

# HAPPENINGS

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### JAZZ & BLUES @ YOUR LIBRARY MOTOR CITY JOSH

Wed, Sep 21 | 6:30-8:30PM

Enjoy live jazz & blues music at the Southfield Public Library. Limited tickets are available at the door. \$7 general admission or \$5 for Friends of the Southfield Public Library members. No charge for children under 12.



## PATHWAYS SUPPORT RESIDENTS, STUDENTS, BUSINESS COMMUNITY

The last leg of Southfield's City Centre Trail expansion has been completed. The final one-half mile stretch, meandering past Eaton Corp., runs southbound along Northwestern Highway service drive between Lahser and Civic Centre Drive. This new segment now makes it possible for walkers, joggers, cyclists and those relying on wheelchairs and strollers to safely travel 2.6 linear miles from Lahser to Nine Mile Road. "Ultimately our goal has been to connect Southfield City Centre to the Downtown Development Authority district and to connect Lawrence Technological University and the Municipal Campus with Ascension Providence Hospital and Northland City Center - all by non-motorized pathway," says Terry Croad, director of planning for City of Southfield.

Creating safe pathways for non-motorized transportation has been a longstanding priority for the City. Residents wanted heart-healthy trails for year-round exercise. The business community wanted amenities for their workforces, including the ability to get to work, dining and recreation without needing a car, and LTU students wanted to walk and bike safely beyond their university campus. "During the last decade, the City has added more than 20 linear miles of new pathways," Croad explains.

The Planning Department has a formula for identifying where to locate pathways and how to create a consistent look and feel. First priority is determining areas that offer a high density of residents and businesses and also strategic connections to regional pathways. Next step in its formula is infrastructure - actually building the pathway - and then layering on the distinctive attributes that contribute to safety, engagement and enjoyability: signage, trail markers, interpretive panels, trees, pedestrian respite stations (benches and waste receptacles), bike facilities (repair and rental stations), and placemaking features such as public art, whimsical birdhouses, dog treat stations and waste receptacles. Currently these features are being added to the new stretch of trail that encompasses Eaton Corp.

In addition, two half-mile segments are just getting underway. One will extend Southfield City Centre Trail by another half mile along southbound Northwestern Highway from Nine Mile Road to Cornell in the Magnolia neighborhood. Eventually this pathway will reach the perimeter of the soon to be redeveloped Northland City Center. A second half-mile stretch will border Bauervic Woods Park on Nine Mile and contribute to the City's next pathway development priority: creating a Nine Mile



## VISUAL HISTORY OF SOUTHFIELD: A MUST SEE!

Six panels of the giant mosaic "Tapestry of a Community" were completed at the end of June on southbound Northwestern Highway service drive along Southfield City Centre Trail adjacent to Lawrence Technological University. "It is so important when we are creating these public pieces of artwork - the first word is 'public' - that they're for the community it will serve," says Dr. Hubert Massey, Michigan native and internationally acclaimed artist who was commissioned to create the panels. "It is a celebration of the community."

## LTU TO INAUGURATE NEW PRESIDENT TO CAP

HOMEcomings WEEK SEPT. 10-24

Lawrence Technological University will formally inaugurate its eighth president, Tarek M Sobh, PhD, P.E., as part of its Homecoming festivities on Saturday, Sept. 24. The occasion also begins the University's yearlong observance of the 90th anniversary of its founding in 1932. The day begins with an Inauguration Ceremony from 10 to 11 a.m. at LTU's Don Ridler Field House (building 15 at [www.ltu.edu/map](http://www.ltu.edu/map)). The ceremony will formally vest leadership of the institution to its new president, and allow the University's stakeholders to become more familiar with the president and his vision for the institution. The event is open to the public and does not require a ticket.

The day continues with a 1 p.m. football game, with LTU hosting the Roosevelt University Lakers.

The inauguration festivities conclude with an 8 p.m. Inaugural Ball and 90th Anniversary Celebration at The Mint banquet and conference center, 27000 Evergreen Road in Lathrup Village. Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.ltu.edu/inauguration/ball.asp>. The event has a cocktail-attire dress code.

