

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER



PGA Championship puts the spotlight on Bloomfield Township in August

Oakland Hills Country Club hosts The PGA Championship Tournament from Monday, Aug. 4, through Sunday, Aug. 10.

This tournament is one of the world's largest sporting events



The Township will again be in the spotlight when the PGA hosts its Championship at Oakland Hills Country Club August 4, through 10.

and it is an honor for Bloomfield Township to be the host community. We expect 200,000 people – spectators, media, and golfers – to visit during that week. Along with the prestige this brings us, it also requires us to take measures that may inconvenience some residents but are necessary to ensure public safety.

An event this large requires months of advanced planning and will bring about temporary changes to residents living near Oakland Hills. From residents to

businesses to visitors, Bloomfield Township wants to make sure everyone can enjoy this fantastic national event.

In anticipation of questions residents may have in relation to the event, the Township prepared a list of answers to frequently asked questions. Those questions can be found on page four of this newsletter. This information sheet can serve as a quick reference for pertinent PGA information. Find more detailed information on the Township website, www.bloomfieldtp.org.

New hours designed to enhance service, cut operating costs

Bloomfield Township begins a program of enhanced customer service and operational cost cutting in July by expanding its daily hours four days each week and closing on Fridays. These expanded hours should make it easier for residents to visit Township offices before or after work. Keeping the offices closed one more day a week should also help reduce building maintenance and utility costs.

Beginning July 7, Township offices will open an hour earlier, at 7 a.m., and close an hour later, at 5:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Police, Fire and Bloomfield Township Senior Services offices will not be impacted by this change and will retain their current operating hours.

The initiative is in response to rising energy costs. A similar change was made in the Police Department in 2007 where patrol officers were placed on 12-hour shifts. The results were

positive and quantifiable with reductions evident in overtime costs and increased productivity. The Clerk's office already operates under expanded hours two days each month. Departments essential to public safety -- Police, Fire and the Department of Public Works -- remain at the ready 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"The program will benefit employees but at the end of the day our number one priority is customer service."

Dave Payne
Township Supervisor

"Our employees are excited to be able to offer the public increased access to Township offices and are very willing to come in an hour early and stay an hour later," said Township Supervisor Dave Payne. "The program will benefit employees as well but at the end of the day our number one priority is customer service. That is what will drive our consideration of this

program going into the future."

Residents can take advantage of the Township's extensive service offerings on the web. By visiting www.bloomfieldtp.org, residents can access links to pay water and tax bills, download various building forms and applications, obtain assessing information and even research Township codes and ordinances.

"Moving to a four-day week would not have been possible a few years ago," Payne said. "But the web allows us to offer residents access to services and information at their convenience day or night."

The Bloomfield Township Board of Trustees approved the four-day week/expanded hours initiative during their regular meeting June 23.

The initiative is being implemented on a trial basis through December. However, the Board will review the pros and cons of the four-day week during their Sept. 22 meeting.



BLOOMFIELD
TOWNSHIP
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Increase water consumption to prevent dehydration this summer

The human body functions best when it is properly hydrated. Blood flows better, making skin more radiant and healthy looking, as well as helping with weight control and better kidney function.



Summer brings hotter temperatures, humidity and outdoor activities, increasing the body's need for water.

The body is 60 % water. Water is needed to transport

nutrients and waste to and from cells. As water volume in the body starts to decrease, cells and organs start having problems working properly and can even fail. On average, a person loses about 2.5 liters of water through urine and perspiration per day. Exercise, working outside, being in the sun too long, and not taking in enough water during the day all increase water loss.

There are three categories of dehydration: mild, medium and severe. Everyone at one time or another has suffered from mild dehydration.

Mild dehydration is marked by thirst, sweating, and muscle cramping. People in this stage need to get out of the heat, drink water, and rest.

Medium dehydration is distinguished by extreme thirst, dry mouth, weakness, lightheadedness, muscle cramping, little body sweating and dark or no urine production. People in this stage needs to start cooling off, drink water or a sports drink, and rest. Sufferers should seek medical help if they become nauseated after drinking water.

All of the aforementioned

symptoms, combined with intense muscle cramping, a lack of perspiration, high body temperatures and vomiting signal **severe dehydration**. This stage of dehydration is a medical emergency and can lead to organ failure and death. It requires immediate medical care.

To avoid even the mildest symptoms of dehydration, people should drink six to eight glasses of water or other non-alcoholic beverages each day. Increasing activity should lead to an increase in water consumption.

