



BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Township sponsors Open House Oct. 7



The Township Open House continues to be a popular event for residents of all ages.

Bloomfield Township families get a chance to watch exciting, live demonstrations of fire fighters putting out fires and performing mock rescues from automobiles with the Jaws of Life on Sunday, Oct. 7, during the Township's annual Open House. Coinciding with National Fire Prevention Week activities sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association, the Open House continues to be a popular Township event and one that

draws interest from residents of all ages.

The free event takes place between noon and 4 p.m. Oct. 7, within the Bloomfield Township civic complex on Telegraph south of Long Lake.

"Practice Your Escape Plan is the theme of this year's Fire Prevention Week," said Bloomfield Township Fire Inspector Lt. Pete Vlahos. "Whether you're a resident, a teacher or a parent, we've got lots of helpful information to help you help neighbors, friends and family members escape safely in the event of a home fire."

Each year the Fire, Police and Public Works departments open their doors to the public to demonstrate important safety and health measures

that families can incorporate into their lives.

Kids can visit interactive stations like the BTFD Safety Smoke House, the Hazard House and operate an actual fire hose.

Police officers will be on hand to offer rides in squad cars, show off crime fighting and safety equipment and to inspect and instruct parents on proper child restraint installation.

"Come and meet the men and women who protect our community and see the equipment they use. It's a great afternoon of fun," said Police Community Liaison Officer Pete Matejck.

DPW workers will display and offer rides in some of their heavy equipment.

Capital Improvement Program on schedule

While ground hasn't been broken yet, the capital improvement program approved by voters in August 2006, is on schedule with construction of all three new buildings, plus the renovation of the Westview Fire Station, to be completed by November 2009, as originally projected.

After public bid processes, the Township selected archi-

itects in November 2006, a program manager in January 2007 and a construction manager in March 2007. Together with Township staff and engineering consultants, this team, after thoroughly studying campus site locations and building designs, has refined the conceptual plans that were presented to the public in the spring and summer of 2006 and is now developing final

construction plans.

The Westview Fire Station renovation will begin this fall and is scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2008. Construction on the Bloomfield Township Senior Services building will begin in spring 2008 and construction of the Public Works building will begin in summer 2008. Central Fire Station will be the final phase of the project.



BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2007

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Dan Devine, Treasurer

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Property tax and assessing info available online



Bloomfield Township residents are now able to access both property tax and assessing data via the Township website at no charge. Information from the Treasurer's and Assessing department links is available by clicking the "Services" submenu.

Information currently available from the Treasurer's Office includes current tax and Principal Residence

Exemption data, school district, assessed and taxable values, and the tax history of a parcel. Users can also access property taxpayer information and payments made. Delinquent tax information will continue to be obtained through Oakland County.

Special Assessment information should be available via the website by early 2008. Questions concerning Special Assessment information should continue to be directed to the Township Treasurer's Office.

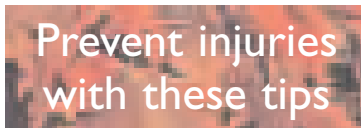
Current tax information on the website will be updated

daily by the Treasurer's Office to offer you the most current data.

Available assessing data includes current and previous year assessed and taxable values, land values, land acreage, legal descriptions and sales information on individual properties.

Users may also access detailed building information including building square footage, year built, building style and estimated true cash value of the property.

An option to view building sketches and photos online is not currently available but will be in the near future.



Here are a few tips to keep you and your family safe while enjoying the outdoors this fall and winter:

- Fill prescriptions. Fall is a peak time for allergies.
- When cleaning leaves and debris from gutters make sure the ladder is on firm level ground and have someone stabilize it. Never climb higher than the manufacturer's recommendation. Climb down and reposition the ladder instead.
- Have furnace checked by a licensed professional.
- Change smoke detector batteries when Daylight Savings Time ends.
- Take a CPR course at Bloomfield Township Fire Department. Classes are free to residents and are held every other month. Call 248-433-7745 for times.
- Get a flu shot. The vaccines become available in early fall and should be administered as early as possible.
- People with a history of heart problems should not shovel snow unless they have first consulted a doctor.
- Blankets, a flashlight, jumper cables, a small shovel, and sand or kitty litter for traction should be kept in vehicles.

