



# BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

## Board Approves 2023-24 Budget; Use Digital Budget Book to Learn More

The Township Board of Trustees approved the 2023-2024 Budget at their March 13th meeting. The fiscal year began on April 1, 2023 and ends on March 31, 2024. You may be familiar with the finance page of the Township’s website which includes past budgets, various financial reports, and more. New to this page is a link to the Township’s Digital Budget Book powered by ClearGov that was launched in September. This fiscal year is the first full year for the Digital Budget Book and residents are encouraged to explore the feature.

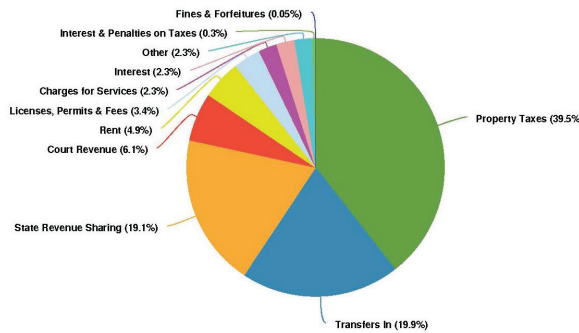
ClearGov is a leading provider of Budget Cycle Management software for local governments. Digital Budget Book replaces static, cumbersome PDF budget books that were traditionally difficult for residents to navigate and comprehend. The Township’s annual budget is now presented online in an intuitive format with interactive graphs and tables designed to make complex financial data easy for anyone to understand.

Digital Budget Book is mobile-friendly and ADA-optimized for citizens with disabilities who rely on assistive technology, such as screen readers and voice recognition software.

Finance Director Jason This says the best way to learn more about the Digital Budget Book and finances is to go online and explore. “We strongly encourage residents to visit our Digital Budget Book today to see their tax dollars at work.”

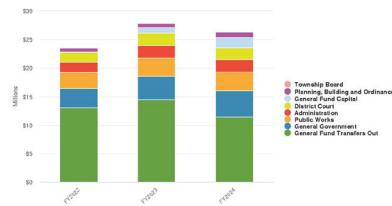
Revenues by Source

Projected 2024 Revenues by Source



Examples of the Data in the New Budget Book

Budgeted and Historical Expenditures by Function



Residents can view the Digital Budget Book now by scanning the QR Code on this page.



BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARDS 2023

**ELECTED OFFICIALS**

**ADMINISTRATION**

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

**TRUSTEES**

Neal J. Barnett  
 Michael Schostak  
 Stephanie Fakih  
 Valerie Murray

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS**

**PLANNING COMMISSION**

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

**BOARD OF APPEALS**

Brian Henry, Chairman  
 Jocelyn Giangrande, Vice Chairman  
 Robert Taylor Jr.  
 Andrea O'Donnell  
 Stephanie Fakih  
 Ed Ford  
 Scott Gittleman  
 Carol Rosati, Alternate  
 Glenda Meads, Alternate



# Save the Date...

**May 29th**

Trash Collection Delayed One Day All Week

**May 31st**

Red Cross Blood Drive

**July 1st**

Summer Tax Bills Mailed

**July 4th**

No Trash Delay on Monday  
Trash Delayed One Day T-F

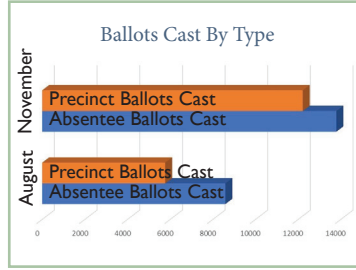
## Clerk's Office Recaps 2022 Facts & Figures



The new drive-up elections dropbox.

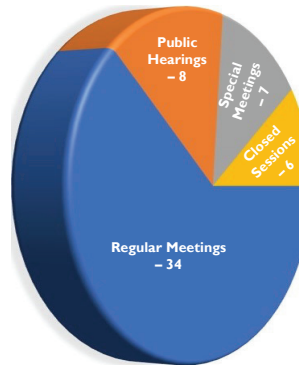
The Clerk's Office is committed to continuous improvement. In 2022, special focus was placed upon voter access and absentee ballot security. We installed the first ever drive-up elections dropbox for Township absentee voters. In November, 2,130 residents returned their absentee ballot via this dropbox. We increased control, security, and chain of custody procedures throughout the absentee ballot process and adopted additional reviews to

maintain an accurate list of registered voters.



