



BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

A NOTE FROM

Dave Payne, Bloomfield Township Supervisor

Housing Market Affects Bloomfield Township's Financial Outlook

Just as the housing market slump has affected the personal finances of many of our residents, it has affected the Township's financial outlook as well. While we have a balanced budget for the 2009 – 2010 fiscal year, declining revenues, projected for the years beyond 2010 call for significant changes that will affect the way we can deliver public services.



I've worked for Bloomfield Township for 38 years, and I've never seen projections like this before. It is serious. We expect that by April 1, 2011 (the start of our fiscal year), we will have a shortfall of at least \$6 million. This is about 20% of our annual operating budget. Since almost 80% of our expenses are related to personnel, the only way to close this gap is reduce the number of people working for you.

The Board of Trustees and

administration have been working since last summer to develop an Issues-Based Strategic Plan for 2009 – 2014 to address the situation. The Plan was presented to the public on March 9 and can be viewed on the website. Hard copies may be obtained by request.

To summarize the plan briefly: It details the financial factors that lead us to this projection. It describes the Township's physical, capital, technological and energy assets that must be maintained. It explains how we will reduce the number of employees while developing our remaining staff members so they are as efficient as they can possibly be. Finally, the plan discusses the expectations community members hold for their public services.

We have always kept the cost of your public services low. The number of employees has only increased by nine people overall in 20 years, in spite of the addition of many new services, which have been added because of fed-

eral or state mandates or because of community expectations. At the same time, we have implemented the best practices in terms of methods of compensation, purchasing of equipment and supplies, and maintenance of assets.

Because of our history of being lean, we have no easy places to cut expenses. Any significant cuts – anything we do to meet the 20% budget shortfall – will result in a change in service levels. The Strategic Plan lays out many actions we will undertake, but it cannot remove the base problem. We will be making every effort to keep you informed. We will hold public meetings, produce cable shows, send newsletters and make presentations to groups. We welcome the opportunity to speak to subdivision associations and hope you will contact our office at 248-433-7708 to arrange. The Plan will be updated on the website on a regular basis. We welcome any input you may have.

Brian Kepes appointed to Board of Trustees

At its regular meeting on March 23, the Bloomfield Township Board of Trustees unanimously appointed Brian Kepes to fill the position vacated by Greg Jamian, who resigned in February to take a position on the Road Commission for Oakland County.

"We welcome Brian to the Board of Trustees. Given these difficult economic times, Brian's strong financial and operations background and longstanding community involvement will be a great asset to the Township as we work through our

Please see **TRUSTEE** on page 2



Brian Kepes and Jan Roncelli, Township Clerk



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, Alternate
Carol Rosati, Alternate
Lisa Seneker
Sherry Stefanos

SEMCOG offers carpool matching service for commuters

SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, offers a free, safe carpool matching program that can save participants money and reduce the stress of the daily drive to work. The program is open to any commuter over the age of 18 with a regular schedule whose work or school location falls within Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw and Wayne counties. The service is flexi-

ble and can be used daily or a few days a week. Commuters can work out the details with potential carpool partners to come up with the arrangement that works best for them.

According to AAA, a commuter who drives alone to work, 25 miles one way, spends about \$5,800 per year on gas, maintenance, taxes, depreciation and finance costs. That commuter could save as much as 50% of these costs by car-

pooling with one other person. In addition, many insurance companies offer discounts for lower mileage usage on vehicles.

Interested drivers can get started by visiting the website, www.sem-cog.org, and clicking on MiRideshare under "Hot Topics," or by calling 866-510-POOL.



SEMCOG
Southeast Michigan
Council of Governments



Board of Trustees

TIME: 8:00 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

BTSS Adult Day Service hosts Caring for the Caregiver

In recognition of Older Americans Month, Bloomfield Township Senior Services Adult Day Service Friendship Club hosts Caring for the Caregiver, Friday, May 15, from 12 noon to 5 p.m.

Schedule of events:

- 12:00-1:00 – Tour of the Friendship Club and lunch
- 1:00-2:00 – Adult Day Service: Dementia Care and Other Options for Care
- 2:00-3:00 – Healthy Cooking Demo and Other Options for Care
- 3:00-4:00 – Brain Gym (physical/cognitive exercises); Activities at Home; and Home Safety
- 4:00-5:00 – Rx and Dementia: Medication and Other Interventions for Challenging Behaviors

A resource table with information from our eldercare community partners will also be available.

