



# BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Where are they going?

## Emergencies come in many forms

The fire truck roars down the street. You don't see any smoke in the neighborhood. In fact, everything looks and sounds normal.

So where is it going? And why?

Every day, Township emergency vehicles hit the road for a variety of reasons but, ironically, chances are the fire trucks aren't heading for a fire. More than ever, medical emergencies, false alarms and miscellaneous events are the cause of the calls for help.

"The bulk is fire alarms that go off," said Dave Piché, Township fire chief. Another factor is aging. Not only is the Township's infrastructure getting older, there are now four senior living residences in the Township. Every day the fire department responds to calls there for someone in distress.

The numbers show the trends. There were 39 structure fires in the Township in 2012, 19 in 2013, and 22 in 2014 (the latest year figures are available). On the other hand, the depart-

ment responded to 2,540 medical emergencies in 2012, 2,694 in 2013, and 2,963 in 2014.

Overall, calls continue to rise.

the station or are available to respond to other calls.

The key, Piché said, is "flexibility." No matter what the call,

the department has to be ready to respond in the most efficient manner.

Adding to the mix is that the department is in a pilot program with a local hospital to link doctors in the hospital to patients in their homes. Using computer links, the doctors can see and speak directly to

patients even though they are miles apart.

"We've seen 26 patients so far," Piché said, and the program has been getting glowing reviews.

Despite the increasing workload, the department continues to offer more than emergency aid. Firefighters do home fire inspections, help with lock outs, lift assists, and smoke detector installation and battery changes.

It all fits in with the department's slogan: "When in doubt, call us out."



The Township's Fire Department is always ready to respond to any emergency.

In 2014, the department responded to 5,021 calls. That was significantly up from 4,444 in 2013. In addition to fire calls, the department responded to downed wires, hazardous material protection, water and ice rescue, carbon monoxide alarms, lock outs and more

"EMS calls continue to rise," Piché said. An emergency vehicle and fire truck respond to each EMS call. That allows four firefighters to be on the scene. If all four aren't needed, two can take the fire truck back to



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  
Lisa Seneker, Vice Chairman  
Richard Atto  
Neal Barnett  
Tad Krear  
Richard Mintz  
Jeff Salz

#### BOARD OF APPEALS

James Aldrich, Chairman  
Carol Rosati, Vice Chairman  
David Buckley  
Brian Henry  
Tracy Leone  
Lisa Seneker  
Robert Taylor, Jr.  
Justin Winkelman, Alternate  
Pam Williams, Alternate

## Save the date...

### February 14

Last day to pay winter tax without penalty

### March 8

Presidential Primary election

### March 14

Yard waste pick-up resumes

### May 7

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day



#### 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

## Three elections coming up this year

Mark your calendars now for three elections scheduled in 2016: March 8, 2016, Presidential Primary; Aug. 2, 2016, State Primary; and Nov. 8, 2016, General Election.

Preparations are under way in the Clerk's Office for the Presidential Primary. Absent Voter Ballot Applications were mailed in December 2015. Voters in Precinct 4, former Hickory Grove Elementary/9th Grade Academy, and Precinct 24, former Lahser High School/Temporary Bloomfield Hills High School, will be notified of changes to their polling locations. Both schools are now closed.

Bloomfield Township voters are encouraged to participate in Michigan's Presidential Primary on March 8, 2016. Two features of this election warrant explanation, including a closed primary and the party participation formula.

A closed primary establishes the following procedures:

- There will be at least two ballot styles: Republican and Democrat (three if nonpartisan candidates or proposals are added to the election).

- Ballot style selection must be indicated *in writing*. Voters at the polls will indicate their ballot style on the Application to Vote. Absentee voters will indicate their ballot style on the Absent Voter Ballot Application.

The party participation formula determines eligible political parties that can participate in this primary. Only the Republican and Democratic parties are eligible to participate in Michigan's 2016 Presidential Primary. A political party that received less than 5 percent of the total vote cast nationwide for the office of president in the last presidential election is ineligible to participate in the primary.

It's also important to note that the State Primary election on Aug. 2 will include two Township millage renewal pro-

posals, both 10-year millages. They are not new millages. We'll have more information on these millage renewals in the coming months.

Exercise your right to vote on Tuesday, March 8, 2016. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Visit our website for the final list of presidential candidates and further details: <http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/Services/Clerk/Elections.htm>.



Equipment is checked in preparation for elections by (left to right) Deputy Clerk Deana Mondock, Carol Miller and Clerk Jan Roncelli.

## Big Beaver Road construction

The Road Commission for Oakland County will be reconstructing Big Beaver Road between Adams Road and Woodward Avenue in 2016. The scope of work includes adding a center lane and left turn lane between Woodward Avenue and Brookdale Road, replacing the Rouge River crossing, and replacing the asphalt surface

of Big Beaver Road.

Big Beaver Road will be closed to through traffic throughout the project. Access to all homes and businesses will be maintained. The road will be completely closed at the Rouge River crossing. The recommended detour route is Woodward Avenue and Adams Road in the north-south direction and

Long Lake Road in the east-west direction.

