



BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

Newsletter

Spring 2005

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Elected Officials

ADMINISTRATION

Dave Payne, Supervisor

Janet M. Roncelli, Clerk

Dan Devine, Treasurer

TRUSTEES

Sherry Stefanos

David B. Buckley

Neal J. Barnett

Leo C. Savoie

PLANNING COMMISSION

Appointed Positions

Richard Mintz, Chairman

Jeff Salz, Vice Chairman

Sherry Stefanos, Secretary

Scot F. Goldberg

Jane Reisinger

John M. Swoboda

Robert L. Wittbold

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

Appointed Positions

Corinne Khederian, Chairman

Jane Reisinger, Vice Chairman

James Aldrich

Dan Devine

Brian E. Kepes

Lisa Seneker

Robert E. Taylor Jr.

Brian Henry, Alternate

Larry Smith, Alternate

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP OFFICE

4200 Telegraph Road

PO Box 489

Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303-0489

Inside this Issue:

Conserve Our Drinking Water 2

Summer Fire Safety 2

Emerald Ash Borer 3

Senior Association Expands 4

Spring Home Repairs 4

Neighborhood Ordinance Codes ... 5

Letter from the Supervisor 5

Bloomfield Township Hosts Its First Dream Cruise Event

This summer, Bloomfield Township will join seven cities up and down Woodward Avenue by hosting a community event to complement the annual Woodward Dream Cruise. The "Bloomfield Township Classic" will show off residents' classic cars and feature some of our restaurants' classic foods in a car exhibit and taste fest.

The event will take place the day of the Cruise, Saturday, August 20, from 1 to 5 p.m. Business owner Charles

Ghesquiere has generously donated the use of the Mercedes-Benz dealership on

Woodward at Big Beaver Road as the site for our festivities.

You can participate in several ways:

- Apply to enter your special car!
- Become a sponsor.
- Attend and join the fun.

See details on the enclosed entrance form and sponsorship materials. Proceeds will benefit the Bloomfield Fire Department Charities, the Bloomfield Optimist Club and Oakland Family Services.



School Election Set for May

On Tuesday, May 3, 2005, voters in Bloomfield Township will have firsthand experience with the extensive changes enacted by Michigan's election consolidation. The new legislation affects election administration, dates, and equipment.

Election administration has undergone a dramatic transformation. Effective January 2005, all elections, including school elections for school districts, community colleges and intermediate school districts, will be administered by county, township and municipal clerks. The school districts will no longer be responsible for conducting their elections. As part of the administrative change, voters will now cast their votes at municipal polling

locations. It's true! Whether it is a primary, general, local, or school election, voters will have a consistent ballot stop in Oakland County and Bloomfield Township, the municipal polling location.

To implement the polling location change, all registered voters in Bloomfield Township should have received a new Voter I.D. card in mid-March. If you did not receive your card, contact the Clerk's office at 248.433.7702.

In addition, all permanent absentee voters will be mailed applications for absentee ballots. Other registered voters who need an absentee ballot application may request one from the Clerk's office or download the form online at www.bloomfieldtpw.org.

Election dates for schools have also changed. School districts were required to select one of four fixed election dates in February, May, August, or November. The majority of school districts in Oakland County, including Avondale, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, and Pontiac, voted to hold their regular election on the May date in both odd and even years.

New election equipment will be available to Bloomfield Township for use in 2006. The optical scan equipment is similar to our current format; however, there are changes in

Continued on page 3



Conserving Our Drinking Water

During the summer months approximately 65% of total water usage is outdoors, primarily for watering lawns and gardens as well as for washing cars and other recreational uses. The Township's water rates are based upon the costs associated for treating and distributing water to satisfy the demand of our customers in compliance with the nation's standards for safe drinking water.

Why Conserve Water?

- Lowering the Township's demands for maximum daily and peak hour water usage may result in

lowering the water rate charged by the City of Detroit.

- Reducing water usage during peak demand periods will provide better reliability of the system's operating pressures for fire prevention.

How Can I Conserve Water?

