

Southgate

T O D A Y

2021 - First Quarter

Inside

Winter Warmth

Fire Department tips on staying safe

Community Gem

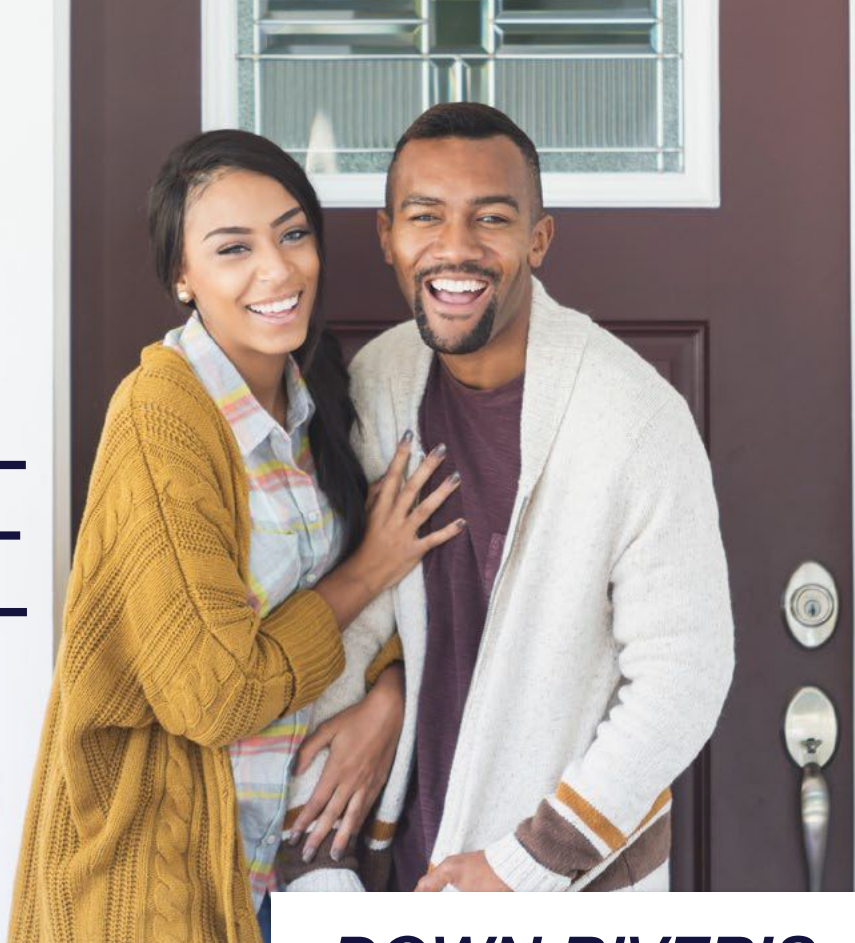
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Downtown Dreams

DDA director looks ahead

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From the Mayor

The Promise of a New Year

Nearly a century ago, renowned physicist Albert Einstein wrote, "Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow."

As I reflect on 2020, I can't help feeling how appropriate those words are for all of us now. It was a year we would most likely want to forget. But to merely do that would miss an opportunity to learn from our experiences.

It was indeed a tough year, but we followed the safety recommendations and found innovative ways to stay connected. Our business community also reinvented themselves by offering more options for their customers, including touchless curbside pick-up, increased carry-out menus, and an explosion of internet choices. As consumers, we learned that we could adapt, too.

Let's keep in mind that it is important to continue to support our local businesses whenever we can. Their survival is imperative to the vitality of our city.

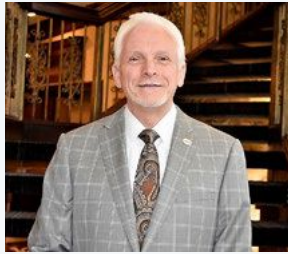
Our American pharmaceutical industry should also be acknowledged for developing therapeutics and vaccines at a record pace, with the noble goal of seeing an end to the pandemic. American ingenuity is alive and well at all levels – even in a time of crisis.

