

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER



Senior Services promotes aging with grace

Even Steve Eskoff finds it hard to believe that 70,000 visits are made to the Township Senior Center each year – and he's been one of its most dedicated supporters.

"I never thought that 70,000 people were going through the building," he said, as he sat in Christine Tvaroha's office in the center.

Tvaroha is director of Senior Services for the Township. Eskoff is one of the key figures who got her office built, along with the rest of the Senior Center. A long-time volunteer at the center, he was chairman of the advisory committee that proposed building the center back in 2003. He remains a member of the committee to this day.

Eskoff and his wife Julie did a lot of community volunteering before being attracted to the concept of having a senior center in the Township. In those days, senior activities were held in what's now the Doyle Center on Wing Lake Road. It was a nice space, but way too small to serve the Township's seniors.

"Fifty percent of the people in the community were over age 50," Eskoff said. Working with Tvaroha, he began to push the Township officials for a bigger space and more services.

"A friend of mine had a husband with Alzheimer's. We didn't have any facilities for that," he said. Eskoff met with Township officials and started attending board meetings. "I started to

point out the needs of the citizens," he said.

That was not a new concept. As early as 1999, then-Supervisor Fred Korzon unveiled a plan for a senior center and in 2000 a millage was approved to acquire a building.



Steve Eskoff was instrumental in making the Senior Center a reality.

Unfortunately, a second millage to fund maintenance failed and there was no point in having a building that couldn't be maintained.

But the supporters were undaunted. The Advisory Council was formed in 2003 and the plan to have a real senior center was embraced by Supervisor Dave Payne, who succeeded Korzon. The senior services millage passed in 2004 – largely on the strength of the absentee ballots, which are mostly cast by senior citizens. An adult day service building was opened in 2007 on Franklin Road, but it was only for the care of persons suffering from

dementia.

In 2006 the capital bond was approved and that eventually led to the creation of the current Senior Center.

"It was a dream fulfilled," Eskoff said.

The Senior Center contains ample room for programs and such features as a therapeutic pool, which was one of the most highly desired services. It also houses the Friendship Club, providing day care for seniors with memory loss. It provides day trips, recreational activities including craft classes, and more. It's enough to attract 300 to 400 persons daily, amounting to about 65,000 annual visits.

These days, the emphasis is shifting toward fitness. "Fitness is the biggest reason people come to us," Tvaroha said. "We have 50 different classes a week." Weight loss and nutrition classes also are being considered.



Fitness activities are among the most popular at the Center.

Taken as a whole, Senior Services plays a big role in cementing Bloomfield Township's identity as a great place to age in comfort.



BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD 2015

ELECTED OFFICIALS

ADMINISTRATION

Leo Savoie, Supervisor
Janet Roncelli, Clerk
Dan Devine, Treasurer

TRUSTEES

David Buckley
Neal J. Barnett
Brian Kepes
Corinne Khederian

APPOINTED POSITIONS

PLANNING COMMISSION

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

BOARD OF APPEALS

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

Save the date...

August 4

Pontiac School District Election

See adjoining article

August 15

Classic Car Show & Bill Wells Car Club Classic

See the website for details

October 3

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day

October 11

Township Open House



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

Clerk Roncelli represents Michigan at U. S. Election Assistance Commission

In April, Clerk Jan Roncelli traveled to Williamsburg, VA, as the Local Election Official for the State of Michigan. Secretary of State Ruth Johnson reappointed her to represent Michigan on the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC), Standards Board. It is a national body consisting of 55 state election officials and 55 local election officials, from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories including American Samoa, Guam, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. She was joined by Sally Williams, the State Election Official for Michigan, and Christopher Thomas, Director of Elections for the State of Michigan, and a member of the Executive Advisory Board for the Election Assistance Commission.

The Standards Board assists the EAC in carrying out its mandates under the law, which include adopting voluntary voting system guidelines, serving as a national clearinghouse of information on election administration, accrediting testing laboratories, certifying voting systems, and auditing the use of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funds.



Election Assistance Commissioners Masterson and McCormick; Jan Roncelli and Sally Williams, ; Election Assistance Commissioner Hicks and Christopher Thomas.

Pontiac School District election set to be held on August 4

Bloomfield Township electors who live in the Pontiac School District will vote on the following proposal on August 4:

School District of the City of Pontiac Millage Proposal, Building and Site Sinking Fund Tax Levy – A proposal to levy not to exceed 2.87 mills (\$2.87 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 5 years, 2015 to 2019, inclusive, to create a sinking fund.

