

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Safety paths prove to be a great asset to residents

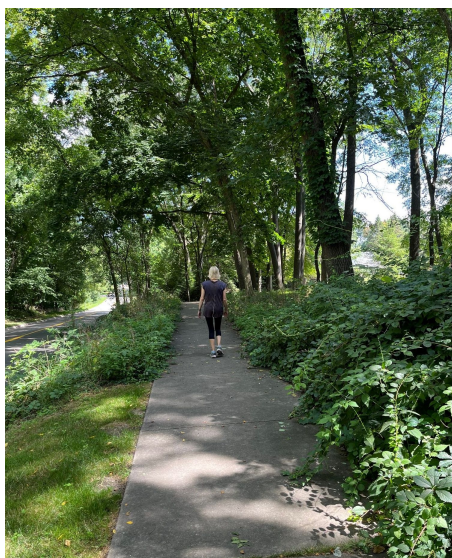
Since 1999 Township residents have had the pleasure of a network of safety paths connecting their neighborhoods with schools, shopping areas and other locations in the Township. The Jan Roncelli Safety Path program, partly the result of the tireless efforts of former Township Clerk Roncelli, has proven to be tremendously popular.

Currently there are over 70 miles of safety paths throughout the Township. On any given day in the spring, summer or fall children and adults can be seen walking or riding bikes along the paths and enjoying the natural features of the Township.

“When we moved to the township 12 years ago the one thing we thought our neighborhood was lacking was sidewalks,” said resident Bret Chennault.

“When we learned a few years later that there’d be safety paths created we were very excited. Since their installation on 14 Mile, Lincoln, and very recently Lahser we have used and enjoyed them immensely. We use them several times a week and feel more connected to neighbors in other parts of our subdivision. We feel the installation of safety paths are a great use of our tax dollars, encourage people to exercise, and foster greater connection between area residents.”

“Many times I see residents using a newly constructed safety path even before the grass is growing back or the area is fully restored,” said Olivia Olsztyn-Budry, director of the Engineering & Environmental Department. To Olsztyn-Budry, this proves the value residents place on completing the network according to the master plan.



Resident Chris Kartush walks on the safety path along Lone Pine.

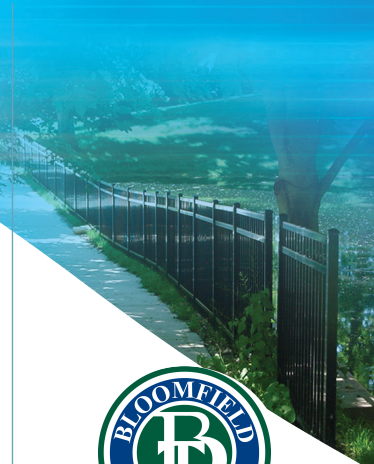
The original safety path master plan was developed in 1999, and updated in 2008 and 2018. Since then, no additional routes have been added by the Board of Trustees. A total of 10.8 miles of safety path from the master plan remain to be constructed. The estimated cost (in 2022 dollars) is \$15,832,000. Residents have recognized the value of the program and voted to approve the safety path millage in past

elections, dating back to 1998, when it was first proposed, and voting in favor of renewals in the years since. Residents will be asked to consider a renewal of the safety path millage on the ballot in November.

In addition to the cost of constructing the paths, the Township must also use the funds collected as the result of the millage to perform necessary maintenance on them. Maintenance tasks can include concrete slab replacement and retaining wall repairs. Township staff checks the paths for needed repairs, but can’t consistently walk the more than 70 miles of paths, so the Engineering & Environmental Department relies on residents to report issues.

“Residents who use the paths are the best watchdogs when it comes to maintenance. They report issues with overgrown vegetation or needed concrete repairs,” said Olsztyn-Budry. “Residents know they can call or email us any time, and we’ll be able to address any issues that come up.”

To report maintenance issues, call the Engineering & Environmental Department at 248-594-2800 Monday through Thursday, 7 AM – 5:30 PM, or email any time to EES_dept@bloomfieldtwp.org. Included in this newsletter is a map of the Township’s safety path network with a guide to some of the attractions along the routes.



