

# BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

## Bloomfield Township shows fiscal strength again

Bloomfield Township's fiscal strength was reaffirmed in August when it saved \$5.1 million from refinancing its pension obligation bonds, which were issued in 2013.

At that time \$80 million in bonds were issued, and the refinancing covers \$50 million of those bonds. With the refinancing, interest rates on the bonds dropped from approximately 5% to 2.19%, producing a savings to Bloomfield of over 10%. "We are extremely pleased with the yearly savings of almost \$400,000," said Brian Kepes, Bloomfield Township Treasurer.

Even with the budget shortfall caused by the Township pension obligations and OPEB (Other Post Employment Benefits), which relate to retiree health care, the Township was informed that it is maintaining its AAA bond rating with a stable outlook by Standard & Poors Financial Services. That is the highest rating possible.

"Bloomfield Township has an

extremely strong economic base, evidenced by very strong income and market value," S&P stated.

Moody's Investors Service, however, downgraded the Township's bond rating one notch from Aaa with a negative outlook to Aa1 with a stable

looking at other options including program cuts and police and fire staffing reductions through attrition.

The failure of the SAD was cited by Moody's as a factor in lowering the rating. Even so, Moody's noted, "We expect Bloomfield Township's economy and tax base to remain a credit strength given its position as an affluent bedroom community in Oakland County." Moody's also cited the Township for a "very strong fund balance and liquidity."

S&P noted that while the SAD failed to pass "the Township has a strong history of adjusting its budget when necessary, and as a result, we expect (the Township) to maintain its reserves and cash on hand at levels we consider very strong."

"It's a split decision," said Brian Kepes, referring to the two firms ratings, "between the best and excellent."

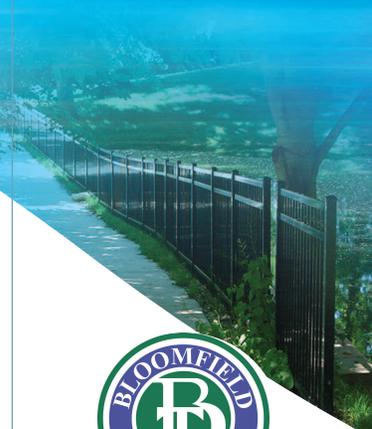


Treasurer Brian Kepes (left) and Finance Director Jason Theis keep a close eye on Township finances to keep the budget balanced and the bond rating high.

outlook.

On Aug. 6, Township voters turned down a proposed Public Safety Special Assessment District to fund the shortfall and now the Township Board is

How does Bloomfield Township stand financially compared to other communities? You can find a wide array of financial information by looking at the dashboard, found on the home page of the Township website, [www.bloomfieldtwp.org](http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org). Just look for Citizens' Guide and Dashboard under Quick Links at the right of the home page.



BLOOMFIELD  
TOWNSHIP  
BOARD  
2019

### ELECTED OFFICIALS

#### ADMINISTRATION

Leo Savoie, Supervisor  
Janet Roncelli, Clerk  
Brian Kepes, Treasurer

#### TRUSTEES

David Buckley  
Neal J. Barnett  
Michael Schostak  
Dani Walsh

### APPOINTED POSITIONS

#### PLANNING COMMISSION

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

#### BOARD OF APPEALS

Carol Rosati, Chairman  
Tracy Leone, Vice Chairman  
Brian Henry  
Robert Taylor, Jr.  
Claudine Bacher,  
Dani Walsh  
Bruce Selik  
Jocelyn Giangrande, Alternate  
Jeffrey Drake, Alternate

## Coming up...

### October 16

Board of Trustees Meeting

### October 28

Board of Trustees Meeting

### November 11

Board of Trustees Meeting

### November 25

Board of Trustees Meeting

### December 9

Board of Trustees Meeting

## Election set for November 5, 2019

On Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2019, a special election will be held for Oakland Community College and the Birmingham School District.

