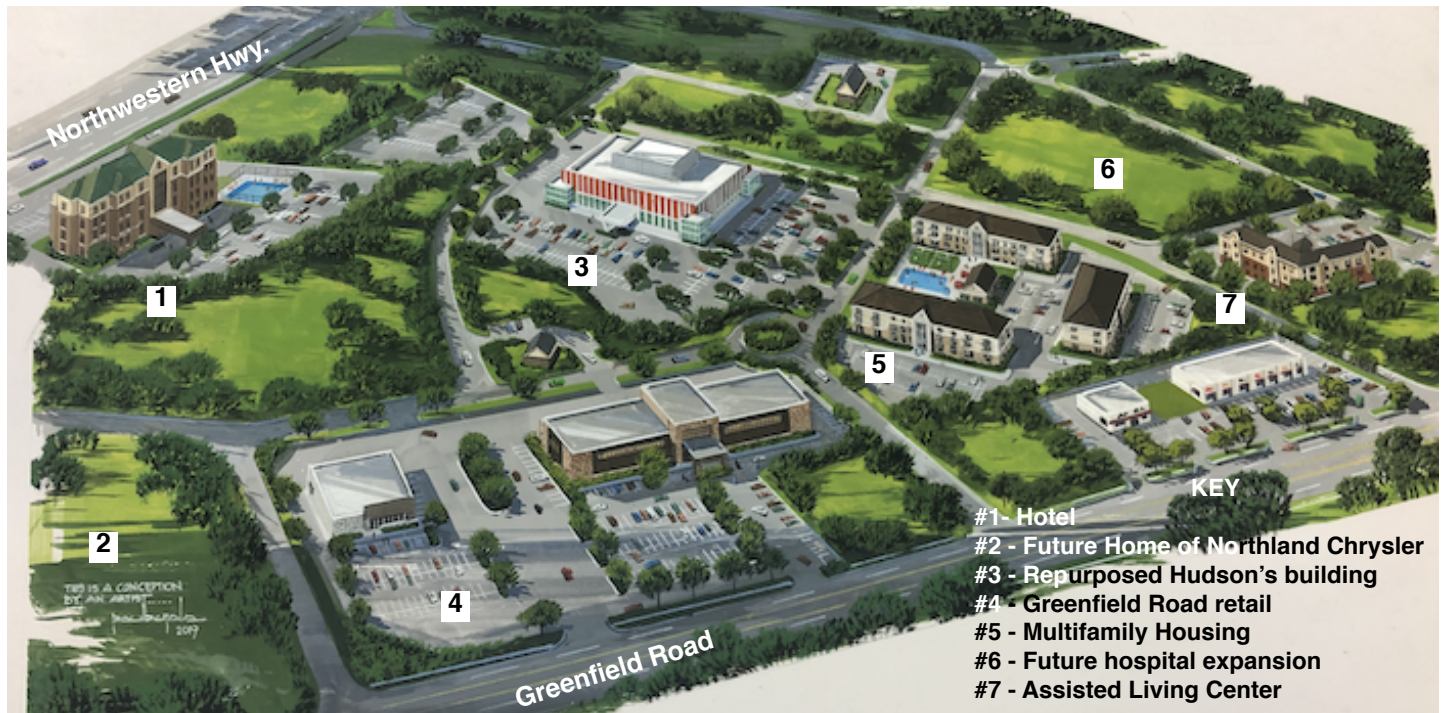


MAYOR'S MEMO

News of Interest to Southfield Residents from Mayor Ken Siver



With property sales pending, a new vision for the Northland Center site has emerged.

Former Northland Mall site under purchase agreements

Four different entities have optioned to purchase portions of the former Northland Center property. The closed mall has been on the market for the past three years. Much interest has been expressed in the 115-acre site, but no firm offers came forward until the last six months.

The city of Southfield took ownership of the mall in December 2015 after no viable bids were accepted by the court-appointed receiver for Northland. The city did not want to have an indefinitely abandoned property that could have been subject to vandals, scrappers, illegal dumping and graffiti.

