



BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Police departments work together to prevent crime

Criminals know no borders. A burglar who breaks into a home located in a neighboring community has no second thoughts about entering Bloomfield Township and committing the same crime. One criminal becomes a cross-jurisdictional problem requiring cooperation between police departments.

The detectives of the Bloomfield Township Police Department meet regularly with those from other agencies, allowing them to compare notes about crime trends in their respective jurisdictions. Each agency may have some small piece of information about a given suspect that, when put together through collaboration, clearly indicates who that suspect is and how to best apprehend him or her.

The Bloomfield Township Police Department has an officer assigned to Oakland County's Narcotics Enforcement Team (NET). This is a group of officers from vari-

ous police departments throughout the county whose efforts are directed at those who manufacture, traffic, and sell illegal drugs. However, NET officers provide an invaluable network that helps solve other types of crimes as well, through their experience with hundreds of criminals. For example, in 2006 there was a homicide in Bloomfield Township related to illegal drugs. Having an officer assigned to the Narcotics Enforcement Team resulted in a suspect being arrested within 24 hours and his subsequent conviction for murder.

Our department also has an officer assigned to the FBI's Violent Gang Task Force. While their efforts are predominantly directed toward area cities with gang problems, the Violent Gang Task Force carefully monitors these groups whose activities could easily spill over into Bloomfield Township.

Lastly, the Bloomfield Township Police Department



Departments work together to solve crimes

has an officer assigned to the Surveillance Intelligence Unit (SIU). The SIU has become an invaluable tool in keeping Bloomfield Township residents safe and in preventing many serious crimes. This unit conducts covert surveillance of suspects and areas that have been targeted by criminals. As Bloomfield Township Police detectives identify suspects in various crimes, they will often ask the SIU to begin surveillance of them. Through their efforts, numerous criminals have been caught and convicted for breaking the law.



BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD 2012

ELECTED OFFICIALS

ADMINISTRATION

Leo Savoie, Supervisor
Janet Roncelli, Clerk
Dan Devine, Treasurer

TRUSTEES

David Buckley
Neal J. Barnett
Brian Kepes
Corinne Khederian

APPOINTED POSITIONS

PLANNING COMMISSION

Scot Goldberg, Chairman
Jeff Salz, Vice Chairman
Neal Barnett
Richard Mintz
Thomas Petinga
William Stark
Lisa Seneker

BOARD OF APPEALS

Robert E. Taylor, Jr., Chairman
James Aldrich, Vice Chairman
David Buckley
Brian Henry
Lisa Seneker
Carol Rosati
Tracy Leone
Justin Winkelman, Alternate
Pam Williams, Alternate

Fast emergency response is highest priority for Fire Department

Imagine the panic you would feel if you or a loved one suddenly went into cardiac distress, had difficulty breathing and perhaps were losing consciousness. This was the situation one Township resident recently experienced, but fortunately for him, two Bloomfield Township Fire Department firefighter/paramedics were close at hand. Two Township fire



Here to serve you ...
"When in doubt, call us out"

inspectors were in a staff car on the road when they heard the distress call come over the radio. Realizing how close they were to the victim's location, they rushed to the scene. They had an AED at hand and were able to initiate ALS (Advanced Life Support) protocol. The Township paramedic engine and Please see Fire Department on page 2

Spring events

It's time for spring cleaning. Take advantage of these annual events:

April 21

Electronics Recycling, Medication Disposal & Paper Shredding

April 21 & 22

Clean Sweep

May 5

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day

For more information call 248-594-2800 or go to www.bloomfieldtwp.org



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

FIRE DEPARTMENT from page 1

rescue truck arrived soon after to continue the life-saving efforts, including administering essential drugs and transporting the victim to the hospital. The patient survived, thanks to the quick response of Fire Department personnel.

If you are experiencing a medical emergency, a fast response dramatically increases the chance of a positive outcome. Bringing the "Emergency Room" and ALS capabilities to you, quickly and efficiently, can potentially save your life, shorten your hospital stay, decrease your rehab time, and allow you a greater opportunity to return to normal life.

