

# BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER



## The Friendship Club

### 10 years of loving care

Friendship can take many forms.

It can mean enjoying joyful moments together or sharing other life experiences, such as offering a helping hand or sometimes just being there. All of that – and more – is abundantly evident at the Friendship Club.

Many people pass by its doors every day, probably unaware of the special services it offers.

Housed in the Bloomfield Township Senior Center, the Friendship Club “is dedicated to serving older adults with progressive memory disorders to maintain their highest level of ability.”

That’s the way it’s summarized on the Township website (www.bloomfieldtwp.org), under the Adult Day Service tab. While that is accurate, it only hints at what’s inside.

“People come to us seeking guidance and knowledge,” said Julie GeBott, program coordinator.

These are folks facing special challenges, and the Friendship Club offers programs and activities for those suffering from memory disorders. It also

assists their family members by offering counseling and support. “It presents a unique opportunity,” GeBott said. “You have to be flexible and you are learning every day. It takes a lot of patience.”



Denise Murray leads a Tai Chi class at the Friendship Club.

The folks at the Friendship Club now have a lot of experience to draw on. In September, the Friendship Club will celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary helping others. It’s grown from a humble site on Franklin Road to its current location in the state-of-the-art Senior Center building.

Open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, the Friendship Club offers a host of programs including art and music therapy, cooking, gardening, daily exercise, pet visits and much more. It also provides a respite for family members, allowing them time to go about

their daily lives knowing their loved ones are in a safe environment.

The results are remarkable. “The level of gratitude we hear from families is beyond humbling,” said Christine Tvaroha, Director of Senior Services. This comment received in a survey conducted recently by the Friendship Club was typical: “The Friendship Club has been a blessing for our father and our family. The staff brings love, kindness and dignity to everything they do.”

That’s a reflection of the dedication of the staff, Tvaroha



Julie GeBott, program coordinator at the Friendship Club.

said. “They have a passion for the partnership in care.”

**Please see Friendship Club on page 5**



## BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD & 2016

### ELECTED OFFICIALS

#### ADMINISTRATION

Leo Savoie, Supervisor  
Janet Roncelli, Clerk  
Dan Devine, Treasurer

#### TRUSTEES

David Buckley  
Neal J. Barnett  
Brian Kepes  
Corinne Khederian

#### APPOINTED POSITIONS

#### PLANNING COMMISSION

Thomas Petinga, Chairman  
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  
Justin Winkelman, Alternate  
Pam Williams, Alternate

## Save the date...

### August 2

State Primary Election

### August 20

Classic Car Show

### October 1

Household Hazardous  
Waste Drop-Off Day

### October 9

Township Open House



#### 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

## Plans in place for Aug. 2 Primary Election

A very exciting election season begins with the Aug. 2, 2016 Primary Election. Unlike the Presidential Primary in March, 2016, the Aug. 2, 2016, Primary Election does not require voters to select a ballot by party preference.

However, an important caveat of this election should be noted. Voters can only vote for one party in the partisan section. If a voter marks the ballot for more than one party, no votes which appear in the partisan section of the ballot will count. The tabulator at the precinct will provide a warning if this happens and you can request a replacement ballot. Be prepared to vote one party only in the partisan section on both sides of the ballot.

Other issues that merit your attention include absentee ballot applications, polling locations and sample ballots to prepare for casting a vote. Absentee ballot applications were sent to our permanent list of absentee voters in May. The dual-election applications are available in the Clerk's office and online at <http://www.bloomfieldtpw.org/forms/PDFForms/AVAppAug&Nov2016Elections.pdf>. The last day to request an absentee ballot by mail for the Aug. 2, 2016, Primary Election is July

30, 2016, by 2 p.m.

