

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER



Special Police task force helps keep Township safe

On the morning of November 4, 2010, Bloomfield Township Police Officer Jermaine Bolden reported for work with an urgent sense of anticipation. By the time the day was over, he and 100 other law enforcement personnel from local, county, state and federal agencies had arrested almost 60 high-ranking gang members and taken them off the streets.

Ofc. Bolden had prepared for this day for two years. He researched criminal records, conducted wiretaps, interviewed incarcerated gang members, and followed gang members' postings on social media sites. He received specialized training from FBI officers and worked closely with law enforcement officers from the

FBI, Drug Enforcement Administration, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Oakland County Sheriff's Department and police officers from Auburn Hills and Pontiac.



The Police Department is dedicated to keeping the Township free from crime

On the day of the sweep, 30 SWAT teams, following a care-

fully orchestrated plan, apprehended many leaders of the gangs that are responsible for a wide range of crimes that have taken place in communities neighboring Bloomfield Township.

The sweep didn't take place in Bloomfield Township, but Bloomfield Township residents and businesses benefit from the special training Ofc. Bolden has received and the experience he has gained as a member of the Violent Gang Task Force. He shares his specialized knowledge and skills with fellow Township officers and detectives. Together, they have more comprehensive insight when investigating crimes that take

Please see TASK FORCE on page 5

The Top Ten of 2010

1. Continuation of same or even better service levels despite less revenue and fewer employees
2. Completion of capital improvements on Township campus
3. Implementation of lower cost HRA health care plan for Township employees
4. Increased employee cross training and broader staffing assignments
5. Completion of energy audit to target cost cutting steps
6. Continuation of discussions with Birmingham about consolidating Dispatch services
7. Completion of first year of operation in new Senior Center, providing expanded fitness and recreational opportunities and Adult Day Services
8. Implementation of EMS medical transport, offsetting a portion of lost tax revenue at no cost to residents
9. High voter turnouts, showing high level of community involvement
10. Return of Open House!

11. Bonus for all homeowners: Reports are in showing Bloomfield Township home sales doubled in 2010 over 2009!



BLOOMFIELD
TOWNSHIP
BOARD
&
2010

ELECTED OFFICIALS

ADMINISTRATION

Dave Payne, Supervisor
Janet Roncelli, Clerk
Dan Devine, Treasurer

TRUSTEES

David Buckley
Neal J. Barnett
Leo C. Savoie
Brian Kepes

APPOINTED POSITIONS

PLANNING COMMISSION

Scot Goldberg, Chairman
Jeff Salz, Vice Chairman
Sherry Stefanos, Secretary
Neal Barnett
Richard Mintz
Thomas Petinga
William Stark

BOARD OF APPEALS

Corinne Khederian, Chairman
Robert E. Taylor, Jr., Vice Chairman
James Aldrich
David Buckley
Brian Henry
Tracy Leone, Alternate
Carol Rosati, Alternate
Lisa Seneker
Sherry Stefanos

Pictured above is Katie Schlutow, Fleet/Building Manager. See story on page 6

Be mindful of handicap parking rules

Please do not park in a handicap parking space unless you have a properly designated placard or license plate. For those with disabilities, having access to a handicap parking space is more than a convenience. It is a necessity that allows them to get out of their vehicles, especially those who use wheelchairs. Owners of vehicles blocking or misusing handicap spots may be issued tickets or have their vehicle towed away.



Medical marijuana ordinance in effect

Bloomfield Township voters were consistent with voters across the state when they approved a proposal in 2008 that allows patients to use marijuana to help relieve the symptoms of serious medical conditions. Following the intent of the new law, the Board of Trustees asked the Planning Commission to develop a local ordinance that would safeguard Township neighborhoods while it provided for the medical needs of Township residents.

On October 25, 2010, the Board approved the ordinance that was developed by the Planning Commission in consultation with the Police Department and the Planning Division. Key provisions of the ordinance:

- Define medical marijuana usage for registered patients only;
- Allow up to two registered patients per residential dwelling to use marijuana, provided they obtain a registration card provided by the Michigan Department of Community Health;
- Require a qualifying patient to register the only residential address where he or she will be allowed to use medical marijuana with the Bloomfield Township Police Department;
- Limit medical marijuana usage by registered patients to the residentially zoned districts of the Township; and,
- Prohibit any cultivation and/or distribution activity by any caregiver or patient.

Bloomfield Township law enforcement officials

remind you that the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act acknowledges the fact that federal law makes it a crime to possess, manufacture, cultivate or distribute marijuana. Marijuana is illegal in Michigan except under the narrow provision of the law that provides an exception for patients and caregivers. Everything else is illegal, including dispensaries. Additionally, federal law prohibits registered patients from smoking marijuana in public places and from operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of marijuana.

