

# LIVING IN BLOOMFIELD

TACOS • BURRITOS • QUESADILLAS

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[bloomfieldtwp.org](http://bloomfieldtwp.org)

Spring 2025



# TOWNSHIP



## New Ideas to Fix Roads Are a Necessity Road Advisory Committee Formed to Find Solutions

Throughout this issue of Living in Bloomfield you'll find ways various Township departments are utilizing their budget to bring residents first-class service. This is what residents expect and the Board of Trustees prudently works to ensure services are financially set up for success now and in the future. Our fiscal year begins on April 1st and each spring brings a fresh perspective on how we will operate for the next year. One area that demands improvement and can't be found in our budget is road replacement.

Simply put: Our Road Conditions Are Unacceptable.

a better solution for today. One that has more long-term sustainability.

I want to highlight our DPW who were awarded the Excellence in Snow and Ice Control Award by the American Public Works Association. This is a testament to their dedication to care for the roads that fall under the Township's jurisdiction. Not only in the winter when plowing snow and salting roads is required, but in the spring and summer when maintenance is routinely performed. We are the only Township in Michigan to have the services of a sophisticated Road Division. Pavement preservation is the goal of DPW, but I'm aware that complete restructuring of subdivision



Members of the Road Advisory Committee, led by Supervisor Mike McCready, at a recent meeting.

As I campaigned for the role of Supervisor, the number one issue I heard from residents were the flat-out awful condition of their roads. Traveling door-to-door across the Township, I saw first-hand just how bad they've become. I don't blame residents who are sometimes confused by who "owns" a road. It's important to understand that the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) owns and maintains all of the Township roads. The Township's Department of Public Works is subcontracted to care for subdivision roads while RCOC cares for major roads like Telegraph and Woodward.

At present, the only way to finance a new road in a subdivision is to find support for a Special Assessment District (SAD) in which residents take on the financial liability of the project; and the Township issues a bond. Residents pay on an annual tax bill for the special assessment across ten to fifteen years. This may have worked years ago, but I feel there has to be

roads is beyond the scope of what they can do.

I'm excited to announce the Board of Trustees has approved creation of a nine-member Road Advisory Committee. This is a volunteer group committed to supporting the community by reviewing current road conditions, identifying problem areas, discussing practical solutions for improvement, and researching self-autonomy of local roads. The committee acts as a recommending body to the trustees and will explore feasible repair and maintenance strategies, research legislative funding opportunities, and develop cost-effective ideas.

I want to thank the residents who have volunteered their time and energy to serve on the committee and I feel confident we'll find a solution that makes more sense for our fellow residents.

I invite you to attend one of our future meetings in our newly renovated Township Hall.

### MEETING SCHEDULE

May 28  
June 11  
July 9  
July 23  
August 6  
August 20

4:30 p.m. at Township Hall Auditorium  
[bloomfieldtwp.org/RAC](http://bloomfieldtwp.org/RAC)

Mike McCready, Bloomfield Township Supervisor | 248.433.7700 | [mmccready@bloomfieldtwp.org](mailto:mmccready@bloomfieldtwp.org)

*On the Cover:* Employees, families, and residents enjoy one of the Township's Food Truck Wednesdays in 2024. Photo credit: Caeley Smith, Bloomfield Township Cable & Community Relations Assistant. For a chance to have your photo featured on the cover of a future Living in Bloomfield, email photo to: [cable\\_dept@bloomfieldtwp.org](mailto:cable_dept@bloomfieldtwp.org).

# ADMINISTRATION

## Records Management Project Initiated



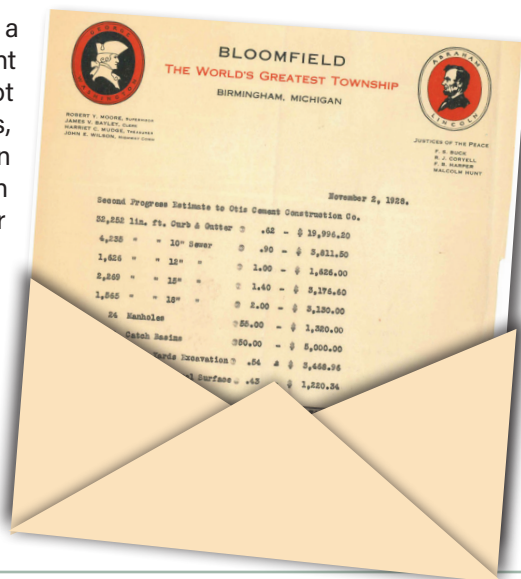
I am excited to share details about a project long in the works to bring our records management into the digital age.

