LATHRUP VILLAGE
Downtown Development Authority

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

To: Lathrup Village Downtown Development Authority

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

Date: October 16, 2026

RE: Director's Report

Recast City:

Business Recruitment and Development Updates:

DDA Staff has been hard at work connecting with property owners and prospective businesses interested in establishing themselves in Lathrup Village. Through these efforts, we have connected with a network of artisans and makers looking to relocate their operations to the city. This group has identified potential properties and is exploring the creation of an educational hub where artisans can learn how to turn their crafts into viable businesses. The long-term goal is to help these businesses establish themselves in vacant commercial spaces throughout Lathrup Village.

We have also connected with a prospective business owner interested in opening a coworking space in Lathrup Village, which he considers a prime location. His vision is to expand coworking opportunities beyond Downtown Detroit and into the suburbs, with Lathrup Village potentially serving as the starting point for a larger initiative.

While both opportunities show promise, we are holding off on sharing further details until the projects become more concrete.

Recast City Action Plan and Development Opportunities:

Our Action Plan with Recast City is in full swing, and we are already seeing encouraging signs of progress. Staff recently participated in a productive pre-development meeting regarding the city's last undeveloped commercial lot. Representatives from the Building Department and our planning consultants at Giffels Webster reviewed the developer's initial concepts and provided feedback that the developer found highly valuable.

Staff will remain in contact with the developer as he works toward presenting a more refined concept. The proposed development would feature a mixed-use design with commercial space that could accommodate artisans and bakers, aligning with our broader

efforts to attract small-scale producers and support a more diverse local business community.

Master Plan:
Giffels Webster will introduce the draft Master Plan at the October 20, 2026 Planning Commission meeting. Master Plan information is available on the City of Lathrup Village website.

Property Updates:
Bro's Eatery - 28851 Southfield Road – Received Certificate of Occupancy; not open yet.

Available lease location: 28801 Southfield Road #300, Lathrup Village, MI 48076. Was formerly the Bellviso Global Aesthetics. A second suite has also opened up at this location.

Special Land Use (SLU) Application: 28939 Southfield Road, Lathrup Village, MI 48076 (Exxon Gas Station) was reviewed by Planning Commission on August 18. The application was to add a liquor license for the establishment. Their recommendation was to not approve the SLU due to "lack of demonstration of need". The City Council followed the Planning Commission's recommendation and did not approve the SLU at the September 21 meeting.

The business has reapplied for the same SLU and it will be presented at the October Planning Commission meeting. They are providing more detail to their application. They are also asking for extended business hours outside of regular ordinance hours.

27300 Southfield Road – Due to lack of movement by property owner to install a barrier wall in alley area that was required from the site plan, the owner has until Oct. 19, 2026 to comply or risk legal action.

MSOC – Quarterly Reports:
Third Quarter Lathrup Village DDA stats were sent to Main Street Oakland County (MSOC) on 10/5/2026. They are attached.

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:
As stated in the DDA Bylaws, it is required for DDA board members to complete 4 hours of training per year, which can be facilitated by MSOC. Please plan to sign up for the MSOC Board of Directors Training on one of the three dates and locations provided. Information flyer is attached. Dates are Oct. 20 (Oak Park), Oct. 21 (Wixom), or Oct. 27 (Lake Orion); sessions are 5:30 pm – 9 pm.
Please note: Main Street Oakland County will award $1,500 in training funds to each of the top three communities with the highest total attendance across all three training sessions. Awards will be based on actual attendance, not just registrations.

Registration is free, and participants can choose the date and location that works best for them: https://AdvantageOakland.Eventbrite.com

Main Street America- Self - Evaluation:
The 2027 National Accreditation Platform opened September 21 and 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.

RFQ's/RFP's:
The RFQ for 11 Mile Road and Landscape & Maintenance we moved to October 26 at noon. It will be prepared for the November DDA Board meeting.

Design Committee 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. We will have more information soon. If someone is interested in participating, they can contact the DDA office.

For Your Calendar:

Completed Events:

September 22 – How to Avoid Fraud – with Chase Bank and Lathrup Village Police. 5:30 pm City Hall. 14 attendees. Four presenters. Chase provided a booklet on fraud prevention.

September 29 – SBA/TriCities Lender Matchmaking, 1 – 4 pm, at Southfield Public Library. Around 20 lenders and business support organizations participated. A steady group of participants came to take part.

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

Upcoming Events:

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. Flyer attached.

December 4 – Winterfest (tree lighting ceremony/kids activities), 6-8 pm, at City Hall

Recommendation: To Receive and File