

LIVING IN BLOOMFIELD

THE OFFICIAL **BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP** NEWSLETTER

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bloomfieldtp.org

Fall 2024

TOWNSHIP



Embrace the Season: Fall Back on Us to Prepare You for the Season Ahead

Leaves changing colors, football tailgates, and cider mills are all signs that fall is upon us. With each season, we prepare our schedules, our homes, and ourselves to plan for success and to make sure we can weather any storms that may come. In the Township, that means making sure that our departments are fully staffed and ready to help you with any services you may need. No matter if it's the Building Department focusing on permits and inspections to ensure your homes are safe and ready, our Department of Public Works making sure you have safe and clean drinking water, our Fire Department answering the call to keep your health and homes safe from harm, our Police Department responding in your time of need to protect and keep you safe from danger, or the many other departments that stand ready to serve you each day, we are all here for you. Whether in times of happiness or times of need, our staff is here to help you prepare for anything that may come your way.

Even after living in Bloomfield Township for 52 years, the natural beauty and diversity of the people, the fall colors, and this community always inspire me. Looking back, we have come incredibly far from times of crisis. Now that our services are fully staffed to serve, we can focus on our bright future together. We now shift our sights to preparing for the next 5 years and implementing the Strategic Plan that was built by residents of all ages, community service providers, business, educational, and faith leaders to benefit the community at large. You answered the call, and you helped us to focus our resources so we can continue to thrive together as a premier community!

Dani Walsh, Bloomfield Township Supervisor | 248.433.7700 | dwalsh@bloomfieldtp.org



Residents enjoy the activities at the Township's 2024 Open House held on Sunday, October 13th: Building a doghouse with Planning, Building and Ordinance Department, local groups entertain the crowd at the new BCTV Performance Stage with Cable & Community Relations Department, and kids get the thrill of squirting a fire hose with the Fire Department.

4 Reasons to Download the Township Mobile App

- Get info about latest news
- Listen to local podcasts and board meetings
- Report something to the Township
- See upcoming events at the Senior Center



Scan the code or visit bloomfieldtp.org/app to download.



On the Cover: Maple tree displaying its fall colors. Photo credit: Bloomfield Township Cable & Community Relations Department. For a chance to have your photo featured on the cover of a future Living in Bloomfield, email photo to: cable_dept@bloomfieldtp.org.



Enhancements Make Voting Easier Than Ever

Gone are the days of worrying about how you are going to make it to the polls on election day. Michigan election law has changed since the last presidential election cycle, making it easier than ever to cast your vote. Now voters have the option to vote early, either by absentee ballot or at an early voting site. No-reason absentee means anyone can choose to vote absentee. You no longer need to

have a reason, such as being out of town. Also, nine days of early voting will take place at the Bloomfield Township Public Library from Saturday,

October 26 through Sunday, November 3rd, where any registered voter can stop by to complete their ballot. Hours are 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. each day, except Thursday, October 31 hours are 12:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

Voters also enjoy several options for returning their absentee ballots. A good method is to use the U.S. Postal Service and the pre-paid postage on the ballot. A better method is to use one of the three election drop boxes available throughout the Township which are secure and monitored 24/7. The best method is to bring your absentee ballot to an early voting site mentioned above, or to the polls on election day where you can tabulate the ballot yourself!

VOTE EARLY

Public Library
1099 Lone Pine Rd.
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

October 26 - November 3
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Except Thursday, October 31
12 - 8 p.m.

EXTENDED HOURS AT THE CLERK'S OFFICE:

Friday, October 25 | Noon to 5 p.m.
Friday, November 1 | Noon to 5 p.m.
Saturday, November 2 | 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Anyone wishing to register to vote or track their ballot can do so at the Michigan Voter Information Center (MVIC) website, mVIC.sos.state.mi.us. This is a powerful resource with an abundance of voting information. As always, we are here to help you too. Our office will have extended office hours for election-related business.

Security and Accuracy remain as high as ever. Prior to Election Day, all equipment is checked for accuracy and afterwards secured under lock and seal,

which is not opened until the Precinct Inspectors start work on Election Day. Absentee ballots are only sent to people who properly apply after signatures are verified. Once returned, ballots are kept in a locked security cabinet. Counting of these is conducted in the Senior Center by your neighbors and friends. You can stop by to witness the event. Early Voting or Early Absentee Counting results cannot be seen or generated until the end of Election Day. Most importantly, security and accuracy are assured by dedicated employees and hundreds of your neighbors and friends who work Election Day!

