

# MAYOR'S MEMO

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

## Council approves purchase agreement for Northland redevelopment



**Architect's rendering of five story apartment buildings (with first floor neighborhood retail) facing Greenfield Road. The design mimics that of the former JL Hudson Department Store which will be saved and put to adaptive reuse.**

A tentative purchase agreement has been approved by the City Council, pending City Attorney review, for the purchase of the former Northland Mall site. This follows the recent sale of five acres to Ascension Health for an expansion of the Providence Hospital campus.

Contour Companies of Bloomfield Hills has made the offer to develop the property with a mix of uses including apartments at various rental rates, neighborhood retail, office and green space. The Contour plan models very closely the city's vision for Northland that was developed with citizen input four years ago.

Contour has done extensive work already on its redevelopment plans, which include the adaptive re-use of the former Hudson's Department Store, the underground tunnels and the original (1954) retail pads. Contour will demolish most of the later additions to the mall and the former JC Penney's building as part of the sale's agreement.

The city purchased the mall in December 2015, from the court-ordered receiver of the bankrupt mall after no viable offers were made on the property. The city wanted to control the destiny of this strategic location.

The city has spent the intervening years purchasing parcels that were not included in the sale, namely the Target and JC Penney's stores and

### **Early voting underway; Clerk's Office extends hours**

Early voting for the November 3rd General Election has been underway since mid-September and absentee ballots have been sent to those who requested one.

The Southfield City Clerk's office urges voters to return absentee ballots promptly. The office also advises not to mail absentee ballots after October 23 and instead hand deliver them to City Hall.

Additionally, the Southfield Clerk's office has extended hours for early voting and return of absentee ballots. Thursday, October 15 from 8am to 7pm; Saturday, October 17 from 8am to noon; Thursday, October 22 from 8am to 7pm; and Saturday, October 31 from 7am to 3pm.

Most of the focus for the November 3rd General Election is on the Presidential and Michigan US Senate races but there are other important races on the ballot including judges for the Michigan Supreme Court, Court of Appeals and 6th Circuit Court.

A full slate of Oakland County offices is also on the ballot for county executive, prosecutor, clerk, treasurer, sheriff and water commissioner.

Also on the ballot are two state referendums, the Oakland County Parks & Recreation Millage Renewal and a Southfield City Charter question. The Charter

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the auto service center on Greenfield. Further, the city has been engaged in a massive environmental cleanup of the site and removing 33 easements tied to Northland so as to gain clear title to the property. Had the easements remained in place, they would have greatly impeded redevelopment plans.

Various entities had proposed big box retail, logistics centers, warehouses, medical marijuana cultivation, manufacturing and one-story retail on the site. None of these uses came to pass and are not part of Contour’s plans. Southfield officials held out for uses that would bring population growth and build the city’s tax base.

Once the purchase agreement goes into effect, Contour will enter a 90-day due diligence period before the sale is finalized. With the sales to Ascension and Contour, the city expects to be made whole on the funds invested in Northland.

The sale is expected to be finalized by January. Construction and demolition will follow in the spring.

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question involves the local office (city council, mayor, clerk and treasurer) primary election.

**City Charter Amendment**

In 2015, Southfield voters approved elimination of the local primary election. At the time the reasons for the elimination were low voter turnout in summer local primaries, the cost of running the election (\$85,000) and many times the primary was held to eliminate one or two candidates. A number of residents have asked that the elimination of the local primary be reconsidered, arguing that it provides more time for voters to become acquainted with the candidates and encourages voting.

**Secure Ballot Boxes**

To assist with absentee ballot return, the City Clerk’s Office will be installing additional, secure ballot boxes at the following locations:

- City Hall - Front Circle -- 26000 Evergreen\*\*
- Southfield Library Drive-up -- 26300 Evergreen\*\*
- Fire Station #2 -- 25753 Nine Mile Road
- Fire Station #3 -- 25753 12 Mile Road
- Fire Station #5 -- 24477 Lahser Road
- Burgh Historical Park -- 29360 Civic Center Drive
- Southfield High School for A&T -- 24675 Lahser Road (south driveway)
- Schoenhals School -- 16500 Lincoln Drive

\*\* Currently installed



*This photo shot in Bauervic Woods Park by Timothy McNutt took first place in this year’s Southfield Photo Prize competition.*

**2020 Photo Prize winners announced**

Winners of the 2020 Southfield Photo Prize were recently announced at an outdoor ceremony. Timothy McNutt won first place for his photo taken at Bauervic Woods Park. Second place was awarded to Ronald Taylor for his photo taken at American Commerce Center Nature Preserve and James Simpson was awarded third place for his photo of a double rainbow over the Southfield skyline.

The annual photo competition and outdoor exhibition showcase the natural and architectural beauty throughout the city. Nearly 200 submissions were received and initially reviewed by the Total Living Commission which selected the top 25 photos that were eligible for public voting over the summer.

The results were determined by the most overall on-line votes each finalist received. The winning photographs and finalists will be featured in the City’s 2021 calendar and other city marketing materials. The 2020 Southfield Photo Prize 1st place winner received a gift certificate and bag of Southfield swag and all finalists received their enlarged photos to keep.



## Police, 46th District Court take stand against domestic violence

Domestic violence occurs all over the world but a stand against it is being taken in Southfield. Domestic violence runs are a daily occurrence for the Southfield Police Department. The department is teaming up with the 46th District Court, Haven and the Southfield Domestic Violence Group for a series of interventions.

Besides raising awareness of this social issue, those found guilty of domestic abuse will have to attend seminars as part of their adjudication. Those who are abused will be invited to attend seminars to free themselves of toxic relationships. Unfortunately, 47 percent of domestic violence cases are dropped because the battered drop charges or fail to show up in court.