The school district is seeking approval for a replacement operating millage proposal. Only Township voters in the Birmingham School District will see this proposal on their ballot. All township voters will have the opportunity to vote on the Oakland Community College operating millage renewal. The ballot language for each proposal can be found on the Bloomfield Township website: <https://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/Government/Services/Clerk/Elections.aspx>

Voters on the permanent absentee list automatically receive an absentee ballot application before each election. Upon return of the application, a ballot will be issued. For those who want to be on the permanent list, follow the

link to complete an application: <https://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/Resources/Forms/Clerk.aspx>

With a November election

participate in the voting process. An inspector application can be found at the following link: <https://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/Resources/Forms/Clerk.aspx>



Clerk Jan Roncelli conducts a class for election inspectors.

this year and three elections in 2020, we are recruiting any registered voters interested in becoming an election inspector. This is a paid position which enables you to partici-

Contact the Clerk's Office for further information at [clerk@bloomfieldtwp.org](mailto:clerk@bloomfieldtwp.org) or 248-433-7702.



### 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

## Board begins trimming process

The annual Township Open House event scheduled for October has been canceled.

In addition, the annual Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day and Electronic Waste/Paper Shredding events have been canceled and the Township Animal Shelter will be closed by the end of the year.

These actions were approved by the Township Board of Trustees in August.

The actions were taken following the failure of the Public Safety Special Assessment District vote held Aug. 6. In all, the cuts approved Monday will save the Township about \$280,000.

The savings will help fill a



All the animals will be gone and the shelter closed by the end of the year.

budget shortfall caused by changes in the state law, which determine how the Township funds health

care costs and other benefits for retirees. That change caused the Township to have an approximately \$5 million deficit.

However, the Township maintains its AAA bond rating from Standard and Poors Financial Services although Moody's Investors Service dropped the Township rating slightly to Aa1 with a stable outlook.

In the months to come, the Board will look at other cost-cutting measures.

Alternative venues for disposing household hazardous waste, paper shredding, etc., are listed on the Township website

[www.bloomfieldtwp.org](http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org)



## A NOTE FROM

Leo Savoie, Bloomfield Township Supervisor

# Take the time to learn the truth

The residents have spoken. We understand their choice and we will go forward.

That's what I said in the wake of the Aug. 6 Public Safety Special Assessment District election, which the voters turned down. And we, as a board of trustees, are taking the appropriate steps to move forward in a responsible manner.

We do that knowing first and foremost that the obligation of any government is to protect the citizens. That's what we do. As I write this, just this morning I read a police report regarding two separate incidents in which criminals were apprehended on the streets of Bloomfield Township. This was due to heads-up patrolling of our officers who observed things that "were just not right."

My phone went off at 1:35 a.m. one recent morning regarding a major house fire in Bloomfield Township. Our fire department was there within minutes. Fortunately the only loss was to the structure and that was minimized by the quick response time.

This is who we are and this is what we do. This is what we will continue to do.

But it won't be easy. Our task has been made much more difficult because the SAD failed. I am disappointed

in that, especially because only 29% of the residents came out to vote for something as important as this. I am also disappointed that much of the rhetoric regarding the SAD was no more than distortions and even outright lies perpetrated to get residents to vote against the SAD without



Employees are highly trained, professional and dedicated to customer service.

knowing the facts.

Sadly this was done by a small handful of people who manipulated social media outlets to spread falsehoods to achieve their own aims. In the process they slandered Township employees, going as far as calling them "desk jockeys," "non-essentials" and

even comparing them to "trained monkeys."

This is beyond disrespectful and unprofessional. It is insulting and degrading and goes to the character of those who said those words. And, of course, they are wrong.

But for every lie told there is a truth to erase it – if you are willing to listen.

It's easy to say employees are overpaid or have too-generous benefits but when you look at the facts, it becomes apparent that our highly trained staffers are a bargain who could easily find employment elsewhere. Instead, they prefer to work here where they appreciate the community. They truly believe in providing the best in customer service. I know that is true

because I hear compliments almost daily on how some Township employee went far beyond their job specification to help residents in some manner.

Another area that rises to the absurd is the contention that the Township is being financially mismanaged. Really?

Then how did we achieve a AAA bond rating from Standard & Poor's Financial Services, and a Aa1 bond rating from Moody's Investors Service? Those are marks of financial distinction that are not awarded lightly. Those firms do not deal in rhetoric. They deal in numbers, and numbers do not lie.

