

LIVING IN BLOOMFIELD

THE OFFICIAL
**BLOOMFIELD
TOWNSHIP**
NEWSLETTER

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TOWNSHIP

Services Cut in 2019 Have All Returned in 2024



Spring Is A Chance for New Beginnings and A Brighter Future

Spring is a chance to focus on where we've been, clean up messes, repair what's broken, and make improvements as we charge forward into sunnier days.

When reflecting on 2019, the challenges Bloomfield Township faced were intense:

- a structural deficit of \$164 million dollars;
- an emergency \$4 million budget crisis due to changes in state laws regarding liabilities; and
- staffing was being reduced and services were being cut.

Then in March of 2020 a global pandemic followed that continued the reduction of services and growth. Since 2020, new leadership at the administration, board, and department head levels were able to mix institutional knowledge from their predecessors with new eyes and fresh ideas that developed a recipe for success. Incrementally, year by year, cut services have been restored! And due to changes made in the way we budget, investments thriving, and innovations made to procedures and technology, we have reached the point where this year marks the moment that all services are restored. Even more notable is that we created a capital reserve fund two years ago that has grown to allow liquid access to capital funds so we are better protected against any emergency issues like those of 2019 and 2020.

My fellow neighbors and residents have consistently asked to bring back the programs that we lost. I am excited to announce that in addition to household waste days, both the Operation Clean Sweep and supplemental road funding are all back as well! I truly hope you will take part in Clean Sweep with your Home Owners Association or fellow neighbors, so we can keep Bloomfield Township beautiful together. Additionally, although the roads in our Township are owned by the County and the State, we as residents have high expectations and that is why Bloomfield is the only Township in the State of Michigan with a road department to better address the concerns of those failing roads. In 2019, about \$750,000 was cut from our annual road department which drastically reduced our maintenance programs. This year we brought back \$1,750,000 to the department and will once again be able to address some of the overlays and cape seal options that will help extend the life of some roads. You can learn more details on all of these programs throughout the newsletter.

Even with our financial outlook improving, we can't sustain exceptional services without amazing employees. For many decades there has been a significant decline in the number of people going into public service and that is an area we are innovating as well. Public Service is not just a calling, it is a wonderful career choice that fits all generations. However, the way we recruit and the conversation itself needed to change in order to attract and retain our extraordinary team to serve you. Currently, there is a national shortage of skilled trade workers, police and fire personnel, specialized areas of urban planning, civil engineering, department of public works, and assessing. Discussions with our federal representative, Congresswoman Haley Stevens, her staff, and I continue as we work together to address the situation at the national level by changing the way we promote public service to more Millennials and Generation Z.

In addition to working with our federal leaders, Bloomfield Township changed the way we actively recruit as well. In 2023, our police department and cable department worked together to create a media recruitment campaign. Not only did the Cable Department win awards and recognition at the national level for the recruitment campaign, but it directly resulted in some of our most recent hires finding us online and choosing the Township based on the videos they saw highlighting the culture of the team. Similarly, we began using a national recruiting firm to help with specialized positions that aren't common degrees anymore, but are still part of the backbone of public service. A "come back to Michigan" campaign to attract Michiganders that left over the years, but want to come back and be a part of the resurgence of the Detroit Metro area is in place.

Another change we have made to recruit enthusiastic talent is presenting municipal departments as the live version of their favorite video games, such as SimCity or Minecraft. By changing the conversation and the way we engage with more recent generations, it helps them envision what it is like to be a part of urban planning, civil engineering, public works, and assessing. By adapting the way we recruit and speak with candidates, it not only improves our staffing in the Township, but also increases the awareness and interest in public service. If you know of someone who is looking for something more fulfilling, and also wants to give back to the community, join the conversation with us and guide them to public service where they can help themselves and communities to grow and thrive.

Dani Walsh, Bloomfield Township Supervisor
248.433.7700 | dwalsh@bloomfieldtp.org



Police and Cable & Community Relations Depts.
Collaborated on a Series of Recruitment Videos



Visit our Employment
Opportunities Page

ADMINISTRATION

Clerk's Office 2023 Facts & Figures



While we offer many services at the Clerk's Office, maintaining the voter rolls is one of our top priorities. In fact, in 2023 we completed 4,063 voter transactions. This in a year when Michigan Election Law had the most sweeping changes in a century (blue box at right).

