



BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Fierce winter posed a host of challenges

From Norway to Puerto Rico, people everywhere are calling this past winter the “worst winter ever.”

Not quite, at least officially. Only one winter – 1881 – was colder and snowier.

It has placed a lot of strain on the Township. Snowplow crews were out repeatedly clearing the roads that the Township is responsible to maintain. And it seemed just as soon as they finished clearing the roads we were hit with another winter

blast that covered everything with snow again. But overall the roads remained open and relatively clear despite the storms. That didn’t happen by accident.

“There are four components in everything we do,” said Tom Trice, Public Works Director. Those components are having a plan in place, a well-trained staff, good equipment, and the support of the Township officials and the community.

These elements come together especially when there is a major snow storm and subzero temperatures for extended periods.

“The biggest challenge this year,” said Duane Poole, Road Foreman, was that the storms hit “back to back to back.” They stretched the Township staff, resources and equipment to the limit. The statistics are impres-

sive. DPW crews responded to 47 storm events this past winter, which dumped 91 inches of snow (so far) on the Township.



Plow trucks were a familiar sight on Township roads this winter.

The Township snowplows covered 33,875 miles in all. And while it might seem like the trucks roar by, they actually average 8 to 12 mph.

“Our highest priority is to get the roads open,” said Richard Bogusky, Road Department Crew Leader. The Township has 213 miles of roads, and, “We clear out 100 percent of our roads,” he said. Not every town does that, but Bloomfield Township has a reputation as one of the finest anywhere.

Along with roads, the Township DPW oversees water main repairs. That can be especially challenging in freezing temperatures. And, “there’s no forecast for me,” said Ken Brown, Water and Sewer Foreman. Water main breaks can’t be predicted, but they hap-

pen more often in freezing temperatures. On one day this winter, there were four water main breaks. His crews are out at any hour, any day, in any condition. But they have a remarkable record of fixing breaks in a matter of hours, not days.

The DPW also maintains the Township’s buildings, which are especially battered by heavy snowfalls and the cold. A boiler line froze on one building this winter and there was so much snow, “we ran out of space to put it,” said Dean Begley, Grounds

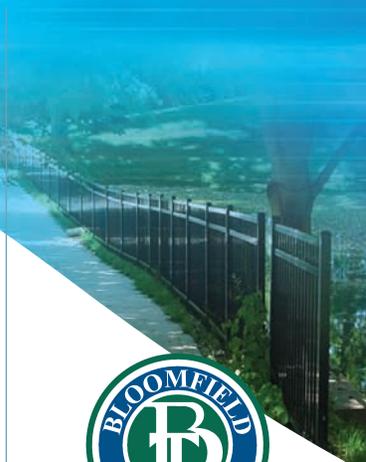
Maintenance Supervisor.

And through all this, the department had to field a seemingly endless series of calls from residents. Some were complaining about mailboxes knocked down by the plowed snow (357 went down this year); others were upset over driveways buried by the plows.

But, said Tia Kollar, DPW Administrative Assistant, “Most people are understanding and patient. They know we are not miracle workers.”

Spring has arrived and it looks like the worst weather is over. But now the Township has a whole new type of problem to deal with: Potholes. They are cropping up (or rather, down) all over. But Trice is confident his staff will deal with them.

“Everyone pulls together,” he said.



BLOOMFIELD
TOWNSHIP
BOARD
2014

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

Thomas Petinga, Chairman
Lisa Seneker, Vice Chairman
Richard Atto
Neal Barnett
Tad Krear
Richard Mintz
Jeff Salz

BOARD OF APPEALS

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

Save the date...

