



BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

New name, expanded services for senior group

The new year brings major changes to the way services are delivered to senior citizens in Bloomfield Township. To best reflect this new era in expanded service delivery and to create more awareness of programming, the Township Board of Trustees voted Dec. 11, to change the name of its seniors department to the Bloomfield Township Senior Services division.

This new name replaces the former name, Greater Bloomfield Senior Association. The GBSA name came to be during a 2003 strategic planning process. It was instituted

following the 2004 election in which voters approved transferring responsibility for senior programming from Bloomfield Hills Public Schools to the Township.

For 30 years prior to that election, the administrative group responsible for handling senior service delivery was known as the Mature Minglers.

"This department has been elevated to the level of other essential Township services," said Director of Senior Services Christine Tvaroha. "With the alignment in governance to the Township solidi-

fied by the designated Senior Service Millage of 2004 and the inclusion of the Senior Center in the recent bond project, the final name can now stand for generations to come."

Along with the name change will be expanded offerings for 2007 with the creation of the Adult Day Service program. ADS is a community-based, therapeutic program designed to provide care for frail elders with memory impairment. ADS will focus on safety, maintaining abilities and providing respite for caregivers.

Capital building project architect selected

On Nov. 13, 2006, the Township Board of Trustees selected the Southfield-based firm of CDPA Architects as the primary design architect for the Township's capital building project that includes the new senior center, central fire station and public services facility at the Township campus.

The Township had been working with Yamasaki Associates to determine the needs for a new public services facility and for locating the new senior center and central fire station on campus at 4200 Telegraph. Yamasaki Associates provided great insight on the lay-

out for the Township's campus and provided the project cost estimates necessary for the millage vote. Moving forward CDPA Architects has the relevant experience and the qualified staff to design this multi-phased Township project.

CDPA Architects, along with Fusco, Shaffer & Pappas, has put together a team of qualified professionals with experience in all of the facets of the proposed Township project. CDPA Architects have designed over 50 fire stations and 20 public service facilities for several municipalities

including many in Oakland County. Fusco, Shaffer & Pappas will be designing the new senior center and has designed several senior facilities, including private facilities in West Bloomfield, White Lake and Oxford.

Subdivision association information sought

A letter and questionnaire requesting an update of your subdivision association officers will soon be mailed. The correct contact information allows us to notify association officers when homeowners seek association approval for building plans. If your association is inactive, please confirm this in writing. If you receive the mailing but are not the current president, please forward it to the correct person or contact the Clerk's Office by: (Phone) 248-433-7702 (fax) 248-642-7610 or at cmiller@bloomfieldtwp.org.

Outdoor storage rules keep neighborhoods neat

Bloomfield Township's Open Storage Ordinance No. 265/394 Sec. 1508 requires that property owners place recreational devices, seasonal sports equipment and maintenance equipment out of public

view from the street or surrounding area when not being used. The over-night parking or storage of boats, trailers, campers, motor homes, and unlicensed vehicles is prohibited in a residential zone.



BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2007

ELECTED OFFICIALS

ADMINISTRATION

Dave Payne, Supervisor
Janet Roncelli, Clerk
Dan Devine, Treasurer

TRUSTEES

Sherry Stefanos
David Buckley
Neal J. Barnett
Leo C. Savoie

APPOINTED POSITIONS

PLANNING COMMISSION

Jeff Salz, Chairman
Scot Goldberg, Vice Chairman
Sherry Stefanos, Secretary
Richard Mintz
Jane Reisinger
John Swoboda
Bill Stark

BOARD OF APPEALS

Corinne Khederian, Chairman
Jane Reisinger, Vice Chairman
James Aldrich
Dan Devine
Brian Kepes
Lisa Seneker
Robert E. Taylor, Jr
Brian Henry, Alternate
Carol Rosati, Alternate



TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TIME: 8:00 P.M.
DATE: 2nd and 4th Monday
LOCATION: Township Auditorium

PLANNING COMMISSION

TIME: 7:00 P.M.
DATE: 1st and the 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.

PO Box 489 Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303-0489
248.433.7702
Fax: 248.433.7714

Master Plan process moving ahead in 2007

On November 27, 2006, Planning Commission Chairman Jeff Salz presented the highlights of the proposed Master Plan Update to the Board of Trustees. This draft, the culmination of a 10-month study, includes recommendations for future opportunities for public parks, preservation of the lakes, waterways, wetland and woodland areas, and senior housing and services. From the comments heard at the earlier public forums and consideration of the current Township information, the Planning Commission created a vision statement to guide its discussions and recommendations. It is:

"Bloomfield Township will remain a premier residential community, offering its citizens pristine water features and woodlands, exceptional educational opportunities, exemplary municipal services and a vibrant, diverse and upscale business community. And, Bloomfield Township will remain Michigan's most desirable community in which to live."