Summer is the perfect time to tackle home maintenance tasks



Simple preventive maintenance tasks can go far to protect a home. The Building Division suggests these tips for property owners.

- Check gutters for leaks and make sure downspouts are not plugged.
- Direct sprinkler heads away from a home's foundation. This minimizes soil erosion next to the walls and reduces the like-

lihood of water infiltration.

- Install anti-siphon devices at each hose bib to eliminate the possibility of lawn chemicals and pesticides getting into the potable water supply.
- Consider pumping your septic tank now. Contractors may offer reduced rates when digging through frozen ground isn't necessary.
- Re-treat your deck to enhance and prolong its life.
- Grills or barbecues can also be painted with special high temperature paint. Check the gas line and burners for signs of age.
- Lubricate the working parts of pool gates to make sure that they close and latch on their own.

- Practice deactivating the pool's suction pump in the event of an emergency.
- Tidy up around the AC condenser. Remove debris and leaves that have fallen on or into the unit.
- Homes cool more quickly when the humidity is controlled. Opening the windows, particularly on humid days, brings moisture into the structure. Leaving the AC on at a higher temperature setting when a home is vacant results in more efficient cooling.
- Lube garage door rollers and hinges and check the weather strip at the bottom.
- Keep fire extinguishers handy. Locate one in the garage, kitchen and wherever

gas-fired equipment operates. Check with the Fire Department for the proper size and type for each application.

- Don't paint meters or the disconnects for AC units or other mechanical equipment. If painted shut, they can be damaged when technicians try to open them for service.
- Installing GFI receptacles in the kitchen, bath, garage, and at outside locations is always a good investment.
- Contact any of the inspectors if you have code-related questions concerning doing some of your own work around the home.

Help sustain property values by maintaining yards, home exteriors

Spring and summer bring the Ordinance Division an increased number of property maintenance issues.

Overgrown grass and landscaping detract from a neighborhood's appeal as do fallen gutters, broken windows and

fascias in need of repair.

The Ordinance Division reminds residents to help the Township sustain property values by maintaining homes, lawns and landscaping. Cut grass, weed and trim landscape beds and shrubs, and remove

debris from the property, as necessary. Take care of home repairs and maintenance tasks in a timely manner.

To discuss ordinance issues please call 248.594.2845.





A NOTE FROM

Dave Payne, Bloomfield Township Supervisor

Good news is on the Township's horizon

Bloomfield Township's homeowners are not immune to the effects of the region's economic downturn. I don't need to add to the negative messages you hear from the media or experience yourself – we all know things are tough here and will remain so for the near future at least.

Amidst the gloomy reports, however, there are bits of good news on the horizon. The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) projects a slight population increase for

Oakland County over the next seven years. Economic forecasters from the University of Michigan predict the county will gain jobs by 2010. In light of predictions like these, it is imperative for Bloomfield Township to position itself to be able to take full advantage of any growth in the region. We must distinguish ourselves from surrounding communities in order to attract homebuyers to make their homes here and business owners to bring their businesses here.

We have some momentum.

Please read the article on this page that talks about business development up and down Telegraph Road. This is very encouraging. Good businesses attract other good businesses.

Our bond rating remains at the highest level any township can achieve, which confirms the Township's financial viability and keeps our borrowing costs as low as possible. It has not been necessary for us to cut any of our public services. Permit applications continue to stream into our Building Division as residents invest in

their homes by remodeling or renovating them.

In addition, this summer we have the unique opportunity to showcase our community during the 2008 PGA Championship. In spite of the temporary inconvenience some of us may experience as we enact steps to ensure public safety and security and to actually stage the event, more than 200,000 visitors will experience for themselves the appeal of Bloomfield Township. Millions more will catch glimpses of our community and hear a little bit about it as they watch one of golf's most prestigious tournaments on TV. This adds to our reputation as a very desirable community in which to live.

Bloomfield Township attracts business and beautification

Plenty of redevelopment can be seen throughout the Township and especially along Telegraph Road. The latest Sunrise Senior Assisted Living facility just south of Bloomfield Plaza on Telegraph is taking shape. It will be a great asset for the Township and its residents and contribute to the growing need to care for senior citizens. Sunrise Senior and the adjacent Bloomfield Plaza will share a natural symbiosis of consumer and supplier. A meandering walkway has been installed between the two parcels, and the entire development will be wonderfully landscaped. The assisted living building is scheduled to open in December 2008.