Martin C. Brook, Township Clerk | 248.433.7702 | clerk@bloomfieldtwp.org



Treasurer's Turn: Returns on Investment Prepare Township for Success

As fall settles in, bringing with it cooler temperatures and tailgates, my work continues in bringing new and diversified investments into the Township's investment portfolio. The Treasurer is charged with investing the surplus funds - meaning cash it does not need to meet everyday disbursements - and with managing the investments of the retirement systems.

The Township has built significant reserves through prudent financial management over the years so that we can be ready to respond to any emergency situation that might arise. I put this reserve cash in a portfolio consisting of money market funds, bank CD's, investment pools, and bonds. The goal is to strive for return on investment without sacrificing liquidity or principal. Last year we generated \$4.3 million in earnings and interest on our reserves beating our budget by 20%.

As was common with municipalities in the 1960's, new employees were offered a pension if they stayed with the Township for most or all of their career. As we all remember, these pension liabilities began to wreak havoc on municipal (and corporate!) budgets with the help of modern medicine extending the lengths of people's lives. As a result, in 2005 Bloomfield Township joined many other local governments in closing its pension system to new employees, instead offering them a defined contribution style retirement plan known as a 401(a).

For employees starting prior to 2005, they were participants in the Township's Pension Plan which has over \$200 million in assets; and is managed by the Treasurer in consultation with paid investment advisers. The investments in this Plan run the gamut from bonds and equities to real estate and private equity. While I monitor the plan's investments every day, the Township has a committee that meets quarterly to provide advice and a fresh perspective. We have an important duty to ensure our retirees get the income they've earned.

As the staff in the front office are collecting payments for taxes and assessments, behind the scenes I am also keeping a watchful eye on our Township investments to deliver meaningful return to our bottom line.

Michael Schostak, Township Treasurer | 248.433.7705 | treasurer@bloomfieldtwp.org

SERVICES THAT

October Brings National Fire Prevention Week

Every October, Bloomfield Township Fire Department joins in National Fire Prevention Week. This year's campaign is "Smoke alarms: Make them work for you!" The key smoke alarm tips and guidelines for residents to remember are: Install, test, and replace. Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on each level of the home. Test all smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button. Replace all smoke alarms when they are ten years old or stop responding when tested.

Additionally, smoke alarms should meet the needs of all family members such as those with sensory or physical

Preparing Your Home for the Cooler Months

As we say goodbye to summer, it is time to take care of some essential fall maintenance tasks around the home. Preparing your home now can reduce headaches and unnecessary costs later. Here is a checklist to help prepare your home for winter.

- Check the exterior caulking & paint and repair as needed.
- Fall is a good time to reseal your asphalt driveway.
- Inspect your roof & shingles and make any necessary repairs.
- Change your furnace filters and make sure the humidifier filters are either new or clean.
- Have a fireplace? Now is a good time to have your flues cleaned and your fireplace dampers inspected.
- Disconnect garden hoses and drain the water out to prevent freezing.
- Remember to schedule to have your sprinkler system blown out.
- If you plan to leave for an extended time, be sure to turn your water heater down to the "vacation" setting.
- Schedule your pool winterization.

HELPFUL REMINDERS • HELPFUL REMINDERS

WATCH US ON DEMAND

An expansive collection of programming is available to watch any time you want. Visit bloomfieldtp.org/vod to search the collections.

Of course you can always watch our Comcast cable Channel 15 for 24/7 programming.



HOLIDAY TRASH DELAYS

Th-Fri, Nov 28-29
Collection will be delayed one day.

Wed-Fri, Dec 25-27
Wed-Fri, Jan 1-3
Collection will be delayed one day.



WORK FOR YOU

disabilities. When fires start a mere moment of time can make the difference. If you have questions about your smoke alarms, contact the fire department's non-emergency line at 248-433-7745.

The National Fire Prevention Association's mission is to help save lives and reduce loss with information, knowledge, and passion. The mission of the BTFD is to protect lives, property, and the environment through prompt, skillful, innovative fire and life safety services with compassion and respect.