April 26

Electronics Recycling,
Medication Disposal &
Bulk Paper Shredding
See the website for details
<http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/events/Events/2014/ElectronicsRecycling.asp>
or call 248-594-2800

April 26 & 27

Clean Sweep
See the website for details
<http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/events/Events/2014/CleanSweep.asp>

May 3

Household Hazardous
Waste drop-off day



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

2014 election news you can use

Bloomfield Township voters turn out in record numbers for elections. Whether requesting absentee ballots, casting their votes at neighborhood polling locations or serving as election inspectors, our electorate understands that every vote counts.

Two elections are scheduled in 2014: Tuesday, Aug. 5, and Tuesday, Nov. 4. Highlights of this year's election season include redistricting of the State Senate District for Bloomfield Township, joining the election inspector team, voter registration, absentee ballot applications, and sample ballots.

Beginning with the Primary Election on Aug. 5, 2014, Bloomfield Township electors will be voting for State Senate candidates in a new district. The redistricting is based on the 2010 Census. We move from State Senate District 13 to District 12. There will be a partisan race for the Democrat and Republican candidates in the new district as outlined below.

State Senate District 12 2015-2024

Addison Township, Auburn Hills, Bloomfield Township, Independence Township, Keego Harbor, Oakland Township, Orion Township, Oxford Township, Pontiac, Southfield Township, Sylvan Lake, Village of Clarkston

Help Wanted! Join our election inspector team and serve your community by working at a precinct on Election Day. The pay ranges from \$165 to \$200, including training. Computer skills are required. Applications are available online:

<http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/Services/Clerk/Elections.asp>

Ordinances help protect property values

With the warm weather coming, the Ordinance Enforcement Division is gearing up for another busy year. Ordinance Enforcement staff will make every effort to find vacant properties with overgrown grass before they become a blight in the neighborhood. Township ordinances address a variety of exterior and property maintenance requirements. The weed ordinance gives the Township authority to hire a crew to cut grass that has reached a height of eight inches at vacant properties. All fees for this authority are added to the property tax bill for that property. Residents can call the Ordinance Division at 248-594-2845 to alert them of homes that may need attention or need to be monitored.



Blighted properties can lower neighborhood property values.

Voter registration forms are available at the Clerk's Office and www.bloomfieldtwp.org/services/clerk. Any U.S. citizen who is at least age 18 on Election Day is eligible to register to vote. The last day to register for the August Primary is July 7, 2014. The registration deadline for the General Election is Oct. 6, 2014. Register now either in person at the Bloomfield Township Clerk's Office or complete our online application at <http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/Services/Clerk/Voting.asp>.

Absentee ballot applications for both the August and November elections will be available by the end of May 2014. Registered voters on the permanent absentee list will automatically receive an absentee ballot application for both elections. Completion of the application is required for any resident requesting an absentee ballot. Ballot samples for the Primary Election will be on our website at the end of June 2014. This election provides a nominating process for partisan offices at the federal, state, county and local levels. Nonpartisan races exist in the judicial section. Bloomfield Township proposals include two millage renewals for Public Safety, a millage renewal for the Safety Path program and a millage renewal for Senior Services. Further information on these millage renewals will be available to all residents.

Mark your calendars now for Aug. 5 and Nov. 4, 2014. The Bloomfield Township Clerk's Office invites you to register to vote, request an absentee ballot, or seek further information regarding your federal, state and county districts. Contact us at (248) 433-7702 or via email, clerk@bloomfieldtwp.org



A NOTE FROM

Leo Savoie, Bloomfield Township Supervisor

Township plans ahead, spends wisely

This past winter has been a busy one. Hopefully by the time you read this old man winter will be a distant past and we will only be telling stories about making it through one of the coldest, snowiest winters of all time.

This past winter tested everyone's patience. It also tested our resources. This winter we had 47 plow and salt runs. A total of 4,742 personnel hours were spent clearing the residential streets. Of these man hours 1,284 were overtime hours. We have gone through 3,200 tons of salt and have driven 31,700 miles. This equates to every one of our 12 trucks being driven to Key West and back.