Bloomfield Township is nearing 200 years in its long and storied history. That history is largely maintained through records that date back to 1827 and in so many ways they tell the story of this community and provide answers to residents' questions. One of the responsibilities of my office is to maintain Township records and efficiently provide them upon request. When American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds became available, we recognized an opportunity to transition many historical records into digital form, thereby freeing a lot of physical space and increase the ease of retrieval. Examples of documents are building plans, site plans, engineering surveys, assessment records, and more. In compliance with ARPA funds this work will be completed by December 31, 2026.

Scanning is only the first and least interesting part of this project. After a collaborative process with all Township departments, we selected a document management system called Laserfiche. This is a cloud-based system which not only stores records, but also organizes them for retrieval, prepares workflows, electronic forms, and links records to our webpage for easy public access. In other words, once fully implemented, Laserfiche will make us more efficient in serving the residents of Bloomfield. In the future, we aim to make all of our customer interactions digital and Laserfiche will help us accomplish that goal.

While we are digitizing records, there are many historical records that will be maintained. These are the type that are of historical significance. Such as the original Township minutes books that reach all the way back to the first Township meeting on May 25, 1827. And, interesting historical artifacts such as this letterhead from the 1920's proudly proclaiming ourselves to be the World's Greatest Township!

Martin C. Brook, Township Clerk | 248.433.7702 | [clerk@bloomfieldtwp.org](mailto:clerk@bloomfieldtwp.org)



## Treasurer's Turn: Special Assessment Deferment Program Provides Help for Homeowners

Bloomfield Township is proud to announce a new way to support residents facing financial strain from special assessments.

My Special Assessment Deferment Program (SADP), approved by the Board of Trustees this spring, is now available to help qualifying homeowners manage the cost of road and water/sewer improvements.

Through the SADP, eligible residents can defer payment of their annual special assessment for up to 10 years. Homeowners will repay the deferred balance when they sell, transfer, or refinance their home—or after 10 years if none of those occur. An interest rate of 3% will apply to deferred amounts. To protect the Township's investment, a lien will be recorded against the property.

Residents already approved for the Township's Property Tax Hardship Exemption automatically qualify, but must still submit an application. All applicants must reapply annually for continued deferment.

If you think you may qualify, don't wait—applications are due by June 30, 2025. Notifications will be sent by September 15, and deferments will be reflected on your December tax bill.

For full details and to download an application, visit [www.bloomfieldtwp.org/SADP](http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/SADP). Questions? Contact the Assessor's Office at (248) 433-7710 or email [assessor@bloomfieldtwp.org](mailto:assessor@bloomfieldtwp.org).

This program is one more way Bloomfield Township is working to keep our community strong, fiscally responsible, and financially accessible for all residents.

### APPLICATION CRITERIA

- **Household income of \$150,000 or less.**
- **Limited assets outside of the primary home, retirement accounts, and vehicles.**
- **The special assessment must exceed a set percentage of household income based on family size.**
- **Mortgage and lien debt must not exceed twice the property's assessed value.**

Michael Schostak, Township Treasurer | 248.433.7705 | [treasurer@bloomfieldtwp.org](mailto:treasurer@bloomfieldtwp.org)

# SERVICES THAT

## Director LeZotte Visits Washington to Advocate for State Rights in Negotiating PEG and Franchise Fees

Bloomfield Community Television, the Township's cable station, is celebrating 40 years of local storytelling this year. What makes the video production services and studio available is not tax dollars, a conclusion many first jump to, or donations from "viewers like you" as many who assume that station operates like PBS. What makes the community resource viable is Public, Educational, and Government (PEG) and Franchise Fees that are negotiated with cable providers who build and run their infrastructure in a municipal right-of-way.

