

# BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER



In plain sight

## Protect yourself with common sense, vigilance

It's late. The laptop is sitting on the seat next to you and you have a pile of grocery bags in the back seat that you have to tote into the

house. The thought of hauling all that at once is too much but you don't want to make a second trip.

You're parked in the driveway and it's dark out. Besides, this is a low-crime neighborhood. Who would even notice the laptop if you just left it on the seat.

How about the guy cruising the neighborhood

looking for cars just like yours? It only takes a few seconds to pull over, get out and walk by your car to see if there are any goodies on the seat.

In another second the door is open. Why so fast? Because not only did you leave the laptop in the car, you didn't lock the car doors.

"There were 100 vehicle break-ins in the Township in 2015," said Kelly Marthen, Bloomfield Township Police Department Community Liaison Officer. "Less than 10 were with windows being broken."

These larcenies are commonly a case of complacency, said Marthen. The Township is indeed a low crime area. In fact, it almost routinely is cited as

console, with the other end leading under the seat, a thief knows there is something valuable under that seat. Marthen reminds residents of the

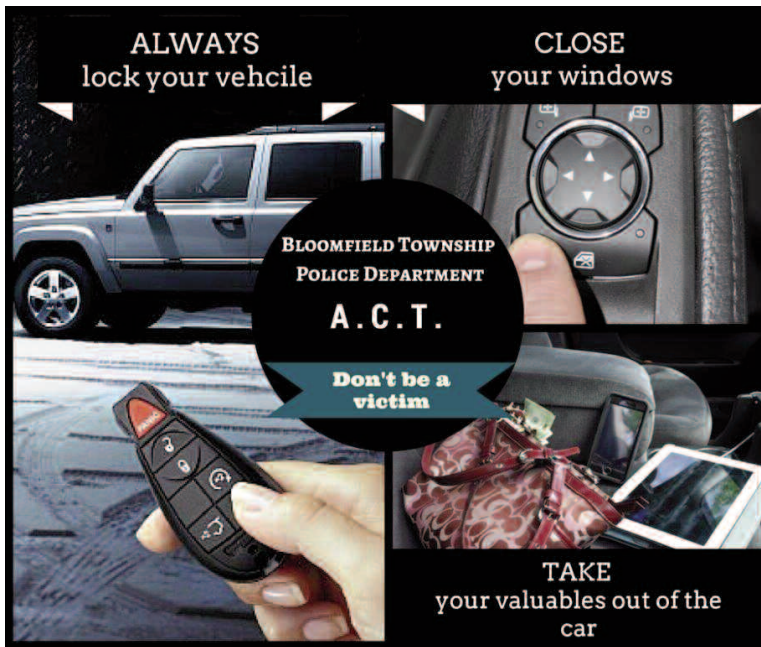
program A.C.T., which stands for **Always** lock your vehicle, **Close** the windows, and **Take** out your valuables.

A little precaution mixed with some common sense can avoid a loss. That same formula can help residents avoid another crime that is becoming more popular: fraud.

There are several varieties of fraud being reported. The IRS fraud is especially common this time of year as tax returns are being filed. This involves a person getting a call from someone claiming to be from the IRS, demanding money owed for back taxes be sent by money order, "green dot cards" or other form of currency. The IRS does not call taxpayers to demand money. Ever.

A similar scheme is the emergency phone call in which the caller claims to be a relative or

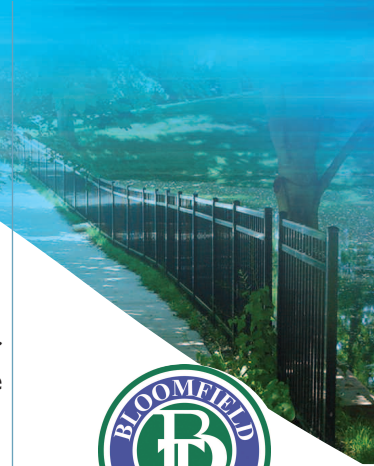
**Please see Crime on page 5**



one of the safest towns in the nation by one organization or another. But no town is crime-free. A surprising number of people leave laptops, purses, iPhones and iPads and other electronics in plain view on car seats. People even leave cash in their cars.

The feeling, Marthen said, is "it doesn't happen here. Unfortunately, it does."