Rapid response saves property as well as lives. Fire can spread throughout your home in a matter of seconds, causing massive destruction or trapping you inside. The earlier firefighter/paramedics can arrive on scene the greater the likelihood of saving you or a loved one, your home and personal belongings. BTFD emergency response times average between 4-6 minutes, meeting the recommended

standard within the industry.

The Bloomfield Township Fire Department has 54 uniformed line personnel, cross-trained as firefighters/paramedics, who staff four firehouses. These firehouses are located throughout the township to ensure prompt, efficient response to your emer-



gencies. Central Fire Station, on the main Township campus, is equipped with a paramedic ladder truck, an incident command vehicle, and a reserve rescue truck. The other three firehouses, located at 1063 Westview, 4151 W. Maple, and 2389 Franklin Road, each have fire engine and rescue trucks. Two fire engines can also provide Advanced Life Support (ALS/Paramedic), which increases coverage, improves response times and allows for more efficient use of personnel.

BTFD takes pride in conducting progressive and inno-

novative training. In 2011, Township firefighter/paramedics trained over 12,000 hours collectively to ensure they were prepared to handle all emergencies efficiently and effectively. Great training will enhance service and outcomes to you during an emergency.

Extremely rapid response time is paramount to our department's overall effectiveness. The Bloomfield Township Fire Department offers a rapid response time because of strategically located firehouses and firefighter/paramedics throughout the community.

The Bloomfield Township Fire Department is a professional department providing fire protection, advanced (paramedic) emergency medical service, specialized rescue response, and a variety of other services to citizens of Bloomfield Township, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days of the year. This tradition of service to the community stretches back to 1930. The Fire Department is here to serve you...any time, any day, in any way.

BHSD to hold election on May 8

For Bloomfield Township residents living in the Bloomfield Hills School District, a special election will be held on Tuesday, May 8, 2012. In summary, the ballot asks voters to consider a bonding proposal to borrow not more than \$58,650,000 to erect, furnish and equip a high school, which will require utilizing, remodeling, refurbishing and reequipping portions of the existing Andover High School; to acquire and install educational technology; to erect, furnish, equip and improve performing arts facilities and athletic facilities and fields; and to prepare, develop and improve sites.

Sample ballots with the complete text of the bonding proposal are on the Township website at <http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/Services/Clerk/Elections.htm>.

Absentee ballot applications are available in the Clerk's Office and on the website at <http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/Services/Clerk/Elections.htm>.

Further information regarding the election process can be obtained by contacting the Bloomfield Township Clerk's Office at 248.433.7702, Monday – Thursday, 7:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.





A NOTE FROM

Leo Savoie, Bloomfield Township Supervisor

Millage renewal will safeguard our community

Our Board of Trustees will soon consider the timing for an upcoming vote to renew a public safety millage that expires at the end of 2012. The outcome of that vote will have a major impact on our quality of life. Renewing the millage will keep public safety services the same as they are today. Defeating it will cause serious cutbacks. I urge you to read this article and other information about the issue so you can make an informed decision when you go to the polls.

The original amount of the millage that is due to expire at the end of the year was 2.5 mills. Due to the Headlee Amendment that rate has been rolled back to 2.3931 mills. Because of that rollback and the decrease in taxable values, we receive approximately \$700,000 less in actual dollars than we did in 2003. Compounding this, because of inflation our purchasing power is \$2 million less today than it was in 2003.

Our Public Safety budget is approximately \$24,000,000. This covers the Police Department, Fire Department, EMS and Dispatch. The millage that will expire accounts for approximately one third of the budget, or about \$8,000,000.

It takes human beings to respond to emergency calls, so service is directly related to employees on the job. Eighty percent of the budget

goes to wages and benefits. If the millage is not renewed, we would have to make severe cuts in personnel and eliminate more than 50 people who now protect our lives and property.

