



# BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

## In Bloomfield Township, service means a lot

They come in all the time.

It can be about a tire-eating pot hole. Or a clogged drain that is causing the street to floor. Or a mailbox that was clobbered by a snowplow.

Or even a dead squirrel on the front porch.

Whatever, the Township dutifully takes the message – usually in the form of an email – and forwards it to the appropriate department on the Township campus to get on it and make things right.

Given the state of some communities, even accomplishing something like that is a major feat. In Bloomfield Township, it's all in a day's (or night's) work.

Even this:

*"I had been out until late afternoon and when I returned home there was no heat in the house,"* a Township resident wrote to the Police Department in late December.

The resident contacted his homeowners' association, which recommended he call the police on a non-emergency basis. He did.

*"A short time later there was a knock at my door,"* the resident continued. *"There were two of Bloomfield Township's finest. They offered to help... (They) couldn't find the problem but thought it was probably the igniter. Then they asked if I have a space heater, as the house was quite cold. I didn't."*

The officers volunteered to

go to a nearby store and buy one while the resident remained at home, awaiting a repairman, who had been called.

*"They brought the heater in and set it up... That was also terrific for this 41-year Township resident,"* said the resident, who covered the cost of the heater.

The repairman arrived,



**Road Division workers Jason Simpson, left, and Jeff Krauskopf fill potholes in a subdivision.**

confirmed it was the igniter and fixed it. *"I was fortunate, my heat wasn't out very long."*

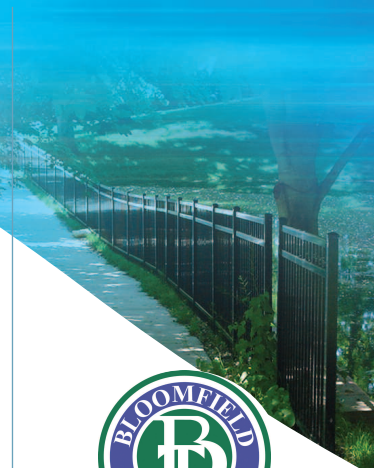
He concluded the letter with *"I want to express my great appreciation to the people of the Bloomfield Township Police Department. At my old age I do not have much contact with younger people. Your young officers have boosted my faith in the*

*future of this great country. A very Happy New Year to all at the Bloomfield Township Police Department."*

A nice testimonial, but not unusual. The Township routinely receives such accolades. That is one reason that Bloomfield Township consistently is named as one of the best places to live in the nation.

It's all part of the Township's philosophy of delivering good customer service. That extends beyond the Big Three – Police, Fire and Road maintenance. Other notables are:

- The Senior Center offers a wide variety of programs, including day trips.
- The Clerk's Office handles elections efficiently and is a convenient place to get a passport.
- The Assessor's Office gives personalized attention.
- Want to save on you water bill? Get a secondary meter. The Township Water Department will help you do that.
- Got a question about any Township issue? Call the Township main number (248) 433-7700 and speak with a real, live person – not a recorded voice - who will help direct you.
- And whether your house is on fire or you don't know how to handle an emergency call the Fire Department. Their motto is "When in doubt, call us out." They mean it.



**BLOOMFIELD  
TOWNSHIP  
BOARD  
2019**

**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  
Brian Henry  
Robert Taylor, Jr.  
Claudine Bacher,  
Dani Walsh  
Bruce Selik  
Jocelyn Giangrande, Alternate  
Jeffrey Drake, Alternate

## Save the date...

### April 27

Electronic Recycling,  
Medication Disposal &  
Paper Shredding Event

### April 27-28

Clean Sweep

### May 4

Household Hazardous  
Waste Drop-Off Day

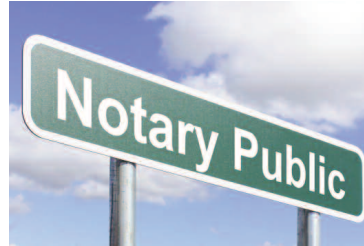
### August 17

Woodward Avenue  
Dream Cruise Classic  
Car Show

## Township offers notary public service

Notary public service, one of the many services provided by Bloomfield Township, is coordinated through the Clerk's Office. Our notaries practice the highest ethical standards of conduct and sound notarial practice, approved by the National Notary Association. Township notaries are commissioned by the Michigan Secretary of State's Office. Our role is to prevent signature fraud on legal documents. Available in most departments, Township notaries provide convenience for residents to complete their paperwork, while verifying the

identity of the signer. The signer must personally appear before the notary who is notarizing the signer's signature. Recently the State of Michigan passed legislation to allow



remote notarization guidelines, using audiovisual communication technology instead of personal appearance. We look forward to implementing these

guidelines in the next year, pending state approval of the Township as a provider of this technology.