The Bloomfield Township Police Department strongly recommended the proposed ordinance's prohibition of the cultivation and distribution of marijuana in the Township. Department officials contend that the cultivation and distribution of marijuana within Township borders would increase the risk of criminal activity and jeopardize public safety.

The identity of patients who register with the Police Department will be kept confidential. In accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) this information is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

Local registration is necessary in order to safeguard patients from drug search and seizure operations by the Police Department.

If you have questions, call the Police Department at 248.433.7755.

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

Accessory structures require approval from Zoning Board

Homeowners are often surprised to find out that many things they want to install or build on their property are actually accessory structures that are regulated under the Township's Clearzoning Ordinance and require approval from the Zoning Board. Accessory structures include sheds, pergolas, tree forts, sports courts, and piers and pillars.

The placement of an accessory structure is limited to the rear yard, and must be at least 16 feet from any lot line. Maximum height allowed is 14 feet, and screening with ever-green plantings may be required. A permit from the Building Division may be required if the Zoning Board approves the proposed structure.

Contact the Ordinance Division at 248-594-2845 with any questions before installing an accessory structure.



Be sure to check with the Ordinance Division before installing a shed or other accessory structure.



A NOTE FROM

Dave Payne, Bloomfield Township Supervisor

Township continues cost cutting steps

2010 was a year in which Bloomfield Township can point to many achievements. While we are proud of what we accomplished, all indicators point to a financial climate that will continue to challenge us in the years ahead.

While things are beginning to pick up – ever so slowly! – in the private sector, the public sector will take longer to recover. Oakland County officials predict local governments will see revenue from property taxes continue to decline in 2011 and 2012. Even more significantly, it won't be until the year 2025 that revenues reach 2007 levels, if at all. This means we must look at new ways to provide the public services our residents and businesses have always depended upon.

The Bloomfield Township Board of Trustees and each and every employee is committed to doing just that. We have already made many changes (discussed in detail in previous newsletters) and we know we must continue to develop new efficiencies and cut more costs. At the same time, the need for services continues to grow.

Throughout 2011, we will be focused on several priorities identified in our Strategic Plan. (You can read about our efforts to reduce energy costs on page 5.) We will continue seeking collaborations and opportunities to combine services with neighboring communities. We have been in serious discussions with the City of Birmingham about combining dispatch services. If

that comes to fruition, both communities will realize both long-term and short-term benefits without any loss of service or response time. We have initiated discussions with other communities about other services and will diligently pursue those talks.

Legacy costs will continue to be challenging, although we are taking every possible step to control them. The high deductible health insurance plan that we adopted in January 2010 features a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) for our employees that significantly lowered costs by 10% - 15% in its first year. Projected cost increases are lower than they would have been under the old plan, but nationwide, there is much uncertainty about future health care costs.

The switch we made years ago from a defined benefit plan to a defined contribution plan protects us from some of the severe losses other communities will experience and will advance our long term goal of significantly reducing future pension costs.

The hiring and pay freezes we initiated two years ago mean we must reinforce our ongoing efforts to maximize the efficiencies of current staff. We are training, cross-training, and making flexible working assignments to maintain services with fewer staff.

As we chart our course for the new year, let's take a few minutes to look at the past year and note some of our accomplishments. See the "Top Ten of 2010" list on the front page.

Township employees provide gifts for needy children

Please allow me to brag a bit about the Bloomfield Township staff! The men and women who provide your public services are not only hard workers, they are compassionate. This holiday season, they didn't just pick up a project they do every year and go through the motions again, they knocked it out of the ballpark.

About 15 years ago, the Fire Department began supporting The Bloomfield Hills Optimist Club's Holiday Wish Program. This annual program raises funds to provide gifts for children selected by the Oakland-Livingston Human Service Agency. All the children are from low-income homes; some are foster children and many have special needs or are considered to be "at risk."

Over the years, other Township staff members joined the effort and it is now a holiday tradition at Township Hall. This year, employees recognized the increasing need all around us and stretched to do more than they've ever done before. They raised a total of about \$5,000 to provide gifts for 130 children. The Fire

Department Charities donated \$2,000, the Police Benevolent Fund kicked in \$1,000 and some other departments collected cash to contribute. Individual employees also donated cash but most chose a name and bought a gift for that child specifically.

With the cash donations, a team of employees shopped after work one night at the Bloomfield Township K-Mart (which also helped by providing a discount!) and then wrapped more than a hundred packages.

Look at the picture on this page to see some of the gifts our employees shopped for, wrapped and then donated. You can see why I'm so proud of them!