Currently the Police Department has 67 sworn officers. If the millage is not renewed, the Police Department would most likely have to cut up to 32 officers. We would need to take officers out of our criminal surveillance unit, narcotics unit and the violent gang task force. These officers enable us to be proactive in the fight against crime. Their constant vigilance prevents crimes.

We currently have two school liaison officers, but if the millage is not renewed we would cut at least one, putting our kids at greater risk. Additionally, our detective bureau would be cut in half. We would have to eliminate our crime scene investigative unit and rely on either the county or state to analyze evidence. We would no longer have bicycle patrols for our neighborhoods and shopping areas. Our road patrols for both the day shift and evening shift would be cut in half, greatly increasing response times. Everything we do as a Township to keep our community safe would be drastically diminished.

Changes to the Fire Department would be just as great. The current millage

allows us to staff all four of our community's fire stations at an adequate capacity. If the renewal fails, we would be forced to eliminate up to 25 people in the Fire Department, leaving us severely understaffed. That means we may need to close two fire stations.

Our safety would be seriously compromised. Federal law requires four firefighters to be on the scene before a burning building can be entered. Closing half our fire stations will cause response times to increase. Any delay in response gives the fire a chance to grow, decreasing the chances of survival for victims and decreasing the possibility of an aggressive interior attack on the fire. Even when all on-duty firefighters are at the scene, the level of manpower would be less than national guidelines recommend to successfully fight a full blaze.

Cuts to that extent also mean we would have to disband our EMS and respond to fire-related emergencies only. A private ambulance service would be sent on all EMS calls. Our fire stations, with their trained firefighters/paramedics and state-of-the-art equipment, are strategically placed throughout the Township to assure the quickest response possible. Private ambulances will not be able to provide the same level of service. Response time would be at risk.

If the renewal fails, these cuts would be started immediately and be phased in over the next 12 months.

Following the Board of Trustees' Strategic Plan implemented in 2009, our Township departments have made the necessary cuts in response to declining revenues and the eroding dollar. Our employees have gone from a defined benefit pension to a 401K style plan. We have instituted a high deductible health care plan, saving over \$1 million in the first year alone. Through attrition, we have 10% fewer employees today than we did in 2002. We have adapted to the economic changes in ways that have not reduced the level of safety for our residents.

We, as residents, have a choice to make. I appreciate the lifestyle we enjoy in Bloomfield Township. I value the safety this community affords me and my family. I know the market value of our homes is directly proportional to the quality of services we enjoy in Bloomfield Township. The Township simply cannot continue to provide adequate Police, Fire and EMS services without a renewal of the Public Safety Millage. I urge everyone to study the issue, analyze the budget and consider the importance of the public safety services we rely on.

Conservation can lower your water bill

During the spring/summer watering season, many residents experience much higher water bills due to an increase in outdoor water use. As you water your lawn and garden this spring and summer, keep the following conservation tips in mind.

■ Don't over-water.

Water only when needed. Too much water can harm plants. It is best to water only every other day. The Township recommends that homes with even-numbered addresses water on even days and homes with odd-numbered addresses water on odd days.

■ Avoid water run-off.

Adjust your sprinklers so that water lands on your lawn or garden, not on sidewalks and driveways. Running two shorter cycles per day instead of one long cycle will give the ground time to absorb the water and prevent water run-off.

■ Adjust your mower blades.

Set your lawn mower blades to cut grass no shorter than 2 inches. Longer grass means less evaporation and helps promote deeper root growth.

■ Install smart controllers or rain sensors.

Watering during or after a rainfall is a waste of water. Upgrade to weather smart irrigation controls for your sprinkler system or install rain shutoff switches to avoid wasting water.

■ Water during off-peak water use times.

Watering during the middle of the day wastes water due to evaporation. The most efficient time to water lawns is from 11 P.M. to 5 A.M., when water use is at its lowest. Less water is lost to evaporation due to lower temperatures during these periods. Wind velocities are usually lower than they will be later in the day so distribution is improved.

■ Inspect irrigation system regularly.

