



BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

BTSS opens for in-person programs June 2

Hope abounds in the longer days, warmer temperatures and improving public health numbers. On June 2, people will be returning to the Senior Center to use the pool and fitness equipment and participate in small group fitness classes safely. More programs will be added slowly and steadily as safe and successful attendance is maintained.

“Our greatest hope is that people are ready to return to in-person programs in the center,” said Senior Services Director Christine Tvaroha.

To ensure capacity limits are observed, visits will require appointments through the online registration program or by phone with staff assistance. Programs will meet twice weekly on specific days and times; they will run month to month. The summer catalog will be mailed in early May and will outline details on registrations, schedules and pricing. Online registration will be open then as well.

Watch for the summer catalog and our weekly eNews emails.

In May 2020 Senior Services rolled out 30 virtual fitness classes and they are still running today. Many virtual classes will continue for those not yet ready to return in person, and to stay connected to those who return to their seasonal travels in 2021.

“We were pleased to see that 20 percent of our fitness customers participated throughout 2020 using Zoom,” Tvaroha said. “Virtual programs are a silver lining that will remain with us as a new level of service.”

People will be required to remain socially distant, answer

screening questions and wear masks at all times, except in the pool. Building improvements such as Plexiglas dividers, touchless sanitizing dispensers and water fountains will also contribute to safety.

“We are so excited to welcome people back to onsite programs!”



BTSS staff are looking forward to welcoming residents back to the Center in June.

Senior Services highlights 2020

Despite pandemic restrictions and a 70% staff reduction, the team determinedly served residents in the following ways:

Nutrition - Provided 8,648 meals, a 36% growth over 2019. Established curbside holiday programs and served 394 meals on Thanksgiving and Christmas. Delivered 34 pantry boxes of food to low income seniors (22 meals per box). Assembled

safe delivery or pick up resources from local stores and restaurants for the newsletter and directly mailed to homeowners age 85 and over.

Minor Home Repair – Facilitated investment of \$45,000; completed 9 projects; 5 projects currently active; 25 active inquires or applications.

Please see Highlights on page 5



BLOOMFIELD
TOWNSHIP
BOARD
2021

ELECTED OFFICIALS

ADMINISTRATION

Dani Walsh, Supervisor
Martin C. Brook, Clerk
Brian Kepes, Treasurer

TRUSTEES

Neal J. Barnett
Michael Schostak
Stephanie Fakh
Valerie Murray

APPOINTED POSITIONS

PLANNING COMMISSION

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

BOARD OF APPEALS

Carol Rosati, Chairman
Brian Henry, Vice Chairman
Robert Taylor, Jr.
Claudine Bacher,
Jocelyn Giangrande
Andrea O'Donnell
Stephanie Fakh
Jeffrey Drake, Alternate
Glenda Meads, Alternate