BLOOMFIELD
TOWNSHIP
BOARD
2022

ELECTED OFFICIALS

ADMINISTRATION

Dani Walsh, Supervisor
Martin C. Brook, Clerk
Brian Kepes, Treasurer

TRUSTEES

Neal J. Barnett
Michael Schostak
Stephanie Fakhri
Valerie Murray

APPOINTED POSITIONS

PLANNING COMMISSION

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

BOARD OF APPEALS

Brian Henry, Chairman
Jocelyn Giangrande, Vice Chairman
Robert Taylor, Jr.
Andrea O'Donnell
Stephanie Fakhri
Ed Ford
Scott Gittleman
Carol Rosati, Alternate
Glenda Meads, Alternate

Save the Date...

September 14

Last day to pay Summer Tax without interest

October 1

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day

November 5

E-Waste, Shredding & Medication Disposal Event

November 8

Election Day



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

General election coming up November 8

Clerk Martin Brook asks you to keep your voter registration up-to-date and to exercise your right to vote this November.

IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

- Sept. 29, 2022:** Absent voter ballots are made available for issuance to voters.
- Oct. 24, 2022:** This is the last day to register to vote in any manner other than in-person with the local clerk for the November General Election.
- Oct. 25, 2022 - Nov. 8, 2022:** In-person registration with the local clerk with proof of residency for the November General Election.
- Oct. 20, 2022:** Public Accuracy Test.
- Nov. 4, 2022:** By 5:00 PM, a voter may submit a written request to spoil their absent voter ballot and receive a new ballot via First Class mail.
- Nov. 7, 2022:** By 10:00 AM, voters who have returned an absent voter ballot may submit written request in person to spoil their absent voter ballot and receive a new ballot in the clerk's office.
- Nov. 8, 2022:** Election Day.



FOR A MORE DETAILED CALENDAR, CHECK OUT THE 2022 MICHIGAN ELECTION DATES CALENDAR AT MICHIGAN.GOV/ELECTIONS

Clerk's Office extends hours before November 8 election

The Clerk's Office has announced extended hours to serve voters before the November 8 election. In addition to regular office hours, Monday - Thursday, 7 A.M. - 5:30 P.M., the following hours have been added:

- Friday, October 28, 10 A.M. - 3 P.M.
- Saturday, October 29, 10 A.M. - 3 P.M.
- Friday, November 4, 10 A.M. - 3 P.M.
- Saturday, November 5, 8 A.M. - 4 P.M.

Due to the high volume of critical election work that needs to be completed during these weekends, the Clerk's Office will not be taking passport appointments during these days and times. We appreciate your understanding as we work to administer a successful election.

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.bloomfieldtwp.org. Just look for Citizen's Guide and Dashboard under Quick Links at the right of the home page.

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



A NOTE FROM

Dani Walsh, Bloomfield Township Supervisor

Public Safety millage passes; Safety Paths and Senior Services on November ballot

As a fellow resident, I want to say thank you to everyone who voted in the August election and made their voice heard. Township voters gave a resounding yes to the Public Safety Millage Replacement proposal on the August ballot with 63% voting in favor of combining two public safety millages with an increase that is entirely dedicated to public safety. I know it can be hard to stay positive in a social media world of negativity, but this community continually rises above it and proved it values the Police and Fire services that attend to the health and safety of our neighbors.

Police and Fire have both been operating with low staff levels, and with this millage passing we can bring back positions and ensure both departments have the absolute best resources and tools to keep us all safe. The number one non-violent crime reported by residents is traffic violations. The public safety millage gives us the ability to bring back the traffic investigations unit. The public safety millage also allows the Fire Department to update lifesaving equipment and bring back positions to reduce overtime and ensure that firefighters and paramedics are able to provide the best care possible. These are just some examples of how your support improves public safety in our community.

We now look towards the November 8 General Election which sees two millage pro-

posals: a millage renewal for the Safety Path Program, and a millage renewal and a small increase for Senior Services. Both millages have been approved by voters in the township. The two millage proposals were moved to November 2022 in order to save residents the cost (more than \$100,000) of a special election next year. It also gives us the opportunity to hear from more residents since there is a higher voter turnout in gubernatorial and



Walkers at last year's Compassion Walk round the safety path along the Senior Center grounds.

presidential election years than in special elections.