- Set your automatic sprinkling systems so they do not run from 5 a.m. to 10 a.m. or from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. daily.
- Water lawns every other day. Homeowners with addresses ending in odd numbers should water outdoors only on odd

numbered calendar days. Likewise, those having addresses that end in an even number should use water outdoors on even calendar days.

- Check faucets and toilets for leaks. Leaking toilets can waste up to 200 gallons each day. General plumbing leaks, as small as a sixteenth of an inch can waste over 800 gallons of water per day.



Play It Safe – Summer Fire Safety Tips

With the summer of 2005 approaching quickly, the Bloomfield Township Fire Department would like to offer a few tips to help keep you and your family safe this summer.

Propane:

Always follow manufacturer's instructions. Check all connections for leaks with soapy water. If a connection is leaking close the valve on the tank immediately and readjust the connection. NEVER attempt to light a gas barbecue with a leaking hose connection or with the lid closed. Attempting to do so could cause fire or explosion. Propane tanks must be hydrostatically tested every 10 years. Keep the grill away from the house and all other combustibles.

Charcoal:

NEVER use gasoline to start the grill. Use only approved starter fluid. Store starter fluid and all flammable liquids in a

secure place away from children. Never add starter fluid to a fire that is already lit. The flame could flashback up to the container and explode. Keep ALL matches and lighters away from children. Dispose of hot coals in a metal can away from the house and douse them with plenty of water. Keep the grill away from the house or any other combustibles.

Gasoline:

Always store gasoline in an approved container that is clearly marked. If possible keep it in a locked shed and store just enough to power your gasoline-fueled equipment. Make sure gasoline and all flammable liquids are well away from any heat source or flame. Never store gasoline in a vehicle. DO NOT smoke when using gasoline. Fuel power equipment in a well-ventilated area away from ignition source. Never refuel your mower while

the motor is running. Cool the motor before refueling.

Landscaping and Gardening:

Keep trees trimmed and away from your roof. Keep eaves and gutters free of leaves and other debris that burn easily. Clear weeds, brush and other flammable vegetation at least 30 feet away from your home. Store firewood away from structures.

Bloomfield Township Burning Ordinance 544:

On September 1, 2003 Ordinance 544 was passed, which among other things prohibits open burning except for small recreational fires at a single family residence.

For more information pertaining to the Bloomfield Township Burning Ordinance 544 please call 248-433-7745 or visit our website at: <http://www.bloomfieldtp.org/Services/Fire/BurningOrdinances.htm>

Compost for a Beautiful Healthy Landscape

What's Compost?

Compost is a material that results from the natural process of decomposition of organic materials. It is an ideal soil conditioner. When added to soil, compost continues to decompose, slowly releasing nutrients that can be absorbed by roots of plants.

Composting Benefits:

- Binds heavy metals carried by storm water runoff, helping to protect water quality.
- Degrades petroleum products, pesticides and hydrocarbons in soils.
- Prevents soil erosion.
- Suppresses certain soil borne diseases & restores microbial populations.
- Improves soil structure and enhances the permeability of clay soils.
- Slowly releases nutrients



Plastic-free compost is available free at the Township DPW yard during business hours (Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.). Please call 248.433.7709 to schedule an appointment. Bring your own containers and tools for loading your vehicle.

State's Emerald Ash Borer Program Assessed

In the fall of 2004, Governor Jennifer Granholm called upon various state agencies to identify possible tree removal alternatives to address the Emerald Ash Borer problem in Michigan. The program the state subsequently developed offers municipal governments a reduced-rate contract for ash tree removal and a list of approved vendors who have agreed to a standardized price for ash tree removal. After carefully reviewing the state's plan, we were disappointed to find that participation in it would be neither cost effective nor efficient for our residents or for the Township. Many of our neighboring communities agree with this assessment and have also chosen not to participate in the program.

The state is offering no funding to support the program. The brunt of the cost falls on the shoulders of the Township and on you, the residents. The

state negotiated price for tree removal does not include grinding or removing stumps. The state also recommends that municipalities levy a per tree administrative fee on residents to cover the cost of managing this project.