Near the Sunrise Assisted Living facility at Maple and Telegraph roads is the newly constructed BP Gas station. This building, with its stately but modern appearance of brick and masonry components will soon also house a

Tim Horton's. This will be the first Tim Horton's in the Township.

The nexus of redevelopment lies at the intersection of Telegraph Road and Square Lake Road, where the new Target store is nearing completion. This two-story building will provide parking beneath the store, shielding customers and their vehicles from inclement weather. The new store will use building materials that recall, in part, the

architecture of Cranbrook's campus. This Target store will be the first of its kind in Michigan. It is scheduled to open in October 2008.

Costco Warehouse, directly across the street from Target, is demolishing its store to make room for a larger Costco on the same site. The new Costco warehouse will provide a wider selection of merchandise and will complement its new gas station as well. The store was closed on

May 13, 2008. The new building is scheduled to be completed and open by November 2008. The Telegraph Road median in front of the new Target and Costco stores will also be re-landscaped. This upgrade in landscaping will coincide with the respective developments as part of the Telegraph Road beautification project.

LA Fitness is also nearing completion, located just south of Carl's Golf Land on Telegraph. The building is constructed on the site of the previous Frank's Nursery. The fitness center boasts racquetball courts, a pool, a second story basketball court, modern gym amenities and a children's play area. The fitness center is projected to open in June 2008.

The Smart Car Center of Bloomfield is located on Telegraph Road near Lowe's. This dealership also serves as

Please see "Development" on page 7



This Telegraph Road view of the new Target store illustrates the building's resemblance to the architecture of Cranbrook's campus.



The new Sunrise Senior Assisted Living facility on Telegraph Road south of Maple Road will feature a landscaped walkway to adjacent Bloomfield Plaza.

The PGA Championship and its impact on Bloomfield Township

Which roads will be closed?

Maple Road will be closed from just east of Telegraph (at the Telegraph-Maple bypass) to Lahser Road. Gilbert Lake Road will be closed from Hills Drive south to Maple. **ACCESS TO ALL BUSINESSES WILL REMAIN OPEN.**

Which roads will be restricted to traffic?

Roads in all or parts of Oakland Hills Country Club Subdivision, Oakland Hills Vistas and Miller Estates I, II and III will be restricted to residents and their guests only. (For a listing of streets, please visit www.bloomfieldtpw.org) All vehicles entering these subdivisions will need a permit. Residents on these streets should have received a postcard telling them when they can pick up their vehicle permits. There will be detailed information for these homeowners included with the vehicle permit that will provide information about access to their streets.

What about parking on nearby roads?

Roads beyond the restricted area but still near OHCC will be considered “No Parking” areas. “No Parking” signs will be posted. Residents on those streets must keep their vehicles, and the vehicles of their guests, contractors and landscape service, in their driveways or garages. This applies 24 hours a day for the seven-day event. Cars left on the street will be towed at the owners’ expense.

Generally, this area is bordered by Quarton Road on the north, 14 Mile Road on the south, Cranbrook Road on the east and Worlington, Spruce and Cathedral on the west. *Please check the map on the website to verify specific roads.*

Where is general parking for the event?

The PGA and OHCC strongly recommend that all spectators park at the Silverdome in Pontiac and take the shuttle

buses that are provided for this purpose. This not only will minimize the impact on Township neighborhoods and businesses, but it offers convenience to the ticket holders as they will be dropped off right on the grounds of OHCC. There is no cost to ticket holders for this service. There will be approximately 100 buses running continuously to and from OHCC from 6:45 a.m. until approximately 8:30 p.m. The bus ride will take approximately 25 minutes.

Can spectators be dropped off and picked up near OHCC?

To ensure public safety and to protect the interests of nearby neighborhoods and businesses, no vehicles will be allowed to stop on a thoroughfare or right-of-way to drop off or pick up spectators.



Will there be any pedestrian entrances?

Ticket holders who do not arrive by the Silverdome shuttle buses may enter the PGA from two pedestrian entrances – one on Red Maple Lane and the other on Gilbert Lake Road. Security checks will be conducted at those entrances.

Can I use a golf cart or bicycle to get to the PGA?

Except for those used by the PGA, public safety officials and other officials working at the PGA, small motor vehicles such as golf carts will not be allowed on any road. There is no area to safely park and lock bicycles.

May I sell parking spaces on my property?

