

# MAYOR'S MEMO

*News of Interest to Southfield Residents from Mayor Ken Siver*

## Road construction season has arrived in Southfield

Get ready to dodge more orange barrels! Road construction season has begun. Besides the closure of east-bound I-696, many other projects are getting underway in Southfield.

The City of Southfield and the Road Commission of Oakland County are projected to spend \$37,583,500 on road projects in the city this year.

In the past 10 years, plus 2025, Southfield will have replaced 151.29 miles of local roads in the city, totaling an expenditure of \$329.8 million. While this is an impressive accomplishment in which the city takes pride, it is not enough. Southfield has roughly another 90 miles of local roads to upgrade. The cost of road replacement has escalated sharply in the last decade. Obviously, the rising costs of road replacement has restricted the city's ability to get more done.



***Reconstruction of the disintegrated Rutland Street from Nine Mile to Northwestern Hwy. leading to Oakland Community College has begun.***

### ***The 2025 Southfield Road projects include:***

- Rutland Avenue from 9 Mile to Northwestern Hwy. \$2,990,000
- Mt. Vernon from Southfield Rd. to Northwestern Hwy. \$5,265,000
- Farmbrook (paved section west of Telegraph only) \$ 625,000
- Grodan, Central Park & Swanson (asphalt overlay) \$1,300,000
- Greenfield Road from 12 to 13 Mile roads \$3,000,600
- 12 Mile from Telegraph to Northwestern Hwy. (Part II) \$5,526,000
- Coral Gables from Lahser to Corporate Drive \$ 82,900
- Ten Mile from Lahser to Telegraph \$2,949,000
- Beech Road pathway from 9 Mile to Shiawassee \$1,505,000
- Neighborhood streets in subdivisions (below) \$14,340,000
  - Hyde Park Gardens
  - Hampshire Woods
  - Roseland Woods (west of Stahelin)
  - Midway Street (between Stahelin & Evergreen)
  - Plum Hollow Gardens
  - Hadley's Country Estates
  - Forestview

The Greenfield, Ten Mile, and 12 Mile projects will also include traffic signal upgrades. Neighborhood street resurfacing and Rutland will also include water main replacements.

The Rutland, Mt. Vernon, and Coral Gables road replacement projects, as well as the Beech Road pathway project, have been made possible through state grant funds. Southfield officials, working with state officials, actively seek grant dollars to supplement the one-mil local tax for roads.

## Major rain events increase the possibility of basement flooding

With the increasing ferocity of rain storms that Michigan has been experiencing over the last 15 years, residents are advised to take action to prevent basement flooding.

### Notables that contribute to basement backups in general are:

- Footing drains connected to sanitary lines may cause individual house leads to exceed their capacity and they may contribute to public collector sewers exceeding their capacity.
- Power outages may lead to sump pump failures and cause “clear water” to flood a basement.
- High water tables and rain events may lead to excessive seepage through foundation walls and cause wet basements, particularly with poorly functioning footing drains.
- Downspouts may go into the ground and tie into footing drains, contributing to capacity issues per above. (This is against city ordinance; any connected downspouts should be immediately disconnected and discharged to grade a minimum of 5’ away from the foundation.)
- Individuals have purposely lifted sanitary manhole covers in low lying areas to alleviate surface road flooding, inadvertently contributing to overloading sewers and causing basement backups.

### What homeowners can do:

- Make sure battery-operated sump pumps are working.
- Depending on the surface conditions in the area, a more powerful sump pump may be needed.
- Older homes may need to re-waterproof foundation walls.
- Extensions to downspouts should be installed to carry rain water farther away from the foundation. Make sure downspouts are NOT connected to footing drains.

With the exception of the Ten Mile/Greenfield area, most of Southfield was developed with separate storm and sanitary sewers. Combined systems can fail during heavy rains as storm water can overwhelm them leading to sewage spills.