Get your home ready for winter weather



The following list of suggestions was prepared by the Bloomfield Township Building Dept.

- Caulk & paint after the harsh summer heat.
- Sealcoat asphalt driveways before the weather gets too

cold.

- Prepare AC units for winter storage.
- Disconnect hoses from the hose bibs before freezing nighttime temperatures arrive.
- Protect the basement windows with plastic.
- Winterize lawn equipment and prepare the snowblower.
- Hang Christmas lights before the snow hits.
- Replace old roofing and check ventilation.

Fire Dept. safety tips for a safe fall season

Fall, like each of Michigan's four seasons, brings with it special considerations for fire safety. Fireplace related fires represent the most immediate concern in terms of fall and winter fire safety.

The Bloomfield Township Fire Dept. recommends these

fire safety actions for fall.

- Plan ahead and have an escape plan with two ways out of every room. This ensures that everyone knows what to do before an emergency happens and decreases the chance that someone will panic. For more information

and help with an escape plan call 248.433.7745.

- Have chimneys cleaned each year by licensed contractors. When they clean the chimney they will also inspect the system as a



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TIME: 8:00 P.M.
DATE: 2nd and 4th Monday
LOCATION: Township Auditorium

PLANNING COMMISSION

TIME: 7:00 P.M.
DATE: 1st and the 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,

PO Box 489 Bloomfield Hills, MI
48303-0489
248.433.7702
Fax: 248.433.7714



A NOTE FROM

Dave Payne, Bloomfield Township Supervisor

Bloomfield Township has a well-deserved reputation for providing excellent public services to its residents and businesses. Maintaining that reputation, especially in this unfavorable economic climate, requires continual effort and diligence. To this end, Bloomfield Township's Board of Trustees and employees must seek the most cost effective way of accomplishing every project we undertake. In addition, we must think creatively and be receptive and adaptive to change. Finally, we must apply the latest technical advancements to find ways not only to maintain our service level, but to improve our offerings to the public.

This column will highlight just a few of the recent examples of new or enhanced services that have been offered to the public at little or no added expense. In fact, many of them have actually lowered costs overall or even produced non-tax revenue.

The Assessing, Clerk's and Treasurer's offices have added features to the Township website that offer our residents and businesses increased access to ordinances, property tax information and assessing records. (*See related stories on page 2 and page 5.*) The online service makes the information readily available to the public at no cost, any time of day, any day of the week, and relieves people of the need to call during office

hours or make an extra trip to Township Hall. It increases the efficiency of staff and saves the Township countless dollars in reduced photocopying and mailing expenses.

Bloomfield Township's website has grown over the past several years to almost 600 pages of information about everything from Animal Control to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Most forms and applications used by the public are online and can be reviewed and filled in at the user's desktop or laptop. Residents and other interested people can subscribe to an email listserve from the homepage of the website and receive timely (but not too frequent!) notices about upcoming events or other news.

Passport services are now offered at the Clerk's Office. You may have your photo taken and your application processed at a convenient, near-by location. The prices are competitive for the consumer and the Township benefits by increasing its non-tax revenue at very little expense. Staff members cover the evening hours with no overtime by flexing their work schedules.

The Police Department recently instituted 12-hour shifts for its patrol officers, making more officers available during peak call hours. The Department also began offering court-ordered preliminary breath tests at times when court is closed, avoiding lost work time for those residents who have been ordered to take such tests. As always, the full array of community services such as premise security services, child safety seat inspections

See SUPERVISOR on page 4

Computer recycling, paper shredding available to Bloomfield Township residents

Bloomfield Township will host an electronic waste recycling and paper-shredding event for residents from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 3, at the Bloomfield Township Hall.