In 1999, one of the very first safety paths was installed in front of my home. Since that time, the safety path network has greatly expanded. Inside this newsletter you will find a map of the safety paths that connect Township highlights such as Bowers Farm, the Franklin Cider Mill and the Township Public Library. If voters renew the five-year proposal, it will fund the construction of new safety paths

as outlined in the master plan, maintain the existing safety paths, and update older safety paths to current ADA standards. Mowing and cleaning debris and costs related to that work are essential to maintaining this asset. The safety path millage is a straight renewal with no increase.

The pandemic was far less kind to our Senior Center, which saw consistently rising numbers of residents using the facility until the shutdown of 2020. The inability of some of our most vulnerable residents to gather at the center created many challenges for our Senior Services. BTSS adapted by offering online classes for enrichment and exercise, increased deliveries of Meals on Wheels with more people shut-in, delivered nonperishable pantry boxes to low income seniors, continued transportation to medical appointments, and coordinated the temporary citizens' hotline with police and fire for any need. Covid did open us up to some homebound residents through the virtual options. As we reopened in 2021, we developed a hybrid model of in person and virtual class options to continue to serve everyone.

Few people realize that residents as young as 50 are eligible to use the Senior Center. As an older community, 48 percent of all Township residents are aged 50 and over. In addition, 41 percent of all households in the Township have someone aged 65 or older. Although fitness and

aquatics amenities and classes are available, Senior Services also has a positive impact on mental health of the community by helping older residents escape isolation through socialization and enrichment activities.

The original Senior Services millage was based on limited services in a small space we rented in a former elementary school. Since that time, demand for senior services increased dramatically, which led to the construction of a 24,000 square-foot building, with modern amenities, expanded services, and need for maintenance of the infrastructure. The cost of providing this facility and services is larger than the original millage from years ago, which covered a small group of people and services in the past. Because of the increase in services and infrastructure, this is a renewal with a request of an increase of about 10 cents per 1000 (0.1027 mil).

If you would like more information about the safety path program, you can contact our engineering and environmental services department at 248-594-2800 or via email at EES_Dept@bloomfieldtwp.org. If you would like more information about our Senior Services, you can contact them at 248-723-3500 or email at seniorservices@bloomfieldtwp.org.

I wish everyone a happy fall season as school resumes and we enjoy the festivities, colors, and beauty of the season.

Township to decide how to use ARPA funds

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) is a nearly 2 trillion-dollar stimulus bill designed to speed up economic recovery for citizens, businesses and governments in the wake of the pandemic. Michigan Townships with a population of less than 50,000 were originally not entitled to ARPA funding. However, adjustments to allow for larger Townships like Bloomfield to receive funds were made grouping these communities as Non-Entitlement Units (NEUs). Although Bloomfield's population is larger than many cities as a NEU we only received \$4.4 Million in ARPA Funds to help supplement services and counterbalance decreased revenue experienced in 2020 and 2021.

According to Supervisor Dani Walsh, "Initially the money came with extreme limitations and was initially restricted to federal initiatives to expand broadband, water, and sewer to underserved communities. These limitations penalized communities like Bloomfield Township that already had access to those 3 fundamental areas. We joined other communities in lobbying our federal officials for leniency and expansion of initiatives. Thankfully we waited, because the final rule was changed and now NEUs can use these funds to positively impact their individual community needs. Being patient and practical paid off and now we can focus on improving resources and services."

The Board of Trustees held its first study session on September 6 with presentations from each Department on their long-term capital needs and improving services. There will be community engagement and additional study sessions to fully consider and discuss the departmental, community, and trustee ideas. The final plan on how to spend the money must be decided by December 31, 2024. The funds must be completely spent by December 31, 2026. The entire amount has been received and will remain on the balance sheet until qualified expenditures are incurred.

All study sessions are open to the public. Study sessions can be viewed on the Township website's Video on Demand page, and the minutes of the study session can be found on Documents on Demand.

Caring for your house and yard helps maintain high property values

Property values are a major concern in every community. Please do your part this Fall to keep your neighborhood looking the best that it can be. With the summer season ending, now is the time to make plans to do the final cleanup of your yard. Weed the flower beds and gardens, and remove unwanted and unused items from the yard. Lawn tools, unused bags of mulch, empty or dead plant pots, etc.,



should be placed in your shed or garage and out of public view.

