

# BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

## Cable problem? We can help, maybe

*"Can you please tell me why you raised my cable rates again?"*

*"Well, we didn't raise your cable rates. Comcast did."*

*"But you're the cable station."*

*"Yes, but we're not Comcast."*

That conversation, or some version of it, takes place pretty regularly as frustrated cable customers call Bloomfield Community TV to vent their frustrations. Often the calls are regarding bills, sometimes it's about a lack of response from the cable provider, which is mainly Comcast and to a lesser extent AT&T, over some complaint or question. In many cases, residents ask us why we "won't allow" a particular cable provider to do business in the Township; but the Township has always welcomed any provider to do business here. And by the same token, we can't force a provider to come in if they choose not to do so.

In all cases, BCTV tries to help. But there's only so much we can do because, well, we're not Comcast or AT&T.

We can, however, approach the cable company to act on complaints filed with us about their service. But we can't make them do anything. Why that is

can be traced to the laws regulating the cable industry by our state and national legislators. They essentially have given the cable companies a broad authority to set their own operational policies.

If you have a problem with a cable provider, whichever it is, complaints can be filed with the

a contract with the Birmingham Area Cable Board to cover meetings and events in Birmingham, Beverly Hills, Franklin and Bingham Farms, as well as sports events for the Birmingham Public Schools. The Bloomfield Hills Schools has its own cable operations.

"We have one of the largest, most diverse schedules of programs for any cable station in the state," said Steve Rota, operations manager. He runs the day to day operations along with David Sommerfeld, studio coordinator, and Greg Black, senior production specialist. Jo Marengere is administrative assistant, and Greg Kowalski is BCTV general manager.

The success of BCTV is shown by the numerous awards the station has won over the years.

BCTV is funded by franchise fees and PEG (Public, Educational and Governmental) fees paid mainly by Comcast under a formula set up by the state of Michigan. However, BCTV cannot control the cable company's content or its scheduling. At one point, in fact, BCTV was part of a lawsuit

**Please see Cable on page 5**



**BCTV production staff Steve Rota, David Sommerfeld, Jr., and Greg Black work in the studio's control room.**

Michigan Public Service Commission.

So what does BCTV do?

Turn on your TV and see. BCTV produces about 600 TV programs a year. These range from talk shows addressing state and local issues, such as "Eye on Oakland," hosted by Chuck Moss and David Potts, to "Practical Law" with attorney Henry Gornbein, to cooking, exercise, health and sports shows.

BCTV also covers municipal meetings for the Township and city of Bloomfield Hills and has



**BLOOMFIELD  
TOWNSHIP  
BOARD  
2017**

### ELECTED OFFICIALS

#### ADMINISTRATION

Leo Savoie, Supervisor  
Janet Roncelli, Clerk  
Brian Kepes, Treasurer

#### TRUSTEES

David Buckley  
Neal J. Barnett  
Michael Schostak  
Dani Walsh

### APPOINTED POSITIONS

#### PLANNING COMMISSION

Thomas Petinga, Chairman  
Jeff Salz, Vice Chairman  
Lisa Seneker  
Richard Mintz  
Neal Barnett  
Richard Atto  
Bruce Selik

#### BOARD OF APPEALS

Carol Rosati, Chairman  
Tracy Leone, Vice Chairman  
David Buckley  
Brian Henry  
Lisa Seneker  
Robert Taylor, Jr.  
James Aldrich  
Claudine Bacher, Alternate  
Jocelyn Giangrande, Alternate

## Save the date...

### August 19

Woodward Avenue Dream Cruise Classic Car Show

### September 14

Last day to pay Summer Taxes without interest

### October 1

Township Open House

### October 7

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day



#### 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

## New voting equipment roll-out for special school election

Beginning in November 2017, some Bloomfield Township voters will use new election equipment. Registered voters in the Avondale School District will consider a school bond proposal on Tuesday, November 7, 2017. The Avondale School District is one of four school districts in Bloomfield Township and the only one with an election in November.

Selection of the specific system to be used in each county was coordinated by the County Clerk.

Oakland County is among a dozen Michigan counties

worthy with comprehensive audit logs and secure voting.

At the polling place, voters scan their paper ballots on the Verity Scan digital scanning device. Voters with disabilities mark their ballots on the accessible Verity Touch Writer ballot marking device; then scan them, along with other voters' ballots, using Verity Scan.

