

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Millages impact life across the Township

"This is a wonderful facility," said Pam Hoffman. "It serves so many different needs."

Hoffman, a volunteer at the Township Senior Center, was speaking at a recent volunteer breakfast there. Dozens of volunteers were in attendance to be recognized for the work they do and to get an update on the overall activities of Senior Services.

The numbers are impressive. The Senior Center receives some 60,000 visits a year, said

every month.

They come there for a variety of activities, including fitness

years for Senior Services.

In addition, there will be two millage renewals – for up to



Fire Department runs, most of which are EMS related, are increasing every year.



Vera and Bill Waddell enjoy a ride down one of the Township's safety paths. Photo by Jerry Amster.

Christine Tvaroha, Director of Senior Services. "We continue to grow," Tvaroha said. The center has about 11,000 members, with 92 new ones coming in

classes, day trips, social clubs, enrichments classes and more. And some 12,700 Meals on Wheels deliveries are made annually.

"It's a win-win for our community," said Mentha Manning, a Meals on Wheels volunteer.

"Senior Services has been one of the best used (facilities) in the Township," said volunteer Richard Moxley.

"The number of people who use it every day is incredible."

The activities of Bloomfield Township Senior Services were brought into focus as

Township voters will be asked to consider four millage renewals on the Aug. 5 ballot.

One of them is for a renewal of up to 0.2439 mills for 10

1.1336 mills and 0.6941 mills – for public safety. Both are 10-year millages.

And finally, voters will be asked to continue a millage of up to 0.4839 mills for five years to extend the Township's Safety Path system.

On that last item, the Township has installed some 70 miles of safety paths since 1998 and the program is about 80 percent complete.

"Safety paths are an important part of the community. We have paths that people are waiting to be constructed," Clerk Jan Roncelli said at a Township millage discussion session.

"They have been very popular," said Trustee David Buckley.

Please see Millages on Page 5



BLOOMFIELD
TOWNSHIP
BOARD &
2014

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 Atto
Neal Barnett
Tad Krear
Richard Mintz
Jeff Salz

BOARD OF APPEALS

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

Save the date...

August 5

Primary Election

August 16

Bloomfield Township
Classic Car Show

<http://www.bloomfield-twp.org/events/Events/2014/WoodwardDreamCruiseClassicCarShow.asp>

October 4

Household Hazardous
Waste Drop-Off 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

Getting set for a new election cycle

Election season is about to begin as Bloomfield Township voters consider candidates and proposals in August and November 2014. Several issues merit attention: voter registration, polling location and sample ballots to prepare for casting a vote.

Registered to vote in Bloomfield Township? Voter registration forms are available at the Clerk's Office and online at <http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/Forms/Clerk.asp>. Any U.S. citizen who is at least age 18 on election day is eligible to register to vote. We encourage all eligible Township residents to register to vote. The deadline for the Aug. 5, 2014 Primary Election is July 7, 2014.

Some Township electors will cast their vote at two new polling locations, others at a temporary relocation, and many voters will visit two locations with name changes. See if you recognize the current and former names of these polling locations.

Precinct 9, formerly located at Detroit Country Day Maple, moves permanently to Brother Rice High School, 7101 Lahser Road. Precinct 23, formerly Detroit Country Day Bradway, moves permanently to Marian High School, 7225 Lahser Road. Registered voters in both of these precincts received new voter identification cards and will be receiving a first-class mailing regarding these permanent relocations.

One precinct, Precinct 5, is temporarily relocated due to construction. Formerly at Andover High School, Precinct 5 is temporarily relocated to the Dave Payne Public Services Building, 1153 Exeter Road, until the new high school is completed. A first-class mailing will be sent to voters in this precinct.

Two precincts received new names due to construction in the Bloomfield Hills School

District. Precinct 4, located at 2800 Lahser Road, is now Bloomfield Hills High School—9th Grade Campus. Previous names for this location are Hickory Grove Elementary and Model High School. Precinct 24, once known as Lahser High School, is still at the same address, 3456 Lahser Road, but with a new name: Bloomfield Hills High School.