Efficiency was also a factor in making this decision. Under the state's plan, it could take as much as a year to solicit resident participation, conduct a census of infected trees, divide the Township into areas with sufficient numbers of participants, and then recruit one of the approved contractors to accept the project.

We believe individual homeowners can accomplish ash tree removal more economically and efficiently without Township intervention. If you are concerned about the ash trees in your yard, please review the information on the



Adult Emerald Ash Borer

Township website (www.bloomfieldtpw.org click on Community, then on Ash Borer). See the box on this page for a list of certified arborists as well as a list of organizations you can call for help in obtaining a qualified arborist or tree care professional.

If you have questions about how we reached the decision not to participate in the state's program, or about how to manage the ash trees in your yard, please contact the Bloomfield Township Road Department at (248) 433-7709.

Election (cont.)

Continued from page 1.

vendor, style and software capabilities. The state has been issued federal grant money through the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and the Township has joined with the state and Oakland County in a cooperative grant to secure the new equipment. By 2006, it is projected that special voting equipment will be offered for the handicapped.

On top of all these changes, the four school districts in Bloomfield Township will have issues on the ballot that

impact you and the educational services offered in our community. In the Avondale School District, voters will elect two school board trustees. The Birmingham School District will seek approval for one school board trustee and a Sinking Fund Proposal. The Bloomfield Hills School District will ask voters to elect two board members and seek renewal of the Hold Harmless millage and a restoration of the operating millage to the previously authorized levels. If you are a resident in the Pontiac School District, you will be asked to

vote for two open seats on the school board and decide a bond proposal for building development, improvements, and land acquisition. These are important issues that warrant your attention and your vote.

The election changes in administration, dates, and equipment were made with you, the voter, in mind. Election consolidation legislation encourages greater voter participation, consistency in polling locations, and improved technology at the polls. See you at the polls!

Find a Certified Arborist

Below is a partial list of certified arborists so you may quickly compare prices and services. This list is not inclusive, nor does it constitute a specific recommendation, but is presented as a service to residents. The Township does not vouch for the list's completeness or accuracy.

American Tree Arborists:

248.585.2600 or
800.404.3033

Doug's Tree Care Service:

248.623.1453

J H Hart:

248.647.4408

Jasso Tree Service:

248.391.0030

Mike's Tree Service:

248.588.0202

Owen Tree Service:

800.724.6680

West Side Forestry:

248.349.4636

For further help obtaining a qualified arborist or tree care professional consider contacting:

MFPA (Michigan Forestry Park Association)
517.337.4999.

MGIA (Michigan Green Industry Association)
248.646.4992 or
www.landscape.org.

MNLA (Michigan Nurseryman & Landscape Association)
517.381.0437

Also for your reference:

Emerald Ash Borer in Michigan

www.michigan.gov/mda click on Emerald Ash Borer

Emerald Ash Borer in Bloomfield Township

www.bloomfieldtpw.org click on Community, then on Emerald Ash Borer

Election Day for schools is Tues., May 3. Visit www.bloomfieldtpw.org to locate polling places or contact the Clerk's office at 248.433.7702.

Senior Association Expands Services & Membership

The Greater Bloomfield Senior Association (GBSA) is expanding its services to local seniors, thanks to the Senior Service Millage that was passed in August. A new community-based program, known as Adult Day Service (ADS), is being designed to provide care for frail elders with memory impairment. When it is up and running, ADS will provide a variety of social and support services in a protective and stimulating setting. This non-residential program will operate during

normal business hours, Monday through Friday, and will provide an important respite for family caregivers. We expect to have this service up and running by the fall of 2005. If you are a caregiver interested in utilizing this service in the future, please call 248.341.6450 to receive more information or to be placed on a referral list.

The GBSA is also enjoying a new burst of energy thanks to its rapidly expanding membership base and its new

status as a department of Bloomfield Township, which became effective on April 1st. More than 250 local seniors have joined GBSA in recent months. Membership dues make up thirty percent of our operating budget, a significant portion, which helps provide a variety of services from hot meal delivery to fitness classes. GBSA is pleased to add the new Adult Day Service program to the wide spectrum of services already being offered to older adults in the Bloomfield area.

