

LIVING IN BLOOMFIELD

A young child with brown hair, wearing a grey mesh beanie, a grey and white patterned sweater, a dark blue quilted jacket, tan pants, and grey sneakers with orange laces, is looking down at the ground. The background is a blurred outdoor scene with snow and trees.

**FRESH
NEW
LOOK
SAME
SEASONAL
UPDATES**

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TOWNSHIP



2023 Was a Year of Success That Can Be Built Upon in 2024

As we start a new year, it is a time to reflect on all that we have done together, and all that we will do in the future. 2023 was a year filled with positive change in the Township that included bringing back some favorite events, incorporating more robust services, and strengthening our connections to our regional partners to improve our community and the region.

Some of my favorite highlights in 2023 were being able to bring back services, create stronger relationships with regional partners, and increase the scope of technology, training and education we use to ensure we serve and protect our community to the fullest. After a 5-year hiatus, it was amazing to see the smiling faces as we celebrated by gathering to share in the excitement of the Open House, to protect the environment at both the Spring e-waste & shredding and the Fall household hazardous waste events, and investing in public safety as demonstrated by adding more first-responder positions and purchasing top of the line lifesaving equipment. We will be adding another community gathering event in 2024, details will be coming your way soon!



Sparky entertains a large crowd at the Fire Demonstration during the 2023 Open House this past October.

In addition to the fun events, together we strengthened our voice with regional partners to improve the infrastructures that run through our community. Even an ice storm and a power failure couldn't stop you from answering the call and coming out to share your support of saving the Square Lake Road business ramp. Your voices were heard by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), and it strengthened our partnership with both MDOT and the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) by including us earlier in the planning stages on all future projects that affect Bloomfield Township. Another regional partner that has heard our voices was DTE. After sharing stories of the reliability issues they have in our area when weather is not a factor, it was determined that we needed more than just tree trimming and we worked out a plan to systematically update and replace the aging infrastructure in Bloomfield that will continue to be improved over the next few years.

Although we have always encouraged training and education, we expanded training for emergency operations preparedness to improve training and protection against weather disasters and attacks on our schools. We co-hosted a large-scale simulation of a mass casualty incident with the Bloomfield Hills School District that included more than 600 people at the High School, and we conducted a table top exercise to evaluate our response and resources if a weather event such as a tornado were to hit our community. Seeing how much our responders train and continue to learn, it inspired me to go back to school since a lot has changed since the 1990s. I completed my Masters of Public Administration and a Masters of Public Policy which helps me to serve you better. No matter our age or our position, the more we train and learn, the more prepared we are to protect each other.

As we look ahead to 2024, I'm excited for the steps Bloomfield Township is taking towards a Strategic Plan and long-term sustainability. Having a long-term vision and plan helps us to set goals and make a plan to ensure that we can provide the day-to-day operations and first-class services that we expect as residents of Bloomfield Township in an efficient and cost-effective manner. By planning for the future and strategizing the direction our administration should be taking, we can ensure that the services we offer are not only sustained, but remain ahead of the curve by adapting to meet evolving resident, employee, and community needs. A Strategic Plan will be our blueprint for the steps needed to achieve our goals, mission, products, and services.

The last time the Township prepared a Strategic Plan was 15 years ago. The best way to get a strong vision and plan, is to get input from all stakeholders, including residents, employees, business owners, and community leaders. When we host public forums or send out surveys for the plan, please engage and give your opinions not only for the year ahead, but a decade ahead and beyond. If you're reading this and you feel you have a great idea or vision for the Township, we want to hear from you! Preparedness is the key to our long-term happiness and success in Bloomfield Township. I wish you happiness and success throughout the new year as well and wish you a fabulous 2024!

Dani Walsh, Bloomfield Township Supervisor
248.433.7700 | dwalsh@bloomfieldtwp.org

*On the Cover: Resident Everett Czuprenski (4 yrs old) playing in the snow puddles at Johnson Nature Center in Bloomfield Township.
Photo credit: Chelsea of a.k.wyse photo+design. For a chance to be featured on the cover of a future Living in Bloomfield, email photo to: cable_dept@bloomfieldtwp.org.*

ADMINISTRATION



Bloomfield Township's registered voters will head to the polls on Tuesday, February 27, 2024—that is if they choose to wait until Election Day. In November 2022, voters passed Proposal 2 which brings many new early voting laws to Michigan. Some residents in the Bloomfield Hills School District took advantage of early voting in the November 7, 2023 Special Election, but for many, this February will be their first time.