And hiding an object isn't enough, Marthen said. "Criminals know what a cell phone charger looks like." If you have one plugged into the



**BLOOMFIELD  
TOWNSHIP  
BOARD  
2016**

**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**

Thomas Petinga, Chairman  
Lisa Seneker, Vice Chairman  
Richard Mintz  
Neal Barnett  
Jeff Salz  
Richard Atto  
Bruce Selik

**BOARD OF APPEALS**

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

**Pictured above: Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day is popular. See story on Page 6.**

## Save the date...

### April 16

Electronic Recycling,  
Medication Disposal &  
Paper Shredding event

### April 16-17

Clean Sweep

### May 7

Household Hazardous  
Waste Drop-Off Day

### August 2

State Primary Election

## Primaries, permits and passports

While we just finished voting in the March Presidential Primary, preparations are underway for the State Primary on August 2, 2016. The filing deadline for candidates is April 19, 2016, and for local proposals May 10, 2016. Bloomfield Township voters will be asked to renew road and public safety millages on the August ballot. This election also becomes a nominating process for Democrats and Republicans vying for state, county and local races on the November 8, 2016 ballot. Voters on our permanent absentee list will automatically receive a dual absentee ballot application for the next two

elections in 2016.

Spring weather brings outdoor activity, along with solicitors selling products and services door-to-door. Permits are required for solicitors. They must register at the Township Clerk's Office, undergo an identity check and pay a fee prior to solicitation. Township-issued identification cards must be worn by a solicitor at all times. If a solicitor does not display their identification, call the police at 248-433-7755.

As your thoughts turn to warmer weather, review the expiration date of your passport book and card for you and your family. In 2007, the

Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative required passports for all travel abroad by air. In 2008, this requirement extended to land and sea. Thousands of passport books are expiring this year and next. The demand for renewal will extend the turnaround time from 6 weeks to 6-8 weeks. Avoid procrastination for uninterrupted travel plans. For further information on our passport service, contact the Clerk's Office at 248-433-7702 or online at <http://www.bloomfieldtp.org/Services/Clerk/PassportService.asp>.



### 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 out the Township Dashboard

It's there on the home page of the Bloomfield Township website. And even though it's prominent, it can be overlooked.

Go to [www.bloomfieldtp.org](http://www.bloomfieldtp.org) and look at the lower left side of the page for the box entitled "Munetrix – Citizen's Guide and Dashboard." Click on it and you will find a wealth of information about the Township and how it stands financially in comparison to many other communities

For example, you can find out the source of the Township's revenue, how that money is spent, the Township's pension obligations, debt services and how it has handled its resources. There's also general information about the

Township, such as population growth and crime statistics. There's even a listing of what services the Township shares with other communities and entities. You can even find detailed audit reports for the past several years.

Rick Snyder signed into law the Economic Vitality and Incentive Program, which changed the way state revenue sharing is distributed to communities throughout the state.

The intent is to give the public a summary – or dashboard – of the community's finances. Take a look. If you need help interpreting any of the information, including how to accurately compare communities so you reach

That and more is all there, just a mouse click away. Many communities now employ such "dashboards." The dashboards were put into place in 2011 when Gov.

accurate conclusions, please contact the Township offices at 248-433-7700. You will be directed to someone who can help



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## A NOTE FROM

Leo Savoie, Bloomfield Township Supervisor

# Watching over the water and sewer system

What's happened in Flint has attracted national attention. People are asking how virtual-ly a whole city's water supply could become tainted by lead. And they're asking, could it happen here? Every administration in every town throughout the country is taking a look at its water supply service in the wake of that monumental crisis.

Many of Michigan's towns have old, and often troubled, water systems. Even communities with newer systems face the continuing challenge of keeping them in good working condition so they will be able to withstand decades of use.

You can count Bloomfield Township among that group. I am very proud of how we in the Township have long recognized that a solid infrastructure is essential to a strong community. Without it we could be faced with a sub-standard system prone to breaks and leaks and worse – potential contamination.

Unfortunately, there is nothing glamorous about infrastructure. Installing a new water or sewer line does not make for an exciting photo op, like, say, the opening of a new business or the unveiling of a sparkling state-of-the-art piece of equipment.

But infrastructure is fundamental. It's a foundation on which a community is built – literally – and like any strong foundation it has to be built right and maintained well. That costs money, which raises the seemingly eternal com-

plaint that our water bills are too high and residents are paying too much.

That's actually a complicated statement that is harder to address than it might seem. Are our water bills too high?



**Township employees are constantly working to maintain the water and sewer system.**

Well, how much you pay depends to a degree on how much water you use. But that is too glib of an answer. In actuality, if you use less water, the rates can go up because, regardless of how much water is used, the system that delivers water to you and carries the sewage safely away has to be maintained. And consider that we have 500 miles of underground piping in the Township to maintain. That's a lot of infrastructure.

The water and sewer rates are designed to not only cover the costs of the water and sewer services used but also to cover the costs necessary to maintain an infrastructure to provide the water and

sewer services upon demand.

Remember also we are not working on the water and sewer system to generate income. We simply need the resources to cover costs of maintenance and responsible upgrades.