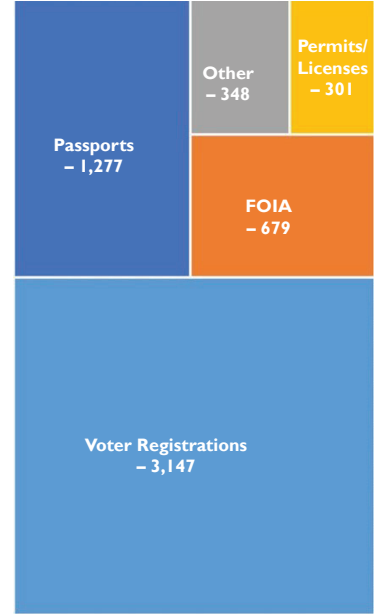
The Clerk's Office also administered many public meetings throughout 2022 as shown.

Public Meetings Administered



Finally, it is our pleasure to serve the needs of this community with a variety of residential services. Here is a breakdown of those services provided in 2022.

Resident Services Provided



### 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: 248-642-7610

## Let Us Know How We're Doing

The Clerk's Office has initiated a feedback survey. Our expectation is that we provide you with excellent services 100% of the time. We invite you to complete our survey using the QR Code.



## New Michigan Law Allows Discriminatory Language To Be Removed From Deeds

Looking around the dais at the February 27th Board of Trustees meeting, one might be surprised that at one point in our history six of the seven present Board members could not own or occupy property in many Township subdivisions. During the 1920's until mid-1940's new neighborhood

deed restrictions limited ownership or occupancy to "gentiles of the Caucasian race." The Fair Housing Act and Civil Rights Act in 1968 long ago made this discrimination illegal, but the discriminatory language still remains. A new Michigan law will allow homeowners and Homeowner Associations

(HOA) to file discharge documents to remove this language. This same law required HOAs to act to remove if requested. "In law school I began mapping out areas across the State of Michigan where these discriminations appeared, which unfortunately is



## A NOTE FROM Dani Walsh, Bloomfield Township Supervisor Protecting and Enhancing Services

**T**hanks to the passionate pleas of Bloomfield Township residents, elected officials from all levels of government, community leaders, and business leaders; the State of Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) heard our voice and decided to keep and improve the ramp access on Square Lake Road Business Loop by I-75! When given the option of complete removal of the ramps or moving the ramps into the wetlands to the west, the residents overwhelmingly responded that keeping access to ramps while minimizing negative impacts on the wetlands as much as possible was the desired outcome.

MDOT held a public meeting on February 27th and heard the community concerns and overwhelming opposition to removing the “Ramp B” access on Square Lake Road business loop. Knowing that funding was going to be the main obstacle, I organized a meeting on March 13th with MDOT executives to discuss funding options and next steps. Joining me in attendance were Treasurer Brian Kepes, Township Clerk Martin Brook, representatives from Police, Fire and Public Works Departments and Pat Watson, Superintendent, Bloomfield Hills Schools, Kevin Hrit, Outreach Director for Senator Gary Peters, Colleen Pobur, Michigan Chief of Staff for Congresswoman Haley Stevens, Michigan State Senator Jeremy Moss, and Donni Steele, Michigan State Representative for the 54th District. Happiness swept across the room when Lori Swanson from MDOT said, “Removal is off the table.”

Next, we discussed if the additional \$3 - \$5 million to extend the ramp could come from state or federal funding. It was determined that Senator Jeremy Moss would be the

best choice to work on getting the funding through the state budget and Bloomfield Township would apply for federal grants through offices of Congresswoman Haley Stevens and Senator Gary Peters as well.

MDOT worked with their regional office to try and find the money needed to keep both ramps at Square Lake Road and I-75 BL and shift them to the west toward Opdyke Road to improve the merge/ weave distance on I-75 BL. A few weeks later I received the amazing news that MDOT finished their review, and they were able to directly fund the project with their current budget. This experience was a true example of how we are stronger together! I’m thankful to all of you who came together to protect access for Township residents and our surrounding communities. This is the second time our administration has worked with MDOT to revise plans on their roads to avoid negative impacts, including the cancellation of Woodward digital signage in 2021. I’m truly thankful to MDOT for hearing our concerns and committing to funding improvements.

The rebuilding of the ramps is part of a larger MDOT project that involves the reconstruction of I-75BL (Square Lake Road) from M-1 (Woodward Avenue) to I-75 in Bloomfield Township and the City of Pontiac. This includes the complete replacement of the pavement, rehabilitation of storm sewer, ramp improvements at the Opdyke Road interchange and other safety improvements. The Township will also be making improvements and repairs to the Township’s utilities in the area while the roadway is shut down. The project is scheduled to be constructed and completed in 2024.

