



BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Building is booming across the Township

“We’re bursting at the seams, and it’s all good.”

That’s how Patti Voelker, Director of the Township Planning, Building and Ordinance Department, described the growth spurt Bloomfield Township is experiencing.

Like virtually the rest of the country, Bloomfield Township was hobbled by the recession that smothered growth beginning in 2008. Home foreclosures jumped up, housing sales plummeted and business development stalled.

But slowly the economic freeze has thawed and building and buying are on the upswing again.

“We have a lot of commercial activity,” Patti said. That includes

the new Life Time Executive Athletic Club going up now on Telegraph near Long Lake Road; Mex restaurant, which is going into the former Big Boy restaurant building farther south on Telegraph and the new Fifth Tavern going into the former Rio Bravo/Mountain Jack building, also on Telegraph.

“We also have less visible new tenant projects in existing



Construction is under way at the Life Time Fitness on Telegraph.

office and retail centers,” Patti said. “It’s keeping us very busy.” The story is in the numbers. According to the Planning

Please see **Building** on page 4

Preparing for the worst

What if a tornado came roaring through Bloomfield Township, destroying thousands of homes?

What would you do? What would the Township do?

You would get help promptly. The Township took steps to assure that with its latest Emergency Management exercise held at Township Hall.

The event pulled together all the departments in the township to map out a coordinated strategy to handle any type of emer-

gency. In this latest exercise, plans were developed on how to react to a devastating torna-



Police Capt. Steve Cook helps Township personnel prepare for an emergency situation.

do, focusing on the long-term cleanup. Other exercises considered such potential disasters as an oil pipeline break.

Helping with the plan was Lt. Mark Martinez, Michigan State Police-Emergency Management Homeland Security Division. Also participating was Greg Morrow from Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, who specializes in environmental waste.

The plan ensures that the Township can respond promptly and in an orderly fashion to any emergency.



**BLOOMFIELD
TOWNSHIP
BOARD
2013**

ELECTED OFFICIALS

ADMINISTRATION

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

TRUSTEES

David Buckley
Neal J. Barnett
Brian Kepes
Corinne Khederian

APPOINTED POSITIONS

PLANNING COMMISSION

Scot Goldberg, Chairman
Jeff Salz, Vice Chairman
Neal Barnett
Tad Krear
Richard Mintz
Thomas Petinga
Lisa Seneker

BOARD OF APPEALS

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

Save the date...

October 5

Household Hazardous
Waste Drop-Off Day

See the website for details
<http://www.bloomfield-twp.org/Services/EES/Environment/HHW.asp> or call
248-594-2800

October 13

Township Open House

December 13

Last yard waste pickup

Volunteer opportunities abound

With the start of each school year come requirements for students to participate in community service projects. And many adults are looking for volunteer opportunities. In either case there are plenty of things to do. Township Clerk Jan Roncelli has provided a sampling:

Clerk's Office:

- ◆ Election Inspector – assist during an election by working at a precinct or in the Absent Voter Counting Board room. Position may be paid or community service as decided by the volunteer.
- ◆ Office Assistance – assist staff during an election or in the summer. Community service position only.

The Clerk's Office positions require that you are at least 16 years old.

For more information contact Clerk Jan Roncelli at jroncelli@bloomfieldtwp.org. Phone: (248) 433-7703, or Deana Mondock, Deputy Clerk at dmondock@bloomfieldtwp.org. Phone: (248) 433-7780.

Senior Services:

All Senior Services positions are community service opportunities only, require that you are at least 18 years old and, preferably, a Township resident.

- ◆ Computer Lab Volunteer – Assist with solving personal computer problems as well as monitor the lab during open hours.
- ◆ Musical Talent Volunteer – Join a singing group or play an instrument to provide entertainment for seniors.
- ◆ Grocery/Errands Shopper (must have own car) – This volunteer driver position is designed to assist non-driving elders with their local grocery shopping and errands. The time commitment is approximately a two-hour visit each month. Schedule is flexible.

