



BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

A NOTE FROM

Dave Payne, Bloomfield Township Supervisor

Township deals with drop in revenues, works to balance budget

In March 2009 the Bloomfield Township Board of Trustees adopted an Issues-Based Strategic Plan that details actions we must take to assure top-quality public services in the face of sharply falling revenues. My column in the Spring 2009 Newsletter outlined the entire plan and in the Summer 2009 Newsletter I focused on steps we are taking to reduce expenses and increase efficiencies in the area of personnel. In this column, I will update you on our financial status as we begin the budget process for the 2010 – 2011 budget year.



The Township's Assessor projects that the Township's total taxable value will be down by 10.25% in the 2010 – 2011 budget year. Additionally, both state revenue sharing and interest income, our other main sources of revenue, will decline significantly.

These factors obviously pres-

ent us with serious challenges as we look ahead. There are several strategies we are acting upon and I will detail a few of them here. Our police and fire unions and other bargaining units have agreed to open their contracts and discuss necessary concessions. They will soon be voting on major changes to their health care benefits which will, if approved, not only reduce our current expenses but lower our legacy costs as well. These changes have already been determined for all general employees and will go into effect January 1, 2010.

Furthermore, we are decreasing the number of Township employees by not replacing people who retire or leave for other reasons. We have already used attrition to reduce our ranks by 13; by the end of this budget year, that number will be 15.

Since personnel expenses account for 80% of our total expenditures, we must lower our numbers. We will do whatever is necessary to balance

the budget but it is important to understand that while our revenues are declining, the demand for services is rising. Calls for Police, Fire, EMS and Ordinance Enforcement have all increased over last year's numbers.

Just as many of you must make difficult decisions regarding your own household budget in this economic climate which is unprecedented in modern times, the Township Board and administration are tackling the Township budget. We want you to be well-informed. You can check the status of the Strategic Plan on the Township website as we update it every quarter. Go to www.bloomfieldtwp.org and click on "Strategic Plan" on the Quick Links list on the left side of the homepage. You can also review the entire budget from the same Quick Links list. And, as always, you can pick up the phone and call me or any other Board member or Township administrator.

Household Hazardous Waste drop off set for October 3

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day will be Saturday, October 3, between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Bloomfield Township Campus. In order to drop off hazardous materials, participants must show proof of residency, such as a driver's license, water bill or voter registration card.

Again this year, the Township is offering a thermometer exchange. Residents can dispose of old, mercury thermometers safely and exchange them for mercury-free models.

This event will not include electronics. Look for upcoming information regarding an

Electronic Waste Drop Off event in the spring of 2010 and be sure to check the website www.bloomfieldtwp.org for more information.

The Township will not accept hazardous materials prior or after the event.



**BLOOMFIELD
TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF
TRUSTEES 2009**

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

Jeff Salz, Chairman
Scot Goldberg, 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

Follow Township news with e-mail updates

Interested in what's going on in Bloomfield Township? You can subscribe to our news update service and receive periodic email updates from Bloomfield Township on items related to Township services and events. The e-newsletter is typically sent once every three or four weeks. Visit the website at www.bloomfieldtwp.org and click on the E-Mail List link on the upper right of the home page.

New Senior Center up and running



The new Senior Center officially opened in July, offering a therapeutic pool, walking track and fitness equipment, a computer lab, and craft and meeting rooms. Residents are taking advantage of the new facility, which offers a setting far superior to the previous location in a former elementary school.

Senior Center Photo by Michael Raffin, www.miaphoto.com

Director of Senior Services Christine Tvaroha poses in the new Senior Center with Steve and Julie Eskoff, members of the Advisory Council who were instrumental in helping to pass the millage to fund the new Center



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

Friendship Club finalizes move

Friendship Club, the BTSS dementia care day service, has moved into the new Senior Center on Andover Road. Call 248-723-3530 to arrange a visit to the new facility.

Is Adult Day Service right for your family?

If you have stepped into the role of caregiver for a family member you may find yourself in need of more support to function effectively in daily life. Worries about the safety of your loved one may grow, and you may find yourself unable to attend to work or other household responsibilities.

Your loved one may suffer as well, for when individuals are

isolated, their abilities can decline rapidly. Adult Day Service (ADS) offers essential reprieve from the 24/7 caregiving role and can reduce stress. It also provides important benefits to your loved one though engagement, companionship and meaningful activities, which we all need in order to thrive. Activities include live music, pet visits, exercise, art proj-

ects, games, baking and outings, to name just a few.