From the Police Department

Avoid charity scams

As the holidays approach, so do the charity scams! Beware of any charity that approaches you looking for money. All too often, these are scams. Sometimes, the charity in question is legal, but is so grossly inefficient that only a small fraction of your dollar actually makes it to the recipient. Instead, find a cause that's close to your heart, and then do your own research! There are several online watch groups that can

help you assess a charity's worthiness. Houses of worship can also be a great source of information for legitimate, efficient charities.



Residents can attend first Citizens' Academy

The Bloomfield Township Police Department will be hosting its first Citizens' Academy beginning Tuesday, January 18, 2011 and continuing each Tuesday until March 1, 2011. Each class will run from 6 pm to 9 pm. The aim of the Citizens' Academy is to give Bloomfield Township residents the opportunity to learn more about their police department and how it operates. There is

no cost for the course, but seating is limited to the first 30. A cursory criminal history check will be conducted on each applicant prior to acceptance to the Citizens' Academy.

To apply to the Citizens' Academy, email Officer Pete Matejcik at pmatejcik@bloomfieldtwp.org or call 248-433-7724.

Volunteers donate time to deliver meals to homebound seniors

Bloomfield Township Senior Services (BTSS) offers Meals on Wheels to homebound seniors in Bloomfield Township. BTSS considers this service a key element in the safety net for seniors. Volunteer drivers deliver hot meals to homebound seniors who are frail and/or living on low incomes. One hundred volunteers make it possible for BTSS to deliver over 12,000 meals each year. The volunteers provide vital social interaction, and if a client does not answer the door an emergency contact system ensures that family or friends will be notified. As a last resort the Township Police Department will be called on to do a wellness visit.

"It's a very good service at a very reasonable cost. It's a godsend for people who cannot prepare their own meals," commented a client. If you or a family member might be interested in having meals delivered, contact BTSS Nutrition Coordinator Donna DeWitte at 248-723-3500 or email dde-witte@bloomfieldtwp.org.

Interested in volunteering to deliver Meals on Wheels?

Meals are delivered in the morning, Monday through Friday. Volunteer drivers generally deliver meals once a month on a set schedule. The driver reports to BTSS on the chosen day and can expect to complete the route by noon. Drivers receive on-site training and complete a release for a background check. Contact BTSS Volunteer Coordinator Joan Patzelt at

248-723-3500 or email jpatzelt@bloomfieldtwp.org.

"I really can't thank you and your staff of volunteers enough for your care and concern for [my father]," said the adult child of a Meals on Wheels client. "For the past two years I was comforted by the knowledge that he had a friendly visitor and a hot meal five days a week. I appreciated the alerts when he didn't answer the door and updates when they noticed his health was failing."



Volunteer drivers Irene and Jim Grady hold the cold and hot portions of a meal to be delivered

Volunteer Clint Williams has been delivering meals for Bloomfield Township Senior Services for 5 1/2 years. He has completed 183 routes, driving 8,000 miles! As he said, that is equivalent to driving round trip to California twice!

BTSS offers home repair program to seniors

Bloomfield Township Senior Services is using funds received from HUD's Community Block Grant program to offer minor home repairs to qualifying seniors. These funds may be used for repairs to furnaces, water heaters, sidewalks, roofs, windows, gutters or chimneys, or for replacement of disposals, toilets, stairs, handrails, and other minor repair and replacement projects.

In the past year, BTSS has provided minor home repairs to 14 senior households. The average age of the homeowners served is 76, and they have lived in the Township on average for nearly 30 years. The average income of those served by the program is \$20,000 a year.

If you believe you may qualify for the program and would like more information, contact Denise Kolkmeier at 248-723-3500.



From the Fire Department

Keep your family safe by following these tips

Each year we have many fires related to fire places. Here are some tips to help you enjoy your fireplace in a safe manner.

- Make sure that your chimney is cleaned each year by a reputable, licensed contractor. The contractor will also inspect the system as a whole and point out things that need to be repaired or could cause a fire.

- Keep the fires in the fireplaces 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. We respond to a number of fires each year caused by ashes that were handled improperly.

Clothes dryers cause or are involved in an estimated 15,000 dwelling fires and cause \$75.8 million dollars in property damage in the United States annually, according to the National Fire Protection Association. A buildup of lint in your clothes dryer not only creates a fire hazard, but also reduces the efficiency of your dryer. To use your dryer safely:

- Clean the lint filter in the dryer before and after each use because accumulated dust and lint can be a fire hazard. Remove accumulated lint around the drum.

- Ensure that the dryer is plugged into an outlet suitable for its electrical needs.

- Do not operate the dryer without a lint filter.

- Make sure the air exhaust vent pipe is not restricted and

the outdoor vent flap will open when the dryer is operating.