The fees for a notarized document vary for residents and nonresidents and one or more documents. There is no charge to residents for the first notarized document. A fee of \$3.00 is charged for each notarized document after the first. Nonresidents pay \$5.00 per document, from one to multiple documents.

Bloomfield Township notary services are available Monday – Thursday, 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. No appointment is necessary.

## Bloomfield Township gets high credit rating

Bloomfield Township's financial strength was reaffirmed by Moody's Investors Service, which gave it an Aaa negative credit rating.

The "negative" connotation refers to concern about unfunded post employment liabilities, specifically health care costs for retirees, which the Township is addressing now.

The rating still is Aaa, which places the Township near the top of the rating system. Only a handful of communities in Michigan have Triple A ratings.

"Bloomfield Township's strong credit features include a wealthy residential tax base and very strong operating fund balance and liquidity," Moody's wrote in issuing the rating. It cited the Township

for having a "strong tax base," the "capacity to increase revenue in an effort to address high and rising fixed costs," and "very strong operating fund balance and liquidity."

However, Moody's sounded a cautious note over bonded debt and unfunded post-employment liabilities, such as health care coverage for retirees.

But Moody's added, "The Township has shown the willingness to tap into its base, with voter approval, to raise revenue and maintain its healthy financial balances."

"We are extremely pleased with Moody's reaffirmation of Bloomfield Township's Aaa credit rating," said Brian Kepes, Township treasurer. "However, Moody's has also

reaffirmed its negative outlook, based on the OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) and defined benefit liabilities."

Kepes noted that the Township is addressing that concern now as it reviews its strategic plan.

Township Supervisor Leo Savoie said, "Overall, the Township remains extremely solid financially, and we are working intently now to address the areas of concern raised by Moody's."

Bloomfield Township has routinely received Triple A credit ratings from Moody's and Standard and Poor's Rating Services for the past several years.



### 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

### 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](http://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

# The things that make us great

Bloomfield Township is a great place to live. But you already know that.

Still, it is nice to get recognition once in a while for all we have achieved here. Most recently Niche, a national website that rates the quality of life in communities around the country, ranked Bloomfield Township No. 1 on its list of the 20 best places to live in the Metro Detroit area

In making that determination Niche looked at the quality of local schools, crime statistics, housing trends, employment and local amenities. In all those areas, the Township rated extremely well.

It was satisfying to see the Township receive that recognition, but not surprising. Bloomfield Township routinely is rated among the best places to live by various organizations that compile such lists. They are quick to recognize the things that make Bloomfield Township special.

Take our public services. I regularly get calls and notes from people who have had an especially positive interaction with our police or firefighters/paramedics, even in some trying situations. It's gratifying to see that we have such fine professionals working for the Township. The same goes for our Public Works Department.

Yes, I do hear about the mailbox that was knocked down by a snow plow pushing snow against it. Those things

happen and usually are unavoidable. But it's better to have a tipped mailbox here and there than not have that snow plow out on the road when driving is treacherous so we can have a safe and at least somewhat comfortable ride home. (And remember,



Residents line up to take advantage of the popular Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day

we do fix the mail box.)

And there's so much more. We have a first-rate planning department, assessing department, Senior Services center and much more. Plus, we strive to provide something extra. Consider our Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Days and Electronic Recycling, Medicine Disposal & Paper Shredding event. These are extremely popular with our residents. They give residents a safe and clean way to get rid of the kind of trash that can't or shouldn't just be tossed away.

I routinely see cars lining up on the Saturday mornings these events are held even before the events begin. Each

event draws about 1,000 cars. The annual Township Open House in October is also a popular event that gives residents a chance to meet the people who make up the various Township departments. The kids don't care about that but they do love holding

to the operations of the Township, but they do enhance our character as a welcoming town that wants to do things for the residents over and above the required services. Activities like this cost money but in the big picture it's not a lot. And the payback is the positive response we receive from the residents.

What I'm driving at here is that it isn't just the big things – like superior police and fire protection and an outstanding road department - that determine the quality of life in our community. The smaller services matter too. It's like a fine painting: The details can make the difference.

