



BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

A look back at the highlights of 2012

In the August primary election Township voters approved the renewal of the Public Safety Millage by an overwhelming 81 percent, thus preserving the superior level of services for which Bloomfield Township is known.

In October the Dave Payne Public Services Building was dedicated in honor of long-time Township Supervisor Payne, who



retired in 2011. He began his career with the Township as a 19-year-old part-timer in the Road Department.

Directors of EES and DPW worked hard to have Bloomfield Township become a customer of the South Oakland County Water Authority (SOCWA), rather than purchase water directly from the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, in order to keep water rates as low as possible.



Jan Roncelli was voted 2012 Township Clerk of the Year by the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks. She received the award at the MAMC's 13th Annual Conference in Traverse City on June 20.



In January 2012 Bloomfield Community Television began live broadcasts of Township Board of Trustees meetings.



The 8th Annual Classic Car Show drew crowds and raised almost \$10,000 for charity.



The Fire Department, with help from the Penske Group, obtained and outfitted a new emergency response truck, the Special Operations and Rescue (SOAR) vehicle. The new vehicle carries equipment for a wide variety of emergency situations, and is outfitted with a lighted traffic safety board.

The Township continues to strengthen its financial position. Property values are rising. Most neighborhoods are up 15 to 20 percent over the last 12 months.

We developed a Special Assessment District process to make it easier and more affordable for homeowners to replace their neighborhood roads.



BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD 2012

ELECTED OFFICIALS

ADMINISTRATION

Leo Savoie, Supervisor
Janet Roncelli, Clerk
Dan Devine, Treasurer

TRUSTEES

David Buckley
Neal J. Barnett
Brian Kepes
Corinne Khederian

APPOINTED POSITIONS

PLANNING COMMISSION

Scot Goldberg, Chairman
Jeff Salz, Vice Chairman
Neal Barnett
Richard Mintz
Thomas Petinga
Vacant Position
Lisa Seneker

BOARD OF APPEALS

Robert E. Taylor, Jr., Chairman
James Aldrich, Vice Chairman
David Buckley
Brian Henry
Lisa Seneker
Carol Rosati
Tracy Leone
Justin Winkelman, Alternate
Pam Williams, Alternate

Save the date...

January 22

Property Assessment Seminar at BT Library

February 14

Last day to pay property taxes without penalty

March 5

Police Department Citizens' Academy begins

March 11

Yard waste collection resumes

April 20

Electronic Waste drop-off day; Clean Sweep

May 4

Household Hazardous Waste drop-off day

Clerk's Office ensures elections run smoothly

From November 2011 to November 2012, the Bloomfield Township Clerk's Office conducted five elections. The November 6, 2012 election was the largest and most challenging due to the extent of the voter turnout, the presidential and judicial contests, and the six state proposals. In addition, all Township officials were up for election, including members of the Board of Trustees and the Library Board.

Statistics provide an interesting look at voter behavior in Bloomfield Township. Out of 34,848 registered voters in Bloomfield Township, 27,866 voters cast a ballot. Absentee voters requested 12,074 ballots, with a 97 percent return rate. There are more registered female voters than registered male voters in Bloomfield Township. Our 32 polling locations reported long lines of more than 50 people until 10:00 a.m., followed by steady voter traffic until the

close of polls at 8:00 p.m. Despite Bloomfield Township's 79.96 percent voter turnout this November, turnout was down by 2.3 percent from the presidential election held in 2008.

The anticipated voter turnout required a competent



Clerk's Office workers prepare absentee ballots

crew of more than 325 election inspectors and youth assistants. These dedicated individuals managed computers at the 32 polling locations, operated the M-100 tabulators, worked in the absentee counting board, served as trouble-shooters for problem situations, assisted election

workers returning to the Township after the close of polls, audited reports, managed supplies and equipment, and greeted voters with a smile.

In addition, our election inspectors participated in a pilot program for transmitting election results from the polling locations to Oakland County via cellular technology. The results were posted to the Oakland County website within three minutes of transmission. The pilot program, sponsored by the Oakland County Department of Elections, enabled most results to be reported to the county by 9:00 p.m. on Election Day.

For further information on election results and statistics, view our website at <http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/Services/Clerk/ElectionResults>. There is also a link to the Oakland County website on the same page where you can find county-wide results and statistics.



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

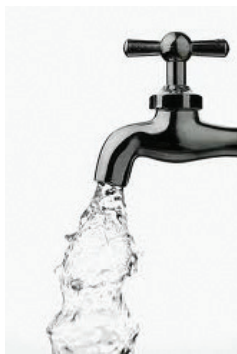
Zoning Board of Appeals

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

Water system updates scheduled

Bloomfield Township will be making modifications to three of the Township's critical water supply points from January through March. The work will require the shutdown of each connection for a short period of time. Residents may notice decreases in water pressure during the connection shutdown, but *not* the loss of water. Operations may extend over a 24 hour period to restore the water connection as quickly as possible. In the unlikely event that loss of water is experienced, please



call the Department of Public Works at 248-594-2800 during regular business hours or the Water Emergency Line, 248-433-7730, during off hours.