Census Bureau workers to canvass Township neighborhoods

In preparation for the 2010 U.S. Census, the Census Bureau will be sending personnel into every neighborhood from April to June 2009 to verify and update addresses using hand-held computers. These workers will carry cards identifying them as Census Bureau workers.

If you have any questions or concerns you may call the Bloomfield Township Clerk's Office at 248-433-7702, Monday through Thursday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

TRUSTEE from page 1

budget challenges," said Township Supervisor Dave Payne.

Mr. Kepes, a resident of Bloomfield Township since 1990, has a long history of civic involvement. He chaired the Bloomfield Township Tax Board of Review for 15 years and was a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) for 14 years. He chaired the ZBA for two

years. He has held leadership positions in several nonprofit organizations as well, including Fresh Air Society/Tamarack Camps and the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit.

A CPA by profession, Mr. Kepes maintains a real estate business in Farmington Hills. He owns, manages, leases and develops commercial property throughout the

State of Michigan. He is married and is the proud father of two children.

"I look forward to actively work with the Board and community to continue Bloomfield's excellence in its delivery of service within the confines of its budget," said Mr. Kepes.

His term on the Board of Trustees will expire in November, 2010.

Dispose of unwanted electronics, medicine and paper April 18

To help protect our environment and serve our residents, Bloomfield Township will host an Unwanted Electronics, Medication Disposal & Paper Shredding Event for residents. This one-day event will take place on Saturday, April 18, 2009, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the new Bloomfield Township Senior Services building on the Township campus. It will coincide with Earth Day and Township Clean Sweep activities.

This year's event will again facilitate the collection and proper disposal of unwanted or unused medication. This includes over the counter and

prescription pharmaceuticals. Medications must be in the original container and all sensitive information must be blacked out but the name of the medication must remain on the bottle.

The following residential electronic waste items may be brought in for recycling or disposal: computer systems/laptops, televisions, keyboards, scanners, PDAs/pagers, cell phones and fax machines. No "white goods" or household appliances (e.g. refrigerators, stoves, washer/dryers, dishwashers) are allowed.

Bulk paper shredding services will also be available to

residents as an option for disposal of residentially generated paper waste in a safe and efficient manner. Shredding services are limited to no more than five boxes of paper per resident. Content of the material is limited to office grade paper; no news-

paper, binders or computer disks can be included. Sorry, no businesses or business equipment of any kind are allowed.

We will be unable to collect any HHW items at the April 18th event. (See story below.)



Workers help residents unload materials at last year's event.

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day is set for May 2nd

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day is Saturday, May 2, at the parking lot of the new Bloomfield Township Senior Services building, located off Andover Road, west off Telegraph, south of Long Lake Rd. (Look for signs on drop-off day.) This service is for residents only; proof of residency is required.

Most households contain materials that can be hazardous and must be disposed of carefully. Improper disposal can be dangerous to people and the environment. A community the size of Bloomfield Township discards two tons of toilet bowl cleaner, seven tons of liquid household cleaner and two tons of motor oil each month. It is important that these materials be discarded in an environmentally safe manner. An extensive list of

acceptable materials for drop-off can be found on the Township website, www.bloomfieldtwp.org



Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day is May 2 in the parking lot of the new Senior Services Center.

Township's Clean Sweep returns

Bloomfield Township is again inviting neighborhood associations, school and community groups, and residents to participate in the fourth annual Clean Sweep weekend on April 18th and 19th.

The Clean Sweep program is designed to spruce up the right-of-way areas near safety paths, throughout neighborhoods and at the entrances to subdivisions within the Township. The event is a great way to get kids involved in conservation and for stu-

dents to earn community service hours.

To participate, please register with the Department of Public Works by filling out the volunteer sign up sheet on the Township website, <http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org> or by calling (248) 433-7709. The DPW office will provide plastic trash bags for general debris and paper bags for yard waste. Lawn signs will also be available at the Public Works office to promote Clean Sweep in neighborhoods. Sign up today!



The 2009 Bloomfield Township Classic

The Bloomfield Township Classic will be back at Mercedes-Benz of Bloomfield for its fifth year on Saturday, Aug. 15, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., promising fun and excitement for participants. Along with the display of classic and specialty cars,



the Classic will feature a DJ playing 50s and 60s music, convenient parking and the same great food and refreshments as in previous years. This year, for the first time, engineering students from several area universities will be setting up displays of their Formula SAE racecars. The event is free and open to the public.

The Classic, held in conjunction with the Woodward Dream Cruise, is a car show, party and charity event started by a group of Township car enthusiasts looking to involve their neighbors in the largest one-day classic auto event in the world.