Leaks or broken sprinkler heads can seriously affect the performance of your irrigation system and lead to much higher water bills. Check for leaks, broken or clogged heads and other problems, or have an irrigation professional check your system monthly.

■ Eliminate sewer costs with a second meter.

Bloomfield Township offers its residents the option, at the expense of the property owner, to install a secondary water meter. The secondary water meter allows for separate metering of water that is directed exclusively to a sprinkler system or outside spigot or connection. Use of a second meter for outdoor water eliminates sewer charges on that usage. More information on the secondary meter program can be found on the Township's website, www.bloomfieldtwp.org, or by calling the Department of Public Works at 248-594-2800.

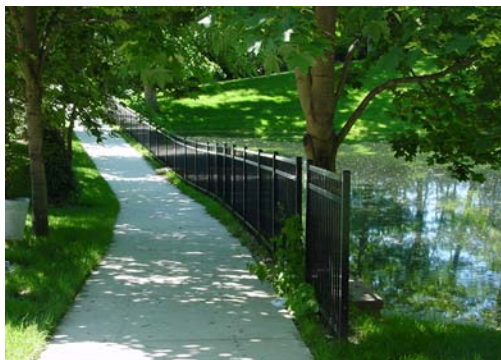


Kensington Road work to begin in June

The City of Bloomfield Hills will be undertaking a sewer and roadway improvement project along Kensington Road from Long Lake Road to the City's southern limits (located approximately ¼ mile north of Wattles Road). It is anticipated that construction will begin on June 18, 2012 and conclude at the end of October 2012. During construction, Kensington Road will be closed to northbound traffic at the City's southern limits from June 18, 2012 to approximately the end of August. The road will then be closed to southbound

traffic at Long Lake Road from the end of August until project completion. Kensington Road will be available to local traffic only. Through traffic will be prohibited. Persons going to the Academy of the Sacred Heart campus should use the Squirrel Road entrance while Kensington Road is closed at the City's southern limits. If you are interested in the progress of the construction project and wish to be added to the e-mail list for the project, please contact Brad Shepler, P.E. of Hubbell, Roth & Clark, Inc. at bshepler@hrc-engr.com.

Spring means residents increase use of safety paths



The safety path along Franklin Road is one of the prettiest spots for a spring walk.

Bloomfield Township will boast more than 60 miles of safety paths along major roads by the end of 2012, providing residents with the opportunity to exercise safely. The arrival of spring means more residents will be taking advantage of the good weather to get outdoors. As you

enjoy the safety paths, please be mindful of your neighbors. If you are walking your dog on the safety paths, or on Township roads, remember that Township ordinance requires that dogs be kept on leashes and that owners clean up after their pets.

BTSS offers new transportation service

Bloomfield Township Senior Services has recently added a new transportation service, running during the hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, to help area seniors maintain an active lifestyle. Township residents age 60 and over who are unable to drive can now request transportation to the Senior Center for selected classes, events, clubs and day trips. The van returns residents to their homes after their activity.

“The new transportation service allows older residents to invest in their well-being,” says Director Christine Tvaroha. “It lets them continue to be active even if they are not able to drive.” Residents who have used the new service have been very pleased with it.

For many, it was their first chance to take advantage of the Senior Center’s offerings.

Seniors are now able to look



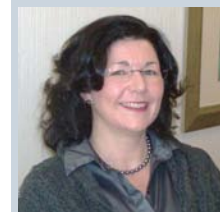
Christine Tvaroha, County Commissioner Shelley Goodman Taub and Supervisor Leo Savoie with the new bus provided by SMART

through the monthly senior services newsletter and view the transportation schedule online. They can decide what

activities they are interested in and request transportation a minimum of ten days in advance. In order to use the service, seniors must provide proof of Township residency and complete an application. There is no fee for the service. The program is made possible by SMART Community Credits. SMART also provided a 14-passenger handicapped-accessible van.

For other transportation needs, residents may take advantage of SMART Community Transit or the medical transportation and errand assistance offered by Bloomfield Township Senior Services. For more information on any of these programs, contact Denise Kolkmeyer at 248-723-3500.