Currently, we are in the process of replacing almost 25 miles of water mains in Bloomfield Township. Part of it is already done, but the project has a number of years to go. We also have numerous sewer projects upgrading and adding to the system, as well as complying with state and federal mandates that are handed down to us. That gives an idea of the scope of the work being done. It is a continuous process that must be followed so smaller problems do not become catastrophic.

Also, it's important to remember that since the Township buys its water from the newly created Great Lakes Water Authority through the Southeastern Oakland County Water Authority, we have to pass along that purchase price to the users. I'm going to avoid using actual numbers here because you can get caught up in a tangle of percentages and decimal points that cloud the underlying issue. But if you want to look closely at the numbers, all of it is easily accessible on the Township's website, [www.bloomfield-twp.org](http://www.bloomfield-twp.org). You can find a detailed breakdown of water and sewer rates, what the money collected is spent on,

payment options and more. I encourage you to go through that information to become better informed on how our system operates.

I must admit I have a personal reason for encouraging residents to closely scrutinize the water and sewer operations. Aspects of this have become contentious, as some community members are spreading inaccurate information about our operations. I'd like to just say, "that's politics" and shrug it off, but the fact is such comments hurt the community as a whole. Aside from being baseless, they give the impression that the system is figuratively broken. In fact, it is not.

Further, such comments detract from the most important thing we are doing, and that is helping secure the future of Bloomfield Township. Our program to maintain and upgrade the system is not just necessary, it is essential. Other communities that have not invested in the future are paying the price today in the form of water main breaks, flooded basements, backed up sewers and even contamination. We in Bloomfield Township are fortunate to have the resources to do the right thing so we can avoid the consequences of doing nothing. Smart communities everywhere recognize the critical importance of maintaining the infrastructure.

As I said, it isn't glamorous, but it is a shining example of responsible government.

## BYA takes a higher profile

For decades Bloomfield Youth Assistance (formerly known as Bloomfield Youth Guidance) has been quietly helping young people in need in our community. Too quietly, in fact.

That's in the process of changing. Over the past couple of years BYA has been ramping up its programs. It still holds its annual recognition dinner honoring Outstanding Youth Citizens, but it's expanding that. It's also increasing its activities. Last year BYA sent several local kids to Tim Horton Children's Foundation Camps and plans to send more this year. Also, increased outreach to parents and kids in need is being established. Last year, BYA welcomed the city of Bloomfield Hills into its operations to ensure it receives the services BYA has to offer. BYA also opened new offices in the former school recreation services building at 4174 Dublin, behind the old school administration building on Andover Road.

"There certainly is a need for the services BYA has to offer," said BYA Chairman Fred Klupp. "But we have to be in a position to deliver more. And we are working harder than ever to make the community aware of what we are doing."

BYA, founded in 1967, is part of the Oakland County Youth Assistance program and serves youths in the boundaries of the Bloomfield Hills School District. Its goal is to provide support services to kids who have problems at home or have had contact with the legal system.

For more information about BYA, go to [www.bloomfieldyouthassistance.org](http://www.bloomfieldyouthassistance.org). The organization is also seeking to expand its roster of board members. For more information call 248-341-5680. BYA is a 501-c-3 non-profit organization

## Rev up for the 12th Annual Bloomfield Township Classic Car Show!



The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Classic Car Show, held in conjunction with the Woodward Dream Cruise, is coming up August 20, 2016. The event takes place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Mercedes Benz of Bloomfield Hills dealership and the neighboring Comerica Bank on Woodward south of Big Beaver. Enter your classic car, or just come out and enjoy the spectacle, food, music and fun. Check the Township website for entry forms and more information, or call 248-642-7608.

## No sale

We've all seen cities where cars are for sale on every corner. Or homes that have one or two ongoing vehicle repairs that are up on blocks or with flat tires and the hood up.

But you won't see that in Bloomfield Township. The Township Code of Ordinances, Sec. 42-5.2(7) states: "The storage of merchandise, motor vehicles for sale, trucks or the repair of vehicles is prohibited."

Bloomfield Township strives to maintain a standard above the others and feels strongly that cluttering up our neighborhoods or parking lots with these types of problems are detrimental to the property values of all residents.

If you want to repair your vehicle, keep it in your garage or take it to a commercial lot zoned for that type of use. If you want to sell your vehicle, take it to a commercial used car dealership or sell it through other types of media.



Township ordinance prohibits parked cars displaying "For Sale" signs.

## Spring tips from the Building Division

Now that winter is over, take a look at your home and check for any brick/mortar cracks that may need to be repaired, cracked caulking that may need to be removed and replaced, roof flashings and gutters that may have been damaged by ice, and the overall condition of the property.

Once the danger of a hard freeze has passed, the outside hose bibs can be turned back on.

