



BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

Newsletter

Spring 2003

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Elected Officials

ADMINISTRATION
Dave Payne, Supervisor
Wilma S. Cotton, Clerk
Dan Devine, Treasurer

TRUSTEES

David B. Buckley
Janet M. Roncelli
Sherry Stefanos
Jerry J. Tobias

PLANNING COMMISSION

Appointed Positions

David J. Lubin
Richard D. Mintz
Jane Reisinger
Jeffrey Salz
Sherry Stefanos
John M. Swoboda
Robert L. Wittbold

BOARD OF APPEALS

Appointed Positions

Jim Aldrich - Alternate
Neal Jay Barnett
Dan Devine
Brian E. Kepes
Corinne Khederian - Alternate
Leo Savoie
Lisa Senecker
John Swoboda
Fred G. Wilkinson

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP OFFICES

4200 Telegraph Road

PO Box 489

Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303-0489

www.bloomfieldtwp.org

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Bloomfield Township Fights West Nile Disease

Soon after the West Nile Virus became a community health threat last summer, the Bloomfield Township Board of Trustees adopted a "first-step" management program that was launched this spring and will continue throughout the summer. Its objective is to contain the culex mosquito, the primary carrier of the disease, by killing it in its pre-adult larvae stage, thereby helping prevent the potential spread of the virus.

The culex mosquito (*just one variety of many types of mosquitoes found in the Township*) becomes infected when it feeds on a bird carrying the virus in its blood. The culex can then transmit the virus to the next person, bird, or animal it bites. Currently, there is no vaccine for West Nile Virus.

Most people who become infected with West Nile Virus suffer only flu-like symptoms, and often, no symptoms at all. Approximately 20% of those infected may develop West Nile fever, which may include symptoms such as fever, headaches, swollen lymph glands and skin rash. In extreme cases, infection may lead to death. Particularly vulnerable are the very young, the elderly, and those with compromised immune systems.

The ubiquitous catch basins on many roads in Oakland County are perfect breeding grounds for culex. The females lay their eggs in the water, where the larval mosquitoes grow and eventually develop into adults, capable of spreading the virus.

Bloomfield Township hired a specialized pest management company, BioBase Technologies, Inc., to identify, prioritize

and treat public areas identified to be particularly advantageous to culex mosquitoes. Catch basins and other public lands will be treated with a natural insecticide known by the trade name Vectolex. It is approved by the EPA and is highly effective in killing mosquito larvae. The program will be overseen by a Ph.D.-level entomologist.

While Bloomfield Township has many wetlands, it is not likely that these natural environments will breed large numbers of culex mosquitoes. Natural environments contain not only mosquito larvae, but also their predators, which help control the population. Additionally, mosquitoes need very specific requirements to breed and wetlands seldom meet these requirements. Culex mosquitoes prefer still, temporary water sources and containers typically found around man structures.

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Emergency Response Plans Stay in Effect

While we may feel some relief that the nation's threat advisory level has recently been lowered to "yellow," Bloomfield Township's Board of Trustees, administration and public safety & public works departments remain vigilant. Following recommendations from the Department of Homeland Security, Township personnel continue to review and intensify all procedures that will help ensure the safety of Township residents and their property in the event of any type of disaster. Police officers, firefighters and EMS personnel have been

trained on specific responses for each level of the National Threat Advisory System and are ready to put such actions into place if necessary. Based upon the National Threat Level, Bloomfield Township has developed a Homeland Security plan to reduce vulnerability and increase response capability. The Township has printed a Citizens Information Sheet recommending steps in the event of a Code Red situation. You may view this on the Township website or call the Police Department at

248.433.7750 and ask for a copy.

The Water Department is in full compliance with federal government mandates to assess the vulnerability of the Township water supply and establish safeguards to protect it. Additionally, the Department implemented a policy that guards the release of information about our public water and sewer system.

For further information on Emergency Readiness, please see www.bloomfieldtwp.org.



Note: Changes in Your Summer Tax Bills!

The STATE EDUCATION TAX portion of your tax bill will be impacted by the recent passage of Public Act 244 of 2002. In the past, the Six (6) Mill State Education Tax was billed in two equal installments of three mills each on the Summer tax bill and again on the Winter tax bill.

Beginning in July 2003, the State Education Tax will be billed entirely on your Summer tax bill.

For the Summer tax bill in July 2003 only, the six (6) Mill rate will be reduced to Five (5) Mills and collected entirely in the Summer bill. Beginning in July 2004, the State Education Tax Millage rate will return to the full six (6) Mills and also be collected entirely in the Summer bill.