Passport application processing is the 2nd most common service we provide. We have been accepting passport applications for almost nineteen years and, excluding 2020, we average over 1,000 passport applications each year. In 2023, we processed 1,532 passport applications. I am extremely proud to share that we are a five-time recipient of a perfect score from the U.S. Department of State Audit. Approximately 80% of our applicants are from Bloomfield Township, but anyone may apply for a passport with us—as

long as they are a U.S. citizen and are able to submit the required paperwork.

4,063 Voter Transactions

1,532 Passports

874 FOIA

501 Other

**230 Permits/
Licenses**

In addition to elections and passports, we keep very busy processing Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, permits, and licenses.

Our department is secretary to the Board of Trustees and all lake boards, which entails preparing meeting agendas/packets/minutes, and publishing/mailling/posting public notices.

Election Law Changes

- Nine days of Early Voting before Election Day (done in conjunction with Oakland County) at the Bloomfield Township Public Library.
- Apply once and always receive an absentee ballot by mail. This Permanent Mail Ballot list has grown to 13,014 (37.6% of our voters).
- Voters can personally tabulate their absentee ballot during Early Voting or at their precinct on Election Day.
- Absentee signature curing on a ballot envelope until 5PM on the third day after an election.
- Absent voter drop boxes are required and we added two more, totaling four across the Township.

Martin C. Brook, Township Clerk
248.433.7702 | clerk@bloomfieldtwp.org

**36
Regular
Meetings**

**9
Public
Hearings**

**5
Closed
Sessions**

**3
Special
Meetings**



Treasurer's Turn: Understanding Your Property Taxes and Assessment

If you moved to the Township in the last year, congratulations and welcome! One thing I hear frequently from new residents is that their property taxes increase considerably after their first year. That's due to Proposal A of 1994, where taxes are "uncapped" in the year following a home's change of ownership.

Here's the good news. Proposal A was a constitutional amendment put in place in large part to "cap" or limit the increases in property taxes when residents stay in their homes. The amendment introduced the "Taxable Value" of a home, which is how property taxes are calculated (Taxable Value x Millage Rate). However, the Assessor still tracks the market value of your house, where "Assessed Value" is set to half of the market value. But no matter how much your home's Assessed Value may increase, your taxes each year can only go up by the rate of inflation or 5%, whichever is less. Extrapolating forward, your home's Assessed Value may increase at a higher rate than your Taxable Value, which works to your benefit in keeping increases to your taxes down.

On the flip side, when a resident sells their home, the new owner will see their Taxable Value "uncap" and it is reset to match the home's Assessed Value. This can lead to an issue when residents escrow their taxes with their mortgage company. The mortgage company will pay the tax bill we send them, but if there is an unexpected increase due to uncapping, the mortgage company may increase your escrow payment each month to account for the difference.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions on your tax or water bills.

Enjoy spring!

Michael Schostak, Township Treasurer
248.433.7705 | treasurer@bloomfieldtwp.org

Try Our Fast, Easy & Secure Online Payment Options!

Tax Payments: bloomfieldtwp.org/payments

Water Payments: bloomfieldtwp.org/waterpayments

On the Cover: A crab apple tree in bloom on the safety path along Lone Pine at Forest Way during springtime. Photo credit: Amy McKaig, Digital Content Coordinator for Bloomfield Township. For a chance to have your photo featured on the cover of a future Living in Bloomfield, email photo to: cable_dept@bloomfieldtwp.org.

SERVICES THAT

2024 Set to be a Very Big Year for Road Preservation and Rehabilitation in Bloomfield Township

Supervisor Dani Walsh and Public Works Director Noah Mehalski have prioritized road repairs in a big way, allocating 1.75 million dollars to the program in 2024. This will be over one million dollars more than the Township has ever dedicated to road repairs for a given year. This will directly impact the residents of Bloomfield Township as all of the work will be performed on subdivision roads.

Why not use the funds to replace roads completely?