A vision was created for the redevelopment of Northland. However, after extensive marketing and outreach to hundreds of companies there were no takers for the city's vision. Earlier several companies had optioned acreage at Northland but backed away when they felt they could not make their proposals work financially.

The vision for the property met the realities of the marketplace. Thus, portions of the vision will survive but not

all of it. Retail was always planned for the Greenfield Road frontage. AF Jonna has plans to develop approximately 11 acres on Greenfield for retail and a health club. Northland Chrysler Jeep plans to build a new show room on six acres at Greenfield and Northland Drive. The dealership will keep its location on Eight Mile Road for vehicle storage and repair work.

Providence Hospital is negotiating to expand its campus on roughly ten acres directly across JL Hudson Drive. A new medical building is proposed for construction in the hospital's existing south parking lot.

The remaining 85 acres has been optioned by the Northland Renaissance Group. This entity plans to demolish much of the former mall, saving the underground which will be used to grow medical marijuana. The underground is so well constructed that new buildings can rise on the existing foundations. The Renaissance Group will also build retail, a hotel, office, housing and an

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City Council to allow Medical Marijuana businesses in city

After two years of discussion, the Southfield City Council has opted in on Medical Marijuana licensing in the city. City Council’s action does not include recreational marijuana.

Michigan law regulates Medical Marijuana operations with five licenses. They are:

- Grower** – Licenses to cultivate (three levels: A-500 plants; B-1,000 plants; C-1,500 plants)
- Processor** – License to convert marijuana into a consumable product
- Testing, Compliance & Safety** – License to test marijuana for quality and safety before being sold as prescriptive medicine
- Secure Transporters** – License to move marijuana and marijuana products between businesses
- Provisioning Center** – License to sell Medical Marijuana

While it passed ordinances permitting Medical Marijuana businesses, the Council also set strict regulations on how these businesses will operate and have approved zoning regulations that restrict their locations. As a result, there are only a handful of places where medical marijuana cultivation, processing and

NORTHLAND, from Page 1

assisted living center.

The Northland Renaissance Group will not only finance the demolition of the mall but will build the roads, sewers and other infrastructure for the redeveloped land. The City of Southfield does not have enough funds to demolish the mall, let alone the infrastructure to support the redevelopment.

As of this writing, plans are to save the JC Penney and Hudson’s buildings and demolish what is left above ground.

The city had a budget of \$21.9 million for Northland. To date \$12.7 million has been spent (or encumbered) on property acquisitions, asbestos abatement, security, removal of property easements, etc. Demolition estimates are approximately \$10 million and the construction of new infrastructure is estimated to exceed \$30 million.

Each purchaser is now in their due diligence period. In the months ahead, the sales will be finalized and Southfield will get a complete return on the funds it has invested in this property.

sales can take place in Southfield. As with pawn shops, adult regulated businesses and check cashing facilities, there is no worry that the city will be over-run with Medical Marijuana shops.

Through zoning, Medical Marijuana businesses must be more than 500 feet from residential properties, drug-free school zones, schools, adult regulated uses, schools, religious institutions, childcare facilities or parks; 250 feet from another marijuana business; and 1,500 feet from pawn shops or alternative financial establishments.

Thus, the zoning leaves only a few places for cultivation, processing and sales, such as a couple of locations on Telegraph Road, Eight Mile Road and at Northland.

At the same time, the Council put strict controls on these businesses via building codes regulating security, visibility, fire suppression, odor, signage, etc. Before any Medical Marijuana business can open it will have to obtain state license approval and site plan approval from the City Council. Full details of these controls can be found in the City Council meeting agenda materials of September 23.

Census Bureau hiring now for the 2020 count

The United States Census Bureau is now hiring people to work on the 2020 Census. Depending on the position, the hours for field positions are flexible. Some jobs require working during the day while others require evenings and weekends.

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age; have a Social Security number; and have US citizenship and a valid email address. A background check will also be conducted.

