



BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

Newsletter

Spring 2002

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Elected Officials

ADMINISTRATION

Dave Payne, Supervisor
Wilma S. Cotton, Clerk
Dan Devine, Treasurer

TRUSTEES

Janet M. Roncelli
Sherry Stefanos
Jerry J. Tobias
William R. Yaw, Jr.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Appointed Positions

Wilma S. Cotton
David J. Lubin
Richard D. Mintz
George R. Smith
John M. Swoboda
Robert L. Wittbold

BOARD OF APPEALS

Appointed Positions

Neal Jay Barnett
Wilma S. Cotton
Brian E. Kepes
Leo Savoie
Fred G. Wilkinson

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP OFFICES

4200 Telegraph Road
PO Box 489
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303-0489

Inside this Issue:

"File Of Life"	2
Public Safety (cont.)	2
Fertilizing Your Lawn	3
Celebrate Water	3
Oak Wilt Reminder	4
What is a Cross Connection?	4
Gypsy Moth Suppression Program	5
Dept. of Public Works	5

Public Safety Workers Prepare for Every Emergency

"America is no longer protected by vast oceans. We are protected from attack only by vigorous action abroad and increased vigilance at home... Stronger police and fire departments will mean safer neighborhoods." - George W. Bush, State-of-the-Union Address, Jan. 29, 2002

While President Bush's recent remarks were triggered by the terrorist attacks on our country, the need for strong police and fire departments has long been recognized by Bloomfield Township officials and residents. The Township's

public safety departments have had emergency response plans in place for years and regularly update and revise them. Still, the events of September 11, 2001 have caused police and fire officials to scrutinize their practices and make adjustments specifically for new heightened security needs. Today's

emergency management strategies include new capital projects, additional training

Cont. on pg. 2



The BTFD HazMat Team prepares to enter a Township business to investigate a report of suspicious commercial fluids. Fortunately, the fluids were found not to be dangerous and were disposed of properly.



Yard Waste Collection Methods Change to Protect Our Environment

This spring Bloomfield Township will join other communities throughout Oakland County in efforts to improve our environment by contributing to the production of clean compost for use in yards and gardens. To do this, we must change the way we collect yard waste.

This year, we will only collect yard waste that has been put into rubbish containers labeled "Yard Waste" or paper yard waste bags. Plastic bags will no longer be an option.

Neither the Township's solid waste hauler, Waste Management, or the operators of the compost site to which the Township's solid waste is taken will accept plastic bags for this material.

Plastic bags used for yard waste collection tear and small

bits of plastic mix with the yard waste. This contaminates the material that otherwise would have been available for making compost. Another problem with plastic bags is that when enclosed inside them, waste material generates so much heat that its organic characteristics are destroyed, making it useless as compost.

Free "Yard Waste" labels may be picked up at Township Hall for trash containers that are a maximum size of 32-gallons. The Township has asked local hardware stores and lawn and garden centers to stock up on paper waste bags. To avoid cost and inconvenience, residents are strongly encouraged to use mulching mowers.

After yard waste is collected from your home, it is taken to a compost processing facility. The compost process recycles yard waste into a nutrient-rich material called humus. Humus is used as a soil additive in gardens, yards and flowerbeds.



Free, clean compost is available to you at the Township DPW yard Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Please call 248.433.7706 for an appointment. You will need to bring your own containers and tools for loading your vehicle.

Fire Department Offers “File Of Life”



A new program called the “File of Life” has been implemented by the Bloomfield Township Fire Department. The “File of Life” is a mini-medical history file that is posted on the outside of a patient’s refrigerator and/or personally carried in a wallet or purse.

The objective of this program is

to make accurate and complete medical histories immediately available to fire department paramedics when the patient or a family member is unable to offer one.

The card, which is kept in a red plastic pocket labeled “File of Life”, lists the patient’s name, emergency medical contacts, insurance policy and social security numbers, health problems, medications, dosages, allergies, recent surgeries, religion, doctor’s name, and a health care proxy.

The entire pocket is held with a magnet to the outside of the

refrigerator. A “File of Life” door sticker should be placed on the door EMS personnel are most likely to enter to alert them that a “File of Life” is present in the home.