For absentee voters, Hart offers the Verity Central, a scalable, high-speed scanning solution. With the large number of absentee voters in Bloomfield Township, this state-of-the-art equipment provides an efficient means for counting the ballots on Election Day.

Clerk Jan Roncelli and staff begin training on the new equipment in July 2017.



Township voters will see new election equipment when they vote.

In January 2017, the State Administrative Board approved three vendor voting systems to proceed with statewide contracts for a 10-year period:

- Dominion Voting Systems, Inc.
- Election Systems and Software (ES&S)
- Hart Intercivic, Inc.

that selected Hart Verity scanning devices. State funds paid for the equipment, with additional devices subsidized by the municipality. The equipment promises to be easy to use, versatile in design and adaptability, and trust-

## BYA cites outstanding youths

More than two dozen exceptional young people were honored in May at the Bloomfield Youth Assistance Outstanding Youth Awards Dinner at the Bloomfield Open Hunt club.

Each had overcome adversity or performed extraordinary service to the community in some capacity.

Cited were middle school students Lindsay Randel, Madison Butler and Gavin Raab and high school students Jenna Ali, Julia Eisenshtadt, Lawrence Jia, Carson Kenum, Gianni Morelli, Jillian Morse, Ellie Moskowitz, Ryan Olds, Emilie Pilibosian, LaRhonda Richardson, Sarah Samosiuk and Haley Wise. In addition, Gianni Morelli received the Kerry A. Kerby Memorial Scholarship.

BYA has been helping students for the past 50 years by providing enrichment grants to allow them to attend camps and other activities. It also helps provide counseling services for children at risk.

For more information on BYA, go to [www.bloomfield.org/community/community-organizations/bya](http://www.bloomfield.org/community/community-organizations/bya).



The outstanding students honored at the BYA Youth Citizens Awards Dinner.

It also helps provide counseling services for children at risk.



## A NOTE FROM

Leo Savoie, Bloomfield Township Supervisor

# The Village at Bloomfield enhances our community

It seems like an eternity since we stood on the grounds of what was supposed to become Bloomfield Park on Telegraph. The occasion was the ceremonial groundbreaking for what promised to be a huge development of businesses, living spaces, a hotel, parking structures and much more.

That was in 2006, and I must admit I had some misgivings even then. The project, with a budget of about \$2 billion, promised a lot. Maybe too much. Even in those times, when the economy was relatively hot, that seemed like an awfully big promise and I wasn't entirely comfortable on how it would affect our community with its increased traffic, high-rise structures and more demands on our services.

In fact, it was too much. Construction did begin, with several structures erected. But soon after the project began the economy tanked in the big recession of 2008 and the whole thing fell apart. Well, not literally. The unfinished structures stood high above the street level looking like the set of some apocalyptic movie. Technically, the site was no longer in Bloomfield

Township; it was in the city of Pontiac. But the name "Bloomfield" associated it with us, and there it stood, right alongside Telegraph Road in our neighborhood. And we did then and do now have a stake in the project as part of a Joint Development Council



involving the Township and Pontiac.

Like most Township residents, I cringed whenever I drove by it. Yet it seemed that there was little that could be done, especially since technically the site is in Pontiac. But things change. The economy has improved and while the ownership of the site has gone through a torturous process in the courts the legal hurdles impeding redevelopment have been over-

come. And now a new developer, Redico, a national commercial real estate developer based in Southfield, has come forward with a realistic, sensible plan to reinvigorate the site.

It's a scaled back, yet still impressive version of what

had been originally proposed. Renamed as The Village of Bloomfield it will contain many of the elements that made the original plan special, including housing, shops and possibly a grocery store.

Because the existing structures have been standing vacant and exposed to the elements for so long, the site has been evaluated to determine what can still be used and what will have to be demolished. Recently the first

stage of demolition has begun. New construction will begin later this year or early next year. You may not notice it yet as you drive along Telegraph, but new life is coming into the site.

This is a major step forward for Bloomfield Township. At last we will be rid of the worst eyesore in sight of the Township and we will have a major development right on our door step. Bloomfield Township was not designed nor did it evolve to have a downtown like Birmingham or many other towns. And we don't necessarily need to have a downtown to be a complete community. We have a wide array of businesses, shops, restaurants, a theater and much more now. But The Village at Bloomfield will only enhance what we already have.

