Bloomfield Township sponsors Open House on October 8

Bloomfield Township families get a chance to see their government’s services in action on Sunday, Oct. 8, during the annual Open House.

Each year the Fire, Police Engineering & Environmental Services and Public Works departments open their doors to the public to demonstrate important safety and health measures that families can incorporate into their home lives.

The free event takes place between noon and 4 p.m., Oct. 8, within the Bloomfield Township civic complex on Telegraph south of Long Lake and coincides with National Fire Prevention Week. "This year’s Fire Dept. focus will be on safe cooking," said Bloomfield Township Fire Marshal Mike McCully. "The theme is ‘Prevent Cooking Fires: Watch What You Heat’ and will be illustrated with literature, exhibits and demonstrations."

Kids will be given goody bags and can visit interactive stations like the BTFD Safety Smoke House, Stop Drop & Roll, Stay Low & Go, the Hazard House and operate an actual fire hose. Sparky the Fire Dog will also be on hand to take pictures with children. Rides in squad cars.

The Dept. of Public Works will show off its heavy equipment and families can also take a ride in a snow plow and other Township vehicles

Children may have the chance to examine the interior of a medi-vac helicopter and the high-tech Oakland County Sheriff Command vehicle provided both are available that day. Visit the NFPA’s website at http://www.nfpa.org for more information on this year’s fire safety theme and other fire safety topics.

Household Hazardous Waste Day Oct. 7

Bloomfield Township will sponsor its Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day Saturday, Oct. 7, at the north parking lot of the Bloomfield Township administrative building, located on Exeter Rd. west of Telegraph, south of Long Lake Rd. (look for signs on drop-off day). This service is for residents only; proof of residency is required. The Township website at www.bloomfieldtwp.org contains an extensive list of acceptable materials for drop off.

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.
Exercise your right to vote November 7

On Nov. 7, exercise your right to vote at the polls or by absentee ballot. On your ballot, the following offices will be determined:

- **Partisan Offices**
  - Governor/Lt. Governor
  - Secretary of State
  - Attorney General
  - U.S. Senator Michigan
  - U.S. Representative

- **State Officers**
  - State Treasurer
  - State Auditor

- **County Officers**
  - County Clerk
  - County Commissioner

- **Judicial Officers**
  - Supreme Court Justice
  - Court of Appeals Judge
  - Circuit Court Judge
  - Probate Court Judge

- **Local Officers**
  - County Clerk
  - Township Clerk
  - Treasurer
  - Assessor
  - Recorder
  - Town Clerk
  - Register of Deeds
  - Clerk of Probate

To vote on Tuesday, November 7, 2006, Bloomfield Township had the highest voter turnout in Oakland County for the August 2006 Primary.

Building Department offers fall tips for homeowners

With summer’s heat behind us and winter’s chill ahead, fall offers homeowners the perfect time to perform important maintenance tasks. The following list of suggestions was prepared by the Bloomfield Township Building Dept.: 

- Caulk & paint after the harsh summer heat.
- Sealcoat your asphalt driveway.
- Prepare your AC units for winter storage.
- Connect your hoses from the hose bibs before freezing nighttime temperatures arrive.
- Winterize your lawn equipment.
- Protect the basement windows with plastic.

The selected architect will work closely with Township staff and our consulting engineers.

When the architects complete their plans, the construction will be bid out. All building costs will be consistent with the bond language that voters approved. The Township’s bond consultant will advise the Board of Trustees regarding the effect of bonds.

We anticipate that construction will begin in approximately one year. The first phase will be the construction of the new fire station and the senior services facility. Next, the demolition of the old fire station will take place, allowing for the construction of the new public services building on the combined site. While the new public services facility is being built, the existing building will be housed in temporary locations. The renovation of the Westview Fire Station will proceed independently.

We will keep the Township website up to date with progress of the design and construction. Of course, if you have further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me, any Board member, or any department head.

A NOTE FROM

Dave Payne, Bloomfield Township Supervisor

With the voters’ approval (55%) in August of the capital improvement project, Bloomfield Township will begin the design and construction of three new buildings and the renovation of one. A new public services facility, central fire station and senior services center will be built on the Township campus on Telegraph at Long Lake Road. The Westview Fire Station on the east side of the Township will be renovated.