The Senior Services ADS is called the Friendship Club. Please call for information or to arrange an informal visit – you really must see the confidence, laughter and friendship among our members.

If you would like to talk to someone about Adult Day Service, please call Terri Ann or Julie at 248-723-3530.

Oakland County offers home improvement loan program

Oakland County is offering home improvement loans, with an emphasis on health and safety items, to low-income Bloomfield Township seniors. The loans are interest free and payments are 100 percent deferred until you sell, move or lease your home. This program is offered through HUD's Community Development

Block Grant program. The goal of the program is to keep low-income seniors safe in their homes and to maintain the quality of Township neighborhoods.

The loans are available to households of one person having an income of no more than \$24,850 or households of two persons having an income of no

more than \$28,400. If you are interested in obtaining a loan and you believe you qualify, contact Denise at BTSS at 248-723-3500.

For more information about this program, call 248-858-0493 or visit the Oakland County Community & Home Improvement Division website at www.oakgov.com/chi.



From the Police Department

Be aware of scams, crime that increase at this time of year

Don't get snowed! This is the time of year when scam artists posing as 'snow removal companies' begin plying their trade, sending out flyers to Bloomfield Township residents, trying to get their money. Beware of anyone who approaches you with an offer of services. If you will need snow removal this year, ask your neighbors whom they use. A personal reference is always the best way to find contracted services.

Without a doubt, parking

your cars in a closed and locked garage is one of the best crime prevention measures you can take. Just this simple act will almost completely eliminate a myriad of crimes! If your garage is too full of 'stuff', this is a great time of year to clean it out. There are a number of charities that will come to your home and take whatever donations you have.

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. 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.



Winter weather may bring snow emergencies

Mild fall weather can make it seem as if snow and cold are far off, but winter is just around the corner. Bloomfield Township is preparing for winter weather by stockpiling salt and making sure the plows are ready to go when the first snowstorm arrives. Residents can help by keeping these tips in mind.

It is inevitable that the snowplows will push some snow into driveways. Snowplow drivers are directed to follow Township plowing procedures, which do not include clearing driveway approaches. Shovel the snow pushed into your driveway before it has a chance to freeze and become hard. 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.

Direct your snow removal contractor to pile snow far enough off the road to prevent the road from narrowing and creating a safety hazard.

News of a snow emergency will be broadcast on area radio and television stations, including Bloomfield Community Television, Comcast Channel 15. You may

before enforcement of the ordinance begins. Even stalled or disabled vehicles must be towed or pushed off the street. The snow emergency will remain in effect until your street has been cleared. Non-compliance may result in a fine of up to \$100 and illegally parked vehicles may be towed and impounded.



Help Township plows do their job efficiently by keeping your car off the road during snow emergencies

also check our website or call our hotline, 248-594-2848, to hear a recorded message stating when the snow emergency is in effect. You will have six hours from the time the snow emergency is declared

If your mailbox is damaged by a Bloomfield Township plow truck, call the Roads Division at 248-594-2800 as soon as the damage is discovered. If possible, we will repair the box. If that isn't possible, we will put up a temporary box and post. In the spring, permanent boxes are installed. The Township does not replace ornate (elaborately decorated or custom made) mailboxes or posts.

For further information on winter maintenance policies and FAQs visit the website www.bloomfieldtwp.org.

Prevent sewage backups by being aware of F.O.G.

Sewage backups and overflows are often the result of fats, oils and grease (FOG) building up in and blocking the sewer system. These blockages can lead to costly clean-ups and repairs inside your home, as well as health and environmental concerns. Household kitchen byproducts such as cooking oil, butter and meat fats can be a large source of residential FOG in the sewer system.



Properly dispose of fats, grease and oils

When grease and oils are repeatedly washed down the sink they can accumulate in both your plumbing system and

the Township's sewer system. Dispose of grease and oils properly by placing them in an old coffee can or jar and throwing the container into the trash in order to prevent clogged pipes and sewer backups.

