Spring’s arrival means Clean Sweep time

Neighborhood associations, school and community groups and residents are again invited to clean up Bloomfield Township by participating in the second annual Clean Sweep weekend, April 21 and 22.

The Clean Sweep program is designed to spruce up the rights of way near safety paths, in neighborhoods and at the entrances to subdivisions within the Township. The weekend event also serves as a community get-together as families and civic groups partner with the Township in their clean-up efforts. Last year 500 people participated to collect 18 cubic yards of trash and 36 cubic yards of yard waste.

This year’s Clean Sweep coincides with the April 22 observance of Earth Day, a worldwide day of global recognition of environmental issues and concerns.

To participate, residents are asked to register with the Department of Public Works by calling 248.433.7709. Residents may come to the DPW office to collect plastic bags for general debris and paper bags for yard waste.

Waste Management, the Township’s waste hauler, will pick up the bags during the week of April 23.

Like last year, photos of participants will be posted on a special section of the Township’s website.

To submit photos please send them to cable_dept@bloomfieldtwp.org or mail prints to Cable Dept. 4200 Telegraph Road, P.O. Box 489, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303-0489.

Names of individuals are optional, but be sure to include the name of your community group.

Bloomfield Township 2007-2008 budget approved

On March 26, the Board of Trustees approved a balanced budget for the 2007 – 2008 Fiscal Year which began April 1, 2007. This approval came after a detailed review with each department and a special board study session held in January.

Total revenues for the fiscal year are projected to be slightly in excess of $40 million with the largest single source being property taxes at approximately $31 million. State revenue sharing has remained largely steady for the past several years at $3.35 million. Fees from the 48th District Court come to approximately $2.1 million and other revenues and interest make up the balance.

The single largest expense goes to the people who deliver Township services. Total personnel costs make up almost 80 percent of the operating budget. The Township, like businesses everywhere, has put measures in place to control growing health care and pension costs. (For more information about this, please see “A Note from the Supervisor” on Page 3.)

Public Safety operations account for most of the Township’s expenditures at $24,852,700. In addition to the 170 current employees in both the Police and Fire Departments, major expenditures include the purchase, repair and maintenance of 79 emergency and patrol vehicles and the maintenance of four fire stations.

General Fund functions are the second largest group of expenses at $10,321,000. The Accounting, Assessing, Building, Clerk, Code Enforcement, Engineering & Environment, Please see BUDGET on page 2
Master Plan Update receives unanimous Board approval

The Township’s Master Plan Update was unanimously approved by the Township Board of Trustees on March 26, 2007. The approval caps more than a year’s worth of work by the Planning Commission, the Planning, Building and Ordinance departments and many other Township employees.

The Master Plan is the primary document used by Township officials and planners to determine how best to maintain the unique beauty, tranquil neighborhoods and vibrant business community of Bloomfield Township.

In their approval, the Board thanked the Planning Commission, and employees of the Planning, Building and Ordinance departments for creating a complete, useful and well written document.

A copy of the 2007 Master Plan Update can be downloaded from the Township website at www.bloomfieldtwp.org.

BUDGET from page 2

Information Technology, Maintenance, Building & Grounds, Motor Pool, Planning, Radio Communications, Supervisor’s and Treasurer’s offices and the 48th District Court all draw from the General Fund.

The Department of Public Works includes the Road and Water Divisions. Road Division expenses total a little more than $4.6 million and Water Division expenses total almost $4.3 million. This money pays for the maintenance and repair of all subdivision and gravel roads, snow removal, and the maintenance and repair of sewers.

The Cable Department (Bloomfield Community Television) and all community relations activities (this newsletter, the Township website, etc.) are primarily funded by cable franchise fees and grants.

The complete budget is posted on the Township website, www.bloomfieldtwp.org. If you have questions, please call the Supervisor’s Office at 248.433.7700.

For more financial information, see “A Note from the Supervisor” on Page 3.

Two school district elections set for May 8

For those Bloomfield Township voters in the Bloomfield Hills and Pontiac School Districts, a school election is scheduled for Tuesday, May 8. The ballot for the Bloomfield Hills School District includes two school board positions and a bond proposition to build two new high schools. The Pontiac School District has two openings for school board members.

Ballots will be posted on the website under the Clerk’s Office for your review. Take advantage of the opportunity to study the ballot, the candidates and the proposition at www.bloomfieldtwp.org/clerk.