Yard waste collection is included in the cost of your trash removal, so make use of this service! After raking your leaves place them in brown paper yard waste bags or trash cans labeled "Compost" to be collected with the weekly trash collection. The collection dates for yard waste run from the week of March 15 to December 16, 2022.

It's that time of year again...

Every year some Township residents see their mailboxes topple over as a result of snowplows piling snow against weak posts or hardware. In an effort to reduce the likelihood of this happening, the Bloomfield Township Department of Public Works is encouraging residents to "Shake Your Mailbox."

This will tell you whether your mailbox posts are sturdy and the hardware is holding them in good shape. If not, you will be able to correct any problems before damage from snowplows occurs. Repairing or replacing mailboxes now could also prevent delays in mail delivery.

Call the Public Services office at 248-594-2800 with any questions.



Let's stay in touch

Scan to follow us on social media or to sign up for the eNewsletter.

We are committed to keeping residents informed about all the latest news and events in the Township. You can find information on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Sign up for the eNewsletter, which goes out each week or two. Don't forget to check our website regularly, www.bloomfield-twp.org. You'll find a wealth of information there.



Millage request for Senior Services to be on the November ballot

Bloomfield Township Senior Services operates a beautiful, state-of-the-art senior center designed to serve the needs of adults age 50 and over in the community. In addition to the amenities designed to help seniors stay fit and healthy – a warm-water pool, indoor walking track, fitness studio and equipment – the center provides spaces for enrichment and social programs. The center hosts 70,000 visits annually. Vital to the mission of Senior Services are the supportive services offered. BTSS answers a total of 26,000 support service requests annually, which can be a meal, a ride to the center or a medical appointment, a friendly call, an hour of dementia care, a home repair, a support group visit, or a loan of a walker or wheelchair.

The Township is a mature community, with nearly 50 percent of residents aged 50 or more, and 41 percent of households having someone age 65 or over. Demand for

low wages and contract providers, is a most cost-efficient department, expenses have grown faster than revenue. A millage renewal, along with a small millage increase,

dollar paid by taxpayers. This amount covers only 52 percent of operating expenses. Fees for classes, donations, grants and various fundraising efforts bring in additional funds, but not enough to eliminate the ongoing deficit. Providing valuable services to the community at the lowest possible cost is an ongoing effort. The upcoming Compassion Walk is an example of the fundraising efforts BTSS relies on to supplement taxpayer-provided funds.

“We are committed to offering excellent services to residents,” Senior Services Director Christine Tvaroha said. “Township residents who may need these services are encouraged to reach out to BTSS by calling 248-723-3500.”



The warm water pool at the Senior Center is a popular fitness option.

services will continue to grow as people prefer to age in place. Although Senior Services, because of a high level of part-time employees,

for Senior Services will be on the ballot in November, 2022. Currently the millage collected to fund BTSS is equal to one-half of a penny of each

Walk, shop, eat and enjoy the Senior Services Compassion Walk on September 24

On September 24, Bloomfield Township Senior Services will hold its annual Compassion Walk fundraiser featuring a 5K, BBQ, garage sale and live music. All proceeds and donations from the event go towards supportive services such as Meals on Wheels.

Find information below on how to register for the 5K, pre-order a meal, or reserve a space in the garage sale. You don't need to walk to join the festivities. We hope to see you on September 24!

Call 248-723-3500 or go online to register.



Susan and David McDonald are Grand Marshals for this year's Compassion Walk.

Compassion Walk check-in at 9 AM; 10 AM walk start time.

All ages and abilities are welcome to participate with a \$35 registration required for ages 12 and up. Advance registration includes a t-shirt. Participants choose the number of laps along the route through Township campus. Sponsored by American House Stone and Pomeroy Living.

Curbside BBQ Meal - 11 AM - 12 PM

\$15 advance, separate registration. Please pre-order by 9/16. Menu is Polish sausage and/or hamburger, baked beans, coleslaw, cinnamon donuts, & apple cider! Our friends from sponsor

American House Stone will be grilling for carry out or enjoying with live music. Some tables and seating will be available.

Garage Sale Shopping - 9 AM - 1 PM

Vendors can reserve a space in advance (\$25/Residents; \$35/Non-Residents) until they are sold out. One registration per household. Advance registration provides a space for your vehicle and a space for your display. Vendors bring their own tables and supplies.

