

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Public safety is key in Bloomfield Township

It could have been worse.

Then again, it didn't have to happen at all.

A woman left her purse in her parked car overnight at her home. The car was left unlocked. The purse was clearly visible. In the morning the purse was gone and someone was already out using her credit cards. In another case of over confidence a man left his wallet in his unlocked car. It too was gone in the morning.

No one was injured in either case, nor in the other similar ones that have been reported across the Township. Police do investigate each one but finding the thief, especially when it's made so easy for them to get in and out of the vehicles, is problematic.

"It's frustrating," said Police Chief

Scott McCanham. The Township provides superior public safety services, so much so that some people act as if crime doesn't exist here. But it does, though the police have marginalized it. They have done such a good job, in fact, that Bloomfield Township routinely is recognized as one of the safest communities in Michigan and even the nation.

Value Penguin, a personal finance research and analysis firm, has rated Bloomfield Township among the safest towns in Michigan three times. That doesn't happen by accident.

"We provide services that are second to none," McCanham said. "And we're proactive."

An example of that is the special patrols initiated during the holidays. Officers are specially

stolen from.

Police services go beyond that, as well.

School shootings are a national nightmare that has occurred in all types of communities, including wealthy, suburban districts. In response the police, the Fire Department and Bloomfield Hills School District now do joint "active shooter" training drills to practice how to respond if a shooter ever

came into one of the schools.

That is now being taken a step further as the departments are planning an interfaith training program to respond to houses of worship in the Township should they ever experience a shooting incident.

"We're highly visible," McCanham said. And people notice. It is not uncommon for Township officials to receive thank you phone calls, emails and letters from someone who has called for help.

That doesn't just apply to the Police Department. It's also especially true of the Township

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Police, Fire and EMS converge on an accident scene on Telegraph Road.

assigned to the major shopping areas, like Telegraph and Square Lake Road, Telegraph and Maple and Woodward and Square Lake where there are a lot of businesses and shoplifting is likely to occur. As a result the police are on the scene with amazing speed. In some cases the police have responded so quickly they have caught thieves driving away from the store they had just



BLOOMFIELD
TOWNSHIP
BOARD
2019

ELECTED OFFICIALS

ADMINISTRATION

Leo Savoie, Supervisor
Janet Roncelli, Clerk
Brian Kepes, Treasurer

TRUSTEES

David Buckley
Neal J. Barnett
Michael Schostak
Dani Walsh

APPOINTED POSITIONS

PLANNING COMMISSION

Thomas Petinga, Chairman
Jeff Salz, Vice Chairman
Richard Mintz
Neal Barnett
Richard Atto
Bruce Selik

BOARD OF APPEALS

Carol Rosati, Chairman
Tracy Leone, Vice Chairman
Brian Henry
Robert Taylor, Jr.
Claudine Bacher
Dani Walsh
Bruce Selik
Jocelyn Giangrande, Alternate
Jeffrey Drake, Alternate

Save the date...

February 14

Last day to pay winter tax without interest or penalty

March 11

Yard waste pickup resumes

April 27

Electronic Recycling, Medication Disposal & Paper Shredding event

May 4

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day

Try QR codes for Township meetings

The Clerk's Office, with the assistance of our Information Technology Department, introduced Quick Response Codes (QR codes) at the Nov. 6, 2018 Election and at the Board of Trustees, Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Commission meetings.

While standing in line during the election, voters scanned the QR code with their mobile devices to review the ballot. This function reduced the time spent in the voting booth. At meetings, residents and visitors have the opportunity to scan the QR code at the entrance table to access the packet.

The QR code is the trademark for a type of matrix barcode first designed in 1994 for

the automotive industry in Japan. This barcode stores data efficiently and allows users to access that data without having to print it. A QR code provides a convenient way to access board packets at the meeting right on your mobile phone, either through a mobile phone scanner application or via the camera function.

We invite you to try the QR code at our next meeting. A paper agenda is always available, but by scanning the QR code at the entry table, you can view the entire packet on your mobile phone while the meeting is being conducted. No paper is necessary.

QR Codes are contributing to making a variety of our

activities both at home and work convenient. You often find the codes in magazines and on websites. We look forward to these codes being part of our Township meetings, elections and other events sponsored by the Township.

If you have creative ideas for how the QR codes can assist our residents with

Township matters, contact Jan Roncelli, Bloomfield Township Clerk, at jroncelli@bloomfield-twp.org or 248-433-7703.



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

Kismet at the Friendship Club

It isn't always easy to make a new friend. Unless that new friend is Kismet.

