

# BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER



## Winter strategy: Always be ready

What special steps can you take to prepare for winter when you don't know what's in store?

None.

Instead, you have a routine system already in place that can handle whatever happens. And it won't be long before it does happen. Winter is fast approaching.

"We do what we do every year," said Tom Trice, director of the Township's Public Works Department. It was his crews that trudged out in the early hours on those frozen mornings when the roads needed to be plowed and salted last winter. And they were out a lot.

The winter of 2013-14 was one of the worst on record. In fact, it was a record, at least in the amount of snowfall. There was more than one morning

when the thermometer stood at minus-15 degrees. There are already ominous predictions that we will have more of the same, if not worse, this winter. Indeed, the Township has been informed that the cost of road salt has already doubled for this



The trucks are ready to roll for the upcoming winter.

winter, anticipating a high demand for salt.

Trice approaches the situation in a methodical way. "You put the plan together and stick with it."

Everybody knows their jobs. The drivers know their routes and have run through them. The equipment is always kept in shape and ready to roll and pothole repair has already turned into a year-round project.

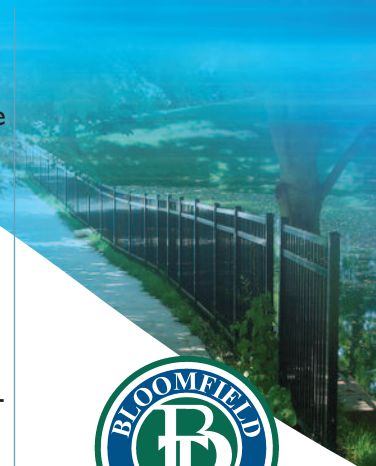
That's a good foundation for handling whatever may come. And as for the unexpected, "we make adjustments."

Trice makes a point of being on the front lines. "The guy who is in charge is the guy who is there," he said. That means he's out on those frosty mornings too.

We just hope there won't be too many of them.

### It's time to "Shake Your Mailbox"

As the Township's DPW prepares for the onslaught of winter weather, take a few minutes to "Shake Your Mailbox." This will tell you whether your mailbox posts are sturdy and the hardware holding them is in good shape. You will be able to correct any problems before the snowplows pile snow against weak posts or hardware and cause the mailboxes to topple over.



### BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD & 2014

#### 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

Pictured above: North American Miss Michigan Queens Jada Dudley (left) and Kamryn Chasnis, at the Township Dream Cruise. See story on page 6.

## Save the date...

### October 4

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day  
<http://www.bloomfield-twp.org/Services/EES/Environment/HHW.asp>

### October 12

Township Open House

### November 4

General Election

### December 12

Last day for Yard Waste Pickup

# Township voters will cast their votes on Nov. 4

With the November 2014 General Election only weeks away, political signs, candidate forums, campaigning and party politics inundate the media, our lawns and our casual conversations. Bloomfield Township registered voters will have a decisive voice as they cast their votes for federal, state, county and local candidates as well as state-wide proposals. The Township upholds a proud reputation of an over 80 percent voter turnout in a general election. Most of our 34,000 registered voters mark their ballots at one of our 32 polling locations, while 30 percent vote by absentee ballot. For the November General Election, several hundred residents will join the ranks of voters in Bloomfield Township by registering no later than Monday, October 6, 2014.

On Election Day, the polls will be open from 7 a.m. – 8 p.m. Information regarding polling locations, sample ballots, absentee voting, voter registration, and redistricting can be found on our website at

<http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/Services/Clerk/Voting.asp> Be sure to bring valid photo identification to the polling locations, such as your driver's license. Without valid photo identification, registered voters must sign the affidavit on the back of the application to vote. Other forms of valid photo identification can be found at <http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/Services/Clerk/Elections.asp>

If you want to avoid the long lines at the polls, request an absentee ballot. The application is available online at

<http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/forms/Clerk.asp> or by calling the Clerk's Office. To qualify for an absentee ballot, the voter must meet one of the following reasons: 1) 60 years of age or older; 2) anticipated absence from the community in which the voter is registered for the entire time the polls are open on election day; 3) physically unable to attend the polls without the assis-

tance of another; 4) unable to attend the polls because of religious beliefs; 5) appointed as an election inspector in a precinct other than the precinct where the voter resides; and 6) unable to attend the polls because the voter is confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial.

