

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER



Under fire

Police/Fire join forces to prevent a school tragedy

The sounds of rifle shots exploded in the hallways of Bloomfield Hills High School with unnerving ferocity.

They came from a cluster of police officers moving in unison, their rifles raised and pointing, swinging around corners as they advanced down the hallways. They were searching for a man with a gun – an “active shooter;” as they called him. They did find him and he was taken down.

It was like a nightmare come true.

But it wasn't. It was a drill. A rehearsal for a show that hopefully will never go on.

On Tuesday, Aug. 28, Bloomfield Township police officers and firefighter/paramedics took part in a drill to deal

with how emergency services and the school district would handle a real shooting situation.

Such a thing would have been unthinkable not too long ago, but in the wake of places called Columbine, Sandy Hook and Parkland – and other schools that have been devastated by shooters – the threat of a killer roaming the hallways is all too real.

And it needs to be countered

even if it has to be done with bullets. In this case, the bullets were blanks, but sounded all too real. “It’s a live-action demonstration,” said Police Lt. Paul Schwab, who coordinated the event with school security officer Cory Donberger and officer David VanKerckhove. Bloomfield Hills High School Principal Charlie Hollerith over-

crossed the huge room. Shots were fired and the officers quickly subdued the shooter.

The scene shifted into the further interior of the building where the officers showed how they move methodically down the halls, carefully contacting every room, making sure it was secure before moving on to the next.

Again “the shooter” was contacted and subdued.

It was intensely realistic.

And it was methodically planned. Lt. Schwab said they officers followed a plan created by Oak-TAC (Oakland County Law Enforcement -

Tactical Training Consortium), a group of 28 agencies that developed the training.

Active-shooter drills have been held in area schools in the past, but they are constantly being modified. Now, the police enter the building with paramedics who can immediately treat any wounded instead of losing precious, possibly life-sav-

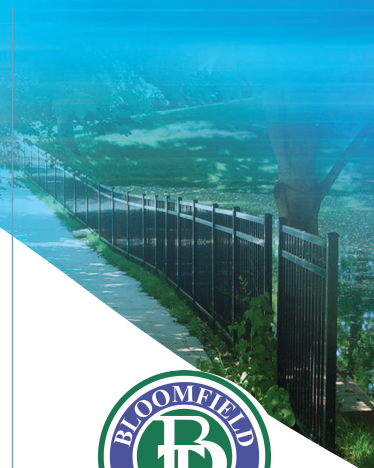
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Armed officers and paramedics entered the school together in a realistic drill.

saw the operation.

School staff members witnessed the action from the second story balcony above the commons area and in roped off areas of hallways. Lt. Schwab gave them an intro into what they would see, and moments later a tightly-formed cadre of officers with rifles taking aim moved in quickly. They rapidly scoured the area and made contact with “the shooter”



**BLOOMFIELD
TOWNSHIP
BOARD
2018**

ELECTED OFFICIALS

ADMINISTRATION

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

TRUSTEES

David Buckley
Neal J. Barnett
Michael Schostak
Dani Walsh

APPOINTED POSITIONS

PLANNING COMMISSION

Thomas Petinga, Chairman
Jeff Salz, Vice Chairman
Richard Mintz
Neal Barnett
Richard Atto
Bruce Selik

BOARD OF APPEALS

Carol Rosati, Chairman
Tracy Leone, Vice Chairman
David Buckley
Brian Henry
Robert Taylor, Jr.
Claudine Bacher
Jocelyn Giangrande, Alternate
Jeffrey Drake, Alternate

Save the date...

October 6

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day

October 14

Township Open House

October 19

Senior Services Health Fair and Flu Shot Clinic

December 14

Last day for yard waste pick-up



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

Casting your ballot

Voter turnout in Bloomfield Township always surpasses the overall percentage in Oakland County and the State. But the historic turnout of 42.88 percent for the Aug. 7, 2018 Primary Election surpassed all previous August primary elections in Bloomfield Township.

The overall turnout in Oakland County was 34 percent and 27 percent in Michigan. Analysts are predicting even greater participation for the Nov. 6, 2018 General Election. Here are some tips for you to navigate your time prior to and on Election Day.

The last day to register to vote for this election is Tuesday, Oct. 9, 2018. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Most Township voters visit their polling locations on Election Day. The excitement of voting in person and being with neighbors while casting a vote adds to the excitement of participating in the democratic process. Long lines and wait times fail to dissuade our voters from the precinct experience. Study your ballot ahead

of time by accessing sample ballots for each precinct on our website: www.bloomfield-twp.org/Government/Services/Clerk/Elections/Voting.aspx.

