



BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Township Officials working with DTE to improve service reliability

The big storm over the Fourth of July weekend caused power outages over many areas of Bloomfield Township, some lasting for almost five days. While that storm was worse than most, making some outages inevitable, many pockets of the Township have a long history of unreliable electrical service. This is a serious concern not only to the affected residents but to the Board of Trustees and Township administration as well.

Recently representatives of the Board of Trustees and administration met with representatives of DTE. We stressed

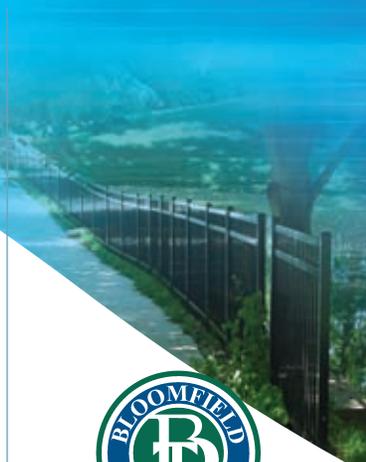
the need for DTE to make a greater investment in the technology and equipment necessary to prevent the inordinate number of outages in Bloomfield Township. We also asked that DTE make Bloomfield Township sites a higher priority when assigning response crews. We will continue to work with DTE to bring about the changes necessary to keep this community safe and running smoothly.

There are a few things you, as a homeowner, can do to help. Remove dead or dying trees. Sixty-two percent of outages are caused by falling branches

or trees. Trim branches of healthy trees that are growing too close to power lines. Homeowners are responsible for trees on their own property.

Second, when your power goes out, call DTE to report it. Don't assume your neighbors have already done so. This will help DTE determine the scale of the problem and direct crews to where they are needed the most. The number is **1.800.477.4747**.

Finally, a word of caution – stay away from downed lines! They can be extremely hazardous.



**BLOOMFIELD
TOWNSHIP
BOARD
2012**

ELECTED OFFICIALS

ADMINISTRATION

Leo Savoie, Supervisor
Janet Roncelli, Clerk
Dan Devine, Treasurer

TRUSTEES

David Buckley
Neal J. Barnett
Brian Kepes
Corinne Khederian

APPOINTED POSITIONS

PLANNING COMMISSION

Scot Goldberg, Chairman
Jeff Salz, Vice Chairman
Neal Barnett
Richard Mintz
Thomas Petinga
Vacant Position
Lisa Seneker

BOARD OF APPEALS

Robert E. Taylor, Jr., Chairman
James Aldrich, Vice Chairman
David Buckley
Brian Henry
Lisa Seneker
Carol Rosati
Tracy Leone
Justin Winkelman, Alternate
Pam Williams, Alternate

Township Open House offers even more this year

Twenty-six years ago the Bloomfield Township Fire Department held an Open House to mark Fire Prevention Week and teach fire prevention safety. Over the years, other Township Departments joined in to give residents an opportunity to learn about other safety practices and Township services. This year, the Open House will be the biggest – and best! – ever.

Long-time favorites are still the anchors of the afternoon. The Fire Department will set

**Open House
Sunday, October 14
Noon – 4:00 p.m.
FREE!
Township Civic Campus
West off Telegraph,
south of Long Lake**

fires to a mock-up of a living room and to a pan of cooking oil on a kitchen stove to show how quickly fire spreads and how they work to extinguish it. EMS personnel will extricate a dummy from a crashed car. U of M will send its medical helicopter to touch down and let visitors see how patients are transported. The Police Department will give rides in its patrol cars and stage K-9 demonstrations.

Additionally, the Road Division will give people rides in plow trucks and graders. The Engineering & Environmental Division will provide information on ways to live a greener lifestyle and protect the environment. Bloomfield Township



will hold its first-ever Arbor Day as part of its application to be designated a Tree City. Visitors will have the chance to enter a raffle to win a four to
Please see Open House on page 5



Pictured above is Lance Scram of Engineering & Environmental. See story on Page 6.

Save the date...