- ◆ Meals on Wheels Driver – Regular and substitute drivers are needed. Meal delivery occurs in the morning hours, Monday through Friday.
- ◆ Adult Day Service Volunteer – Volunteers will be directly involved with the program participants. Activities may include art, playing various table games, reading, reminiscing, and exercise. Scheduling is based on your availability. Training and support provided.
- ◆ Office Volunteer – Answer phones, direct calls, greet visitors, take registrations for trips and programs and assist staff.
- ◆ Telephone Reassurance Callers – Volunteers provide a daily (Monday – Friday) reassurance telephone call to frail and/or isolated seniors.
- ◆ Medical Appointment Drivers – Volunteer driver provide transportation to medical appointments to senior residents.

For more information contact Joan Patzelt, volunteer coordinator, at (248) 723-3500.

Animal Welfare:

All Animal Welfare positions are community service opportunities only.

- ◆ Computer Assistance – Assist the department by making posters, flyers and other computer projects when needed.
- ◆ Initiate a pet supply drive – Head up a project to donate unwanted pet items that may be of use to the Township's animal shelter: carriers, collars, toys, leashes, blankets, bird cages, pillows, feeders, etc. For more information contact Laura Joyce, animal welfare officer, at (248) 433-7757.

Eagle Scout projects:

Eagle Scout projects have been completed with the Township's assistance. Some examples are:

- ◆ Fire hydrant markings – allows easier detection at night for Fire Department personnel.
- ◆ Wildflower garden.
- ◆ Meadow Lake Bioswale.

For more information contact Clerk Jan Roncelli at the above numbers.



Helping out at election time is one of many volunteer opportunities available at the Township.



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



A NOTE FROM

Leo Savoie, Bloomfield Township Supervisor

It's been a busy summer in Bloomfield Twp.

It's hard to believe summer is nearly over. It feels like just yesterday we were looking at the first signs of spring. Much has happened over the summer so let me recap the highs and the lows.

We have completed two additional neighborhood paving projects. These came at the request of the residents in those neighborhoods (see accompanying photos). We already have two more projects scheduled for 2014 totaling approximately nine miles of road and we have approximately 10 neighborhoods that are considering different projects.



Hoit Tower shows wear before the road paving project began.



Hoit Tower after road construction was completed.

Several years ago Bloomfield Township joined the South Oakland County Water Authority (SOCWA)

as a customer. Our goal is to join SOCWA as a member. Over the past two years we have saved approximately \$4.1 million in water charges by joining SOCWA rather than purchasing water through the City of Detroit. I know our water rates have gone up but they would have gone up even more had we not become a SOCWA customer.

Our agreement with SOCWA requires us to make several improvements to the water system. These upgrades will cost approximately \$800,000. We expect the first phase of the upgrades to be done this fall and the final

phase to be done in the spring.

There have been a number of questions regarding the proposed pension obligation bond sale since the City of Detroit's bankruptcy filing. Several municipalities and counties have chosen not to go forward with proposed bond sales. We are continuing to go forward with the process through the state to put ourselves in a position to proceed if it makes economic sense. None of the other governmental entities have the same AAA rating we have at Bloomfield Township.

Standard & Poor's was aware of the potential filing when it reaffirmed our rating in the spring. We will continue to work with our financial

advisers, municipal adviser and bond counsel to insure the best possible results.

There have been a number of storms this summer. The Township staff performed superbly in clearing the streets, re-grading and general cleanup. These storms caused several power outages. In the last newsletter we indicated the progress that has been made with DTE and power outages throughout the Township. DTE spent a lot to upgrade its substations and clear trees. As soon as the last newsletter came out the first of three major outages occurred, which caused a great deal of frustration among the residents – including me. I will say DTE was very good about staying in touch with us, however, that does not do much for people who were without power for five days or longer. We will be meeting again with DTE in the fall and continue to keep pressure on them.

We are closing in on the six-month mark of the budget year. We have been meeting with all the department heads to insure each department stays under budget. We are already reviewing the 2014/2015 budget year. It will be a tight year in 2014/2015. Although property values have gone up significantly (which is beneficial to all of us) the Consumer Price Index, which determines the increase of the taxable value of a property, is expected as of now to be approximately 1.6 percent. Township costs

will probably exceed that amount so we will be looking for ways to balance the budget without impacting services. I feel confident we will meet our goals.