The Road Commission for Oakland County and Michigan Department of Transportation own all of the public roads in the Township. To maintain and preserve the subdivision roads, Bloomfield Township has a maintenance contract with the RCOC made possible by Public Act 51. The framework of the legislature does not allow Bloomfield Township to completely replace the roads. Complete road replacement requires the S.A.D. process. Follow the link for more information. bloomfieldtwp.org/roadfunding.

What should the residents expect?

There will be four different methods that will be utilized



Township road crews working to resurface a residential road in the Township.

for road preservation based on the material and condition of the road. This will include asphalt overlays, sectional concrete slab replacement, cape seal, and micro seal. This is in addition to the regular maintenance performed such as joint sealing, over-banding, pothole patching, and spray patching. Each method will provide an improved road surface that seeks to extend the life of the road and enhance the driving surface. The Department of Public Works does exhaustive research to find the most advanced, long-lasting, and efficient methods available.

How is it determined which streets get attention?

The Road Division staff are continually evaluating the subdivision roads within Bloomfield Township. Living in Michigan, the condition of a road can change dramatically from fall to spring. Having a flexible and adaptable preservation plan is imperative. The Road Division Foreman and his staff maintain and adjust the preservation program as needed throughout the year. We target the worst of the worst and utilize a dynamic process based on field conditions, resident feedback, and staff evaluations.

When To Get a Permit

Spring is a popular time for homeowners to start taking on new projects. Before you start adding that deck, building a shed, installing a pool, or constructing a fence, it is important to know what's required by the Township. All accessory structures, such as play structures, sunrooms, air conditioners, etc. require a permit. In some cases, these projects may also require approval from a homeowners association or approval from Zoning Board of Appeals.



DID YOU KNOW?

Construction of a Deck (or any accessory structure) requires approval and a permit.

Inquiries: 248-433-7715 or building_dept@bloomfieldtwp.org

HELPFUL REMINDERS ▪ HELPFUL REMINDERS

GRASS MUST BE MAINTAINED AT 8 INCHES OR LESS

Any grass over 8 inches is in violation of Township ordinance. Remember, there is no limit to the number of yard waste bags Priority Waste will pick up on your collection day.



MEMORIAL DAY TRASH DELAY

Week of May 27-31

Collection will be delayed ONE DAY all week.

WORK FOR YOU

Operation Clean Sweep Aims to Keep Bloomfield Beautiful On The Heels of Earth Day

Earth Day is an annual event on April 22 to support environmental protection. The following weekend, on April 27 and 28, Bloomfield Township will do its part during Operation Clean Sweep. The designated weekend for residents to volunteer some time and effort to help keep the appearance of our roadways and subdivisions looking clean and litter free, thereby maintaining the beauty that both residents and visitors alike have come to expect from Bloomfield Township. The Department of Public Works is handing out supplies to assist in the effort.



Volunteers from a past Clean Sweep event in the Township work to beautify safety paths and subdivisions.

DPW will provide bags and trash supplies to residents during normal business hours Monday – Thursday from 7:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. beginning April 11th. Residents will be able to pick up supplies at the Public Works building at 4200 Telegraph Road (just West of Township Hall). If you have any questions, please contact DPW via 248-594-2800 or road@bloomfieldtwp.org.

“We’re excited for the return of this initiative and hope residents take time to volunteer for the community,” said DPW Manager Adam Roose. “It’s very common this time of year to see the accumulated litter from the winter season spread along our roadways.”

The Township would like to encourage all community members to participate. Trash and compost bags provided for the event will be picked up on your normal trash collection date. The Ordinance Department is aware of this event and curbside storage of trash/compost will be excused the week of

April 29th.

A volunteer sign up form can be found on the Township Website at bloomfieldtwp.org/cleansweepvolunteer. This form is preferred, but not required.

Electronic Waste, Medication Disposal and Paper Shredding Drop-Off Day Returns May 4th!

The Township’s annual Electronic Waste Drop-Off Day is scheduled for Saturday, May 4 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. While doing your spring cleaning, pack up any used and unwanted electronic devices such as TVs, computers, monitors, digital cameras, toner cartridges, or DVD/VCR players to recycle.

Sort through your medicine cabinets for unused or expired medications for safe disposal. Box up any confidential and personal documents that you want shredded securely.