The complete text for the proposal and sample ballot is available on the Township website at <http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/Services/Clerk/Elections.asp>. Polling locations can also be found through this same link. Voter registration information can be found at <http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/Services/Clerk/Voting.asp>

For those unable to vote in person at the polls, absentee ballot applications are available online or by calling the Clerk's Office at (248) 433-7702. The last day for absentee ballots to be mailed from the Clerk's Office is Saturday, Aug. 1, 2015. On that day, the Clerk's Office will process absentee applications and issue ballots from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The final day to request an absentee ballot at the Clerk's Office is Monday, Aug. 3, 2015, until 4 p.m. Electors receiving a ballot on Monday must vote in person at the Clerk's Office. Our website provides further information for this election. Be sure to visit <http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/Services/Clerk/Elections.asp>. If you are not a registered voter, the last day to register to vote for this election is July 6, 2015. Remember, this election is only for voters in the Pontiac School District.

What's happening around Bloomfield Township?

You can find out by subscribing to the Township eNewsletter. The eNewsletter is emailed to subscribers every Thursday and it's filled with items on the latest happenings in Bloomfield Township.

In addition, bulletins on weather emergencies and other alerts are sent as needed.

The eNewsletter also welcomes input from readers. Have an interesting story to tell or a photo to share? Send it to us for consideration to be placed in the eNewsletter.

Since its inception, the eNewsletter has been expanding to include more information, including timely updates on important issues in the Township.

It's easy – and free – to subscribe. Go to the Township website, www.bloomfieldtwp.org, and click on the box at the upper left of the home page. Or send your email address to gkowski@bloomfieldtwp.org and it will be added to the subscription list.

Non-profit local organizations may submit items for consideration to be included in the eNewsletter. Send to gkowski@bloomfieldtwp.org.



A NOTE FROM

Leo Savoie, Bloomfield Township Supervisor

A busy summer is on tap

Sometimes it seems like summer just doesn't want to arrive. It's 80 degrees one day and 50 the next. At least that's the kind of temperature swing we experienced in late May.

If you want to get a sure indication that winter is indeed over, just look around you. There are plenty of projects going on in Bloomfield Township. Every year, when the snow finally melts, we have a flurry of activity occurring with our infrastructure. This year is no different. In fact, it's been busier than ever.

On tap or in progress is a host of projects including the safety path program. This year's installment includes a portion of Maple, Adams, Squirrel Road, Kensington, Wattles and a short piece along Telegraph at Long Lake Road. Along with the new additions there is always the ongoing maintenance both for repairs and landscaping.

Our safety path system is one of the best anywhere and has proven exceptionally popular with residents. It's often cited by residents as one of

the fine amenities of Bloomfield Township, and the paths contribute to the quality of life here. They are popular with all age groups and play a significant role in the Aging in Place theme we are promoting to emphasize that Bloomfield Township is a fine community to spend one's senior years.

Safety paths aren't our only focus of attention. As we are all acutely aware, the quality of our roads has been suffering. The fierce winters we have been having are taking a toll on the roads and keep us busy patching and repairing, including filling pot holes long after the winter blast.

This summer we will be doing major paving projects in several areas of the Township including the Concord Green, Palmer Woods Estates and Dell Rose Gardens subdivisions. In all, this amounts to about \$1.5 million worth of work paid through special assessment districts approved by the residents in those neighborhoods. Even as this is going on, Bloomfield Township, Oakland County

and the Road Commission for Oakland County are all contributing to redoing Lahser between 14 and 15 Mile Roads, so there's plenty of activity on the roads this year. Work is going on under the roads, as well. We have a number of major projects on tap to replace the water mains and sewers, including along Covington Road in Bloomfield Village. Work on Covington Road is scheduled to begin in July and will include repaving the road.

The residents and the property owners in Bloomfield Township are busy too. New construction permits and permits overall have increased considerably both on the residential side and the commercial side. Over and above the actual inspections for the construction projects, our ordinance officers continually inspect the sites to insure the negative impact to surrounding properties is minimized.

And finally, there is plenty of commercial development and redevelopment going on around the Township. Projects like Bloomfield Park (now

known as The Villages at Bloomfield), The Shops at Bloomfield Place, Tel-Square, First and Main senior facility, and others keep our Planning and Building Divisions busy approving and monitoring the work. The Engineering and Environmental Department is involved as well to ensure that the work is done properly and meets code.