We are closing out the Five Year Strategic Plan. This has allowed Bloomfield Township to weather the economic downturn that has impacted all levels of government and most of us individually. I am going to write a review of the plan that will be on the website by year's end.

In the upcoming months I am going to prepare a 10-year plan for infrastructure replacement. While the County owns all of the roads, Bloomfield Township owns the local water and sewer system. We have been able to build reserves for the replacement of the system, however, I already know we will be spending approximately \$15 million in water line replacement over the next 36 months. Many components of our buildings will need to be replaced over the next 10 years. By identifying those needs today we can properly plan our budgets in the future.

Have a great fall. If you have any comments, questions or concerns please don't hesitate to call.

Subscribe to the Township's e-newsletter to receive an update on the latest news each week. Go to <http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org> and click the e-newsletter button on the left side of the page to subscribe.

BUILDING from page 1

Department, new residential home construction is up 183 percent over last year with a total of 22 new home permits issued as of June 1. Last year at this time only 12 permits had been issued. Residential demolition permits are up 217 percent over last year with 13 permits issued as of June 1, compared to six issued at this time last year.

People continue to invest in their properties, although the 2013 construction season started off at a slightly slower rate than last year. Some 219 permits for residential alterations and additions were issued as of June 1 compared to 312 permits issued by June 1 in 2012. It's anticipated that residential permit activity will continue strong through to the end of the year.

Bloomfield Township is primarily a residential community. There are about 14,000 single family homes in the township along with 3,343 condominiums and 408 commercial properties. Even so, businesses,

particularly restaurants, are increasingly viewing the Township as a good place to be. Roadside Bar and Grill, Bagger Dave's, Café ML, and Eddie Merlot's are relatively recent additions to the cuisine scene.

It may just be a coincidence that so many restaurants are opening in the Township, and the availability of Class C liquor licenses may play a factor. But the "economic stability of the area," comes into play, too, Patti said. Key intersections like Maple and Telegraph, and Woodward and Square Lake are attractive to all sorts of businesses. They're high-traffic areas but still in easy travel distance from surrounding neighborhoods.

All of these factors are being recognized by restaurateurs and retailers and attracting them to the area. The combination of a healthy business scene and strong neighborhoods continue to make Bloomfield Township a great place to live and work.

It's time to Shake Your Mailbox!

Every year some Bloomfield Township residents see their mailboxes topple over as a result of snowplows piling snow against weak posts or hardware. In an effort to reduce the likelihood of this happening, the Bloomfield Township Department of Public Works, the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC), the County Road Association of Michigan (CRAM) and the U.S. Postal Service are encouraging residents to "Shake Your Mailbox."

This will tell you whether your mailbox post is sturdy and the hardware holding it is in good shape. If not, you will be able to correct any problems before damage from snowplows occurs. Repairing or replacing mailboxes now could also prevent delays in mail delivery.

Call the Public Services office, 248-594-2800, with any questions.



Open House offers an afternoon of fun - and a whole lot more

It's been 27 years since Bloomfield Township held its first Open House to mark Fire Prevention Week and teach fire prevention safety. Since then the event has grown steadily to now showcase the variety of equipment and services the Township offers to residents.

This year's Open House, set for Sunday, Oct. 13, will feature long-time favorites. The Fire Department will set fire to a mock-up of a living room and to a pan of cooking oil on a kitchen stove to show how quickly fire spreads and how firefighters work to extinguish it. EMS personnel

course, the department's walking tacos. New this year will be the introduction of School Security Officer Cory Donberger. Among the other activities, the DPW Road Division will give people rides in snow plow trucks

and graders. The Engineering & Environmental Division will provide information on ways to live a greener lifestyle and protect the environment. The Building Division will let builders of all ages try building a dog house. The Clerk's Office will hold a Passport Fair to give visitors another opportunity to apply for a new passport or renew their old one. The Clerk's Office also will register voters. Tours of the Senior Center will be offered throughout the afternoon.

In conjunction with the Open House, the Michigan Opera Theatre will perform "Little Red Riding Hood" at 2 p.m. at the Bloomfield Township Public Library, at Lone Pine and Telegraph. This classic is for kids and adults alike. It's free and it's not necessary to register.