Still unsure of your precinct? Call us for more information or try the following precinct locator link: <http://michigan.gov/sos/0,1607,7-127-1633-49313--,00.html>.

Knowing your precinct location as well as the ballot content can save time on Election Day. Ballot samples for the Aug. 5, 2014 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, and county levels. Proposals include a state initiative on the use tax and a county renewal and increase for the Oakland County Public Transportation Authority. Renewals for four Bloomfield Township millages comprise Public Safety A, Public Safety B, Senior Services and the Safety Path Program. Further information on the Bloomfield Township proposals is included in this newsletter.

This election cycle begins in August and ends with the General Election on Nov. 4, 2014. Every vote counts and makes a difference. The Bloomfield Township 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 <http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/Services/Clerk/Elections.asp>.

Latest Water Quality Report is now available

Bloomfield Township is pleased to inform you that in 2013, 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 Environmental Quality (MDEQ). The 2013 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.

Go to www.bloomfieldtwp.org/WaterReport to view your 2013 Annual Water Quality Report and learn more about your drinking water.

If you would like a paper copy of the 2013 Annual Water Quality Report mailed to your home, please call the Department of Public Works at (248) 594-2800.



A NOTE FROM

Leo Savoie, Bloomfield Township Supervisor

Millage votes are critical for our community

We, the Bloomfield Township voters, have several important decisions to make at the polls on Aug. 5. In addition to the state-wide elections, there are four local millage renewals on the ballot. If these are all approved, our community's present level of services will stay the same and your tax rate will stay the same. If one or more of the four is defeated, we will face cuts that affect our public safety and/or our quality of community life. Please read the information in this column and on the other pages of this newsletter so that when you vote, you will be making an informed decision.

The two public safety proposals are separate questions. The two millages (we have four public safety millages altogether) were adopted at different times in the past and they are both up for renewal now.

- Proposal A would renew 1.3 mills which would result in revenues of \$3.6 million per year. If defeated it would mean that 35 positions – 20 police officers and 15 firefighters/EMS technicians – would be cut. Additionally, one fire station would be closed.

- Proposal B would renew 0.60 mills, or \$2.2 million in revenue per year. If defeated 25 positions – 10 police officers and 15 firefighters/EMS technicians – would be eliminated. Additionally, one fire station would be closed.

Voting down the proposals

would affect the Police Department's traffic patrols, crime investigations, special units, and many of their community services. For the Fire Department, defeat would impact firefighting operations, fire prevention programs and specialized rescue teams. The



Township firefighter Ed Lietz works at the scene of a fire.

closing of a fire station, one of the four Township stations that are strategically placed throughout the community, would increase response time. This is of extra concern because the number of EMS calls is steadily growing year after year.

The Senior Services proposal would renew 0.2498 mills, or \$769,000 per year for the operation of the Senior Center's programs and services. This amount is equal to 1/2 of 1 percent of your Bloomfield Township tax dollar. Since the Center opened in 2009, the number of

Township residents using it has grown significantly each year. The Center welcomes an average of 92 new people each month, combining with long-time patrons to total 300 – 400 people a day, six days a week.

If this proposal is not renewed, there will be cuts to the 75 programs and classes offered each week for our residents' enjoyment, enrichment and well-being. Additionally, we will have to make cuts to services such as Meals on Wheels, which delivers 12,700 hot meals annually and to our transportation assistance which provides 5,000 rides to the center per year. The Friendship Club, which annually provides 15,000 hours of compassion-

Finally, the renewal of the Safety Path millage would provide maintenance for the 70 miles of safety paths already in place throughout the Township and enable the construction of 11 miles of paths called for in the adopted Master Safety Path Plan. The proposal would renew 0.48 mills and provide \$1.5 million annually. The paths have become a popular enhancement to our community. Residents use them to jog, push strollers, walk their dogs and generally enjoy the safe routes they provide from neighborhood to neighborhood. The revenue from the millage also funds the retaining walls, bridges, fencing, mowing and tree trimming along the pathways.