Kismet is a blue merle, and if this is getting too confusing just understand that Kismet is a dog. A miniature American shepherd, to be precise. But what really matters is that she loves to make new friends. And that makes her a perfect visitor to the Friendship Club at the Township senior center.

The Friendship Club adult day service is a Township program designed to assist older adults with progressive memory disorders. That aid includes bringing Kismet in to visit a couple of times a month or so to visit the folks there.

"They interact with Kismet," said Jodi Hill, Friendship Club office and activities assistant. "It's about petting animals and loving them."

"It has a calming effect," said Christine Tvaroha, director of Senior Services for the

Township. "It's about bringing back memories and calming in a soothing manner."

And it works. As soon as her owner Deana Grifka brings



Kismet makes a new friend

Kismet into a room she becomes the center of attention. People want to hold her

and pet her. And she will lovingly go from one person to the next. There's a warm feeling all around. Soon everyone is smiling and holding Kismet.

Kismet will spend a half-hour to 45 minutes with the folks there. And she knows what she is doing. She is a certified by the Alliance of Therapy Dogs, a national organization. She also visits schools and hospitals spreading friendship all around.

"She loves it," said Grifka, a retired special education teacher. "I love it too."

The Friendship Club is open to Bloomfield Township residents or those whose primary family caregiver resides in Bloomfield Township. For more information call 248-723-3530 or visit the website www.bloomfieldtwp.org/Government/Services/Senior-Services/Adult-Day-Service.



A NOTE FROM

Leo Savoie, Bloomfield Township Supervisor

Appreciating our public safety services

On a regular basis we are informed that the Township has been named one of the safest communities in Michigan by some organizations.

Three times Value Penguin, a personal financial research and analysis firm, has cited the Township as the safest or one of the safest towns in Michigan with a population of over 20,000.

It's a comforting recognition. Feeling safe in your community is one of the most important qualities of life that a town can have. If you can't feel safe in your own home you are deprived of a fundamental right. A home is sacred and everyone should feel secure in it.

But we live in a tumultuous time when safety is sometimes fragile. Consider that today our Police Department routinely conducts active shooter drills in the Bloomfield Hills Public Schools and is initiating an interfaith active shooter program on how to respond should a gunman start shooting at any of the houses of worship in the Township. The department is to be commended for its proactive stance, but it is a sad reflection on our times that we

even have to do this.

Fire protection is a somewhat different situation. People are rarely accidentally victims of crime but a fire can occur under many different circumstances. Bloomfield Township has also been recognized for its outstanding fire protection. Not long ago the Township Fire Department received a Class 3 rating from the Insurance Services Office.

The ISO is an organization hired by insurance companies to evaluate all communities in the United States and rate fire departments. They are evaluated on a scale from 1 to 10, with one being the best. Our Fire Department moved up from a 4 rating to a 3, putting it among the top 2 percent of all fire departments in Michigan and in the top 3 percent of all fire departments across the country.

That can help reduce fire insurance costs for residents throughout the Township, which is an accomplishment in itself. But it also is a demonstration of how importantly Bloomfield Township takes its public safety services.

es.

The residents of the Township are acutely aware of the value of having top notch services, especially public safety. We see that in several ways, including continuing



Fire/EMS and Police are always ready to respond to emergencies.

approval for public safety millages and even in the letters, emails and calls from residents we routinely receive praising our officers and firefighter/paramedics for some service they have delivered.

I personally am very proud of the men and women who serve the Township and understand how important these services are to our residents. None of these are easy jobs, even in a town as safe and secure as Bloomfield Township. Crime, fires and emergencies can and do occur everywhere. It is a tribute to the officers we have on

the job here that we are safe as we are.

It's a tribute to the residents too. All of us have a stake in our community and for the most part we take special care to comply with the ordinances and basic safety procedures that keep our community protected.

Of course, there is room for improvement, especially in the area of securing personal property in vehicles (don't leave your purse or wallet in your unlocked car overnight), but, ironically, part of that slip can be attributed to the fact that we do so well otherwise in having a secure community. It creates an "it can't happen here" attitude, which is always a dangerous thing.

So while it is comforting to appreciate our success, we have to remember this doesn't happen by accident. We must work to have a secure town, and that does come with a cost. That can mean an additional hit on the pocketbook and the understanding that we don't live in a perfect world where you can leave your doors and windows unlocked all the time.

But it's a small price to pay for so much protection.