And, as usual, there will be plenty of food available at this year's Open House including coffee, donuts, cider, candy, hotdogs, pizza and more. And it's free.

Check the accompanying box for date, time and location specifics. For more details see the website <http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org>

Open House
Sunday, Oct. 13
Noon - 4 p.m.
FREE!
Township Civic Campus
West off Telegraph,
south of Long Lake



will extricate a dummy from a crashed car. A medical helicopter will touch down (weather permitting) to demonstrate how it can be a lifesaver in emergencies.

The Police Department will give rides in its patrol cars and stage K-9 demonstrations. There will also be a tour of the department, demonstration of "drunk goggles" with a golf cart, and, of



From the Fire Department

Dealing with an alarming situation

Did you know that about two thirds of home fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or alarms that don't work?

The Bloomfield Township Fire Prevention Division takes this situation seriously.

In the fall of 2010 the Bloomfield Township Fire Prevention Division wrote a grant to install wireless interconnected smoke detectors in all of our multiple family dwellings throughout Bloomfield Township. This grant was denied. In 2011 the

Fire Prevention Division re-wrote the grant and re-submitted the application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA,) this time to cover only the largest complexes in Bloomfield Township. This was successful and the Fire Department received a grant for approximately \$64,000 to install 1,326 wireless interconnected smoke detectors. As of today just under 1,000 of these units have been installed at the largest multiple family residences through-

out Bloomfield Township.

What makes these smoke detectors special is the wireless interconnection. With this capability all of the detectors in a building can be programmed so that if one detector activates, all of the detectors in the building activate. This is unlike the single station technology, where if a smoke detector activates in a remote area of the building or in someone else's apartment or condo it could go unnoticed until the smoke reached another detector.

In the fall of 2012 the Bloomfield Township Fire Prevention Division wrote another grant to complete the project and install the wireless interconnected technology in the remaining multiple family residential units in the Township. The second grant was approved and the Fire Department will continue to install the wireless interconnected devices in all of the multiple family dwellings in Bloomfield Township that want this level of protection.

Firefighters perform a rescue at sea

It looked serious. The body floating in the middle of Square Lake was unmoving and seemed lifeless. Nevertheless, Bloomfield Township Fire Department personnel quickly unloaded a boat and raced to the body, pulling it aboard and immediately beginning emergency procedures.

It wasn't a real person, of course. The "body" was a mannequin, but there was nothing artificial about the exercise. Department personnel regularly train to do

water rescues in summer and winter.

While this situation was a test, it was treated exactly as a real emergency. The floating mannequin was brought ashore and carried to a waiting emergency vehicle where it was exchanged for a more lifelike figure that could be treated as a real person.

There aren't a lot of lake emergencies, but "they do happen periodically," said Capt. Ron Nancarrow. And the department always wants to be ready.



Emergency personnel rescue the "person" in Square Lake.



The victim is rushed back to shore.



Emergency procedures are conducted in a waiting ambulance.



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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Township Cruise events are another classic

Woodward Avenue was a sea of classic cars Friday and Saturday, Aug. 16, and 17, as the Woodward Avenue Dream Cruise shifted in to high gear.

And the excitement was apparent at the Bloomfield Township Dream Cruise Drive on Friday and the Bill Wells Car Club Classic and the Classic Car Show on Saturday. The events were held at the Mercedes-Benz of Bloomfield Hills dealership and adjoining Comerica Bank branch on Woodward.

More than 40 people took part in the



Dream Cruise Drive, getting a ride in a Shelby Cobra replica, on Woodward. The cars made an impressive presence lined up at Comerica and roaring down the road.

There's no way of knowing how many thousands of people passed through the Bill Wells Car Club Classic and Township Classic Car Show on Saturday. But the weather was perfect and cruisers and viewers were out in full force.

Visitors to the Township events got to sample some great food and hear good

old rock 'n' roll throughout the day, and maybe buy a Dream Cruise shirt and hat. All proceeds from the events benefit the Bloomfield Township Fire Department Charities, the Bloomfield Township Police Benevolent Association and the Bloomfield Hills Optimist Club.