Knowing what to bring with you to the precinct also expedites the process.

By law every Michigan voter must present picture identification at the polls or sign an affidavit stating that he or she is not in possession of picture identification. Remember to bring an acceptable form of photo identification to the polls on Election Day as listed below:

- Driver's license or personal ID card issued by another state
- Federal or state government-issued photo ID U.S. passport
- Military identification card with photo
- Student identification with photo from a high school or an accredited institution of higher education
- Tribal identification card with photo

Avoid long lines at the polls



by requesting an absentee ballot. The application is available online:

www.bloomfieldtpw.org/Resources/Forms/Clerk/ApplicationForAbsentVoterBallot.aspx. To qualify for an absentee ballot, the voter must meet one of

the following six reasons:

- 60 years of age or older anticipated absence from the community in which the voter is registered for the entire time the polls are open on election day
- Physically unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another
- Unable to attend the polls because of religious beliefs
- Appointed as an election inspector in a precinct other than the precinct where the voter resides
- Unable to attend the polls because the voter is confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial

The last day to request an absentee ballot by mail is Saturday, Nov. 3, 2018. The Clerk's Office will be open on that day from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Over-the-counter requests continue until 4 p.m., Monday, Nov. 5, 2018. Don't wait until the last minute. If you make a mistake on your absentee ballot, never use white-out. Call for a replacement ballot. Our hours are 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.,

Monday through Thursday.

Contact the Clerk's Office for questions regarding the voting process. You can reach the Clerk Jan Roncelli and staff at (248) 433-7702 or by email at clerk@bloomfieldtpw.org.

Check the dashboard

How does Bloomfield Township stand financially compared to other communities?

You can find out at a glance by looking at the dashboard. It can be found on the home page of the Township website, www.bloomfieldtpw.org. Just look for Citizens' Guide and Dashboard under Quick Links at the right of the home page.

A wide array of financial information about the Township – and information about communities across Michigan – is available on the site.



A NOTE FROM

Leo Savoie, Bloomfield Township Supervisor

Township events are more than just fun

Bloomfield Township doesn't stop.

Day and night there are police cars on the road and firefighters are ready, literally at a moment's notice, to go out on an emergency run, whether it's to fight a fire or deliver medical aid to a person in trouble.

During winter storms – which aren't that far away – road crews roll out to plow snow and spread salt at any time, any day. And that's in addition to the routine work that is done as part of the day-to-day operations. In Town Hall, the various departments function like a well-designed business.

Whether it's the Clerk's Office, the Treasurer, the Assessor, Planning and Building, Accounting, Engineering and Environmental, Water Division, Information Technology, the Cable Studio or any associated services, the Township keeps going at a steady pace.

It's a remarkable spectrum of activities, but really not unique for a community of our size. And I might not even mention it except note that this isn't all we do. Like the icing on a cake, we add a spe-

cial flavor to the mixture.

Throughout the year, the Township sponsors a host of community events that are entertaining, useful, informative and extremely popular.

High on that list is the Township's Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off



The annual Open House is one of the highlights of the year's events.

Day, held twice a year, in the spring and fall, and the Electronic Recycling, Medication Disposal & Paper Shredding event held each spring.

Each event regularly draws hundreds of cars to the Township campus where the material is unloaded and disposed of safely by qualified disposal services. It solves a lot of problems for folks who

have old, often huge, TVs and obsolete computers that have outlived their usefulness. Unused paint, weed killers and chemicals that can't be safely flushed down the drain can be eliminated here. And if you've ever accumulated a cabinet of toxic waste you

know what a relief it is to have a safe way of getting rid of it.

In addition, the Township sponsors some events that are informative and just plain fun.

Each year, the Township stages its Classic Car Show and Bill Wells Car Club Classic in conjunction with the Woodward Avenue Dream Cruise. The events are

held at the Mercedes-Benz of Bloomfield Hills dealership and neighboring Comerica Bank on Woodward. There's food, music, things for the kids to do and, of course, plenty of classic cars on site. Plus, it's a great place to watch the cars rolling down Woodward throughout the day.

And, perhaps saving the best for last, the Township also holds its annual Open House on a Sunday each October. This event gives all of the Township departments a place to shine and show off what they offer to the community. Open House draws huge crowds and is extremely popular with families for its food and fun for adults and kids alike.