So, as we begin a new year, we have the opportunity to refocus on living. Living the American Dream and fostering those relationships we hold most dear. It is my hope that, together, we can look forward to a more normal and interactive tomorrow.

May God continue to bless this nation and our great city of Southgate.
Sincerely,



Joseph G. Kuspa
Mayor



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Engagement Specialist

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We are doing our best to bring you the most accurate information we can. Unfortunately, we continue to be hampered by the coronavirus, so we urge you to check on your local community's social media pages and websites for the most up-to-date details, and keep supporting local business!

Southgate T O D A Y

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A Look Back

The history of our Southgate Veterans Memorial Library

By Barb Keresztury, Adult Services Librarian and member of the Southgate Historical Foundation

In the early half of the 1900s, Wayne County was undergoing a time of unprecedented growth, and with accelerated populations comes the need for new libraries. The lower portion of what was then Ecorse Township started hoping for one of their own in February of 1951. Just a handful of months later, on July 16, 1951, the North Line Branch of the Wayne County library system was established at 13703 Northline Road.

It was a modest building, only 40 by 60 feet, and housed just 3,500 books. Mrs. Alice Stumpmier was the very first librarian, and Jean Baron was the first library patron to check out a book there. It truly was cutting edge for its time, making a note to boast that, "The library

will be distinguished by a type of convenient book shelving found in no other public library in the country. All books will be within easy sight and reach." (Mellus Newspaper, July 4, 1951.)

But a scant three years after it opened, the library was already experiencing growing pains. Their two modest parking spots weren't enough anymore, and neither was the 2,400 square feet of space. By 1956, talk of a new library building was underway, and one of the first proposed areas was at Eureka and Dix-Toledo, by the McCann school.

Not long after this, in early October of 1958, Southgate was the 22nd city incorporated into Wayne County.

Following on its heels on October 24, 1958, the library sent out a memo to the Wayne County library system regarding its new name change. The Southgate Public Library was established.

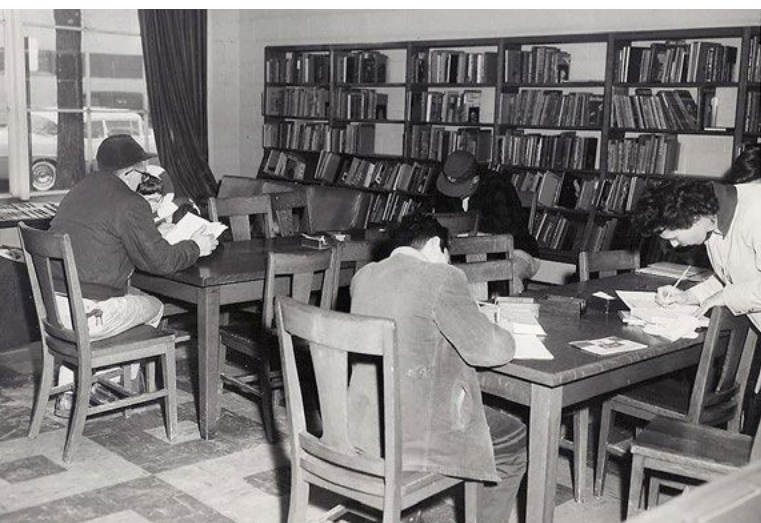
Unfortunately, as the years went by, there wasn't much headway on upgrading the



library facilities. Notice after notice went out for a new building, and the existing structure continued to get more and more cramped and was slowly deteriorating.

In 1959, the Library Commission and Mayor Walter Berklich were championing the land at Homer Howard Park as a potential new location, but in February of 1960, the City of Southgate was in the final process of acquiring lots on Trenton and Superior roads. Correspondence with Thomas J. Anderson, the mayor at the time, said, "It looks as though we are pretty well locked in with that portion of the property we hope some day to put our Library on."