- Do not leave the dryer running if you go out, because if it malfunctions, no one will be there to avert possible disaster.

- Keep the dryer area clear of combustibles like boxes and clothing.

- Have your dryer installed and maintained by a professional.

- Gas dryers should be inspected by a professional occasionally to ensure that the gas line and connections are intact and free of leaks.

Finally, making and practicing an escape plan can be the difference between life and death if a fire does occur. Fire can grow and spread through your house very quickly. That is

why it is so important to be prepared when fire strikes. For more information on escape plans contact the Fire Prevention Division of the Fire Department at 1155 Exeter or call (248) 433-7745 Monday through Thursday, 7:00 AM to 5:30 PM.



Keep safety in mind while enjoying your fireplace this winter

TASK FORCE from page 1

place in the Township. Furthermore, the Township gains the added protection the Task Force provides to area communities.

In addition to this task force, some Township officers are assigned to other multi-jurisdictional special units. The Narcotics Enforcement Team crosses local boundaries to investigate serious drug related crimes. The Troy Special Investigations Unit goes into action whenever there is a rash of crimes such as residential breaking and entering

or car break-ins.

These collaborative efforts strengthen our own Police Department and add layers of protection to Bloomfield Township. We are not large enough to supply the specialized skills and expertise from within a department of our size, but have them available to us because of our cooperative participation. We will continue to participate in such collaborations as one way of assuring the public safety of the people who live, work and visit Bloomfield Township.

Energy audit helps Township cut costs

A key element of Bloomfield Township's Five-Year Strategic Plan is reducing the cost of utilities needed to operate campus facilities. To do this in the most effective way, we applied for and received an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant, made possible by the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. The grant funded an independent energy audit and retrofit study that will guide the Township in decreasing energy usage.

The recently completed audit identified 165 projects which could, according to the most favorable projections, cut utility costs by as much as 50% over 2 ½ years. The cost of implementing all 165 projects would be approximately \$279,000. The grant provided \$169,500, some of which went to pay for the audit. The Public Works and Engineering and Environmental Services Departments will prioritize the projects and implement them as funds allow.

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Katie Schlutow, Fleet/Building Manager, keeps Township vehicles on the roads

“It’s all behind the scenes, never seen by residents – but all vital Township services are kept going by the men working on the fleet,” says Katie Schlutow, Fleet/Building Manager. Bloomfield Township, unlike other townships, provides comprehensive road services to residents, which means maintaining a large fleet of trucks to do snow plowing, road grading and other services. Katie makes sure these vehicles, along with the police and fire vehicles, are maintained and ready for action.

Katie manages and oversees the Department of Public Works’ Motor Pool Division’s daily operations, such as parts inventory management, fuel management, and vehicle purchasing, and supervises the repair and maintenance person-

nel. All these are essential functions in maintaining the entire fleet of Township vehicles and equipment. She is in charge of over 200 pieces of equipment, including police cars, fire trucks and DPW vehicles. She has been in the position for almost two years.

“I like the analyzing part of the job,” says Katie. “I like looking at the numbers and seeing where there is room for improvement.” Katie’s role will eventually include managing Township buildings. To more fully understand the different building components and optimal energy efficiency, Katie

is taking classes to obtain Building Operations Certification.

Katie started working for Bloomfield Township in 2004, when she took a job overseeing grant funds for the Fire Department as she worked her way through school. She then moved to the Road Department where she worked in a clerical position full time and went to school part time. After two years she was promoted to the position of Administrative Assistant to the Police Chief, where she worked for a year and a half. “Working at the Township, I

knew I wanted to stay here,” Katie says. She finished her studies and obtained a degree in business administration with a goal of working in management. The position of Fleet/Building Manager was created to provide more sophisticated fiscal accountability to the management of Township assets. The Director of Public Works approached Katie because her background and skills made her the perfect fit for the job.

As a young woman taking on a new supervisory position in a long-established department, Katie has received the support of the mechanics and other employees. “They are professional and know that different people have different things to offer,” she says. “We work well together.”



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.
Fire Non-Emergency
433-7745 Ordinance Division
594-2845 Planning Division
433-7795 Police Department
433-7750 Administration
433-7755 Non-Emergency
433-7757 Animal Welfare
433-7760 Investigations
433-7760 Alarm Info
433-7775 Property
433-7777 Records
433-7776 Public Works
594-2800 Road Division
594-2800 Water & Sewer
723-3500 Senior Services
723-3530 Adult Day Service
433-7705 Treasurer's Office

433-7730 Water/Sewer Emergency

TOWNSHIP
DIRECTORY

BLOOMFIELD HILLS MI 48303-0489
PO BOX 489
4200 TELEGRAPH ROAD

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP



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