**I**n addition to road services, we’ve worked to protect and expand our solid waste program by choosing our

new waste hauler, Priority Waste. Our previous contract with Canadian based Green for Life (GFL) began 7 years ago when they absorbed the contracts of Rizzo. When looking at the history of solid waste contracts in Bloomfield Township, most companies are with us for less than 10 years due to competitive bidding and acquisitions. The current contract expires in July and we reached out to GFL to negotiate an extension. Unfortunately, GFL chose not to offer all services requested by the residents including multiple cart size options, dedicated customer service representatives, two waste drop-off days (electronic waste and hazardous waste), bundle discounts, and stable pricing.

Residents expect first-class service for the best price, so we put out a Requests for Proposal (RFP) and four bidders applied. The RFP set the standards of service guaranteeing current services continue. I was thrilled to see that we had two strong contenders and focused on vetting Michigan based Priority Waste and Canadian based GFL.

The idea of switching from our current provider was not taken lightly. But sometimes in order to maintain services that we as residents have come to expect, it means switching to a company that is willing and capable of providing the services. In addition to proposed service reductions and increased costs, GFL chose not to send any executives or decision makers from Canada to our meetings. Priority Waste, however, sent the CEO, CFO, VP of Operations, and other leadership to the negotiations providing a more efficient process and highlighting the difference of partnership between companies.

The sound business decision was to

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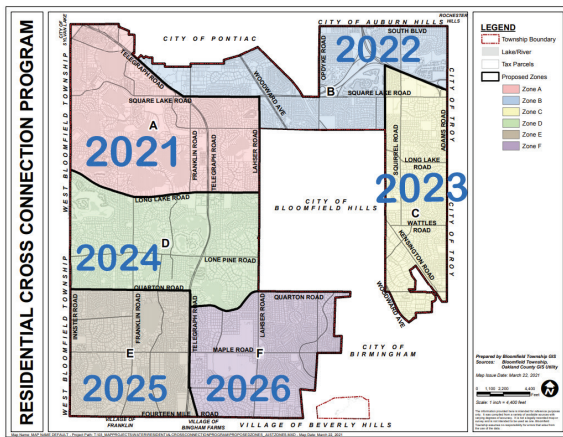
# Protecting and Enhancing Services (continued from page 3)

go with the better company, that offers more services, costs \$5 million less, and is a Michigan based company: Priority Waste. We will be sending all homes some information about the new company. I believe that once we get past the initial transition in July that we will see improved service and a drastic reduction of the missed stops and damaged property reports that escalated over the last seven years.

## Cross-Connection Survey to Resume

In 2021, Bloomfield Township contracted with HydroCorp of Troy, MI to assist in managing a Cross-Connection Control Program which was required by the State. The purpose is to identify potential unsafe interconnections to the public

water supply. There is no fee for the inspection and the homeowner will not be required to be home at the time of inspection. HydroCorp will continue their inspections beginning this May and through 2026, during the summer seasons.



The Township has been divided into six zones and only one zone per year undergoes these surveys. You can reference the map here to determine which year your property will be inspected. We will be providing more information on the program in the coming months. If you have questions call DPW at 248-594-2800.

## 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](http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org). Just look for Citizen's Guide and Dashboard under Quick Links at the right of the home page. A wide array of financial information about the Township – and data about communities across Michigan – is available on the site.

Scan this code to read more about the Cross Connection inspection process.



## Discriminatory Language

(continued from page 2)

quite prevalent,” said Clerk Martin Brook. Placing a spotlight on this history of housing discrimination has been a long-time mission for the Township Clerk who was pleased to see the Michigan Legislature pass the Discharge of Prohibited Restrictive Covenants Act (DPRC) in December. “In short, homeowners, HOA’s and condo associations can file a form called Discharge of Prohibited Restriction with the Register of Deeds to have such language removed,” said Clerk Brook. “My office has already begun the process of notifying HOA’s about this law, but interested residents can contact my office at 248-433-7702 or [clerk@bloomfieldtwp.org](mailto:clerk@bloomfieldtwp.org) for more information.”

Watch the presentation at the Board of Trustees meeting. Oakland County Clerk Lisa Brown attended the meeting

to clarify the law. Not all restrictive covenants are prohibitive covenants. For example, rules about garages and swimming pools are restrictive covenants not effected by this law. If you have your property’s deed on file, most likely you will not find this language as deeds typically include language adopting covenants in prior filed deeds. The Oakland County Clerk’s online system only contains deeds dating back to 1964 and the discriminatory language is most commonly found in deeds of the 1920’s and 30’s. To find out if your deed is relevant, Clerk Brown recommends calling 248-858-5697 to have her staff find the document in their archives.

Clerk Brook encourages residents to do the work and find out if they can file a Discharge of Prohibited Restriction. He added, “The Township Board of Trustees is reflective of the Township as

it exists today. We can’t change what happened in the past, but by taking action now we can make a statement about who we are as a community today.”