The site for the new library building was hotly contested between Homer Howard Park and Cobb Park. At the last



Library continued on page 8



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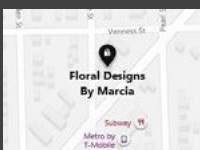
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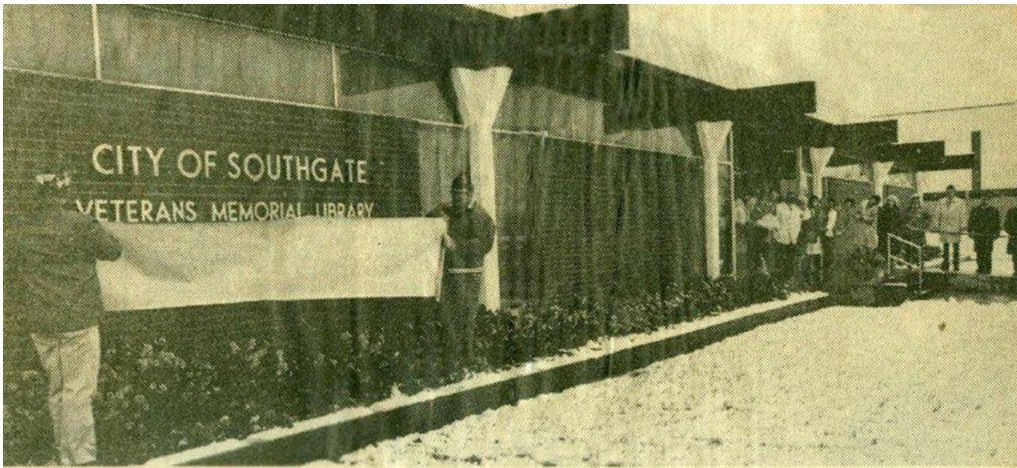
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VFW Commander Dennis Rockman (left) and American Legion member Jerry Barr unveil the

new library nameplate during a formal dedication ceremony Sunday. (Photo by John Simon) 11-14-84

moment, a dark horse suggestion cropped up, saying that the location on Superior and Burns ought to be considered. Ultimately, the fear of losing a large federal grant was the deciding factor that cemented the plans to put the new Southgate Public Library at 14680 Dix-Toledo in 1965. That same year, in October, Mayor Robert C. Reaume presided over the groundbreaking ceremony, taking the first shovelful of dirt for the new library.

On April 11, 1966, the new Southgate library building opened its doors to the public to the tune of \$210,000. It more than quadrupled its square footage, now at 10,290, and had 12 times the volumes of books and materials. It also featured a large meeting room (now the staff workroom) and a kitchenette.

November 11, 1984 was a very auspicious day, as our library was formally renamed the Southgate Veterans Memorial Library. It was officially dedicated in a short ceremony, lasting only 15 minutes. Then-mayor James Kandrevas, along with prior mayors Thomas Anderson, Walter Berklich and Robert Reaume, were there as the paper was removed to reveal the new nameplate on the building's façade.

In November 1994, the gracious residents of Southgate voted to approve a \$1.6 million bond for renovations and expansions to the library. A short stint later, and after 13 months of construction, the Southgate Veterans Memorial Library opened its doors for the March 15, 1997 dedication

and open house ceremony. The additions doubled the library's footprint to 21,000 square feet and included two large meeting rooms, a computer room, five study rooms, the children's storytime and craft rooms, the front reading room, a kitchen for library staff, and extra space for the expansion of the collection. Also during this time, extra funds purchased material acquisitions and a new wave of books, audiobooks, videos and CDs. During most of the construction the library remained open, continuing to serve its community.

This brings us to the library we know and love – it's present iteration. Aside from glowing with a fresh coat of sparkling white paint, being adorned with brand-new carpeting, and the addition of an outside patio this past fall,

we haven't changed too much from the prior renovation.