The November 2023 election was the first time we implemented a couple of significant election law changes. These new features include the permanent mail ballot and nine days of early voting. The election and implementation of these new features went smoothly due to collaboration among State, County, and Township as well as the dedication and hard work of my department staff and the more than 100 community members who work elections. The same is expected in February, August, and November of 2024. Below are the expanded options to vote.

In Person: Visit your precinct location on Tuesday, February 27th.

Early In Person: Nine days of early voting will take place at the Bloomfield Township Library beginning Saturday, February 17th through Sunday, February 25th; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. except Thursday when hours are noon to 8 p.m.

Absentee: If you are on the Permanent Absentee Voter Application List, you will receive an application to vote absentee as usual. If you want an absentee ballot you can apply for a ballot for a specific election(s) or all 2024 elections at one time.

Permanent Mail Ballot: Voters now have the option to join the Permanent Mail Ballot List and be mailed a ballot automatically for every future election. This is a type of absentee ballot. To join this list, visit our elections Q/A page. For the Presidential Primary, we will mail you the nonpartisan ballot unless you complete a form indicating which partisan ballot you want. For the more than 11,000 residents already on this list, we mailed you this form in December; if you join the list now, we will promptly mail or provide you this form.

Voting your Absentee Ballot: (1) Timely return to the Clerk's Office via U.S. Mail, personal delivery, or via a Township dropbox or (2) Directly tabulate this ballot yourself during Early Voting or in the Precinct. No longer do you have to surrender the absentee ballot and receive a new precinct ballot.

Martin C. Brook, Township Clerk
248.433.7702 | clerk@bloomfieldtwp.org

**ELECTION DAY IS
FEB 27, 2024**

For more information about voting,
please visit our elections page at
www.bloomfieldtwp.org/elections.



The arrival of cold temperatures means it's tax season at the Bloomfield Township Treasurer's Office. We mail out approximately 40,000 tax statements each year. Winter tax bills were mailed out in late November and many residents have already paid. Even if your taxes are paid through your mortgage escrow you will still receive an "information copy" of your tax bill. If you have not yet paid your taxes, there are several different payment options available.

The most important thing to remember is that **Winter 2023 taxes are due by 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 14, 2024.** Any payment not received, or in the drop box, by 5:30 p.m. February 14, 2024, will incur a 3% penalty, as required by state law. If you choose to mail your tax payment, please be aware that payments are processed on the day they are received in the office, not the date they are postmarked. Once you have paid your taxes, you can request a receipt on the payment stub, or go to our website to print a receipt. To do this, go to the Quick Links section of our website's home page, and click on the Property Search Info link. This will take you to the BS&A Online site, where you can enter your name, address or parcel number in the search area at the top. Then click on the "Tax Information" tab. You can check that your parcel's taxes are paid, check your water and sewer bill, as well as any permits that were issued. Having trouble using the website? We're here to help if you have any questions! Call the Treasurer's Office at 248-433-7705 or email us at treasurer@bloomfieldtwp.org.

I hope you had an enjoyable holiday season and we look forward to serving you.

Michael Schostak, Township Treasurer
248.433.7705 | treasurer@bloomfieldtwp.org

Available Payment Options



IN PERSON AT TWP HALL

During Office Hours:
M-Th | 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

24/7:
Secure lobby drop box is open 24/7 and monitored by Police Department. Mark the "receipt request" box on the payment stub for a mailed receipt.



DIRECT DEPOSIT

This is a free option available on our website. Allow up to two business days for direct deposit payments to post.



CREDIT CARD

Pay by credit card either online or by phone. Payments are posted immediately. Convenience charge applies.

For more information on these payment options visit www.bloomfieldtwp.org/paymentoptions or scan the QR code.



SERVICES THAT

Snow Removal Procedures

The Road Division is committed to keeping our streets clear and safe. The Township is divided into 12 different areas and snowplows systematically work toward each other until the job is done.

High priority roads are the first to be plowed and salted during snowstorms. Once enough snow has accumulated, the work on Township subdivision streets begins. Township crews and equipment will work around the clock until all of our roads are safe for traffic.

The Road Division implements the Carsonite Marker Program every year to help flag over 350 specific road edges that our snowplows must maintain with caution. The markers help minimize damage to sod and sprinklers. These markers will be in place from November through May along the more than 200 miles of subdivision roads that Bloomfield Township maintains.