## Let’s Stay In Touch!

Scan to follow us on social media or to sign up for the eNewsletter.



We are committed to keeping residents informed about all the latest news and events in the Township. You can find information on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Sign up for the eNewsletter, which goes out each week or two. Don’t forget to check our website regularly, [www.bloomfieldtwp.org](http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org). You’ll find a wealth of information there.

# BCTV Adds New Podcast Studio

Change is under way at Bloomfield Community Television! The Township's award-winning studio has been producing Public, Educational, and Government (PEG) programming for nearly four decades. Shows from our community producers can be found on Comcast Channel 15, AT&T Channel 99, YouTube and now wherever you listen to your favorite podcasts.

What is podcasting? In basic terms, it's a way to record a structured and enlightening conversation via audio and/or video. In a broader sense, it's the finger on the pulse of modern society, the utmost system to connect to our neighbors and beyond. Everyone has an opinion and is a subject matter expert in something – be it finance, health, sports or whether or not Die Hard is a Christmas movie (Hint: It is.) So, why not share your voice and see the impactful conversations you can have and inspire. As we speak, podcasts are at the forefront of popular culture and public discourse.

Most importantly, podcasting is ideal for both people on-the-go or those just lounging at home. You make your own programming schedule. It's all about creating an environment of convenience, whether you are passionately creating material or comfortably listening at your leisure. The new podcast studio still allows producers to have video content distributed on Comcast, AT&T, and YouTube; but the conversation is no longer limited to a screen. Podcasts are easy to consume while commuting to work, exercising or performing chores around the house. And the last few years have seen an explosion of new content and programs.

“Creating the podcast studio has allowed us to double the production space available to the community and give us room to host larger productions in the main studio. The



Animal Welfare Officer Chris Baumann discusses the Bloomfield Township Animal Shelter services with Police Chief James Gallagher in Episode 5 of his podcast "Community Readiness" which centers around community partnerships.

pod/vodcast are an evolution of what we've been doing here in Bloomfield Township for years - conversational shows with interesting residents and community members about local issues. Adding the distribution platforms now available will help extend our reach. I'm really excited about Community Readiness with Chief James Gallagher, as I don't think there's a police podcast out there that looks at education and community partnership quite the way our Chief does in his program," said Cable and Community Relations Director Carrie LeZotte.

Per Cable Operations Manager Steve Rota, the residents that take part in production drive the studio forward. "Residents are the reason we have all the programs that we do. They bring their programming ideas and we provide the technical expertise; they give us the guest and the host and we put the show together."

Once created and uploaded, all podcasts can be streamed via Podbean. Whether you go to Podbean.com or download the free app, you will have access to our two channels: Bloomfield Community Television and Community Readiness with Chief James Gallagher.

## Watch the Podcast!

Scan one of the QR codes below to watch a podcast on Podbean.com. Subscribe for new content!



Community Readiness



BCTV



BCTV recently collaborated with the Township Police Department on new recruitment videos and social media content as shown here. The videos feature several of the Department's officers. Scan the code to watch!





# BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

4200 TELEGRAPH ROAD  
PO BOX 489  
BLOOMFIELD MI 48303-0489

## TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY

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
Water/Sewer Emergency	433-7730

## New Solid Waste Hauler Effective July 1

At their April 10, 2023 meeting, the Board of Trustees approved Priority Waste as Bloomfield Township's new solid waste hauler. Priority Waste will replace Green For Life (GFL) who has been the Township's hauler since 2016. This approval came after an extensive public bidding and vetting process. This process included interviews with top bidders, site visits to company facilities, interviews with municipal references and confirmation of the bids submitted. Priority Waste will take over solid waste collection services beginning July 1, 2023. It is important to note that types of service levels offered will remain the same including the option to select door side service at an increased rate, the annual payment

discount, and senior discount option. Collection days for all residents will remain the same, however, pickup times may change so please have your trash out by 7:00 A.M. especially during the initial transition phase. Bloomfield Township and Priority Waste are committed to making this transition as smooth as possible and both teams are working hard behind the scenes to make it happen. We believe Priority's innovative approach to customer service and commitment to the latest technological advances in the industry position them to provide a superior resident experience. Stay tuned: we ask that residents watch for more information coming soon from both the Township and

Priority Waste. Below is a map indicating collection days within the Township (these dates have not changed).

### Bloomfield Township Collection Schedule

**BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP COLLECTION SCHEDULE**

ZONE 1: Monday  
 ZONE 2: Tuesday  
 ZONE 3: Wednesday  
 ZONE 4: Thursday  
 ZONE 5: Friday