On the day of the event, there will be two entrances on

Andover Road (from Long Lake and Telegraph). Volunteers will unload everything from your car, so you won’t even need to exit your vehicle. Have your ID out and ready to show volunteers, as this event is open to Township residents only.

Scan the QR code to see a complete list of accepted items.



HELPFUL REMINDERS • HELPFUL REMINDERS

LEASH/SANITATION LAWS

While walking your dogs this spring, remember that dogs must be on a leash and under control at all times. Owners are also required to pick up after their dogs under Township ordinance and dispose on their own property.



PET LICENSES

Only dogs need to be licensed in the Township. Purchase or renew yours at the BT Police Department or through Oakland County.



Residents wishing to install an invisible fence must first obtain a permit from the Building Division.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Police and Fire Team Up to Offer Emergency Notification Alert System to Residents

Public Safety has launched "Bloomfield Alerts" powered by OnSolve. This emergency notification system will enable Bloomfield Township public safety personnel to notify our community by telephone, text message, email, and more. This time-sensitive notification system can reach thousands of individuals in minutes to ensure information is more quickly shared.

Any message regarding the safety of our residents and community will be disseminated using Bloomfield Alerts. We will send out time-sensitive information in emergencies, or urgent alerts in situations including boil water notices, gas leaks, evacuation notices, police activity, fire emergencies, missing persons, and more. This is a voluntary community alert system to ensure that residents and our community remain informed of important information.



Register now for the Township's NEW Emergency Community Alert System.

Registration is completely free and sign up is easy. Simply text "BTALERTS" to 24639 or go to <https://accountportal.onsolve.net/bloomfieldtwp> to register. You will be required to input your residential or commercial address during registration. This system is precise enough to target specific parts of our community with an exact area of impact, so that only those people who are affected by an emergency situation are notified.

Bloomfield Alerts will help keep you informed and prepared for any emergency that may occur in our area. Officials will send messages to alert you only of emergency details, instructions or precautions that you need in order to make well-informed decisions and remain

safe. Be prepared; register today!

For more information and to watch a Bloomfield in Focus episode regarding this system, visit bloomfieldtwp.org/alerts.

SENIOR SERVICES

Move Forward in Your Longevity Journey This Spring

National Senior Health & Fitness day is May 29 but we are encouraging holistic health over the whole month!

Consider joyful movement to music, growing your social network, or fortifying your independence, ALL AT ONCE! Try a complimentary group exercise class, or just call it movement if the word exercise makes you cringe.

No special clothes needed; just comfortable. No special experience; just a willingness to try. No sweat or pounding heart rate but a welcoming instructor who helps you feel comfortable with your own level of activity. Our goal is to turn a "have to" into a "want to."

Additionally, you can taste healthy cooking recipes and enjoy a beautiful Tai Chi performance by our instructors and students. Soothe your soul with music, meditation and gentle stretching. Discover helpful information



Level 2 intermediate S.E.A.T. class incorporates floorwork and use of a chair for support.

regarding fall prevention, how hearing impacts memory and have a free balance assessment. So much to choose from!

You might get some extra steps in during our day trips. Connect with nature in our garden series, visit Belle Isle, or relax on a river cruise. Tour the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, Fox Theatre, or Stahl's Automotive Museum. Maybe lunch at Sinbad's or O'Connor's Public House? Many wonderful options.

MAY IS NATIONAL FITNESS MONTH!

Scan the code with your smartphone for catalog.



COMMUNITY TELEVISION

RSVP for BCTV Open House on Monday, June 24th Tour your local television studio.

Bloomfield Community Television is hosting its Summer Open House on Monday, June 24th from 5pm - 7pm! Residents can learn more about the work the Cable & Community Relations Department does for Bloomfield Township including the local programming created with volunteer Community Producers. If you're interested in appearing on one of the programs or producing your own television show, podcast, or other digital content then this event the perfect time to network with content creators and tour the facility.



Residents gather at the 2023 BCTV Open House.

long career working in production. "Our studio space is here for the community and I continue to look for new ways to activate the space in creative ways," she added. The Open House is appropriate for all ages and families are welcome.