The Township doesn't have to do any of these special events. But they are important. They help define who and what we are – and what we are not. To that point, we are not just a place where we live and pay taxes. We are a community that cares. We want everyone here to have a sense of pride in our home town and recognize that we are a special place.

These events are important to all of us.

Keep current with the e-Newsletter

You can find out what's happening in town every week through the Bloomfield Township eNewsletter. The eNewsletter is sent out every Thursday to subscribers. It contains items on what's happening in the area as well as timely announcements, including snow emergencies and other weather alerts, changes of office hours and news bulletins. ENewsletters are also sent whenever there is an immediate need to relay information to the public.

You can subscribe to the eNewsletter by going to the Township website, www.bloomfieldtwp.org, and clicking on the E-Newsletter link under Quick Links at the right side of the page. You may also send your email address to gkowskibloomfieldtwp.org and it will be added to the subscription list. Local non-profit organizations may submit items for inclusion to gkowskibloomfieldtwp.org.



From the Fire Department

Improved fire rating could cut insurance costs

The Bloomfield Township Fire Department is pleased to announce that it has received a Class 3 rating from the Insurance Services Office (ISO).

The ISO is an organization that is paid for by insurance companies to evaluate all communities in the United States and rate the Fire Departments. Auditors from the ISO come into a community every five to 10 years and evaluate the community's abilities in three key areas: Communications (Dispatch) Center, Water System and the Fire Department.

The Dispatch Center is rated on the capabilities of handling emergencies and dispatching emergency units to an incident in a timely manner. The Water Department is scored on the availability of water in an area, the maintenance of the water distribution system (water mains and fire hydrants) and the pressure of water in the system that is available if it is needed to fight a fire.

The rating for the Fire Department is the most complex, taking into account many different facets of the Department. The number of

fire personnel, training records, fire station locations, response times, types of fire apparatus, equipment that is placed on the apparatus and fire prevention are all rated and calculated to produce the Fire Department score. Scores from these three areas are then combined and a rating is established. The rating system is based on a 1 to 10 scale, with 1 being the best and 10 not having any established fire coverage.

Once the score is established and published most insurance companies use this score to establish property

insurance rates. The Bloomfield Township Fire Department was previously rated a 4 from the ISO in 2006. The reduction of the Fire Department rating from a 4 to a 3 could lead to lower insurance premiums for homeowners and businesses.

The 3 rating from the ISO places the Bloomfield Township Fire Department in the top 2 percent of all fire departments in the State of Michigan and in the top 3 percent of all fire departments across the United States.

Fire Department Charities make a difference

Thanks to the Bloomfield Township Fire Department Charities, one youngster will get special help to develop his communication skills.

The charities donated \$1,400 to the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow College of Health Professions at Central Michigan University to provide service to the boy. The college is known as Michigan's premier college of health professions and is home to the Health Sciences and Rehabilitative Medical Sciences schools and the departments of Communication Disorders and Physical Education and Sport.

"Our students become successful top-notch professionals in their health profession field," Thomas J. Masterson, Jr., Ph.D., dean of the college, said in thanking the Fire Department Charities.

"With your support the college is achieving excellence and prominence in its academic programs," Masterson said.



Win a dinner with the firefighters

How would you like to enjoy a home cooked dinner prepared and served by Township firefighters?

You can, and it's free. All you have to do is enter our name in a special drawing that will be held Oct. 26. If your name is drawn, you and your family will be invited to attend a special dinner at the central fire station on the Township campus, at 4200 Telegraph Rd.

The fire department is holding the drawing as part of its community outreach efforts. As the firefighters like to say, it's all about customer service.

Under fire from Page 1

ing time, waiting for the area to be made secure.

"I was highly impressed with the level of training," said School Superintendent Rob Glass. He added he was pleased with the partnership formed between the schools and Township police and fire departments to carry out the training and prepare for a real emergency.

"This helps us prepare for an event that is certain to be high stress and chaotic and ensures that all communities are on the same page with their communications and tactics," said Matt DeRousse, Captain-EMS Coordinator for the Fire Department.

"You can never be too prepared," Hollerith told the staff as they watched – some in horror.



Officers moved carefully down the school hallways.

Enjoy the Senior Center pool all winter

Now that outdoor pools have closed for the season, those who enjoy water exercise may be looking around for other options. The Bloomfield Township Senior Center offers a beautiful warm water, zero entry pool that is available year-round for aquatic fitness classes and open swim. The pool's four-foot depth allows for water walking and aerobics as well as swimming laps.