October 6

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Day

October 14

Open House

November 6

General Election

November 29

Property Assessment Seminar at BTSS

December 14

Last yard waste pickup

January 22

Property Assessment Seminar at BT Library

General Election coming up in November

With the November 2012 General Election only weeks away, political signs, candidate forums, campaigning and party politics are topics of conversation in Bloomfield Township. Registered voters will have a decisive voice as they cast their votes for federal, state and local candidates as well as several state-wide proposals. The Township upholds a proud reputation of an over 80 percent voter turnout. Most of our 34,000 registered voters mark their ballots at one of our 32 polling locations, while 30 percent vote by absentee ballot. For the November election, we expect several hundred residents to join the ranks of voters in Bloomfield Township by registering no later than Tuesday, October 9, 2012.

On Election Day, the polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Information regarding polling locations, sample ballots, absentee voting, voter registration, and redistricting

can be found on our website at <http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/Services/Clerk/Elections.htm>

Voters who want to avoid the long lines at the polls may request an absentee ballot. The application is available online at <http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/forms/Clerk.htm> or by calling the Clerk's Office. To qualify for an absentee ballot, the voter must meet one of the following reasons: 1) 60 years of age or older; 2) anticipated absence from the community in which the voter is registered for the entire time the polls are open on election day; 3) physically unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another; 4) unable to attend the polls because of religious beliefs; 5) appointed as an election inspector in a precinct other than the precinct where the voter resides; and 6) unable to attend the polls because the voter is confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial.

An absentee ballot must be sent to your registered address and cannot be forwarded. You must request in writing to have your ballot sent to an alternate address. The preprinted application provides for this information. For your convenience, the Clerk's Office will offer special hours on the following days:

- ◆ Friday, October 26, 2012, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- ◆ Friday, November 2, 2012, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- ◆ Saturday, November 3, 2012, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

The Bloomfield Township Clerk's Office welcomes your questions at 248.433.7702 or by email at clerk@bloomfieldtwp.org. We encourage you to vote on November 6, 2012.



Board of Trustees

TIME: 7:00 P.M.
DATE: 2nd and 4th Monday
LOCATION: Township Auditorium

Planning Commission

TIME: 7:00 P.M.
DATE: 1st and 3rd Monday
LOCATION: Township Auditorium

Zoning Board of Appeals

TIME: 7:00 P.M.
DATE: 2nd Tuesday
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 Clerk's Office, 4200 Telegraph Road P.O. Box 489 Bloomfield Hills MI 48303--0489 248-433-7702 Fax: 248-433-7714

Adult Day Service offers care, compassion, community

September 16-22 is National Adult Day Service week. It is designed to bring recognition to services that support people living with the challenges of dementia and to their caregivers. Bloomfield Township's Senior Services Adult Day Service, the Friendship Club, provides more than 1,000 hours of direct care to residents and their families each month.

What is Adult Day Service? It is an opportunity for older adults who are experiencing progressive memory loss to remain connected to their community and to engage in

meaningful friendships. Caring encouragement from a well-trained and compassionate staff go hand in hand with the camaraderie between club members.



Adult Day Service also provides family caregivers with an interdisciplinary staff who are their partners in caregiving.

This partnership enables families to keep their loved ones at home by providing much needed respite and support. For more details visit the Township website to see a 20-minute video highlighting Friendship Club activities. (<http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/Services/cable/Videos/ActiveLiving.htm>)

BTSS will offer several workshops for family caregivers this fall. Please call 248-723-3530 or go to <http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/Services/SeniorServices/NewLetter/2012Fall.pdf> for more information.



A NOTE FROM

Leo Savoie, Bloomfield Township Supervisor

Superior service, affordable cost are high priorities

It's hard to believe it has already been one year since I became Supervisor. The year has been exciting and has gone by very quickly.

A lot has been done and there is much more to do but first and foremost I would like to thank everyone for the overall support of the Public Safety Renewal. The support was overwhelming and it will allow us to continue to offer the services you expect of us.

Services are why we are here. Certain duties are mandated by law. We have an obligation to assess property, hold elections, collect taxes and protect the general welfare and safety of our residents and the general public.

Public safety comes in numerous forms. The most obvious are police, fire and EMS services. These are funded through separate Public Safety millages as well as the General Fund. Other public safety services are performed by the Planning, Building and

Ordinance Department and the Water and Road Divisions. These departments are funded by the General Fund and user fees.