PEG fees are eligible only for capital expenses related to video production whereas franchise fees can be used any way a municipality sees fit: public safety, roads, special projects, or anything in the general fund. As more cable customers "cut the cord", the revenues from the fees are declining rapidly. This has prompted Cable & Community Relations Director Carrie LeZotte to launch an educational campaign aimed at the many ways these fees are utilized and the threat their disappearance poses. This spring, she traveled to Washington D.C. to see that the message reaches elected officials who serve BCTV's viewing area.

"I made my first trip to 'Hill Day' in Washington, D.C. with the Alliance for Community Media, where we met with our elected officials in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, or more accurately, their staff," said LeZotte. Those staffers represented the offices of U.S. Senators Gary Peters and Elissa Slotkin, U.S. Representatives Haley Stevens, Rashida Tlaib, and Debbie Dingell. "Our goal was to focus on three main priorities: Stopping federal preemption of local rights;

reversing the FCC's 2019 In-Kind Rule which drains local resources from community television operations; and providing appropriate oversight of the current FCC to ensure it doesn't harm local communities," she added.



Cable & Community Relations Director Carrie LeZotte pictured at the Capitol with U.S. Senator Elissa Slotkin. "It was a privilege to represent the communities I serve in this way," says LeZotte of her trip to D.C.

Efforts to educate and maintain current funding is not the be-all and end-all of this campaign. "Several states are reinterpreting what a video service provider is in the age of the internet and Michigan must do the same," says LeZotte. One option she's passionate about is reexamining the Metropolitan Extension Telecommunications Rights-of-Way Oversight

Act that was signed in 2002. "The METRO Act was signed into law with the intention of making it easier to stimulate the availability of high-speed internet connections. As a reference to where this was in the life of the internet, YouTube wouldn't exist until three years later in 2005."

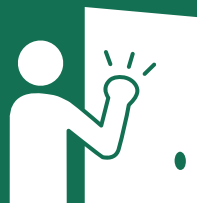
Amending the act to charge providers by the amount of feet of fiber they run, or Linear Footage Fee, and adding a Gross Revenue percentage returned to communities would bring the Act into modern day relevance. "Modernizing the METRO Act will give Michigan fair compensation for public rights-of-way usage, support local infrastructure, and mitigate revenue losses from traditional cable franchise fees. This proposed legislation will not replace existing franchise and PEG fees but help mitigate the declining cable fees revenue," states LeZotte.

To learn more about LeZotte's efforts, visit [bloomfieldtwp.org/cable](http://bloomfieldtwp.org/cable) and find more in-depth information.

## HELPFUL REMINDERS • HELPFUL REMINDERS

### ENROLL IN DO NOT KNOCK REGISTRY

Restrict peddlers and/or solicitors from entering your property at [bloomfieldtwp.org/dnk](http://bloomfieldtwp.org/dnk).



### ACCESSORY STRUCTURES REQUIRE A PERMIT

Construction of a deck, fence, pool, shed, retaining wall, or other improvements require permits. Learn more at [bloomfieldtwp.org/permit](http://bloomfieldtwp.org/permit).



# WORK FOR YOU

## DPW Earns American Public Works Association 2025 Excellence in Snow and Ice Control Award

The Department of Public Works has been honored by the American Public Works Association (APWA) with the 2025 Excellence in Snow and Ice Control Award. APWA established this award to promote excellence in the management and administration of public works snow and ice operations and to promote the best practices in snow and ice removal while minimizing environmental impacts.

DPW was recognized for their advanced preparation for snow and ice events in the Township, including increasing their efforts to inform the community about winter operations through various media. They have steadily improved their equipment and capacity over the past several years by purchasing new trucks with more advanced technology. DPW Director Noah Mehalski added, "it's truly a team effort that makes our department work and makes honors like this possible."

"Recognizing the 2025 Excellence in Snow and Ice Control award winners is something we are proud to do each year," said APWA President Dominick A. Longobardi. "Managing snow and ice events is not just about keeping roads and sidewalks clear on any given day. The work that our winners do throughout the winter months requires careful planning and preparation to keep people safely moving through their daily lives. We've seen these public works professionals repeatedly rise to each occasion whether

they are dealing with a few inches or several feet of snow."

