Master Plan Update to Launch in January

The natural beauty of Bloomfield Township, with its winding roads, rolling hills and tranquil lakes, lends a uniquely attractive setting to more than 16,000 homes within its boundaries. This quality community did not happen by accident; it has been guided by careful planning since the original Master Plan was adopted in 1961.

That process continues in 2006 as the Township prepares to update its Master Land Use Plan with assistance from a local planning consultant firm and input from residents, community organizations and business leaders.

Bloomfield Township is, for all practical purposes, a “built out” community. Therefore, the challenge before the Township at this time is to reassess its role in supporting and maintaining the vitality, beauty, and economic viability of the community as a whole.

Bloomfield Township has established policies regarding land use and development for more than four decades. In 1961, Bloomfield Township adopted its first comprehensive plan to guide the development of the Township’s approximately 25 square miles. In 1975, the Township adopted a new Master Plan For Future Land Use based on studies conducted on growth trends, land use assessments and transportation patterns. In 1991, the Master Plan for Bloomfield Township was developed in part to help achieve the Township Planning goals and objectives identified by its residents.

Basic elements in the Master Plan include goals and policies, future land use mapping, population and housing information, public infrastructure needs (roads, sanitary sewers, storm sewers, and water lines), transportation factors, and identification of existing community facilities.

The Update will add two new components. One is an Economic Development Strategy to guide land use decisions. The second is a Natural Features Inventory that will identify wetlands, floodplains, lakes, stream and river systems, slopes, wooded areas, and habitat areas to create strategies to protect and preserve these valuable resources.

Public participation is an essential part of the Update. Opportunities for input from residents, business leaders and community organizations are included in the process. Specific events and meetings will be publicized. Please watch for these and become involved in the process that will help shape our community’s future. See the Supervisor’s column on page 3 for more information on this topic.

Say “Cheese”

Beside providing current information about upcoming events and issues, we also like to use the Newsletter to show how people live and enjoy their community by featuring a photo of Township residents in the masthead. Send a photo of yourself or your family members in any of a number of pursuits you enjoy within Bloomfield Township to strico-mo@bloomfieldtwp.org or call 248-433-7609.

Preserving the natural beauty of Bloomfield Township will be one of many goals of the Master Plan Update. The updating process provides opportunity for input from residents with guidance from professional planning consultants.
New snow ordinance takes effect

A new snow emergency ordinance takes effect Feb. 1 to ensure the Township can plow, salt and clear roads safely and more efficiently. The ordinance mirrors those used in surrounding communities and prohibits parking on publicly maintained streets during a declared snow emergency.

“Vehicles that are parked on streets during a snowstorm often hinder plowing efforts and prevent us from clearing the road as quickly as possible,” said Superintendent of Public Works Jerry Marenger. “Cleared roads are important to ensure safe travel for both emergency vehicles and residents.”

Residents’ cooperation in moving their vehicles into their driveways will help to ensure the Township has the ability to salt and plow roads quickly.

Residents will be alerted to snow emergencies with an announcement made by the police chief, or his/her designated representative. That information will be broadcast on area radio and television stations, including Bloomfield Community Television, Channel 15.

There will also be a hotline established with a recorded message stating the snow emergency is in effect. Residents will have six hours from the time the snow emergency is declared before enforcement of the ordinance begins. This allows residents ample time to move their vehicles off the streets.

The snow emergency remains in effect until either a cancellation announcement is made or the street is substantially cleared of snow and ice, from curb to curb, for the length of the entire street.

Disabled vehicles pose a public safety hazard and must be moved off the street. Non-compliance with this ordinance may result in a fine of up to $100 and illegally parked vehicles may be impounded.

A special circumstance is made for residents who do not have a driveway. They may receive a special parking permit, which they will need to display in the front, driver’s-side window of the vehicle. Applications for these permits may be obtained through the Police Department.

The new ordinance gives residents six hours from the time a snow emergency is declared to move their cars off the streets.