A Message from Priority Waste



To Our Valued Bloomfield Township Residents,

We sincerely apologize for the inaccurate billing communications that were sent out recently. We understand the inconvenience this may have caused and are committed to providing clearer information moving forward.

Our billing team has been working diligently to ensure accuracy. In the coming weeks, we will be mailing you a packet that includes:

- An updated invoice
- A statement of your account
- Instructions for signing up for autopay
- Instructions for creating an account with Priority

These will be updated invoices, and they will replace the ones that were most recently sent out.

Please note that no liens will be placed on your winter tax bill.

We greatly value our relationship with Bloomfield Township and its residents, and we are confident this additional information will lead to improved communication in the future.

Thank you for your understanding and patience.

If you have any questions, please contact Priority Waste at 586-228-1200 or email info@prioritywaste.com.

HELPFUL REMINDERS • HELPFUL REMINDERS

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

Sunday, November 3rd will be time to "fall back." Remember to set your clocks one hour back.



HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Township Offices will be closed on:
Thursday, November 28 | December 24-25 | January 1



YARD WASTE COLLECTION ENDS

The week of December 16-20 is the last week for yard waste pick-up.

Service will resume next March.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Meet BTPD's New Community Relations Officer



Bloomfield Township Police Department named Officer Heather Glowacz its new Community Relations Officer in September. She graduated from Wayne State University with a Kinesiology degree before acquiring her Post-Bachelor Forensic Investigation Certificate. She graduated from the police academy in 2013 and joined BTPD in 2021. "My job is to bridge the gap between the police department and the community," says Officer Glowacz of her new role.

"We are excited for Heather to become our next Community Relations Officer," said Chief James Gallagher. "She was selected for this role because of her ability to build and foster relationships within our community, her communication skills, and positive attitude. Her skillset as a Field Training Officer, Defensive Tactic Instructor, Drug Recognition Expert, and veteran patrol officer will

benefit our community programs. Heather puts a friendly, approachable face to the uniform and we are confident she will be successful in her new role."

Officer Glowacz feels honored to take on the role. "My whole career I've really enjoyed being with people out in the community and knowing this department had a dedicated role was very exciting when I applied," she said. "I look forward to continue strengthening the bonds between police, public, media, and community organizations that my predecessor Officer Nick Soley developed."

Residents are likely to find her out and about in the community. To inquire about a visit from the Community Relations Officer to your homeowners' association meeting or community event contact cro@bloomfieldtwp.org.



SENIOR SERVICES

Grants Help Seniors in Need with Chore Program and Minor Home Repair

Bloomfield Township Senior Services is proud to launch the Oakland County Senior Chore Pilot Program through a grant with Oakland County. Older adult chore services are important for maintaining independence, physical safety, financial welfare, and mental and emotional wellbeing that many seniors face as they age at home. Residents aged 62 and older with an income at or under 80% of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) area median income are eligible. Through staffing and contractors, Senior Services will provide some or all of the following yard services: snow removal, lawn mowing, leaf clean up, bush trimming, and gutter cleaning.

Following HUD data, a 2024 annual income

of \$53,700 for one person; \$61,400 for two people; and \$69,050 for three people meet eligibility requirements.

Individuals between 50 and 62 years of age with a disability may be eligible. If the number of qualifying households exceeds the amount of available funds, stricter eligibility guidelines may be designed to serve those most in need.

Additionally, as they have for years, Senior Services also offers Minor Home Repair through a Community Development Block Grant. Projects covered under this grant include furnace, chimney, porch, plumbing, and electrical repairs. Financial guidelines exist for this program as well.

To see if you qualify, please contact the Senior Center by phone at 248-723-3500 or via email at seniorservices@bloomfieldtwp.org.



CABLE DEPARTMENT

A Year of Events Culminates with Holiday Gathering and Orientation on December 18th.

As 2024 winds down, Bloomfield Community Television reflects on all of the changes and new initiatives that have come to fruition. The year will culminate with an orientation and holiday gathering on December 18th from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. at the Cable Studio at 4190 Dublin Road. Whether you're interested in producing programming, helping out behind the scenes, or just learning more about how your PEG and Franchise Fees are utilized; please join our staff and community producers for cookies and light refreshments. RSVP to jguzman@bloomfieldtwp.org.