All precinct locations are listed on the website, along with precinct maps. Voters in Precinct 3, Wing Lake School, will be temporarily relocated to Booth School (Gary M. Doyle Center), 7273 Wing Lake Road, from May 2007 through December 2008, due to construction at the Wing Lake site. Relocation notices were mailed to voters in Precinct 3 on March 15.

Be a good neighbor

Some large gatherings require special Township approval

With party season approaching, the Planning Dept. reminds all residents planning large gatherings to contact the Township if they believe their event may impede neighborhood traffic flow.

The Township has an ordinance requiring special permission for gatherings of 400 people or more. This ordinance requires Township approval and also requires the event planner to apply for a Special Event Permit.

Even gatherings of less than 400 people can create traffic flow problems in residential neighborhoods. Residents are urged to contact the Planning Dept. to discuss the unique circumstances their particular event may pose for neighbors. The Planning Dept. can be reached at 248.433.7795.

Further information on the Township’s Special Event Permit is available online at www.bloomfieldtwp.org/services/clerk/ordinances/ordinance 215.
A NOTE FROM
Dave Payne, Bloomfield Township Supervisor

As you may have noted on Page 1 of this newsletter, the Board of Trustees passed the budget for the 2007 – 2008 fiscal year. While we are fortunate to be able to operate with a balanced budget and continue all significant services, we are well aware that the financial outlook requires diligence today to ensure a fiscally healthy future.

Almost 80 percent of our operating budget goes for employee-related expenses. We are committed to delivering exceptional municipal services, and to do this, we need to attract and retain highly qualified employees. We periodically compare our salary ranges with those of neighboring communities to make sure we are competitive – but not excessive – in what we offer our employees. The number of people we employ is comparable to, and in many cases less than, the number employed by other municipalities of the same size.

Our employees have cooperated in the effort to hold down the rise in health insurance and retirement costs. They now pay a share of the monthly contribution to the health care plan, higher copays for office visits and prescription drugs, and for the most part, they use in-network medical professionals. All new general employees and new employees in most of the various bargaining units now participate in a defined contribution pension plan rather than the old defined benefit plan. We have diversified our pension portfolio over the past several years to help offset rising pension expenditures.

While our employees are being asked to take on a higher share of these costs, they have continued to excel in their duties. The list of recent staff accomplishments is long, but I’ll point out a few: The Cable Dept. won an Emmy along with numerous regional awards for community programming; the Clerk’s Office earned special certifications to process passports, to operate all new election equipment, and became better trained in Freedom of Information Act procedures; Engineering and Environment employees made sure new Safety Path construction activities came in on time and under budget and became trained in implementing the West Nile Virus treatment program, eliminating the need for outside contractors; the Planning Dept. supported the work of the Planning Commission in the creation of the Master Plan Update; the Police Dept.’s K-9 officer earned a rare national certification, three top officers were sent to executive level training at one of only two schools in the country to offer such a program, and the new Police Chief successfully completed the FBI National Academy, the most elite program in the country for law enforcement executives.

These achievements, along with others too numerous for this space, enable Bloomfield Township to continue the delivery of exceptional municipal services while holding down the rise in costs to ensure a healthy future for the residents and businesses of our community.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day is May 5th

Bloomfield Township will sponsor its Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day Saturday, May 5th, at the north parking lot of the Bloomfield Township administration building, located on Exeter Rd, west off 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.

Currently, the Township Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection events do not allow for residents to drop off computer and other miscellaneous electronic items. However there are a growing number of other opportunities for e-waste to be collected for recycling. Goodwill Industries will accept any computer related equipment at no charge (www.reconnectpartnership.com) and Dell computers will pick up any of their branded equipment at no charge (www.dell.com/dellrecycling). Many other large manufacturers have take-back programs for a minimal charge. In addition, there are a number of Michigan-based e-waste recyclers who will accept electronic equipment for a reasonable fee. See a list at www.michigan.gov/deqrmmd, click on the “Miscellaneous” category and choose “electronic equipment” in the form.

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day is Saturday, May 5th, at the north parking lot of the Bloomfield Township administration building.
The Bloomfield Township Classic will be back at Mercedes-Benz of Bloomfield Hills for its third year on Saturday, Aug. 18, between noon and 5 p.m. Along with the display of classic and specialty cars, the Classic will feature 50s and 60s music, convenient parking and the same great food and refreshments as in previous years. The event is FREE to the public.

The Classic, held in conjunction with the Woodward Dream Cruise, is a car show, party and charity event started by a group of Township car enthusiasts looking to involve their neighbors in the largest one-day classic auto event in the world.

Net proceeds from the Classic go to support charities right here in the community: The Bloomfield Township Fire Dept. Charities, Oakland Family Services and the Bloomfield Optimists.