As the project progresses, the website will be updated with contact names and phone numbers and schedule for the work. Go to www.bloomfieldtwp.org/Services/EES/Engineering/ConstructionProjects.htm Questions? Call the Engineering & Environmental Services Department at 248-594-2800.

Tax assistance offered by AARP trained volunteers Bloomfield Township Senior Center Mondays & Tuesdays February 11 & 12, 25 & 26 March 11 & 12 April 8 & 9 Appointment required Call 248-723-3500





A NOTE FROM

Leo Savoie, Bloomfield Township Supervisor

Township outlook continues to improve for 2013

2012 is gone and 2013 is ahead of us. It's always good to look back and review what has been accomplished so we have some perspective as we set our goals for the year ahead. The Five-Year Strategic Plan, adopted in 2009, has kept us focused on finances, infrastructure and technology, personnel and community expectations. I feel confident we are moving in the right direction.

I can only mention a few of the high points of 2012 here but I hope you will take the time to read the more detailed report online. You'll find it linked right from the homepage.

Property values are rising. The Assessor's sales study indicates they have gone up approximately 3 percent, but because of the way the Assessor is required to report, I believe that number is artificially low. Based on my own analysis, along with numerous conversations with realtors in the area, I think most neighborhoods are up 15 to 20 percent over the

last twelve months. That's good for all of us.

And just as good, because of Proposal A, tax increases are capped at the rate of inflation or 5 percent, whichever is less. This year any increases will be capped at approximately 2.4 percent.

Another positive sign is the increase in both residential and commercial construction. As of October, 2012, building permits were up by 22 percent over all of last year. This surge indicates homes and neighborhoods are being upgraded and businesses feel confident about investing in Bloomfield Township.

We've reported many times about the steps we've taken to hold down current and future expenses. You can read details online, but briefly, we've virtually eliminated future legacy costs and we've made big cuts in our health care expenses. Additionally, we were able to refinance the Library Construction Bonds this year to take advantage of historically low interest rates. This will save taxpayers more

than \$1 million in interest costs.

One of the issues we continually wrestle with is the cost of maintaining our aging infrastructure. We developed a Special Assessment District (SAD) process to make it easier and much more affordable for homeowners to replace neighborhood roads. While all our roads are owned by Oakland County and until recently we needed to work with the county's SAD process, we now can provide our residents a funding process that makes road improvements more feasible.

The Adams Square neighborhood, located on the northwest section of Square Lake Road and Squirrel Road, established a SAD to replace its roads and it sets a fine example for other Township subdivisions.

We recently became a customer of the South Oakland County Water Authority (SOCWA) rather than continuing to purchase our water directly from the Detroit Water and Sewerage

Department (DWSD). Though water rates continue to rise, the increases are substantially less than if we had remained customers of the DWSD.

We all know about the need for a more educated and sophisticated workforce and that is as true in local government as it is in every other industry. Since becoming Supervisor 1-1/2 years ago, I've been pleased to see first-hand how highly qualified our employees are. While many of them are mandated by state and federal laws to achieve certain accreditations or educational levels, most of our employees exceed those standards. In 2012, a good number of them received degrees, advanced certifications and professional awards.

Bloomfield Township is positioned well to continue its progress in the new year. We have an excellent management team and outstanding employees. They live what I believe: *Be a leader. Be a thinker. Do what is right.*

<http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org>

Senior Center expands hours for 2013

You asked and we listened! As of January 2, 2013, you will now have 75 hours per week to work out, relax, learn new skills, socialize and celebrate. The extended hours will answer residents' growing demands for enrichment programs, fitness classes and fitness center availability.

The Senior Center averages 100 new people each month. Expanded hours will make the

services offered available to more residents than ever, particularly those who are employed. Call 248-723-3500 or check the website <http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/Services/SeniorServices/OverviewSeniorServices> to see all the programs and classes offered. If you are 50 years of age or older, come and take advantage of your Bloomfield Township Senior Center.



Use of the Senior Center continues to increase as residents take advantage of expanded offerings

Bloomfield Township Senior Center Hours as of January 2013

Monday - Thursday
7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Friday 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Saturday 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.



From the Police Department

Police Department releases new app to aid residents

Taking a cue from the private sector, the Bloomfield Township Police Department now has an app for Droid and iPhones, as well as Droid tablets and iPads. It will allow the police department to communicate important information, as well as give the app user access to crime maps, department news and calendar events, and much more. "It's a direct line to our community, making us more user friendly," said Officer Pete Matejcik, community liaison officer.