Senior Services Director Christine Tvaroha receives diversity award



Bloomfield Township’s Director of Senior Services, Christine Tvaroha, will

be honored April 26 at the Race Relations & Diversity Task Force’s 13th Annual Diversity Champions Honor Roll Breakfast at the Birmingham Community House. Tvaroha was nominated for the honor by Township Clerk Jan Roncelli, who stated in her nomination essay that Tvaroha “admirably champions respect, compassion and quality of life for seniors in the community.”

The DIA Inside/Out comes to Bloomfield Township

The Detroit Institute of Arts comes to Bloomfield Township this spring with its popular Inside/Out program. In late



See a reproduction of Taillasson’s painting **Berenice Reproaching Ptolemy** outside Township Hall

March, the DIA installed reproductions of some of its most famous masterpieces at seven outdoor locations

around the Township, including the library, Township Hall and the Bloomfield Township Senior Center. The program includes works by Caravaggio, Whistler, Gauguin, van Gogh and other artists. The program will run

through June 2012.

The Bloomfield Township Public Library will offer special opportunities for residents to enjoy the artworks and learn more about them. Residents may download a “passport” from the library’s website, which they can take to the site of each installation during that organization’s regular business hours to have it stamped. Completed passports will be entered into a drawing and the winner will receive a free one-year membership to the DIA.

Bloomfield Township will be hosting a number of activities for residents, including five

day-trips from Senior Services and a special presentation at BTSS by DIA staff. Bloomfield Community Television’s Art and Design program, hosted by John Sauve, will showcase a DIA staff member and visit several of the installations.

For more information about DIA Inside/Out, including locations of the installations and details about related special programs, visit the Bloomfield Township website, www.bloomfieldtwp.org or the Bloomfield Township Public Library website, www.btpl.org

Take advantage of the Bloomfield Township website! There’s a wealth of information, including the 2012-2013 budget, the Strategic Plan, the Code of Ordinances, upcoming events, department overviews, tax information and more. You can now watch Board of Trustees meetings streamed live, or catch the meetings later on Video on Demand. Go to www.bloomfieldtwp.org and check it out.

Residents praise Police Department's Citizens' Academy

"I've lived in Bloomfield Township my whole life so I thought I knew everything there was to know about how the local government worked," said Jeff Greenwalt at the last class of last winter's Citizens' Academy. "I was surprised when I learned so much! It was a great experience and a good way to have positive interactions with the police."

Jeff is not alone in his enthusiasm for the Police Department's recently instituted Citizens' Academy. Judy Goldwassen said, "The course gave me insight an ordinary citizen doesn't usually get. It gave me new respect for police officers and the decisions they have to make."

Martha Hodge said, "I was impressed with the strong bonds between police officers. I could tell this isn't just a job



Community Liaison Officer Pete Matejcik conducts the Citizens' Academy

for them."

If you're interested in learning what goes on behind the scenes of the Bloomfield Township Police Department, you have a chance to attend the eight-week course next fall. (See details in sidebar.)

Dan McCarville summed up the sentiments of many of the class members. "It made me proud to live in Bloomfield Township."



Are you interested in finding out more about the Township's Police Department? The police department will be hosting another eight-week Citizens' Academy this Fall on Tuesday evenings from September 4 through October 23. For more information or to apply, call Officer Pete Matejcik at 248-433-7724 or email pmatejcik@bloomfieldtwp.org



Jeff Greenwalt

433-7700	Administration
433-7712	Accounting
433-7710	Assessors' Office
433-7715	Building Division
433-7702	Clerk's Office
433-7790	Community Cable
594-2800	Engineering & Env.
433-7745	Fire Non-Emergency
594-2845	Ordinance Division
433-7795	Planning Division
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
594-2800	Road Division
594-2800	Water & Sewer
723-3500	Senior Services
723-3530	Adult Day Service
433-7705	Treasurer's Office

TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY

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BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP



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