



27400 Southfield Rd.
Lathrup Village, Mi 48076
(248) 557-2600
www.lathrupvillage.org

APRIL 2026 DDA DIRECTOR REPORT

To: LVDDA Board of Directors
From: Austin Colson, CED/DDA Director
Date: May 15, 2026
RE: Department/Director Report

In an effort to provide consistent updates to the DDA Board of Directors, City Administrator, and City Council the following monthly report is submitted for your review.

Upcoming DDA Events

- **Good Neighbor Day Corridor Clean Up** – Saturday, May 16, 2026, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM, Lathrup Village City Hall
 - Community event focused on neighborhood connection, civic engagement, and area beautification. The event will take place at Lathrup Village City Hall, 27400 Southfield Road, with registration beginning at 9:30 AM and the event starting at 10:00 AM. Activities will include community meet-and-greet opportunities, area beautification efforts, food, prizes, and family-friendly activities, including a bounce house.
- **2026 Comprehensive Plan Update – Parks & Recreation** – Tuesday, May 19, 2026, 7:00 PM, Lathrup Village City Hall
 - This session is open to residents and stakeholders to share input on the future of parks, recreation facilities, public spaces, trails, programming, and community amenities in Lathrup Village. An online survey is also available to gather community feedback and help shape the City's long-term parks and recreation goals as part of the Comprehensive Plan update.
- **Leveraging the Next Level of Generative, Predictive and Agentic AI** – Wednesday, June 9 2026, 9:00 – 11:00 AM
 - Hosted by Oakland Thrive – Hands-on business education workshop focused on helping small business leaders move beyond basic AI tools and apply generative, predictive, and agentic AI strategically within their organizations. The session explored practical AI use cases related to revenue, operations, customer experience, risk management, and decision-making. Participants learned how to distinguish between major types of AI, evaluate industry-specific tools, improve strategic prompting, and assess AI outputs for bias, governance risk, accountability, and overall business impact.



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Past DDA Events

- **Fraud Awareness Workshop** – Wednesday, April 29, 2026, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM, Lathrup Village City Hall (27400 Southfield Rd., Lathrup Village, MI 48076)
 - Hosted in partnership with Chase Bank, the Lathrup Village Police Department, and the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) – Community workshop focused on helping residents recognize common scams, protect their identity, and secure financial accounts. The session will provide practical fraud prevention tips and highlight resources available to help individuals and families stay safe from increasingly common financial scams. The event is free to attend and open to the public, with registration encouraged.

Business/Property Updates

- **17600 Southfield Road (Chiropractor Office)** – The new property owner is relocating their chiropractic office to this location. Building permits have been approved, and interior improvements are underway to prepare the space for occupancy. A grand opening is scheduled for Saturday, May 30th.
- **26221 Southfield Road** – Façade improvement work is currently underway and continues to progress toward completion.

Infrastructure

- **MDOT Safety Grant Application (11 Mile Road):** City and DDA staff are coordinating with the City’s engineering consultant to prepare and submit an application for the Michigan Department of Transportation FY 2028 Local Safety Program, including HSIP/HRRR funding, for proposed roadway, curb, and pedestrian safety improvements along 11 Mile Road.



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Miscellaneous

- **Recast Leaders Progress – Connectors & Outreach:** Staff continues implementing the “Connectors” strategy as part of the Recast Leaders program. This effort focuses on identifying local leaders, business owners, and community influencers who can help facilitate introductions, strengthen engagement, and expand connections within the small-scale production and maker space ecosystem.

Outreach is currently underway to begin conversations with 5–10 key connectors, with an emphasis on building relationships, gathering local insight, and identifying additional stakeholders who may be interested in supporting or participating in this work. These conversations are guided by the Recast Connectors Toolkit, which emphasizes listening, trust-building, and community-informed strategies.

On Thursday, May 14, Lathrup Village hosted all six communities participating in the program for their first in-person convening during a working lunch held in the City. The project consultant traveled from Washington, D.C. to attend the session and help guide the discussion, providing an opportunity for participating communities to share ideas, discuss early implementation efforts, and strengthen regional collaboration around small-scale manufacturing, maker spaces, and local economic development.

Business & Property Owner Identification: Staff have also started compiling a preliminary list of small-scale manufacturing and maker-oriented businesses, along with identifying property owners who are community-oriented and open to innovative uses and partnerships within the corridor.

- **Oakland County Board of Commissioners Sponsorship** – For the third consecutive year, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners has approved sponsorship funding to support the Lathrup Village Music Festival (LVMF). For this year’s festival, the County has committed \$5,000 toward the event, continuing its support of this inclusive, community-centered celebration featuring live music, local vendors, food trucks, family-friendly activities, and programming that promotes community pride and local economic vitality.