The Sept. 24 events conclude a full schedule of Homecoming Week activities. Included on Friday, Sept. 23 will be a car show at 6 p.m., sponsored by LTU's Phi Kappa Upsilon fraternity, and a spectacular drone show at 8 p.m., both to be held at Civic Center Drive and Evergreen Road. For more events occurring throughout the week visit [ltu.edu/inauguration/events.asp](http://ltu.edu/inauguration/events.asp).

Sobh assumed the office of president Jan. 1, 2022 after serving for 15 months as LTU's provost and chief academic officer. Previously, he was interim provost, university executive vice president for research and economic development, and founding dean of the College of Engineering, Business and Education at the University of Bridgeport. He received a Bachelor of Science in engineering with honors in computer science and automatic control from Alexandria University in Egypt, and Master of Science and PhD degrees in computer and information science from the University of Pennsylvania. A prolific scholar, Sobh has authored more than 250 refereed journal and conference papers and book chapters, in addition to 27 books. He serves or has served on the editorial boards of 18 journals, and has served on the program committees of over 300 international conferences and workshops in robotics, automation, sensing, computing, systems, control, online engineering and engineering education.

corridor that connects Southfield with Oak Park and Ferndale to the east and Farmington to the west.

In addition to facilitating healthy living and advancing economic development, Croad likes to make the case that well-used pathways for non-motorized transportation also help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and curb climate change. He cites four statistics:

- Almost half of all car trips in U.S. cities are three miles or less.
- About 20 percent of car trips in U.S. cities are less than one mile.
- For every gallon of gasoline saved, the atmosphere is spared 22 pounds of additional CO<sub>2</sub>, a greenhouse gas.
- On average, adults burn 100 calories for every mile walked.

"The average American can walk a mile in 20 minutes or bike a mile in five minutes," Croad explains. "We can eliminate almost one-half of auto trips in cities IF we provide the pathways and accessibility and safety for people to do that. And that's my ultimate goal."



## LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE CAMP TEACHES DESIGN, SUSTAINABILITY

City of Southfield Planning Department and Lawrence Technological University (LTU) teamed up this summer to offer metro Detroit high school students an introduction to landscape architecture. The three-day camp welcomed students from seven area high schools, most of whom admitted at the start they knew little about the field. Yet, come the conclusion, their perspectives had

changed dramatically. "I was surprised how broad the scope of landscape architecture is," explained Rachael Andree, a student at Adlai E. Stevenson High School. "It's basically everything that's not buildings."

Students were instantly immersed in the practice of landscape architecture with a charge to create a teen park at Carpenter Lake Nature Preserve off 10 Mile Road in Southfield. This involved analyzing the site, including assessing opportunities and constraints; developing a schematic design to illustrate the concept or "big idea;" and creating a design development plan necessary for construction. The goal? To enhance community well-being and environmental sustainability.

Overall, the camp aimed to advance diversity, equity and inclusion within the landscape architecture field. It was sponsored by the Michigan chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects and Southfield City Centre. Professionals from area firms eagerly participated, including Bob Ford, Landscape Architects & Planners; Mark Hieber, HED; Joane Slusky, Juno Solutions; Kyle Verseman, Landscape Forms; Chad Brintnall, Lauren Leighty and Tom Mroz all of SmithGroup; Architect Beverly Hannah Jones, Artist Hubert Massey, and De-lores Flagg, chair of Southfield Arts Commission. Leading the effort were members of Southfield's Planning Department: Terry Croad, director of planning; Souzan Hanna, sustainability planner; and Sarah Mulally, assistant city planner.

For the students, it was learning by exposure. Instructors facilitated walking tours of LTU, Southfield City Centre and downtown Detroit. In Detroit, students were exposed to examples of large-scale landscape architecture projects, including Detroit RiverWalk and Capitol Park. These designs "gave me inspiration for our presentation boards and widened my scope, my perception of landscape architecture," said Jacob Akinbode, a student at University High School.

Students were divided into two teams and told to come up with a name for their landscape design firm. Then, on the final day, each team pitched its design to several instructors who served as their client audience. "I was surprised how much time and effort it takes to make a park," concluded Katelyn Fletcher, a student at South Lyon High School. "Everything is thought out and designed."

## LET'S CONNECT

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