Following the disastrous rain event of August 2014 where Metro Detroit areas experienced as much as six inches of rain in one day, the city stepped in to rebuild drainage systems in this area. The combined

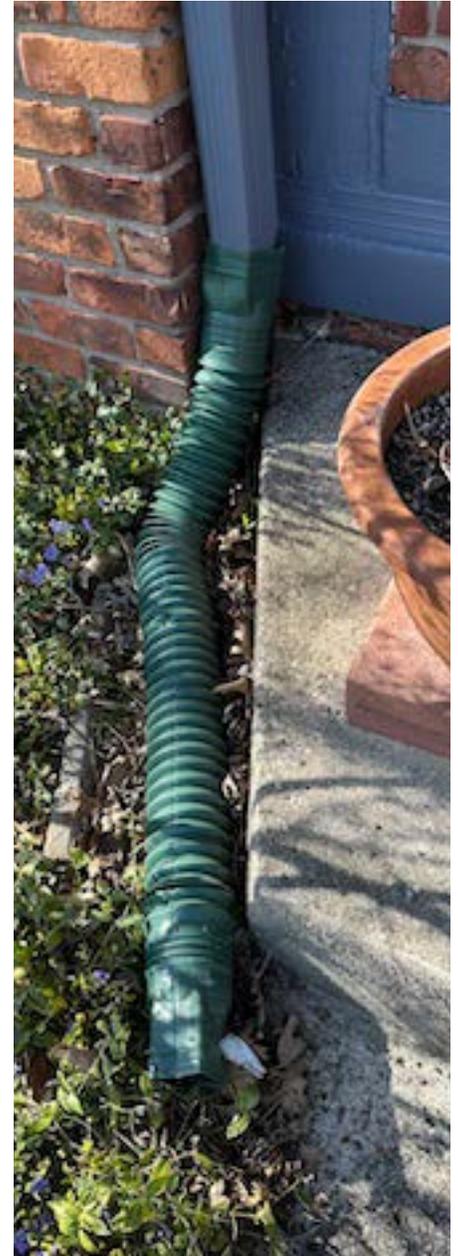
storm and sanitary sewer was rebuilt to separate sanitary and storm water.

The Ten Mile and Greenfield area is the only portion of Southfield that is in the Clinton River basin. (Most of Southfield is in the Rouge River basin.) In the August 2014 event, the drainage system was so overloaded that basements backed up in homes and businesses from Lake St. Clair to Southfield.

To alleviate flooding at north and south of Ten Mile at Greenfield, Southfield constructed a separated system at a cost of \$30.22 million and installed a pump station at Pierce Road and Ten Mile at a cost of \$1.04 million.

Since then there have been incidences of flooded basements in this area and other places in Southfield. The city is conducting an ongoing investigation that has yet to reveal any defects in its drainage system. Some clear water, basement flooding has been tied to overworked or non-working sump pumps.

Some storm sewer man holes have restricted openings. This is by design so as to slow the flow of rainwater into the drain. Better to have temporary street flooding than an overloaded storm sewer.



***Install downspout extensions to drain water away from foundations***

Goal to raise \$50,000 in 60 days for a match of \$50,000

# Eight Mile Boulevard Assn., Detroit, Oak Park, Southfield sponsor crowd funding Patronicity campaign to further economic development in the 8 Mile / Greenfield area



Join us in giving the intersection of **Eight Mile & Greenfield** roads a new look. We are adding an artistic touch to the overpass with multi-colored lighting to take the bridge from drab to bright. **Let there be light!**