Some Township electors will cast their vote at three new permanent polling locations. These changes were made in 2015 for the March 8, 2016, Presidential Primary. For those who did not vote in that election, the polling locations are



as follows: Precinct 5 is relocated to the Dave Payne Public Services Building, 1153 Exeter Road. Precinct 18 is relocated to East Hills Middle School, 2800 Kensington Road. Precinct 24 is relocated to Bloomfield Hills High School, 4200 Andover Road. Registered voters in these precincts received new voter identification cards and a first-class mailing regarding these relocations, prior to the March 8, 2016, Presidential Primary.

Unsure of your precinct? Call us for more information, access our Township website <http://www.bloomfieldtpw.org/Community/Maps/PrecinctMap.pdf> or try the following

precinct locator link:

<http://michigan.gov/sos/0,1607,7-127-1633-49313--,00.html>.

Knowing your precinct location as well as the ballot content can save time on Election Day. Ballot samples for the Aug. 2, 2016, Primary Election are on our website now for your review. For Township residents, this election provides a nominating process for partisan offices at the federal, state, county and township levels. Proposals include a renewal millage for the Oakland County Detroit Zoological Authority, two millages for the Avondale School District (Precincts 20, 21 and 32 only) and Township millage renewals for public safety and roads. Further information on the Bloomfield Township proposals is included in this newsletter.

This election cycle begins in August and ends with the General Election on Nov. 8, 2016. Every vote counts. The Bloomfield Township Clerk's Office invites you to register to vote, request an absentee ballot, or seek further information regarding your federal, state and county districts. Call us at your earliest convenience at (248) 433-7702 or search our website for 24/7 access to voter information at <http://www.bloomfieldtpw.org/Services/Clerk/Elections.asp>.

### What's going on around town?

You can find out 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, such as snow emergencies and other weather alerts, changes of office hours and news bulletins. ENewsletters are also sent whenever there is an immediate need to relay a message to the public. The eNewsletter has been gradually expanding to include more content, have a broader reach, and increase the number of subscribers.

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



## A NOTE FROM

Leo Savoie, Bloomfield Township Supervisor

# Beyond the millage proposals

The ballot language doesn't really tell the story. Yes, the numbers are there and the facts are straightforward, but there's more to it than that. I'm talking about the two millage renewals that will be on the Aug. 2 Primary Election ballot. One is for public safety and the other is for road maintenance.

The public safety millage renewal calls for 1.9935 mills to be renewed for a period of 10 years beginning with the December 2017 levy. The road millage is for .7115 mills for a period of 10 years, also beginning with the December 2017 levy.

The key word in both of these proposals is "renewal." These are not new millages. Approving them will not increase your taxes, but they will allow the Township to maintain the top services it supplies.

And that's where the real story is.

Bloomfield Township is noted for the fine quality of life it offers. That doesn't happen by accident. It comes through hard work, dedication and the superior quality of a professional staff. But in order

for the staff to do its job, and in fact, for there even to be a staff, there has to be resources.

I've been in business a long time and I've served as a servant of the people of the



Emergency services and road maintenance are two vitally important services that Township millages support.

Township for a fair number of years too. I've learned that the Township is like a business in a lot of ways, but it's not like a business in many other ways. Here our primary product is service, not things. That's delivered in a variety of methods, including public safety and maintaining the quality of our roads.

These are two very different concepts. Ironically, you hardly ever take note of public safety. Most people don't call the fire department or need the help of police very

often. They usually don't need emergency medical care. Yet these can be life and death issues. You can't get much more important than that. On the other hand, the quality of our roads is a daily concern. We all remember the winter of a few years ago, which was fierce, and the season of potholes that followed. We at Town Hall fielded a seemingly unending stream of calls from people complaining about the



deteriorating roads. It wasn't as if we weren't doing anything, it was just that the situation was so bad it was difficult to keep up with the repairs. Potholes are usually just a problem in the spring but that year we filled them through the summer.

The point is you may never call for help from the police or fire department, but you will immediately feel the impact of a bad road.

Still, if your house is on fire,

roads will not top your list of things to be concerned about. The bottom line is that all of these things – police, fire, emergency aid and roads – are critical facets of the whole community. They are all important in their own way.