In order to work at this level each department needs to perform. Prior to the winter season every truck was inspected and updated by our mechanics. After each run every truck is cleaned and re-inspected. Regular maintenance is performed on every vehicle throughout the season. Supplies (including salt and fuel) and parts had to be replaced at a much greater frequency than was anticipated. Everyone worked together and did an outstanding job. The compliments we received from residents outnumbered the complaints 10 to 1. More importantly, every complaint or call for additional service was addressed immediately.

Municipal government needs to plan and be prepared to operate in these

worst case scenarios. Some people have asked, "Why do we need so many policemen, police cars, firefighters, firehouses or EMS vehicles?" We do this because we need to be prepared.

After years of experience our police and fire departments know how many officers are needed to man a shift to protect our community. More importantly, they are prepared for instances when our resources are tested. It doesn't happen often but there are times when we have all of our resources tied up on one event. What does happen often are multiple EMS

runs occurring at the same time. Our command staffs and officers are prepared for these occurrences. This is one of the reasons why Bloomfield Township was recognized as one of the safest communities in Michigan.

Our Water and Sewer Department operates in the same manner. We all take water and sewer service at our homes for granted. There are redundancies in place to make sure this happens. So far this winter we have had over 32 water main breaks in Bloomfield Township. On average we get these breaks repaired in less than three hours.

Bloomfield Township owns the water and sanitary lines in the community. Over and

above monitoring the entire system, we track the frequency of breaks within neighborhoods and plan replacements based on those breaks. Over the next three years we will spend over \$10 million replacing water lines within neighborhoods to alleviate future problems.

We are already identifying future replacements five to 10 years out. All these replacements are paid for through planning as well. We fund for partial depreciation in our water and sewer rates. This makes sure that we as homeowners don't receive a large bill when problems occur.



Township crews work hard to keep up with the potholes that need to be patched.

Roads are a disaster. I can't say it any more clearly or plainly than that. Bloomfield Township does not own the roads as we do water and sewer lines. If we did we would have the same type of planning in place as we do for all of our other departments. The roads are all owned by the Road Commission for Oakland County. We do snow removal and minor repairs on the residential streets through

an agreement with the Road Commission. The major roads are different. They are all maintained by the Road Commission for Oakland County. All of the potholes on the major streets fall outside of our jurisdiction.

We don't have the authority to touch these roads. I wish we did because we get the phone calls and emails here. Something needs to be done; however, this comes from the state level. We are in constant communication with our State Representative and State Senator. Their hands are tied to a certain degree because of funding. There is talk of additional funding coming from the state and we have been and will continue to make phone calls to make sure we can get as much as possible allocated here in Bloomfield Township.

It has been almost three years since I became Supervisor. Having spent over 30 years in the private sector we all hear stories about waste in government or bad government employees. I can unequivocally state this does not happen here. I am committed to making sure our tax dollars are spent prudently and I know our employees are committed to make sure Bloomfield Township remains one of the premier communities in the state.

As always, feel free to contact me. I can be reached at (248) 433-7708 or lsavoie@bloomfieldtwp.org.

Friendship Club volunteers specialize in caring

“When I come here, I get inspired,” said Judy Stahl, one of the volunteers at the Friendship Club operated by Bloomfield Township Senior Services. “It fills a place inside my heart.”

It also can create an ache there. The Friendship Club, which is housed in the Senior Center, provides a safe, welcoming space for persons living with Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of memory loss. It also offers a respite for the caregivers of those suffering from progressive memory loss.

At the club members can take advantage of exercise classes, arts and crafts, gardening, outings, luncheons and musical presentations – which is where Stahl comes in. She and 13 other volunteers at Friendship Club assist in a variety of areas. Stahl comes in on Wednesdays. She might help with the daily programs, get coffee or even play the piano.

Why?

“I’ve always felt that I need to do something for others,”

she said. And the good feedback she receives from the folks in the program is satisfying. “It’s synergistic,” she said. Originally from New York – you can still get a hint of that New York accent – Stahl said her parents are gone now, but if they had needed Friendship Club’s services, “this is the first place I would take them.”