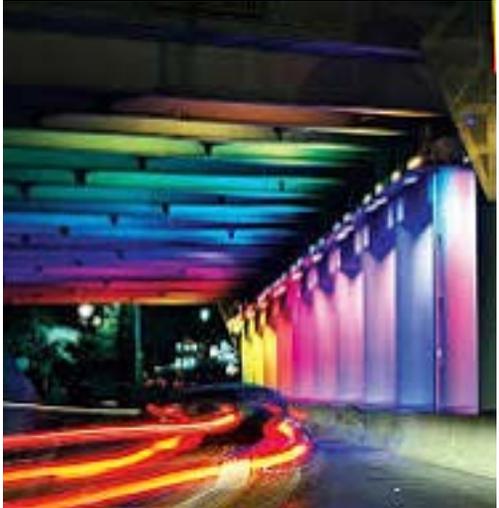
The **Eight Mile Boulevard Association** and the cities of **Detroit, Oak Park,** and **Southfield** have launched a crowdfunding campaign in cooperation with the **Patronicity Program** of the **Michigan Economic Development Corporation.**

Running from **March 24th to May 22nd**, we have sixty days to raise **\$50,000**. When we reach **\$50,000**, **Patronicity** will match it with an additional **\$50,000**.

DONATION LEVELS		DONOR APPRECIATION
\$25	Spark	8 Mile Boulevard Bookmark
\$50	Flashlight	8 Mile Boulevard Bookmark
\$100	Incandescence	8 Mile Boulevard Pin
\$250	Fluorescent	8 Mile Boulevard T-Shirt
\$500	Halogen	8 Mile Boulevard T-Shirt & Pin
\$1,000	LED Leader	One free ticket to the Fall 2025 luncheon
\$2,500	Civic Torchlighter	Two free tickets to the Fall 2025 luncheon & name on donor plaque
\$5,000 - \$10,000	Civic Beacon	Two free tickets to the Fall 2025 luncheon & name on donor plaque & 8MBA website

### TO MAKE YOUR DONATION:

Go to [patronicity.com/lettherebelightgateway](https://patronicity.com/lettherebelightgateway) or [eightmile.org](https://eightmile.org) & click project link.



*An example of how under bridge LED color lighting can change the look of an area. Multi-colored lights are proposed for the Eight Mile bridge over Greenfield Road.*

Millions of dollars in new commercial investments have been made in the Eight Mile Greenfield corridor in recent years. Millions more are coming.

The investments include Northland City Center, Costco, Forgotten Harvest, the Fed Ex Distribution Center, new restaurants, and upgrades to existing buildings.

The Eight Mile Boulevard Association, in conjunction with the cities of Detroit, Oak Park, and Southfield, is raising funds through various means to purchase and install the lighting.

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation has pledged \$50,000 through its Patronicity program if the Boulevard Association raises \$50,000 within sixty days. The MEDC match will only apply if \$50,000 is raised in local donations. The campaign concludes on May 22.



*Cornerstone Plaza on Greenfield undergoes a transformation*

### **New retail coming to former Kroger Store on Greenfield & Providence Drive**

The former Kroger grocery store at the Cornerstone Plaza on Greenfield between Mt. Vernon and Providence Drive is seeing new life after the Kroger grocery store moved to Oak Park several years ago.

The vacant Kroger space has been divided up into three retail spaces. Filling these spaces are Five Below, Ross for Less, and Burlington Coat Factory. Facade changes are being made to the strip center to accommodate the new retailers.

These new retailers will breathe new life into the center. They are expected to open this summer. Other improvements are planned for Cornerstone Plaza, as well.



### *Parlor 313 opens in the Advance Building*

Forty suites have been constructed and recently opened on the first floor of the Advance Building at 23077 Greenfield (at Nine Mile) for independent operators in the beauty business.

Parlor 313 offers modern, fully equipped salon spaces for hairstylists, estheticians, makeup artists, tattoo artists, photographers, and other beauty and creative professionals.

# City of Southfield sponsors 9th annual Southfield PhotoPrize

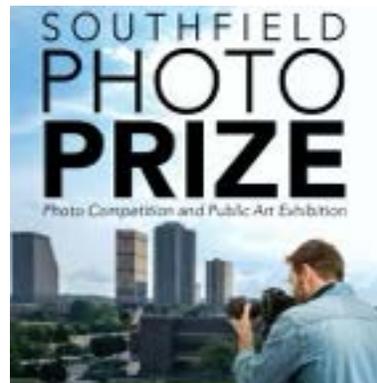
Each year the Southfield PhotoPrize competition and public art exhibition showcases the natural and architectural beauty of the city while also creating an outdoor public art exhibition.