We in Bloomfield Township have managed to keep our costs amazingly low. That is due to sound fiscal policies and a balanced program to provide great services today

while doing projects that ensure the quality of life here for the future.

Traditionally, Township residents have placed a high priority on public safety and the roads. Millage renewals for these services generally have won voter approval. That's an expression of support for our commu-

nity and recognition that the Township needs the proper resources to preserve the quality of life here. Not excessive resources, but sufficient enough for us to do the job right.

Each voter will have to decide whether they support the millages or not. That's a personal choice. All I ask is that you make that decision after careful consideration of their impact on the quality of life here.

## Check the dashboard

How does Bloomfield Township stand financially compared to other communities?

You can find out quickly by looking at the dashboard. It can be found on the home page of the Township website. Just look for the box labeled "Munetrix - Citizens' Guide and Dashboard."

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



From the Police Department

## Police offer a sanctuary for sales

A good deal can go bad quickly.

Consider the case of a man who wanted to exchange some high-end sneakers with a man he met on a Facebook site dedicated to such deals.



They arranged to meet at a store parking lot at Long Lake and Telegraph one evening to make the trade. It went well – at first – but once the deal was concluded a second man came up to the victim, grabbed the sneakers and got into a car and drove off. The victim immediately called police and they were able to capture the thief a short time later. He was charged with unarmed robbery.

That story could have had a far worse ending. There are reports of people who have been robbed and even murdered after arranging a sale of goods through Facebook or Craigslist.

Craigslist, in fact, has a series of recommendations on safety including do not meet in a secluded place, be sure to tell someone where you are going, take your cell phone along and have a friend accompany you.

But at the top of that list is to meet at a public place. Bloomfield Township offers an ideal meeting place: the police department. The department and the parking lot, in the Township complex at Long Lake and Telegraph, have been designated a “safe exchange zone.” The parking lot is under 24-hour video surveillance and offers the ideal place to exchange those shoes or even sell that car. The Police Department lobby can also be used as a safe exchange zone. It is staffed by officers and open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



Residents can take advantage of the Safe Exchange Zone available in the Township Police Department parking lot.

## Dream Cruise plans rolling into place

They're polishing the chrome and shining the tires.

Plans for this year's Woodward Avenue Dream Cruise are in full gear. As usual the Township will sponsor the Classic Car Show and the Bill Wells Car Club Classic. The events will take place on Dream Cruise Saturday, Aug. 20, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



This year's events are shaping up to be bigger than ever. The Car Club Classic roster is already filled to capacity and registrations continue to roll in for the Classic Car Show.

The Car Club Classic will take place at the parking lot of Comerica Bank on Woodward, just south of Quarton. The Classic Car Show will be held in the parking lot of the Mercedes-Benz of Bloomfield Hills dealership adjoining Comerica Bank. Additional parking will be available for \$5 per car at the lot behind the building just north of the Mercedes-Benz site. There will be food, music, Dream Cruise merchandise available for purchase, bleacher seating and more.

For more information about the Dream Crusie events, go to the Township website, [www.bloomfieldtwp.org](http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org) and click on the link on the home page under “Township News.”

Registration is still available for the Classic Car Show at \$50 per car, but the Car Club Classic is filled.



Bloomfield Township's Classic Car Show offers a great place to enjoy the Dream Cruise.



From the Fire Department

## Firefighters practice trench rescue

A jobsite can turn into a disaster area in a matter of seconds. All it takes is for the dirt to slip a bit and a worker can be buried completely. It doesn't happen often but when it does, every second can be the difference between life and death.

But where to begin? To jump in with shovels swinging might just make the situation worse and end any chance of a successful rescue. That's why careful training is so important.

This spring Township firefighters took part in trench rescue training. Held at the Township training grounds at the north side of the Township, the training involved realistic recreations of accident sites. That included an L-shaped trench seven feet deep, three feet wide and 25 feet along one side and 15 feet on the other.