It's taken a long time to build up this sweeping array of services and it is my intent to ensure that we maintain them and even build on them when we can.

Take a moment to think about all we offer in Bloomfield Township that makes this community such a great place to live.

a real fire hose, seeing the police K9 dogs in action and climbing into a heavy duty truck or other piece of equipment.

Some things are a bit less glamorous but still important. We regularly are called to pick up dead squirrels, deer and other critters that don't make it to the other side of the road. You could call the county to do that and they would come – eventually. But we make a point of responding right now.

These are things that are not critical



Bloomfield Township is the only township in the state to offer residents a full-service Road Division.

## BTSS offers a 'Safety Net for Seniors' with its supportive services

Most Bloomfield Township residents know that the Township boasts a beautiful Senior Center, incorporating a warm water pool and state-of-the-art fitness facility, and offering many enrichment programs, classes and travel opportunities for residents 50 years and older. What many people may not be familiar with is the variety of supportive services that are available to enhance older residents' quality of life and make it easier for seniors to age in place.

For over-60 residents who are unable to drive, Senior Services offers complimentary transportation to the Center to make it possible for those seniors to take advantage of the many programs the Center offers, such as book clubs, classes, support groups and open swim. Medical transportation is also available for non-driving seniors or those temporarily unable to drive. This can include doctor and dentist visits, cancer treatments, physical therapy and other medical appointments. This

service is provided through a contractor and there is a charge averaging \$18 per round trip. The cost is partially subsidized by SMART. Those needing medical transportation or wanting transportation to the Center must complete the application process and schedule their rides in advance.

A much-used service provided by BTSS is a durable medical device loan closet. Residents may borrow wheelchairs, walkers, canes and shower benches at no cost for short-term use. Not only do residents borrow items for their own use, but often a family will borrow a wheelchair for a day to enable an elderly family member to attend an event such as a wedding or graduation. Donations of clean, gently-used equipment are accepted. Those donating items must call BTSS first to ensure it is needed (and

space is available).

Issues other than physical often arise for older residents, and Senior Services works hard to meet those needs as well through support groups and Medicare

dementia. There is also an Alzheimer's Association Younger Onset Caregivers Support Group.

Those new to Medicare can gain vital information by attending one or more of the programs offered by BTSS. These include one-on-one counseling with a Medicare expert, available on a monthly basis year-round; a general information program held quarterly; and Medicare enrollment assistance every fall.

Bloomfield Township Senior Services also offers Meals on Wheels and nutritional supplements, a Minor Home Repair program, and telephone reassurance calls for seniors living alone. All these Supportive Services together create a "Safety Net for Seniors" and help achieve the goal of helping people maintain their independence in their homes as long as possible.

For more information on any of the Supportive Services offered by BTSS call the Center at 248-723-3500.



BTSS bus driver Frank Smith provides rides to the Center for Township residents.

information opportunities. BTSS offers a Grief and Loss Support Group, a Low Vision Support Group, and a Caregivers' Forum for those caring for someone with

### Want to know what's going on? Keep current with the eNewsletter

One of the fastest ways the Township can contact residents in the event of an emergency is through the eNewsletter

Typically, the eNewsletter is sent every Thursday morning. But it isn't limited just to that. When there is a storm on the way that could affect traffic or any emergency situation that could affect Township residents, the eNewsletter may be sent out

at any time. Some have been sent out as late as 11 p.m. and some as early as 1 a.m. You may not be at your computer or checking your phone at that time, but if you do you are going to get the message. In the case of ongoing situations, multiple eNewsletters are sent out over a short span of time.

This is done to provide the subscribers with the latest up-to-the minute information.

And the regular eNewsletter is sent out on schedule to let people know what is going on around town.

But in order to get any of this information, you have to be a subscriber. Doing that is easy and free. You can subscribe to the eNewsletter by going to the Township website, [www.bloomfieldtwp.org](http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org), and clicking on the eNewsletter link under Quick Links on the right side

of the home page. You may also send your email address to [gkowskibloomfieldtwp.org](mailto:gkowskibloomfieldtwp.org) and it will be added to the subscription list. We will never share your contact information with anyone. Local non-profit organizations may submit items for inclusion to [gkowskibloomfieldtwp.org](mailto:gkowskibloomfieldtwp.org).

Then just sit back and wait for the news to come to you.



