



# BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

## Adequate staffing is crucial to EMS and Firefighting

Bloomfield Township has already eliminated six EMS/firefighter positions in the Fire Department since 2008 due to budget cuts. The number of Bloomfield Township EMS runs has increased in the last 20 years, while the number of EMS/firefighter personnel has decreased. If the operational millage fails, an additional 12 EMS/firefighters would be let go. The Fire Department would be permanently reduced from 60 to 42 positions. Without adequate staffing, one or two of the Township's fire stations would be closed. However, if the millage is passed all four fire stations will remain open and staffing will remain at current levels.



Township residents Harold and Sally Jackson are impressed with the Fire Department's EMS service. When Mr. Jackson lost consciousness due to a diabetic condition, his wife called 9-1-1. "The response time was amazing. I was still in my pajamas when they came to the door," Mrs. Jackson said. "They could see how upset I was and they were very reassuring."

Mr. Jackson added, "The firemen were wonderful. They brought me back."

Quick and efficient response to medical emergencies saves lives. If the proposed millage is not passed, cuts in Fire Department personnel will mean longer EMS response times. Longer response time will mean that serious medical emergencies will have less chance of a positive outcome. A victim who is not breathing must receive treatment within four to six minutes in order to prevent brain damage, within ten minutes in order to prevent death.

With cuts in personnel, specialized and technical rescue equipment needed to mitigate the emergency may not arrive in a timely manner due to no available manpower to drive the truck. Current staffing levels and four strategically placed fire stations allow for fast responses and good outcomes.

## Adequate staffing is crucial in protecting Township

Bloomfield Township has already eliminated two positions in the Police Department since 2008 due to budget cuts. If the operational millage fails, an additional 14 Police officers would be let go. The Police Department would be permanently reduced from 70 to 54 positions. If the millage passes, staffing will be maintained at current levels.

Do you ever stop and think about why you can walk your dog down your street in the evening without looking over your shoulder? A fully staffed and well-trained Police Department is a crucial factor in keeping the community safe. The Bloomfield Township Police Department has the reputation of quick response, thorough follow-up, detailed investigations and thorough preparation for prosecution, resulting in criminals going to jail. This reputation deters criminals from wanting to operate in our area. If the proposed millage does not pass, these advantages would be lost.

A highly effective police force is a proven deterrent to crime. In communities where the police presence is cut, crime increases, the community becomes a less desirable place to live, and property values decline. Without adequate funding, Bloomfield Township's police services will decline. Voters must decide if they wish to maintain a high quality and effective Police Department in Bloomfield Township.



BLOOMFIELD  
TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF  
TRUSTEES 2009

### ELECTED OFFICIALS

#### ADMINISTRATION

Dave Payne, Supervisor  
Janet Roncelli, Clerk  
Dan Devine, Treasurer

#### TRUSTEES

David Buckley  
Neal J. Barnett  
Leo C. Savoie  
Brian Kepes

### APPOINTED POSITIONS

#### PLANNING COMMISSION

Jeff Salz, Chairman  
Scot Goldberg, Vice Chairman  
Sherry Stefanos, Secretary  
Neal Barnett  
Richard Mintz  
Thomas Petinga  
William Stark

#### BOARD OF APPEALS

Corinne Khederian, Chairman  
Robert E. Taylor, Jr., Vice Chairman  
James Aldrich  
David Buckley  
Brian Henry  
Tracy Leone, Alternate  
Carol Rosati, Alternate  
Lisa Seneker  
Sherry Stefanos

Vote on the proposed millage Tuesday, February 23, 2010. See page 2

# Special election on proposed millage to be held February 23

Mark your calendars for a special election on Tuesday, February 23, 2010. The proposed millage request is to levy new additional millage of 1.30 mills for a period of ten (10) years to support and fund the operations of the Township, including but not limited to Police, Fire, Emergency Medical Services, Department of Public Works and all other general operations of the Township. Registered voters are encouraged to vote at the polls or by absentee ballot to determine the outcome of this millage proposal. All polling locations will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Absentee ballot applications will be sent to all registered voters on the permanent absentee list and can be requested at the Clerk's Office, by fax, email or mail. If you will be out of town for this election, please note on the absentee ballot application where your ballot should be sent. Michigan law does not allow absentee ballots to be forwarded. They must be sent to your registered address. Therefore, you must request in writing that your ballot be sent to an alternate address. The preprinted absentee ballot application allows for this information. Absentee ballot applications and requests to be added to the permanent absentee voter list are available online. See our website at <http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/forms/clerk> or call our office for further assistance.