Net proceeds from the Classic go to

support charities right here in the community: the Bloomfield Township Fire Dept. Charities, Oakland Family Services and the Bloomfield Optimists.

Call 248-594-2846 to enter your pre-1972 classic or specialty car or find the entry form online at www.bloomfield-twp.org. This year you may choose one of two entry fees, \$75 or \$50. The \$75 entry fee comes with an official Woodward Dream Cruise shirt. Both entry levels come with the promise of a good time and an excellent vantage point from which to watch the action and mingle with neighbors and car enthusiasts.

Township Police Department has tips for springtime safety

Spring weather pulls us out of our homes and into the great outdoors. Safety and security steps must be a part of our seasonal activities. Some tips to keep in mind while enjoying the season:

- Parking cars in a closed and locked garage will help prevent a number of crimes, including vandalism and theft. These crimes usually increase in warmer weather.

- When working outside around your home, keep any door you cannot physically observe closed and locked!

- It takes only a few moments for a criminal to steal property out of your garage. Keep garage overhead doors and pedestrian doors closed and locked at all times. Trim all landscaping around your home that provides a would-be criminal with concealment. Bushes should be 36" high or windowsill height, whichever is lower.

- When bicycling, wear a

properly fitting bicycle helmet. Wear bright, fluorescent clothing. Wear eye and hand protection. Never wear an MP3 player as you cannot hear cars approaching from behind you or other threats such as loose dogs. Follow all rules of the road.

Visit <http://www.bloomfield-twp.org/Services/Police/CrimePrevention> for more crime prevention ideas, or call Officer Matejck at 248-433-7724.



Oakland County offers help to homeowners



With the current economic conditions, homeowners may find themselves struggling to deal with needed home repairs or other housing related issues. Oakland County, through its Community & Home Improvement Division, offers a number of different services to homeowners, including housing counseling on topics such as reverse mortgages for seniors, foreclosure prevention and rental issues. For information call 248-858-5402.

The county also offers a Home Improvement Program to provide deferred payment, no-interest loans for home repairs, designed to help maintain or increase the value of existing homes. For an application call 248-858-5401 or visit the Oakland County website, www.oakgov.com/chi

Bloomfield Township Senior Services cuts the ribbon on new building

On Tuesday, July 14, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. Bloomfield’s seniors will celebrate a long-awaited goal – the official opening of a new facility that meets their needs. The new building replaces Senior Services’ current location in a former elementary school leased from Bloomfield Hills Schools. Amenities will include a therapeutic pool, walking track and fitness equipment, and craft

and meeting rooms. Adult Day Service, currently located in a separate facility, will be incorporated into the new Center.

Everyone is invited to join Bloomfield Township officials for tours of the new Senior Center, located off Andover Road on the Bloomfield Township Campus. Light refreshments will be served.



Finish work is being done on the interior of the Senior Center.



The new Senior Center, part of the Township’s Capital Improvement Program, is nearing completion

BTSS hosts a fundraiser for home delivered meals program

Please plan to attend “A Taste of Bloomfield” on Thursday, June 25, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the new Senior Center. This event is a fundraiser for Bloomfield Township Senior Services home delivered meals program. A variety of hot hors d’oeuvres will be provided by area restaurants, and you can enjoy live entertainment while you tour the new building. Tickets are \$50 each. To learn more or to become involved as a volunteer, please contact Christine Tvaroha at 248-341-6450.

Capital Improvement Program moves closer to completion

The Bloomfield Township civic campus taking on its long-awaited new look as the Capital Improvement Program draws closer to completion. The new senior center will officially open in July, and construction on the Central Fire Station and Public Services Building is proceeding rapidly. The new, updated buildings

will enable the Township to better provide its residents with the services they have come to expect, including well-maintained roads, quick response to fire and medical emergencies, protection from crime, clean drinking water and a sound sewer system. As the Township’s senior population continues to grow, the



Construction of the Central Fire Station will be completed and equipment moved in July 2009

new senior center will provide a beautiful and up-to-date facility where residents can gather for various activities and assistance.



The new DPW building, to house offices as well as equipment, will be ready in summer 2009

In 2006, Township voters approved a 25-year bond proposal to provide funds for these capital improvements. These funds are designated for this purpose only and cannot be used for any other expenses.