You may pick up a “File of Life” kit free of charge.

The kit will contain a File of Life Refrigerator Pocket, a Medical History Card for the Refrigerator Pocket, and a Wallet History Card with holder and the “File of Life” door sticker. The kits are available at any of the Township’s fire stations. Call 248-433-7745 for more information.

Public Safety Workers Prepare for Every Emergency (Cont. from pg. 1)

and major equipment purchases. Public safety personnel are prepared to respond to a wide variety of emergencies ranging from reports of suspicious substances, large scale weapon assaults, hazardous materials spills, and biological and chemical threats.

The Fire Department has recently completed construction upgrades to Fire Station #4 at Franklin and Kendry at the north end of the Township, giving it enough space for an additional two firefighters. The purchase of a new ladder truck (see sidebar) increases the ability for firefighters to rescue people from burning buildings. Firefighters train regularly on new rescue techniques and prepare themselves for incidents such as dealing with clandestine drug labs.

BTFD has entered into an agreement with eight neighboring communities to share resources in the event of a major hazardous materials incident. This agreement, referred to as Oakway, allows

fire officials to access a vast array of equipment and trained personnel beyond that which is available in Bloomfield Township alone. Together, these fire departments have created the Oakway HAZMAT Team. With this team, highly trained members of each participating department can be mobilized to handle any type of hazardous materials incident within the borders of those participating communities.

The Bloomfield Township Police Department has recently updated its dispatch center and mobile in-car computer system. These improvements allow officers and dispatchers to send confidential messages via the computer system and avoid interception by non-police personnel. The in-car computer system allows officers to access state, county and federal criminal records, helping officers to quickly identify persons that are “wanted” on warrants.

The Police Department developed and conducted Rapid Deployment Training for

immediate response to violent situations. This training prepared all officers to respond to a large scale attack on a group of people. All officers were trained in search and rescue techniques to prevent further injuries and aid injured persons as well as apprehend the attackers.

BTPD has developed a procedure for investigating reports of suspicious substances which may be encountered in the mail, public buildings or other locations. The Police Department is prepared to coordinate with the Fire Department to protect citizens and property and then investigate the incident after the safety of citizens has been ensured.

Your police department has always been highly trained to investigate suspicious activities. However, since September 11th all officers are functioning at even higher stages of alertness. The police department encourages all residents to participate in this new level of awareness by reporting suspicious activities.

New Ladder Truck Coming Soon

Bloomfield Township Fire Department is investing \$850,000 in a state-of-the-art 100-foot aerial ladder truck that encompasses the latest in firefighting and electronic technology. The new truck will replace a twenty-two year-old piece of equipment and should meet the Township’s needs for the next two decades.

A basket at the end of the articulating arm of the apparatus can carry firefighters to the top of a building or over obstacles such as parapet walls, making access to roofs safer than if the firefighters had to get off a ladder and walk on a roof.



This photo demonstrates the versatility of the articulating arm on the new ladder truck and how our firefighters will soon have increased ability to battle fires.

Fertilizing Your Lawn This Season?

Look for this sticker when purchasing products!



Participating Retailers listed at www.healthylandscapes.com

Why Use a Low-Phosphorus, Slow-Release Fertilizer?

- ◆ Though it may cost a bit more in the store, in the long run it will save you time and money by requiring fewer applications!
- ◆ Protects lakes, streams and groundwater.
- ◆ Promotes steady and uniform grass growth.
- ◆ Avoids over-fertilization and “burning” of grass.
- ◆ Provides essential nitrogen for building healthy turfgrass.

Understanding Fertilizer Labels - Easy as 1-2-3!

All fertilizers are labeled with three numbers which provide the percentage weight of nitrogen (N), phosphate (P), and potash (K).

For water quality protection around waterways which are easily polluted by very small amounts of phosphorus and/or nitrogen, residents are encouraged to select a zero-phosphorus or low-phosphorus fertilizer. To make this determination, the relative ratio of nitrogen (1st number) to phosphate (2nd number) should be 5-to-1 or greater. Soil in the Township is naturally rich in phosphorus and does not require phosphorus in fertilizers. Products currently available can be found on the website www.healthylandscapes.com, or call Lisa Zawaski, Bloomfield Township Water & Sewer Dept. at 248-433-7797.