Remember, your vote counts on Tuesday, February 23, 2010.



Kim Rovinski and Carol Miller of the Clerk's Office prepare absentee ballot applications for mailing

## Register alarm systems with the Police Department

An alarm system can be invaluable in keeping your home and family safe. If your home does not currently have an alarm system, investing in one can enhance your security. Bloomfield Township residents can receive a free home security assessment. Call Officer Matecjik at 248-433-7724 to schedule an appointment.

Alarm systems must be registered with the Police Department. Township ordinance states a permit is required for owning or occupying premises equipped with an alarm system. Please contact the Police Records Unit at 248-433-7776 to register your security system, update emergency contact information or get more information.

## “Shake your Mailbox” to prevent damage from snowplows



Every year some Bloomfield Township residents see their mailboxes topple over as a result of snowplows piling snow against weak posts or hardware. In an effort to reduce the likelihood of this

happening, the Bloomfield Township Department of Public Works, the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC), the County Road Association of Michigan (CRAM) and the U.S. Postal Service are encouraging residents to “Shake Your Mailbox.”

This will tell you whether your mailbox posts are stur-

dy and the hardware holding them is in good shape. If not, you will be able to correct any problems before damage from snowplows occurs. Repairing or replacing mailboxes now could also prevent delays in mail delivery.

Call the Public Services office, 248-594-2800, with any questions.

## Remember snow emergency ordinance

Bloomfield Township's Snow Emergency Ordinance requires that cars be moved from streets immediately when a snow emergency is declared. Residents will be notified about snow emergencies by an announcement from the Township, by way of radio and television stations, including Bloomfield Community Television. The hotline, 248-594-2848, will also inform callers when a snow emergency is in effect. Please remember that noncompliance with this ordinance may result in a fine of up to \$100 and illegally parked vehicles may be impounded.



### 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

Dave Payne, Bloomfield Township Supervisor

# Cuts will be necessary if millage fails

Bloomfield Township voters will make a crucial decision that will shape the future of our community when they go to the polls on Tuesday, February 23. If they approve the 10-year, 1.3 mil millage, our public safety and other public services will remain largely intact. All the revenue restored by this millage will stay in Bloomfield Township to maintain local services. If the millage is not approved, there will be no choice but to cut employees from every area of public service, including Police and Fire/EMS personnel. This will inevitably have an effect on the safety and security of the people in this community.

The conditions leading to this situation are clear. Property values have fallen to such an extent that tax rev-

enues to the Township will decrease 10% in the next fiscal year and another 6% in the fiscal year after that. The four years from 2007 to 2011 will show a decrease of \$6 million.

Since approximately 80% of our expenses are employee-related, we must reduce the number of employees in order to balance the budget. The Police and Fire/EMS Departments have the largest number of employees, followed closely by Road Division workers.

We have already eliminated 18 positions overall through attrition since 2008. An additional 25 positions (approximately 10% of the remaining workforce) will be permanently eliminated by April 1, 2010 if the millage fails. If the millage passes, we will be able to maintain staffing at current

levels.

We have taken many major steps to reduce expenses over the years. Through attrition, we have reduced the number of employees. We have fewer employees now than we had 20 years ago. Our labor unions and bargaining units opened their contracts early, enabling us to negotiate pay freezes and changes to health and pension packages which put a greater financial burden on employees. We changed health care plans several times; first from a traditional plan to a PPO, then from a PPO to a high-deductible health reimbursement plan. For the past five years, any newly hired employee has been put on a defined contribution pension plan rather than a defined benefit plan.