Conserve water and save money with a secondary meter

Lawn sprinkling season is quickly approaching. To help reduce the cost of lawn sprinkling, Bloomfield Township offers the Secondary Meter Program. If you choose to install a secondary meter, you will be billed for water only on the outdoor water use, eliminat-



ing the sewerage charge of \$3.27 per 1000 gallons that applies to indoor water usage. A meter must be purchased from the Township and prices vary depending on its size. Total cost of meter purchase and installation is generally recouped within two to three years.

The person doing the installation will need to determine which size meter is appropriate for the home and pull a plumbing permit from the Building Division.

Once the meter is installed, the Plumbing Inspector must approve it. Finally, the Water Division must install remote wiring. Make an appointment within 24 hours of the Plumbing Inspector's approval. The meter must be installed, inspected and wired within 30 days of purchase.

For any further information and the Secondary Meter Layout & Schematic please visit our website www.bloomfieldtwp.org.



Installing a secondary water meter eliminates the sewerage charge on outdoor water usage.

Voluntary water usage schedule recommended by DPW

To avoid serious drops in water pressure and to keep the rate charged to Bloomfield Township by Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) as low as possible, please adhere to a voluntary water usage schedule recommended by the Department of Public Works. The even/odd system is used widely in communities throughout the U.S.

as well as here in Bloomfield Township during the hot and dry summer months of June, July and August. Under this program, homeowners with even numbered addresses use water for irrigating lawns, washing cars and filling swimming pools only on even numbered days of the week. Those having addresses that end in an odd number would limit their out-

door water usage to odd days only.

In addition, please limit or avoid outdoor water use between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. Usage during this time is a measure of the Maximum Day and Peak Hour criteria used by DWSD to set water rates. All Township controlled irrigation systems, including the fire stations, Town Hall, right

of way medians, etc., will be limited to the off-peak hours of 11:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.

For more information on 2008 Water Rates please see the Special Edition Newsletter on the website, <http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/events/NewsletterArchive/2008FebruarySpecialEditionWater.pdf>

New tree ordinance enacted

In order to protect Bloomfield Township's woodland areas and the quality and character of the neighborhoods within our community, the Township has enacted a Tree Preservation & Protection Ordinance.

Generally, the ordinance applies to properties where new construction or redevelopment is planned or for any clear-cutting activity. It does not apply to currently developed properties where there is no proposed construction. A copy of the ordinance and a few frequently asked ques-

tions are available on the Township website, <http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org>.



The beautiful scenery of Bloomfield Township will be preserved for future generations

Stand-by generator requirements

You may be considering the purchase of a stand-by generator to avoid the disruption a power failure causes. If so, please note that before its installation you must obtain three (3) permits from the Township Building Division. If additional measures must be taken to lower the noise level, such as the construction of a masonry screen wall, an additional building permit is required. Once the generator has been installed, operation is prohibited until the noise level has been tested

and approved by Bloomfield Township and all permits have been finalized.

For detailed information on the permits please visit our website at <http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/forms/Building.htm>. You will find all the information and forms under Generator Installation in the Complete Packets section. For questions or additional information please call the Building Division at 248-433-7715.

Building Division suggests springtime spruce-ups

Now that spring is here, it's time for yard clean-up, such as picking up the leaves and tree limbs that have fallen over the winter, cleaning the gutters, and uncovering the AC units. Given the current economic climate, it may be a good idea to also focus on ways to improve your property values. This will benefit you and your neighbors not only in the near term, but in the long term as well. Investment in your property today will result in a stronger return if and when you decide sell.

Inexpensive maintenance and home improvements can aid in preserving your property value. By developing a maintenance plan for your home and implementing it, you'll have the opportunity to make small annual invest-

ments rather than more expensive repairs. Once your home is in good working order, there are a number of ways to spruce it up and ultimately increase its value. Make a list, plan and budget before you start any project. Keep the receipts from your home improvement projects and you may be eligible to minimize the capital gain when you sell the home.

Landscaping can increase the value of a home by up to 15%, allowing you to recoup 100 – 200% of your investment. Planting low maintenance perennials such as tulips, daffodils and hostas is an easy way to add curb appeal to your property. Planting trees can help reduce heating and cooling costs. Building a deck or patio creates a nice outdoor living space.

Remodeling Magazine's "Remodeling Cost vs. Value Report" found that more than 85% of the cost of building a wooden deck could be recouped during resale. Compared with 78% for a bathroom remodel and 69% for a family room addition, a deck is a very cost efficient way to increase home value.

Inspect the exterior of

your home for damage or decay. Repair or replace loose hand and guard rails, cracked/crumbling steps, mortar and chimney caps. Regularly clean debris from the gutters, and look for rotting wood, loose shingles and gaps in the flashing.