When you consider your vote on each of these proposals, please keep in mind that just 25 percent of your property tax dollars stay in Bloomfield Township. The bulk of your tax payment goes to the county, the public schools and other public institutions. These four local millage renewals would continue services right here in our community.

Most importantly, remember these proposals are renewals, not requests for new taxes

or new spending. If passed, they will continue to fund the level of services we residents need, expect and appreciate.



Township police officers are constantly working to fight crime.

ate care to people with dementia – our residents or parents of our residents – would be affected.

Enjoy the Dream Cruise in classic style

Listen to the roar.

It's the sound of music to a car lover. And it can be just as enticing to anyone else who experiences the thrill of a high-performance car.

That's a hook that draws Township residents and others to the Bloomfield Township Classic Car Show and the Bill Wells Car Club Classic, held in conjunction with the annual Woodward Avenue Dream Cruise.

On Saturday, Aug. 16 – Dream Cruise Day – the Township will hold the Bill Wells Car Club Classic and the 10th annual Bloomfield Township Classic car show from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Bill Wells Car Club Classic will feature different car clubs while the Classic Car Show

shines the spotlight on classic cars owned by local folks. The Classic Car Show will be

Comerica Bank parking lot. In addition to the show cars, the event will feature a view-

live broadcast by 97.1 FM “The Ticket.” Admission to view the vehicles is free and parking is available for \$5.

All proceeds benefit the Bloomfield Hills Optimist Club, the Bloomfield Township Fire Department Charities and the Bloomfield Township Police Department Benevolent Fund.

Registrations are being accepted for both events. Registration for the Classic Car Show is \$50, and \$35 per car for the Bill Wells Car Club Classic.

For registration forms, go to the Bloomfield Township website, www.bloomfieldtwp.org and click on the “2104 Classic Car Show” link on the home page. For more information call (248) 642-7806.



Last year's Township Dream Cruise events proved to be a lot of fun for everyone.

held at the Mercedes Benz of Bloomfield Hills dealership, 36600 Woodward, and the Bill Wells Car Club Classic will be in the adjoining

ing area for the Woodward Dream Cruise with official merchandise sales, DJ entertainment, food, general parking, portable restrooms and a

Sign up for the eNewsletter

What's going on around town?

You can find out on a weekly basis through the Bloomfield Township eNewsletter. The eNewsletter is now being sent every Thursday afternoon. It contains items on what's happening in the area as well as timely announcements, such as snow emergency and other weather alerts, changes of office hours and news bulletins.

ENewsletters are also sent whenever there is an immediate need to relay a message to the public.

For the past several months, the eNewsletter has been gradually expanding to include more content and have a broader reach. Tracking of the Newsletter has shown that the number

of subscribers is growing and the amount of subscribers who “open” the eNewsletter delivered to their email inbox has increased dramatically.

You can subscribe to the eNewsletter by going to the Township website, www.bloomfieldtwp.org and clicking to the box at the upper left of the page. Or send your email address to gkowsalski@bloomfieldtwp.org and it will be added to the subscription list.

Non-profit local organizations may submit items for consideration to be included in the eNewsletter at gkowsalski@bloomfieldtwp.org.

For more Township updates, follow us on Twitter and like us on Facebook. We are committed to keeping you informed.

Dealing with a disaster

It was a tragedy.

A train carrying toxic chlorine derailed near Opdyke and Kensington roads in Bloomfield Township, forcing

the evacuation of the area and posing a serious health threat.

Immediately the Township's Emergency Operations Center was activated.

That part of the story was true. The part about the train crash was fictional – but frighteningly realistic.

Recently Township personnel took part in the annual EOC exercise on how to react to a simulated disaster. This year, the train wreck was envisioned, and all the Township departments coordinated their efforts to respond to the situation.

It was a valuable learning tool to be prepared in case a real disaster occurred.