Fertilizer Tips:

- ◆ Measure your lawn before purchasing fertilizer and purchase only what you need! For a single application the recommended maximum application rate is one pound of nitrogen for every 1000 square feet of lawn.
- ◆ Leave a “no-fertilizer” shoreline buffer with a width of 25-feet or more – fertilizer is not good for the water!
- ◆ Avoid weed-n-feed combination products which can add unnecessary herbicides to your lawn.
- ◆ Use sifted compost (available FREE from the Township – see Yard Waste Update elsewhere in this newsletter) by spreading a ½” layer of compost over an established lawn, and then rake compost into lawn, leaving a portion of the grass blade exposed to sunlight & air.

WATER WORKS WONDERS CELEBRATE NATIONAL DRINKING WATER WEEK 2002

Americans have the safest drinking water supplies in the world. Most people take it for granted. Bloomfield Township takes pride in providing those connected to the municipal water system high quality drinking water. *May 5 – 11, 2002 is National Drinking Water Week, so let's celebrate!*

Water Conservation Tips – Save \$\$ & Protect the Environment

1. Install low-flow toilets (or place a 20 oz. bottle filled with water in tank), low-flow shower heads and faucet aerators.
2. Repair dripping faucets and leaky toilets – leaking toilets can waste up to 200 gallons each day!
3. Practice routine water meter reading – check your meter before and after a ½ hour period when no water is being used. If your meter is registering water use, you have a leak!
4. Only run dish & clothes washers when they are full.
5. Use a broom, instead of the hose, to clean sidewalks and driveways.
6. If you have a pool, buy a cover to reduce evaporation by 90%.

Where does your water go inside the house?

According to a study conducted by the American Water Works Association (AWWA):

Indoor Use	Percentage
toilets	26.1
showers	17.8
baths	1.8
dishwashers	1.4
clothes washers	22.7
faucets	15.4
leaks	12.7
other uses	2.1



During the summer months, up to 65% of total water consumed is used outdoors, primarily for watering lawns & gardens and washing cars!

Bloomfield Township consumes over 2.5 billion gallons of water per year, with demands during summer months reaching over 25 million gallons per day. Water costs are directly associated to the volume of water and the maximum daily demand of water to be treated, pumped and transported from the Detroit Water Treatment Plants. Conservation of water usage will preserve our resource and reduce the Township's demand for water.

The Bloomfield Township Water & Sewer Department is dedicated to providing our community with a safe supply of drinking water. Each year in July, the Department sends a Water Quality Report to each water customer. You may request a copy by calling 248-433-7731, or please see our website at <http://www.awwa.org/>.

Water Facts

- ◆ Only 1% of the earth's water is available to humans (97% is salt water & 2% is frozen).
- ◆ Only 1% of the water withdrawn by the U.S. is used for drinking.
- ◆ American water utilities spend approximately \$22 billion annually to make water safe to drink.



Yard Waste Collection – Plastic Bags No Longer an Option

Composting is Better for the Environment and Beneficial to Your Lawn & Garden (cont. from pg. 1)

Why the change?

In 1995, when the State of Michigan mandated a ban on landfill of yard waste, the industry began efforts to process the waste into a usable compost material. Plastic contained in the yard waste decreases the quality of the compost, making it unsuitable for use.

What is compost?

Compost is a nutrient-enriched by-product created by the natural decomposition of organic materials. It is an ideal soil conditioner. When added to soil, compost continues to decompose, slowly releasing nutrients that can be absorbed by plants.

Does Bloomfield Township provide compost?

You can pick up free compost at the Township DPW yard Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 4:30pm. Call 433.7706 for an appointment. You will need to bring your own containers and tools for loading your vehicle.

Quick Tips for Using Compost for Healthy Landscapes

Perennials

Dig 2" - 4" of compost into soil before planting. During growing season, spread a layer from 2" - 3" around plants as a top-dressing or mulch.

Vegetables & Herbs

Mix the desired amount of compost into the soil before planting. Side-dress with compost throughout the year.