## Do you have an outdoor spring project planned?

As warm weather settles into Bloomfield Township, many homeowners are interested in doing exterior renovations and expanding their outdoor living space.

Homeowners may not be aware that pergolas, sheds, hot tubs, fireplaces/fire pits, piers, outdoor kitchens, and other similar items are considered accessory structures and are regulated by the Township's Zoning Ordinance. As a means to minimize impacts on adjacent neighbors, approval from the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) is required for accessory structures.

The Zoning Ordinance also requires that these structures are screened from view from public view. So it is important to note that applications

shall include a landscape plan detailing how this requirement can be met with the use of existing or proposed evergreen plantings.

The ZBA addresses the placement, height, screening and other circumstances of an individual request. In addition to Township ordinances, there may be deed restrictions governed by an individual homeowners association. Homeowners are encouraged to contact their association prior to making an application to the ZBA. Residents who have questions about a project or application may contact the Planning Division at 248-433-7795 before installing any accessory structures.

Homeowners may visit us on our website at

[www.bloomfieldtpw.org](http://www.bloomfieldtpw.org) to obtain the Zoning Board of Appeals application and review guidelines. Applicants can refer to the checklist within the application to assist them with their submittal. For the ZBA application go to [\[www.bloomfieldtpw.org/Resources/Forms/Planning-Division/ZBAApplication3.aspx\]\(http://www.bloomfieldtpw.org/Resources/Forms/Planning-Division/ZBAApplication3.aspx\).](http://www.bloomfield-</a></p>
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A permit from the Building Division may be required following approval from the Zoning Board of Appeals.



Outdoor improvements such as pergolas and fire pits require approval from the Zoning Board of Appeals.

## Act fast to protect yourself

What steps should you take if there is an assailant in your area?

Fast ones, and plenty of them.

"Run. Get out," said Kelly Marthen, Community Relations officer for the Township Police Department.

Marthen was delivering that message at the program "Civilian Response to an Active Assailant," which was held at the Senior Center in February. The purpose was to give attendees what could be life-saving information on how to react when a killer is near.

"Running is the best, by far," Marthen said. The idea is to get out before the attack-

er gets near. Previously, this used to be called "active shooter" training, but Marthen said that attackers



Police do an "active assailant" training session at Bloomfield Hill High School.

these days have broadened their methods to include knives and explosives.

Bloomfield Township was

one of the first communities to offer active assailant training. The Township started it back after the Columbine

High School shooting in 1999.

Since then tactics have changed. Initially, emergency responders would arrive on scene of an attack and make a careful assessment before

entering the site. Now the emphasis is on speed and disabling the attacker as soon as possible. That's another rea-

son to act fast and get out of the way.

"This is a difficult conversation to have," Marthen said. "But unfortunately we live in a time now that we need to have this conversation.

You can see the entire 50-minute program, which was sponsored by the Bloomfield Hills Rotary Club, on the Township website. Go to [www.bloomfieldtpw.org](http://www.bloomfieldtpw.org) and click on "Video on Demand" on the home page. That will take you to the Cable page. At left is a tab for "2019." Click on that and then click on "Bloomfield Township Police Department." The presentation will be the first item.



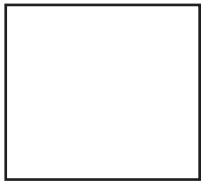
# BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

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



## Plans shaping up already for Dream Cruise anniversary

It started as a modest proposal to stage a car show to raise money for a children's soccer field in Ferndale.

Organizers figured that maybe 30,000 people would show up. About 250,000 did. And that was just the begin-

ning. Since then, the annual Woodward Avenue Dream Cruise has grown to be the single largest car event in the world, drawing well over 1 million people.

This year will mark the

25<sup>th</sup> Dream Cruise, and all signs point to it being a record breaker as many classic car owners will want to take part in the landmark year event, which will take place on Aug. 17.

Bloomfield Township again will be part of the action. The Township will sponsor its 15<sup>th</sup> Classic Car Show and Car Club Classic, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Dream Cruise Saturday.

The events will be held at the Mercedes-Benz of Bloomfield Hills dealership and neighboring Comerica Bank branch on Woodward, just south of Big Beaver Road.

As usual, there will be plenty of music, food, fun and, of



Classic cars shine at the Township Dream Cruise events.

course, classic cars. Some special attractions are also planned for this year's events. More details will be released in the coming months.



The Township Dream Cruise location gives a perfect view of Woodward Avenue.