Dollar for dollar, motion-sensing floodlights are one of the best crime prevention investments you can make. They act as an alert to the homeowner of someone near the house and are inexpensive to purchase and easy to install. Motion-sensing floodlights should be installed on all sides of the home and should be well out of reach.


Keep landscaping trimmed to remove hiding spots for would-be burglars. A rule of thumb is that bushes should be 36” high or window-sill height, whichever is lower.

Replace the screws in door hinges and lock strike plates with screws that are 3½” or 3” in length.

When away on vacation, have someone frequently check on your home and give it that ‘lived-in’ look. Consider the purchase of home-instant smoke alarms for your home, as well.

Have an alarm professionally installed in your home.

Bloomfield Township Senior Services/GBSA is initiating a project with the Oakland University Public Administration Masters program.

A selected sample of Township residents ages 50 and over will be surveyed in the coming months. The goal is to gain input from residents about any programs or services that they wish to see developed. This will be especially helpful as we move into creating a permanent location for all senior services. If you receive a phone call or mailed survey we ask that you take a few minutes to share your thoughts and ideas to improve our community.

In the northeast Michigan remains clean and contaminant-free. Sweep it. Grass clippings and driveways often contain hidden contaminants like fertilizer and gasoline residue. Hosing off a driveway to clear it of dirt or grass clippings will send these contaminants into the storm water drain and eventually into a lake. Sweep dirt and clippings is the safest way to clean a driveway.

Keep it Clean. Storm drains are for storm water only. Clear leaves and clippings from the driveway to clear it of dirt or gasoline residue. Hosing off a driveway to clear it of dirt or grass clippings will send these contaminants into the storm water drain and eventually into a lake. Sweep dirt and clippings is the safest way to clean a driveway.

For more steps on protecting our lakes and rivers, visit the Bloomfield Township website at www.bloomfield-twp.org or call the Engineering & Environmental Services Department at (248) 594-2800. Remember, our water is our future—and it’s our responsibility to keep yards, parking lots and driveways clean and free of debris.

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Michigan laws and Bloomfield Township’s ordinances related to minors, alcohol, house parties and driving. Michigan laws can be viewed at www.legislature.mi.gov.

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<th>Michigan Laws</th>
<th>MCL 257.625a</th>
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Don't the police have anything better to do?

There is nothing more important than the protection of human life. Given the overwhelming evidence showing the long and short-term dangers of underage drinking, it remains a critical issue. Underage drinking is also illegal.

Police departments do not have the luxury of deciding which laws they will enforce. If a law exists, it must be enforced until it is modified, removed or overturned by the courts.

Should the police suspect or become aware of underage drinking, they are duty bound to investigate, and if necessary, take an intoxicated child into custody.

Failure on the part of a police officer to do so could subject them to termination. They could also be sued personally and prosecuted criminally.

Hosting drinking parties for minors: A risky proposition

Hosting a party where teens can drink safely is illegal and can subject the homeowner to criminal prosecution. The homeowner may also be held civilly liable and criminally responsible for anything that the intoxicated minors may do. Lastly, the homeowner may be held liable if that minor should suffer any injury, alcohol poisoning, or other health emergency as a result.

Each time a homeowner allows underage drinking, they risk losing everything they have: their home, savings, investments, future income, and even their freedom. (See Bloomfield Township Ordinances 450. 1.01(2) and 137.16.01(a))

When we respond to the location of underage drinking, our primary goal is the safety of all involved. We may find it necessary to detain people on the scene until it is reasonably established that no intoxicated minors will be released, thus posing a threat to themselves or others. We may also begin a criminal investigation to determine the facts of the incident. Prosecution subsequent to this investigation is possible. The following are some of the laws pertaining to underage drinking:

- Michigan Laws, MCL 257.625a, MCL 436.1703, MCL 436.1906, MCL 257.625, MCL 750.28
- Bloomfield Township Ordinances 483.4.01(2), 450.1.01(2), 483.4.01(6), 137.16.01(a), 458.5.16b, 338.5.16c, 338.5.66, 458.301(1), 483.3.01, 301.5.01, 338.480.5.15a(2)(d), 338.480.5.15(1)(b), 338.480.5.15(4)(a), 257.41.01/2.01, 257.2.01