**Save the Date...
September 14**

Last day to pay summer tax without penalty

October 2

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day

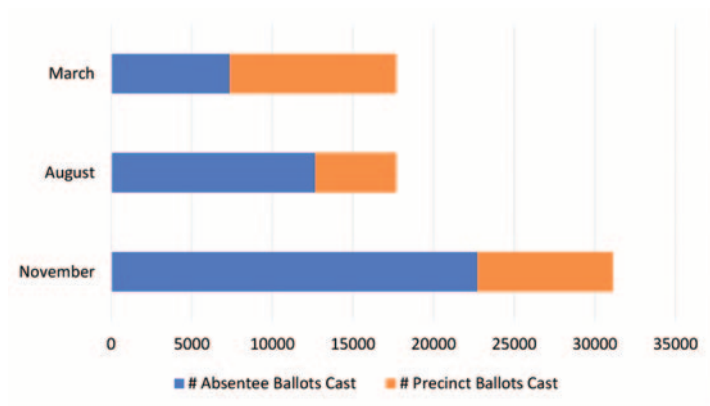
December 17

Last day for yard waste pick-up

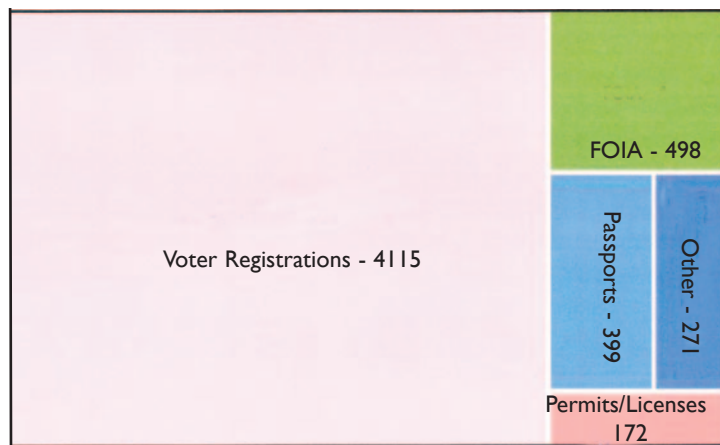
Clerk's Office 2020 facts and figures

On behalf of the residents of Bloomfield Township, the Clerk's Office administers all federal, state, and local elections and oversees the functioning of the Board of Trustees and Township Lake Boards. We keep official records, certify resolutions and ordinances, and administer oaths of office for elected and appointed officials. We coordinate document disclosure through the FOIA process, process passport applications, process numerous licenses and permits, and notarize documents. On this Facts & Figures Report, we graph some key data points concerning our work on your behalf during 2020.

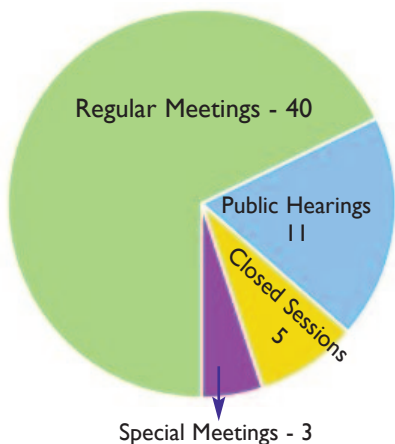
Ballots Counted by Type



Resident Services Provided by Type



Public Meetings Administered by Type



Township precincts were streamlined from 32 to 18. This change reduced ballot confusion for worker and voter alike due to overlapping school districts within the same precinct; it also reduced the cost of staffing the precincts by 30 percent.



Tune in to Township social media



Find out what's happening in the Township by following us on social media. The Township regularly posts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and NextDoor. The Township's Police and Fire departments can also be found on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

There are road closings, traffic alerts and similar items that are posted at once. Also, we preview special events and elections. The Township strives to provide you with information through every means possible.

So follow us on Facebook, look for our tweets and watch for our pictures on Instagram – and tell your friends to subscribe to the eNewsletter. Information on how to do that is on the Township website, www.bloomfieldtpw.org.



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



A NOTE FROM

Dani Walsh, Bloomfield Township Supervisor

Transparency and good management are top priorities

I've never been more proud to be a public servant than I have in the last year working through the Covid crisis. In the transition from Trustee to Supervisor, I've witnessed the hard work of all departments at the township to come together to supply first class services at a time when human interaction needed to be kept to a minimum. I'm so proud of the board, the township employees, and the residents for the ways we have all evolved to weather this pandemic together. I've found that change can be good and good changes can be great. Many changes are already underway in Bloomfield Township as we look forward to a return to normal and making our first-class services easier to access while focusing on improvements to the sustainability of our future.

The 2021-22 budget was recently approved with a new focus on a five-year plan. Previously, budgets were prepared on an annual vision which lead to peaks and valleys along the way and shortfalls for long-term obligations. The pandemic has reinforced the fact that preparation is key and we must be prepared for the next unforeseen event. By switching our budgets to a five-year focus, reevaluating projects, and obtaining more grants for funding, we were able to smooth out the needed capital projects and spending to avoid annual shortfalls and maintain services long term.