As part of the application process, questions will be asked about work experience and education. Most positions will require having a car or dependable public transportation.

Persons hired will be paid well and on a weekly basis. Training will be provided with pay. To apply on online to: 2020census.gov/jobs Count Day is April 1, 2020.

Mayor's Editorial on Medical Marijuana

The Southfield City Council has approved opening a very limited number of Medical Marijuana businesses in the city. Here is why I support that decision.

- The United States has had more than 50 years a drug policy that has been an abject failure, wasting trillions of dollars, creating environmental damage and locking up thousands of people (the majority being minority persons) for possession and distribution of marijuana. These felony convictions then make finding employment very difficult and have led some back into possession and distribution.
- We have an opioid crisis today in this country because “Big Pharma” has replaced the corner crack dealer. Additionally, 24/7 drug companies push all manner of pills with questionable side effects on television. Up until fairly recently, the federal government looked the other way while drug companies made huge profits on opioids.
- Government cannot legislate morality or control human behaviors. There will always be people who over-indulge or seek to use drugs.
- An overwhelming majority of the Southfield electorate voted to approve Medical Marijuana in 2008 and recreational marijuana in 2018. Marijuana is legal ... medically and recreationally ... in Michigan. Your neighbor can grow up to 12 plants for personal use. Marijuana cannot be smoked in public and employers retain control of drug-free workplaces.
- There are benefits to the use of physician prescribed Medical Marijuana. One recently discussed advantage is remediation of addiction to opioids. Personally, as a cancer survivor, Medical Marijuana was a great aide to me while undergoing the agony of daily radiation and chemotherapy. There are many other medical benefits including relief from chronic pain.
- The limited marijuana licenses will be tightly controlled with strict oversight and will be distanced from each other, residential areas, schools, religious institutions, parks & playgrounds and daycare centers. These zoning restrictions mean there will be very few locations for sales and growing marijuana. Further, city codes governing these businesses will tightly control security, lighting, waste, fire suppression, visibility, odor, etc.
- Southfield has numerous laboratories that currently perform a variety of medical tests. Several of these labs would like to begin testing marijuana (which requires a state license) to make sure it is pure and chemical-free prior to going on the market. Another state license is for the secure transport of Medical Marijuana. This business handles the logistics of moving the product and is strictly an office operation. These two licenses create local jobs with no direct involvement in sales or cultivation.
- Every week on average Southfield Police officers arrest four or five people for driving while intoxicated. These arrests have remained constant with no change since the legalization of recreational marijuana.
- It is better that those in need of Medical Marijuana obtain it from a licensed provider and know that it is a properly prescribed dose that has been tested for safety rather than obtained on the black market.

For these reasons and others, I support the City Council's decision to allow a very limited number of Medical Marijuana related businesses in Southfield. I firmly believe this approach is practical and realistic given Southfield residents' support of marijuana and the change sweeping the country in terms of marijuana use.



Before and after photos of the fountain that graces the Southfield Public Library. The restoration was made possible through private donations.

Library fountain reconfigured, restored

After almost three years of planning and fundraising, the rehabilitation of the defunct fountain in front of the Southfield Public Library was completed in August. The original library fountain featured a long lagoon that was not practical for Michigan’s climate and had not worked for ten of its 16 years.

Ed McDonough and Ethan Dutton of Marc Dutton Irrigation provided the guidance and labor to reconfigure the fountain’s controls and design.

The reconfigured fountain did away with the lagoon. Smaller and more practical, the fountain features Moby Dick by Joseph Anthony McDonnell. Moby Dick was part of the Northland Center art collection that the city saved when the mall closed in 2015.

Chief among the donors for the restoration of the library fountain were the Leon Miller Legacy Trust administered by the Southfield Library Board, Judith Sims, Mayor Ken Siver, Guardian Alarm, Forrest Page/Page Toyota, The United Jewish Foundation, Credit Acceptance Corp., Robert Johncox, the Farman Group, Torch of Wisdom Foundation, Southfield Parks & Garden Club, Friedman Group, Belfor, Janine Pixley and Mark Kassab.