In February 2006, Bloomfield Township adopted a Snow Emergency Ordinance that prohibits parking on publicly

maintained streets within Bloomfield Township during a snow emergency. Having the roads cleared of parked vehicles greatly improves our ability to plow, salt and clear the roads safely and more efficiently.

Here are three important things to remember about snow emergencies:

1. Residents will have six hours from the time the snow emergency is declared before enforcement of the ordinance begins. Stalled or disabled vehicles must be towed or pushed off the street.
2. Residents without a driveway are exempt from the requirement. Those residents will need to obtain a special parking permit and display it in the driver's door-side window of the vehicle. Permits may be obtained from the Police Department.
3. Non-compliance may result in a fine of up to \$100 and illegally parked vehicles may be towed and impounded.



Winter Tips for Homeowners



Keep trash cans, bags and recycle bins off the road on trash day.



Remove all parked cars from streets during snow removal operations. Snowplow drivers must plow very closely to parked vehicles to keep roads clear and safe for two-way traffic.



To reduce the amount of snow being pushed back into your driveway, pile snow from your driveway on the "downstream" side of the drive. If you stand in your driveway facing the street, the "downstream" side is to your right.



Shovel the snow pushed into your driveway before it has a chance to freeze and become a hardened mass of snow.



Direct your snow removal contractor to pile snow far enough off the road to prevent the road from narrowing and creating a safety hazard. If your contractor pushes snow into the street or to the left of your driveway, the Township's snowplow will just end up plowing it back into your driveway.

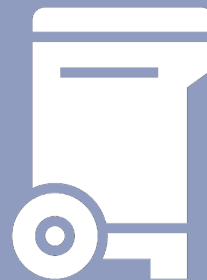


Give salt trucks room to work. When in doubt, stay back 100 feet from the vehicle to avoid mishaps.

HELPFUL REMINDERS • HELPFUL REMINDERS

IT'S TIME FOR WINTER STORAGE

The Township's Open Storage Ordinance requires that recreational vehicles, seasonal sports equipment, maintenance equipment, etc. are placed out of public view. Property maintenance is key to sustaining the value of our homes and neighborhood.



TRASH DELAYS

There are no holiday trash delays this winter.

Yard Waste Collection resumes March 11

WORK FOR YOU

Seamless Transition of Township Treasurer

Michael Schostak became Bloomfield Township Treasurer when the clock hit 5:31 p.m. on Thursday, August 31st. Schostak was unanimously appointed by the Board of Trustees following the resignation of former Treasurer Brian Kepes. After a few months on the job, Schostak speaks fondly of his predecessor and the staff he inherited. He looks forward to making the Treasurer's Office even easier to use for all residents.

"While sad to see a long-serving public official like Brian Kepes retire, I am excited to take my service to the community to the next level," said Schostak. "As a Trustee since 2016, I was able to help guide the Township, but as Treasurer I am all-in and spend each day working to make our community even better. With my background in finance

and management, I have truly been able to hit the ground running and ensure a seamless transition."

Assisting in the Treasurer's Office are four employees with an average tenure of nine years with the Department who bring care and diligence to their roles helping residents. They aim to keep improving the financial condition of the Township, and make interacting with their office easier than ever.



"We collect all payments to the Township, not just property taxes and water bills. We also have the ability to help residents with hardship assistance if they meet certain criteria, just ask us." To learn more or ask general questions of the department, call 248-433-7705 or email treasurer@bloomfieldtwp.org.



WHAT IS THE FINANCIAL STANDING OF BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP?

Visit www.bloomfieldtwp.org/dashboard and look at the Munetrix Citizen's Guide and Dashboard on the Finance page.

CONNECT ONLINE

Keep up with the latest community and government news by subscribing to our channels.



PUBLISHED BY THE CABLE AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS DEPARTMENT
248.433.7790 | cable_dept@bloomfieldtwp.org

TOWNSHIP BOARDS



APPOINTED OFFICIALS

PLANNING COMMISSION

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

ELECTED OFFICIALS

ADMINISTRATION

Dani Walsh, Supervisor
Martin C. Brook, Clerk
Michael Schostak, Treasurer

TRUSTEES

Neal J. Barnett
Stephanie Fakh
Christopher Kolinski
Valerie Murray

BOARD OF APPEALS

Brian Henry, Chairman
Jocelyn Giangrande, Vice Chairman
Stephanie Fakh
Ed Ford
Scott Gittleman
Andrea O'Donnell
Carol Rosati
Glenda Meads, Alternate

HELPFUL REMINDERS • HELPFUL REMINDERS

HOW TO KNOW IF A SNOW EMERGENCY IS DECLARED



News of a snow emergency will be sent to eNews subscribers and broadcast on area radio and television stations, including BCTV Cable Channel 15. You may also call our telephone hotline, 248-594-2848, to hear a recorded message stating when the snow emergency is in effect.