If you've visited BCTV in the past, now is a great time to see all the renovations that have taken place in recent years. BCTV serves the residents of Bloomfield Township, Bloomfield Hills, Birmingham, Franklin Village, Bingham Farms, and Beverly Hills through an agreement with the Birmingham Area Cable Board. This event is open to anyone, but registration is requested. Please RSVP to Community Engagement Coordinator Jose Guzman at jguzman@bloomfieldtwp.org

"The best part of my job is connecting people to help tell the stories of our community! Our open house is an opportunity for long tenured volunteer producers to mingle with those just beginning the process," said Cable & Community Relations Director Carrie LeZotte. In addition to meeting staff members from the department, attendees can talk with industry professionals that LeZotte invites from her

[bloomfieldtwp.org](mailto:jguzman@bloomfieldtwp.org) or 248-433-7790.

Following the Open House, the Cable & Community Relations Department will present its Annual Report to the Board of Trustees at the regularly scheduled meeting.

SIGN UP FOR WEEKLY ENEWS



Don't miss out on events and information. Get our weekly digital edition delivered right to your inbox. Subscribe at bloomfieldtwp.org/enews

BLOOMFIELD COMMUNITY TELEVISION IS ON YOUTUBE



You can watch government meetings and local programs from community producers on demand.

WHAT IS THE FINANCIAL STANDING OF BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP?



Visit www.bloomfieldtwp.org/dashboard and look at the Munetrix Citizen's Guide and Dashboard on the Finance page.

TOWNSHIP BOARDS



APPOINTED OFFICIALS

PLANNING COMMISSION

- Thomas Petinga, Chairman
- Jeff Salz, Vice Chairman
- Richard Atto
- Neal Barnett
- John Kelly
- Andrea B. O'Donnell
- Bruce Selik

ELECTED OFFICIALS

ADMINISTRATION

- Dani Walsh, Supervisor
- Martin C. Brook, Clerk
- Michael Schostak, Treasurer

TRUSTEES

- Neal J. Barnett
- Stephanie Fakh
- Christopher Kolinski
- Valerie Murray

BOARD OF APPEALS

- Brian Henry, Chairman
- Jocelyn Giangrande, Vice Chairman
- Stephanie Fakh
- Ed Ford
- Scott Gittleman
- Andrea O'Donnell
- Carol Rosati
- Glenda Meads, Alternate

CONNECT ONLINE

Keep up with the latest community and government news by subscribing to our channels.



PUBLISHED BY THE CABLE AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

248.433.7790 | cable_dept@bloomfieldtwp.org



BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

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

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Royal Oak, MI
Permit No. 618

TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY

Administration	248.433.7700
Accounting	248.433.7712
Assessor's Office	248.433.7710
Building Division	248.433.7715
Clerk's Office	248.433.7702
Community Cable	248.433.7790
Engineering & Environmental ...	248.594.2800
Fire Non-Emergency	248.433.7745
Ordinance Division	248.594.2845
Planning Division	248.433.7795
Police Non-Emergency	248.433.7755
Senior Services	248.723.3500
Treasurer's Office	248.433.7705
Water & Sewer	248.594.2800
Water/Sewer Emergency	248.433.7730

CONTRACT SERVICES

Comcast Cable	1.888.XFINITY
Consumers Energy	1.800.477.5050
Detroit Edison	1.800.477.4747
Priority Waste	1.855.WASTE65

UPCOMING CAMPUS EVENTS



OPERATION CLEAN SWEEP

April 27-28

Supplies available for pickup at
Public Works building.
See page 5.

**E-WASTE
DROP-OFF DAY**

Saturday, May 4
9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Electronic waste, paper shredding,
and medication disposal.
See page 5.




**FOOD TRUCK
WEDNESDAYS RETURN
JUNE 19TH!!**

11 a.m.-1 p.m.
June 19-August 21 (excluding
July 3). Be sure to follow us
on social media for details,
including which food trucks will
be featured!

TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

Board of Trustees | 7 p.m. | 2nd & 4th Monday
Planning Commission | 7 p.m. | 1st & 3rd Monday
Zoning Board of Appeals | 7 p.m. | 2nd Tuesday
Design Review Board | 2 p.m. | 1st & 3rd Wednesday

Location: Township Auditorium