Inexpensive kitchen and bath updates can be simple ways to increase value. Replace outdated appliances, faucets and electrical fixtures. Patch any holes, no matter how small, and add a fresh coat of paint to the walls.

Reduce your energy bills by maintaining equipment such as the furnace, fireplace, boiler, water heater and wood-burning stove regularly. Clean and vacuum dust from vents, baseboard heaters and cold-air returns. Have your heating and air conditioning systems serviced every year. If your HVAC equipment is more than 20 years old consider replacing it. By upgrading to a new 90% efficiency furnace with a variable speed blower and an air conditioning unit with a seasonal energy efficiency ratio above 15, you can significantly reduce your energy consumption and increase your home's value.

If your home has ground



A regular program of home maintenance preserves the value of your home

fault circuit protectors (GFCI) in the required areas (exterior, garage, baths, kitchen counters, unfinished basements) remember to test them monthly by pushing the test button on the device. If the device is working properly, it will 'trip' to the off position. Push the reset button to re-energize. If the device does not trip off, it is malfunctioning and should be replaced. If your home does not yet have GFCI devices, be sure to have them professionally installed.

Circuit breaker contacts can be maintained by turning the breaker off/on a few times. This procedure is recommended every six months.



Adding a wooden deck is an excellent way to increase the value of your home.

Remodeling? Check that necessary permits have not expired

Spring is typically the time of year when residents start remodeling projects or repairs on their homes. Permits and inspections are required for many projects, including kitchen remodeling, basement finishes, room additions, lawn sprinkler systems, and the replacement

of air conditioners, furnaces, and water heaters.

On occasion, and for a variety of reasons, a permitted project may become inactive, abandoned, or completed without receiving inspections, and the permit eventually expires. To avoid this problem and to

ensure your safety, please stay in touch with your contractor and the Building Division to confirm that all inspections are being scheduled and approved on a regular basis. Upon completion, a Certificate of Occupancy will be issued (as applicable).

For information regarding the possibility of expired permits for your address, you can reach the Building Division at 248-433-7715. Our staff will be happy to assist you in verifying the status of any previous and/or current building projects.

Ordinance Division works to control weeds, grass

With the foreclosure crisis spreading across our country, Bloomfield Township has taken some steps that allow us to respond more quickly to prevent the undesirable effects caused by vacant homes. In the past, the Ordinance Division has hired private lawn crews to cut the grass at vacant homes when a responsible party could not be found. Searching for a person to permit us onto the property to cut the grass was very time consuming – often it was an out of state bank. We were left with no option but to get a court warrant to enter onto these vacant properties and cut the grass. The cost of the cutting was placed against the tax roll of that property.

In 2008, the Township amended the Noxious Weed

Ordinance to:

- Include the definition of weeds to mean any grass that reaches the height of more than eight inches;
- Add an administrative fee in the amount of \$75 per cutting;
- Allow for the printing of the Noxious Weed Ordinance in a “newspaper of general circulation in the Township during the month of March” stating that weeds not cut by May 1 of that year will be cut by the Township and charged with all the costs under this provision.

This published notice will allow the Township to begin cutting right away, without sending warning notices or searching for a bank representative. If you see a property that has uncut grass, call the Ordinance Division at 284-594-2845.

Lead Code Enforcement Officer Brenda Schlutow, pictured here and on the front page, works with Ordinance Division staff as well as with the Building and Planning Divisions to maintain the high standards expected in this community, a task made more difficult by the current economic challenges. She finds that an empathetic approach is most effective in obtaining compliance with Township ordinances.

“I’ve found there are always two sides to a story and I try hard to be patient, reasonable and fair in attempting to resolve all ordinance violations,” Brenda says.



Brenda has been with the Township since 2000, starting as a Road Department secretary. She joined the Ordinance Division in 2005 and a year later was promoted to Lead Code Enforcement Officer, becoming a member of the Michigan Association of Code Enforcement Officers.

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.
Fire Non-Emergency 433-7745
Planning Dept 433-7795
Police Department 433-7750
Administration 433-7755
Non-Emergency 433-7757
Animal Welfare 433-7760
Investigations 433-7775
Alarm Info 433-7777
Property 433-7776
Records 433-7709
Public Works 433-7731
Road Division 341-6450
Water & Sewer 335-2813
Senior Services 433-7705
Adult Day Service
Treasurer's Office

TOWNSHIP
DIRECTOR

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