This is a good time to check the batteries in smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors and replace as needed. If your detectors are more than 10 years old, you may wish to consider replacing them with new longer-lasting hard wired/battery units. When one activates, they all activate throughout the home.

If you're planning any home renovation projects that may require building permits, visit the Bloomfield Township website, [bloomfieldtwp.org](http://bloomfieldtwp.org) or contact our Building Division and a staff member will assist you.





From the Fire Department

## Firefighters won't give up; tragedy averted

Usually you hear about these things because they end so badly.

A gas leak... a house blows up... someone dies.

This time it was different, but it wasn't luck that made the difference; it was dedication and insistence on going beyond what the job called for.

On Jan. 5 firefighters Chris Hull and Ryan Switala were returning from a run when they smelled a slight odor of natural gas near Squirrel Road and South Reading. They stopped and went to investigate, then called for assistance from firefighters on another unit. Firefighters Lt. William Fritz and Scott Collins responded, but when they arrived they could barely detect any odor.

The night was calm, no wind, and the odor was so faint they were not even sure it was gas. But they wouldn't give up and expanded their search to include Masefield Drive.

"We walked up to the first house on Masefield Drive, and there was a slight odor," Fritz said.

The firefighters went to a gas meter, and the intensity of the odor increased.

"Something was definitely not right," Hull said.

"We knocked on the door, found a young woman was home and asked if she had any smell of gas in the house. She said no," Fritz said.

But she noted that Consumers Energy had been out earlier in the week and told the neighbors that there was odorant in the ground and it would clear over the next month.

The firefighters asked if they could check the house, and the woman let them in. While they couldn't find an odor at first, using a detector they discovered a seriously high level of gas. Consumers Energy was called, and using their meter found a higher gas level in the house. The gas level also was extremely high at the outside meter.

A gas leak was found in the yard.

"Without this young crew's desire to do the right thing and stop and find what the odor was, there would have been a tragedy at that home," Fritz said.

"These firefighters acted above and beyond the call of duty," said Fire Chief David Piché. "And because of that they averted a disaster that would have involved the loss of a human life and their property. I could not be more proud of their actions and their professionalism."

"We knew the seriousness of it," Collins said.

Township Supervisor Leo Savoie said this demonstrated the professional caliber of the Township firefighters.

"Such dedication is outstanding," Savoie said. "They could have ignored the warning odor of gas since it was so slight. But they didn't. They wouldn't give up. They followed it through and a tragedy was averted."



Persistence paid off for firefighters (from left) Chris Hull, Lt. William Fritz, Ryan Switala and Scott Collins, who averted a tragedy.

## Crime from page 1

lawyer of a relative saying the person has been arrested and needs cash to make bail. This scheme is usually aimed at senior citizens, who are pressured into sending money. Such cases are reported regularly in the Township. In one instance an employee at a CVS store realized what was happening and prevented the victim from sending money. But too often the person is scammed.

And finally, identity thefts are becoming the rage among thieves to such an extent that the FBI says nationwide cases of identity theft are reported about 3,000 times A DAY.

Sometimes fraud can be difficult to prevent, as when thieves

attach credit card readers to gas pumps, something that can be almost impossible to detect. But you can help protect your identity by not placing outgoing mail in your mailbox or by having a mailbox that locks. Shred paper trash like old bank statements and credit card bills. And watch your credit reports routinely.

"Be vigilant," Marthen said.



Bloomfield Township  
Police





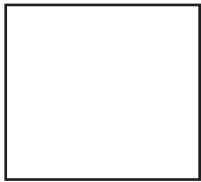
# BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

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



## Clear out that hazardous waste

From old paint to moth-balls, it's time to toss all those yucky chemicals that have been taking up space on the shelves in the garage.

And the perfect place to do that is at the Township Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day collection event, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 7, on the Township campus, on Telegraph, south of Long Lake Road.

Crews will be on hand to take a large assortment of substances including drain cleaners, insect spray, nail polish, tub and tile cleaner, toilet bowl cleaner, rat poison, weed killer, motor oil, paint, paint stripper, shoe polish,



Household hazardous waste is safely disposed.

moth balls and much more. You can find a complete list of items that can be dropped off on the Township webpage, [www.bloomfieldtwp.org](http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org) and click on the link "Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day, Saturday, May 7," under Township News on the home

page. You will find a wealth of information about the event and what materials are accepted.

Two other popular events are coming up in April. On Saturday, April 16, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Township

will hold the annual Electronics Recycling, Medication Disposal & Paper Shredding day. This event is held in conjunction with the annual Clean Sweep. Sign up forms for the Clean

Sweep and information about both events are available on the Township website. Click on the links under Township News on the home page, or call 248-594-2800.



Workers sort electronic waste as a steady stream of cars passes through.