And honestly, I am just so glad at the thought that those "ruins" along Telegraph will be replaced with a viable development.

It's another proof that our town just keeps getting better as a truly exceptional place to live.

## Check the dashboard

How does Bloomfield Township stand financially compared to other communities?

You can find out at a glance by looking at the dashboard. It can be found on the home page of the Township website, [www.bloomfieldtpw.org](http://www.bloomfieldtpw.org). Just look for the box labeled "Munetrix – Citizens' Guide and Dashboard."

A wide array of financial information about the Township – and information about communities across Michigan – is available on the site. Learn about the Township's revenue, long-term debt and pension obligations, as well as general information about the Township, including population growth and more.



From the Police Department

## Speaking with new Police Chief Scott McCanham

Scott McCanham was named as Bloomfield Township's new police chief in June. A veteran of nearly 30 years with the department, McCanham rose through the ranks from a patrolman, to sergeant, to lieutenant and captain.



**New Bloomfield Township Police Chief Scott McCanham.**

But holding all those positions is still not the same as being chief. We asked him to speak about the job and the police department.

**Q:**What makes our police department different?

**McCanham:** It's part of our history that we do things other police departments don't. There is an emphasis on customer

service, things like responding to open doors, downed lines. That will be no different with me.

**Q:** Explain more about customer service.

**McCanham:** Well, when you have a problem, we will come out. We are more accessible. That includes calls on things like downed wires, water problems, motorist assists. When we get to a scene things need to start getting better.

**Q:** What are the challenges of being chief as opposed to being a different ranking officer?

**McCanham:** I spent 11 years as a captain. In that role you're concerned about your piece of the pie. Now (as chief) you have to be concerned about the entire pie. It's a different kind of pressure managing everything. It's a bigger scale.

**Q:** What's the best part of the job?

**McCanham:** The people. Being able to interact with them. I speak at homeowners meetings. It's nice to go out and meet them.

**A:** Most difficult?

**McCanham:** I guess maybe the juggling of the schedule. You do get pulled in different directions.

**A:** Is there anything special the public should know?

**McCanham:** Certainly. The public is our eyes and ears. We can't be everywhere. Watch for something out of place. The public is our best source of information and nothing is too small for us to respond to. And remember, the lines of communications are always open here. We're always open to suggestions.

## Go on the road in comfort with Bloomfield Seniors

Travel in comfort on Bloomfield Township Senior Service's new 28-seat coach with forward facing, cloth seats. Enjoy door-to-door service and avoid the stress and fuss; leave the planning and driving to BTSS!

BTSS offers 100+ different travel opportunities throughout the year, including cultural, theater and sporting events, museum exhibits and dining experiences. Upcoming trips include a Detroit Tigers game, a visit to the Hazel Park Raceway, and a trip to Grand Rapids ArtPrize.

Check the BTSS Travel page

<http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/Services/SeniorServices/Travel.asp> on the Township website for all the details.

**Ruth Kulikowski, Jean Campbell and Joan Patzelt try out the new Senior Services bus.**



## BTSS to hold 5K run/walk

Run/walk for a good cause! Township residents and non-residents of all ages are invited to participate in the BTSS 5K with all proceeds going to support Meals on Wheels and Adult Day Service. Each year the Meals on Wheels service delivers 8,000 meals and the Adult Day Service provides 9,000 hours of care for persons living with dementia.

The 5K will take place on Saturday, Sept. 23 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. on the Bloomfield Township campus, starting at the Senior Center. The fee is \$25 for all participants age 12 and up. This event is being sponsored by American House, SameAddress and Oakmont Rochester.

For more information call 248-723-3500.



From the Fire Department

## Mike Morin named new fire chief

Asst. Chief Mike Morin has been named chief of the Bloomfield Township Fire Department.

Morin replaced Chief David Piché, who retired on June 29.

“He has had an exemplary career with the Bloomfield Township Fire Department, having ascended up through our officer ranks and performing successfully at each and every level,” Piché said in recommending Morin to the Board of Trustees. The Board voted unanimously to appoint Morin chief.