But its history lingers. You can still feel the line of demarcation denoting where the old building ended underneath your feet as you walk into the expansions. You can catch the occasional volume that is still proudly stamped with our Northline address. And you can always smell that glorious, vintage scent from our library's oldest veterans – our books.



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The Philanthropy Council presenting a check from the proceeds of the D&D event to Henry Ford Wyandotte.

Southgate SUPERHERO

Resident and community member Patricia Cook Anderson goes above and beyond to help people

By Angela Calabrese

When you think of community, you tend to think of the elements that go into making a community what it is. The quality of a community is based on institutions, but more so on the community members who are willing to go the extra mile and do whatever it takes to make their surroundings better.

In Southgate, one such person is Patricia Cook Anderson. Here at Southgate Today, we are always looking to highlight the best – whether it’s businesses, restaurants or people. So when we contacted Mayor Joseph Kuspa to see if he knew of someone we could highlight in our next issue, he didn’t hesitate. He immediately suggested Pat.

“Pat has done so much for the Southgate community,” Mayor Kuspa said. “She’s raised funds

for the hospital (Henry Ford Wyandotte), is involved with men’s and women’s health organizations and funds scholarships out of her own pocket, just to name a few things.”

He went on to say that having Pat as a member of the Southgate community has benefited many people in and around the area.

Anderson has been a resident of Southgate for over 50 years. Originally from Lincoln Park, she and her first husband Terry Cook moved to Southgate in 1969. Sadly, Terry passed away in 1971. In 1974, she married Jack Anderson, and together they raised their blended family, which includes one son (Terry, from Anderson’s first marriage) and two stepdaughters. The family has grown to include seven grandchildren and one great grandson.

“When we moved here, it was supposed to be just our first step, and then we would move on,” Anderson said. “But we loved Southgate so much,

we decided to stay.” Anderson said that Southgate’s easy access to freeways, friendly residents, affordable housing and good city leadership are why she and her family didn’t move on like originally planned. “The residents are friendly, hardworking people,” she said. Anderson made her living mainly in the mortgage banking business, where she worked her way up the ladder in various jobs and positions, serving as office manager, assistant vice president and vice president before eventually retiring from Bank of America 10 years ago.

For most people, having a full career like Anderson did would be enough. But that’s just the tip of the iceberg for her. Her “career” as a volunteer reads like an encyclopedia, and she’s served – or currently serves – on so many boards that we asked her how she does it all.

Superhero continued on page 12

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Pat (middle) with Ann Rudisill from Downriver for Vets (left) and a guest (right) at the Diamonds & Denim fundraiser in 2019.

Anderson deflects praise and refuses to toot her own horn.

"There are so many people who do good things in the community, I'm certainly not alone," Anderson said modestly.

Anderson's volunteer history includes being an affiliate member of the Downriver Association of Realtors (now known as the Southeast Border Association of Realtors), Public Relations Committee, chairman of the Education Committee, and a founding member of the Women's Council of Realtors, where she also served as president for two years.

She was also a member of the Taylor Public School Foundation for Educational Excellence, the Wyandotte Public School Foundation, and the Soroptimist International Downriver (which she was a member of for over 30 years, and served two terms as president).

Anderson has been instrumental in fundraising for many community organizations as well, including Toys for Tots, Special Days Camp, Penrickton Center for the Blind, Downriver Community Clinic and many more.

"I try to be as helpful as I can," Anderson said.

That goes for helping students as well. For the last several years, Anderson has provided scholarships from a charitable trust she has set up.

Each year, checks are distributed to assist families in need at both Gabriel Richard and St. Pius.

She currently serves on the board of the Downriver Community Clinic, which provides health care for underinsured working people.

"It's a free clinic," Anderson said.

"It's great. The doctors and nurse practitioners are all volunteers, and they're top-notch people in their fields who donate their time and energy to helping out. It's phenomenal because all these people have their own practices, yet find time for this as well."

Anderson has been involved with the clinic for 12 years and helps out with fundraising. She developed and chairs the annual Giving Hearts Gala celebration, which usually happens in February.