The following residential items may be brought in for recycling: computer systems/laptops, televisions, keyboards, scanners, PDAs/pagers, cell phones and fax machines. No 'white goods' or household appliances (e.g. refrigerators, stoves, washer/dryer, dishwashers) are allowed. No businesses or business equipment of any kind will be allowed.

Bulk paper shredding will be available to residents as an

option for disposal of residentially generated paper waste.

Shredding services are limited to residents who may bring a maximum of five boxes of paper for shredding. Content of the material is limited to office grade paper; no newspaper, binders or computer disks can be included. This service is also only offered to residents.

Technological advances and the resulting increase in electronic equipment pose a unique situation in terms of waste disposal.

The EPA contends that many of the materials found in electronic equipment (e.g. computers, cell phones, fax machines and batteries) are environmental and health hazards.

Household Hazardous Waste Day Oct. 6

Bloomfield Township will sponsor its Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sat. Oct. 6, at the north parking lot of the Bloomfield Township administrative 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. Please have a driver's license, water bill or voter's card available.

The Township website at www.bloomfieldtwp.org contains an extensive list of materials for drop off. A thermometer exchange will be part of the day. Bring one or more mercury fever thermometers for disposal in exchange for a safe, mercury-free digital model. The list of acceptable items includes things like oil-based paint and pesticides. Hazardous household items will not be collected during the Nov. 3 computer recycling event.

Weather helped make Township's Classic car show a success



After two years of downpours attendees at the third annual Bloomfield Township Classic were treated to sunny skies and a day of fun during the car show and party that coincides with the Woodward Dream Cruise.

The Classic was held Aug. 18 at the Mercedes Benz of



Bloomfield Hills dealership on Woodward south of Big Beaver thanks to the generosity of owner Charles Ghesquiere. The event featured a varied array of collector and show cars on display.

In the past three years, the Classic raised more than \$25,000 for the Bloomfield Township Fire Dept. Charities, Bloomfield Hills Optimists and Oakland Family Services through donations, sponsorships and car registrations.

Members of the communi-

(Top left) Chuck Riley of Bloomfield Township brought both his Hemi Charger and a Ferrari. (Bottom left) the Andover Pom Pon team revved up the crowd with dance performances. (Top right) Katie Piper wowed the crowd with classic songs.



ty also supported the event with generous donations.

Those contributing were: Chuck Riley, Thomas Sebold & Associates, Jeffrey Dworin, Tailor King, Oakland Hills Cardiology and Marshall J. Hunt.

This year's lead sponsor was Dean Rosen of Ohio-based Dynamic Motorsports.

A reminder for fall landscaping projects

The addition of soil fill on residential property is regulated by the Township to protect established drainage patterns.

Anyone who adds fill dirt to their property is required to seek a soil fill permit from the Township. This includes construction projects involving building additions and landscaping. Before you bring in any fill, please contact the Building Department at Build_Dept@bloomfield-twp.org or 433-7715 for the Soil Fill Permit Requirements.

Precautions with storm drains help protect Michigan's waterways



Storm drains and roadside ditches lead to lakes and rivers. Consequently, the pet waste, leaves and dirty water

that enter a storm drain get into our lakes and rivers.

- Sweep It - Sweep extra fertilizer, grass clippings, or dirt from driveways and sidewalks back onto your lawn
- Hosing driveways sends these pollutants into storm drains.
- Only Rain in the Drain -

Never dump motor oil, chemicals, pet waste, dirty, soapy water, or anything else down the drain.

- Keep It Clean - Whether in the street or in your yard, keep leaves, grass clippings, trash and fertilizers out of drains.

For more easy steps on protecting our lakes and rivers, visit the Bloomfield Township website at www.bloomfieldtwp.org or call the Engineering & Environmental Services Department at 248.594.2800.

SUPERVISOR from page 3

and vacation notification continue.

Just a little more than a year ago the Fire Department began recruiting and training volunteers to participate in the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). This not only increases the Township's emergency response capabilities at no extra cost, it gives valuable training to interested individuals.