Any jobs we eliminate will

be permanently lost. Even when the housing market improves and property values recover for homeowners, Proposal A caps taxable values to the rate of inflation. That means that revenues to the Township will not catch up to market values in the foreseeable future, leaving no room in future budgets to re-hire people who might be laid off.

Almost every Bloomfield Township homeowner will experience a decrease in property taxes in 2010 even if the millage is approved.

Please become well-informed about the millage and its potential impact on your community as well as your property taxes. Read this newsletter and the enclosed answers to Frequently Asked Questions. Visit the website and see the detailed Strategic Plan and PowerPoint presentation. Call me personally or any other elected official or administrator if you have questions or concerns. Above all, please vote on February 23!

## Taxes to decrease even if millage passes

Most Bloomfield Township homeowners will see their homes' taxable value and their property taxes decrease in 2010. Property taxes will be lower for most homeowners, even if the millage is passed.

In 2009 the average homeowner in Bloomfield Township, in the Bloomfield Hills School District, paid \$7,492 in property taxes. In 2010, this same homeowner will experience a decrease in taxes to \$6,724, a drop of \$768. If the millage is approved, taxes will **still be lowered** to \$6,964, a decrease of \$528 from the previous year's taxes.

For information about the effect of the millage on your home's property taxes, please call the Assessor's Office at 248-433-7710.

## Township Tax Revenue Trends and Projections



# Police officers' training and experience save lives, solve crimes



All Township officers are trained to save lives

When you need help in an emergency, you need it immediately. One stark example of this occurred in August, 2008, when a man collapsed while jogging on the outdoor track at Lahser High School. Another person happened to be nearby, called 9-1-1 and began performing CPR. Two police officers arrived even before EMS could get there and quickly took over the CPR that the Good Samaritan had begun. Then they used the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED), standard equipment in our Township, to start the man's heart. Shortly after, the Bloomfield Township Fire Department arrived and continued the man's emergency care until an ambulance got him to a hospital. Because of the officers' training, professionalism and proximity to the scene, someone had another chance at life.

Adequate police patrols on the roads mean a quicker response to emergencies. Current response to emergency calls is immediate. If the proposed millage fails and staffing is reduced by 25 percent or more, response times will lengthen considerably.

## Crime prevention a priority

Recently a family living in the northern part of the

Township came home from an evening out to find their back door kicked in and valuables missing. This is, however, a story with a happy ending.

Township police officers, along with officers from other communities, had been following the perpetrator, a known criminal. The officers caught him in the act and arrested him on the spot, recovering all the family's valuables. A crime spree was brought to an abrupt end, thanks to our participation in the Troy Surveillance Unit. This kind of arrest takes place many times over the course of a year.

Cooperating in multi-jurisdictional task forces and surveillance units lets us pool resources and use the strength of many police departments for our own benefit. We currently have one officer assigned to the Troy Surveillance Unit, which includes officers from several departments in the Troy / Bloomfield area. These officers operate undercover and follow suspects in various types of cases.

The Township would no longer enjoy the advantages of this type of police work if the proposed millage fails. All officers would be needed for regular patrol duties. If the millage passes, the Township Police Department will remain fully staffed and able to continue to provide the high level of protection residents currently enjoy.

## An effective detective bureau solves crimes

One of the greatest assets to the department is the full-time detective bureau. The Bloomfield Township Police

Department boasts six detectives. After receiving a report of a crime, detectives follow up on leads, evaluate evidence, and generate lists of suspects. Then, through additional interviews, charges are brought. Sometimes follow up investigations can take hundreds of hours. As the law and technology change, the police detective must stay on the cutting edge to exploit every advantage in order to serve justice.

In the event that the proposed millage does not pass, the detective bureau would lose manpower and would only be able to follow up on the most serious crimes. The backlog of cases would increase, and many cases would simply be left open with no further action taken. However, passage of the millage will guarantee that services are maintained at the current level.