Call 248-433-7790 to enter your pre-1972 classic or specialty car or find the entry form online at www.bloomfieldtwp.org. This year two entry fees are available at $100 and $75. The $100 entry fee comes with an official event shirt. Both entry levels come with the promise of a good time and an excellent vantage point from which to watch the action and mingle with neighbors and car enthusiasts.

Bloomfield Township Classic Registration Form
August 18, 2007, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Mercedes Benz of Bloomfield Hills
Woodward south of Big Beaver

Complete this form and return it to the address below.

Name __________________________________________ Address __________________________________________

Telephone (home) __________ (work) __________ (cell) __________ (email) __________

$100 registrants please indicate shirt size below. $75 registrants can skip sizing information.

Shirt size/type: Mens _____ Womens _____ Size S___ M___ L___ XL___

Vehicle information

Year______ Make __________________________ Model __________________________ Color _________ VIN________

Insurance Company________________________________________ Policy#________________________

Owner’s signature ______________________________________ Date ______________________

Remember to include: Completed application, check for $100.00 (with event shirt or $75 without event shirt) made payable to “Oakland Family Services.

Send to:
Oakland Family Services
Attn: Woodward Dream Cruise
114 Orchard Lake Road
Pontiac, MI 48341

Net proceeds benefit Oakland Family Services, Bloomfield Optimist Club and The Bloomfield Fire Department Charities. For info call the Classic Hotline, 248-433-7790. Vehicles will be displayed at Mercedes-Benz of Bloomfield Hills located at 36600 Woodward, south of Big Beaver. Vehicles must stay in place between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m., Sat., Aug. 18. The use of the dealership has been generously donated by its owner, Charles Ghesquiere.
Community Emergency Response Team’s first test a success

The Bloomfield Township Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) was called to action for the first time Jan. 15, after a severe ice storm passed through Bloomfield Township and surrounding communities.

Ice build-up brought down trees and power lines which prompted numerous calls to the Police and Fire departments. The large call volume could have quickly stressed Bloomfield Township’s public safety system had there not been a well-trained group of volunteers ready to respond.

Once the CERT team was activated, members were quickly placed at various locations where power lines were down in order to keep the general public from coming into contact with the dangerous live wires.

“In this first test of the CERT program our group proved itself as the team’s efforts allowed our police and fire personnel to attend to other calls for help,” said Bloomfield Township Fire Lt. Dave Piche.

The CERT program educates Township residents to be better prepared to survive and recover from all hazards including severe weather, flooding, major power outages, fire, transportation or hazardous materials incidents, and weapons of mass destruction such as biological, radiological, nuclear or explosive-inciendiary incidents.

CERT training is open to all interested Bloomfield Township residents and those who are employed within the its boundaries.

Ice build-up brought down trees and power lines which prompted numerous calls to the Police and Fire departments.

Event to showcase the available properties, excellent services and award winning schools that make up Bloomfield Township

On Sunday, May 20, between noon and 5 p.m. Bloomfield Township, together with Bloomfield Hills Public Schools and the Michigan Consolidated Association of Realtors (MCAR) will host a community-wide real estate open house event aimed at attracting buyers to the 700 homes currently on the market in the area.

Termed “Bloomfield Living – A Brilliant Move,” the one-day event seeks to show potential buyers the many benefits associated with living in Bloomfield Township and the school district by showcasing the excellent Township services and the fine educational opportunities offered.

Conant Elementary School will serve as event headquarters with representatives from the Township and Schools on hand to provide potential buyers with information about the community. MCAR will also hold seminars throughout the afternoon on hot homebuyer topics like financing options and home inspections.

Parents who wish to visit open houses unencumbered will have free, professional child care services at their disposal onsite through Bloomfield Hills Public School’s “Bloomin’ Kids” program.

“The schools have an interest in increasing their enrollment. We have an interest in Township houses selling to new owners. It’s really just a great way to combine forces to further the goals of the community as a whole,” said Supervisor Dave Payne.

Events similar to “Bloomfield – A Brilliant Move” have occurred in nearby communities but none have had the full backing of MCAR.

Spruce up tips from the Building Dept.