Another important volunteer activity organized by the Department of Public Works

took place for the second time this past spring. "Clean Sweep" encouraged homeowners and community groups to clean winter debris and litter from subdivision entrances and neighborhood safety paths. This event gave the Township a good spring-cleaning, involved residents in their neighborhoods, and cost the Township next to nothing.

Bloomfield Township Senior Services kicked off 2007 by opening its Adult Day Service. This therapeutic program helps not only frail elders with memory impairment, but

family members who need support and respite from the responsibilities that come for caring for aging family members.

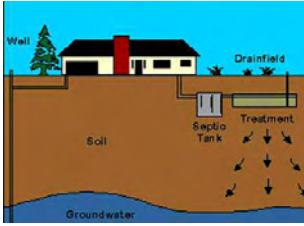
Last – but certainly not least, from the perspective of pet-owners! – is the Township's new Pet Lost and Found service. Residents may submit photos of a lost or found pet and have them publicized on BCTV 15 (on the Comcast television line-up) and on the website. This service is not an added expense to the Township, is free to residents, and may be respon-

sible for the happy reunion of a lost dog or cat and its owner!

For more information about any of these services, or to learn more about services not mentioned in the space of this article, please visit the Bloomfield Township website at www.bloomfieldtwp.org. Of course, you may always phone any Township office between 8:00 – 4:30 at any of the departmental phone numbers listed on the back page of this newsletter and speak to a staff person who will be happy to assist you.

Maintaining your septic system

Septic systems collect and dispose of wastewater for residential property. A



properly located, adequately designed and properly managed septic system provides a simple, economical and environmentally sensitive wastewater disposal system.

Septic systems are made up of both a tank and a drain field. The tank, usually made of reinforced concrete, is buried and watertight. Untreated household waste (human waste and gray water) is deposited into the tank. The septic liquid is distributed from the tank into the surrounding soil, which constitutes the drain field. Maintenance of private septic systems is the responsibility of the homeowner; therefore treatment and disposal of wastewater should be one of the primary concerns of any homeowner

in an unsewered area.

Failing septic systems are a significant contributing source of pollution in our watersheds. Unfortunately, septic systems are often neglected and not routinely maintained after the initial installation. A malfunctioning system can contaminate our waterways and groundwater supply, which is especially important for riparian landowners due to their close proximity to the water. Poorly maintained and failing septic systems can cause serious problems. Sewage from overloaded systems can pond on the ground near the drain field or back up into buildings. Failing systems can contaminate ditches, creeks, lakes and shallow drinking water supplies potentially endangering people and wildlife.

If you have further questions regarding your septic system please contact the Oakland County Health Department at (248) 424-7000.

Code of Ordinances now an online service

Bloomfield Township is making it easier for people to search and study the various building rules that make this one of Michigan's premiere communities by placing the entirety of its Code of Ordinances online.

The new service is available 24 hours each day and allows users to either print or save ordinances on their computer. The online Code eliminates user's dependence on a telephone call or a visit to the Township for copies of an ordinance.

To access the new service visit the Township website at www.bloomfield-twp.org. Click on the Code of Ordinances link under News and Events. This link redirects users to the Code of Ordinances page where the Bloomfield Township Code of Ordinances link appears.

The page offers a variety of search options from simple to advanced. In the

left hand margin drop down menus appear under the Code of Ordinances heading. These menus direct users to all chapters in the code. At this location, you can access a particular chapter or return to the search area for an in-depth survey of a topic.

When documentation is required users can refer to the chapter and the section of the Code of Ordinances. With the Code of Ordinances, refer to the chapter and the section when documentation is required. Reference to a particular ordinance is obsolete once it is codified. In the right-hand column of the site, there are several ordinances listed by number. These new ordinances will be codified on a quarterly basis.

A Support topic heading on the toolbar at the far right of the website allows users to select Online Help, FAQ's and Training Videos to help navigate the site.