"Hurricane Sandy was the first test of the app. We used it to advise



our subscribers of downed power lines and roads blocked by fallen trees," Matejcik added. "Further, app subscribers can opt-in to receive text messages from the department. Missing persons, severe traffic congestion, and serious police or fire events are just some of the instances in which we might notify the public or ask for their help."

To get this free app, Droid owners should go to the Google Play Store® and Apple owners to the App Store and search 'Bloomfield Township Police'. "The key to making this app an effective tool is to get as many people to download it as possible. For that reason, we're asking people to spread the word, getting their family and friends in the Township to download it, too."

Citizens' Academy coming up in March

Learn how your Police Department works to keep the community safe. Register for the next Citizens' Academy, starting March 5 and meeting every Tuesday night from 6 to 9 p.m. through April 23. There is no cost to attend. Topics include crime scene investigation, use of the Taser, K9 operations and much more. To register email Officer Pete Matejcik at pmatejcik@bloomfieldtwp.org



Minor Home Repair Program helps senior residents

"I did not plan on being in the condition I am in, but Bloomfield Township Senior Services sure has made my life easier." Mr. D., an 87-year-old, 50-year resident of the Township, expressed his appreciation for the help he received from the Minor Home Repair Program sponsored by BTSS. The program, now in its fourth year, provides funds to low-income seniors for new furnaces or repairs to plumbing, electrical fixtures, siding and roofing. It supports longtime residents and helps them stay in their homes, while benefiting neighborhoods and local contractors.

For some seniors, increasing medical expenses, declining retirement income and an aging home create real challenges. Some may have to choose between a necessary prescription and a home repair. A lack of maintenance can create safety hazards, increase utility costs and reduce the value of their home.

The Minor Home Repair program offered by BTSS is

funded by federal allocations from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. This year's allocation is estimated to be \$62,000, which could support projects in 12-14 households. Residents who are over 60 years of age and have income below \$36,050, or below \$41,200 for couples, are encouraged to apply. Applicants must provide income and ownership documentation and BTSS staff are available to assist with the application process. All application documentation is kept strictly confidential. Qualifying residents may be approved for repairs which do not exceed \$5,000. Successful projects have included the replacement of a water heater, new gutters and repairs to sidewalks or steps to improve mobility. To date the average age of homeowners assisted is 76 and the average length of residency is 35 years. For more information, please contact Denise Kolkmeier at 248-723-3500.

BTSS Director Christine

Tvaroha says, "Minor Home Repair supports our long-time residents, helping them stay safe and independent as long as possible. There are also benefits to the neighborhoods and to local contractors – how often do we get to create a win, win, win situation?" Mrs. R., age 88 and a 53-year resident agrees. "I am very appreciative of this service. Now I feel that life is good again."

For larger projects than those covered by the Minor Home Repair program, Township residents are eligible for Oakland County's loan program. There is no age requirement to participate in this program. Qualified low-income homeowners are able to obtain a low or no interest loan for home improvements with payments deferred until the property changes ownership. Loans are coordinated through the county using the county allocation rather than community allocations. For more information, call 248-858-5401 or toll free 888-350-0900, ext. 85401.

follow us on
facebook

- ◆ Bloomfield Township
- ◆ Bloomfield Township Police Department
- ◆ Bloomfield Township Senior Services



From the Fire Department

Lt. Doug Brown receives Fire Inspector of the Year Award

Bloomfield Township Fire Investigator Lt. Doug Brown was awarded the Fire Inspector of the Year Award by the Oakland County Fire Prevention Society on December 7, 2012. The Society took special note of his determination and drive in obtaining an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) of \$64,150 and using the funds for the installation of 1,675 wireless smoke detectors in apartments, condominiums and adult foster care facilities in Bloomfield Township.

In his role as fire inspector, Lt. Brown saw a need for better protection of multi-family residential dwellings. An interconnected wireless detector system, though more expensive than traditional smoke

detectors, would give that increased protection. When one detector in the system senses smoke, it alerts all the other detectors in the system



Lt. Doug Brown, Fire Inspector of the Year

simultaneously. They all sound their alarms, giving notification to occupants throughout the building. He persuaded one condominium association that interconnected wireless

smoke detectors offered the best protection. That association proceeded to purchase and install the wireless models.

From there, Lt. Brown set his sights upon having all residents of multi-family dwellings within the township have the same protection. Recognizing that most of the smoke detectors in multi-family dwellings were past their 10-year life expectancy, he wrote in a request in 2011 to AFG for funding to replace them. The grant was denied. Not deterred, Lt. Brown recomposed the grant in 2012 and added to the request all of the Township's adult foster care facilities. This time, AFG awarded the full funding to Bloomfield Township.