Southfield is currently seeking qualified entries for the competition which will run from June through August. Submissions will be initially reviewed by the Total Living Commission that will select the top 25 finalist entries that will be enlarged and displayed on the Parks & Recreation building for public viewing and voting.

The community is encouraged to view the finalists and to vote on-line for their favorite photo on the City's website from June 16 – August 28, 2025. The photo that receives the most overall votes will be featured in the City's 2026 calendar with a photo credit. Other finalists may be featured.

### Criteria for submission

- Photographer must live, work, worship or attend school in the City of Southfield.
- Original digital color photograph of Southfield landmark or other subject matter shot within the City of Southfield borders taken in any season or format (color or b&w).
- Photographs may be edited with dodging, burning, cropping, and color corrections. No other obvious photo editing is permitted.
- If cropping, please utilize a ratio of 4x3 or 3x4 for contest prints and calendar. City staff reserve the right to re-crop photos based on needs.
- Photographs must be high resolution: at least 300 DPI (Dots Per Inch) and 2,000 pixels submitted in JPEG, TIFF, or PDF file format (which can be achieved with most cameras and phones).
- The City of Southfield reserves the right to use all entries in marketing and other materials – expressedly the City's 2026 calendar;



- Each photographer may submit up to three (3) total shots for consideration per person; and;
- Submissions must be e-mailed as an attachment to PhotoContest@cityofsouthfield.com by Friday, May 30, 2025.

Submissions may also be dropped off on a CD or USB flash drive to the Southfield Community Relations Department. For more information, call Community Relations at (248) 796-5130 or visit [www.cityofsouthfield.com](http://www.cityofsouthfield.com)

## CITY CALENDAR

- April 22** Earth Day Fun, 4-6pm at Carpenter Lake Nature Preserve
- April 24** Last day of Open Skate/Sticks & Pucks, Southfield Sports Arena
- April 25** Arbor Day Ceremony & Tree Planting, 11am, Outside Parks & Recreation Building
- April 26** Tennis Free For All, 12-1:30pm at Civic Center Park
- April 26** Household Hazardous Waste Day at RRRASOC 20000 8 Mile Rd.
- April 27** Touch-A-Truck, 1-4pm, Municipal Campus
- May 1** Outdoor Park Restrooms open
- May 1** Beech Woods Driving Range opens
- May 3** Free Sports Day, 10am-2pm at Civic Center
- May 4** Teen Mental Wellness Community Forum, 2pm, Library
- May 5** Red Cross Blood Drive, 12-6pm, Library
- May 6** Bike Safety Night, 5-7pm, Municipal Campus
- May 7-10** Friends of the Library BookShelf open
- May 9** Police Memorial Ceremony, 10am, Police Station
- May 10** Evening of Elegance, 5-8pm, Southfield Pavilion
- May 6** Kids to Parks Day, 12-2pm, Municipal Campus
- May 16** Vintage Fashion Show, 7-9pm, Skyline Club
- May 21** Jazz & Blues @ Your Library, 6:30pm, Library
- May 22** Last day to contribute to "Let There Be Light Gateway" Crowd Funding Project"
- May 23** Memorial Day Ceremony, 9am, City Hall
- May 26** Memorial Day, City Offices & Library Closed
- May 30** Photo Prize Submissions Due
- June 2** Red Cross Blood Drive, 12-6pm, Library
- June 5** State of The City Address, 2-5pm, Lear Corporation Headquarters (ticketed event)
- June 13** State of the City Address, 7pm, City Council Chambers

### 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@cityofsouthfield.com](mailto:bastrop@cityofsouthfield.com) Feel free to pass this newsletter on to others.