FIRE from page 2

whole and point out things that need to be repaired or could cause a fire.

- Make sure the fireplace flue is open.
- Keep fires small, burning only one or two logs at a time.
- Wait for at least 24 hours before removing the ashes. Put them in an empty metal can and set them outside, away from the house and the garage. The Fire Department responds to a number of fires each year caused by ashes that were handled improperly.
- Remember to test smoke detectors once a month and change batteries once a year. An excellent reminder is Daylight Savings Time.
- Decorative bales of hay create a serious fire hazard when stacked around the house. These items should be treated with a fire retardant spray.
- Make sure Halloween costumes are made of a flame retardant material. Many of the jack-o-lanterns have candles to illuminate them and young children don't stop to think where they are standing in relation to these candles. In case there is an accident, make sure that your children know how to Stop, Drop and Roll.



Avoid scams this fall

Soon residents may receive offers from snow removal companies asking them to sign a contract and pay in advance. Often these solicitations are really scams. To avoid being victimized follow this list of tips compiled by the Township's Police Dept.

- Ask neighbors whom they use.
- Check the phone book for landscaping contractors. Typically, the only advertising snow removal cons do is distribute a photocopied flyer. Beware of solicitations from companies with a P.O. box for an address or a cell phone for a phone number.
- When in doubt, sign nothing and send no money.

Call your Community Liaison Officer, Pete Matejcik, at 248-433-7724 if you receive a suspicious solicitation.

Two school district elections set for November 6



A school election is scheduled for Tuesday, November 6 for Bloomfield Township voters in the Birmingham and Avondale School Districts. The ballot for the Birmingham School District includes two school board positions. The Avondale School District has one opening for a school board member, a millage renewal, and a sinking fund millage renewal.

Sample ballots will be post-

ed on the Township's website by Oct. 10 at www.bloomfield-twp.org/clerk. All precinct loca-

Notice:

At the time the newsletter went to press the State Legislature was contemplating placing a law on the ballot as a referendum. If the law is placed on the ballot a state wide election would occur on Nov 6, 2007 affecting all Township residents.

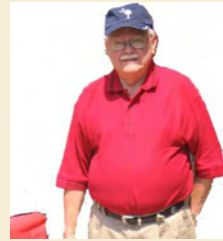
Also of interest, the state legislature scheduled a primary election for Tues. Jan. 15, 2008. Watch our website for more information on this election.

tions are listed on the website, along with precinct maps. Voters in Precinct 13, Harlan School, can return to their precinct location for the November election.

Absentee ballot applications are available online at www.bloomfieldtwp.org/forms or by calling the Clerk's Office at 248.433.7702. The last day for absentee ballots to be mailed

is Saturday, Nov. 3. On that day the Clerk's Office will be open to process absentee applications and issue ballots from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The final day to request an absentee ballot at the Clerk's Office is Monday, November 5, until 4:00 p.m. Electors receiving a ballot on Monday must vote in person at the Clerk's Office.

On our Cover: Jim Grady is a regular volunteer for the Bloomfield Township Senior Services Home Delivered Meals food delivery program. To find out about similar volunteer opportunities call BTSS Volunteer Coordinator, Joan Patzelt at 248-341-6453 or e-mail her at jpatzelt@bloomfield.org. To be featured on our cover please submit your photos to stricomo@bloomfieldtwp.org.



433-7700	Administration
433-7712	Accounting
433-7710	Assessor's Office
433-7715	Building Dept.
433-7702	Clerk's Office
433-7790	Community Cable
594-2800	Engineering & Env.
433-7745	Fire Non-Emergency
433-7750	Police Department
433-7750	Administration
433-7755	Non-Emergency
433-7757	Animal Welfare
433-7760	Investigations
433-7775	Alarm Info
433-7777	Property
433-7776	Records
433-7709	Road Division
433-7731	Water & Sewer
341-6450	Senior Services
335-2813	Adult Day Service
433-7705	Treasurer's Office

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