

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER



Leadership shapes the COVID-19 response

“Dear Bloomfield Township Officers and Staff,

“Thank you for all you do for us putting your lives on the line and protecting us... You are some of the best people on earth. Take care and know that there are so many people that appreciate you.”

That unsolicited testimonial came from a Township resident, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. They were welcome words to a somewhat weary staff that has been wrestling for months with the challenge of keeping the Township operating under the most trying conditions.

But it could have been worse. Unlike many communities across the nation, Bloomfield Township confronted the COVID-19 threat head-on, putting plans in place to deal with it as a serious health threat while many others passed it off as just another case of the flu.

That was back in February when the virus still seemed to be a distant threat. And it was when the first cases of the virus were being reported in the United States, although it had been spreading worldwide by then.

“We knew it was bad,” said Township Fire Chief Mike

Morin. The numbers health officials were talking about as the virus spread were alarming.

“It didn’t look right,” Chief Morin said. “We had to get ahead of it. We didn’t want to be in a position where we had to catch up.” Supervisor Leo Savoie gave the Township departments the orders to plan



A Firefighter/paramedic disinfects an emergency response vehicle.

a strategy to deal with the threat.

And they did. The fire department basically led the charge. It was at the front line of the situation by default. Firefighters/paramedics were usually called to the sick before anyone else so they had to be prepared to respond, especially when the stakes were so high. COVID-19 is deadly.

Within a short time operational plans were in place. Protective measures for staffers were devised. Hand sanitizers, masks, and other protective equipment were ordered. Even

specialized equipment for sanitizing whole vehicles was acquired and procedures for staff coming in from calls were defined. A whole range of procedures was initiated.

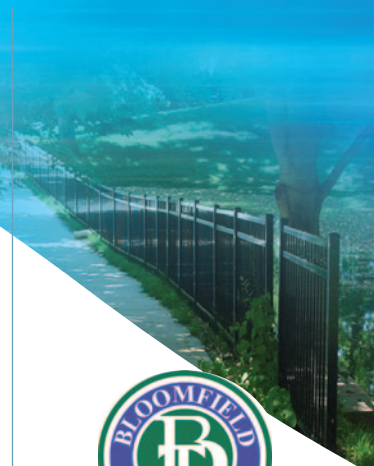
“They were right up to speed and on top of this,” said Police Chief Phil Langmeyer of his counterparts in the fire department. “They were way in front of the curve.”

And not only did they stay there but led the way in introducing procedures to the entire Township staff. At department head meetings, the seriousness of the situation was laid out and methods for keeping the Township operating while using

safe practices were discussed. More meetings were held and the tone quickly changed. Initially they were group gatherings; then they became widely spaced gatherings as safe distancing practices were implemented. But as the virus threat worsened, and under the orders of the governor of Michigan, the Township closed its doors to the public and meetings of all types were held remotely.

But in all cases the action

Please see Leadership on page 5



**BLOOMFIELD
TOWNSHIP
BOARD
2020**

ELECTED OFFICIALS

ADMINISTRATION

Leo Savoie, Supervisor
Janet Roncelli, Clerk
Brian Kepes, Treasurer

TRUSTEES

David Buckley
Neal J. Barnett
Michael Schostak
Dani Walsh

APPOINTED POSITIONS

PLANNING COMMISSION

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

BOARD OF APPEALS

Carol Rosati, Chairman
Brian Henry, Vice Chairman
Robert Taylor, Jr.
Claudine Bacher,
Dani Walsh
Jocelyn Giangrande
Andrea O'Donnell
Jeffrey Drake, Alternate
Glenda Meads, Alternate

Save the Date...

July 11

Electronic Waste, Paper Shredding & Medication Disposal

August 4

Primary Election

October 3

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day

November 3

General Election



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

Vote August 4, 2020

On August 4, 2020, the Primary Election will be held state-wide. Unlike the Presidential Primary in March 2020, the August 4, 2020 Primary Election does not require voters to select a ballot by party preference. However, be prepared to vote one party only in the partisan section on both sides of the ballot. If a voter marks the ballot for more than one party, no votes which appear in the partisan section of the ballot will count. The tabulator at the precinct will provide a warning if this happens and you can request a replacement ballot. If you make a mistake on an absentee ballot, submit a written request to the Clerk's Office for a new ballot. Make sure your vote counts in the partisan section.

Other issues that merit your attention include absentee ballot applications, polling locations and sample ballots to prepare for casting a

vote. Absentee ballot applications were sent to our permanent list of absentee voters in May. The dual-election applications are available in the Clerk's office and online. The Secretary of State sent absentee ballot applications to all voters not on the permanent list in early June. The last day to request an absentee ballot by mail for the August 4, 2020

Primary Election is July 31, 2020, by 5 p.m. Electors may obtain an absentee ballot in person in the clerk's office up to 4:00 p.m., Monday, August 3, 2020. Voter registration is available on Election Day at the Clerk's Office. Ballots must be returned by 8 p.m. on Election Day, whether in person or by mail. Our secure lobby drop box is available 24/7 and monitored by the police department.