Music Entertainment by Ed Black Jazz Combo - 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM.

This portion of the event is complimentary for all walkers, shoppers and visitors.



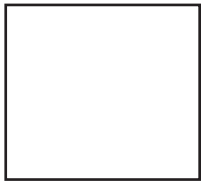
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

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



Popular Drop-Off Days Return this Fall

Residents will be able to dispose of hazardous waste and old electronics this fall, when the popular Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off Day and the Electronic Recycling, Medication Disposal and Paper Shredding events return to the Township campus. This is a great opportunity to clean out your garage and basement in an environmentally-sound way.

"I'm thankful to my fellow Board of Trustee members for their unanimous support in bringing back these beloved community events. Not only are the events a convenient benefit to residents who empty garages, closets, and desks of all the

household waste, but it also benefits the environment knowing all of those items will be disposed of properly and not thrown into a landfill," said Supervisor Dani Walsh.

Household Hazardous Waste crews will be on hand on October 1 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. to take items such as drain cleaners, weed killer, gasoline, motor oil, starter fluid, transmission fluid, paint, fluorescent light bulbs/PBC ballasts, household batteries and automotive batteries, propane, fire extinguishers, old tires and much more. Medical sharps must be in rigid, puncture resistant container with a lid.

To see a complete list of

items accepted visit the Township website. No electronic waste, medication or paper shredding will be accepted at this event.

The last HHW Drop-Off Day, held on Oct. 2, 2021,



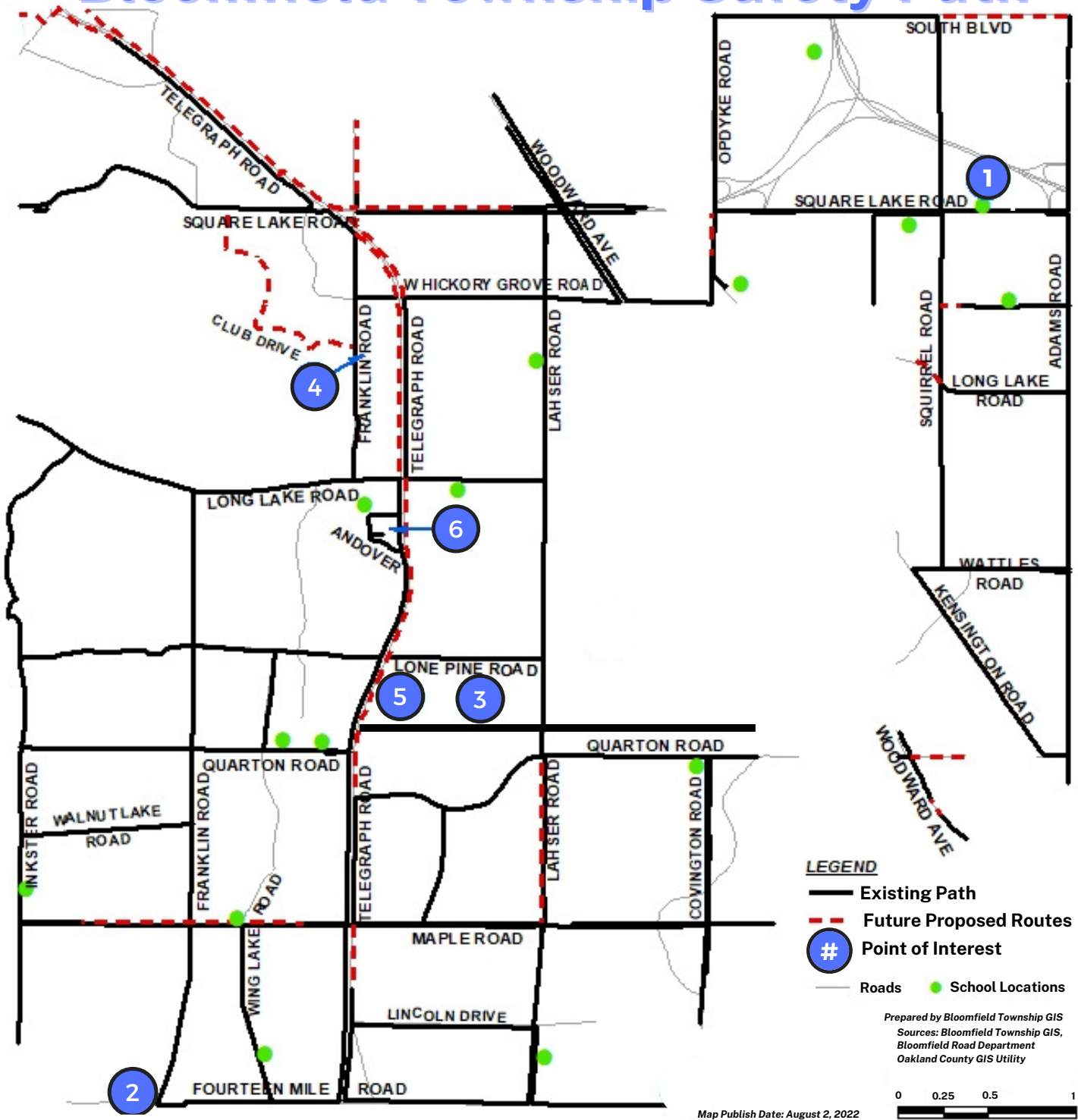
The Electronic Recycling event is a chance for residents to dispose of old TVs and computers.