Example of impact of Public Act 244 of 2002 on your tax bill:

On a property with a taxable value of \$100,000:

2002 Summer State Education Tax: 3 Mills x \$100,000 = \$300
 2002 Winter State Education Tax: 3 Mills x \$100,000 = ~~\$300~~
 Total 2002 State Education Tax = \$600

2003 Summer State Education Tax: 5 Mills x \$100,000 = \$500
 2004 Summer State Education Tax: 6 Mills x \$100,000 = \$600

Summer tax bills are sent out on or before July 1 and must be paid by September 14 in order to avoid any interest penalty. However, under Michigan Compiled Laws 211.51, property taxpayers may defer until February 14, without penalty, all of the Summer taxes on their homestead if the following applies:

The household income for the preceding calendar year did not exceed \$25,000 and the taxpayer is:

- 62 years of age or older, including the unmarried spouse of a person who was 62 years of age or older at the time of death;
- A paraplegic or quadriplegic;
- An eligible serviceperson, eligible veteran, or their eligible widow or widower;
- A blind person; or
- A totally and permanently disabled person.

People applying for a deferral must certify that they qualify for the deferment on a form available through the Treasurer's office. The form must be filed each year in order to have taxes deferred without penalty and interest in any given year. The form must be filed with the Treasurer's office by September 14 to receive the deferral.

Please contact the Treasurer's office to request a deferral form or visit www.bloomfieldtp.org. We are happy to assist you in filing it correctly. Please contact the Treasurer's office at 248-433-7705 with any questions.



Conserve Water!



Water Facts & Figures

- ◆ 2.5 billion gallons of drinking water are purchased annually from Detroit Water & Sewerage Department (DWSD).
- ◆ 7 million gallons of drinking water are delivered per day to Township customers.
- ◆ 295 miles of Township-owned piping deliver the drinking water.
- ◆ 65% of all drinking water used in the summer is for outdoor purposes, primarily watering lawns & gardens as well as washing cars.
- ◆ One leaking toilet can waste up to 200 gallons per day.
- ◆ A leak as little as 1/16th of an inch can waste over 800 gallons of water per day.

Why Do We Purchase Water from Detroit?

In 1963 the Township determined that the several existing subdivision well systems would not be adequate to provide the water

quality and quantity required to meet the projected water demands. A connection to the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) system was determined to be the most dependable for the health and welfare of Township residents.

How Safe is Our Water?

In 1974 Congress passed the national Safe Drinking Water Act that authorized the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate contaminants that presented health risks in the nation's drinking water supplies. These regulations were amended in 1986 and in 1996 to place more stringent regulations onto the water purveyor. Both the DWSD and Bloomfield Township must make sure they are in compliance with these standards.

Why Conserve Water?

- ◆ Lowering the Township's maximum daily and peak water demands may result in lowering the rate charged by DWSD.
- ◆ Reducing water usage during peak demand periods will provide better reliability of the system's operating pressures for fire prevention.

How Can I Conserve Water?

- ◆ Set your automatic sprinkling system so it does not run from 5 a.m. to 10 a.m. or from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. daily.
- ◆ Water lawns every other day. Homeowners with addresses ending in odd numbers should water outdoors only on odd numbered calendar days; those with even-numbered address should use water outdoors only on even calendar days.
- ◆ Check faucets and toilets for leaks.

Bicyclists using Township roads and safety paths may take



advantage of the Fire Department's new service,

the Medical Information Carrier System. This system enables bicyclists to carry medical information with them and alert emergency personnel who respond in the event of an accident or medical problem. It features a round, red and white reflective decal which can be adhered to the outside of the bicyclist's helmet. Emergency personnel will recognize it immediately and know to look inside the helmet for a medical information sheet placed inside a plastic carrier envelope and attached to the inside of the helmet. The systems are free for Township residents and \$1.00 for non-residents. They are available at Fire Station 1 on Exeter Road near Bloomfield Township Hall.

Emerald Ash Borer Attacking Bloomfield Township Trees

An exotic and aggressive insect, the Emerald Ash Borer, has now spread throughout Bloomfield Township. Its attack on ash trees is devastating and fatal. If you have ash trees on your property and wish to keep them, you must act immediately before any symptoms of decline occur.

Disease symptoms include:

- Leaves turning yellow;
- Tree canopy thinning and dying back;
- Suckers developing on the trunk or among the major branches.



You may also observe injury from woodpeckers and there may be “D”-shaped exit holes on branches and tree trunks where the adult borer has emerged.

Quarantine

Because this is such a highly destructive insect, the Michigan Department of Agriculture has issued a six-county quarantine for Oakland, Livingston, Monroe, Macomb, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties. The quarantine makes it illegal to move ash trees one-inch diameter or greater, or ash firewood, logs, and untreated ash lumber to areas outside of the regulated counties. **DO NOT TRANSPORT INFESTED WOOD OUT OF ASH QUARANTINE AREAS** because you may introduce the insects into new areas.

Whose tree is it?

Residents are responsible for trees on their private property. Oakland County is responsible for trees along the street. However, the county’s responsibility is limited to taking down dead hazardous trees or limbs in the road-right-of-way. For removal of these call Oakland County Citizen Services, (248) 858-4804.