If you prefer to cast your vote at a precinct, remember that new polling locations were approved beginning with the March 10, 2020 Presidential Primary. Township

Precinct Map on the website or try the following State of Michigan link where you can find more information about precinct locations and track your absentee ballot application and ballot at <https://mivic.sos.state.mi.us/>

Knowing your precinct location as well as the ballot content can save time on Election Day. Ballot samples for the August 4, 2020 Primary Election are on our website now for your review. For Township residents, this election provides a nominating process for partisan offices at the federal, state, county and township levels. There is one

school bond proposal on the ballot for Township voters in the Bloomfield Hills School District. The complete text of the school bond proposal can be found on our website. The results of the August Primary Election determine the candidates who will appear on the ballot for the General Election on November 3, 2020. Every vote counts! The Bloomfield Township

BECOME A TOWNSHIP POLL WORKER
Join the Best Team in Oakland County
Great Pay — Exciting Day
18 Locations to Choose From
Sustain the Backbone of Democracy
<https://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/Resources/Forms/Clerk/ElectionInspector.aspx>

electors now cast their votes at 18 rather than 32 polling locations. These changes were made in December 2019. All registered voters in Bloomfield Township received new voter identification cards and a first-class mailing regarding these relocations, prior to the March 10, 2020 Presidential Primary. Unsure of your precinct? Call us for more information, access our

Clerk's Office invites you to register to vote, request an absentee ballot, or seek further information regarding your federal, state and county districts. Call us at your earliest convenience at 248.433.7702 or search our website for 24/7 access to voter information at <https://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/Government/Services/Clerk/Elections.aspx>

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 NOTE FROM

Leo Savoie, Bloomfield Township Supervisor

Coping with the COVID-19 challenge

When the first cases of Coronavirus started spreading through America, we knew we were going to be in for a rough ride. What we didn't know was how rough and how deeply it would impact us, but it was clear that this was a serious threat.

When I say "we" in this instance I am referring to the Bloomfield Township team. The team consists of all the elected officials, as well as myself, and all the employees. We are the work force for the Township. Collectively, we are the individuals who make sure that the Township services operate smoothly. We understand that it is a big job and we welcome the opportunity to do it successfully.

The impact of the Coronavirus – or COVID-19, as it is more commonly called – has tested our ability to be successful in a way that nothing else ever has. It's been about 100 years since our nation has faced such a threat. The results of the Spanish flu epidemic were devastating. But it's one thing to read about a crisis of a century ago and another to see a major crisis rapidly approaching our community – our neighbors, our families,

our homes. Then it takes on a personal meaning.

So what to do? The answer is both simple and complex. It is simple in the sense that the problem is evident and we are going to face it no matter what. Yet that question is critical for it frames the situation, puts it in context so that we have a clear understanding of the challenge and we can develop a workable response. We also know what resources we have at hand and how they can be employed to confront the situation. That is basic good management. This approach works whether you are trying to decide if you can fix a leaky faucet yourself, or call a plumber, or if you are facing a worldwide pandemic.

Good management is the hallmark of good leadership. But please understand, it is not my intention to promote myself here. That would not be fair to all the other people in the Township who make up our management team. Our team has shown amazing skill and professionalism and has developed a strategy to keep the Township functioning as normally as possible in these very abnormal times.

Together we have all devel-

oped workable strategies to continue to serve the people of Bloomfield Township in a safe and effective manner. Realistically, not everyone is happy with all the changes we have had to implement. Closing the doors of Town Hall to the general public, shutting down the Senior Center, canceling public events, and having many staff members work from home, to name a few. These have been difficult alterations to our normal way of functioning. They distance our contact with the general public. But understand these modifications were dictated by the virus and facts surrounding COVID-19, and not out of an unfounded fear. COVID-19 is deadly, as the rising number of deaths confirms on a daily basis. We are not in a situation to do what we want. We have to do what we must, as uncomfortable as that may be.

Decision making is a large part of a leadership role. I have to make tough decisions every day. But when it comes to potentially putting lives in danger, I will make the tough choices to ensure that we are doing the right thing to protect the lives of our commu-

nity and employees. I'm not being melodramatic; I am being proactive in a time of uncertainty. Even though we have kept the COVID-19 case numbers fairly low in the Township we have seen the impact of the disease all around us.

Adaptability and vision are also keynotes of leadership. I've seen this response of adaptability and vision from our team who have led the Township through this pandemic. Special safety procedures have been implemented by emergency responders, protective equipment and devices are being installed throughout the Township campus, protocols for staying safe have been developed and implemented, and so forth. Many staff members have been involved in the day to day hands-on call to action. Who would have imagined just a matter of months ago that we would be facing such a threat and have to even consider these measures?