Keep current with the eNewsletter

You can find out what's happening through the Bloomfield Township eNewsletter. The eNewsletter is sent out every Thursday to subscribers. It contains items on what's happening in the area as well as timely announcements, including snow emergencies, changes of office hours and news bulletins. ENewsletters are also sent whenever there is an immediate need to relay information to the public.

You can subscribe to the eNewsletter by going to the Township website, www.bloomfieldtwp.org, and clicking on the E-Newsletter link under Quick Links at the right side of the page. You may also send your email address to gkowsalski@bloomfieldtwp.org and to be added to the subscription list. Local non-profit organizations may submit items to gkowsalski@bloomfieldtwp.org.



From the Fire Department

Treasurer tackles emergency training

For Township Treasurer Brian Kepes, standing inside a burning building is not part of a typical day at the office.

But this wasn't a typical day. And it wasn't his office.

On this occasion he was taking part in Fire Operations 101, a special event sponsored by the OAKWAY Mutual Aid Group, a consortium of area community fire departments that work and sometimes train together.

Training was the topic of a special session held October 11 at the Oakland Community College CREST Center. Municipal officials

from communities in OAKWAY were invited to experience first-hand what firefighters face in the field.

"It was eye-opening," Kepes said. "It gives you an appreciation for what they do."

In the session, Kepes donned firefighting gear, including heavy breathing apparatus, fought a fire in the upper level of a burning building, helped do a rescue from a smashed car and experienced going into a burning house.

CREST is a village of actual buildings where fires can be created and controlled so

emergency responders can train in realistic conditions.

Wearing the massive gear that firefighters must use is a challenge, especially when you have to breathe from a heavy air tank.

It's difficult, even scary, but doing it helps bring into focus how challenging the job is and how

important it is for the Township to have the best persons and equipment to protect the community, Kepes said.



Township Treasurer Brain Kepes suits up for training at CREST.

Despite rain, waste day does well

The weather didn't cooperate, but so what?

Although it rained throughout the day and lightning forced the event to pause twice, the Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day held Saturday, Oct. 6, still was a success.

In all, about 865 cars came through the Township campus site to drop off items, such as old paint, motor oil, weed killer and other household chemicals, that shouldn't be flushed down the drain,

The event typically draws about 900 cars.

"It's a good testament to how much the residents appreciate using this service that the Township provides," said Katie Fotherby, Public Works manager who coordinates the event.

The next Hazardous Waste Drop-off Day will be held in the spring, on May 4.



Workers unload a car at the Household Hazardous Drop-Of Day.

Public safety from Page 1

Fire Department. These days, the Fire Department focuses more on emergency calls than fires, which are relatively rare in the community. One reason is the "silver tsunami," or the growing wave of aging residents.

"There are so many independent individuals in the Township who have no one else to call," said Fire Chief Mike Morin. They live alone and don't know who else to turn to when they face a problem, even a minor one, like a locked door that is stuck. Often they will call the Fire Department for aid.

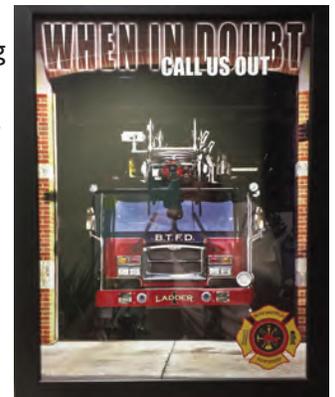
On the more serious side, the Fire Department is responding to an increasing number of emergency medical runs. In 2017 the Department made 3,105 EMS runs. Twenty years ago the department made 2,972 runs off all kinds, not just EMS.

The Fire Department also has initiated innovative programs to better serve the residents, including smoke detector installations, home safety inspections, car seat inspections for kids and more.

It's kind of telling that the Fire Department annual report contains a section on "customer service."

"Our goal is to make every situation a positive experience especially when the circumstances are difficult and stressful for the resident," Lt. Paramedic Edward Lietz states in the report

And the people respond, building on the department's motto, Morin said, "When in doubt, they do call us out."



Safety path, water main programs progress

The 2018 construction season has come to a close along with the completion of the Engineering and Environmental Services Department's 2018 Safety Path and Water Main programs.

This past year a new safety path was constructed along the east side of Telegraph Road between Quarton and Maple roads, and along the south side of Lincoln Road between Telegraph and Lahser roads. In 2019, four sections of new safety path are proposed: along the east side of Telegraph Road between Maple Road and Lincoln Road, the west side of Cranbrook Road between Middlebury Lane and Westbourne Drive, and two sections along Woodward Avenue between Oak Street and Manor Road, and a pedestrian crossing at Big Beaver Road.