Be advised that an absentee ballot must be sent to your registered address and cannot be forwarded. You must request in writing to have your ballot sent to an alternate address. The preprinted application provides for this information.

For your convenience, the Clerk's Office will offer special hours on the following days:  
 Friday, October 24, 2014, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
 Saturday, November 1, 2014, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

The Bloomfield Township Clerk's Office welcomes your questions at (248)433-7702 or by email at [clerk@bloomfieldtwp.org](mailto:clerk@bloomfieldtwp.org) We encourage you to vote on November 4, 2014.



#### 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



Deputy Clerk Deana Mondock, Clerk's Assistant Carol Miller and Clerk Jan Roncelli prepare voting equipment for the November election.

## Sign up for the eNewsletter

This quarterly newsletter isn't the only way to find out what going on in our community. Each Thursday the Township distributes the eNewsletter.

This provides up-to-the-day news on what's happening in Bloomfield Township as well as relevant information from other communities. In addition, special eNewsletter "Bulletins" are issued as necessary, providing immediate notifi-

cations of road conditions, weather alerts or other information that needs to be made available immediately.

To subscribe to the eNewsletter, go to the Township website, [www.bloomfieldtwp.org](http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org) and click on the "ENewsletter" tab on the upper left of the front page. Or just send an email to [gkowsalski@bloomfieldtwp.org](mailto:gkowsalski@bloomfieldtwp.org) and we will add your name to the distribution list.



## A NOTE FROM

Leo Savoie, Bloomfield Township Supervisor

# No matter what, service is our top priority

It's hard to believe summer is over. It seemed like just yesterday we were dealing with the polar vortex, record snowfall levels and diminishing salt supplies. After that came potholes and deteriorating roads. Recently we have been dealing with high winds and flooding. It has been an interesting year, to say the least.

There is little we can do about the cold, snow, high winds and flooding. Mother Nature has her way of doing things. Our job is to be prepared for it. We are already set for next winter. The cost of salt has doubled since last winter; however, the salt supplies have been replenished. All of the trucks have been serviced and are ready to go. Hopefully the law of averages will work out and this upcoming winter will be on the milder side.

The wind storms wreaked havoc primarily in the northern section of the Township. The storm happened on a late Sunday afternoon. By 7 p.m. our road crews were already on the streets removing trees and opening roads. They proceeded to work the legally allowable hours for the next four days until the cleanup was done.

Several weeks later the flooding occurred. Fortunately we came away relatively unscathed. I know there was some basement flooding but it was minor in comparison to a number of other municipalities. One of the reasons for this is the proactive

nature of our water and sewer division. They are constantly videoing sewer lines to find any potential blockages. If someone has a water backup our crews will come in to make sure the main lines are clean. This proactive approach helps keep property damage to a minimum when the 100 year rainfall occurs (which seems to happen every other year).



Road Division crews worked long hours to clear storm debris from Township roads.

Roads are another story. As most of you know the county or the state owns all of the roads in Bloomfield Township. We maintain the residential streets; however, the county maintains all of the major roads in the Township. This spring we were dealing with the county road commission on a daily basis. Several of the major roads in the Township are scheduled for replacement this year. These include Long Lake Road, Walnut Lake Road and a part of Hickory Grove. We are already planning on several other major road replacements for 2015. Our hands are somewhat tied by the Road Commission for

Oakland County's funding but we will stay on them to get as many miles of roads completed over the next several years as possible.

Residential streets are the responsibility of the homeowners in the neighborhood. This past summer we have had five neighborhoods replace their roads through the Special Assessment District (SAD) process.