Flower Bulbs

Put a handful of compost into hole before planting. Use compost as a top-dressing in fall and spring.

Container Gardening

Mix compost with garden soil in a 50:50 ration. Sprinkle top of soil with compost from time to time.

Compost Tea

Soak a burlap bag filled with compost in a pail of water. Use the brown, nutrient-rich water on plants to boost plant growth.

Trees and Shrubs

Spread compost in a 2" - 4" layer around base of trees and shrubs, extending beyond tree canopy. Do not add compost in any substantial quantity to the planting hole, since compost tends to settle.

Lawn

Spread 1/2" of compost over lawn in fall or spring. Rake the compost into the lawn, leaving a portion of the grass blade exposed to sunlight and air.



How does compost prevent pollution and promote healthy soil?

-  Binds heavy metals carried by storm water runoff, helping to protect water quality.
-  Degrades petroleum products, pesticides and hydrocarbons in soils.
-  Prevents soil erosion.
-  Suppresses certain soil borne diseases and restores microbial populations.
-  Improves soil structure and tilth and enhances the permeability of clay soils.
-  Slowly releases nutrients.



What is a Cross Connection?

Did you know that YOU could pollute your own drinking water without realizing it?

Elimination of cross connections is an important step in protecting the water that we drink.

A cross connection is a direct or potential arrangement of drinking water piping that is or can be connected to a questionable source. An example is the common garden hose attached to a sill cock with the end of the hose submerged in a bucket of soapy water. Other examples include water lines connected to boilers, process equipment and bottom-fed tanks.

Cross connections may allow back-siphonage or backpressure backflow to occur.

Back-siphonage is the reversal

of normal flow in a system caused by negative pressure piping. It can occur during repairs or breaks in the water main or during increase in demand due to fire fighting.

Backpressure backflow is the reversal of normal flow in the system due to downstream pressure being greater than the supply pressure. It can occur with pressurized systems such as boilers and process equipment.

Bloomfield Township implements an ongoing Cross Connection Control Program which is a cooperative effort between the Water & Sewer Department and the Building Department to control cross connections and ensure that

the public drinking water supply is protected.

What can YOU do?

To prevent the most common form of cross connection, the ordinary garden hose, check to make sure your hose is equipped with a Hose Bibb Vacuum Breaker (see photos). These are typically about \$5-\$10 from your hardware store. If you don't see one - go out and get one!

Pressure vacuum breakers are usually found on all automatic sprinkling systems. These backflow prevention devices should be checked and tested regularly by a licensed plumber that is certified with the State.



Hose Bibb Vacuum Breaker

Oak Wilt Reminder

The devastating tree disease, Oak Wilt, exists in the Township. Please do not prune oak trees between April 1st & November 15th. After storms, inspect oaks for damage to live tissue and promptly repair damage by painting the exposed area with exterior latex paint. Do not use the wood for firewood unless it has been sealed under a green or brown tarp during the warm season. For more information, see the "Township Oak Wilt Resolution" on the Township website at www.bloomfieldtpw.org or the Township consultant: Dr. Dave Roberts' website at www.msue.msu.edu/reg_se/roberts.

Gypsy Moth Suppression Program Continues this Spring

Bloomfield Township and our consulting biologist have had success in using a recently discovered fungus (*Entomophiga maimaiga*) to suppress gypsy moths.

Currently there are small, localized areas of gypsy moth infestations in the Township. These infestations will be treated this spring with the fungus. The fungus is entirely safe for humans, animals and the environment.

Cool, moist conditions favor the successful infection of the gypsy moth caterpillars by this

fungus. To be infected, the caterpillar must come into contact with the spores. After infection, usually 7-10 days pass before the fungus kills the caterpillar. Therefore, residents may notice some caterpillar activity for several days before a significant number of caterpillars are affected.

The Township will continue to inspect for infestations.



Gypsy Moth Caterpillar

For further information, please call the Township at 248-433-7709.

Needs Assessment for Public Works Building Underway

Bloomfield Township's current Department of Public Works garage was built in the early 1960s when the population of Bloomfield Township was half the size it is today. At that time the building was used to maintain the vehicles for a much smaller police force and fire department. The road department was non-existent and the water department was only a few years old.

