



BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

2020 changed lives and the Township

One year ago, our 2020 Winter Newsletter highlighted the employees behind the scenes at Bloomfield Township. No one imagined the difficult year ahead, but the township rallied, looking for new ways to provide the same great services effectively, but most importantly, safely in the face of the pandemic. Throughout this issue you'll see examples of the way delivery of services has been adjusted to safely see us through the winter 2021 season ahead – with the same outstanding employees behind the scenes (and a mask).

The pandemic brought many challenges, but the township held a safe and efficient general election in November with record absentee voter turnout. Voters elected a new Board of Trustees to serve four year terms. Inside, you'll hear new Supervisor Dani Walsh's plans to serve residents; how new Clerk Martin Brook will provide services during the pandemic; and how returning Treasurer Brian Kepes provides different options for paying taxes without coming into Township Hall. Returning

trustees Neal Barnett and Michael Schostak, joined by newcomers Stephanie Fakh and Valerie Murray, round out the rest of the board.

Police and Fire increased their safety protocols in 2020 to face the pandemic, but continue to focus on everyday safety tips. BTFD reminds you to take precautions while staying warm this winter and offers



It was a very different kind of swearing in for the new Board of Trustees, held outdoors, masked, and socially distanced.

helpful tips. The Police Department continues to focus keeping Bloomfield Township one of the safest communities in the state while maintaining their commitment to helping the community through charity. No Shave November raised money for various charities (and left the force looking a little more like Santa than usual) and the Department's gift card competition with the Auburn Hills Police Department provided much-needed help to local families

during the holiday season.

Senior Services continued their commitment to serve older residents even though the pandemic closed the Senior Center. Meals on Wheels are still being delivered; medical transportation is still being provided; and the Minor Home Repair program is booming. One of the biggest innovations in response to the pandemic

has been the virtual fitness classes offered to all adults in the community no matter their age.

All Township departments from the Supervisor's Office on down are dealing with our "new

normal" and adapting in creative ways to continue to serve residents in the very best way possible. This new year will bring more change to the township. We hope residents take advantage of the services available to them in the safest way possible.

We look forward to spring with the hope of fewer safety precautions as the pandemic is tamed, and the chance to see residents in person once more. Call or email us with any questions.



BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD & 2020

ELECTED OFFICIALS

ADMINISTRATION

Dani Walsh, Supervisor
Martin C. Brook, Clerk
Brian Kepes, Treasurer

TRUSTEES

Neal J. Barnett
Michael Schostak
Stephanie Fakh
Valerie Murray

APPOINTED POSITIONS

PLANNING COMMISSION

Thomas Petinga, Chairman
Jeff Salz, Vice Chairman
Neal Barnett
Richard Atto
Bruce Selik
Andrea B. O'Donnell
John Kelly

BOARD OF APPEALS

Carol Rosati, Chairman
Brian Henry, Vice Chairman
Robert Taylor, Jr.
Claudine Bacher,
Jocelyn Giangrande
Andrea O'Donnell
Stephanie Fakh
Jeffrey Drake, Alternate
Glenda Meads, Alternate

Save the Date...

February 15

Last day to pay winter tax without penalty

March 15

Yard waste pickup resumes

April 17

E-waste, Paper Shredding, Medication Disposal event

May 1

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day

Clerk's Office staff is here to serve

Election Recap

Administering elections requires an all hands on deck approach. For each election, more than 250 election workers join with the Clerk's Office and employees from other Township departments to get the job done. We commend the staff, election workers, and the voters for making democracy work in Bloomfield Township.

An astounding 81 percent of registered voters turned out for the election. Usually about 30 percent of Township voters vote absentee. However, the COVID pandemic contributed to the over 50 percent of voters who requested absentee ballots. Even on Election Day, new voters showed up – the Clerk's Office registered 82 new voters.

At the local level, there are new and returning members on the Township Board of Trustees. Please welcome Supervisor Dani Walsh, Clerk Martin Brook, Treasurer Brian Kepes and

Trustees Neal Barnett, Stephane Fakih, Valerie Murray and Michael Schostak. They were sworn in on Friday, November 20, 2020 by Judge Diane D'Agostini. Members of the Board of Trustees serve a four-year term.