Yard waste collection ends December 18th



Yard waste must be properly prepared for pick up

Yard Waste Collection ends December 18th. Yard waste must be prepared for pick up in the following ways:

- Paper yard waste bags (available at local lawn, garden and hardware stores).
- 32-gallon cans marked YARD WASTE. Stickers are available at the Township DPW Office, reception desk in the main Township Office, or by contacting Rizzo Services at (866) 772-8900.
- Brush that is two inches in diameter or less may be packaged in either of the above-mentioned ways.
- Branches two to six inches

in diameter will be collected with the garbage (solid waste) if they are bundled and tied. Bundles should be no more than 4-feet long, 18 inches in diameter and no heavier than 60 pounds.

■ For branches larger than 6 inches in diameter, contact Rizzo Services at (866) 772-8900 or a private tree service contractor.

Please see the Township website www.bloomfieldtwp.org for more information or call the Township at 248-594-2800.

Reminder

Burning leaves is prohibited. Bloomfield Township's Fire Prevention and Protection Ordinance prohibits leaf and trash burning. Clear your yard of leaves by mulching them or bagging them for pick up on your regular trash day. See the adjoining article for details on yard waste pick up.



School elections set for November

It's election time once again for three school districts in Bloomfield Township: Avondale, Birmingham, and Pontiac. On Tuesday, November 3, 2009, Bloomfield Township electors in these three school districts will vote on school board members. The ballot for the Avondale School District includes four school board positions. The Birmingham Public Schools district has one opening for a school board member. In the Pontiac School District, there are two openings for a four-

year term and one opening for a partial term ending 12/31/2010.

Sample ballots will be posted on the Township's website by Oct. 10 at www.bloomfieldtwp.org/clerk. All precinct locations are listed on the website, along with precinct maps. For this election we will be consolidating precincts for economy and efficiency. All residents affected by the consolidation will be notified by first-class mail. Please see the chart below for precinct locations.

Absentee ballot applications are available online at www.bloomfieldtwp.org/forms or by calling the Clerk's Office at 248-433-7702. The last day for absentee ballots to be mailed from the Clerk's Office is Saturday, October 31, 2009. On that day the Clerk's Office will process absentee applications and issue ballots from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The final day to request an absentee ballot at the Clerk's Office is Monday, November 2, until 4:00 p.m. Electors receiving a ballot on Monday must vote in person.

Two cable providers serve the Township

In 2007, following state legislation that established the Uniform State Video franchise (P.A. 480), AT&T applied for a state franchise to offer video services in Bloomfield Township. According to law, that franchise was approved in April 2007.

Unlike our local franchise, P.A. 480 does not require a cable or video provider to service every home in a community. Therefore, while Comcast provides cable service throughout all of Bloomfield Township, AT&T selectively provides service to parts of the Township and not others. This is allowed by law and Bloomfield Township cannot regulate it. Bloomfield Community Television, Channel 15 on Comcast, is not available on AT&T.

If you would like to know if AT&T's video service is available at your home, call the customer service number, 800-288-2020. To contact Comcast call 800-266-2278.

Precinct	Polling Locations for November 3, 2009 Election Only
7 & 9	Detroit Country Day School - Maple Road
8	Covington School
11 & 16	West Maple Elementary School
13	Harlan School
12, 17 & 29	Bloomfield Hills Baptist Church
14	Eastover School
20, 21 & 32	Farm Activity Building - Bowers Farm
22	Bloomfield Township Central Fire Station
23 & 28	Detroit Country Day School - Bradway
30	Bloomfield Hills Middle School



From the Fire Department

The Fire Department offers warnings on fall fire hazards

Each year in Bloomfield Township there are fires related to fireplaces. 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 who will also inspect the system as a whole and point out things that need to be repaired or could cause a fire. Keep fires small, burning only one or two logs at a time. Wait 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. The Bloomfield Township Fire Department responds to a number of fires each year caused by ashes that were

handled improperly.

Place a smoke detector on every floor and in each bedroom. Make sure that your smoke detectors work. Remember to test your smoke detectors once a month and change your batteries once a year. Get in the habit of changing your batteries when you change your clocks to daylight-saving time.

Make an escape plan in case of fire with two ways out of every room. An escape plan ensures that everyone will know what to do before an emergency happens and decreases the chance that someone will panic. For help with your family's escape plan contact the Fire Department at 248-433-7745.

Corn stalks and bales of hay make nice fall decorations, but they can also create a serious fire hazard when stacked around the house. These items should be treated with a fire retardant spray. This spray can be purchased from your local hardware or home improvement store. Candles and other sources of ignition should be kept well away from decorations.