Commissioners concluded that the draft Master Plan – various elements of which had been examined regularly since the process began in January – was ready for review by the Township Board with a recommendation to forward it to

neighboring communities and Oakland County for comment. State law mandates the review by adjacent communities.

State law allows up to 90 days for review of the draft plan. The review must occur before the public hearing and approval of the Master Plan. Once all comments are in hand, the Township may either seek more changes to the plan or leave the document unchanged.

The Planning Commission expects to conduct the public hearing in February, 2007, with final approval by the Township Board expected later that month.

Proper de-icing leads to a healthier environment

The Township Public Works Department makes every practical effort to minimize the environmental impact of de-icing while providing safe and clear roadways for residents, school buses and emergency vehicles. These include: effective coordination and scheduling of salt application, using computer-controlled and calibrated applicators to maximize efficiency; pre-wetting salt in extreme cold temperatures and proper salt storage and management.

Keeping sidewalks and drive-

ways safe and clear is important, but traditional de-icing salts have a negative effect on our environment. After salt is applied, it can be washed off paved surfaces into storm drains or onto adjacent ground. From there it can then be carried into nearby bodies of water.

This may cause increased salinity of the soil and water and have a detrimental effect on plants and animals. De-icing salt can also affect groundwater because it dissolves readily and can percolate through

the soil.

To Protect the Environment

- Store de-icing material in a dry place.
- Place a small amount of salt down before the snow storm to prevent ice build-up.
- Slightly wet salt before you apply it so it will stick to snow and ice.

Consider alternative de-icing materials. Although materials such as calcium chloride and calcium magnesium acetate (CMA) are a bit more expensive, they have less impact on the environment.

Is your home ready for winter? Try these Building Dept. tips

The Building Dept. offers the following tips for winterizing your home.

Look for areas of potential heat loss. Check to see if the caulk is in good condition around such items as your Detroit Edison entrance cable, AC wiring and condensate

lines, and your sump pump discharge. Make sure your garden hose is disconnected from the hose bib. If your nozzle is closed and water is trapped inside the hose, the pipe will freeze. Cover the AC condenser.

Remove snow from the roof if it is

more than a foot deep. This minimizes the likelihood of ice damming.

Use only high quality, UL listed products.

Change your furnace filter once a month. Your furnace should be inspected bi-annually by a licensed

mechanical contractor for the first ten years and annually thereafter.

Talk to your heating contractor about installing a fresh air kit to improve your indoor air quality.

Township voters set the pace for voter turnout county wide

Bloomfield Township voters surpassed the overall turnout in Oakland County for the November 7, 2006 General Election with a 70 percent turnout compared to 60 percent in Oakland County.

The largest number of voters was in the 60 and older age

bracket.

With three elections in May, August and November, 2006, Township voters responded with determination and enthusiasm at the polls and by casting absentee ballots.

Look for changes in future elections regarding voter infor-

mation. The Township website will feature copies of all ballot styles for each precinct, enabling voters to review the ballot prior to Election Day. A mailing will be sent about election procedures, deadlines, and offices. Election results will continue to be posted on the website and at

Township Hall as the precincts report their results.

The Clerk's Office welcomes your suggestions for making voter information more accessible and looks forward to a voter surge in the Township for the school elections on Tuesday, May 8.



A NOTE FROM

Dave Payne, Bloomfield Township Supervisor

Bloomfield Township will continue progress on two major projects during 2007. One, the capital improvement project, will result in the delivery of more efficient and high quality public services and the other, the Master Plan Update, will protect and preserve the distinctive character of Bloomfield Township's neighborhoods and business community for years to come.

The Master Plan Update process

is in its final stages (see article on page 2) and the Board of Trustees is expected to act upon it in February. When it is approved, it will provide a comprehensive strategy to help manage growth and redevelopment here for at least the next 20 years. The Update reflects almost a year of work by the Planning Commission and Township staff and consultants, as well as the input of countless Township residents and business owners.