All these services are delivered seamlessly. Every resident has an expectation that when the spigot is turned on, water will come out. When much of the Township was without power in early July (including the entire Township civic campus), all of the water connections were monitored manually 24 hours a day. Our road crews came in Friday and Saturday to clean up the trees downed by the wind storm. Some department heads and their staffs worked the entire weekend, most with no additional pay. Their commitment to Bloomfield Township is as strong as my expectation is for excellence. I expect Bloomfield Township to be the best community in the area to reside. *(Read more about the power outage on the front page of this newsletter.)*

We continually look for ways to save money. Bloomfield Township has just finished the refunding of the Library construction bonds. The savings to the taxpayers will be approximately \$1.3 million. Over the past 12 months Bloomfield Township employees have applied for and received grants from the state and federal government totaling over \$600,000. For the upcoming year we have been awarded approximately \$220,000 in grants. These grants cover water and sewer rehabilitation, energy saving upgrades for buildings, and equipment upgrades. All of these projects needed to be done. By applying for and receiving these grants we are able to save money that would have come out of different Township budgets.

We have been working with a number of different neighborhood associations on their roads. Subdivision roads are a huge priority. We have had

numerous meetings with the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) to discuss the development of a special assessment road plan that will incorporate the best parts of the RCOC plan with the actions the township can take. If your neighborhood association is considering repaving its roads, please contact us as soon as possible because the process typically takes 18 months.

My primary objective is for Bloomfield Township to deliver the highest level of service at an affordable price. People moving into the area can make choices about where to live. I want Bloomfield Township to be their choice. This will happen if we can keep property taxes low while still meeting the wants and needs of the residents.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at 248.433.7708.

Be aware of Township's animal ordinances

Fall is a great time of year to get outdoors and enjoy the cooler weather and the colorful leaves. It's a pleasant season for pets, as well. Get your dog out for a walk but keep in mind that dogs must be kept on leashes when off your property. Township ordinance states that "No dog shall be permitted or allowed to run at large, off the owner's ...property and premises ...within the township." Pet

owners are also required by ordinance to clean up their pets' waste. Be considerate of your neighbors and follow Township ordinances regarding pets.

It's important to be aware that even though the weather is cooler, it's still dangerous to leave your dog in a parked car. On a sunny day the temperature in a parked car can quickly reach a level that can harm your pet. Leave your pet

at home while you run errands.



Bloomfield Township voters approved the renewal of the public Safety Millage by an overwhelming 81 percent. There were 7,042 voters at the precincts and 6,048 absentee voters. With over 34,000 registered voters, 13,090 ballots were cast in Bloomfield Township. Our voter turnout was 38 percent compared to the 25.69 percent turnout in Oakland County.



From the Police Department

Citizens' Academy scheduled this fall

The Bloomfield Township Police Department will be running another free Citizens' Academy beginning Tuesday, September 4, 2012, and concluding on Tuesday, October 23, 2012. The academy will meet every Tuesday night from 6:00 p.m. to (approximately) 9:00 p.m.

Each night students will learn about a different aspect of law enforcement. Some of these topics include:

- ◆ Police patrol
- ◆ The Taser
- ◆ Radio communications and dispatch operations
- ◆ Use of the K-9
- ◆ How police officers are hired and trained
- ◆ Equipment police officers use to do their job and stay safe

The Citizens' Academy is open to any Bloomfield Township resident over the age of 18. Non-residents may be allowed to participate on a case by case basis, but Bloomfield Township residents will have priority. Our former Citizens' Academy students are also welcome to attend again as the content of the academies may change. A brief criminal history check will be run on each applicant. However, most minor offenses will not preclude participation.