For a Township that is mature and almost entirely developed it's amazing to see how much construction and reconstruction is taking place. This can entail some inconvenience, but it's a sign of our community's strength and vitality. Property values are on the rise again, and the commercial work shows that there is an intense interest by businesses that recognize the value in locating here. All of this contributes to making Bloomfield Township an even better place to live.

As always if you have any questions, comments or concerns please feel free to contact me.

Dealing with a nightmare

Suppose the Woodward Avenue Dream Cruise turned into a nightmare.

What if a pair of cars racing down Woodward spun out of control and smashed into the crowds? What would happen? Well, the Township would respond in a structured way, quickly bringing emergency vehicles on site and controlling the situation. Just how that would be done was

mapped out at a regular emergency planning session held in May and involving various Township departments including police, fire and communications. The goal was to develop an effective and flexible response plan. The training session was part of a continuing series of sessions using different possible emergency scenarios including tornadoes and train derailments.

The session, lasting more than two hours, looked at real-life problems that could make dealing with the emergency difficult. How could additional aid be brought in? How would emergency vehicles move through the congested Dream Cruise traffic? These and other ques-



tions were considered and solutions discussed, in order to be prepared.

Cross Connection Program protects the public water supply

Did you know that you could pollute your own drinking water without realizing it? Elimination of cross connections is an important step in protecting the water that we drink. The Bloomfield Township Cross Connection Program is designed to prevent backflow or back-siphonage of contaminated water into the drinking water supply through a program of inspections, testing and education.

A cross connection is a link between a possible source of pollution and a potable water supply. A pollutant may enter the potable water system when the pressure of the pollution source exceeds the pressure of the potable water source or when there is a sudden loss of pressure in the water system and “back-siphonage” occurs.

Examples of potential sources of pollution from a residential customer are garden hoses, sprinkler systems, swimming pools, hot tubs and boiler systems. Based on their frequency of use, garden hoses create the greatest concern for cross connections in the residential setting. Several cases of pollution/contamination have been caused by misuse of the garden hose left submerged in swimming pools, attached to chemical sprayers, and lying on the ground with exposure to cesspools, garden chemicals and animal feces.

To prevent the most common form of cross connection, the ordinary garden hose, check to make sure your hose is equipped with a Hose Bibb Vacuum Breaker. These are typically about \$5-\$10 from your hardware store. The other most common devices are pressure vacuum breakers, which are usually found on all automatic sprinkling systems.

These backflow prevention



Hose bibb vacuum breakers shown left and above, are effective in preventing contamination.



devices should be checked and tested regularly by a licensed plumber who is certified with the state. More information and facts about cross connections can be found on the Township’s website at www.bloomfieldtwp.org.

Contact the Township’s Water Division at (248)594-2800 if you have questions about the Cross Connection Program.

Township exceeds water standards

Bloomfield Township is pleased to report that in 2014, as in past years, we have surpassed the water quality standards required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of Michigan’s Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ).

The 2014 Annual Water Quality Report describes the source of our water, lists our test results, and contains important information about water and health. This report is intended to provide consumer understanding of drinking water and to heighten awareness of the need to protect our precious water resources. We hope this report addresses any drinking water quality concerns you might have.

Please go to www.bloomfieldtwp.org/WaterReport to view your 2014 Annual Water Quality Report and learn more about your drinking water.

If you would like a paper copy of the 2014 Annual Water Quality Report mailed to your home, please call the Department of Public Works at (248) 594-2800.



New 65-gallon recycling carts available

As part of the new contract extension with Rizzo Services, Township residents will now have the option to request a free 65-gallon recycling cart. The carts will be blue with an attached black lid and will be on wheels for easier mobility. The increased capacity should allow residents to recycle more while reducing the inconvenience of transporting the smaller 18-gallon bins to the curb.

It may also help those residents who currently recycle fewer items by allowing them the convenience of only having to place

the cart out at the curb every other week or less. These carts will be provided by request and are only available for recycling. The first one delivered to each residence will be free. The charge for any additional carts will be \$75 each.

Residents who wish to receive the 65-gallon recycle cart can call the Department of Public Works at (248) 594-2800 and will be placed on the list. The carts are expected

to be delivered sometime in June.



Building Division offers summer tips

The Building Division offers some tips for summer maintenance:

- Air conditioner condensers should be inspected to ensure that the coils are clean and free of debris. Remove debris and leaves that have fallen on or into the unit. Leaving the A.C. on but at a higher temperature setting while you're away will result in reaching your comfort level sooner once you've returned. In addition, the A.C. will run less often, saving you money.

