



27400 Southfield Rd.
Lathrup Village, MI 48076
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www.lathrupvillage.org

JUNE 2026 DDA DIRECTOR REPORT

To: LVDDA Board of Directors
From: Austin Colson, CED/DDA Director
Date: June 26, 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

- **Funding Your Vision: Exploring Sources of Capital** – Wednesday, July 8, 2026, Clawson City Hall, 425 N. Main Street, Clawson, MI
 - This workshop will guide entrepreneurs and small business owners through the landscape of funding options, emphasizing that capital is a journey rather than a one-time event. The session will provide an overview of major capital sources, the typical SBA lending process, and the three primary loan types business owners may encounter. Participants will learn how to match funding options to their business stage and evaluate which sources best fit their needs.
- **Quarterly F.O.G. Mapping Intensive: Financial, Operations, and Growth Strategic Planning Session** – Tuesday, July 14, 2026, 9:00–10:30 AM, Virtual
 - This virtual working session will support small business owners and entrepreneurs with strategic planning focused on three core areas: financials, operations, and growth. Participants will work through tools and strategies to better understand financial data, improve operational efficiency, manage cash flow, and develop a scalable growth plan that supports long-term profitability and sustainability. The session is free for members and \$25 for non-members.
- **Comprehensive Plan Open House** – Master Plan Community Open House – Tuesday, July 21, 2026, 4:30–6:30 PM, Lathrup Village City Hall
 - The City will host a Community Open House to review updates to the City Master Plan and gather public input on Lathrup Village's long-term vision. Residents, business owners, property owners, and community stakeholders are encouraged to attend and provide feedback that will help guide future goals, priorities, and recommendations as part of the Master Plan update process.



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Past DDA Events

- **2026 Comprehensive Plan Update Meeting – Survey Results** – Planning Commission: Tuesday, June 16, 2026, 7:00 PM, Lathrup Village City Hall
 - Master Plan update meetings will continue with a review of the community survey results collected for the key topic areas of Housing, Transportation, Economic Development, and Parks and Recreation. The survey feedback will help identify community priorities and guide the development of the City’s long-term goals as part of the Comprehensive Plan update. There will be opportunities for public input.
- **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.

Business/Property Updates

- **17600 11 Mile Road (Chiropractor Office)** – The new property owner has successfully relocated their chiropractic office to this location. Building permits were approved, and interior improvements were completed to prepare the space for occupancy. The business hosted a successful grand opening on Saturday, May 30, marking another positive reinvestment in the Southfield Road corridor.
- **26221 Southfield Road** – Façade improvement work is currently underway and continues to progress toward completion.
- **27651 Southfield Road – Middle Eats Expansion** – Restaurant expanding into the adjacent 1,800-square-foot unit to the south to enlarge its dining area and better serve customers. Building permits have been approved, and construction is underway.

Infrastructure

- **Wayfinding Signage – Southfield Road Public Parking Lot** – As the outgoing Director, I would recommend that the DDA continue exploring the installation of wayfinding signage along Southfield Road near the City-owned public parking lot just south of 12 Mile Road. Clear and visible wayfinding is an important downtown infrastructure tool because it helps visitors easily identify available parking, reduces confusion for first-time customers, and supports nearby businesses by making the

district more accessible. Promoting free public parking is especially valuable for a downtown environment, as it encourages visitors to park once, walk between businesses, and spend more time within the district.

- **Southfield Road Water Main Project** – One northbound lane of Southfield Road, between Lincoln Drive and 11 Mile Road, is expected to be closed for approximately one month. The lane closure is related to utility work associated with the installation of a new water main. Work within the corridor is expected to include excavation, water main installation, connections to the existing distribution system, backfilling, pavement restoration, and related construction activity within the roadway.

To help support businesses during this temporary disruption, the City has provided temporary relief from the current sign ordinance restriction on feather and flutter signs. During the construction period, affected businesses may place feather or flutter signs in front of their businesses to help maintain visibility and customer awareness.

Miscellaneous

- **Recast City Cohort – Small-Scale Production and Maker Space Site Visits** – As part of the Recast City initiative, the cohort toured Geofabrica, an Auburn Hills-based manufacturing technology development company specializing in additive manufacturing systems and digital production solutions for metal, plastic, and composite applications. The visit provided valuable insight into how advanced 3D printing, customized production processes, and digital microfactory models can support small-scale production and help businesses overcome traditional manufacturing barriers.

The cohort also toured the maker space at Baldwin Public Library in Birmingham, which serves as a strong example of how public institutions can provide accessible resources for makers, entrepreneurs, and small-scale producers. In addition, conversations have begun with i3Detroit to explore a future visit to their Ferndale makerspace. These visits help the cohort better understand the range of models that can support entrepreneurs, makers, and small-scale manufacturers in our commercial corridors.

The team has also added a new member, Robbin Kinnie. Robbin joins the project as a small business owner and consultant to small businesses. She began her career working in Pontiac on Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects and brings valuable experience in community development, entrepreneurship, and small business support. As the project moves into the roundtable discussion phase, Robbin's interpersonal skills



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and business experience will be especially valuable in helping gather the input needed to guide this work.

- **Lathrup Village Music Festival Sponsorship Update** – The Lathrup Village Music Festival Planning Committee has reached its sponsorship goal of \$30,000 for this year’s festival. When combined with the \$10,000 allocated by the DDA, total funding for the production of the festival has now surpassed \$40,000. This is a significant milestone and reflects the strong community, business, and partner support behind the event. There are also a few additional organizations that have pledged support but have not yet confirmed a specific sponsorship amount, which may further increase the total funding available for the festival.