Homeowners not living on a restricted street and not living on Lahser Road may sell parking places on their property without obtaining a permit. You will be able to post one sign per property to advertise. Please be aware, however, that police will be intent upon keeping traffic moving; drivers will not be allowed to slow down traffic while they “shop” for a space. Additionally, cars must use only the driveway to enter or exit the property. Businesses, nonprofit organizations and places of worship are required to obtain a Special Event Permit for selling parking. Special Event Permit applications can be downloaded from the Township website.

Will businesses be accessible?

Yes. Access to all businesses will remain open.

If I wish to host a party at my home, do I need a Special Events Permit?

Parties that will have an impact on the neighborhood (for example, increased traffic or noise) will need a Special Events Permit. The Special Events Permit application can be downloaded from the Township website.

What about the construction of the temporary PGA structures?

Construction has already begun. There will be approximately 250 temporary structures totaling approximately 300,000 sq. ft. of floor area. Hours for construction will be 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. These hours may be extended close to the time of event. Deconstruction will begin immediately after the event and be completed by November 1.

See all the action in comfort and style while beating the Dream Cruise crowds at the Bloomfield Township Classic

For the fourth year in a row Mercedes-Benz of Bloomfield Hills will be the site of the Bloomfield Township Classic, one of the premiere free events happening along Woodward Avenue during the 14th Annual Woodward Dream Cruise.

The Classic, a free car show and party coinciding with the Aug. 16 Dream Cruise, is the perfect destination for people interested in seeing all the action along Woodward in a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere. The free show and party is held from 1 p.m.–5 p.m. at the Mercedes-Benz of Bloomfield Hills dealership

on Woodward just south of Quarton.

Spots are still available for owners of pre-1972 classic or specialty cars looking to be part of the Bloomfield Township Classic.

Several additions to the party this year promise to make it a perfect event for spectators and car show participants. First, visitors to the Classic Car Show will be able to enjoy watching cars roll by on Woodward from the comfort of bleachers set up along the avenue. A DJ will spin hits from the 50s and 60s to provide the perfect sound track. Car show registrants will

The Classic attracts exciting cars like this GT 40 replica. The GT 40 was Ford's famed Ferrari killer in 1966 and was the inspiration behind the more recent Ford GT.



Bloomfield Township resident Charles Riley poses with his Hemi Charger during the 2007 Bloomfield Township Classic Car Show.

enjoy the flexibility of being able to come and go at will.

Again this year, a two-tiered entry system enables car owners to either pay \$100 to register their car and receive an official Dream Cruise polo shirt or forego the shirt for an entrance fee of \$75.

This car show, party and charity event was started by a group of Township car enthusiasts looking to involve their neighbors in the largest one-day auto event in the world. Proceeds from car registrations and sponsorships go to

help The Bloomfield Hills Optimists Club, the Bloomfield Township Fire Department Charities and Oakland Family Services.

Mercedes-Benz of Bloomfield owner Charles Ghesquiere again this year makes the Bloomfield Township Classic possible by donating the use of his dealership.

To enter a pre-1972 classic or specialty car, call 248.433.7790 or find the entry form online at www.bloomfieldtwp.org.

Improvements continue to improve reliability and longevity of water system

In 2003, the Township developed a long-term capital improvement program for pipe replacement within the older subdivision areas that contain small diameter water mains and inferior pipe material. The areas identified for replacement were evaluated and then ranked based on historical maintenance and repair criteria.

The program successfully began in the Hickory Heights Subdivision north of Wattles Road and west of Adams Road, where more than six miles of new water main pipe was constructed by a method

of directional bore. This trench-less installation process limited the disturbances above ground that can be common with conventional excavation methods.

The next phase starts this summer with the installation of new water mains in the Charing Cross Estates Subdivision located west of Adams, south of Wattles. Following that project, the Colberry Park Subdivision, located south of Square Lake Road, east of Woodward will receive new water mains.

Some of the benefits include: improved water vol-

ume, reliability of fire hydrants and water system longevity. The program also reduces maintenance costs currently

spent on repairs and compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Opinions sought about senior services

Bloomfield Township Senior Services wants to know what residents think about its service. BTSS is sending out a survey to residents 50 and older later this summer. The survey intends to take a random sampling of opinions. One in four households will be asked to participate.

BTSS enjoyed great success the last time it sampled opin-

ion with a 26 percent response rate. The department hopes to beat that response rate this time. If you receive a survey in the mail, take a moment to let the Township and BTSS know what you think of the services provided. For further information call Bloomfield Township Senior Services at 248.341.6450

Spring Events Beautify the Community and Protect the Environment

Bloomfield Township hosted three important and well-attended environmental and conservation events this spring: The Annual Clean Sweep, the Electronic Recycling, Medication Disposal & Paper Shredding Event, and Household Hazardous Waste Collection.