To participate in the Academy, email Ofc. Pete Matejcik at PMATEJCIK@BloomfieldTwp.Org

Ten Fall tips from the Building Dept

1. Check the exterior caulk and paint after the harsh summer heat.
2. Cover air conditioning units for winter storage and make sure the humidifier has a clean filter. Check that vents and heat registers are clear and unobstructed.
3. Have flues cleaned and fireplace dampers inspected. Remove any debris.
4. Disconnect hoses from the hose bibs. Drain the water out of the hose before storing it for the winter. Turn off hose bibs from the inside if possible. If not, have them checked to see if they are the anti-freeze type.
5. Have the lawn irrigation system "blown-out" before a hard frost to prevent problems with broken lines come springtime.
6. If leaving for an extended time, turn the water heater down to the "vacation" setting to conserve energy and save money.
7. Winterize lawn equipment by either running the gas out of the carburetor or adding a fuel additive to protect it and the tank.
8. Fill the tank and give the snow blower a test run.
9. Remove window screens and replace them with storm windows.
10. Winterize your swimming pool.



Maintain property values

Property values continue to be a major concern in every community. Please do your part this fall to keep your community looking good. As summer comes to an end, weed the flower beds, rake and bag the leaves, clean out gutters and remove unused items from the yard. Property maintenance is the key to sustaining the value of your home and neighborhood. Contact the Ordinance Division at 248.594.2845 with any property maintenance questions.

It's time to *Shake Your Mailbox!*

Every year some Bloomfield Township residents see their mailboxes topple over as a result of snowplows piling snow against weak posts or hardware. In an effort to reduce the likelihood of this happening, the Bloomfield Township Department of Public Works, the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC), the County Road Association of Michigan (CRAM) and the U.S. Postal Service are encouraging residents to "Shake Your Mailbox."



This will tell you whether your mailbox post is sturdy and the hardware holding it is in good shape. If not, you will be able to correct any problems before damage from snowplows occurs. Repairing or replacing mailboxes now could also prevent delays in mail delivery.

Call the Public Services office, 248.594.2800, with any questions.

New name chosen for Franklin/Square Lake area

What's in a name? A stronger identity for the Bloomfield Township businesses along Franklin Road north of Square Lake Road. Downtown Publications, a newspaper serving the Bloomfield/ Birmingham area, asked its readers to submit names for the business district. More than 300 names were

submitted! The winner is "**Bloomfield Crossroads.**" It was submitted by Township resident Jean Lannen, an employee of the Fred Astaire Dance Studio in the newly named business district. Congratulations, Jean! And best wishes to the businesses in that area that now have a more distinct identity.

From the Fire Department

Outdoor burning ordinances regulate use of fire pits and bonfires

Many residents have enjoyed the summer evenings with small campfires. While these fires are relaxing and a great gathering time for families, they can also be disruptive for neighbors if the rules for these fires are not followed.

Bloomfield Township ordinances address outdoor burning, as follows:

Ordinance 16-27 states in part, "...no person...shall burn or cause to be burned any material, item or thing in any

zoning district. Exception: the burning of dry wood in a small container manufactured for the purpose of containing small recreational fires may be allowed on the property of one or two family residential dwellings."

The ordinance further states that a person 18 or older must be in constant attendance while the fire is burning; the fire must be small enough so the person in charge will have complete control of it; the fire

must not create a nuisance or a hazard to the health or safety of persons or property in the area; burning of trash or leaves is prohibited; burning of highly flammable, toxic or explosive materials is not permitted; and no burning is permitted within 25 feet of any structure or combustible materials or upon any paved or blacktop street.

Be considerate of your neighbors and mindful of Township ordinance while

enjoying outdoor gatherings around a fire. Call the Bloomfield Township Fire Department at 248-433-7745, Monday through Thursday 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. if you have any questions or concerns regarding outdoor fires.



OPEN HOUSE from page 1

five foot tall white pine, Michigan's state tree. The Grounds Division will be on hand to answer questions about proper planting and mulching practices. Building Division personnel will let builders of all ages take a crack at building a dog house. The Clerk's Office will hold a Passport Fair to give visitors another opportunity to apply for a new passport or renew their old one. A mile down the road at the Bloomfield Township Public Library, you can catch a special performance by Madcap Puppets of "When you Wish Upon a Fish."

Senior Services will once again hold a Charity Workout for Meals on Wheels. Even the Assessor's Office will join the festivities by helping visitors look up their properties and learn about assessing methods.

Food has always been a

staple of the event, and this year will be no exception. Coffee, donuts, cider, candy, hot dogs, walking tacos, pizza ... it's part of the fun, and it's free.