The project is scheduled to start in the spring of 2016, with Big Beaver open to traffic in the fall of 2016. Questions and concerns can be directed to the RCOC department of Customer Service at (877) 858-4804 or via email at the RCOC website, [www.rcocweb.org](http://www.rcocweb.org).

## Information for new residents

Are you new to Bloomfield Township? The Township's website is full of great information for new residents. Go to the home page, [www.bloomfieldtwp.org](http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org), and click on the New Residents button on the left hand side of the page. There you'll find information on utility companies and cable providers, voter registration, dog tags, programs for seniors, and more. Township offices are open from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and employees are happy to answer any questions you may have. Call (248) 433-7700.



## A NOTE FROM

Leo Savoie, Bloomfield Township Supervisor

# Service is our business

Fire Chief Dave Piché was recently named Fire Chief of the Year by the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs.

The honor is well-deserved and was given to him for his dedication and, what I find especially important, his innovations in leading the Bloomfield Township Fire Department. He is just one example of how dedicated and capable the employees of this Township are.

Most residents don't see that, and the great irony is that they shouldn't. Ideally, the Township operations are like a well-functioning machine. Everything works smoothly and doesn't require minute attention.

This does not in any way undermine the need for vigilance and daily attention by the administration to ensure that everything is operating as it should and to be available instantly if it isn't. But having a good system in place minimizes the chances of having a problem.

Of course, a Township isn't a machine. It is a conglomerate

of people, ranging from residents to visitors to employees. All have their place and role in the community. For our part, in Town Hall, we work continuously to ensure that everything is running well. You probably don't notice that, and as I said earlier,



Township employees are always on call to take immediate action in emergencies.

er, you shouldn't have to. Our job is to make sure that your community is operating well and is a fine place to live, work and play. That occurs in a number of ways, most of which you barely notice. See those buildings going up on Telegraph by Square Lake Road? All are businesses that

will be an asset to the Township, but it is our job to be sure that every step of developing those sites is moving forward in an acceptable way.

I admit that developers sometimes clench their teeth over our planning and permitting process, but that's because we insist that they build something that will be beneficial to our community even it costs them a little more money. And frankly, the process can't be all that bad because Bloomfield Township remains one of the most desirable places anywhere to open a business – or build a home, for that matter.

And that brings us back to people. Those who toil for the Township make extraordinary efforts to provide the best service possible. When it snows, we are out there immediately. Got a water main break? We're on it right away. We take great pride in our attention to customer service, and the feedback we

get from the residents shows that many appreciate it. Some folks do focus on the negative, and honestly, we can't do everything right all the time. But regardless, we continue to do what we need to do to keep the Township as one of the best places to live anywhere.

I would urge you to take a look at our website: [www.bloomfieldtwp.org](http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org). It is a gold mine of information. Many questions you may have about the Township can be answered right there, whether you're curious about the budget, current construction in town, or if you want to see videos of Board of Trustees meetings. That and much, much more is right there, just a keystroke away. And if you have trouble navigating it or finding what you want, don't hesitate to call or email us. We're here to help.

It's all part of our commitment to openness and operating responsibly.

## Waste day draws hundreds

The Township Household Hazardous Waste Day proved to be as popular as ever, drawing 957 cars to the Township campus on Oct. 3.

Rizzo Environmental Services, US Ecology and Township DPW workers were on hand to help residents get rid of a variety of chemicals, paints, weed killer and other substances needing special disposal care.

The next Household Hazardous Waste Day will be held the first Saturday in May.





From the Police Department

## New K-9 joins the Township Police Department

There's a new dog in town. This isn't just any dog, though; this is a new Police Department K-9 named Max. Max is a two-year-old German Shepherd dog from Germany. Max and his handler, Officer Jason Follman, recently completed an intensive training program in Lima, Ohio to prepare to work as a team.

Officer Follman has been a police officer for 11 years, but has never served as a K-9 handler before.

"I've always wanted to work with a K-9, and the Township was good enough to give me the opportunity to do so," he said. Although Follman is new to the assignment, he has plenty of resources at his disposal, including the Township's former K-9 handler and the current K-9 team, Officer Angela Carlson and Cody. Both Township K-9 teams belong to a multi-jurisdictional training consortium that meets weekly to train and hone their skills.



Officer Follman and Max trained together in Lima, Ohio.

Bloomfield Township's Police Department boasts one of the oldest K-9 programs in Michigan. A K-9 team is a vital part of a police department's work. The team performs regular patrol duties as well as conducting searches for narcotics and tracking suspects and missing persons. But most residents never see the K-9 in action while he's working. They are more likely to meet Max when the team visits a school, or puts on a demonstration at the Township Open House.

When Max isn't on duty, he lives with Officer Follman and his family, cuddling with them on the couch like any other dog. "He's always ready to go to work," said Follman. "It's all fun and games to him. He thinks he's playing." Even though Max is a highly trained police dog, he is very social, Follman says, and is great with kids and adults. "He's a good face for the Department."



Max loves to go to work.

### CERT cited for service

They're there in case of an emergency. They are the members of the Community Emergency Response Team, or CERT. They are also member of the community who have volunteered to assist the Township public safety officers when needed.