Is Your Home Ready for Spring?

Spring cleaning for homeowners involves more than just getting out the mop and pail. Your home needs a "health" assesment from roof to basement.

Here is a checklist to help keep your home in tip-top condition.

- Have the roof checked for loose or torn shingles before the rains begin.
- While up there, it's important to make sure that the bathroom vent pipes are clear and unobstructed. Have someone inspect the rubber portion of the "boots" where the vent pipes enter the roof. They should form a tight seal around the pipe.
- Have the winter winds loosened your rooftop antenna or satellite dish?
- How about their roof penetrations at the points of attachment? Still leak proof?
- The gutters probably need to be cleaned of those stubborn leaves that held on until after fall clean up last year.
- Are there any tree limbs that rub on the roof or walls when the wind blows? If so, they should be trimmed back.
- Check all caulked joints for cracks after the winter's cold.
- Look to see if the electrical service entrance cable appears frayed, checked, or cracked.
- Have a look at the gas line between the meter and the house, if it's showing signs of corrosion, a coat of fresh paint is in order.
- Are the screens in good condition? You'll be opening the windows soon!
- Go ahead and open up those gable vents if you blocked them off for winter.
- The same goes for the operable vents around your crawl space. (You might want to wait until the evening lows are a little warmer though.)
- Don't forget that the blower on your furnace operates with your air conditioning as well as the furnace. The filter needs to be replaced or



- cleaned regularly.
- Has it been a year since you last checked the batteries in your smoke detectors? They should be replaced annually.
- Check the gauge on your fire extinguisher. If the indicator isn't in the green or "Good" range, have the extinguisher serviced or replaced.

The Bloomfield Township Building Department hopes that both you and your home are "healthy" for the upcoming Spring season.

In Your Neighborhood

The Bloomfield Township Code & Ordinance Department is working hard to ensure that your neighborhood is maintained to the high standards you expect.

Below are just a few of the ordinance requirements that the Code & Ordinance Department will be addressing during the spring and summer season:

- **Property Maintenance:** Uphold standards for exterior house painting, exterior structure maintenance, overgrown landscaping, weeds, and lawn maintenance.
- **Open Storage:** Unlicensed or inoperable vehicles, receptacles for garbage collection, recreational vehicles, snowmobiles, boats, trailers and all other forms of recreational equipment must be placed out of public view.
- **Accessory Structures:** Any structure built above grade and not attached to the principle structure of the home requires a variance through the Zoning Board of Appeals process.
- **Construction Sites:** Maintain in a neat and orderly manner; empty dumpsters on a routine basis; sweep streets at the end of each day and limit construction noise to between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m.

For more information about Township Code and Ordinance requirements, please call 248.433.7721 or 248.433.7722.

A Note from the Supervisor



*Dave Payne,
Bloomfield Township Supervisor*

We asked, and many of you answered!

In the last Township Newsletter, we enclosed a postage-free postcard asking you to tell us what you thought of Township services. Your replies were gratifying – one half of all responses included compliments and thanks. People identifying themselves as newcomers to the community as well as long-time residents expressed appreciation for efficient and friendly services. Bloomfield Township police officers, firefighters and EMS personnel were especially singled out for the work they do in situations critical to your health, safety and security. Many of you also recognized the fine work our road crews have done over the course of this extraordinarily cold and snowy winter.

One of the most significant themes was the desire to maintain the character of Bloomfield Township. We all appreciate the natural beauty of our community with its woodlands and wetlands. Our large lots and low density residential areas, combined with our quality commercial development, contribute to the value of our properties as well as define the character of the Township. The Board of Trustees is committed to preserving and protecting this unique character and will soon undertake a major initiative to do so.