Unfortunately, due to concerns about COVID, that event probably won't happen in 2021.

"We usually have about 200 people, and we typically honor one of the volunteer students," Anderson said.

Money raised from the event goes to purchase medical equipment, supplies and medication.

The other big event, which Anderson hopes will happen in 2021, is the Harvest Moon Ball.

"I'm on the philanthropy council for Henry Ford Wyandotte," she said. "For 11 years, I chaired the Harvest Moon Ball. It's a very large event, with over 600 people."

Over the years, the event has raised well over \$1 million for various departments of the hospital.

"Every year, the administration lets us know where the biggest need is," she said.

Anderson is also involved with It's In Your Jeans, a relatively new organization that was founded in 2016 by Cindy Czarnik and Vonda Grant. The group focuses on the impact of colorectal, prostate and testicular cancers on men and their families. Anderson serves as chairman of the board.

She's also been involved in the municipal arena, serving on the City of Southgate Planning Commission, the Board of Zoning and Appeals and the TIFA Authority.

There are so many initiatives and causes that Anderson has been a part of. We've probably missed a few, but the overall message is that, especially with a new year just beginning, we should all look around and see how we can make our surroundings just a little bit better.

We may not all end up being superheroes like Pat Anderson, but every little bit helps.



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2021 FOCUS ON MEN'S WELLNESS

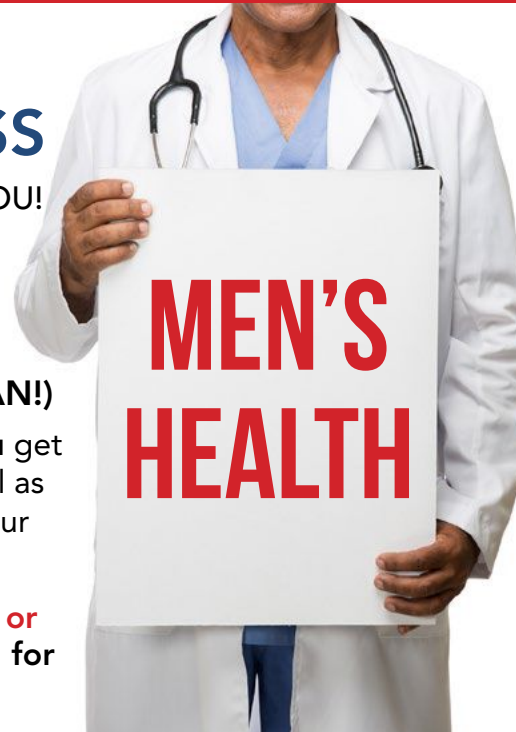
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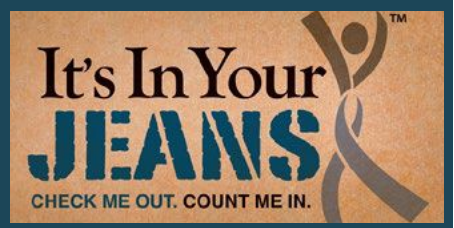
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LOOKING OUT For You

Southgate's fire department educates residents on winter fire safety

The long season known as winter brings all sorts of different things – pretty snow, winter sports and the knowledge that spring will arrive sometime . . . eventually.

However, winter also brings a host of other dangers that we all have to watch out for, and the Southgate Fire Department wants to make sure that its residents are safe, so here are a few things to keep your eyes on this winter.



Carbon Monoxide Dangers

An invisible killer could be lurking in your home. You can't see it or smell it,

but it can incapacitate you and your family quickly. This invisible killer is carbon monoxide (CO). Carbon monoxide is a poisonous gas that can result from faulty, improperly used or incorrectly vented fuel-burning appliances such as furnaces, generators, stoves, water heaters, fireplaces, or cars.