Julie GeBott, Adult Day Service Coordinator at Friendship Club explains. “We have a high-level progressive approach,” she said. “We do daily documentation on every one.” And, perhaps most importantly, she added, “We have a philosophy of care; we are partners in care with the family.”

There currently are about 18 people in the program. In order to qualify, all have to be Township residents and be at least age 50. Some require intense attention and every case is different.

“Creating and experiencing connections are essential to enhancing the good days and easing challenging days,” GeBott said.

Volunteers play a critical



Volunteer Judy Stahl (seated at far left) engages in a seated exercise class with Friendship Club members.

role in a positive, lively atmosphere. Stahl is typical. You might see her or any of the other volunteers sitting in chairs among the participants doing exercises, or leading them in a song, or playing a game and even gardening. The volunteers’ own special interests can become part of the program as well, such as Stahl’s piano playing.

All of this is aimed at enhancing the members’

quality of life and well-being, GeBott said. And the club, which is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays, offers a respite for caregivers who can be overwhelmed with the daily challenges of taking care of a loved one suffering from Alzheimer’s or similar conditions.

“It is a true break for them,” GeBott said. “They trust us and know a loved one is safe. This is really at the cutting edge for a community.

That would be harder to achieve without the help of the volunteers. “I’m truly impressed by our volunteers,” GeBott said.

The spotlight focuses on all volunteers during National Volunteer Week, April 6-12. Established in 1974, National Volunteer Week is “a time to celebrate people doing extraordinary things through service,” according to the United Way.

Those extraordinary things are a daily occurrence at the Friendship Club.

Keeping the pipeline safe

There are 200,000 miles of pipelines carrying gas and oil in the United States. And a bit of that runs through Bloomfield Township.

A section of Sunoco pipeline was installed in the Township around a half-century ago. The entire pipeline runs from western Pennsylvania, through Ohio, up into Michigan and over to Sarnia, Ontario. It’s never posed a problem, and Sunoco and the Township want to keep it that way.

In February, Dennis Kelly,

senior Health and Safety Specialist with Sunoco, gave Township firefighters a detailed presentation on the 8-inch underground pipeline.

“Your fire services are essential in protecting the public,” Kelly said. Firefighters need to know what the pipe is carrying – “liquefied petroleum gas products,” such as ethane – and how to deal with the material should a leak occur.

Sunoco itself also carefully monitors the pipeline, and there are several valve shut-

offs in and near the Township, Kelly said. They are controlled from a central office in Pennsylvania and the pipe is monitored constantly and inspected frequently.

Kelly said the National Transportation Safety Board endorses pipelines as the safest way to ship petroleum.

You can find out more about the

pipeline by going to the Sunoco website www.sunoco-logistics.com.



Township firefighters watch a presentation on pipeline safety.



From the Fire Department

A veritable virtual fire fight

Bloomfield Township Fire Officers got a new perspective on commanding a structure fire and other emergency operations – from their desks.

Despite the seating arrangement, there was nothing laid back in this approach to firefighting. Each officer had assignments to do as if they were in the field facing a real emergency. In fact, they were up against screens where images of a fire were being projected in real time. The outcome of their actions or inaction was displayed on the screens.

Several screens were

arranged in the training room of the Central Fire Station where different officers were put into challenging emergency situations from a structure fire to highway emergencies involving radiation. If a virtual hose was not turned onto the flames, they would continue to spread, just as they would in a real fire. The training pro-

gram helped the officers coordinate their efforts through efficient communications with each other and command, a practical skill



Officers took an active role in fighting a simulated fire.

that will transfer to the “real” world.

“You have to interact with it,” said Assistant Fire Chief Mike Morin. “You have to involve yourself with the operation.”

