Fact or Myth? Get the truth about Bloomfield Township!

Myth: “Bloomfield Township” and “Bloomfield Hills” mean the same thing.
Truth: The Township and the Hills are two separate entities. The Township was incorporated in 1827. Bloomfield Hills was part of Bloomfield Township for 100 years until it incorporated as a village in 1927. It became a city in 1932.

Myth: If your zip code is 48301, 48302 or 48304, you must live in Bloomfield Hills.
Truth: If your zip code is 48304, you might live in Bloomfield Hills or you might live in Bloomfield Township, depending upon your exact location. The post office doesn’t care what name you use (Hills, Township, Village or just plain Bloomfield) as long as you get the street number, street, and zip code right.

Myth: Bloomfield Hills has public parks.
Truth: No. The Master Plan, reviewed in 2012, recognizes the desirability of parks, but there is no land available for them now. However, the Township has completed 67 miles of safety paths along main roads that provide safe, accessible routes for walking, running and biking throughout the Township. Residents use the safety paths to reach school-owned properties that offer recreational opportunities, such as the E.L. Johnson Nature Center, the Bowers Farm and the school playgrounds.

Did you know?

- **Population**: Township - 42,000; City - 3,900
- **Size**: Township - 26 square miles; City - 5 square miles
- **Main Thoroughfares**: Township – portions of Telegraph, Square Lake, Maple, and Lahser roads plus portions of Woodward Avenue City – portions of Woodward Avenue, Long Lake and Lahser roads
- **Bloomfield Township Landmarks**: Bloomfield Township Public Library, Brother Rice / Marian High Schools, Detroit Country Day School (Middle and Lower School campuses), Franklin Cider Mill, Kirk in the Hills Presbyterian Church, Oakland Hills Country Club, Temple Beth El
- **Bloomfield Hills Landmarks**: Cranbrook Educational Community, Rooper Lower School, Bloomfield Hills Country Club, Open Hunt Club.

To view a larger version of this map and other maps of Bloomfield Township, go to http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/Community/Maps
Clerk’s Office provides passport services

Following an audit by the U.S. Department of State in December 2012, the Clerk’s Office received a stellar review for excellence exhibited as a passport acceptance facility. The audit is conducted to unify passport processing standards and procedures across the United States. The Clerk’s staff completed a five-page, 76 item questionnaire on December 19, 2012. The quality of service earned the Clerk’s Office the honor of being a role model for other facilities in Michigan.

Since the Township was approved as a passport acceptance facility in August 2005, it has processed over 7,000 passports, not including assisting with renewals for adult passports. All staff members have attended training classes offered by the passport agency. Training certification is required annually.

BTSS Minor Home Repair Program offers assistance to low-income residents

Bloomfield Township Senior Services sponsors a Minor Home Repair Program to provide funds to low-income seniors for new furnaces or repairs to plumbing, electrical fixtures, siding and roofing. It supports longtime residents and helps them stay in their homes, while benefiting neighborhoods and local contractors.

Residents who are over 60 years of age and have income below $34,950, or below $39,950 for couples, are encouraged to apply. Applicants must provide income and ownership documentation. All application documentation is kept strictly confidential. For more information, please contact Denise Kolkmeyer at 248-723-3500.

Three popular events coming up soon

April 20 is the date of the Electronic Waste Recycling, Medication Disposal and Paper Shredding event. Residents can also participate in the annual Clean Sweep event the weekend of April 20-21. On May 4 the Township will hold Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day. These events are open to Township residents only. For more information on times, locations, and acceptable items, check the website http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/Services/EES/Environment/Overvie wEnvironment.htm or call 248-594-2800.

Cruise Classic Car Show

Cruise Classic Car Show

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
Spring is finally here! It has been a long winter and I am starting to enjoy the warmer weather.

Bloomfield Township was saddened with the passing of former Supervisor Fred Korzon this winter. Fred’s vision for Bloomfield Township as a quiet residential community has made us what we are today. The Korzon family’s loss is a loss for all of Bloomfield Township.

We just completed the budget process. Revenues were up slightly but so were expenses. A municipality is subject to the same inflationary pressures as a typical household. We continually look for opportunities to reduce costs while not impacting services. We are doing more today with fewer employees than we had in 2007.

Below is a pie chart showing what happens with someone’s tax dollars. As you can see, approximately 25% of a homeowner’s property tax stays in the Township. The average tax bill is $6,000. That means $1,500 is used for police and fire protection, road maintenance, building, planning, ordinance enforcement and all the other things a municipality is required to do by law. When I consider I pay more than that just for yard maintenance and snow removal at my own home I realize it’s a pretty good bargain.