The third annual Clean Sweep program was a success. The event took place the weekend of April 19 and 20 in 40 different locations throughout the Township, and involved 400 volunteers. Together they collected eight cubic yards of trash and 45 cubic yards of yard waste. Numerous dead trees and branches were also picked up along with many tires, bumpers and other assorted debris.

An Electronic Recycling, Medication Disposal and Paper Shredding Event coin-

cided with the Clean Sweep Program on April 19. A total of 613 residents participated and dropped off unwanted computers, electronic goods, old prescriptions and personal papers. The Engineering and Environmental Service Department, Police Department, and the Department of Public Works collaborated on the event and collected more than 56,000 pounds of electronics and nearly 500 pounds of medical waste. In addition, an estimated 11,000 pounds of paper were shredded through the event. The cost of this event was offset by a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency.

More than 900 vehicles passed through the collection line during the Household Hazardous Waste collection event. This event resulted in the collection and proper dis-

posal of thousands of pounds of assorted hazardous materials. The Township also replaced 24 mercury-filled thermometers with digital

thermometers at no charge. The continued success of these events is a testament to the value residents place on protecting their environment.

Bloomfield Township hosted three well-attended conservation events this spring: Clean Sweep, Household Hazardous Waste Collection and the Electronic Recycling, Medication Disposal & Paper Shredding Event.



Residents disposed of more than 500 pounds of medical waste during the Township's Medical Waste Disposal event.

Millage renewal will continue Safety Path linkage throughout the Township

Residents will be asked Aug. 5 to renew the Township's Safety Path Millage for another five-year period in order to continue building and connecting new pathways.

The ballot proposal requests a renewal of the .53 mill Safety Path Millage for a five-year period. Due to provisions of the Headlee Rollback the Township collects .4839 mills of the .53 mills voters approved when the measure was first approved in 1998.

Voters approved a renewal of the .53 mill Safety Path measure in 2004. That renewal helped the Township continue construction of safety paths along the main roads bordering neighborhoods.

This enabled people to walk to schools, places of worship and other local destinations on paved pathways, safely away from traffic.

It is estimated that this renewal, if approved, will result in the collection of approximately \$1.9 million in

2009, the first levied year. Money collected will go to pay for the next phase of construction of new paths that will link many existing paths together. This will allow people to walk for extended distances along the safety path system, rather than limit-

ing people to the area immediately abutting their own neighborhood. The renewal will also fund ongoing maintenance of the paths as well as acquisition of rights-of-way.

The plan for continuation of safety paths preserves, to the greatest extent possible, the surrounding natural features. It is based on anticipated usage, according to input from residents.

Moving forward, a renewal of the Safety Path Millage will mean work on expanding the system will continue. Several projects have already been recommended. They include safety paths at Woodward Avenue north of Square Lake Road and Maple east of Lahser Road.



On August 5, voters will be asked to continue supporting the Township's Safety Path program by approving the renewal of an existing .53 mill Safety Path Millage.

Warm weather brings the danger of “Gypsy” home invasions

With the warmer weather, Township residents will be working around their homes planting, pruning, and recreating. Many residents will be far too busy outside their home to know what's going on inside, especially if the exterior doors to the home are all left

unlocked.

Groups of daylight burglars, also known as ‘Gypsies’, target homes whose owners are outside working. The burglars will wait until the homeowners are distracted or go to another side of the house. Then, they simply walk into the home

through any unlocked door and take anything of value that can be put into a pocket. More often than not, weeks or months can pass before a homeowner discovers their valuables are gone.

Preventing this crime is simple: When working outside,

lock all doors that cannot be directly observed. This includes closing garage doors. An open garage door is an invitation to burglars as the door from the garage to the house is seldom locked.

Drug dangers lurk in a home's medicine cabinet

There is a misconception that kids need to go to some seedy back alley and deal with dangerous criminals to get drugs. Quite the contrary.



scribed by a physician whose job it is to match the drug with the patient. When prescribed and used correctly, the drug can do exactly what it was designed to do. When a prescription drug is taken by someone other than the intended patient, illness, dependence, and even death can result.

Popular prescription drugs include antidepressants, stimulants, sedatives, and pain relievers. Other drugs may be stolen for experimentation.