There is a variety of water fitness classes available, from Aqua Cardio and Core to Ultimate H2O to Aqua Yoga Flow, something for every taste and every fitness level. The full list of classes and open swim schedule can be found on the website, www.bloomfieldtwp.org/Government/Services/Senior-Services.aspx. The pool and fitness classes, as well as all other Senior Center activities, are open to Township residents age 50 and over. Non-residents may also participate in aquatic fitness classes for an additional \$10 fee per session.

Come on in, the water's fine!



Safety path program moving forward

The safety path millage renewal was approved by the Bloomfield Township voters with overwhelming support in August.

The Township's safety path network provides residents walkable access to destinations such as schools and shopping complexes within the Township, and connects to neighboring communities' safety path networks such as Auburn Hills, Birmingham, Franklin, Pontiac, Troy and West Bloomfield.

As part of the safety path program, the Township has over 70 miles of concrete path, over 25,000 feet of fencing, and nearly 82,000 square feet of retaining wall. We are proud to note the safety path planned on Lincoln Road between Telegraph Road and Lahser Road is complete. Work on the planned safety path on the east side of Telegraph Road between Quarton Road and Maple Road will be starting soon and completed this fall.



As with any asset, regular maintenance and repair is required. Oftentimes the users of the safety path are the best resource we have to identify areas that need repair or maintenance. As you enjoy the safety path and have any comments, questions or concerns, or want to report an issue, please contact the Engineering & Environmental Services Department at (248) 594-2800 or send us an email at ees_dept@bloomfieldtwp.org. More information and a map of the safety path routes is available on the Township website under Government/Services/EES Department/Engineering Services/Safety Path Program.

Taking care of 'our' roads

As winter approaches, one issue that gets increased attention is the condition of our roads.

With the promise of snow, ice and salt subjecting our roads to stress and abuse, Bloomfield Township is prepared for the worst with its own road division. Of the more than 1,200 townships in Michigan we're the only one to have its own road operation. This means that Bloomfield Township, unlike other townships in the state, does its own basic surface maintenance on over 200 miles of subdivision roads, including patching potholes through an agreement with the Road Commission for Oakland County.

With a fully equipped road division the Township offers excellent and speedy services aimed at keeping our neighborhood roads intact as much as possible. This includes checking pavement about once every month and grooming gravel roads on a regular basis. Neighborhood roads in other townships across Oakland County and the state may not be checked for a year or longer by the county road commission.

While residents frequently contact the Township road division regarding such issues as drainage or tree and brush trimming, these complaints are outside the authority of the Township and must be directed to the RCOC. The county road commission also oversees roads with higher traffic volumes, such as Long Lake, Maple and Lahser roads.

On the other hand, concerns regarding Telegraph Road, Woodward Avenue and Square Lake Road should be directed to the Michigan Department of Transportation.

With damage to our roads likely to come with cooler weather, the Township asks residents to contact the appropriate agency with a concern, depending on the road in question.

- By Evan Stern



Township crews fill potholes all year long.



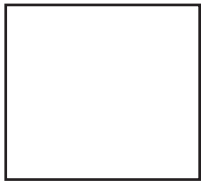
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

4200 TELEGRAPH ROAD
PO BOX 489
BLOOMFIELD MI 48303-0489

TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY

Water/Sewer Emergency
433-7730

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



Dream Cruise draws a big crowd

The weather was fine, the band sounded great, the food was first-rate and the cars were in terrific shape for the latest edition of the Woodward Avenue Dream Cruise events sponsored by

Bloomfield Township. The Township Classic Car Show and Bill Wells Car Club Classic drew hundreds of persons to the Mercedes-Benz of Bloomfield Hills and neighboring Comerica Bank

for the events held Aug. 18 – Dream Cruise Saturday.

Dozens of classic cars were on display including a

Ford racer that drew a lot of attention from car buffs. As an added attraction, kids got to sit in a fire truck and police car brought to the site by Township firefighters and police officers.

A live band kept the scene jumping and many visitors commented on the food served on site. Dream Cruise merchandise also was available.

This year's Dream Cruise event raised several thousand dollars for the Bloomfield Township Police Benevolent Fund, the Township Firefighters Charities and the Bloomfield Hills Optimist Club, all of which provided volunteers to



The Township Dream Cruise site also was a great place to watch classic cars roll by.



A row of sleek cars stood along Woodward Avenue.

help throughout the day.

Plans are already in the works for next year's Dream Cruise, which is shaping up to be the biggest one yet.