Safely At Your Service

Resident services are the core function of the Clerk's Office. These include voter

registration, passport applications, notary services, and many different permit applications. However, your health and the health of Bloomfield Township staff are a top priority. In recognition of both of these priorities, we are open to assist residents with services that must be performed in person.

Contact the Clerk's Office at 248- 433-7702 or by email at clerk@bloomfieldtwp.org

to schedule an appointment. Mask wearing is required during your appointment. We thank you in advance for rescheduling your appointment if you have a fever, unexplained COVID-like symptoms, or have been in recent close contact with a COVID-positive person. We promise to prioritize your next appointment.

We wish you safety and health during this winter season.



Clerk Martin Brook and his staff are prepared to safely serve residents by appointment.

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.bloomfieldtwp.org. Just look for Citizen's Guide and Dashboard under Quick Links at the right of the home page.

We want to stay in touch!

We urge you to sign up for the Township's eNewsletter, a weekly update on the latest news in Bloomfield Township. The eNews is full of information from different Township departments and from the Township library, letting you know what's happening in a timely way. You'll see the latest edition of the Bloomfield Telegraph, our video news program. But more than that, the eNewsletter is sent out to subscribers in case of emergencies, such as a water main break or a snow emergency, as soon as the emergency occurs, at any time of day or night.

It's easy to sign up to receive the eNewsletter. Go to the Quick Links section on the Township website's home page, <https://www.bloomfieldtwp.org> and click on the eNewsletter link. Then just look for the eNewsletter to arrive in your inbox each week and stay informed on what's happening in Bloomfield Township!



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

Dani Walsh, Bloomfield Township Supervisor

Listening to residents' concerns is a top priority

Last month, I was privileged to meet the fantastic group of young ladies in Girl Scout Troop 76822. The pandemic prevented me from meeting them in person, but the strength of their character shined through via a Zoom meeting. Looking upon a group of smart, exuberant, impressionable young women made me feel an intense obligation as the supervisor, realizing even our youngest residents are watching. Everyone has a voice in our community.

Residents most frequently contact the Township when they encounter a problem and my favorite part of the job as the new Township Supervisor is to be a part of the solution. I've enjoyed speaking with every resident who has contacted me since taking office and I love the feeling of knowing I can make a difference in their experience as a township resident. Everyone has a voice and when we listen, we form greater resolve to act.

The safety of township residents and employees in the face of Covid-19 has been

my top priority and our biggest challenge. I miss the personal aspect of seeing the public in Township Hall and the comradery that comes from working within six feet of another unmasked face.



New Supervisor Dani Walsh looks forward to hearing from residents.

But the complications of the pandemic have not slowed township operations and we've worked hard to ensure a safe and physically distanced process for township business this winter. Safety protocols remain in place and online options for completing business are extensive. We

continue to pursue opportunities outside of Township Hall, in the form of grants and more testing sites, for township businesses struggling through Covid. Everyone has a voice and when we help

amplify that voice, the entire community grows stronger.

2020 has presented many new beginnings and I am proud to serve along the other six members of the new Board of Trustees, three of whom are new to Township

service. Out of the gate, we have eliminated township vehicles for elected officials and created even greater transparency in payroll and vouchers at no additional cost and without adding additional staff. Our meeting minutes have been updated to include video links of individual items

for easier reference. This month we will be adding an audio public comment option to the Trustee meetings so people can be heard in their own true voice. I am proud of these changes and look forward to strengthening the unity of our board and ensuring everyone has a voice on the board and in the community.

All township officials and employees look towards spring and a return to our "old normal." In the midst of our new normal, we are here for the residents. Call or email, we are here to serve you as safely and efficiently as possible. In the township's 193 year history I am humbled and excited to be its first female supervisor and, as such, a role model for young girls. The responsibility of the role is always on my mind and it's my interactions with the community – such as Troop 76822 – that inspire me to listen while I work.

I look forward to hearing your voice.

Tune in to Township social media



Find out what's happening in the Township by following us on social media. The Township regularly posts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and NextDoor. The Township's Police and Fire departments can also be found on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. And you will continue to get updates every Thursday through the eNewsletter. The Township website, www.bloomfiedtwp.org, is updated and modified frequently.