Parents are not without weapons to combat this serious threat to their children's health and safety.

First, they can set the example. Kids are greatly influenced by their parents' attitude toward alcohol and drug use. They should also speak to their children about the dangers of drugs, even the legal ones. Legally prescribed drugs can be as dangerous as any others. Kids need to understand that there is nothing safe about abusing prescription or over-the-counter drugs. Parents should also do an inventory of medications and monitor their quantities. Medications should be kept in a secure area where children cannot find them.

“Development” from page 3

the North American headquarters for Smart Car USA. The building features a sleek, modernized appearance as well as a demonstration track area for the unique cars. The dealership is currently open for business.

The development of Bloomfield Park is currently underway on Telegraph Road north of Square Lake. Bloomfield Park is a multi-faceted development that will include shops, restaurants, a cinema and eventually a residential component. While

most of this development lies in the City of Pontiac, the cinema and five other buildings will be located within the Township. Bloomfield Park will provide a valuable community service in terms of cuisine and commerce, while contributing to the overall vitality and aesthetics of Telegraph Road. Various components of the project will open within the following years.

Great potential for redevelopment exists on Woodward Avenue. The Marathon gas station at Woodward Avenue and Square Lake Road has undergone a major facelift, updating the building's appearance as well as adding a matching

canopy for the pumps. The gas station reopened in February. More projects are currently in the works, proving that the Township maintains a healthy business climate.

Also, the 2008 PGA Championship will prove to be a monumental undertaking for the Township. Many temporary structures, or chalets, will be constructed at Oakland Hills Country Club. The Planning and Building divisions will assist in the placement of structures and the issuance of permits. The planning and coordination that goes into an event this big requires great effort by everyone involved.

Make home security a proactive habit



Residents often ask me what they can do to improve their home's security. My response is always to tell them to keep doors and windows locked, use the alarm system, and keep cars parked in a closed and locked garage. My response is often met with objections as people view these steps as an inconvenience.

There is no secret behind home safety. There aren't any shortcuts, either. Most of home security is simply using what is available. A lock that is unused might as well not even exist. The same holds for an alarm system that is never set. I could retire today if I had five dollars for every time I heard a crime victim say they wish they would have locked their doors or windows or set their home's alarm.

People tend to be creatures of habit. We wake up at the same time, drive to work along the same route, and eat things with which we are familiar. Home security should become one of those habits.

Community Liaison Officer Pete Matejick can be reached at 248.433.7724.

Dedicated millage, not state funds, pays for Township road maintenance



Bloomfield Township is the only township in the state that directly provides road maintenance to its residents

Some Bloomfield Township residents are concerned about the condition of their subdivision roads and have asked Township officials about making improvements to them. This article is intended to provide general background regarding responsibility for maintenance of our roads and the historic methods of their funding. It will also give information that will help the homeowner understand the options available.

A state law, Public Act 51 (PA 51), establishes the distribution of funds for the maintenance of certified local subdivision roads and major thoroughfares in the State of Michigan. The sources of this funding are gas taxes and vehicle registration fees. Cities and counties are considered to be the owners of all public streets and roads in the state and as such, have responsibility for their maintenance and repair.

Bloomfield Township is an exception to this. It is the only township in the state that

directly provides road maintenance to its residents. In the late 1960s, at the request of the Township, PA 51 was adjusted to allow us to enter into a contractual agreement with Oakland County to take over the maintenance and repair of our own subdivision roads. The Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) retained maintenance responsibility for all thoroughfares other than subdivision roads. Additionally, the RCOC maintained legal jurisdiction over all the roadways within the Township.

A condition of this agreement mandated that Bloomfield Township pass a special 1-mill millage for the maintenance of subdivision roads. We cannot use PA 51 funding for the replacement or reconstruction of subdivision roads, or for the paving of gravel roads. The reasoning was – and still is today – that local roads only benefit residents in that specific area. Subdivision roads do not provide a thoroughfare for general traffic, so state funding from PA 51 cannot provide for their improvement.

The typical life span of a road is 20 years. Most roads in the Township's subdivisions are considerably older than 20 years and many of them show their age. Road replacement, however, is costly.

Bloomfield Township cur-

rently levies .7169 mills for the maintenance and routine repair of subdivision roads. For a homeowner with a Taxable Value of \$200,000, this works out to \$143.38 a year. That amount stretches to cover plowing, salting, sweeping and patching of more than 230 miles of concrete and asphalt subdivision roads, plus the grading and dust control of 34 miles of gravel roads. The millage was never intended to cover major projects such as the replacement or reconstruction of a road or the paving of gravel roads.