Lt. Brown is now overseeing

the installation of the wireless interconnected smoke detectors at the adult foster care facilities and the most populated multi-family dwellings in Bloomfield Township. This has brought an added measure of safety to these complexes and their residents.

Brian Batten, president of OCFPS, said, "Through Lt. Brown's efforts and refusal to give up, he has brought an increased level of safety to these complexes and provided our residents improved early warning, increasing their chances of survival. ... (His) dedication and thoroughness exemplifies the qualities his peers recognize as worthy of fire inspector of the year."

FIRE DEPARTMENT CHARITIES *from page 6*

City; money has gone to a Township police officer whose family lost everything in a house fire. Sometimes they help in other ways. For example, over the last 25 years the BTFD Charities has developed a close relationship with staff at the University of Michigan hospital. Often a phone call from Captain Cummings to U-M can help someone get in to see a specialist without a months-long wait.

Another mark of the BTFD Charities' close relationship with U-M is the program at the university called "Straight Talk." Approximately 15 years

ago the charity funded the start-up costs of the program, which has won awards for its effectiveness in dealing with young fire starters and their families.

Since its start in the mid-eighties the BTFD Charities has grown into a program that has helped large numbers of people in need. It continues to raise money through fun events and to make sure that money and other assistance go to those who need it most. "Anyone can bring causes to our attention," says Captain Cummings. "We help as many as we can."

BTFD displays 9/11 Memorial

The Bloomfield Township Fire Department has an extraordinary memorial displayed at Central Fire Station's main entrance in commemoration of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. A fragment of steel from the World Trade Center, with symbolic markings, is encased and mounted for permanent display at Central Station in memory of nearly 3000 people, including 343 firefighters, who died that day in the attack on the World Trade Center.



Lt. Mike Klein was instrumental in obtaining the fragment to create the memorial. In early 2011 he began the process by writing a letter to the New York Port Authority, and after completing a great deal of paperwork he was able to obtain the steel fragment. Retired Bloomfield Township firefighter John Koval made the wooden case. The public is invited to visit Central Station to view the display.

Residents of Bloomfield Township are sometimes surprised when they receive a notice from the Ordinance Division regarding the open storage of items on their property. People often don't realize how unsightly the clutter of lawn tools, empty flower pots, buckets and other items can be. A yard strewn with out-of-season equipment gives a home an untended look and could hurt neighborhood property values.

The Ordinance Division strives to maintain the Township's high standards. Properly store all your possessions and help keep Bloomfield Township the attractive and desirable community it is.



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

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

Fire Department Charities raise money to help those in need

What do a golf outing, a car show and a plunge into an icy wintertime pond have in common? All these events raise money for the Bloomfield Township Fire Department Charities. Captain Mike Cummings, president of the BTFD Charities Executive Board, says, "It's kind of fun to go out and have a good time, raise money, and then be able to give the money to people who need it."

The 27th annual golf outing will take place at the Birmingham Country Club in May. This event is the BTFD Charities' biggest fundraiser of the year. Other activities that raise money for the charity include bowling tournaments, pool tournaments and the Polar Bear Plunge. Every August the Bloomfield Township Classic Car Show, held in conjunction with the Woodward Dream Cruise, raises funds for the BTFD Charities. Occasionally corporations or individuals will make donations, as well. About \$25,000 is taken in annually.

"We love to give money away," says Cummings. "We don't want to hoard it in the bank."



Regular donations go to the University of Michigan Burn Center, the Children's Holiday Wish

Program (in conjunction with the Optimists Club), Bloomfield Youth Guidance, and to OCC Fire Academy to provide a scholarship for a deserving student. Each year the Charities Executive Board, made up of Captain Mike Cummings, Vice-president Fire Chief Dave Piché and five other firefighters, meets to discuss the regular yearly donations. The board also discusses any requests for assistance that come in through the course of the year from other sources. Financial assistance is often given, but other types of help are offered as well. Some of the money that

comes in, such as the funds raised by the Polar Bear Plunge, is earmarked for what is known as the Don Jiles Firefighters Fund. This money goes to firefighters and their families who need assistance.

Recently the Fire Department Charities assisted a former Township firefighter who is now with a department in a different municipality. He had been diagnosed with cancer, and while undergoing treatment had to drive from his home in Port Huron to U-M hospital each day. BTFD Charities gave him a donation to help with his expenses, but individual Township firefighters also drove back and forth with him.

Any worthy cause that comes to the attention of the BTFD is considered. The BTFD Charities has donated money to the family of a firefighter with a daughter who was dying of leukemia, to provide her with her dream trip to New York

[Please see Fire Department Charities on page 5](#)