There are road closings, traffic alerts and similar items that are posted at once. Also, we preview special events and elections. In order for you to make an informed choice when you go to the polls, you will need to know the facts about the issues. The Township strives to provide you with those facts through every means possible.

So follow us on Facebook, look for our tweets and watch for our pictures on Instagram – and tell your friends to subscribe to the eNewsletter. Information on how to do that is one the Township website.



From the Fire Department Be safe while staying warm

When it gets cold and stormy outside, everyone loves to stay warm and cozy indoors. Sitting by the fire enjoying a good book and a cup of hot chocolate is the best. But it's important to be mindful of safety during the cold winter months, when folks may be using fireplaces and space heaters. Did you know that heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths?

The Fire Department would like you to be mindful of the following safety tips:

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month
- Be ready in case the power goes out. Have flashlights on hand. Also have battery-powered lighting and fresh batteries. Never use candles. Use extra layers of clothes and blankets to stay warm. If you use an emergency heat source, keep anything that can burn at least three feet away.



From the Police Department Officers contribute to charity

The beards are on their way out, but our officers had a lot of fun growing them and supported many great causes. From October to January officers were able to grow facial hair, outside of policy, by donating to the specific cause each month. In the month of October we raised over \$1,400 for



Police officers grew beards to raise money for charity.

Beaumont Health's Wilson Cancer Resource Center. November saw similar results with over \$1,200 raised for the MIU Men's Health Foundation. In December, well over \$1,000 was raised to sponsor a local family in need for Holidays. We are on pace in January to give over \$1,000 to the Special Olympics. This no shave campaign has proven to be a hit around the department and really

showcases the generosity of our officers.

It wasn't only our officers who were in the charitable spirit. We have to thank each and every resident who donated in the Bloomfield Township Police vs. Auburn Hills Police first-ever gift card drive. The outpouring of support from our community reminds us how lucky we are to serve here. You exceeded all of our expectations and the gift cards will go a long way in helping those in need get the groceries and everyday items they need. Thank you!

Grant helps Township clean and maintain sewer system

Bloomfield Township applied for and received a large grant for managing our sanitary sewer system, called the Storm Water, Asset Management and Wastewater, or SAW, grant. Included in the grant award is over \$700,000 to clean and televise our sanitary sewer system, a huge resource in determining the condition of nearly 43 miles of the Township's sewers. Cleaning the sewers removes built up material like fats, oils and grease; any solids flushed into the sewer system; and roots from ground surface vegetation that have entered the pipes through joints.

Bloomfield Township owns and operates over 210 miles of sanitary sewer pipes that provide sewage service to over 12,000 homes and businesses. Sanitary sewers are the pipes that carry sewage to the treatment plant. Sewage is made up of the wastewater from sinks, toilets, showers, and wash tubs. The EESD and DPW selected sanitary sewers in areas of the Township that have older sewers, sewers along water bodies, and sewers in difficult to access areas to be included in the project.

The sewer cleaning and televising was awarded to the low bid contractor Doetsch Environmental Services and they began work in November. The project is divided up into three divisions, with Division 1 under way with expected completion in April 2021. Division 2 and Division 3 will follow with an expected completion date of October 2021. Call the Engineering & Environmental Services Department at 248-594-2800 for more information.



Treasurer's Office offers several tax payment options

The Bloomfield Township Treasurer's Office mails approximately 40,000 tax statements each year. Winter tax bills were mailed out in late November and many residents have already paid. If you have not yet paid your taxes, there are several different payment options available.

Some residents have always come into Township Hall to pay their taxes in person at the Treasurer's Office.

However, Township offices are currently closed to the public due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The best option is to place your payment in the secure drop box in the Township Hall lobby. The drop box is available 24/7 and is monitored by our Police Department. If you would like a receipt mailed to you, be sure to mark the receipt request box on the payment stub. If you need a receipt



quickly, note that on the payment envelope, along with your email address, and one can be emailed to you.

If you absolutely must pay your taxes using cash, call the Treasurer's Office at 248-433-7705 to set up an appointment.