The change to five-year budget planning will also allow us to bring back and sustain additional services in 2022 like our spring events and open house that were cut in



Supervisor Dani Walsh and Finance Director Jason Theis worked to prepare a balanced budget with a focus on a five year plan.

fall of 2019. All departments came together as a team during budget planning to focus on how best to share resources for the benefit of all services to the residents. You can view the approved budget by visiting our new finance page on the township website. You'll find budgets of the past and present, audited financial statements, investment reports and more. Residents shouldn't have to FOIA important information

like this, so to be more transparent, we gladly make these documents readily available to all of you every day on the Township website.

Speaking of transparency, if you're wondering about the most recent Zoning Board, Planning Commission, Board of Trustee, or other public meetings, there is no need to FOIA those anymore either. All public meetings are now available on the township website's Video on Demand page. You can find these meet-

ings, along with the public programming from local producers, on Bloomfield Community Television through your cable provider or by streaming them live on the township website.

Our website department pages are going through a facelift as well to make resources to residents easier to find, use and understand. We hope to have website updated and ready for launch by May 1. We are also com-

mitted to addressing issues of fairness such as water rates. 2021 kicked off to a great start with the Michigan Court of Appeals ruling in the township's favor in a lawsuit challenging our water rates. The ruling confirmed that there was nothing wrong or illegal with how we currently set water rates in Bloomfield Township. This published ruling will also help other communities that face similar allegations. However, although there is nothing illegal with the methodology of how we set our rates, we will be doing an official rate study to evaluate all the methodologies available and find the one that is most beneficial to the majority of users.

We are exploring short term and long-term solutions. We are working with surrounding communities to acquire SOCWA membership to reduce rates. We are doing rate studies and applying for grant funding. I look forward to finding solutions with water rates that are equitable and beneficial to the community as a whole. I look forward to taking issues residents face and finding solutions. I look forward to better serving Bloomfield Township. The last year has been challenging, but I feel it has developed unity within the board, the employees, and the residents and created a path forward for even better services.

Cross-connection survey to begin soon

Bloomfield Township is required by the State to begin implementing cross connection surveys/inspections for all residential water customers. The purpose is to identify potential unsafe interconnections to the public water supply. The Township has contracted with HydroCorp of Troy, MI to assist in managing our Cross-Connection Control Program. HydroCorp specializes in backflow prevention education, cross-connection control program management and inspections/surveys.

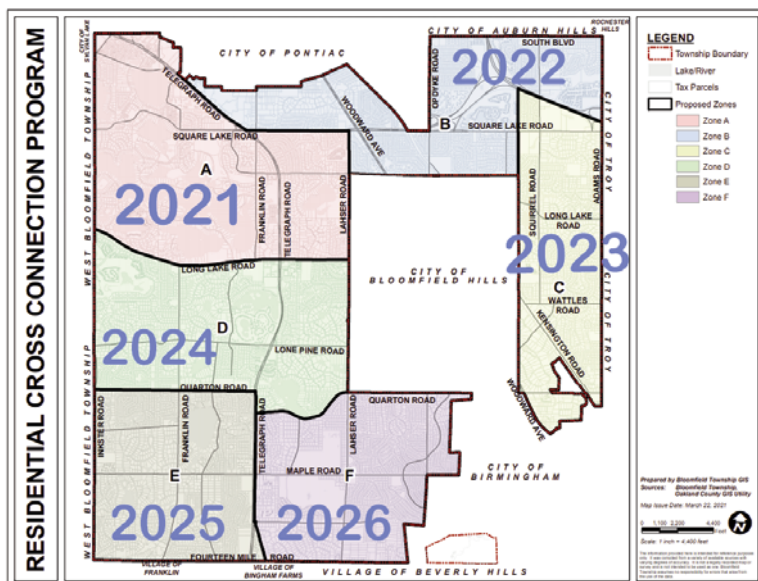
What Is a Cross-Connection?

A cross-connection is a direct or potential connection between any part of the public water supply system and a source of contamination or pollution. A simple example would be a garden hose style fixture, with no form of backflow prevention, submerged in a pool. Water normally flows in one direction, from the public water system through the customer's cold or hot water plumbing system to a faucet or other plumbing fixtures. Under certain conditions water can flow in the reverse direction. This is known as backflow and, in our hose-in-the-pool example, could cause the non-potable pool water to backflow into the resident's drinking water, creating a hazard for the resident.

