LATHRUP VILLAGE
Downtown Development Authority

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

To: Lathrup Village Downtown Development Authority

From: Janet Bloom – Community & Economic Development/DDA Director

Date: November 20, 2026

RE: Director's Report

Recast City:

"On Monday, November 16th, the Recast Leaders Cohort held its program graduation with all 6 of the Southeast Michigan Cohorts. We joined members from the Cities of Marysville, Pickney, Ypsilanti, Gibraltar and Eastpointe at Cafe Clark in Detroit. This was a special time for us, as it was only the second time the Southeast Michigan Cohort had collectively met in person- the first time being at Lathrup Village City Hall back in May. The teams shared their accomplishments and all the work being done through Recast in their communities. We connected with organization representatives and funders from Michigan Municipal League, the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation, and so many more.

Taking part in this program has given us vital tools and knowledge to improve the City of Lathrup Village's business corridor. It has always been more than what we speak of in the few minutes we can talk about it during public meetings- it is about making vital third spaces in the suburbs of Metro Detroit that benefit all and can catapult Lathrup Village into the next generation of small business connections. We are excited by the work that has been accomplished, and how Lathrup Village has a spotlight upon it by multiple organizations and connections."

– Reflections by Tom Kennedy, DDA Project Coordinator.

Next steps include plans for the mini-grant of up to $10,000 to continue our efforts in this space and becoming part of the soon-to-be launched national Recast City Alumni network.

Master Plan:

The Giffels Webster draft Master Plan discussions continued at the November 17, 2026 Planning Commission meeting. It was the second discussion on this topic. Planning Commission is asking for DDA board input, along with the Parks & Recreation Committee, regarding two parcels in the Village Center area (triangle lots). More information will be sent out via email soon. Master Plan information is available on the City of Lathrup Village website.

Property Updates:

Commercial Property/Broker Owner Open House held on Friday, November 13 from noon – 3 pm. at City Hall in the Community Room. Property owners, brokers, lenders, business support organizations and business owners gathered to see available properties and pair up with critical resources to work on becoming a brick and mortar in town. Thank you to Oakland Thrive and The Whitehouse Team of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices for their financial support of this event.

We have a handful of businesses that have opened recently that we are working on doing Ribbon Cuttings for. More details to come as these get scheduled.

MGM – Property Sale of Triangle Lot

A meeting was held with MGM representatives regarding the sale negotiation of the triangle lot the DDA owns. They decided not to offer a price but asked to begin a process to also bring the city triangle lot into sale consideration. Note that both of these lots were included in the RFQ. MGM attended the November 9 City Council Study Session to bring the idea forward and also to answer council questions. It is anticipated to be part of the Nov. 23 City Council meeting.

Lathrup Village Maker's Mile Winter Market

Presented by Woosah United and hosted by the Lathrup Village DDA, nine market dates are scheduled to bring vendors to Lathrup Village Community Room. This economic tool will be used to continue the buzz of Lathrup Village, work to train and support businesses to try and find co-working/shared retail space within Lathrup Village commercial corridors, and provide a wholesome Third Place activity for the residents of Lathrup Village and beyond. Hour are 10-2 pm, which allows for a booking for the evening in the Community Room each market day. Come May, the market plans to move outdoors. Vendors and sponsors are currently being solicited by the Woosah United team.

LVMF

Lathrup Village Music Festival (LVMF) recently announced that they are moving to become a non-profit. This will expand their offerings, scope, and leave an even larger impact in the communities they serve. We wish Lauren, Bob, and the LVMF crew and volunteers all the best with the transition.

MSOC – Technical Support:

As an Affiliate Program, we are eligible for $2,500 in Technical Support funds from MSOC for 2027. The portal will open soon. Share your ideas.

MSOC - Board Training:

Thank you to those who were able to attend the MSOC Board of Directors Training on one of the three locations provided.
Literature from the sessions will be made available to all board members along with helpful worksheets via email soon.

Main Street America- Self - Evaluation:
The 2027 National Accreditation Platform will close February 15, 2027. We will be tasked to do a self-evaluation for our program. Please watch your email for further details and instructions.

Design Committee Launch/Street Team Launch:
Main Street Committees typically are: Design, Economic Vitality, Organization, and Promotion. We plan to launch the Design Committee first. We will be working to gather volunteers for the Design Committee to help review Façade Grants and Sign Grants and other infrastructure and beautification efforts in the Lathrup Village DDA. Information will be going out in this week's e-newsletter. If someone is interested in participating, they can contact the DDA office.
We will also be asking for volunteers to become our Street Team Crew – volunteers who can help distribute information to our businesses.

For Your Calendar:

Completed Events:

October 8 – MSOC – DDA Training (Staff Retreat) – Media 101 training

October 17 – Halloween Fall Fest by Parks & Recreation/DDA 1-3 pm, at City Hall.

October 20 – 11am – 2 pm (drop in)- "Swag Grab Event" hosted by Lathrup Village DDA and Southfield DDA. Pick up MSOC Shop Small items for your DDA business. Located at 22555 Greenfield Road at Greenfield Plaza.

Nov. 13, Noon-3pm – Commercial Property Open House at Community Room

Nov. 16 – Recast City Cohort Graduation Day!

Upcoming Events:

Nov. 1 – 30 – Oakland County Shop Local Gems contest. See attached flyer.

Nov. 28 – National Shop Small Saturday

Nov. 29,10am – 2pm - Lathrup Village Maker's Mile Winter Market at City Hall Community Room launches with 9 dates during the winter. See attached flyer.

December 4 – Winterfest (tree lighting ceremony/kids activities), 6-8 pm, at City Hall New this year is mini-pony carts ride with the Grinch dressed like Santa. We need one more sponsor for $500 to help add one more hour of rides!

December 16, 5-7 pm – Tri-Cities Holiday Networking with Business Owners and Property Owners. Will be hosted in Lathrup Village in conjunction with Oak Park DDA and Southfield DDA. Location TBD.

Recommendation: To Receive and File