The Building Dept. offers these helpful tips to help residents with their spring cleaning maintenance chores:

- Clean out gutters and downspouts in preparation for the season’s rains. Clogged gutters result in plugged downspouts. Also, add extensions and splash blocks at the ends of the downspouts to direct water away from the foundation.
- Check shingles, roof antenna or dish, and siding for damage. Spring is also a good time to touch-up the caulking.
- Plan carefully before starting a major landscaping project. Grade changes can cause a negative impact on neighboring properties. Change in the flow of surface water can cause flooding down-stream.
- Contact the Building Department at (248) 433-7715 for information regarding Fill Permits.
Bowden tapped as Township’s top law enforcement official

The Bloomfield Township Board of Trustees named Deputy Chief Kirt Bowden as the next Chief of Police at its regular meeting on Monday, March 26. Bowden follows Interim Police Chief Don Zimmerman, who came out of a 10-year retirement to take office in February 2006, when former Police Chief Jeff Werner retired.

“What an honor it is to be chosen to lead such a fine police department,” said Bowden. “The Bloomfield Township Police Department has always strived to provide professional service to the community and will continue to make our residents feel safe and secure.”

Bowden was hired into the Bloomfield Township Police Department in December, 1977. He rose through the ranks, becoming a detective in 1988, a sergeant in 1993, a lieutenant in 1999 and captain in March, 2002. He was named Deputy Chief in March, 2006. He has received a Department Unit Commendation, an Honorable Mention, a Meritorious Service recognition and a Letter of Recognition. In 1987 he was named Officer of the Year.

“What an honor it is to be chosen to lead such a fine police department.”

-- Police Chief Kirt Bowden

Increased supplier costs, mandated upgrades lead to water rate increase

Less than twenty-four cents of every dollar of water purchased by customers is required to cover the Townships operational expense.

Water and Sewer rates will increase slightly in 2007 to cover costs associated with increased fees charged by water supplier Detroit Water and Sewerage (DWSD), the Oakland County Drain Commissioner’s Office and expenses related to the government-mandated sewer rehabilitation program. The total rate established in 2006 was $6.30/1000 gallons of water used ($3.30 water and $3.00 sewer). The rate for 2007 is $6.87/1000 gallons of water used ($3.60 water and $3.27 sewer).

Both the water and sewer rates include the costs to operate the water distribution system and the sewage collection systems within the Township boundaries. Traditionally less than 24 cents of every dollar of water purchased by a water and sewer customer is required to meet the Township’s operational expenses.

The Township is a direct customer of Oakland County and a second-tier customer of DWSD for sewer services. The County’s sewer rates are based on the volume of metered water purchased. Capital costs necessary to implement pollution prevention measures as mandated by the U.S Environmental Protection Agency are also included.

Fun and educational events planned for Bloomfield Township seniors

A host of educational and fun activities and events are planned for Bloomfield Township seniors this spring through Bloomfield Township Senior Services. A Housing and Consumers’ Resource Fair is planned for Friday, April 20, between 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. at the group’s Center at 7273 Wing Lake Road. The event will feature representatives from area businesses discussing issues involving housing for seniors, long term care, reverse mortgages, healthy aging and emergency preparedness. Reservations are required and lunch will be provided. Call 248-341-6450.

A Law Day is scheduled for Friday, May 4, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the Center. Legal experts on such topics as veteran’s benefits, Medicaid, and making end-of-life decisions will be on hand to answer questions. Walk-ins are welcome but registration for the free lunch is required.

Also coming this spring are the following events:

■ April 19, 26 and May 3 and 10 from 2-3:30 p.m. “Moving On Transitions Support Group” offered by Hospice of Michigan for seniors coping with everything from a loss of a family member to loss of vision to moving to a new home. Pre-register @ 248-341-6450.

■ April 24 and 31 from 2:30 p.m. “AARP Driver Safety Program.” The nation’s first and largest classroom refresher course geared especially to senior’s safety needs will be available at BTSS. Fee: $12. Pre-register at 248-341-6450.

■ The Friendship Club celebrated St. Patrick’s Day with the help of Jewish Vocational Service’s. More than 20 seniors gathered for songs, games and a special “green” punch.
A sign of Spring

Yard waste collection resumes with regular trash pick up

Spring ushers in the yard waste collection season with regular pick ups beginning April 1. The service runs concurrent with regularly scheduled trash pick ups through December 14.

Yard waste must be placed in either a paper yard waste bag available at many lawn and garden or hardware stores or in a 32-gallon can marked “Yard Waste” (stickers are available at the Township Offices). Yard waste in plastic bags is prohibited and will NOT be collected.

Brush measuring two inches in diameter or less will be collected provided it is packaged within one of the approved containers.

Trimmings and branches measuring between two and six inches in diameter will be collected provided they are tied in bundles not more than four-feet long and weighing under 60 pounds.