Unfortunately, hundreds of people die from CO poisoning every year. This doesn't have to happen. Follow these safety tips from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), and Southgate Fire Department:

- Never use a portable generator inside your home, garage, basement, crawlspace, shed or on your porch. CO can seep into the house through open windows, doors, or any type of vents such as for the dryer, exhaust fans, and even openings into the attic in the roof's overhang.

- Use a portable generator outside only, and place portable generators at least 20 feet away from your house. Use outdoor-rated, long extension cords to run power into your home.
- Have your furnace, fireplace, and fuel-burning appliances checked by a qualified professional once every year.
- Never burn charcoal inside homes or in semi-enclosed areas.
- Don't leave a car running in the garage.
- Install CO alarms on every level of your home and outside each separate sleeping area. CO alarms should have battery backup.
- Test CO alarms once a month and



Put a **FREEZE** on Winter Fires

Did you know?



Half of all home heating fires occur in December, January and February.

As you stay cozy and warm this winter, stay fire smart!



Plug only **1 heat-producing appliance** (like a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.



Keep anything that can burn **at least 3 feet** from any heat source.



U.S. Fire Administration



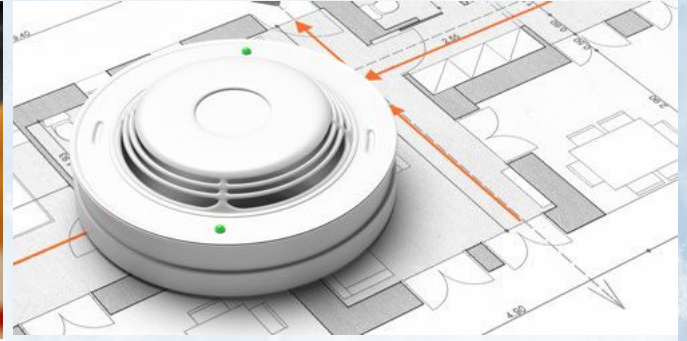
replace CO alarms if they fail to respond correctly when tested.

- Know the symptoms of CO poisoning – headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, drowsiness and confusion.

The Southgate Fire Department wants residents of Southgate to know that if you suspect CO poisoning, or your CO alarm sounds, get outside to fresh air immediately, and then call 911.

Fire Safety Tips

Smoke alarms are a key part of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.



Smoke alarm safety tips:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom.
- They should also be outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.
- Install alarms in the basement.
- People who are hard of hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- Replace all smoke detectors when they are 10 years old.
- Call the Fire Marshal for more safety information on smoke detectors.

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NEW YEAR, New Leadership FOR SCHOOLS

Southgate rings in the new year with a new superintendent

By Julie Poisson

The year 2021 started with a big change for Southgate Community Schools – the community said goodbye to Jill Pastor, longtime employee and outgoing superintendent on December 31, and welcomed new leadership from Sharon Irvine on January 1.

Pastor came to Southgate in her third year of teaching and never left. Eventually, the community became home.



Pastor

“I actually moved into the community, and I feel like it’s been my home since 1993,” she said. “Southgate continued to give me an opportunity to be a part of decision making and the community in a place where I live, work and my own children graduated from.”

Running into former students is one of her favorite parts of being an educator, she said.

“My favorite memories are when you run into a 20 year old or 15 year old and they say, ‘I’ll always remember when you hand-wrote birthday cards, or when I received my birthday card in the middle of summer from you.’ So, it’s not just one memory, it’s former students telling you the positive impact you’ve had.”

Pastor and incoming superintendent Sharon Irvine have been working together to ensure a smooth transition.

“I created a binder of things I’ve been thinking about and I thought were important for the next person to know,” Pastor said.

Due to what happened in 2020, the binder contains more than the standard information regarding contracts, financial information and budgeting. It also includes return-to-learn plans and PPE information.

“I’m confident in (Irvine’s) skills, her education and her background,” Pastor said. “When we’re ready, she’ll make sure that she gets the right people on board and gets stakeholder input to make the best decisions moving forward.”