Currently four to five other neighborhoods have petitions out to do their roads. Our engineering department is here to help any neighborhood that wishes to investigate replacing their roads. Additionally I would encourage everyone to contact State Rep. Mike McCready and State Sen. John Pappageorge, as they have proposed legislation that could make the assessments transferable to a new owner should an existing homeowner elect to sell the home.

The millage renewals were overwhelmingly passed. This indicates to me our community appreciates, values and is

willing to support the services we offer. Our job, as elected officials, is to ensure the moneys are spent in a fiscally responsible way. Budgets are still very tight because of the caps in place with Proposal A. The taxable value increase in 2014 was 1.61 percent and it looks like the taxable value increase for 2015 will be less than that. While that helps all of us as taxpayers it makes it difficult in delivering services. Our expected expenses next year will go up 3 percent to 4 percent.

Finally I would like to comment on customer service. Having spent 30-plus years in primarily service industries in the private sector I have a strong belief in customer service. It has been my experience people generally don't like to have to deal with government. When they do so, typically it is because they have a problem. Our employees and our departments are here to help. It doesn't matter if you are dealing with the police, fire, building, water and sewer, assessing, treasurer, clerk or my department. My expectation is that you will get good customer service. If you don't receive that please let me know.

Our Open House will be coming up in October. It is a wonderful event for all ages. It gives people the opportunity to meet all of the individuals who make our lives a little better. Hope to see you there.

# Open House promises plenty to do and see

Fire trucks, police cars, heavy machinery – as well as lots of food – are the recipe for a great day. And you'll find them all mixed together at the annual Township Open House, set for noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 12, at the Township campus, 4200 Telegraph.

that won't be repeated this year.

The Open House features a spectrum of Township equipment on display and available for the adults to inspect and the kids to crawl on. Rides in police cars are offered, and you can see a demonstration of the K-9 police unit.

The Fire Department plays a big role in the Open House, which is held in conjunction with National Fire Prevention Week., Oct. 5-11. The department demon-

strates its equipment and skills, including vehicle extrication units used for car crashes, and the firefighters present some pretty impres-



sive displays of putting out fires.

All the Township departments will have a presence at the Open House and there will be a full assortment of food.

New this year, the Bloomfield Township Public Library will have a display at the Open House

and the Wild Swan Theater will present "Stegra Nona" at 2 p.m. at the library, at Lone Pine and Telegraph.

The Open House has become so popular in recent

years it even draws folks from many other communities. Don't miss it.



This annual event has grown more popular every year. Last year's Open House drew a huge crowd, and there's no reason to expect



# Voters easily approve millage renewals

Public safety, senior services and safety paths are all highly prized by the residents of Bloomfield Township.

That was made apparent at the Aug. 5 primary election where all the millage renewals for those operations were overwhelmingly approved by the voters.

Public Safety Proposal A passed by a margin of 6,895 to 2,013 votes. Public Safety Proposal B passed 6,671 to 2,065. The safety path renewal passed 5,719 to 3,029. And the Senior Services renewal passed by a whopping margin of 6,988 to 1,797.

"We are so pleased to see that voters supported Senior Services at such a high level,"



Seniors take part in an exercise class at the Friendship Club, at the Senior Center.

said Christine Tvaroha, Senior Services director. "I am grateful to the staff who are outstanding and the Township Board for their support as well."

It's not surprising that Senior Services did so well. More people than ever are using the Senior Center and the services it provides. The center now has about 11,000

members, with 92 new persons coming in every month. The Center provides a host of activities, including fitness classes, day trips, social clubs and enrichment classes.

The Meals on Wheels program makes about 12,700 deliveries annually.

Public safety traditionally has been a high priority for Township residents, and that was demonstrated again with the strong support for the millage renewals.

And the residents showed they favor continuing the safety path program, which now spans about 70 miles of trails.