In the scenarios the victim was trapped under a sewer pipe at the bottom of the trench. The firefighters had to find a way to support the walls while rescuing the victim safely. Firefighters from other communities also take part in the training.



Firefighters work on a trench rescue.

## Little ones learn about the Township



Supervisor Leo Savoie directs the Conant Elementary kids to wave at the BCTV cameras.

They could be a raucous crowd at times, but Township Supervisor Leo Savoie had no trouble handling them during a visit in May.

After all, their second grade teacher was there to help keep things under control.

In fact, the enthusiasm shown by the kids at Conant Elementary School was refreshing. A group of students met that afternoon with Savoie and representatives from the Police and Fire Departments to get an understanding of how the Township operates.

The kids had a lot of questions, especially about fires and Tasers. And everyone had a good time.

## Friendship Club from Page 1

Sometimes that passion is shown in surprising ways. Recently former Friendship Club volunteer and former employee Julie Dobritt was married to Bryan Linton. Rather than having table favors at their reception they made a donation in the guests' honor to the Friendship Club. Both had grandfathers who experienced dementia. They know the challenges that poses, and they're not alone.

The Alzheimer's Foundation of America says that as many as 5.1 million Americans suffer from the disease. More people are taking action and seeking the services of places like the Friendship Club. "The level of awareness is becoming more pronounced," said GeBott. The Friendship Club is more than willing to help.

The Friendship Club 10th Anniversary Celebration BBQ will be held Saturday, September 17, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Proceeds support special activity therapies for members. Enjoy a strolling picnic lunch flavored by Sweet Sass Sauce while listening to live music with The Paint Creek Boys. Registration required. Call 248-723-3500 for more information.

## Township's water rates well

Bloomfield Township is pleased to inform you that in 2015, as in past years, we have surpassed the water quality standards required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ).

The 2015 Annual Water Quality Report describes the source of our water, lists our test results, and contains important information about water and health. This report is intended to provide consumer understanding of drinking water and to heighten awareness of the need to protect our precious water resources. We hope this report addresses any drinking water quality concerns you might have.

Please go to [www.bloomfieldtwp.org/WaterReport](http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/WaterReport) to view your 2015 Annual Water Quality Report and learn more about your drinking water.

If you would like a paper copy of the 2015 Annual Water Quality Report mailed to your home, please call the Department of Public Works at (248) 594-2800.



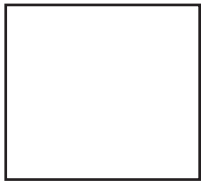
# BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

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



## Focusing on safety

Among the things the Township residents will decide at the Aug. 2 Primary Election will be two millage renewals: one for roads and one for public safety.

While the state of the roads is common knowledge to anyone who rides on them, exactly what occupies the police and fire departments isn't as obvious. This is especially true with the Fire Department.

In recent years, a curious development has occurred. The rate of actual fires the department has been called to has remained relatively low. There were 29 structure fires in 2015 compared with

22 in 2014.

But the number of medical emergencies has soared. The department was called out on 3,045 medical runs in 2015 compared to 2,963 in 2014 and 2,694 in 2013.

Why the tilt toward emergency calls?

"The community is aging," said Fire Chief David Piché. "And the public is more aware they can call 9-1-1."



Township police officers undergo regular training in all aspects of police work.

As for police protection, Bloomfield Township is consistently ranked among the safest communities in the state. That doesn't happen by

chance; the Police Department works tirelessly to keep it that way.

Violent crime is rare in the Township, but there has been an upswing in the number of fraud cases and identity thefts. Fraud cases, including ID thefts, went up from 238 in 2014 to 336 in 2015. Larcenies also went up from 255 in 2014 to 311 in 2016.

"Regardless of the nature of the crime, we take it very seriously," said Police Chief Geof Gaudard. "Every case, every incident, is critical to us."