saw a total of 1,552 vehicles come through. At this year's event there will be signs on Telegraph and Long Lake directing traffic.

The other very popular event is the Electronic Recycling, Medication Disposal and Paper Shredding, to be held this year on Saturday, November 5, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. This is your chance to get rid of old computers, TVs, VCRs, and other outdated electronic items. Safely dispose of old, unused medications, and documents that are no longer needed.

Both events are open to Township residents only, and proof of residency is required.

Bloomfield Township Safety Path



1. Bowers Farm – 1223 E. Square Lake Rd schoolfarm.org
2. Franklin Cider Mill 7450 Franklin Rd. franklincidermill.com
3. Frank Lloyd Wright Smith House – 5045 Ponvalley Rd. bit.ly/3vM9pkz
4. Johnson Nature Center – 3325 Franklin Rd. johnsonnaturecenter.org
5. Library – 1099 Lone Pine Rd. btpl.org
6. Township Campus – 4200 Telegraph Rd. bloomfieldtwp.org



Points of Interest Along the Township Safety Paths



1. Bowers Farm

1219 E. Square Lake Road

The Bowers School Farm offers families a multitude of fun activities, including Open Barn days, wagon rides, camps, workshops, classes, a Farm Kitchen and Store featuring fresh produce and meat, and, in the winter, snow tubing and ice skating.
schoolfarm.org



2. Franklin Cider Mill

7450 Franklin Road

The Cider Mill is open each year from the Saturday of Labor Day weekend through the Sunday after Thanksgiving. It's a great family destination to watch the water wheel turning and the cider being made – and of course to eat the delicious warm donuts while sipping fresh cider.

franklincidermill.com



3. Frank Lloyd Wright Smith House

5045 Ponvalley Road

The Smith house, designed by famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright, is a historical landmark. Tours are offered by reservation on weekends May through November.

bit.ly/3vM9pkz



4. Johnson Nature Center

3325 Franklin Road

The Nature Center is a beautiful 40-acre site containing nature trails, a pond, a large variety of trees and a host of wildlife. Activities for families include maple sugaring, fishing, birding, classes, workshops and camps.

johnsonnaturecenter.org



5. Bloomfield Township Public Library

1099 Lone Pine Road

In addition to an extensive collection of books and other materials, the library offers a welcoming place for children and adults to learn and experience new things. There are book clubs for adults and summer reading programs for kids, and classes, activities and performances held in the library and on the grounds.

btpl.org



6. Township campus

4200 Telegraph Road

The Police Department, Animal Shelter, Central Fire Station, Senior Center, Public Works garage, cable TV studio, and Township government offices are located on the campus.

bloomfieldtwp.org

The Bloomfield Hills Schools campuses are a great resource for recreation for all ages. Find playgrounds and tennis courts, soccer fields, baseball fields and walking tracks on the elementary and middle school grounds. These facilities are open for public use and can be reached via the Township's safety path network.