I'm proud to be a member of the Bloomfield Township team that has led us carefully and safely down this perilous path.

Animal shelter reopens

After a short shutdown the Bloomfield Township Animal Shelter is tentatively scheduled to re-open July 1.

The shelter will be open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday, and officers will be available to handle calls after hours. Call 248-433-7757 or 248-433-7755.

The Township recently signed an agreement with the city of Birmingham allowing it to have access to the shelter, although Township officers will not respond to calls from Birmingham. Those will be handled by Birmingham officers.



Treasurer's Report: new billing option, streamlined Financial Assistance Program

Treasurer Brian Kepes has introduced a number of innovations recently to make the process of paying taxes and bills safer and more convenient for residents. The Treasurer's Office now offers the option of a new paperless billing method that will eliminate germs, reduce paper use and save money. You can now have your water bill delivered straight to your inbox every quarter with paperless billing.

Folks are strongly urged to mail in payments or pay online, eliminating the need to visit the office in person and avoiding using cash. The Treasurer's Office processes payments for every Township department. To see all the available payment options, see the Township website here <https://www.bloomfieldtp.org/Government/Services/Treasurer/Payment-Options.aspx> As long as COVID-19 is still infecting people and there is no vaccine, these measures will help keep everyone safe even after the Township offices open to the public.

Many families are facing difficult financial issues as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In response, Bloomfield Township has instituted a new, streamlined financial assistance program to help. Those seeking aid can complete one form to request a hardship exemption for property taxes and a solid waste waiver. Those over age 60 who meet guidelines can request minor home repair assistance with funding from the Community Development Block Grant program.

For more information, go to <https://www.bloomfieldtp.org/Government/Services/Assessing.aspx> where you will find information on the Financial Assistance Program.



Treasurer Brian Kepes

Do you qualify for Minor Home Repair?

Bloomfield Township Senior Services is using funds received from the Community Block Grant program to offer minor home repairs to qualifying seniors. Applicants must be 60 years of age or older. Maximum household income for a one-person household is \$44,000, and for a two-person household, \$50,250. Repairs must fit the minor criteria and may not exceed \$5,000. Application is required.

Services available include cleaning, repair or replacement of furnaces; hot water heaters, garbage disposals, toilets, faucets and other plumbing repairs, electrical and lighting, sidewalk and driveway repairs, storm doors and more.

For questions or application, please call: 248-723-3500.

Virtual fitness classes help keep seniors active

The Township's Senior Center is closed temporarily, but we are working hard to help residents stay active and connected. We are offering many of our popular fitness classes online via Zoom, and it's a great way to continue to exercise. Our professional instructors offer a range of classes suited to all abilities, including high intensity interval training and personal training. Classes being offered include Blended Yoga, Barre Balance, Mindful Movement Pilates, Tai Chi, Small Group Personal Training and new fitness classes like Ageless Yoga and Saturday Sampler. And best of all, cost for four weeks of classes starts at only \$28.

"Thank you SO much for figuring out a way to offer online exercises classes via the Zoom platform - I just took my first class this morning with Maggie via Zoom and it was terrific!! It feels so good to not only be exercising again, but to be "connected", at least virtually, with others!"



We love hearing these comments from those participating in our Zoom fitness classes. Take a look at the classes and schedules on our website here

<https://bloomfieldtp.org/Government/Services/Senior-Services/Fitness-Schedules-and-Info.aspx>

You will also find instructions on how to register. Your registration in virtual fitness classes helps support BTSS re-opening efforts and our fitness instructors.

BTSS programs are generally limited to those ages 50 and over. However, while gyms and workout facilities are closed we will waive the age requirement. We welcome any adult who would like to sign up for the Zoom virtual fitness classes. Call 248-723-3500 for more information. Fitness Coordinator Maggie Barclay has taped five fitness classes at Bloomfield Community Television, which you can find on the website here

<https://www.bloomfieldtp.org/Government/Services/Cable/Video-on-Demand/2020-New/Senior-Services.aspx> These programs also air Monday through Friday on BCTV (Comcast Channel 15 and AT&T Channel 99) at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. To view the schedule go to <https://www.bloomfieldtp.org/Government/Services/Cable/Program-Schedule.aspx>

We hope you will take advantage of some of these fitness options while we wait for the day we can re-open!

Leadership from Page 1

was taken in measured, sure steps.

The Township didn't come into this situation cold. It periodically holds emergency preparedness drills in its Emergency Operations Center on how to handle crises, although usually they focus on how to respond to a tornado, or broken gas main, or a train derailment.

In the case of COVID-19

adjust in a very dynamic way.”