The training program was provided through the Michigan State Police Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division, and it represents a new generation of Advanced Disaster Management Simulation (ADMS) training.

“It’s definitely valuable,” said Lt. Kevin Cardinale, who took the class.

DTE outlines strategy in war against outages

DTE strings up wires through the township to bring power to residents, and Nature finds ways to bring them down.

Snow, ice, falling tree branches and even little critters that like to munch on wires (which usually ends badly for the creature) are just some of the things that can interrupt power.

But DTE is working in a methodical manner to prevent and minimize power outages. That message was brought to Town Hall by a visit from DTE representatives who wished to update officials on what DTW is up to.

DTE Associate Engineer Nicholas Paglia explained that five substations supply power to the Township and work is ongoing at each of the areas covered by the substations. For example, at

the Alpine Substation area, which is centered on Gilbert Lake, dead ash trees have been removed from Quarton and Crabtree roads.

“The emerald ash borer is



Tree branches criss-crossing utility lines are a familiar sight in Bloomfield Township.

one of the biggest battles we are fighting,” Paglia said. “Branches are coming down.” DTE has been clearing the dead trees. “A lot of the problems we are facing are trees.”

In the Bloomfield Substation, centered on

Square Lake and Telegraph, animal protection has been applied to cable poles to protect the wires from squirrels and other animals that nibble on the wires.

“Applying a plastic covering is a very simple, easy fix,” Paglia said.

Other work, including installing new “armless” power poles (they don’t have the familiar cross arms suspending wires), is helping cut the number of outages.

In recent years, DTE has shifted its focus from repairing to preventing the need for repairs, said Michael Palchesko, DTE regional manager.

Efforts to prevent outages are welcome, Township Supervisor Leo Savoie told the DTE staff. “You don’t want outages. We don’t want outages.”

New! Take the Planning Story Map Tour

Are you interested in the new projects going up in the Township? The Planning Story Map locates new and recently approved projects on a map of Bloomfield Township. It offers a visual story of the planning process through links to Project Pages created for major developments, such as Life Time Athletic and Mex Restaurant.

Project Pages are updated to reflect the planning process under way or completed and include board minutes, agendas, PowerPoint presentations, site photos and other related information. See it here <http://www.bloomfield-twp.org/Services/PlanningBuildingOrdinance/PlanningDivision/PlanningProjects.asp>





BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

4200 TELEGRAPH ROAD
PO BOX 489
BLOOMFIELD MI 48303-0489

TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY

Water/Sewer Emergency
433-7730

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

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Township residents help hire officer Kody

There's a new officer in the Bloomfield Township Police Department. He's furry, has four feet and is awfully friendly – unless you're a bad guy.

His name is Kody and he is a German shepherd who loves to play ball. But don't be misled by his sweet disposition. He's a skilled police dog, trained to track narcotics and engage with criminals in a serious way, if necessary.

"He's got a good disposition," said Officer Angela Carlson, who handles Kody. Kody is not only her partner, he's her pal. Kody lives with Carlson and has become a member of her family. "He's great with kids."

While Kody can be ener-

getic, he also has gone through some rigorous training, and instantly obeys commands. "He's a quick learner,"

said Carlson.

Kody joined the department thanks to Township residents Liz and Tony Gramer,

who donated funds to buy Kody. Police dogs are expensive to acquire and train. Kody was born in the Czech Republic and brought to the United States via Germany.

"I read the Township needed one," Tony Gramer said of the new police dog. So he and Liz decided to make the donation to the department to bring Kody on board. The Gramers have had a long association with German shepherds. "I had one for 17 years," Tony Gramer said.

Of Kody, he said, "He's beautiful."

And, said Liz Gramer, "It's good for the department."

Police Chief Geof Gaudard agreed. "I am beyond grateful," he said.



Kody joined the Bloomfield Township police force thanks to Liz and Tony Gramer. Officer Angela Carlson takes care of him.