From the Fire Department

## Free fire inspections offered

In an effort to provide the best service that we can, Bloomfield Township Fire Department offers home fire safety inspections to residents of Bloomfield Township.

The inspection takes about an hour. We send a fire inspector out to walk through your home with you and point out things that should be corrected. The inspection also includes testing your smoke detectors and replacing the batteries if needed. The program is strictly voluntary and there is no obligation to correct

items that you don't want to address.

If you would prefer not to have an inspector in your home, we also provide a self-inspection guide that allows you the flexibility to look for and correct fire haz-



Help prevent seeing your home go up in flames by having a Township fire inspector check for possible hazards.

ards at your leisure. The guide is easy to follow and covers many of the common fire hazards found in households. We also provide support with the guide. If you have a question about something in your home that you think may be a fire hazard, you can call us at (248) 433-7745, Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Inspection forms are available on the Bloomfield Township website at [www.bloomfieldtwp.org/Services/Fire/FireSafetyInspectionProgram.asp](http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/Services/Fire/FireSafetyInspectionProgram.asp).

## Rescue 4 makes a moving presence

Rescue 4, a New York City fire truck that figured tragically in the 9/11 terrorist attacks, made a special visit to Bloomfield Township.

Eight firefighters who made up the crew of Rescue 4 were killed in the World Trade Center trying to save others on that tragic day. The truck went back into service but was eventually decommissioned.

But that was just the end of one chapter in its life story. A group of New York City firefighters formed the Remembrance Rescue Project. They recovered the truck and turned it, along with a second truck, into a traveling memorial. And they use it as an education tool aimed at teaching people, especially those born after 9/11, the meaning of that tragedy and the impact it has had.

In the week leading up to

the Woodward Avenue Dream Cruise, the truck was in Bloomfield Township and on Dream Cruise Saturday it was parked at the Township



Cruise event where it was visited by hundreds of people.

"It has been a privilege and an honor for the Bloomfield Township Fire Department

to be the regional host for the Remembrance Rescue Project R4 while it was in our area. I know the visit has touched a lot of people's

hearts and memories of that tragic September day that none of us will ever forget," said Dennis Fecteau, Fire Department Operations officer.

### Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day is coming up on Oct. 4

Most households contain materials that can be hazardous and must be disposed of carefully. Improper disposal can be dangerous to people and the environment.

Bloomfield Township will sponsor its next Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day on Saturday, October 4. The drop-off site will be located in the DPW parking lot on the Township campus (look for signs on drop-off day). This service is for residents only; proof of residency is required. For a list of items accepted at the event call (248) 594-2800 or go to the Township website <http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/Services/EES/Environment/HHW.asp>



# 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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## Dream Cruise events a roaring success

The roar of the engines grew louder through the day. And at times the gleam of the sun reflecting off the abundant chrome was blinding. But those are part of the things that make the Woodward Avenue Dream Cruise such a fun event.

Held Saturday, Aug. 16, the Dream Cruise marked its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. And this was the 10<sup>th</sup> year that the Township staged its popular Dream Cruise events: the Bloomfield Township Classic Car Show and the Bill Wells Car Club Classic. Both were



The Classic Car Show site provided the perfect place to view the passing Cruisers while drivers displayed their own wheels.

staged at the Mercedes Benz of Bloomfield Hills dealership and the neighboring Comerica Bank.

Throughout the day throngs of people streamed through the site where dozens of classic cars were

on display. There was a line of DeLoreans, some superb Shelby Cobras, iconic Thunderbirds and impressive Corvettes, among many others.

And they did more than just have a good time. Proceeds from the events benefitted the Bloomfield Township Police Benevolent

Fund, the Bloomfield Township Fire Department Charities and the Bloomfield Hills Optimist Club. Through the

years, the Township events have raised nearly \$50,000 for the charities.

And it's generated a whole lot of fun.

"It's wonderful," said Debora Lunney from Lake Orion, as she strolled among the cars.



Cars, food and fun abounded at the Township Dream Cruise events.