For road replacement or reconstruction projects in subdivisions, the creation of a Special Assessment District (SAD) is necessary. This puts the responsibility of the subdivision roads on the homeowners in each subdivision. The cost of road replacement or reconstruction projects varies depending on the size of the lots and the nature of the improvements. Based on 2008 construction costs and understanding that specific projects

may differ somewhat, the following information may be used to estimate costs for an average size lot.

- To pulverize and pave an asphalt road with open ditches: \$3,000 to \$6,000.
- To repair or replace asphalt roads with concrete curbs: \$5,000 to \$8,000.
- To totally replace a concrete road with concrete curbs: \$8,000 to \$11,000.

Homeowners interested in creating a Special Assessment District should contact Subdivision Improvements at RCOC, 248.645.2000. RCOC will explain the process, which begins with a petition signed by property owners. Once the petition is submitted, RCOC will do an estimate of costs. The RCOC Board would then have to approve the process and determine the special assessment for property owners, to be paid over a specified period of time.

Bloomfield Township currently levies .7169 mills for the maintenance and routine repair of subdivision roads. For a homeowner with a Taxable Value of \$200,000, this works out to \$143.38 a year.



Conserve water during the summer's peak usage period

With the height of summer here, Bloomfield Township reminds residents to conserve an important natural resource, water.

Reducing water overall helps residents reduce charges but reducing usage during peak hours helps the entire system perform at its most

efficient level.

Reducing consumption during peak demand periods provides for better reliability of the system's operating pressure. Operating pressure is essential in fire suppression.

Warmer temperatures bring added demand for water for recreational use and to keep

yards and plants healthy.

Residents can maintain attractive lawns and garden areas and help to conserve water by following these guidelines:

- Set automatic sprinkling systems so they run from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m.
- Water lawns every other

day. Homeowners with addresses ending in odd numbers should water outdoors only on odd numbered calendar days; those with even-numbered address should use water outdoors on even calendar days.

- Check to make sure faucets and toilets are not leaking.

Absentee Voting and Frequently Asked Questions

The procedures for absentee voting are often misunderstood, especially during the gubernatorial and presidential elections. In an attempt to simplify the process, the list below provides frequently asked questions that address the *most common* situations.

Who is eligible to obtain an absentee ballot?

A registered voter is eligible to obtain an absentee ballot for an upcoming election if one of the following reasons applies: 1) 60 years of age or older; 2) anticipated absence from the community in which the voter is registered for the entire time the polls are open on election day; 3) physically unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another; 4) unable to attend the polls because of religious beliefs; 5) appointed as an election inspector in a precinct other than the precinct where the voter resides; and 6) unable to attend the polls because the voter is confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial.

A person who registers to vote *by mail* must vote *in person* in the first election in which he or she participates. This restriction does not apply to overseas voters, physically disabled voters or voters who are 60 years of age or older.

Visit the Clerk's Office and complete an application for an absentee ballot or call the Clerk's Office at 248.433.7702 to request an application by mail. The application is also available on our website at www.bloomfieldtwp.org.

Do I have to use a preprinted application in order to receive an absentee ballot?

No. An absentee ballot can be issued as long as the registered voter submits a written request, which includes a statutory reason for the request (see #1 - *Who is Eligible?*), the applicant's signature and mailing address.

What is the Permanent Absentee Voter List?

This list contains the names of registered voters in Bloomfield Township who have submitted a verbal or written request to be placed on the Permanent

Absentee Voter List. The benefit to being on this list is that it allows the voter to automatically receive an *Absentee Voter Application* for every election. Any registered voter can request to be on this list. Upon receipt of the application for a ballot, the voter must select one of the six reasons to receive a ballot.

I've been on the Permanent Absentee Voter List for many years. Why do I have to make a formal request now?

Recent challenges to Michigan election laws require the Clerk's Office to have a written or verbal request from any registered voter wishing Permanent Absentee Voter status. To comply with this requirement, the Township recently mailed a **Registered Absentee Voter Response Card** to all registered voters with permanent absentee voter status and registered voters over 60 years of age as of April 1, 2008, asking if they wished to remain or be placed on the Permanent Absentee Voter List.

If I am on the Permanent Absentee Voter List, will I automatically receive an absentee ballot for every election?