Members of the Township Emergency Operations Center tested their ability to handle a disaster.

Millages from Page 1

While safety paths contribute greatly to the ambiance of the Township and help interconnect neighbors, public safety is a fundamental requirement of any community.

“We’re getting more calls every year,” Police Chief Geof Gaudard said. Should either or both public safety millages fail, the effect “would significantly impact services,” Gaudard said. If Proposal A fails, the department would have to eliminate 20 police officers. If proposal B fails, 10 positions could be cut. The impact on the Fire Department would be severe too. It could lose 15 firefighter/EMS positions if either proposal fails and in both cases one of the Township’s four fire stations would have to be closed

“Response time would be impacted,” said Chief Dave Piche. In 2013 the department recorded 4,054 runs. In all, 35



More and more residents take advantage of the fitness opportunities offered by the Senior Center.

percent were fire related and 65 percent were EMS related. “And our numbers increase every year,” Piche said. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on election day. Sample ballots and information on where to vote are available on the Township website, www.bloomfield-twp.org. Go to the “Clerk” tab and “Election” popup.



Community Liaison Officer Pete Matejcek teaches schoolchildren about safety.

The touching tale of a dangling duck

Firefighters can and often do, save lives. But their heroic work isn’t limited to the human kind. Here’s a true tale sent to the Fire Department recently by Township residents Frank and Bettina Burinsky:

Since the time we purchased our home in 2002, a mating pair of mallard ducks has returned each spring to our backyard pool during April and May.

On Sunday, May 11, my wife and I were horrified to observe “our” female duck dangling by one wing from an upper limb of one of our neighbor’s trees, some 25 feet off of the ground.

The duck had become entangled in a piece of fishing line that became hooked on the tip of a branch (apparently) as she flew by. Thanks to the ingenuity of the Bloomfield Township Fire Department and our neighbor, the duck was freed from her predicament, although we were unable, despite our best efforts, to cushion her fall to the ground.

Miraculously, the duck survived the impact, and (Animal Welfare) Officer Laura Joyce was kind enough to get the duck examined and X-rayed by a local veterinarian.

Miraculously again, the duck had not sustained any fractures from her time suspended in the tree nor from her fall.

Officer Joyce returned the duck to our pool, where the duck spent the next week convalescing. However, the duck showed no inclination to fly, which worried us tremendously.

We were away this most



Look closely at the tip of the tree branches and you can see the trapped duck.

recent weekend, and upon our return, there was no sign of the female duck nor her mate. We were not certain if this was good or a sign that the duck had fallen prey to a predator.

But on Tuesday, May 20, the duck and her mate landed on our pool and spent an hour or so here before departing.

By all appearances, the female duck is not suffering any ill effects from her ordeal.

Thank you to the BTFD and to Officer Joyce. Their kindness and skill turned a tragic situation into a happy ending.



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

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A new perspective on safety

One day this spring Township personnel and visitors from four other counties saw a demonstration of unmanned aerial vehicles from the Michigan Technical Research Institute.

There's an interest in using the devices to survey accident scenes. They provide "the opportunity to get the job done faster and better," said police Sgt. Craig Shackelford, of the Traffic Investigation Unit, who arranged for the demonstration.

During the event, a series of three of the units of different sizes were flown over open space in the Township Hall campus. The units, which are like mini-helicopters with

cameras attached, exhibited exceptional mobility, with the capability to hover over an accident scene and relay

images of the site below. This could prove critical in an accident where it is not easy to view the site, or where

potentially hazardous materials or a dangerous situation could exist.

Firefighters could get an overview of a blaze and respond in the safest, most effective way possible. They also could be used as an inexpensive means for mapping the Township. The Township's government access station, Bloomfield Community Television, already owns and uses an aerial unit equipped with a video camera to enhance some on-location productions. This is the only one the Township has acquired to date.

"Our objective is to apply technology so we can be efficient," Shackelford said.



A view of two colliding cars below from an aerial unit.