APWA celebrated this year's Excellence in Snow and Ice Control award winners at the North American Snow Conference Opening General Session on April 7, 2025 in Grand Rapids. Members from DPW were also honored at the April 14th Board of Trustees meeting.

"This year's Excellence in Snow and Ice Control award winners are excellent examples of what it means to commit to advancing the quality of life for all," said APWA CEO Scott D. Grayson, CAE. "When snowfighters are called into action, it's in response to a winter weather event, and they answer that call no matter the time of day or road conditions."



Paul Horen, Noah Mehalski, Duane Poole, and Adam Roose proudly showing off the Department's 2025 Excellence in Snow and Ice Control Award.



## HELPFUL REMINDERS • HELPFUL REMINDERS

### HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Township Offices  
will be closed on:

**Monday, May 26**  
**Thursday, July 3**



### HOLIDAY TRASH DELAYS

**Mon-Fri, May 26-30**  
Collection will be delayed one day.

**Friday, July 4**  
Collection will be on  
Saturday, July 5.



# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

## Internet Service Provider Expected to Begin Installation Project This Summer

Metronet is a fiber internet service provider that delivers high-speed internet to homes and business. Permits are expected to be approved this summer allowing Metronet to begin installation laying a fiber-optic network across the Township.

Expect to see signs of construction: large Metronet signs at neighborhood entrances, smaller signs near your mailbox, and pink flags or temporary paint marking underground utilities. These are important markers, and they should stay in place until construction wraps up. Residents will be notified a minimum thirty days before work begins.

Metronet has the legal right to work within designated utility easements—even if they're

within a fenced yard—so please help crews access those areas if needed. Once construction is complete and weather allows, they will restore any affected property. Please note that most driveways begin in an easement as well.



Metronet is constructing 100% fiber internet in your neighborhood. Rest assured, the construction phase is temporary. We'll do everything we can to minimize the impact to your property.

Learn more at [metronet.com/construction](http://metronet.com/construction) or call 866.292.5382.

"We look forward to improved local connectivity for Township residents," says Township Director of Information Technology Wil Babinchak. "Metronet fiber is a major construction project spanning nearly the entire Township. We anticipate multiple crews working simultaneously in various areas. We look forward to expanded and improved connectivity options for our residents."

See Information  
Technology on page 7 ►

# SENIOR SERVICES

## Grants Allow for Updates and Returns at Senior Center

In evaluating her department's annual budget, Bloomfield Township Senior Services Director Christine Tvaroha is quick to highlight programs, services, and initiatives funded through grant opportunities. "We are funded through a Senior Service Millage that is one half of one percent of a Township tax dollar," says Tvaroha. "It's always exciting to alert residents to services funded through grants that supplement our work."

Returning to the Senior Center this year is Adult Day Service (ADS) partially funded by a grant award from the Ralph C. Wilson Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. "ADS has many benefits for participants and family caregivers," says ADS Coordinator Kim Davidson. "People feel safe and welcome and look forward to their club visits. Time in Friendship Club may also aid in retaining high levels of ability."

Tvaroha adds, "Benefits include improved sleep, mental wellness, and social connection to name a few. Our ADS, Friendship Club, is aptly named. Fail free and engaging activities like live music, exercise, guided trivia, art, crafts, pet visits and special events are key. The encouragement, laughter, and friendships are the 'secret sauce.'"



Associate Fitness Coordinator Jason Schaefer leads a chair exercise at Friendship Club. The club is open Mondays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

See Senior Services on page 7 ►



# FINANCE DEPARTMENT

## Bloomfield Township Introduces Open Finance Portal

Township Finance Director Jason Theis unveiled a new website that allows financial transparency called the Open Finance Portal. This user-friendly tool allows residents to navigate through financial data via tables, charts, and graphs – whatever their preference. “This is another expansion to what we’ve done over a number of years, building out this financial page to let residents see how money is being spent,” said Theis.