Crews install a safety path along Telegraph Road.

Design of the safety path is underway. Affected property owners will be contacted by Bloomfield Township in late winter for feedback.

In 2018, 4,500 feet of water main was replaced along Berkshire Drive, Bennington Court, and a portion of Hillboro Drive within the Westchester development. Water main replacement for 2019 is proposed along additional streets within the Westchester Subdivision and along the west side of Cranbrook Road between Maple Road and Middlebury Lane.

The exact locations will be determined early in 2019. Notices will be mailed out to the affected property owners prior to the start of construction. Any questions concerning the 2019 construction of safety paths and water mains can be directed to the Engineering and Environmental Services Department at 248-594-2800.

Check the dashboard

How does Bloomfield Township stand financially compared to other communities?

You can find out at a glance by looking at the dashboard. It can be found on the home page of the Township website, www.bloomfieldtwp.org. Just look for Citizens' Guide and Dashboard under Quick Links at the right of the home page. A wide array of financial information about the Township – and information about communities across Michigan – is available on the site.

Why is my driveway blocked with snow?

Winter snowstorms mean the Township's snowplows will be out in force to clear the roads. Bloomfield Township is the only township in the state to offer its residents a full service road division, with the responsibility of keeping all the subdivision roads plowed and salted.

During every storm, the most common complaint that DPW receives is about snow being pushed into residents' driveways. However, the first priority when plowing is to clear the snow off the roadways for the safety of traffic, including emergency vehicles.

In order to do this, the plows must move the snow from the center of the road off to the sides. Inevitably this means that all of the snow coming off the roads will then get pushed onto the sides of the roads and into residents' driveways. This is frustrating and aggravating for residents, especially if it happens after the residents have just finished shoveling out their drives. Unfortunately, it is a necessary side effect of clearing the roadways, as there is no practical way for the snowplow operator to cut off the windrow of snow when crossing a driveway.

This is an even bigger problem in cul-de-sacs because of the limited amount of space. Drivers do not place snow in the driveways on purpose and they are sensitive to the work residents have to do in order to dig out because once they've finished working round the clock to clear the roadways, they go home to shovel out their own driveways as well.

The DPW asks residents to please understand that when a snowstorm hits, we're all in the same boat and the priority for plow crews is to make the roads safe for traffic.

Avoid the "Second Shovel"

After a snowstorm, how many times have you shoveled your driveway only to have it plowed in when your local snowplow comes through? Clearing an area to the right of your driveway (as seen in the diagram below), giving the snow on the plow a place to go other than your driveway, should keep you from having to do the same job twice.



Be mindful of snow ordinance

Now that winter is here and the snow is falling, keep in mind that there's an ordinance that prohibits pushing your snow onto the shoulder or across the road. This impairs the driving vision of others and the safety of pedestrians walking or simply getting their mail. Be sure to pass this information along to your snow plow company.

All garden equipment and accessories such as pots that are not being used should be put away out of view in order to maintain a neat appearance. A property that gives the appearance of being neat and tidy goes a long way in sustaining the overall property values of the community.

Please contact the Ordinance Division at 248-594-2845 with any property maintenance concerns.



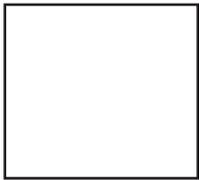
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

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



Rescues, food and things to do at Open House

Sparky the Fire Dog got himself into some serious trouble. He was trapped in a tall burning building and couldn't get out.

But fortunately for him - and the hundreds of people watching his plight - firefighters came to his rescue, and

using a special rescue technique and ropes managed to lower him safely to the ground.

Well, he wasn't really in a bind. This was actually a demonstration of the life saving techniques that firefighters can use in a tough situation like that.

That was just one of the events held during this year's Township Open House held Sunday, Oct. 14.

Theme of this year's event was "Look. Listen. Learn.

Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere." The firefighters also gave a dramatic demonstration of how sprinklers in the home can make the difference between life and death.

The police also were out giving rides in police vehicles and showing how tough, smart and effective police dogs are in the field. All the Township departments got into the act, showing what they do and offering different activities. There was plenty of food, the Bloomfield Hills High School marching band and color guard performed, and kids got the opportunity to climb in the heavy equipment that the Township uses.



The Bloomfield Hills High School Color Guard added to the Open House fun.



Sparky the Fire Dog shows how to be rescued from a tall building.

Even the weather cooperated as the cool cloudy days of the previous week cleared just in time for Open House.