Irvine

Superintendent Irvine joins Southgate from Brighton Area Schools, where she served in multiple roles – principal, human resource director, and most recently, as the Assistant Superintendent of Labor Relations and Personnel. Prior to her time in administration, she taught middle school and also coached volleyball and gymnastics.

Irvine is a graduate of both Eastern Michigan University’s Education Leadership program and Wayne State Law School.

“Southgate is an incredible community,” Irvine said. “They have a strong community identity. It’s really going to be wonderful to be part of. They have so many wonderful things and resources to work with and have created an exemplary school district. They’ve been excellent for many years – keeping that growing is a phenomenal challenge and I am honored to be a part of it.”

Her 25-year career in education will provide valuable perspectives and experiences to draw upon in learning the district, she said.

“I think my experience in other districts will simply add to the areas that are currently within the district to make sure it’s financially steady and proves to be the best choice for the families of Southgate.”

Irvine is committed to creating opportunities and programs for children, as well as creating strong relationships between schools and their communities.

“Southgate is such a strong community, with so many incredible resources found in the passion and commitment of its students, families and staff,” she said. “I am thrilled to join the community in such a meaningful way.”



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New Director of Public Safety Joe Marsh, Mayor Joseph Kuspa, Fire Chief Marc Hatfield and recently retired DPS Director Jeff Smith.

Changing OF THE GUARD

Retirement of public safety director promotes new leadership in law enforcement

By Kelsi Klein

As the new year begins, new changes are taking place in Southgate. This year, Jeff Smith, Director of Public Safety, retired and former Chief of Police Joe Marsh has taken his place.

Smith served the city for over 26 years. He started in patrol and 16 years later moved to command officer. Being promoted to police chief and public safety director followed.

"I spent 15 years riding the police motorcycle and working the traffic safety unit and I loved it," Smith said, as he reminisced on his most memorable moments in the department and the biggest part of his career.

When he started in law enforcement in 1994, technology was nowhere near what it is today. This means there were no cameras in the cars, no computers and tickets and reports were handwritten.

Some highlights of Smith's career include seeing the great changes that have taken place in law enforcement throughout the span of his career, not only including advancements in technology, but also the dynamic between police and the public.

"When I started, I think policing was more of an enforcement kind of work, whereas over the last decade I've noticed a big change," Smith said. "We've gone to more of a community-based policing, which definitely is a far better approach in my opinion."

Over the years, police work and public safety have evolved and now officers and administrators are able to look at situations differently.

"We get the public's perspective on it, and likewise, I think they're seeing that they get to look at our perspective on it as well," Smith said.

With the last eight years of his career being spent on the administration side, Smith found it rewarding to work alongside the City of Southgate. He said that the City has



Joe Marsh



Jeff Smith

worked very well with him and the police and fire chiefs to continually enhance both departments. These enhancements include upgrades to their fleet of police cars, the fire apparatus and upgrades to the infrastructure of their buildings.

Renovations include new doors and equipment in the jail, improvements to the police and fire locker rooms and a roofing project for the police, fire and court buildings, which are all connected. A new digital camera system was also installed throughout the police and court buildings to increase security and better public safety.

With the accomplishments Smith has made throughout his career as public safety director, he said he feels confident leaving the position in good hands with Chief Marsh.

"We've got excellent leadership in both the police and fire departments and upcoming leaders are going to do a real good job for the future" Smith said.

Marsh explained that his goal as the new director of public safety is to build off the successes that Smith has already created.

"First and foremost, I think that a congratulations to Jeff Smith is in order," Marsh said. "He has been dedicated to the police department and the community for over 26 years and has been a great role model. When I came on the police department, we worked together in patrol and came up to the ranks together. We worked together for a long time and we've been friends for a long time, so when you look at what he's been able to accomplish here it's admirable. He put our department in a good position. We've done some tremendous things and made some advances since he's been in office."