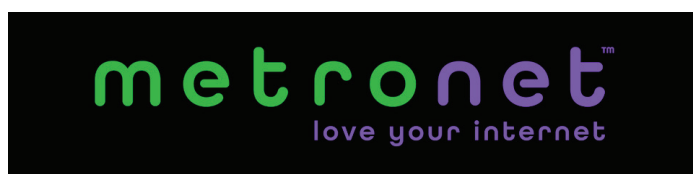
The highly interactive information delivers a better

understanding of revenues collected and how those revenues are utilized in providing our citizens with the very best in public services. This portal is updated weekly and includes data from prior fiscal years for comparative purposes; as well as information on revenues, expenditures, and vendor payments.

Find the Open Finance portal at [bloomfieldtwp.org/government/finance](http://bloomfieldtwp.org/government/finance).

### Information Technology from page 6 ▼

If you have a sprinkler system, underground dog fence, sump pump line, or anything similar, it’s essential to mark them; or report online at [metronet.com/construction](http://metronet.com/construction) under the “Ask Questions” tab. Customer service is ready to answer questions at 866.292.5382 and more info can be found at [metronet.com/construction](http://metronet.com/construction).

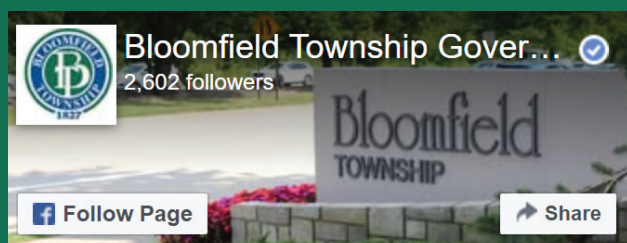


### Senior Services from page 6 ▼

The Senior Center Pool is known source of aquatics classes for residents, but new to this year is the saltwater system that replaces chlorine installed by TMI Sustainable Aquatics. The conversion took place in January and offers many benefits including improved air quality, a gentler impact on skin, and reducing maintenance costs for maintaining a pool. The conversion was made possible through Oakland County’s American Rescue Plan Act Funds.

“Less chemicals is not only better for the swimmers, but an investment that saves the center money in the long run,” says Fitness Coordinator Amanda Dupree. “We hope this not only improves the class quality for our regulars, but attracts new swimmers as this one of the few saltwater pools in the state.”

CONNECT  ONLINE



[bloomfieldtwp.org/enews](mailto:bloomfieldtwp.org/enews)



[bloomfieldtwp.org/socialmedia](http://bloomfieldtwp.org/socialmedia)



[@BloomfieldCommunityTV](https://www.youtube.com/BloomfieldCommunityTV)



[bloomfieldtwp.org](http://bloomfieldtwp.org)



### ADMINISTRATION

Mike McCready, Supervisor  
Martin C. Brook, Clerk  
Michael Schostak, Treasurer

### TRUSTEES

Neal J. Barnett  
Valerie Murray  
Christopher Kolinski  
Mark Antakli

### 2025 MEETING DATES

Jan 13 & 27  
Feb 10 & 24  
Mar 10 & 24  
Apr 14 & 28  
May 12 & 27  
Jun 9 & 23  
Jul 14 & 28  
Aug 11 & 25  
Sep 8 & 29  
Oct 13 & 27  
Nov 10 & 24  
Dec 8

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COMMUNITY RELATIONS DEPARTMENT**

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## BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

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

### 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

## FOOD TRUCK WEDNESDAYS

**June 18-Aug 20 | 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. | Community Television**  
Enjoy a different food truck each Wednesday. Open to the public. Dining area provided. Prices vary. Call 248-433-7790 or visit [bloomfieldtwp.org/foodtruck](http://bloomfieldtwp.org/foodtruck) for details.

## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY

**Saturday, October 4 | 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.**  
Safe disposal of household chemicals.

## TRUSTEE OFFICE HOURS

**5 - 6:30 p.m. | Township Hall Auditorium**  
**Prior to the final board meeting each month.**  
**(Typically the 4th Monday.)**  
Opportunity to meet with a Trustee in person.

## 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**