Public Works offices open for business

Residents can now find information and assistance on topics ranging from trash collection to water billing in one convenient location at 4174 Dublin Drive within the Bloomfield Township campus at Telegraph just south of Long Lake.

In November, Bloomfield Township completed a reorganization of the Road and Water & Sewer departments into the Department of Public Works and the Engineering and Environmental Services Department.

Previous to this reorganization, the varied functions of these two departments were spread among several work locations within two different Township buildings. Now, the office operations for these two departments have combined into one location. Both offices are located in the building that previously served as home to the Bloomfield Hills School District’s Parks & Recreation Department next to the Bloomfield Community Television studio.

In this building, residents can find or request information concerning water billing, trash pickup schedules, snow plowing routes, household hazardous days, forestry, safety path construction, floodplain and wetland maps, hookups for water and sewer services, fertilizer regulations, gypsy moth spraying, emerald ash borer program, and West Nile Virus treatment, along with many other topics. For more information contact the Department of Public Works: Road Division at 248-433-7709; Water & Sewer Division at 248-433-7731; or the Engineering & Environmental Services Department at 248-549-2800.

Access important information online at the redesigned Bloomfield Township website at www.bloomfieldtwp.org.
A NOTE FROM

Dave Payne, Bloomfield Township Supervisor

Two-thousand-six will be a very significant year for Bloomfield Township as your Planning Commission and Board of Trustees consider matters that will affect well into the Township’s future. The most immediate is the update of the Bloomfield Township Master Plan. The article on the front page of this newsletter gives more information about the purpose of the update and the process we will undertake. The study of our Master Plan and the recommendations that come from it will guide the Township for generations to come in decisions pertaining to our land use as well as the preservation of the natural features that make the Township so desirable.

I am most enthusiastic about the opportunities each of you will have during this process to express your ideas and suggestions. During interviews with the consultant candidates, the Planning Commissioners made it very clear that public forums would be an essential part of the process.

One way to stay informed on these issues is to check the Township’s website. If you’ve used the site before, you’ll notice it’s been recently overhauled. It’s now easier to navigate and it still has all the information that led to it being named the best townships website in Michigan in a statewide contest in 2004. There are more than 350 pages on the site that address everything from Ash Borer Disease to Zoning Ordinances. Remember to go to www.bloomfieldtwp.org when you have questions about Township issues and services.

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— Dave Payne
Bloomfield Township Supervisor

Association questionnaires sought

At the end of January 2006, a letter and questionnaire will be sent out to all subdivision association presidents to update their association officers. Please fill out the questionnaire and return it to the Clerk’s Office. This information allows us to notify the current association officers when home-owners seek subdivision approval for building plans. If you have recently sent us this information, contact the Clerk’s Office to confirm these updates. Inactive subdivision associations should send us a letter confirming their inactive status. For more information, contact our office at 248-433-7702.
Learn television camera operation at BCTV

The basics of television camera operation and television production procedures will be the subject of two workshops at the Bloomfield Community Television Channel 15 studio Jan. 31.

After completing either of the two workshops, attendees are eligible to serve as crew members on any of a number of interesting in-studio and remote program shoots.

Bloomfield Community Television produces more than 450 locally originated shows annually and crews regularly travel to area churches, parks and restaurants for shoots.

Summer months bring concerts with crews shooting footage of many different bands and musicians in Shain and Beverly Hills parks and on the steps of Birmingham’s City Hall.

The workshops are from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and again at 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Please contact Bloomfield Community Television at 248-433-7790 to register.

BCTV Channel 15-produced Interfaith Odyssey received first place in the Alliance for Community Media’s 2005 Philo Award competition for non-commercial, cablecast programs. Bloomfield Township resident Azar Alizadeh (bottom row, far left) hosts the show whose focus is on illustrating and celebrating diversity within the community.

The front cover features Cheryl and Rich Bowman. Township residents since 1986, the couple raised their three sons in Bloomfield Township.