## More than traffic stops

Maintaining a strong Township road patrol presence enhances safety for the community in multiple ways. Drunken drivers sharing the roads with your family are apprehended and potential crashes and injuries prevented. Many criminals have been caught coming from fresh

crimes because a police officer stopped them for a simple traffic violation. Traffic stops often become drug arrests. When a traffic stop becomes a drug arrest, criminals end up behind bars and other crimes such as home invasions are prevented.

At 2 a.m. one morning, a Bloomfield Township police officer stopped a car for not signaling a turn, a civil infraction. During the traffic stop, the officer saw the car was loaded with radar detectors, cell phones, designer glasses, GPS units, digital cameras and other items. As it turned out, the driver and occupants of the car had been breaking into cars in Bloomfield Township and surrounding communities. The suspects were arrested, the car impounded, and the stolen property confiscated and returned to the owners where possible.

Large amounts of narcotics come through the Township on Telegraph Road, Woodward, and I-75. Recently an officer stopped a pickup truck on Telegraph Road near Franklin for a traffic violation. By the end of the traffic stop, one-half pound of marijuana, scales, and a loaded 9mm pistol were confiscated. The driver was arrested, and his vehicle forfeited. In another recent case, a member of a Mexican drug cartel was apprehended. Drug arrests such as these lead to fewer property crimes as criminals are taken off the streets.

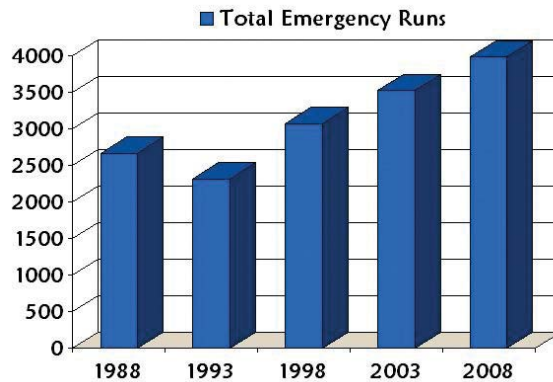
# Fire Department's skill and preparation keep Township safe

## Township home saved by quick response

"The Township's firefighters are phenomenal," says Township resident Peggy Romisch. The Romisch family experienced a house fire in November of 2009. The fire started in the kitchen and caused about \$50,000 in damages, but it could have been far worse. A fire will reach flashover temperatures (1100 to 1500 degrees), in which the entire room erupts into flames, in as little as five minutes. The quick response of the Fire Department prevented a flashover and saved the Romisch home.

"The response to our 9-1-1 call was very fast," said Mrs. Romisch. "We were in awe. The men were so professional, all working together, and they were so kind to us. We were very impressed with the Fire Department and so were our neighbors."

The number of emergency runs has greatly increased over the last 20 years



four stations responded quickly.

There are 18 Firefighter/EMS personnel assigned to duty on each shift — six at Central Station and four at each of the out-stations. Two men are assigned to each piece of equipment. When crews are called to a fire, the law requires that there be four firefighters on the scene before interior firefighting can begin.

If the proposed millage is not passed, the immediate result will likely be the loss of nine Firefighter/EMS personnel and the closing of one or two fire stations. There will not be

tions will remain open and EMS/firefighter staffing will stay at current levels.

## Fire prevention and community outreach increase Township safety

The most obvious duties of the Fire Department are responding to fires and medical emergencies. However, the Department conducts aggressive fire prevention activities and community outreach programs as well. Fewer fire prevention activities can lead to more fires in the community and a less safe environment in our commercial buildings and buildings of assembly. National Fire Protection Association figures show that raising fire inspection coverage annually from 40 percent up to 80 percent of inspectable properties results in a 36 percent reduction in dollar loss in fires of all sizes.

Community outreach programs have demonstrable results, as an incident in April of 2007 showed. A Township second-grade boy found his mother unconscious and called 9-1-1, as he had learned to do in a course taught to elementary students by the Township Fire Department. In addition to school programs, the Fire Department conducts CPR/AED classes and carries out public information campaigns. With the decrease in

staffing that would result if the proposed millage does not pass, activities such as fire prevention and community outreach would have to be severely curtailed or cut altogether.