I wish I could say the same for the purveyors of falsehoods who claim they are seeking to have a better Bloomfield Township. Unfortunately, we can expect to hear much more from them in the coming months as we are faced with making some painful decisions.

I urge you – please do not be taken in by simplistic lies that sound like they have a solid foundation. It only takes an email or call to me or the appropriate department to get the facts and the numbers to back it up. And attend board of trustee and other meetings and see for yourself what the truth is.

It may take a little more effort to digest it all, but ultimately you will be in a far better position to honestly understand the situation and help us preserve the things that make Bloomfield Township such a special place.

### Take advantage of multiple ways to stay informed

It's easy to keep up with all the news and events going on at the Township. One of the best ways is to go to the Township website and sign up for the e-Newsletter here <https://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/Resources/E-Newsletter.aspx> The e-Newsletter goes out every Thursday, as well as any time there is an urgent need to inform residents of an emergency or other unusual situation. You can also stay up-to-date by following the Township on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. For more information go to <https://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/Resources/Social-Media.aspx> on the website. These are the sources where you will find the facts.



There's more to fighting fires than, well, fighting fires. Township firefighters/paramedics are constantly busy. Here firefighters are testing hoses at the main fire station. They roll out 300 feet of hose and pressurize it to test pressure then drain it and reload it on the truck. Each truck carries 1,000 to 1,500 feet of hose that has to be tested annually. Being tested here is 5-inch hose. Also tested are 1 3/4 and 2 1/2-inch hoses.

## Tune in to Township social media

Find out what's happening in the Township by following us on social media. The Township regularly posts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Next Door. The Township's Police and Fire departments can also be found on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. And you will continue to get updates every Thursday through the eNewsletter. And that's not all. The Township website, [www.bloomfieldtwp.org](http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org), is updated and modified typically several times daily

There are road closings, traffic alerts and special events coming up, such as the election set for Aug. 6 to establish a special assessment district (SAD) for public safety. In order for you to make an informed choice when you go to the polls, you need to know all the facts about the issue. The Township strives to provide you with those facts through every means available.

So follow us on Facebook, look for our tweets and watch for our pictures on Instagram – and tell your friends to subscribe to the eNewsletter.



## It's time to prepare for winter

The Building Division reminds residents that fall is the time to think about winterization projects. Here is a list of some items to consider:

- Check the exterior caulking and paint after the harsh summer heat.
- Cover your A/C unit for winter storage and make sure that your humidifier has a clean filter in it.
- Have your chimney and flues cleaned and your fireplace dampers inspected.
- Disconnect hoses from the hose bibs before freezing nighttime temperatures arrive. Drain the water out of the hose to prevent freeze damage.
- Turn off hose bibs from the inside if possible. If not, have them checked to see if they are the anti-freeze type.
- Have your sprinkler system winterized to prevent problems with broken lines come springtime.
- If you plan to leave for an extended time, turn your water heater down to the "vacation" setting. This will conserve energy and save money.
- Winterize your lawn equipment by either running the gas out of the carburetor, or adding a fuel additive to protect it and the tank from build-up.
- Fill the tank and give the snow blower a test run.
- Clean leaves from gutters, window wells and yard drains.
- Create a fire escape plan, including a prearranged location for family members to meet, and if possible, be sure that there is battery-operated lighting at both ends of the exit route.
- Should you have any questions about fall preparation tasks, contact the Bloomfield Township Building Division at 248-433-7715 and one of our staff will either be able to answer your questions or direct you to someone who can.



## Be sure to 'Shake Your Mailbox' before winter arrives



Every year some Township residents see their mailboxes topple over as a result of snowplows piling snow against weak posts or hardware. In an effort to reduce the likelihood of this happening, the Bloomfield Township Department of Public Works is encouraging residents to "Shake Your Mailbox."

This will tell you whether your mailbox posts are sturdy and the hardware is holding them in good shape. If not, you will be able to correct any problems before damage from snowplows occurs. Repairing or replacing mailboxes now could also present delays in mail delivery. Call the Public Services office at 248-594-2800 with any questions.