Make sure that the Halloween costumes your children wear are made of a flame retardant material. When children are trick-or-treating they are not mindful of the danger of candles used to illuminate jack-o-lanterns. While a flame retardant costume doesn't guarantee children's safety, it

will reduce the chances of an accident happening. Make sure that your children know how to Stop, Drop and Roll. This knowledge can reduce their injuries and possibly save their life.

Have a safe and happy fall season.



Township firefighters undergo rigorous training

In addition to their regular ongoing training, Bloomfield Township firefighters undergo rigorous live fire training



three times each year at the CREST facility on OCC's Auburn Hills campus. In September the Township's elected officials joined the firefighters in their exercises, gaining a better understanding of the difficulties and dan-

gers involved in fighting fires and protecting residents.



Supervisor Dave Payne, Clerk Jan Roncelli and Treasurer Dan Devine suit up to take part in the training session at OCC

Do your part to maintain property values

Property values are a major concern in every community, so please do your part this fall to keep your neighborhood looking the best it can. With the summer season ending, take this opportunity to do that final cleanup of your yard. Weed the flower beds, clean the gutters, remove unwanted and unused items from the yard. Property maintenance is the key to sustaining the value of your home as well as those around you. Contact the Ordinance Division at 248-594-2845 with any property maintenance questions.

FIREFIGHTERS from page 6

"Stations are basically our home," says Andrew. "We spend as much time there as we do at home with our families." Living together in relatively tight quarters, the firefighters get to know one

another well. They develop a bond so close that they refer to it as a brotherhood.

Township firefighters participate in fundraising for various charities, including the annual "Fill the Boot" campaign to raise money for MDA and

annual Fire Prevention Week Activities. Matt and Andrew emphasize the Department's connection with the community. The stations are always open to visitors. Families can tour the station and see the equipment, and kids can sit in

the trucks and see the flashing lights. Residents can drop in any time for blood pressure checks. Andrew says, "The buildings and equipment belong to the Township residents. We're just the lucky ones who get to use it."

Firefighters stress training, professionalism in “best job in the world”

“This is the greatest job you could have,” says Bloomfield Township firefighter/paramedic Matt Zsido. Matt is one of the Township’s newest firefight-



Firefighters Andrew Gibson, above left, and Matt Zsido, also pictured on the front page

ers, on the job for one year after spending five years with Pontiac’s fire department. He and Andrew Gibson, a Township firefighter/paramedic for seven months who calls firefighting “the best job in the world,” emphasize their devotion to serving Township residents. “We’re always ready to respond to a fire or medical emergency. But residents can call us with any problem, and we will figure it out and fix it.”

In order to become a Bloomfield Township firefighter, an applicant must have at least an associate’s degree in fire science, have completed Firefighter I and II training, have basic EMT certification and be working on

paramedic certification. Training continues after the firefighter is hired, and is, in fact, the Department’s second highest priority after responding to residents’ calls for assistance.

Township firefighters work a 24-hour schedule, three out of five days each week. The number of runs they make in response to emergency calls varies from day to day, totaling approximately 4,000 runs each year. The greatest number of calls is for medical emergencies, but they are also called to car accidents, downed wires and various citizen assists, in addition to fires.

A firefighter’s workday begins with a morning meet-

ing conducted by videoconferencing among the firefighters at each of the Township’s four fire stations. The remainder of the day is spent in training exercises, special meetings, paperwork and maintenance of the fire trucks. Each day the trucks are washed and checked to make sure that they are in perfect working order. The firefighters on duty also perform station maintenance, such as mowing grass and clipping bushes, and share cooking duties. Activity winds down after dinner, when there is time to watch TV and relax.

Please see FIREFIGHTERS on Page 5

433-7700 Administration
433-7712 Accounting
433-7710 Assessor’s Office
433-7715 Building Dept.
433-7702 Clerk’s Office
433-7790 Community Cable
594-2800 Engineering & Env.
433-7745 Fire Non-Emergency
433-7795 Planning Dept.
Police Department
433-7750 Administration
433-7755 Non-Emergency
433-7757 Animal Welfare
433-7760 Investigations
433-7775 Alarm Info
433-7777 Property
433-7776 Records
Public Works
594-2800 Road Division
594-2800 Water & Sewer
723-3500 Senior Services
335-2813 Adult Day Service
433-7705 Treasurer’s Office

Water/Sewer Emergency
433-7730

TOWNSHIP
DIRECTORY

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

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP



PRSRPT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ROYAL OAK, MI
PERMIT #759