

MAYOR'S MEMO

News of Interest to Southfield Residents from Mayor Ken Siver

Critical operations continue while City Hall is closed; Most Southfield staff working from home

With the exception of the police, fire and public works departments, all city offices are closed. However, city staff is working from home. The best way to reach city staff is by email.

Critical staff will be monitoring offices from 10am to 3pm from Monday through Thursday. A number of phone lines are being forwarded to staff at home.

The following is a summary of city operations during the COVID-19 Crisis:

City Clerk, Assessing & Treasurer's Offices

A drop box is open for document requests and payments next to the main entrance of City Hall. Payments and document requests (including birth and death certificates) may also be made on-line. Freedom of Information Act requests are suspended until April 14. Payments may only be made by check, money order or credit card. (No cash)

Principal Residence Exemptions and Property Transfer Affidavits should also be mailed or left in the drop box for the City Assessor.

Building, Planning, Engineering & Code Enforcement departments

A drop box is available in the vestibule of the Building Department for dropping off plans, forms and payments.

Library and Parks & Recreation

Both departments are closed. Many library materials can be accessed on line 24/7, including E-books, e-audiobooks, movies and novels in digital format. City parks are open but play structures are closed for health reasons. The Pavilion, Beech Woods, Southfield Sports Arena and recreation facilities at the Burgh Historical Park are closed.

TOSS (Transportation for Southfield Seniors)

TOSS continues providing rides to medical appointments and grocery and pharmacy runs on a limited basis. Appointments will be taken by phone ONLY. Call 248.796.4658 between 8am & 1:30pm, Monday-Friday. TOSS buses are wiped down between trips and disinfected daily.



Coordinating local response with Southfield Police and Fire departments, Oakland County and state government, Southfield Director of Emergency Preparedness & Response Justin Beck monitors crisis from city hall command center.

46th District Court & Probation Department

All trials, motions and other case hearings/events for civil infractions, criminal offenses, default judgments, etc. are adjourned for 60 days. Notices of rescheduled cases will be sent by the court.

Requests for emergency consideration shall be accepted by FAX -- 248.796.5805 or email -- 46courtemergency@cityofsouthfield.com

Arraignments will be held by videoconferencing.

By Executive Order of Governor Whitmer, evictions from rental properties are suspended until April 18.

All probationers will report via phone, mail or email. Violation of probation hearings are postponed for 60 days.

Michigan Works! -- Southfield Career Center

No in person services are available at this time. A drop box is located outside the office for resumes, requests, etc. Call 248.796.4580 to make a virtual appointment.

For unemployment assistance contact: Michigan.gov/Documents/UIA/160_-_Claiming_UI_Benefit_In_Michigan_-_Jan2014_444213_7.pdf



Call volumes are up for the Southfield Fire Department, however the department is keeping up with service requests.

Garbage and Yard Waste Collection

Trash collection continues on its normal schedule. Yard waste begins on April 6. Please do NOT put bags out until the day before your pickup. Simple Recycling of textiles and household items is suspended during the COVID-19 crisis.

Donate surplus latex gloves, hand sanitizers, masks

Anyone with surplus sanitary products is asked to contact the Southfield Emergency Operations Center to make arrangements for pickup. Email Justin Beck at jbeck@cityofsouthfield.com

How to Use Your “Found Time”

Life is on pause for most of us. With unexpected time, think about doing things at home that you have not gotten around to like cleaning out your closets, reading books, yard work and **responding to the 2020 Census**. We strongly suggest taking walks either in your neighborhood or on trails at the City Centre, Carpenter Lake, Inglenook, Lahser Woods and Catalpa parks.

Too much family? Take a break

Domestic violence happens all too often in Southfield. If household tensions rise, take a walk, count to ten, find another room.

No shortage of food; No need to hoard

Local stores have had a challenge keeping the shelves filled because of demand. However, there is no shortage of food. Say thanks to those working in grocery stores during these times.



Chris Denha @ 8 Mile Foodland

NOTE: Information provided here is subject to change as this crisis continues to evolve.

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Additional Resources

The City of Southfield is closely monitoring the situation to keep our residents informed as more information becomes available. Please continue to visit the City’s website at www.cityofsouthfield.com for regular updates.

Additional resources include the CDC’s website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> or the State of Michigan’s coronavirus web page at www.michigan.gov/coronavirus.

For businesses, Oakland County has created a COVID-19 Business Toolkit found at www.bit.ly/OCCoronavirusToolkit. If you need clarification if your business or your employees are essential please call the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity at (517) 512-4197.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) also launched a statewide hotline to respond to health-related questions about coronavirus (COVID-19) that will be open seven days a week from 8 am to 5 pm at 1-888-535-6136.

Providence Hospital -- A tent for screening and triaging patients has been set up outside the hospital. Persons with elevated symptoms are being tested. Lab test results are coming back in three days. Not surprisingly, the hospital is having a surge in patients. As of this writing the ICUs are full and 60 patients are on ventilators. Forty-two patients have tested positive for COVID-19 and 103 are under investigation.

More litter in city; Cooperation appreciated

We are seeing an increase in litter in the city and have fewer people available to clean it up. We ask that all garbage be disposed of properly. Place household trash in cans and do not leave trash bags at the street. Windy days and loose trash have compounded the situation. Of particular concern are latex gloves being dropped everywhere.



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.