About two years ago Bloomfield Township became a customer of the South Oakland County Water Authority (SOCWA) to purchase water. This has saved Township residents approximately $3,300,000 compared with purchasing water from the City of Detroit. We are working on becoming a member rather than a customer of SOCWA which will be an even greater savings. Although costs and charges have gone up it is nowhere near as high as it could have been.

We continually work on upgrading our water and sewer system. This system is owned by the Township and is ours to maintain and replace where necessary. Much of the cost is paid out of reserves but one project necessitated the selling of $3,250,000 worth of municipal bonds. I am happy to say Standard & Poor’s reaffirmed its AAA rating on Bloomfield Township.

We spent a lot of time with them going through our finances. As they said, “an AAA rating doesn’t happen by accident.”

Subdivision roads continue to be a high priority. Currently we have two neighborhoods scheduled for road replacement in 2013. There is a third neighborhood we would like work on in 2013 but we are getting some resistance from Oakland County. With the number of petitions being circulated in neighborhood associations, it would not surprise me to have up to five neighborhoods scheduled for repaving in 2014. If there are any associations out there that would like to discuss repaving the roads please contact me directly.

It’s hard to believe we are just in the spring of 2013 and we are already talking about activity in 2014 and beyond. Our budgeting looks out to the future and our planning does as well. We are already meeting and discussing ten-year budget projections. We are already discussing the necessity and timing of future purchases. The department heads and elected officials at Bloomfield Township are very committed to quality services while preserving the budget.

As always if you have a problem or an issue to discuss feel free to contact me. My email is lsavoie@bloomfieldtwp.org or my phone number is (248)433-7708.
Take steps to stay safe this spring and summer

Summer brings with it warm weather, flowers, sunny days… and season-specific crimes. Take some proactive steps to decrease your chance of becoming a victim.

• The police department sees more car break-ins and vandalism in the spring and summer than any other time of the year. This is easily prevented by parking your car in a closed and locked garage.

• When you advertise your garage sale, either with signs or newspaper ads, you are also inviting potential criminals to your home. If you have a garage sale, keep every exterior door of your home closed and locked. While you are distracted running the garage sale, a burglar could slip into your home, steal valuables, then leave through a different door.

• While working in your yard, keep all doors that you cannot observe closed and locked. There are burglars who look for homeowners working outside. They make the assumption that there is at least one unlocked exterior door, and they’re usually correct.

• Salespeople going door-to-door in the Township must have a permit issued by the Clerk’s Office. This permitting process protects our residents. However, these solicitors often do not have permits and some of these people have criminal records. Call the Bloomfield Township Police Department if you have concerns about solicitors in your neighborhood. Religious organizations or people conducting political campaigning do not require permits.

To report a crime, make a report, or report a parking problem, call the police department at 248-433-7755. In an emergency dial 9-1-1.

What can you recycle?

Bloomfield Township has always had environmentally conscious residents who participate in the curbside recycling program provided by Rizzo Services. Whether you’re an avid recycler or would like to get started, it’s always good to know what can be put in your recycle bin. It may be a lot more than you realized! Acceptable materials include:

• Cardboard and paper bags (no wax coated cardboard)
• Paperboard (no wax coated paperboard)
• Magazines and catalogs
• Junk mail (envelopes, flyers, brochures, etc.)
• Office paper
• Phone books
• Newspaper
• Pots and pans
• Steel and tin cans (clean, empty cans only)
• Clear and colored glass (clean, empty bottles)
• Aluminum cans
• Plastic jugs/bottles (Plastic codes #1 & #2)
• Household plastic (Plastic codes #3 & #7)
• Plastic bags

Recycle bins are provided free of charge by Rizzo Services. Call Rizzo at 866-772-8900 to request a bin that will be delivered on the next trash day.

Flush it? Or not?

Just because the package says “flushable” doesn’t mean it’s true; many items marketed as disposable and/or flushable do not degrade like toilet paper and they wind up clogging pipes, tangling pumps and causing messy sewer backups into streets, businesses and homes.

Our sewers are designed to dispose of very specific things. Using your toilet for disposal of many modern products will often result in blockages. The drains that connect your home to the main sewer are only big enough to carry water, toilet paper and human waste.