For trimmings larger than six inches in diameter contact either Waste Management at 800.796.9696 or a private tree service contractor. Waste Management provides limb hauling for an additional fee.

Focus on property maintenance

Code Enforcement focusing on several issues this Spring

The Bloomfield Township Planning, Building & Ordinance Department is working hard to ensure that neighborhoods are maintained to the high standards that residents want and expect. The following are a few of the ordinance requirements that the Department will be addressing this spring and summer.

Property Maintenance rules impact paint, exterior structure maintenance, overgrown landscaping, weeds, and lawn maintenance.

Open Storage: Unlicensed or inoperable vehicles, placement of receptacles for garbage collection, recreational vehicles, snowmobiles, boats, trailers and all other forms of recreational equipment must be placed out of public view.

Accessory Structures: Any structure that is built above grade and is not attached to the principle structure of the home will require a variance through the Zoning Board of Appeals process.

Construction Sites: Must be maintained in a neat and orderly manner with dumpsters emptied on a routine basis; streets swept at the close of construction each day and regulation of construction noise during the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

For more information about Township Code and Ordinance requirements, please call 248.594.2845 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Project manager, construction manager selected for Capital Improvement Project

Last August, Township voters approved a bond proposal to build three buildings on the civic complex (public works, senior services and a fire station) and to renovate the fire station on Westview Road. In November, the Township Board of Trustees selected CDPA Architects, along with Fusco, Shaffer & Pappas, as the architectural team for the project. In January, the Trustees selected Tom Marchesano P.E. as the Project Manager and in March, the George W. Auch Co. was selected as Construction Manager.

The Project Manager’s role is to represent the Township’s interests and assure that all of the building projects are on schedule and within budget. Marchesano will serve as the liaison between the architect, construction manager and Township staff. He is a professional engineer who specializes in providing owner representative services for more than 20 years and has extensive experience in working with projects with tight timelines and limited budgets. He works in this capacity for the current expansion of the Township Public Library, which is progressing on time and on budget.

Over the winter, Marchesano worked with Township staff on the selection process for construction manager. Nine proposals were submitted and publicly opened on March 6. After a thorough evaluation of qualifications and rates, three firms were placed on a short list and participated in an intensive interview process. Auch was finally determined to have the best combination of experienced professionals and a solid reputation in working on both municipal and private projects. The company is currently working in the Township for the Bloomfield Hills Schools and has worked with our architects on the new Catholic Central High School in Novi. Auch is headquartered in the City of Pontiac.

Register now for the 21st Annual Bloomfield Township Fire Dept golf outing

The 21st Annual Bloomfield Township Fire Dept golf outing takes place May 21, at Wabeek Country Club and is sponsored by Carl’s Golfland, Network Source One, and Star EMS. Proceeds from this long running event go to benefit the University of Michigan Trauma Burn Center.

A donation of $600 per four-person team includes continental breakfast, lunch, beverages on the course, steak dinner with open bar, awards and door prizes.

The day begins at 9 a.m. with registration and a shotgun start begins play promptly at 10 a.m.

Registration fees are due by April 25, to confirm your placement. Registration information is available 248-433-7745 or via email at psi-monian@bloomfieldtwp.org.
Township instituting Pet Lost and Found service

The Bloomfield Township Animal Shelter and the Community Relations and Cable Department have begun a Pet Lost and Found service for residents. The new program will use the Township’s website and cable television to spread the word for pet owners whose dogs and cats have wandered away.

“This is a tremendous service to all our residents. I know how upsetting it is to lose a pet. Now we can make it easy for pet owners to search for their lost pets and help people who have found a lost cat or dog and want to return it to the owner. It’s a win-win for all,” said Township Trustee Sherry Stefanes.

BCTV’s Lost and Found cablecast times will be: Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, 8:30 a.m., 3:00 p.m. and 11:30 p.m.

If you have lost your cat or dog, or if you have found someone else’s and don’t know where to return it, send a picture of the pet to the Cable Department at cable_dept@bloomfield-twp.org or send a print of it to the Cable Department, 4200 Telegraph, Bloomfield Hills MI, 48302. Include a brief description, the pet’s name (if known), and the general vicinity the pet was last seen. You may also call the Animal Shelter at 433.7757.

Photos and descriptions of lost pets will be cablecast on BCTV Channel 15 Monday Friday at 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 8:30 a.m., 3 p.m. and 11:30 p.m.

The front cover features Alexandra and Sascha Stender with Gator a dog housed in the Township Animal Shelter. To be featured on our cover please submit your photos to stricomo@bloomfieldtwp.org.

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