## BTSS offers transportation for seniors

Staying engaged and active through participation in various activities is important for everyone, no matter their level of health and ability. Bloomfield Township Senior Services offers many opportunities for residents age 50 and over, including a variety of classes and presentations, clubs and day trips.

In order to make these opportunities accessible to all seniors, BTSS offers a free transportation service to the Senior Center for those ages 60 and up who are unable to drive. The service is available 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and must be arranged in advance. Residents can use the BTSS

quarterly Newsletter or the BTSS website to check what's coming up at the Center. Don't miss out on all the great classes, educational programs, and special events. Find details on the Township website here <https://www.bloomfield-twp.org/Government/Services/Senior-Services/Transportation-Services.aspx> Contact Denise Kolkmeier at 248-723-3500 for more information or to request an application.

**A resident takes advantage of the free transportation to the Township Senior Center.**



## Dream Cruise events are dreamier than ever

No doubt the criminals were overjoyed when they learned the Batmobile had broken down. But their elation was short-lived as the Caped Crusader's adventurous auto roared onto the scene at the Township Woodward Avenue Dream Cruise events on Aug. 17.

The Batmobile arrived fashionably late



**Not even a broiling sun could dampen the fun of the Township's Dream Cruise events.**

to the show but made an impressive stance for truth, justice and the Bloomfield Township way of taking part in the Dream Cruise. And it wasn't alone. Dozens of other classic cars including a replica of an 1886 Mercedes-Benz – which is considered to be the first combustion engine car ever made – added to the fun.

There was also great food, a live band belting out oldies, a visit by a Township fire truck and police car to make the day a smashing Dream Cruise. Everyone seemed to have a great time at the Dream Cruise sites – the Mercedes-Benz of Bloomfield Hills dealership and the neighboring Comerica Bank branch.

Proceeds from the events went to the Bloomfield Township Police Benevolent Fund, the Township Fire Department Charities and the Bloomfield Hills Optimists, all of which volunteered to help make the day a huge success.

Plans are already in the works to make next year's Dream Cruise even dreamier.



**The replica 1886 Mercedes-Benz auto was a big draw at the Township Dream Cruise.**



**Visitors flocked to see the Batmobile when it arrived.**



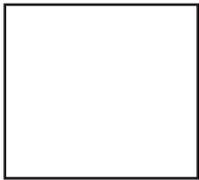
# BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

4200 TELEGRAPH ROAD  
PO BOX 489  
BLOOMFIELD MI 48303-0489

## TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY

Water/Sewer Emergency  
433-7730

Administration	433-7700
Accounting	433-7712
Assessor's Office	433-7710
Building Division	433-7715
Clerk's Office	433-7702
Community Cable	433-7790
Engineering & Env.	594-2800
Fire Non-Emergency	433-7745
Ordinance Division	594-2845
Planning Division	433-7795
Police Department	
Administration	433-7750
Non-Emergency	433-7755
Animal Welfare	433-7757
Investigations	433-7760
Alarm Info	433-7775
Property	433-7777
Records	433-7776
Public Works	
Road Division	594-2800
Water & Sewer	594-2800
Senior Services	723-3500
Adult Day Service	723-3530
Treasurer's Office	433-7705



## Active shooter training takes on real-life meaning

The timing was eerie but only underscored how important it is to be prepared.

On July 29, just days before shooters killed dozens of people in two separate shooting incidents in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio, Township Public Safety personnel practiced a real-life training exercise on how to deal with an active shooter.

The training took place at Detroit Country Day Lower School. No students were present, but the exercise was intensely realistic as police officers and firefighters/paramedics stormed into the

school in search of a gunman and to treat victims. The training was divided into two parts. The first consisted of scenarios on how officers would engage a shooter in the early stages of an inci-

dent. The second part focused on the Rescue Task Force concept in which paramedics enter an active shooter event under protection of the police in order to treat and remove the

wounded.

About 50 police officers and 45 firefighter/paramedics participated in the drill. At the same time a range of Township personnel were gathered at the Township DPW building to coordinate the response. There they covered such aspects as traffic and crowd control, communications, public information and media, transportation and reunification procedures and command support for additional resources.

Township police and firefighters have conducted other such drills at various locations to be prepared for any such attack.



Armored officers simulate capture of an active shooter.