- Re-finish your deck to enhance or restore its beauty and make it last even longer.

- Thoroughly clean and check your barbecue grill. Check the gas line and burners for signs of age and replace worn parts.

- Pool gates and other access to the pool areas should be inspected for proper operation. Lubricate the working parts of your pool gates to make sure that they close and latch on their own. If you have doors that access the pool area, ensure that they are alarmed and functioning correctly. Know how to quickly deactivate the pool's suction pump in the event of an emergency.



- Sprinkler heads should be directed away from your home's foundation to minimize soil erosion next to the walls and reduce the likelihood of water infiltration.

- Anti-siphon devices should be installed at each of your hose bibs to eliminate the possibility of any lawn chemicals or pesticides applied through the hose from getting into the potable water supply.

- Inspect your garage door operation. Lube the door rollers and hinges and check the weather strip at the bottom.

- Gutters should be checked and maintained. Check for leaking joints or nails that are not secured properly.

- Check fire extinguishers to ensure proper placement and charge dates. Keep fire extinguishers in the garage, in the kitchen, in the basement or near your gas-fired equipment/appliances. Check with the Fire Department for the proper size and type for each application.

- Trip and re-set your electrical circuit breakers to ensure they work efficiently. Installing GFCI receptacles in the kitchen, bath, basement, garage, and at outside locations is always a good safety investment.

Please feel free to contact any of the Building Division's inspectors if you have questions.

Be aware of Open Storage ordinance

Residents of Bloomfield Township are sometimes surprised when they receive a notice from the Ordinance Division regarding the storage of a boat or trailer in their driveway.

The Township Open Storage ordinance prohibits the storage of anything other than an operable, licensed, private passenger car on your property. Items prohibited include campers, trailers, RVs, recreational sports equipment and anything



else not usually found in a driveway or rear yard. Patio furniture, grills and stacked firewood are common acceptable outdoor items that may be stored on the property. Those homeowners who live on a lake may enjoy lake privileges with their boat (or water recreational equipment); however, we ask that they store all water equipment in the rear of the property or on the lake, and not in their driveway or front yard.

Please contact the Ordinance Division for any further information at www.bloomfieldtwp.org.

Dream Cruise events will show classic style

They're polishing the chrome and fine tuning the engines. It's time to get the classic wheels in top form. The Woodward Avenue Dream Cruise is coming Saturday, Aug. 15.

As in years past, Bloomfield Township will host its Classic Car Show and the Bill Wells Car Club Classic at the Comerica Bank and neighboring Mercedes-Benz of Bloomfield Hills dealership on Woodward Avenue, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Dream Cruise Saturday.

The Bill Wells Car Club Classic will feature different car clubs while the Classic Car Show shines the spotlight on great vehicles



owned by local folks. There will be music, food, Dream Cruise memorabilia on sale and plenty of fine cars.

All proceeds from the events benefit the Bloomfield Hills Optimist Club, the Bloomfield Township Fire Department Charities and the Bloomfield Township Police Department Benevolent Fund.

Registrations are being accepted for both events. Registration for the Classic Car Show is \$50, and \$35 per car for the Bill Wells Car Club Classic.

For registration forms, go to the Bloomfield Township website, www.bloomfieldtwp.org and click on the "Classic Car Show Information and Registration Forms" link on the home page. For more information call (248) 642-7806.

Gleaming chrome and classic stylings will be on display at the Township classic car events.



BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

4200 TELEGRAPH ROAD
PO BOX 489
BLOOMFIELD MI 48303-0489

TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY

Water/Sewer Emergency
433-7730

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

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Waste days are productive

Hundreds of residents took advantage of the Township's Hazardous Waste Day and Electronics Recycling, Medication Disposal and Bulk Paper Shredding events held this spring.

Lines of cars formed early each Saturday morning on the days of the events, which were held on the

Township campus on Telegraph. Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day, held each year in May and October, and Electronics Recycling, Medication



Tons of trash were sorted and tossed at the Township's Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day.

Disposal and Bulk Paper Shredding, held each April, are two very popular events.

Between the two days, tons of old computers, TV sets, old or unneeded medications along with paint, weed killer and other chemicals were brought in for disposal.

"Saturday's event was a great success and the weather was a great motivator in getting a jump on that annual spring cleaning, which was reflected in our total car count of over 850 cars that

came through," said Katie Schlutow, Township



Residents arrived in droves to drop off their outdated electronics.

Department of Public Works manager, who coordinated the events.

The next Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day event will be Oct. 3.