The highlight of BCTV's Summer was the Youth Documentary Workshop in June. Held in conjunction with the Regional Youth Academy that connects teenagers in the Township, Birmingham, and Auburn Hills Police Departments – we worked with students to create a documentary. Attendees learn the basics of camera operation



Cable and Community Relations Director Carrie LeZotte presented a workshop at Back to School with BCTV.

and editing. If you know a student who may be interested in the 2025 edition or our youth workshop, subscribe to the Township eNews for future updates.

Speaking of students, they come in all shapes and sizes, and this September we hosted many residents aging from teenage years to seniors for Back to School with BCTV! This day long event saw 5 workshops take place ending with a live podcast recording. You can find the recording of our workshops on our YouTube channel now!

The Cable and Community Relations Department strives to make it's building not just a resource for residents, but a community gathering space as well. We hope you join one of our many events that showcase who we are, what we do, and what we offer the community. Contact us any time to learn more!



SIGN UP

FOR WEEKLY ENEWS

Don't miss out on events and information. Get our weekly digital edition delivered right to your inbox. Subscribe at

bloomfieldtwp.org/enews



BLOOMFIELD COMMUNITY TELEVISION IS ON YOUTUBE

You can watch government meetings and local programs from community producers on demand.



WHAT IS THE FINANCIAL STANDING OF BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP?

Visit www.bloomfieldtwp.org/dashboard and look at the Munetrix Citizen's Guide and Dashboard on the Finance page.

TOWNSHIP BOARDS



ELECTED OFFICIALS

ADMINISTRATION

Dani Walsh, Supervisor
Martin C. Brook, Clerk
Michael Schostak, Treasurer

TRUSTEES

Neal J. Barnett
Stephanie Fakh
Christopher Kolinski
Valerie Murray

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

PLANNING COMMISSION

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

BOARD OF APPEALS

Brian Henry, Chairman
Jocelyn Giangrande, Vice Chairman
Stephanie Fakh
Ed Ford
Scott Gittleman
Andrea O'Donnell
Carol Rosati
Glenda Meads, Alternate



CONNECT ONLINE

Keep up with the latest community & government news.

bloomfieldtwp.org/socialmedia

PUBLISHED BY THE CABLE AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

248.433.7790 | cable_dept@bloomfieldtwp.org



BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

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PO BOX 489
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP, MI 48303-0489

TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY

Administration	248.433.7700
Accounting	248.433.7712
Assessor's Office	248.433.7710
Building Division	248.433.7715
Clerk's Office.....	248.433.7702
Community Cable	248.433.7790
Engineering & Environmental..	248.594.2800
Fire Non-Emergency	248.433.7745
Ordinance Division.....	248.594.2845
Planning Division.....	248.433.7795
Police Non-Emergency	248.433.7755
Senior Services.....	248.723.3500
Treasurer's Office	248.433.7705
Water & Sewer	248.594.2800
Water/Sewer Emergency.....	248.433.7730

CONTRACT SERVICES

Comcast Cable.....	1.888.XFINITY
Consumers Energy	1.800.477.5050
Detroit Edison	1.800.477.4747
Priority Waste.....	1.855.WASTE65

UPCOMING CAMPUS EVENTS

ELECTION DAY

November 5 | Polls Open 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Whether you vote absentee, early voting, or on election day, you can find all the details here:

bloomfieldtwp.org/elections

BCTV HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

December 18 | 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Join us for a social gathering to celebrate a year of local TV productions. Mingle with your favorite local TV hosts, tour the production studio, and meet BCTV staff.

bloomfieldtwp.org/openhouse

TRUSTEE OFFICE HOURS

5 - 6:30 p.m. | Bloomfield Township Public Library

Prior to the final board meeting each month.

(Typically the 4th Monday.)

Opportunity to meet with a Trustee in person.

TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

Board of Trustees | 7 p.m. | 2nd & 4th Monday

Planning Commission | 7 p.m. | 1st & 3rd Monday

Zoning Board of Appeals | 7 p.m. | 2nd Tuesday

Design Review Board | 2 p.m. | 1st & 3rd Wednesday

Location: Township Auditorium