What is a Cross Connection Survey/Inspection?

A cross-connection survey will be a visual survey/inspection of exterior residential properties to detect actual and potential cross connections. A record will be made of each inspection, existing backflow devices/assemblies and corrective action if necessary. Inspection notices will be mailed to water customers approximately two weeks before the scheduled inspection date. There is no fee for the inspection and the homeowner will not be required to be home at the time of inspection. HydroCorp will perform these surveys during the summer seasons of 2021 through 2026, beginning this June. The Township has been divided into six zones and only one zone per year will undergo these surveys. You can reference the map to determine which year your property will be inspected

We will be providing more information on the program in the coming months. If you have questions call DPW at 248-594-2800.



Ordinances regulate boat, RV storage

Own a boat or recreational vehicle? Don't store them in your driveway.

With the onset of warm weather and the season for many outdoor pursuits beginning the Ordinance Division is reminding residents about the rules prohibiting storage of recreational vehicles, trailers, and boats on their residential property.



Township Ordinance Sec. 42-5.5 states, "The open storage of any man-made material and parking or open storage of conveyances other than licensed, operable, private passenger cars shall be specifically prohibited on all residential lots..." Further, it states, "The term "licensed private cars" shall also not include conveyances or vehicles equipped for living or camping purposes."

The Township does afford property owners some leniency to park their recreational vehicles in the driveway generally for 24-48 hours while preparing the vehicle for a trip and again while unpacking and preparing it for storage. But you must alert us to this request for consideration so that we can make record of it.

Feel free to contact our office at 248-594-2845 or by email at ordinance_dept@bloomfieldtwp.org if you have any questions regarding this issue, or if you want to alert us you are bringing your vehicle home for packing/unpacking.

Prepare yard waste properly for collection

Yard waste collection resumed in March and will continue until December 17. Be sure to properly prepare your yard waste for pick up. It must be prepared in the following ways in order to be collected by GFL:

- Paper yard waste bags (available at local garden and hardware stores). Yard waste **may not** be placed in plastic bags.
- 32-gallon cans marked "Compost". The Compost stickers are available at the Township DPW office, reception desk in Township Hall, or by contacting GFL at 844-464-3587.
- Brush: 2 inches in diameter or less may be packaged in either of the above-mentioned ways.
- Trimmings/branches: 2-6 inches in diameter will be collected with the garbage (solid waste), if they are bundled and tied. Bundles should be no more than 4-feet long, 18 inches in diameter and no heavier than 60 pounds. Loose branches simply placed by the side of the road will not be picked up.
- For branches/limbs larger than 6 inches in diameter, call GFL at 844-464-3587 or a private tree service contractor.

Please see the Township website www.bloomfieldtwp.org or call the Department of Public Works at 248-594-2800 for more information.

Produce your own show at BCTV's state-of-the-art studio

The pandemic hasn't slowed down Bloomfield Community Television! Local producers have continued to produce programming virtually since in-studio tapings halted in March 2020.

When the door to studio tapings closed, Zoom opened another door to producers. Guests from all over North America have appeared virtually on BCTV's programming. Highlights from the last year include Al

Jean, Executive Producer of *The Simpsons*, appearing on *Managing the Problems of Daily Living* with host Linda Sircus. Producer John Sauve,

host of *Art and Design*, has featured nationally renowned artists from New York to Los Angeles and everywhere in between from Arkansas to Illinois.



Steve Rota has continued to direct shows via Zoom from the BCTV control room during the pandemic.

All of these programs can be viewed on Comcast Channel 15 or AT&T Channel 99 as well as On Demand on the township website. On

the homepage, look for the icons "Video on Demand" and watch "BCTV Live." Through contracts with other local municipalities, such as the Birmingham Area Cable Board, residents in the township, Bloomfield Hills, Bingham Farms, Beverly Hills, Birmingham and Franklin Village can produce programming at BCTV. Producers can obtain DVD copies or the video link to their programs for distribution as well.