This year, we will conduct a review of our Master Plan. The Master Plan study will address a broad range of issues such as land use, water and sewer capabilities and road needs. These factors all have a role in keeping our neighborhoods safe and attractive while maintaining the character of our community. During this process, there will be plenty of opportunity for citizen participation. We will be sure to notify you of public forums and other means of expressing your opinions.

Another concern that surfaced in the postcard responses was snow removal. While many residents had words of praise for our road crews, others did not understand why their roads weren't plowed more quickly. The Township is responsible for snow removal of 213 miles of subdivision roads. The Road Commission of Oakland County (RCOC) is responsible for the primary roads and state trunk lines within the Township. Township crews are deployed in grids designed to provide the most efficient patterns of coverage. It takes an average of 12 hours to completely plow all Township subdivision roads after the storm has stopped. The heavy amounts of snow this winter and alternating periods of spring-like conditions have taken their toll on paved and unpaved roads, equipment, labor costs and salt usage.

Other respondents expressed frustration that the snowplow pushed snow back onto the foot of their driveways. Unfortunately, there just isn't any way a plow can remove the snow from the road without placing some of it back over the driveway. We suggest you remove your snow to the "downstream" side of your driveway to minimize the effect of the snowplow.

We will address additional concerns and questions in future newsletters and on the Township website. Of course, you may always call, write or email any Township office directly; see the back page of this newsletter or the website for contact information.

Bloomfield Community Television welcomes people interested in working on the shows we produce. The next volunteer workshop will be held on Tuesday, May 10 from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Call 248.433.7790 to register.

TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

Days / Times

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Time: 8:00 p.m.
Days: 2nd and 4th
Monday of each month

Location: Township Auditorium

PLANNING COMMISSION

Time: 7:00 p.m.
Days: 1st and 3rd
Monday of each month

Location: Township Auditorium

ZONE BOARD OF APPEALS

Time: 7:30 p.m.
Days: 2nd Tuesday of each month

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's Clerk's Office.

Clerk's Office
PO Box 489
Bloomfield Hills, MI
48303-0489
Telephone: 248.433.7702
Fax: 248.433.7714
www: Bloomfieldtwp.org



Parents Who Host Lose the Most

The Birmingham Bloomfield Community Coalition along with the other Oakland County coalitions in the Alliance of Coalitions of Healthy Communities is launching the "Parents Who Host, Lose The Most: Don't be a party to underage drinking" public awareness campaign. Simply stated: Parents who provide alcohol to their children's friends under any circumstances, even in their own homes, are breaking the law. For more information visit www.bbcoalition.org.



Bloomfield Township Board of Trustees



Front Row (L - R) Janet M. Roncelli - *Clerk*; Dave Payne - *Supervisor*; Dan Devine - *Treasurer*
 Back Row (L - R) *Trustees* - David B. Buckley; Neal J. Barnett; Sherry Stefanos; Leo C. Savoie

Dave Payne **Janet M. Roncelli** **Dan Devine**
Supervisor *Clerk* *Treasurer*

TRUSTEES

Sherry Stefanos **David B. Buckley**
Neal J. Barnett **Leo C. Savoie**

Bloomfield Township Fire Department Charities announces its annual golf outing at Wabek Country Club on May 16th. Call 248.433.7742 to participate or sponsor.

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY

Police / Fire / Emergency 911
Water / Sewer Emergency 433.7730

- Administration 433.7700
- Fax 433.7714
- Accounting 433.7712
- Assessor's Office 433.7710
- Building Dept. 433.7715
- Clerk's Office 433.7702
- Community Cable 433.7790
- Fax 642.7624
- Fire Department
- Non-Emergency ... 433.7745
- Fax 433.7787
- Police Department
- Administration 433.7750
- Non-Emergency ... 433.7755
- Fax 433.7784
- Animal Welfare 433.7757
- Investigations 433.7760
- Alarm Info 433.7775
- Property 433.7777
- Records 433.7776
- Road Department 433.7709
- Fax 433.7786
- Treasurer's Office 433.7705
- Water & Sewer 433.7731



PR SRT
 FIRST CLASS
 US Postage Paid
 BLOOMFIELD HILLS
 PERMIT NO 40

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

