

MAYOR'S MEMO

News of Interest to Southfield Residents from Mayor Ken Siver



Juneteenth kicks off with flag raising, Mayor's Walk on June 13

Juneteenth Flag Raising at City Hall
Saturday, June 13 | 9:30am
 Southfield Municipal Campus Front Circle

Mayor's Juneteenth Walk
Saturday, June 13 | 10:00–11:30am
 Southfield Municipal Campus Circle
 Join Mayor Ken Siver for the Mayor's Juneteenth Walk, a 2.5-mile community walk celebrating Southfield history and the achievements of African Americans in the city.

SPL Family Research Forum
Tuesday, June 16 | 6:30–7:30pm
 Southfield Public Library Auditorium
 Celebrate Juneteenth with a special Family Research Forum exploring the importance of preserving personal and family histories. The illustrated presentation, *Preserving Personal Archives in the Digital Age*, will offer practical ways to protect photos, documents, and digital memories while honoring cultural legacy and storytelling traditions.
 The program will be presented by Cal LaFountain, a writer focused on cultural memory, archival storytelling, and preservation technologies.

Friends of the Southfield Public Library Juneteenth Jazz & Blues Concert
Wednesday, June 17 | 6:30–8:30pm
 Southfield Public Library Meeting Room
 Residents are invited to enjoy an evening of jazz and blues in celebration of Juneteenth during this special concert hosted by the Friends of the Southfield Public Library.

Senior Services Juneteenth Luncheon
Thursday, June 18 | 11:30am–1:00pm.
 Parks & Recreation Building . Enjoy a catered lunch featuring music by Florella Strings and spoken word performances by One Single Rose during the luncheon. Guests can also shop local vendors while enjoying an afternoon of music, poetry, and fellowship. The cost is \$25 for Southfield residents and \$30 for non-residents. Registration is required by June 12 by calling Senior Services at (248) 796-4650.

Juneteenth Concert: Celebration of Black Culture
Thursday, June 18 | 7:00–9:00pm
 Southfield Municipal Campus Front Lawn
 Celebrate Juneteenth with an evening of live music by Jynn & Juice, art demonstrations, and hands-on art activities led by Black artists. Food vendors will offer meals for purchase as the community gathers to honor Black culture through music, art, and creativity. Admission is free. Guests should bring lawn chairs.

Open Mic Juneteenth Celebration
Saturday, June 20 | 1:00–4:00pm
 Southfield Library Front Lawn
 Close out the week-long celebration with an afternoon of spoken word, live music, and community during the Open Mic Juneteenth Celebration. The event will feature performances from some of Metro Detroit's top poets, live music by Boddum Band, and hosting by Tony Speaks. Guests can also enjoy food vendors, book sales, and additional community activities throughout the afternoon. To register for the open mic event, visit: Southfield Public Library

City Clerk’s Office prepares for August 4th primary election

Southfield City Clerk Gabi Grossbard has expanded the number of polling locations in anticipation of heavier turnout for this year’s mid-term elections. Residents preferring in person voting will find the new locations closer to home.

Due to school renovations at Levey, Thompson, and Birney, and the closing of McIntyre School, several former polling places are not available this year..All registered voters will receive a notice of their polling place. Early voting will be held at City Hall. Absentee ballots will be mailed around June 24.

Polling places for 2026 are as follows:

- 1 & 6 Graceway Bible Church**
(Southfield Christian)
28600 Lahser Road
- 2 & 3 Our Lady of Albanians Church**
29350 Lahser Road
- 4 & 5 Vandenberg Academy**
16100 Edwards Avenue
- 7 & 8 Southfield City Hall**
13 & 14 26000 Evergreen Road
- 9 & 10 St. David’s Episcopal Church**
16200 W 12 Mile Road
- 11 & 12 Adler Elementary School**
19100 Filmore Street
- 15 & 33 Oakland Church of Christ**
23333 W 10 Mile Road
- 16 & 20 Oakland Community College
Southfield Campus**
22322 Rutland Drive
- 17 & 18 Southfield Education Center
(Kennedy School)**
16299 Mount Vernon
- 19 & 36 New Hope Missionary Baptist Church**
23455 W 9 Mile Road

- 21 & 22 St. John Armenian Church**
22001 Northwestern Hwy.
- 23 & 24 Regency Manor**
25228 W. 12 Mile Road
- 25 & 26 Stevenson Elementary School**
27777 Lahser Road
- 27 & 28 Christian Tabernacle Church**
26555 Franklin Road
- 29 & 32 Eisenhower School**
24500 Larkins Street
- 30 & 31 Hope United Methodist Church**
26275 Northwestern Hwy.
- 34 & 35 Beech Woods Recreation Center**
22200 Beech Road