No. Absentee ballots are *not* automatically sent to a voter unless a completed application is submitted first. Applications for an absentee ballot are sent to people on the Permanent Absentee Voter List for every election, except even year elections. In those elections, the Clerk's Office sends a dual application for an absentee ballot, allowing the voter to request a ballot for both the August and November elections on one convenient form.

Can college students request an absentee ballot or request to be on the Permanent Absentee Voter List?

College students away at school, *who registered in person* to vote in Bloomfield Township, are encouraged to take advantage of the absentee voting process. They can request a ballot for a specific election or request to be placed on the Permanent Absentee List. The convenience of either procedure allows the ballot to be sent directly to the student's college address. However, college students

who register to vote *by mail* must vote in person the first time in which they participate (see #1 - *Who is Eligible?*).

Can I pick up a ballot for a family member or friend?

No. Ballots can only be given to the registered voter. Ballots must be mailed to the registered address of the voter, mailed to the alternate temporary address listed on the AV Ballot Application or picked up in person. Emergency situations can be addressed directly to the Clerk, Janet Roncelli.

When do I have to return my ballot?

All absentee ballots must be returned to the Clerk's Office by 8 p.m. on election day. Ballots may be returned by mail (express mail is suggested for out-of-state and out-of-country voters), deposited in our 24-hour drop-box in the front lobby or dropped off at the Clerk's Office during business hours, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

Will my absentee ballot be forwarded along with my other mail while I am on vacation?

Absentee ballots must be sent to your registered address. You must request in writing that you want your ballot sent to an alternate address. The preprinted application provides for this information.

What if I receive an application for an absentee ballot, but decide to vote at the polls?

A voter can still vote in person simply by not returning the absentee ballot application for processing. Even if the voter changes their mind after receiving a ballot, they can still vote in person by not voting the absentee ballot and appearing at the polls in person, preferably with the unvoted ballot in hand, so it can be spoiled.

How can I be placed on the Permanent Absentee Voter List?

If you would like to be added to the Permanent Absentee Voter List, complete the form on the back page of this newsletter and return it to the Clerk's office.

REQUEST TO BE ADDED TO THE PERMANENT ABSENTEE VOTER LIST

The permanent absentee voter list contains names of registered voters in Bloomfield Township who have submitted a written request for an *absentee ballot application*. Any registered voter can request to be on this list. Upon receipt of the application, the voter must select one of the following six reasons to qualify for the list



tered for the entire time the polls are open on election day.

- I'm 60 years old or older.
- I will be absent from the community in which I am regis-

- I'm physically unable to attend the polls.
- I can't attend the polls because of the tenets of my religion.
- I've been appointed an election precinct inspector in a precinct other than the precinct where I reside.
- I can't attend the polls because I am confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial.



The front cover features Township Motor Pool

Foreman Gary Barnes. Gary has been with the Township since 1983 when he started as a light duty mechanic. Today he works

on the largest vehicles in the Township fleet and supervises a team of five mechanics. Gary said he enjoys the challenge of his job and likes knowing that his efforts keep important emergency equipment like snow plows and fire trucks in good working order.

YES, please add my name to your Permanent Absentee Voter List. I understand that I will automatically receive an Absentee Ballot Application prior to each

election until such time that I should request to have my name removed. I understand that on the application I will be required to check a reason for requesting a ballot.

X _____
Signature

Printed Name

Date

Address

City

Zip

E-mail

Phone

PLEASE MAIL OR FAX THIS FORM TO:
FAX: 248-642-7610
MAIL: Janet Roncelli, Bloomfield Township Clerk
4200 Telegraph Road, Bloomfield Township, MI 48302

Please Note: Absentee ballots for the August 5, 2008 Primary Election require first-class postage of \$0.59

433-7700	Administration
433-7712	Accounting
433-7710	Assessor's Office
433-7715	Building Dept.
433-7702	Clerk's Office
433-7790	Community Cable
594-2800	Engineering & Env.
433-7745	Fire Non-Emergency
433-7750	Police Department
433-7750	Administration
433-7755	Non-Emergency
433-7757	Animal Welfare
433-7760	Investigations
433-7775	Alarm Info
433-7777	Property
433-7776	Records
433-7709	Road Division
433-7731	Water & Sewer
341-6450	Senior Services
335-2813	Adult Day Service
433-7705	Treasurer's Office

TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY

4200 TELEGRAPH ROAD
 PO BOX 489
 BLOOMFIELD HILLS MI 48303-0489

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