One of the goals Smith and Marsh had was to become accredited with the State of Michigan and that has been in the works since last September. Lt. Mark Mydlarz, who will take over the position of police chief, has been working with Marsh to finalize the process which is about halfway done.

"I look at the accreditation process and I think it's a way for us to be better, to challenge ourselves, to have best-practice policies in place, but also to understand and reflect inward at what we can do better here and what areas we can change or improve on," Marsh said.

Marsh's overall goal for his new position is to just continue to be better and improve everyday with the community and the department's partnerships.

"I think this year more than ever, we have to have that strong positive relationship and continuous interaction with the public," he said. "We have to be receptive to the community's needs and be able to have that balance between effective police work to keep people safe but also understand their needs. Transparency is important and I think that's been my and Lt. Mydlarz's goal."



Where IN THE gate?

Welcome to another installment of Where in the Gate?, where we challenge residents to figure out what they're looking at in the picture provided.

To participate, send us an email at southgatetoday@ci.southgate.mi.us with your guess as to what and where the location in the picture is, and include your name, address, phone number and email.

Submissions that have the correct answer and include the required contact information will be entered into a random drawing. The winner will receive a dining certificate from one of Southgate's fabulous restaurants.

Last issue's picture was of the gazebo by Southgate City Hall, and the winner was Tracey Rossow. Congratulations, Tracey!

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A NEW WAY to Engage

New DDA Director brings passion for people, involvement to position

By Angela Calabrese

This past year has proven to be challenging on many fronts, but it's been specifically difficult for those in the business community. They need our support now more than ever.

For new Southgate Downtown Development Director Cassidy Tear, it's an opportunity to jump in and help businesses in the best way she knows how – marketing and promotion.

A lifelong resident of Southgate, and a 2016 graduate of Southgate Anderson High School, Tear, 22, recently graduated from Bowling Green State University in Ohio, where she earned a bachelor's degree in sports management and a minor in marketing.

Her love of sports in general led her to the Detroit Tigers, where she honed her skills working in the Promotions Department as a promotions and marketing assistant. She was involved heavily with the Tigers' Kids Club, and has always had a passion for engaging people.

"What I was interested in was marketing and planning events for fans before and during the game to get them engaged," she said.

Unfortunately, we all know that sports happened differently in 2020, and because of that there were no fans to engage – at least in the traditional way. Like everyone else, Tear and her team had to come up with alternate ways to keep fans excited. Especially the young ones.

"We had to change our route and come up with ways to engage with fans virtually," Tear said.

That included making videos with Tigers' players to send to young fans.

A new plan

While it was Tear's plan to get hired on with the Tigers permanently, instead, she was one of hundreds of employees that the team laid off in October.

At loose ends, and knowing that a career in sports was probably not going to happen until things settle down, Tear heard about the opening at the Southgate DDA from a friend of hers.

Tear's first day on the job was November 9.

"It's been great so far," she said.

Tear works closely with Parks and Recreation Director Julie Goddard, who Tear said has been very helpful during her transition.

"She's been keeping me up to speed," Tear said.

And despite the challenges that come with starting a new position in "normal" times, let alone during a global pandemic, Tear has much hope for the future.

"Even though we've had to cancel winter events, we've transitioned some to the virtual realm, and were even able to add a new event," she said. "It's been a challenge, but it's been good."

Engaging businesses with the community

For the future, Tear hopes to use her extensive passion and experience for engagement to help businesses in the city of Southgate reach the community in new and different ways.

"We hope to return to providing the events that people in the community have come to expect, and I'm looking forward to creating new events that will engage everyone," she said.

With her youth and positive attitude, we can expect to see business engagement help from the DDA in a new way.





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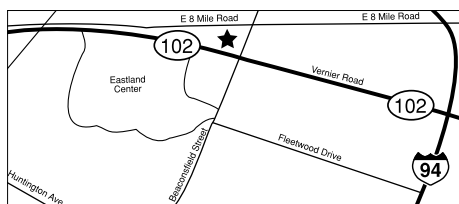


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