Pandemics of the nature of COVID-19 come along about once in a century so they pose a special threat as there is little useful historical information to turn to. But the theory and practice of dealing with a crisis, even one like COVID-19, is unchanging. And the best tool any organization can use in a crisis is sound leadership. At no time since the

outbreak of the pandemic did anyone on the Township staff say, “I just don't know what to do.”

“This was not a time for uncertain actions,” said Supervisor Savoie.

“Right from the start, we understood the seriousness of the COVID-19 threat

and we responded accordingly, with sound, sure actions. We knew what to do and how to do it. The results are obvious. We are weathering this challenge in excellent form. I'm proud of the staff of the Township and pleased with our leadership across the board.”



In April first responders showed their support with a convoy of vehicles for those at the front line of fighting COVID-19.

the EOC was activated “where we able to coordinate with county, state, and at one point, Vice President Mike Pence, through conference calls,” Morin said. “This allowed us to monitor the spread, supplies and best practices from across the country to both police and fire and

Township Cruise stalled by COVID-19

The 2020 edition of the Bloomfield Township Woodward Avenue Dream Cruise events was canceled for this year only. The event had been scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 15, and promised to be bigger and better than ever. Then came COVID-19.

By May it was apparent that the hopes of this year's Dream Cruise would be stalled or at least severely curtailed. In turn, communities along the Dream Cruise route, including Bloomfield Township, went on record that they would not officially participate in the Dream Cruise. But since it was clear that whether the communities officially would be part of Dream Cruise or not the cruisers were going to turn out, the Dream Cruise committee decided to revisit the situation with the hopes of having a scaled back version. A final decision on just what kind of Dream Cruise could be held was pending at the end of June.

But two things are certain: Cruisers will be on Woodward on Aug. 15, and the Township events will be back next year for the 2021 Dream Cruise.

Water quality gets top rating

Bloomfield Township is pleased to inform you that in 2019, as in past years, we have surpassed the water quality standards required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy (EGLE, formerly MDEQ).

The 2019 Annual Water Quality Report describes the source of our water, lists our test results, and contains important information about water and health. This report is intended to provide consumer understanding of drinking water and to heighten awareness of the need to protect our precious water resources. We hope this report addresses any drinking water quality concerns you might have.

Please go to www.bloomfieldtwp.org/WaterReport to view your 2019 Annual Water Quality Report and learn more about your drinking water.

If you would like a paper copy of the 2019 Annual Water Quality Report mailed to your home, please call the Department of Public Works at 248-594-2800.

Popular disposal events back on

The Electronic Recycling, Medication Disposal and Paper Shredding event, which had been canceled several months ago, is back on the calendar and will be held 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, July 11, on the Township campus.

This is an opportunity to toss out that old computer keyboard, among other items, safely dispose of medications no longer needed or wanted, and a secure way to destroy documents that have outlived their usefulness.

For a list of items that can be disposed of, go to the Township website, www.bloomfieldtwp.org, and click on the Engineering and Environmental Services tab and then the link to the e-waste information.

In addition, the Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day will be held 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, on the Township campus.

Bring items such as drain cleaner, motor oil, paint, and other waste to be disposed of safely.

The events are for Township residents only. Proof of residency is required.



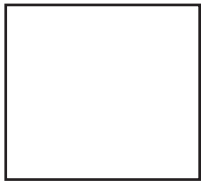


BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

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



Some words from our Police Department

Times have been difficult around the country and in Bloomfield Township, with two major national issues having an effect on all of us.

The Bloomfield Township Police stand with the International Association of Chiefs of Police in supporting the outrage and peaceful protests against the callous disregard shown for Mr. George Floyd's life, whose death sparked worldwide protests.

Protestors have raised legitimate concerns ranging from use of force, bias in policing, accountability and transparency. Police leaders and officers need to embrace the concerns that are being given a voice during these

protests and be willing to re-examine our approach to earn and maintain trust. Collectively, community leaders, elected officials, and the police need to work together to identify the realities of policing and identify meaningful solutions to build a future that ensures fairness, respect, dignity, security, and justice for all.

The second issue, COVID-19, is still having a major effect on our community. Working together, within the community, has always been our greatest strength. Both issues have highlighted this fact more now than ever before.

Our community has a rich history of stepping up in

times of need. Your support was clear through your donations of PPE, food to feed our officers, words of



encouragement, and your cooperation with the stay at home orders. You have proven that as a community we can get through anything

together. We would like to thank each and every resident and business that has reached out in support.

Recently, the Bloomfield Township Police Department held a can and bottle drive to raise funds for the Special Olympics. The Police Department took in nearly 250,000 cans and bottles. This generous donation will ensure the Special Olympics have the funding they need to continue their mission.

Again, thank you for showing up in times of need, for doing the work to make our community better, and proving time and time again that we serve the greatest community in Michigan.