Morin joined the Bloomfield Township Fire Department in 1986 as a fire-



fighter/paramedic. He was promoted to shift lieutenant in 2008, Lt/EMS coordinator

in 2009, captain/EMS coordinator in 2011 and assistant chief in 2012.

“As you see, Assistant Chief Mike Morin has had great opportunity to gain excellent experiences while holding down many responsibilities for the fire department,” Piché said. “His progression through the ranks of our department has surely prepared him for his next move to chief.”

“I look forward to continuing my service to the community,” Morin said after he was sworn in as chief by Township Clerk Jan Roncelli. He commended Chief Piché for his service to the Township.

Addressing a line of firefighters in the Township Hall auditorium, Morin said, “It is my firm belief that people around you are responsible for your success and I wouldn’t be able to accept this position without your support and your belief in me.”

Morin, one of 12 children, was accompanied by many family members at the appointment ceremony, including his wife, Sharon.

“It’s a happy time, a very proud time,” said Supervisor Leo Savoie.

## Get in gear for the Woodward Avenue Dream Cruise

The Woodward Avenue Dream Cruise is shaping up to be another world class event. And once again Bloomfield Township will be part of the action.

The Township will sponsor its annual Classic Car Show and Bill Wells Car Club Classic on Dream Cruise Saturday, Aug. 19, at the Mercedes Benz of Bloomfield

Hills dealership and neighboring Comerica Bank parking lot on Woodward just south of Big Beaver.

Dozens of classic cars will be on site, there will be plenty of food, and, for the first time, a live band will perform throughout the day to liven up the scene.

But the focus will be on the cars. Not only will dozens

of classic cars be there, the Township location of the Township Dream Cruise events provides an ideal spot for watching cruisers driving on Woodward.



Expect to see plenty of classic cars at the Woodward Avenue Dream Cruise events.

## Cable from Page 1

against Comcast when it tried to move local access channels to the 900 tier of channels. Comcast later backed away from that.

But the cable companies are businesses that look out for their own interests. That’s what businesses do. For BCTV, your best interests are our best interests and we will do everything we can do to solve any problem, but keep in mind, there’s only so much we can do.

We’re not Comcast.

## Keep current with the eNewsletter

You can find out what’s happening in town every week through the Bloomfield Township eNewsletter. The eNewsletter is sent out every Thursday to subscribers. It contains items on what’s happening in the area as well as timely announcements, including snow emergencies and other weather alerts, changes of office hours and news bulletins.

You can subscribe to the eNewsletter by going to the Township website, [www.bloomfieldtwp.org](http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org), and clicking on the box at the upper left of the page. You may also send your email address to [gkowski@bloomfieldtwp.org](mailto:gkowski@bloomfieldtwp.org) and it will be added to the subscription list. Local non-profit organizations may submit items for inclusion to [gkowski@bloomfieldtwp.org](mailto:gkowski@bloomfieldtwp.org).



# 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



## Numbers add up for cleanup events

The numbers are impressive: 52,000 pounds of electronic waste; 500 pounds of unwanted medication; 30,000 pounds of paper to be shredded, 32,000 pounds of paint and 5,000 pounds of batteries. And all of it dropped off by more than 2,200 cars passing through.

Those are some of the numbers compiled from the Township E-Waste/Shredding/Medication Disposal event held in April and the Household Hazardous Waste Day held in May.

And that doesn't include the 12,000 pounds of trash



Carloads of chemicals, paints and other substances were disposed of at the Hazardous Waste Day event.

collected by more than 400 volunteers during the Clean Sweep held April 22 and 23. All these events are among the most popular conducted for residents in the Township. The events give residents the opportunity to get rid of old computers, TVs, printers,

chemicals, paint and paint cans, bug killer and much more.

Dates and times of the events are posted on the Township website, [www.bloomfield-twp.org](http://www.bloomfield-twp.org). The next Household Hazardous Waste Day will be held on Saturday, Oct. 7.

The number of cars alone that passed through the Township campus to drop off material is especially telling by showing how many households take

advantage of the services offered.

"As shown by the participation levels and volume of material collected, these great events not only are a great benefit to the Township and its residents but the environment as well," said Noah Mehalski, superintendent of Public Works.



Old TV's computers, monitors by the tons – literally – were dropped off at the electronic waste event.