Seminar topics will include intimidation, stalking, power/control, alienation, and financial, verbal, physical, emotional and psychological abuse.

The Police Department has formed a High Risk Response Team (HRRT). The HRRT is a multi-disciplinary group which includes community resources to provide a coordinated community response to intervene in households where there are repeated domestic violence runs. The aim is to break the chain of abuse and teach people how to build and maintain healthy relationships.

***Right: On Sunday, October 4th, hundreds turned out in the rain for the Southfield Walk to Raise Awareness of Domestic Violence, as a first step in addressing this social problem.***

## Chief Barren announces leadership changes in Police Department

Following recent retirements, Police Chief Elvin Barren has announced a series of promotions within the Southfield Police Department.

They are:

- Jeffrey Jagielski -- Deputy Chief
- Tom Langiewicz -- Deputy Chief
- Jared Lanzon -- Lieutenant
- Michael Morrish -- Sergeant
- Shane Russell -- Lieutenant
- Matthew Taylor --Lieutenant
- Jared Womble -- Sergeant



***Chief Elvin Barren (center right) stands with newly promoted Lieutenant Matthew Taylor and new Deputy Chiefs Jeffrey Jagielski and Tom Langiewicz.***

## Public art projects advance despite pandemic

The Southfield Public Arts Commission and the Friends of Southfield Public Art presented the 2020-21 Public Art Plan to the City Council in May. With Council approval, projects have moved ahead but at a slower pace due to the pandemic.

### New Installations

In July, the restored **Motown Murals** from Northland were hung just outside the Southfield Pavilion. The murals were created by Detroit artist Clifton Perry. Depicting Motown stars, the murals formerly hung in the JC Penney Court at Northland.

The Friends of Southfield Public Arts had the opportunity to purchase **YinYang** by sculptor of international renown David Barr from a private owner last winter. After being restored, this sculpture was placed at the intersection of Ten Mile, Evergreen and Northwestern Highway Service Drive in August.

This month **The Great Lakes** panels were installed in the atrium of the Beech Woods Recreation Center. The Great Lakes graced an out-door courtyard at Northland for sixty years. Created by sculptor Lilian Swan Saarinen of Cranbrook, The Great Lakes also includes ten terracotta animals that have been restored and will be placed at Beech Woods once a showcase has been constructed to house them.

### Meet Hubert Massey

The Arts Commission and Friends of Public Art have engaged Detroit Artist Hubert Massey for possibly two installations in Southfield. Under consideration are art panels along the new Northwestern Highway Trail adjacent to the campus of Lawrence Technological University and an obelisk for the Bell Road roundabout.

A **Meet the Artist Hubert Massey event** is planned for Thursday, October 15 from 5:30 to 6:30pm at Shaarey Zedek Synagogue. The free event will be held on an outdoor courtyard. Preregistration is required along with social distancing and face masks. To register: go to the Southfield Parks & Recreation page on the city's website. Click on "Fresh Air Fitness" register; click on "activities" (upper left: click on "Arts & Entertainment."

### Consider Gift to Friends of Sfld Public Arts

The \$500,000 purchase of the 18-piece Northland Art Collection was made possible through public donations matched by the Leon Miller Legacy Trust. The purchase and restoration of public art has been financed by contributions from residents, local organizations and



*Above: YinYang by David Barr graces the intersection of Ten Mile & Evergreen.*

*Below: The Great Lakes by Lilian Saarinen from Northland Collection now hangs in the atrium of the Beech Woods Recreation Center.*



*Meet Hubert Massey on Oct. 15*

businesses. Three fundraisers planned for 2020 have been canceled but donations to the Friends of Southfield Public Arts are welcome.

Donations may be sent to Friends of Southfield Public Arts in care of the Mayor's Office.

### New pathway nears completion



*Southfield’s newest walking/biking path between Civic Center Drive and Nine Mile will be completed this fall.*

**New Southfield company looking to hire 200** FCR (First Call Resolution), a customer service and technical support company, has recently opened an office in Southfield and is looking to hire 200 associates. FCR, headquartered in Oregon, has immediate openings.

Associates can work from home. Benefits include: paid time off, paid holidays, healthcare, dental and vision insurance, life insurance long and short term disability, flexible spending accounts and more. Entry level positions start at \$12 per hour. Applications are being processed by the Southfield Michigan Works! Office. Call or email Jeff Granat—248.796.4578 // [jgranat@cityofsouthfield.com](mailto:jgranat@cityofsouthfield.com)

### 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.

### Southfield COVID-19 Update

While the number of Coronavirus cases continues to climb in Michigan, Southfield has seen a leveling off with fewer new cases and many fewer deaths.

Overall, Southfield residents have taken the pandemic very seriously and continue to practice social distancing, mask wearing and hand washing. Vigilance against infection must continue.

Date	SfId Cases	SfId Deaths
5/1/20	1,439	161
6/1/20	1,594	211
7/3/20	1,671	227
8/1/20	1,837	241
9/1/20	1,968	243
10/1/20	2,047	246
10/7/20	2,062	246

Date	State Cases	State Deaths
5/1/20	42,356	3,866
6/1/20	57,532	5,516
7/3/20	71,678	6,212
8/1/20	82,356	6,206
9/1/20	103,186	6,495
10/1/20	125,578	6,781
10/7/20	130,842	6,847



*Donald Fracassi gives thanks for the acknowledgment of his years of service.*

### Honoring 50 Years of Service

The Southfield Municipal Campus has been named in honor of Donald F. Fracassi in honor of his 50 years of service to the city of Southfield. Mr. Fracassi was a councilman for 21 years and mayor for 29. A ceremony making the name change official was held in September.