Ballot Drop Box Locations

- 1 – Front circle of City Hall
- 2 – Front of Library
- 3 – Front circle of Building Department
- 4 – Lobby of City Hall
- 5 – Oakland County Health Division
27725 Greenfield Road
- 6 – Fire Hall at 9 Mile & Southfield
- 7 – Fire Hall at 9 Mile & Beech
- 8 – Fire Hall at 12 Mile & Duffy

August 4th Primary Ballot

The results of the August Primary election will determine who the Republican and Democratic candidates are for the November General Election for the following offices:

- Governor United States Senator
- 12th Congressional District Representative
- Michigan State Senator - District #7
- Michigan House Representative - District #19

And Nonpartisan for judges for Circuit Court & Probate Court.

The August Primary Ballot also contains an Oakland County School Enrichment Millage request for 1.5 mills for six years, If approved, the funds generated would be dispersed on a per-pupil basis to the 28 school districts and 22 county public charter schools.. The cost for the average homeowner is estimated at \$300 per year.

Mayor Ken Siver expresses concerns with the Oakland Schools Enrichment Millage placed on the August 4th Ballot

Earlier this year the majority of Oakland County School Boards voted in favor of a county-wide, 1.5 mill school enrichment property tax.

The Oakland Intermediate School Board followed suit, placing the issue on the August 4th ballot for a county-wide vote. If approved, it is expected that in the first year (of six) it will raise \$125 million additional dollars for public schools.

In May, the Southfield City Council approved an advisory resolution in opposition to the proposed county school tax increase. Mayor Ken Siver addressed his concerns with this tax proposal and its impact on Southfield, Oak Park, and Birmingham. These concerns became the basis for the City Council's opposition to the millage proposal.

Should this tax increase gain approval, Mayor Siver's concerns are:

1. 40 percent of the funds collected from Southfield taxpayers will go to other school districts in Oakland County other than to our own district as the monies are to be shared on a per pupil basis.
2. Southfield places a fairly heavy tax burden on its residents and businesses as is.
3. Government ... the state legislature ... needs to find other ways than adding to property taxes to fund education or any other need that arises.
4. Southfield has a 28% vacancy rate in our office buildings. More taxes means higher rents. In the current office climate, more taxes will not help in leasing space.
5. We are challenged to lure young people to purchase homes in Southfield due to the tax pop up when ownership changes hands.
6. A newly built home of moderate size in our city now commands approximately \$12,000 in property taxes annually. Any tax increase will only make building and selling new homes more challenging than it already is.

7. The average age for first time home buyers is now 40-41 years of age. Home ownership is a key to generational wealth. Higher property taxes won't help address that.

In the first year (of six) 40 percent of the monies collected from Southfield taxpayers will go to school districts in other parts of Oakland County.

8. Apartment rents will increase again -- a common complaint heard from many who are on fixed incomes.

9. With Southfield's median family income at the level it is, this tax will add more financial stress to many of our residents.

10. The Southfield community has been very supportive of our local public schools approving a supplemental millage (3.67 mills on both winter & summer tax bills), a sinking fund millage (.345 mills on both winter & summer tax bills), and a school bond debt millage (2.78 mills on both winter & summer tax bills).

11. Southfield Public Schools per-pupil spending is among the highest of any district in Oakland County.

12. As this proposed tax increase is for six years, it is very certain that Southfield's tax base will increase in value and Southfield's school enrollment will decrease. Thus, more tax dollars will leave the city, and the Southfield Public Schools will receive a smaller share of the pie.

Mayor Siver is a product of public education and worked as a teacher, deputy superintendent, and consultant for Southfield Public Schools for 50 years. He has made it clear that he is not anti-school/anti-education. He has a great deal of history as proof of that.

He is opposed to increased property taxes and knows that is the feeling of the residents the mayor and city council represent. During the 2025 local election cycle Southfield residents made it very clear that property taxes are a major concern.

State of the City address scheduled for June 17 at 7pm in City Council Chambers

Mayor Kenson Siver will deliver the 2026 State of the City Address on Wednesday, June 17, from 7 to 8:30 pm in the Council Chambers at Southfield City Hall.