The CERT volunteers (most in green shirts) received certificates of appreciation from the Township.

"We provide additional support for any type of emergency," said Bill Carson, team leader. That could be traffic or crowd control at an accident site, administering first aid or guarding the public from downed power lines. There are more than 20 CERT members and most were on hand at a recent Township Board meeting where they received certificates of appreciation.

### Sign up for the eNewsletter

What's going on around town?

You can find out every week through the Bloomfield Township eNewsletter. The eNewsletter is sent out every Thursday afternoon to subscribers. It contains items on what's happening in the area as well as timely announcements, such as snow emergency 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.

You can subscribe to the eNewsletter by going to the Township website, [www.bloomfieldtwp.org](http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org), and clicking to the box at the upper left of the page. Or send your email address to [gkowski@bloomfieldtwp.org](mailto:gkowski@bloomfieldtwp.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 [gkowski@bloomfieldtwp.org](mailto:gkowski@bloomfieldtwp.org).



From the Fire Department

## David Piché named Fire Chief of the Year

Dave Piché sees it as more than a personal achievement. "It's a real honor for the whole township," he said.

And it's a big one. Piche was recently named the Fire Chief of the Year for 2015 by the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs.

The award is presented annually to "honor a fire chief in Michigan for their dedication and service to the community they serve as well as the betterment of the Fire Service in Michigan," the Association stated. It was presented to Piché at the Association's Fall Conference at the Grand Traverse Resort.

Piché has been a member of the Bloomfield Township Fire Department for 30 years and has been chief since 2008. He was nominated for the award by Township Supervisor Leo Savoie, with full support of the fire department.

"Beyond performing his required duties, Chief Piché has continuously demonstrated innovation, creativity and a determination to improve the department to the highest level of professionalism," Savoie wrote in nominating Piché. An example of Piché's innovation is a pilot program being instituted with an area hospital to provide direct links between doctors in the hospital and patients being treated onsite by paramedics. This extends to follow-up visits in which doctors can "visit" patients in their homes via visual links to help treat and prevent readmissions to the hospital.

In typical modest style, Piché said he was surprised to be chosen as Chief of the Year. "It came out of nowhere," he said of the award. But he added, "It's a real honor."



Bloomfield Township Fire Chief Dave Piché received numerous honors after being named Chief of the Year. Among those honoring him was the Oakland County Board of Commissioners. Presenting a plaque to Piché are (from left) Board of Commissioners Chairman Michael Gingell, Commissioner Marcia Gershenson and Commissioner Shelley Goodman Taub.

## Fighting fires – with style

It's not the latest in living space, but is it a red hot property. Township firefighters use the structure, which is made from eight-foot by 40-foot shipping containers, for training. In all, it covers 3,200 square feet of space and is used to simulate enclosed spaces that can be filled with smoke and fire.

The initial concept was to use the building for "Save Your Own" training, meaning showing how to assist firefighters in peril. Now it's also used for

HazMat training, fire attack operations, search and rescue for single and multiple family dwellings and commercial buildings. A touch of realism is added to the exercises with the use of artificial smoke and talking mannequins that call out for help.

And now it even looks better. The structure was recently painted a pleasing tan color.



The training structure in the process of being painted.

## A red hot raffle for a good cause

What a combination: A delicious dinner and a ride on a fire truck.

That winning duo was available thanks to the Bloomfield Township

Fire Department. The department sponsored a raffle, to benefit the Fire Department Charities, to win a meal cooked at Central Fire Station, followed by a ride in a ladder truck around the Township campus and desserts back at the station.

The raffle was won by the Lauter family of Bloomfield Township. Mom and Dad, Liza and Jonathan had a good time but you can bet that daughter, Tali, 4, and son, Henry, 2, had a ball riding in the truck.

"All had a great time and I think thoroughly enjoyed some good food and conversation," said Firefighter Ed Lietz.





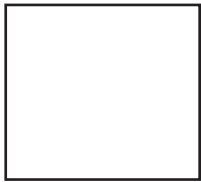
# BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

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



## Open House a shining success

Perfect weather helped make the Bloomfield Township Open House held Sunday, Oct. 11, an all-around success.

A huge crowd turned out throughout the day as kids and adults found an abundance of things to see and do. The heavy equipment, including snow plows, was out in full force, and you could hitch a ride in a police car with the siren wailing. The kids especially enjoyed the giant slide and the opportunity to direct a spouting fire hose toward a mockup of a building on fire.

A Beaumont Hospital helicopter made a precise landing on the Township campus,



Kids tumble out of the "smoke house," which mimics an actual burning building.

drawing hundreds of spectators.

Adults could get a passport or register to vote and everyone feasted on hot-dogs, pizza, tacos, pumpkin pie, cider and doughnuts.

A dramatic moment came when firefighters set a model bedroom on fire to demonstrate how quickly a fire spreads and why it is so important to have smoke detectors in

every bedroom. The Open House was held in conjunction with Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 4-10, with the theme of "Hear the Beep where you Sleep."



The Beaumont Hospital emergency helicopter was a popular draw.