WINTER TAX BILLS DUE FEBRUARY 14



Payment options include: cash, check, credit card (fee applies), and direct deposit.

For details, visit www.bloomfieldtwp.org/treasurer, or call the Treasurer's Office at 248-433-7705.

PUBLIC SAFETY

BTPD Reminds Residents to Lock It, Hide It, Close It, Light It to Prevent Larceny From Automobile Crimes

As nightfall descends on your home, prepare your mental checklist for review:

'Lock it, Hide it, Close It, Light It.' All valuables have been removed from my car. Check. My car doors and windows are closed and locked. Check. The garage door is closed. Check. Exterior lights are on. Check. These are the steps residents can take to stop one of the most common and preventable crimes in Bloomfield Township – Larceny From Automobile – or LFAs.

Criminals rarely break into vehicles, but instead, search for vehicles with unlocked doors for quiet, quick, and easy access. Common items stolen include key fobs, wallets, money, firearms, laptops, and tools. In 2023 alone over 97 LFAs were reported and that number doesn't tell the whole story. A single report can include multiple cases in a neighborhood.

Bloomfield Township Police Department encourages you to commit 'Lock It, Hide It, Close It, Light It' to memory and make it part of your evening routine. Together we can make our community safer from this very preventable crime.

"We're always encouraging our residents to do that nine o'clock routine. Lock your cars, make sure everything is secure and there's no valuables left in your vehicles," said Chief Gallagher during his recent podcast. You can hear crime report updates during his *Community Policing* podcast that helps to educate the community about a variety of public safety topics and goes on in the Township.



LOCK IT

Ensure your car doors are locked, and keys removed.

HIDE IT

Hide or remove valuables from your vehicle.





CLOSE IT

Close overhead garage doors.

LIGHT IT

Keep exterior residence lights on.



Listen & Subscribe



www.bloomfieldtwp.org/podcast

Fire Department Appoints New Operations Officer

27-year veteran Bloomfield Township Fire Department (BTFD) Firefighter/Paramedic Kevin Cardinale was recently promoted from Battalion Chief to Operations Officer. Cardinale has been a member of the BTFD since 1996. His new position of Operations Officer was recently created and has a main focus on community relations.

According to Fire Chief John LeRoy, Cardinale's priorities include building a program with area schools to get more kids involved in the fire service and creating a fire-operations program that residents can participate in so they can better understand what the Fire Department does on a daily basis. "Kevin has led at every level of the department," said LeRoy. "He is a perfect fit for this position."

When he's off-duty, Cardinale volunteers for community events like Fill-the-Boot. The holiday fundraiser has been a family tradition with his wife, Amy, and daughters, Mallory and Kara.

Cardinale will continue to grow the department's social media presence, providing safety tips and ongoing department updates. He will also be attending monthly

informational sessions at the Senior Center and is available to speak at other community meetings on safety and emergency preparedness.



"People ask questions and it's an opportunity to learn what more we, as first responders, can do for the community," Kevin stated. You can contact Cardinale for a meeting request and any other fire department-related business by calling 248-433-7747.

Follow the Fire Department on Facebook @BloomfieldTownshipFire.

Use outdoors at least 20 feet from all doors, windows, and vents.

Never use in an attached garage, even with the door open.

Exhaust must be directed away from the building.

Install carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in your home.

Let it cool down before refueling.

Store fuel outside of living areas in proper container with label.

Generator Safety Reminders



COMMUNITY TELEVISION

Ziggy Klett Show Draws Live Audiences to BCTV

November 16th saw the debut of Ziggy Kletts' one-man show *47 Chairs* at Bloomfield Community TV's studio. In total, three performances ran through November 18th, with in-person audiences enthralled by Mr. Kletts' unique tales of growing up in Michigan, being diagnosed with cancer and ultimately finding true love.