The first step in becoming a producer of your own show is to set up a volunteer workshop and tour, currently conducted virtually due to Covid restrictions, by calling 248-433-7790 or emailing cable_dept@bloomfield-twp.org.

Prior to the pandemic, BCTV produced nearly 900 PEG (Public, Education & Government) programs annu-

ally and we look forward to increasing that number as Covid restrictions lift. We would love to have more township residents join our roster of producers and bring their great ideas to the screen.



Greg Black reads the studio's teleprompter for production at BCTV.

Highlights from page 1

Residents served averaged 79 years of age, 30 years of homeownership and have an average income of \$25,085.

Transportation - Provided 1,212 rides for 78 riders to medical appointments.

Outreach - Supported the resident pandemic helpline. Direct mailing of service information to 1,400 residents 85+. 1,310 Friendly Caller contacts by volunteers; hundreds of additional calls by staff. Handled 14,609 phone calls to ensure quality services occurred.

Flu shot clinic - Strong safety protocols allowed service to 136 residents.

Medicare - Provided enrollment assistance and education to 64 people.

Fitness - 151 people participated in 5,552 zoom classes. We produced seven free classes that had 2,824 viewings via the Township's website Video On Demand. Our classes still run on BCTV, six days and eleven programs weekly, 10 AM and 1 PM.

Customers - Despite providing 1,970 refunds for spring 2020 programs, 172 new people joined and 1,416 people were active in paid programs, about 25% of previous participation.

Enrichment - 105 people enjoyed virtual enrichment directly with us and many more benefited from nearly 20 partner organizations' programs that we promoted for residents' access.

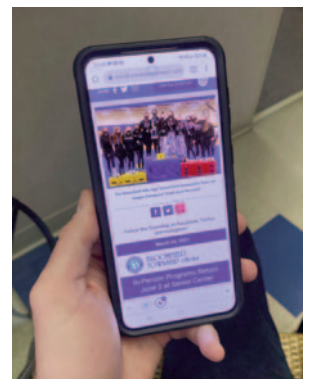
What's going on around here?

Do you want to know what's going on around the Township? Want to know the latest news from Bloomfield Township Government on topics such as water rates, job openings, voting, ordinances, safety paths and more? It's easy to stay informed by signing up for the eNewsletter.

The eNewsletter goes out to subscribers every week or two, and it's filled with news items and short videos. It is also sent out in cases of emergencies such as water main breaks and road closures to make sure residents know what's happening. Senior Services also sends out an eNewsletter to

let folks know about programs and events at the Senior Center.

Sign up for either or both of the eNewsletters by visiting the Township's website www.bloomfieldtwp.org and clicking on the eNewsletter button. We will never share your email address with anyone.





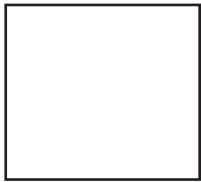
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

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



Lock. Your. Car. Door.

Bloomfield Township Police are reminding you to “Lock It Or Lose It” as the weather warms and larceny from an automobile (LFA) cases increase. LFA trails only behind fraud as the most common crime in the township and locking your door is the top defense. These crimes are rarely the result of a criminal “breaking in” to your vehicle as over ninety percent of these cases occur when a car door is unlocked. Lock. Your. Car. Door.

LFA is the number one most preventable crime in the township. To date in 2021 there have been thirteen cases of LFA; however, most cases include multiple cars in an area. These are

crimes of opportunity and BTPD has reviewed several

when they encounter a locked car door.



home surveillance videos that show a suspect simply moving on to another vehicle

Police recommend developing a routine to keep your vehicle, home and belongings

secure. Every evening at 9 p.m. make sure your home is secure and double check that your car doors are locked. Remove all valuables from your car overnight and leave no valuables or belongings in plain sight. And *never* leave a firearm in an unoccupied vehicle for any amount of time.

This spring, remember to A.C.T. to avoid being a victim: **Always** lock your vehicle; **Close** your windows; and **Take** your valuables out of the car. Stay safe and contact the Bloomfield Township Police Department's non-emergency line with any questions at 248-433-7755.