In-kind donations came from OHM Advisers (design), Eagle Landscaping (topsoil and sod), Barton Malow (concrete pathways), American Mulch, Lavin’s Flowerland (labor) and Marc Dutton Irrigation (drip system).

Southfield Mayor’s Memo



12 candidates vie for 4 City Council seats

On November 5, Southfield voters will be asked to elect four persons to the Southfield City Council. The candidates with three highest vote tallies will be elected to a four-year term. The candidate who comes in fourth will receive a two-year term.

The candidates are:

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Nancy L. M. Banks | Constance Bell |
| Daniel Brightwell | LaTina Denson |
| Donald F. Fracassi | Ghana Goodwin-Dye |
| Sara Habbo | Harold Hill |
| Jason Hoskins | Amani Johnson |
| Tawnya L. Morris | Tina Marie Poole |

For further candidate information, consult the Oakland Area League of Women Voters’ Voter Guide. Councilman Myron Frasier is not seeking re-election after serving for 25 years on the City Council.

Also on the November ballot is a request by Oakland Community College to renew for ten years its operating millage. This proposal seeks authorization for the community college to continue to levy 0.7545 mills for operating purposes for ten years as a renewal of millage previously approved by electors in 2010, which is set to expire with the 2021 tax levy.

Mid-Century architecture, ghost tours on tap for October

The Southfield Mid-Century Modern Architecture Tour is slated for Sunday, October 13 from 2 to 4:30pm.

The bus tour, which begins and concludes at Shaarey Zedek Synagogue (27375 Bell Road), winds through

several of Southfield's classic Mid-Century neighborhoods with stops at the Minoru Yamasaki's Reynolds Aluminum Building, Louis Redstone's B'nai David Synagogue (now Moslem Shrine) and Emanuel Lutheran Church.



The Southfield Mid-Century Modern tour begins at Shaarey Zedek, a masterpiece of period architecture.

The narrated tour includes a guidebook. Tickets are \$25 in advance (available through the Mayor's Office, City of Southfield, 26000 Evergreen Road, Southfield 48076) or via PayPal at SFLDPublicArts@gmail.com. Make checks payable to the Southfield Historical Society. If available, tickets on the day of the tour are \$30. Phone: 248.796.5100 for additional information.

The inaugural Southfield City Centre Ghost Walk will take place on Tuesday, October 22 at 6 and 7:30pm. The tour will be led by a Michigan surveyor from 1815 who will frighten and enlighten. The walking tour, most engaging for adults and children over age 10, covers ¾ of a mile and will take 75 minutes.

Tickets are \$10 for residents and \$12 for non-residents. Register through Southfield Parks & Recreation Department, 248.796.4620. Both tours benefit the Southfield Historical Society and Friends of Southfield Public Arts.

Centrepolis Accelerator grand opening set for Oct. 4

On October 4 Michigan will celebrate Manufacturing Day, when factories will open their doors to students interested in pursuing a career in manufacturing.

Here in Southfield all eyes will be on the grand opening of a one-of-a-kind workspace dedicated to supporting businesses that manufacture products.

As a collaborative effort between Lawrence Tech-

nological University and the City of Southfield, the Centrepolis Accelerator supports business by providing resources to help clients conceptualize and refine viable product designs, establish mentor relationships, identify consumer markets, scale product-based businesses, connect with leading industry professionals and leverage student engineering and design talent.

The Centrepolis Accelerator will open its co-working and prototype workspace on the LTU campus on Friday October 4 with an open house from noon to 4pm.

The center is located in the Marks Building, 21415 Civic Center Drive. In addition to the collaborative workspaces and meeting rooms, the 6,300 square-foot center features a prototype lab with wood and metal woodworking machines, bench grinders, mitre saws, 3D printing and an augmented virtual reality studio.

The City of Southfield and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation support the center to grow businesses and jobs in the city and retain skilled workers.

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.