One area that would suffer deep cuts would be in the ongoing training that Firefighters/EMS personnel undergo. Intensive and continuous training is vital to a well-prepared and highly effective Fire Department. The drop in staffing, if the proposed millage does not pass, would make it very difficult to spare any firefighters from their regular shifts to participate in training activities.

## Drop in insurance rating will lead to higher costs for residents

One effect of the drastic cut in manpower, if the millage does not pass, would be a drop in Bloomfield Township's ISO (Insurance Services Organization) rating. All municipalities are rated based upon three major features: receiving and handling of fire alarms, the fire department, and the water supply. In reviewing the fire department, the ISO looks at such things as response time, training, staffing and number and location of fire stations. The rating scale is from 1 (highest) to a low of 10. Currently the Township's rating is a 4, a respectable rating that keeps homeowners' insurance premiums low. If the ISO rating falls to a 5 or worse, as it would be certain to do if cuts are made, Township homeowners would take a hit to the pocketbook as their insurance costs would rise. Any money saved by not approving the new millage could be offset by the increase in insurance costs.



## Adequate staffing crucial to effectively fight fires

Bloomfield Township currently has four fire stations, located throughout the Township to ensure a quick response to emergencies. Almost 30 percent of the time, two stations are on runs at the same time. In the case of the Romisch fire, all

enough firefighters available to staff four stations and operate all the equipment needed to respond to emergencies. This will undoubtedly increase response times throughout the Township. The likelihood of positive outcomes is decreased with fewer personnel. If the millage is passed, all four sta-

# Off duty police officers, firefighter, dispatchers aid resident



Retired firefighter Ron Sutton, police officers Rob Garofalo, Andy Ball, and John Weise, dispatchers Terri Nordquist and Alice Stoddard, police officers Jennifer Overby and Dan Brown, and dispatcher Margie Runyan, left to right, spent a day cleaning out a resident's house. Pictured on the cover are officers Jennifer Overby and Dan Brown.

Off-duty Township police officers used some of their free time to help an elderly Township resident by greatly improving her living conditions.

The Police Department's day shift platoon B had become aware of the woman's plight when responding to an emergency medical call from her

home. They found her virtually blind from macular degeneration, living in conditions of squalor, unable to rectify her situation while attempting to care for her very ill son. After her son passed away, Lieutenant Rob Garofalo, Sergeant Kent Tschudin and the officers of platoon B determined to do what they could to alleviate her extremely poor living conditions.

On the day chosen for the cleanup, the officers, along with a retired Township firefighter and three off-duty dispatchers, arrived at the home at 8:00 AM, bringing bleach and other disinfectants and all the necessary cleaning supplies. They worked until late afternoon, scrubbing the house from top to bottom and clearing out debris.

Township DPW employees also donated their time to help haul away the three dump truckloads of garbage that were removed from the house. Once the cleanup was done, attention turned to obtaining other services for the homeowner, such as Home Delivered Meals, to ensure that she could continue to live comfortably in her home.

Police Detective Mindy Hess, involved throughout with the situation, has maintained a relationship with the homeowner, visiting her and taking her shopping and out to lunch. The officers of platoon B continue to check on the homeowner to make sure she is doing well. After the holidays, the officers will return to the house to paint and refinish the floors.

**TOWNSHIP DIRECTOR**

433-7730  
Water/Sewer Emergency

433-7700	Administration
433-7712	Accounting
433-7710	Assessor's Office
433-7715	Building Dept.
433-7702	Clerk's Office
433-7790	Community Cable
594-2800	Engineering & Env.
433-7745	Fire Non-Emergency
433-7795	Planning Dept
433-7750	Police Department
433-7755	Administration
433-7755	Non-Emergency
433-7757	Animal Welfare
433-7760	Investigations
433-7775	Alarm Info
433-7777	Property
433-7776	Records
433-7776	Public Works
594-2800	Road Division
594-2800	Water & Sewer
723-3500	Senior Services
335-2813	Adult Day Service
433-7705	Treasurer's Office

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

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP



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