Asked about his experience, Ziggy said, "Working with the team at BCTV was a performer's dream. Their collaborative spirit was incredible and made our three-night studio run a triumph. Cannot wait to work with them again."

This inaugural production is meant to be a catalyst for other similar local artistic endeavors, as well as the potential of the BCTV studio as a haven for local creators. There is abundant talent in Bloomfield Township and nearby municipalities, and BCTV is here to provide the needed support and audience.

Cable Operations Manager Steve Rota oversaw the live production. He stated, "*47 Chairs* was a great production



to direct. It was a group effort making Ziggy's idea come to life. Having a live studio audience was something new for us. Our Director of Cable/Community Relations, Carrie LeZotte, envisioned doing something like this in our studio space ever since she started working at BCTV 16 months ago and her vision happened!"

He added, "I had a blast working on this production with Ziggy; I'm proud of my production team (Ziggy Klett, Carrie LeZotte, Jose Guzman, Amy McKaig, Michael Kopmeyer, Lee Solomon, Jaylen Harris, Bradley Ross, Damon Finney, Connor McGray and Greg Black) for their hard work to make this possible. I also would like to thank the residents who attended these shows and I hope they had a great time."

BCTV facilities are available to residents of Bloomfield Township, Bloomfield Hills, City of Birmingham, Village of Beverly Hills, Village of Franklin, and Village of Bingham Farms. Read about producing your own program at www.bloomfieldtwp.org/cable.

SENIOR SERVICES

Connect With Complimentary Events This Winter

Sometimes winter, with shorter days and colder temperatures, impacts behavior. It can be easy to hunker down and hibernate. Getting cozy is nice, but reduced social contact increases risks for health issues. Belonging is a fundamental human need—the feeling of deep connection with social groups, physical places, and collective experiences.

Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) is a form of depression that is connected with change of seasons. SAD tends to appear and dissipate at about the same time every year. Typically, symptoms start in the fall and continue into the winter months.

People with SAD tend to feel a drain in energy that leads to increased moodiness. One way to be proactive in the face of SAD is to stay connected to others. The Surgeon General recently published the "Advisory on the Healing Effects of Social Connections and Community"

It highlights our need for connection and interaction as a pillar of current health, longevity, and quality of life. "Every level of increase in social connection corresponds with a risk reduction across many health conditions."



This winter, Bloomfield Township Senior Services are providing increased complimentary events for you to connect with friends, meet new ones and ensure you invest in your social needs this winter. As always, our activities are open to residents aged 50 and over. Make this a part of your New Year Resolutions!

Transportation is available to the Senior Center to reduce concerns about road conditions or starting up that very chilly vehicle. Ours comes to your door preheated! Find out more on our Supportive Services page of the website at www.bloomfieldtwp.org/seniorsupport.



BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

4200 TELEGRAPH ROAD
PO BOX 489
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP, MI 48303-0489

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Royal Oak, MI
Permit No. 618


TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY

Administration	248.433.7700
Accounting	248.433.7712
Assessor's Office	248.433.7710
Building Division	248.433.7715
Clerk's Office	248.433.7702
Community Cable	248.433.7790
Engineering & Environmental ...	248.594.2800
Fire Non-Emergency	248.433.7745
Ordinance Division	248.594.2845
Planning Division	248.433.7795
Police Non-Emergency	248.433.7755
Senior Services	248.723.3500
Treasurer's Office	248.433.7705
Water & Sewer	248.594.2800
Water/Sewer Emergency	248.433.7730

CONTRACT SERVICES

Comcast Cable	1.888.XFINITY
Consumers Energy	1.800.477.5050
Detroit Edison	1.800.477.4747
Priority Waste	1.855.WASTE65

UPCOMING CAMPUS EVENTS



**TRUSTEE OFFICE HOURS
RETURN**

4th Monday of Each Month
4:30–6 p.m.
Community Television Building
4190 Dublin Rd.

Stop in to get your questions answered or share your thoughts with your elected officials.

**E-WASTE
DROP-OFF DAY**

Saturday, May 4
9 a.m.–2 p.m.



Electronic waste, paper shredding,
and medication disposal.

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bloomfieldtp.org/enews

TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

Board of Trustees | 7 p.m. | 2nd & 4th Monday
Planning Commission | 7 p.m. | 1st & 3rd Monday
Zoning Board of Appeals | 7 p.m. | 2nd Tuesday
Design Review Board | 2 p.m. | 1st & 3rd Wednesday

Location: Township Auditorium