Over the past four decades, the growth of Bloomfield Township has outpaced the capacities of the structure. Today, the Township has a sophisticated DPW, which among other things, maintains a fleet of 185 vehicles that the police, fire, road, water and sewer departments depend on. Modern police, fire and public works vehicles are major investments; it is the responsibility of the Township's Motor Pool to maintain and protect them.

In August, the Bloomfield Township Board of Trustees approved hiring Minoru Yamasaki Associates to conduct

a needs assessment and feasibility study for a proposed new Public Works facility, including badly needed reconstruction and/or repairs to adjacent parking lots and carports. This comprehensive study and design for a new complex is the beginning of a proposed bond issue that will be on the ballot in the fall.

The proposed facility would be adequately sized for both today's needs and future needs. It would be properly equipped with basic items like truck hoists and adequate ventilation systems. Front-line snow removal vehicles, currently parked out of doors, would be housed in a heated building. This would reduce the response time during snow emergencies and increase the lifespan of these expensive trucks. Because there is no vehicle hoist, truck mechanics now have to lay flat on their backs in the winter and labor under

melting snow and dripping salt to make immediately needed repairs so the trucks can return to battle the storm.

The needs assessment and feasibility study will identify the scope of the improvements needed for the present facility and surrounding grounds. Bloomfield Township has always been proud to provide public services not equaled by any other township in the State of Michigan, and is moving ahead to assure that the services will continue to meet the needs of Township residents in the future. More updates will be given on this bond issue as it develops.



The present garage repair facility is not large enough to accommodate some of the Township's public safety and road maintenance vehicles.

TOWNSHIP MEETINGS Days / Times

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Time: 8:00 pm
Days: 2nd and 4th
Monday of each month
Location: Township Auditorium

PLANNING COMMISSION

Time: 7:00 pm
Days: 1st and 3rd
Monday of each month
Location: Township Auditorium

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Time: 7:30 pm
Days: 2nd Tuesday of each month
Location: Township Auditorium

Note: The Charter Township of Bloomfield will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services at all meetings to individuals with disabilities. All such requests must be made at least five days prior to said meeting. Please contact the Bloomfield Township's Clerk's Office.

Clerk's Office
PO Box 489
Bloomfield Hills, MI
48303-0489
Telephone:
248.433.7702
Fax: 248.433.7714
www: Bloomfieldtp.org



Comcast Survey Enclosed!

Township officials have been concerned about the services provided by the franchised cable operator, Comcast. In an effort to accurately assess the quality of their services, we have asked Comcast to supply us with a survey for our residents. If you are a Comcast subscriber, we hope you will take a few minutes to fill out the survey response card and send it back to the Township.

THANK YOU!



Front Row (L - R) Wilma Cotton - Clerk; Dave Payne - Supervisor; Dan Devine - Treasurer
Back Row (L - R) Trustees - William Yaw Jr.; Janet Roncelli; Sherry Stefanos; Jerry Tobias

Dave Payne
Supervisor

Wilma S. Cotton
Clerk

Dan Devine
Treasurer

TRUSTEES

Janet M. Roncelli

Sherry Stefanos

Jerry J. Tobias

William R. Yaw, Jr.

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY

**Police / Fire / Emergency
911**

**Water / Sewer Emergency
433.7730**

Administration	433.7700
Fax	433.7714
Accounting	433.7712
Assessor's Office	433.7710
Building Dept.	433.7715
Clerk's Office	433.7702
Community Cable	433.7790
Fax	642.7624
Fire Department	
Non-Emergency ...	433.7745
Fax	433.7787
Police Department	
Administration	433.7750
Non-Emergency ...	433.7755
Fax	433.7784
Animal Welfare	433.7757
Investigations	433.7760
Alarm Info	433.7775
Property	433.7777
Records	433.7776
Road Department	433.7709
Fax	433.7786
Treasurer's Office	433.7705
Water & Sewer	433.7731



US POSTAGE
PAID
PRSR5 STD
BLOOMFIELD TWP
PERMIT NO 40

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP
4200 TELEGRAPH ROAD
PO BOX 489
BLOOMFIELD HILLS MI 48303-0489