If a dead tree or any part of a tree is within ten feet of a pole-to-pole power line, contact DTE ENERGY at 1-800-477-4747 to request a Line Clearance Review to determine if anything needs to be done by the utility company prior to any private work.

Emerald Ash Borer Management

The Township has passed an “Emerald Ash Borer Resolution” to help residents keep their ash trees for years to come. You can pick up a copy at the Clerk’s Office or view it at, www.bloomfieldtpw.org.

Trees that have died from the Emerald Ash Borer should be removed and destroyed. At this time, any trees that exhibit over 30% decline cannot be saved and should be removed and destroyed. In trees that are not severely affected and where treatment may bring recovery, severely affected limbs or dead limbs should be removed from trees. Consider sanitation efforts promptly. If ash is to be kept for firewood, the wood needs to be debarked or split to dry out the inner bark which the borer needs to survive. Ash in the quarantine areas may be used for firewood only on the site where it was cut.

Begin insecticide treatments now!

We advise you to have commercial applicators treat your ash trees, particularly your large trees. However, small trees can be treated very effectively by homeowners. Be sure to read the label, follow the directions and wear the necessary personal protective gear.

For help obtaining a qualified arborist or tree care professional:

- MFPA Michigan Forestry Park Association: (517) 482-5530.
- MGIA Michigan Green Industry Association: (248) 646-4992
- MNLA Michigan Nurseryman & Landscape Assoc.: (517) 381-0437

For more information about Emerald Ash Borer: Find the link on the Bloomfield Twp. website: www.bloomfieldtpw.org

Bloomfield Township Fights West Nile Disease *(continued)*

Private property, including catch basins on private property, will not be treated under this “first-step” program. You can do your part by making sure any potential breeding area on your property is eliminated. Just one bucket of rainwater can produce hundreds of

adult mosquitoes. Empty the water from buckets, gutters, un-chlorinated swimming pools, bird baths, children’s toys, flowerpot saucers, or any other places where stagnant water could stand. Inspect these types of containers regularly for standing water throughout the season.

Also, to protect yourself, wear long sleeved shirts and pants outdoors in the evening and early morning hours. Apply insect repellent containing no more than 35% DEET to your clothing.



TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Time: 8:00 pm
Days: 2nd and 4th Monday of each month
Location: Township Auditorium

PLANNING COMMISSION

Time: 7:00 pm
Days: 1st and 3rd Monday of each month
Location: Township Auditorium

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Time: 7:30 pm
Days: 2nd Tuesday of each month
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 Bloomfield Township’s Clerk’s Office.

Clerk’s Office
 PO Box 489
 Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303-0489
 Telephone: 248.433.7702
 Fax: 248.433.7714
 email: clerk@bloomfieldtpw.org
www.bloomfieldtpw.org



New Privacy Practices

The Bloomfield Township Fire Department is required by law to distribute a Notice of Privacy Practices to all patients who access its EMS system. This notice describes how a patient's information may be disclosed and defines the patient's rights as they pertain to their medical information. See the notice on www.bloomfieldtp.org, or call 248.433.7745.

The Assessor May be Knocking on Your Door!

The Michigan State Tax Commission requires periodic inspection of all real property parcels. Thousands of inspections are necessary each year to maintain complete and accurate assessment records.

When conducting inspections, employees from the Assessor's Office knock on the door or ring the doorbell to announce and introduce themselves. Each individual has picture identification issued by Bloomfield Township.



Bloomfield Township Board of Trustees



Front Row (L - R) Wilma Cotton - *Clerk*; Dave Payne - *Supervisor*; Dan Devine - *Treasurer*
 Back Row (L - R) *Trustees* - David Buckley; Janet Roncelli; Sherry Stefanos; Jerry Tobias

Wilma S. Cotton **Dave Payne** **Dan Devine**
 Clerk Supervisor Treasurer

TRUSTEES

David B. Buckley **Sherry Stefanos**
Janet M. Roncelli **Jerry J. Tobias**

For up-to-date Township Information, join the Township's email list!

www.bloomfieldtp.org

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY

Police / Fire / Emergency
 911

Water / Sewer Emergency
 433.7730

Administration 433.7700

Fax 433.7714

Accounting 433.7712

Assessor's Office 433.7710

Building Dept. 433.7715

Clerk's Office 433.7702

Community Cable 433.7790

Fax 642.7624

Fire Department

Non-Emergency ... 433.7745

Fax 433.7787

Planning 433.7795

Fax 433.7729

Police Department

Administration 433.7750

Non-Emergency ... 433.7755

Fax 433.7784

Animal Welfare 433.7757

Investigations 433.7760

Alarm Info 433.7775

Property 433.7777

Records 433.7776

Road Department 433.7709

Fax 433.7786

Township Library 642.5800

Treasurer's Office 433.7705

Water & Sewer 433.7731

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



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 PRSRT STD
 BLOOMFIELD TWP
 PERMIT NO 40