What NOT to flush:

• Diapers (cloth, disposable, “flushable”)
• Baby wipes, disinfectant wipes, moist wipes, etc.
• Toilet bowl scrub pads
• Swiffers
• Dental Floss
• Facial tissues, napkins (paper or cloth), paper towels
• Egg shells, nutshells and coffee grounds
• Fats, oils and grease
• Hair
• Sanitary napkins, tampons, condoms

If you must use a “wet wipe” type of product rather than just toilet paper, these should be disposed of in the garbage, not down the toilet. While many “flushable wipes” packaging says that it will disintegrate like toilet paper, that generally is not accurate and these items can cause sewage backups. If you are concerned about odors, try a lined garbage can with a well-fitting lid, a “diaper-genie” style of container, or wrap your wipes in pet bags or reused plastic grocery bags.
Firefighters will perform CPR in the absence of DNR order

The Bloomfield Township Fire Department is trained to provide the best possible care in the event of a medical emergency. This includes accommodating the wishes of patients who do not want to receive lifesaving measures that may include cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) efforts in the event of cardiac arrest. CPR includes providing chest compressions and ventilations as well as medication administration, defibrillation, and other advanced life support measures. Patients who do not wish to receive CPR must have a valid Do-Not-Resuscitate (DNR) order immediately available for firefighter/paramedics to view. A valid DNR order must be signed by the patient or the patient’s medical power of attorney, the patient’s physician, and a witness. If these signatures are not included or the original DNR order is unavailable, firefighter/paramedics are required by law to begin CPR and provide emergency medical care to the patient.

A valid DNR order is the only means to ensure firefighter/paramedics do not provide CPR to the patient. Township residents should not rely on a hospice company to provide the DNR order. The patient’s family should have the DNR order available at all times in case of an emergency. A request by a family member or caregiver to withhold CPR does not allow firefighter/paramedics to halt resuscitation efforts. To ensure the proper paperwork is on site, you can obtain a File of Resuscitation (DNR) order at Town Hall, at each fire station, or can be mailed to you at your request. Call 248-433-7745 or visit the website www.btfdfire.org

Township firefighters train in all conditions

You may have noticed Fire Department personnel and equipment in a neighborhood near you during the winter months. Firefighters spent many opportunities for training. We shared this training with surrounding communities, and strengthened our skills in search and rescue of trapped occupants and firefighters, forcible entry, and ladder operations. The smoke seen coming from the buildings is non-toxic, yet provides the realism of operating in zero visibility conditions.

The Bloomfield Township Fire Department is dedicated to ongoing training to keep skills sharp. Our message of “When in doubt, call us out” is aimed at keeping everyone in the community safe. Pick up one of the Fire Department brochures and see what resources your Fire Department provides residents and business owners. The brochures are available on the township website, at Township Hall, at each fire station, or can be mailed to you at your request. Call 248-433-7745 or visit the website www.btfdfire.org

It’s time for spring cleanup and home maintenance

Now that spring is here it’s time to start thinking about the appearance of your property. 
- Remove last year’s leaves from the yard and flower beds
- Check gutters for leaf and tree limb debris
- Properly store any items such as snow shovels and salt tubs
- Check your roof for areas that need to be repainted
- Check your roof for areas that need attention

Property maintenance is the key to sustaining the value of your home and neighborhood. Contact the Ordinance Division at 248-594-2845 with any property maintenance questions.

Did you know you can now watch Township Board of Trustees meetings live on BCTV? Find us on Comcast Channel 15 and AT&T Channel 99. We air a variety of shows each week, covering topics such as politics, law, cooking, art, religion and more. We also cover community events, including concerts, educational talks and library happenings. Find our program guide on the website http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/Services/cable/ProgramSchedule.htm
To receive a weekly program guide by mail, call 248-433-7790 or email jmarengere@bloomfieldtwp.org.
BTFD players are hockey tournament champs

The Bloomfield Township Fire Department hockey team traveled to Orlando, Florida to play in the Orlando Firefighters “Guns-N-Hoses” hockey tournament the week of January 22-25. The 8th annual Orlando Firefighter’s tournament hosted 30 teams this year. Fire and police hockey teams from as far away as Ottawa, Toronto, Windsor, New York, Boston, and down the East Coast to southern Florida came to play in a “Battle of the Badges.”

Bloomfield Township Fire was victorious in winning the “D” division with a 3-0-1 record, beating Orlando Fire, Southern Florida Public Safety and Suffolk PD, and then tying Pinellas County Fire Dept. to win the championship. The BTFD team looks forward to traveling back next year to defend its title. The Orlando Firefighter’s Charity hockey tournament has to date raised over $100,000. Most of the proceeds go to MDA and the Cerebral Palsy Foundation.

PD Lieutenant Langmeyer graduates from F.B.I. Academy

Bloomfield Township Police Lieutenant Phil Langmeyer graduated from the F.B.I. National Academy in Virginia on March 22. Lieutenant Langmeyer is the fifth member of the Township’s police department to complete this prestigious training course. The arduous training includes intensive classroom work that focuses on leadership, technical and operation skills, organizational behavior and other executive level topics. The program also includes heavy physical exercise culminating in the award of the “Yellow Brick” for achievement. Lieutenant Langmeyer went above and beyond to achieve the “Blue Brick,” an even higher award, which he received for swimming 34 miles.

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