There's more! But the list is too long for the space here.



Check the box on the front page for date and time. Go online for a longer list of events, a map of where each will take place, the times for some of the demonstrations, and parking information. Mark your calendar and come.

Dream Drive, Car Show draw crowds

Car lovers – and anyone just looking for a pleasant way to spend a beautiful summer weekend – came out in big numbers to enjoy Bloomfield Township's Woodward Dream Cruise events. On Friday night at the Dream Drive, a first-time event, more than 50 people got to ride up and down Woodward in Superformance Shelby Cobras, a Daytona coupe or a GT-40. On Saturday, hundreds of people enjoyed the Classic Car Show at the Mercedes Benz of

Bloomfield Hills dealership on Woodward and the Bill Wells Car Club Classic next door at Comerica Bank. Proceeds from



these events benefitted the Bloomfield Township Fire Department Charities, the Bloomfield Township Police Department Benevolent Fund and the Bloomfield Hills Optimist Club. Many thanks go to corporate sponsors Daniel Krug & Associates in Clarkston and Performance Cobras and Motorsports of Cincinnati.



Keep up with what's happening in Bloomfield Township! Subscribe to our news update service and receive periodic email updates from Bloomfield Township on items related to Township services and events. The e-newsletter is typically sent once every three or four weeks. Visit the website at www.bloomfieldtwp.org and click on the E-Mail List link on the upper right of the home page.

Take advantage of the wealth of information on the Bloomfield Township website. There you can find the 2012-2013 budget, the Code of Ordinances, tax information, and much more. You can even watch Township meetings on Video on Demand.

EESD's Lance Scram, one of the Township's most versatile employees

Long-time employee Lance Scram, of Engineering & Environmental Services, is one of Bloomfield Township's most versatile employees. As EESD Director Wayne Domine says, "He's happy to do whatever you ask."

Lance has been the key person handling the Township's safety path program since 1998. Each fall he works on coordination and planning of routes to be constructed the following spring and summer. One of his jobs is to contact residents along the proposed paths to see if they have any concerns, and to work with them to resolve those concerns. Lance will continue to follow up with residents as the construction progresses.

Another program Lance is instrumental in is the gypsy moth program. He works closely with the Township's contractor to coordinate their work to control the gypsy moth population and is the go-to person for residents who have questions about the program. The Township lost many trees to the emerald ash borer, and

Lance is responsible for planting replacement trees along the Township's main roads, such as Telegraph and Woodward. "Working on the tree planting takes me back to my first part-time job here at the Township," says Lance. "I started out working for Roads back in college and



One of Lance's duties is working with contractors on road replacement projects such as Andover Road, pictured above

did a lot of planting then."

An important part of Lance's work is his involvement with the Township's road replacement program. Currently he is working with the contractors on the Andover Road replacement project. Lance works closely with the Township's Road Division on repair of subdivision roads. He also works with the Water Division on water main projects. In the winter, Lance serves as a snow plow driver when major storms hit and extra drivers are needed.

All these duties keep Lance busy, and he wouldn't have it any other way. The father of three kids manages to keep just as busy when he's not working, coaching his son's and his daughter's travel hockey teams, among other activities. Having a daughter with Down Syndrome keeps Lance, his wife and the family focused on what's really important - supporting others. What's the best thing about his job? "I like the variety," Lance says. "It's never boring."

TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY

433-7730
Water/Sewer Emergency

433-7700	Administration
433-7712	Accounting
433-7710	Assessor's Office
433-7715	Building Division
433-7702	Clerk's Office
433-7790	Community Cable
594-2800	Engineering & Env.
433-7745	Fire Non-Emergency
594-2845	Ordinance Division
433-7795	Planning Division
433-7750	Police Department
433-7755	Non-Emergency Administration
433-7757	Animal Welfare
433-7760	Investigations
433-7775	Alarm Info
433-7777	Property Records
433-7776	Public Works
594-2800	Road Division
594-2800	Water & Sewer
723-3500	Senior Services
723-3530	Adult Day Service
433-7705	Treasurer's Office

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

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP



PRSRV STD
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