If you prefer to pay online, a direct deposit, free of charge, option is available. Allow up to two (2) business days for direct deposit payments to post. Alternatively, you may pay by credit card online or by phone, and pay-

ments are posted immediately. When paying, you will be informed of the convenience fee charged. For more information on these payment options see the website here <https://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/Government/Services/Treasurer/Payment-Options.aspx>

The most important thing to remember is that the Winter 2020 taxes are due by 5:30 p.m. Monday, February 15, 2021. Any payment not received, or in the drop box, by 5:30 p.m. February 15, 2021, will incur a 3% penalty. If you choose to mail your tax payment, please be aware that payments are processed on the day they are received in the office, not the date they are postmarked.

Once you have paid your taxes, you can go to our website to print a receipt. To do this, go to the Quick Links section of our website home

page, and click on the Property/Parcel Tax Info link. This will take you to the BSA Online site, where you can enter your name, address or parcel ID number in the search area at the top. This will bring up your parcel number. Click on that and it will take you to a page showing information about your property. Click on the tax information tab and scroll down to Tax History, where you can click on the arrow at the left of 2020 Winter to see the information and a print option. Confused? Watch a demonstration video taking you through the steps on the website Payment Options page.

We're here to help if you have any questions. Call the Treasurer's Office at 248-433-7705 or email treasurer@bloomfieldtwp.org

Senior Services offers meals, transportation, home repair aid and more

Although the Township's Senior Center is still closed to the public due to the

pandemic, BTSS continues to offer services to older adults in our community. In fact, since the start of the pandemic Senior

Services has been serving more Meals on

Wheels than ever. The special Thanksgiving and Christmas meals offered to all adults age 60 and over in the Township were especially popular.

Virtual fitness classes have



Meals on Wheels is a popular service.

been offered to all adults in the community, including those under age 50, and have

been a big success. Participants can register for live classes via Zoom. Those who prefer to work out on their own schedule can find classes on the Bloomfield Township website's Video on Demand section.

One of the most appreciated services is transportation to medical appointments, offered to residents of Bloomfield Township and Bloomfield Hills ages 60 and over. If health issues have limited your driving and you need a ride to a

medical appointment, call 248-723-3500. Service is available Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Application for this service must be made and residency will be confirmed. Rides must be arranged in advance. More information and the application form can be found on our website.

Another popular service is Minor Home Repair. BTSS receives funding for this program through Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. Residents who qualify for the program pay no fees. Residents must be 60 years of age or above with a gross annual income per household below \$44,000 with one person in the household and \$50,250 for

two persons in the household. Proof of income will be required.

Repairs must fit the minor criteria and may not exceed \$5,000. Some typical projects covered under this program include repairs to furnace, roof, and plumbing; replacement of water heater, toilet, light fixtures, and gutters; and removal of architectural barriers or debris. BTSS staff is available to help residents through the application process and to administer projects through completion.

For more information on all the services offered, call Senior Services at 248-723-3500. Staff will be happy to assist.



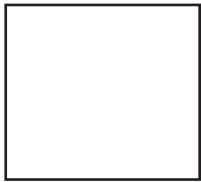
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

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



Animal Shelter open by appointment

After a short shutdown due to budget constraints, an agreement with the city of Birmingham allowing it use of the Township's animal shelter permitted us to re-open. We welcomed back two familiar faces to take on the animal welfare duties. Retired police officer Kent Tschudin returned full time as Animal Welfare Officer, and you will see him out and about in the Animal Welfare truck responding to calls for service. Laura Joyce, retired Animal Welfare Officer, returned part time to work in the shelter caring for the animals and helping customers.

The Covid-19 pandemic has forced some changes in

animal shelter operations. The shelter still cares for animals, but is closed to the public except by appoint-



AWO Kent Tschudin displays a homeless cat he brought into the shelter.

ment. If you are looking to adopt a pet, call the shelter to inquire about available animals. The shelter has housed dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, guinea pigs and more, so call and ask what animals might be sheltered there and in need of a good home.

For information or an appointment to visit the animal shelter call 248-433-7757 between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. One person at a time may enter the shelter. We look forward to seeing you.

AWO Tschudin and AWO Joyce are committed to caring for animals brought into the shelter.

