

'Downtown Livonia' to be centerpiece of Livonia mayor's second term



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LIVONIA — Mayor Maureen Miller Brosnan expects big things from her second term.

The city's first female mayor, [soundly reelected by voters last fall](#), said creating a strategic plan for the city's library system and beginning to create a downtown-like development are among her major goals for the next four years.

"We are at the precipice of so much opportunity here in this city, so the chance to continue to lead where people are as excited about investing in this community as I am about leading it seems like such a phenomenal alignment," Brosnan said. "It makes you excited to get to the work every single day."

'Downtown Livonia'

Brosnan said turning the corner of Five Mile and Farmington roads, where the Civic Center campus currently sits, into a downtown is her foremost goal and what she believes voters want most from her.

"The No. 1 job people elected me to do was to build a downtown," she said.



The first step in redevelopment is to [move the city's senior center](#), 15218 Farmington Road, to become an extension of the Kirksey Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard Street. Brosnan's office has secured \$19 million in funding for the \$22 million project. She expects to wrap up fundraising soon and break ground this spring.

"Ultimately, we'll have a better product in a recreation center and a better product in a senior center," she said. "We're doing that at no cost to local taxpayers."

Once the new senior center opens, Brosnan estimates in the spring or summer of 2025, officials will tear down the old senior center, office building, courthouse and the Sam's Place restaurant at Five Mile and Farmington. At the same time, officials will search for private partners to [create mixed-use development at that corner](#).

By the time the Civic Center campus is fully redeveloped, it's likely the Civic Center Library will be the only existing building left there. Because of that, Brosnan sees the [ongoing strategic plan process](#) for the city's libraries as vital.

"Our library strategic plan is critical, and it's especially critical when you look at downtown redevelopment here," she said. "It will become the centerpiece for this campus."



The mayor also noted she's unlikely to make a decision on the long-closed Alfred Noble Library's fate until after the strategic planning process wraps up this summer. The branch at 32901 Plymouth Road has been [closed for over four years](#) due to mold concerns.

"We really want to wait and see what's coming out of the strategic planning process," she said. "It's really important that we listen to the community and understand what their needs are. By midyear, we'll probably have a better sense of that."

Newburgh Village, police contracts among other priorities

Brosnan said an expansion at Newburgh Village, 11999 Newburgh Road, is also on her agenda. The expansion is a delayed item officials had hoped to start around the time of the pandemic in 2020.

"This is a clear runway and we shouldn't have any more unexpected things dropping in," Brosnan said. "COVID was obviously something we couldn't plan on. But once it did drop in, we knew it would alter our course."

The mayor said maintaining [competitive pay and benefits for police](#), one of the centerpiece accomplishments of her first term, remains important to her. Police and the city negotiated a new three-year contract at the end of last year.

"It keeps our department as one of the highest paying departments with good benefits that you're going to find," Brosnan said. "This administration will get to negotiate one more contract, and we're going to continue to push for the best that we can for our police officers."

Another holdout from her first term, a nondiscrimination ordinance [she proposed in 2021](#), is something Brosnan would like to see cross the finish line. City council members [voted the law down in 2022](#). But, at this point, she says the ball is in city council's court.

"The draft language is there and it remains language that we support," she said. "We would be excited if council were to pick that up and move that forward. Any ordinance that gets put in place is put there by a council. We would be a big supporter if the council chose to put this on their agenda. They've been given all of the tools they need."

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