The annual address will provide residents, business leaders, and community stakeholders with an update on the city’s accomplishments, current initiatives, and future priorities. This year’s theme, **Powering Southfield’s Future**, reflects the city’s continued focus on economic growth, innovation, infrastructure investment, public safety, and enhancing quality of life for residents.

During the presentation, Mayor Siver will highlight key achievements from the past year and discuss ongoing projects and strategic initiatives that are helping shape Southfield’s future. Attendees will learn more about the city’s efforts to strengthen neighborhoods, attract new investment, improve city services, and position Southfield for long-term success.

The State of the City Address serves as an opportunity for residents to hear directly from city leadership and gain insight into the vision and priorities guiding the community forward.

Modest deer cull deemed successful

The cities of Farmington, Farmington Hills, and Southfield contracted with the United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services agency to conduct a cull of deer in a pilot program last January and February using sharpshooters.

As a first ever deer cull in the area, program was limited in scope. Areas on public lands were bated. Working late at night, the sharpshooters bagged 70 white tail deer.

All of the deer were dressed harvesting 2,312 pounds of venison. This resulted in 9,240 servings of meat that was donated to local food pantries.

Program was deemed successful and will be expanded in 2027. Consideration will be given to holding the next cull on private lands as well.

Southfield Mayor’s Memo



2026 road rehabilitation, water main projects underway in city

Road construction season is in full swing in Southfield. This year the city will be spending \$24.7 million on roads and water mains.

Projects are:

- 13 Mile Road – Greenfield to Southfield
- Mt. Vernon – Greenfield to Southfield*
- Southhampton Subdivision – South of Ten Mile & East of Southfield*
- Plum Hollow Subdivision – South of Nine Mile / East of Lahser*
- Hyde Park, Hampshire Woods & Roseland Woods Subdivisions – Phase II*
- Greenfield Road Lincoln to 12 Mile
- Grodan Drive
- Swanson Drive
- Coral Gables – Lahser to Corporate Drive
- Hooper Street*

* Water main replacement

Pedestrian safety improvements coming to 9 Mile Road

Oakland County Transit awarded the City of Southfield \$420,000 for a mid-block pedestrian crossing in front of Providence Hospital. Additionally, the Regional Transit Authority provided a \$100,000 grant for engineering for this project.

People going to the bus stop or the parking lot have been challenged crossing Nine Mile Road.

Also on Nine Mile, the next segment of the grant funded 9 Line pathway is under construction between Evergreen and Southfield roads.

Annual Southfield Garden Walk slated for Sunday, June 28th

The Southfield Parks & Garden Club will hold its 17th Annual Garden Walk on Sunday, June 28 from 2-5pm. The walk will feature 18 yards in the Sherwood Village Neighborhood, bounded Southfield Road and Southwood Street, between Ten Mile and Lincoln. Registration will take place in front of the former Schoenhals School, 16400 Lincoln.

Tickets for the Garden Walk are \$15 and may be purchased on the day of the event or from the Southfield Mayor's Office. The Garden Walk starts at the corner of Woodvilla and Lincoln and winds through the neighborhood. Sherwood Village is a lovely neighborhood of Mid-Century modern ranch homes and colonials. Attendees are encouraged to walk the loop through the neighborhood. However, a shuttle bus will make a continuous loop around the subdivision. Yards on display are clustered in several areas.

The Southfield Parks & Garden Club originated the annual walk to showcase some of Southfield's beautiful and unique home gardens and garden art, to offer tips and ideas to homeowners, provide information on annuals, perennials, shrubs, and trees and to promote Southfield's housing stock.

Parking is free, as are refreshments.

The Southfield Parks & Garden Club maintains trails in city parks, performs yard maintenance for the handicapped and elderly, and operates the Emmanuel Community Farm (all produce donated to Forgotten Harvest).

For further information contact:

Mayor Ken Siver, Garden Walk Co-Chair ~
248.796-5100 or ksiver@cityofsouthfield.com
Sharon Hale, Garden Walk Co-Chair ~ 2
48.890.9491 or slhale1220@att.net
Kathleen Murphy, Garden Walk Co-Chair ~
313.258.1881 or sweetsmom@gmail.com

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



Southfield celebrates America's 250th year!

The city of Southfield will observe the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration on Independence on June 24th on the front lawn of city hall with:

- Horse & Carriage Rides
- Kids & Family Craft Stations
- Time Capsule Dedication
- Food Vendors
- Giveaways of America 250 merch
- Plymouth Fife & Drum Corps
- Special Musical Guests
- 1776 Living History Cam
- ...and more!

In case of rain, the event will be held in the Southfield Pavilion