income.

The majority are work-from-home roles with flexible hours that require evening and weekend availability. Most will last several weeks while some may last several months, and all include paid training, competitive wages, mileage reimbursement and weekly paychecks.

The application process at www.2020census.gov/jobs takes about 30 minutes, using the new Recruiting and Assessment System which includes questions about one’s education, work and other experience.

As it has in the past, Southfield will form a US Census/Get Counted committee. Census Day is April 1, 2020. Local governments are beginning preparations to get ready for the Decennial Count. A good deal rides on the population tallies of the Census. Counts of the 2020 Census will help determine each state’s representation in Congress and

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Work continues on the restoration of the library fountain, Moby Dick

The long defunct fountain and water feature in front of the Southfield Public Library is undergoing a re-imagining.

The fountain has not worked for nine years. Impractical in size and challenging to maintain, the fountain is being reduced in size and raised so that it will be seen from greater distances.

The long lagoon will be removed. The circular inner fountain has all new controls, electrical components and pump system. Moby Dick, by Joseph Anthony McDonnell, has been restored and will once again spout water when it is placed in the fountain. Moby Dick is one of 18 pieces that was rescued from Northland Center after the mall closed in 2015.

Private funds secured the Northland art collection. Fundraising continues for the restoration of the library fountain and Moby Dick.

The cost of this project is \$178,000. Donations are still needed. To contribute, make checks payable to **Friends of Southfield Public Arts**, c/o the Mayor’s Office, 26000 Evergreen Road, Southfield, MI 48076 or use PayPal at SFLDPublicArts@gmail.com



the local community’s representation in state and county government. These results also help in the distribution of billions in Federal funds over the subsequent decade for schools, hospitals, roads and police, fire and 911 services.

Anyone interested in serving as a volunteer on the Southfield 2020 Census committee is asked to contact the Mayor’s office. At some point in 2019, the local Get Counted! Committee will be formed.

Southfield Chamber presents business excellence awards

The 2019 Southfield Chamber of Commerce Excellence in Business Awards were announced in late November at an awards dinner held at the Detroit Marriott Southfield.

The achievements of the following businesses and persons were recognized:

Small Business of the Year

8 Mile Foodland

Top Project of the Year

Galleria Officentre

Young Professional of the Year

Jill Margulis of Airea

Rising Star

Healthrise

Outstanding Chamber Business

Regency Manor

Commitment to Community

St. David's Episcopal Church

Volunteer of the Year

Cindy Carr of Mars Agency



8 Mile Foodland Supermarket, an independent grocery, was named 2019 Small Business of Year by the Southfield Chamber of Commerce.

- Brooklyn Body Butter
- Cybernoor
- CoStaff
- Epicurean Group (Nomad Grill)
- BASF
- Guardian Alarm
- Namaste Wellness

Business finalists for the various awards included:

- Irvine Neuro Rehabilitation
- Beaumont Health
- Best Western Premier Hotel
- Lawrence Technological University

The Chamber is a proud partner in the City of Southfield and the business community. "Our dedicated purpose is to create connections that drive and strengthen businesses" said chamber director Tanya Markos-Vanno. For more information, visit www.southfieldchamber.com.



180,000 square feet office and laboratories for Veoneer

Veoneer to open new headquarters in Feb.

Southfield's newest office building is scheduled to be completed by late February. The Swedish company Veoneer, developer of Advanced Driving Assistance Systems (ADAS) and Automated Driving (AD), is consolidating its Detroit offices in this new building on American Drive in Southfield.

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Yard waste pickup extended

Southfield Public Works Department has extended yard waste pick up. Brush pick up ends the week of December 3 and yard waste/leaf pick up ends the week of December 10 on the regular trash days.

No new requests are being taken for the BIG RAKE. Last BIG RAKE volunteer session is December 8.

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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 srosenburgh@cityofsouthfield.com Feel free to pass this newsletter on to others.