As you may have noted in the

article about the capital improvement project on page 1 of this newsletter, a team of highly qualified and experienced architects has been selected. We are now in the process of selecting a project manager to represent the Township's interest in the facilitation of the work of the architect, engineer, other contractors and various Township departments during all phases of this complex project.

We are committed to honoring the trust Township residents have placed in us by approving

this project last August. We will make sure that the upgraded facilities are designed and constructed in the most economical, efficient and appropriate manner, allowing us to provide the high level of services our residents expect.

For detailed information about these projects, please see the Township website, www.bloomfieldtwp.org or call me or the appropriate Township personnel (see phone numbers on the directory on the last page of this newsletter).

Cooperation is the key to keeping roads clear during snow storms

Bloomfield Township's Snow Emergency Ordinance was designed to make sure roads are cleared safely and efficiently. It prohibits parking on publicly maintained streets during a declared snow emergency.

Your cooperation in moving vehicles into your driveway will help ensure the Township can plow and salt roads quickly. Residents will be alerted about snow emergencies by an announcement from the police chief. That information

will be broadcast on area radio and television stations, including Bloomfield Community Television, Channel 15. A hotline at (248) 594-2848 will also inform callers when a snow emergency is in effect. Residents have six hours from

Bloomfield Township's Snow Emergency Ordinance requires that cars be moved from streets within six hours of a declared snow emergency

the time the snow emergency is declared before enforcement of the ordinance begins.

The snow emergency remains in effect until either a cancellation announcement is made or the street is substantially cleared of snow and ice, from curb to curb, for the



length of the entire street.

Disabled vehicles pose a public safety hazard and must be moved off the street. Non-compliance with this ordinance may result in a fine of up to \$100 and illegally parked vehicles may be impounded.

Blood alcohol now considered in minor-in-possession cases

The Bloomfield Township Board of Trustees took steps in December to toughen rules concerning underage alcohol consumption and at the same time strengthened its local control on the issue by amending the Township's Alcoholic Beverages Ordinance.

The amended ordinance now allows Township police to consider the blood alcohol level of a minor as evidence of a minor-in-possession-of-alcohol infraction.

"Prior to this, minors had to physically have possession of alco-

hol before we could charge them. That really only tackles half the problem," said Bloomfield Township Police Capt. Scott McCanham.

Prior to updating the ordinance, the Township had to use state law to charge minors for having alcohol in their system.

The amended ordinance allows police to request a preliminary chemical breath analysis if they suspect a minor has consumed alcohol. Refusal to submit to the test is considered an automatic civil infraction carrying a fine of \$100.

Also included in the amended ordinance is a provision requiring police to notify the guardian or parents of minors found to be in possession of alcohol.

A first-time violation of the ordinance can net an offending minor both the \$100 fine and an order to participate in substance abuse treatment and rehabilitation programs and perform community service.

A judge may impose probation on an offending minor. Provided it is a first offense and the conditions of the probation are met, the judge can dismiss the case.



Prevent home burglary

Get a free home security survey. Call 248-433-7724 for an appointment.

Cars should be parked overnight in the garage, and not left in the driveway or on the road. Valuables should not be left in cars. If they must be, put them in the trunk.

Have a quality alarm installed in your home. Garage doors should be kept closed. It takes only a moment for someone to enter the garage and steal property.

Get more tips at: www.bloomfieldtwp.org/services/police/crimeprevention.

Call 248-433-7755 for general police information and 9-1-1 only during an emergency.

Understanding your property assessment and taxable value

In February Bloomfield Township property owners will receive Notice of Assessment, Taxable Valuation and Property Classification. There are three important areas for review. First, the Notice provides the 2006 valuations, the 2007 valuations and the amount of change. Second, the document will show if the property's Taxable Value was "uncapped" as a result of ownership transfer. Third, the notice will indicate the percentage of the property being used as a principal residence. Please review each of these areas for accuracy.

If you believe valuations on the Notice are incorrect, you may protest to the March Board of

Review. The meeting dates are listed on the Notice. Valuation disputes must be heard by the March Board of Review.

Property owners may see a significant difference in the amount of their assessed values and Taxable Value. Assessed values, or State Equalized Values (SEV), represent 50 percent of the estimated property value. Taxable Value is a mathematical formula based on the preceding year's Taxable Value increased by the Inflation Rate Multiplier (IRM). The IRM is determined for the entire state and applied by each municipality. Taxable Value may also increase for physical additions and decrease for physical losses.

The constitutional amendment (Proposal A) limited the amount that Taxable Value could increase on an annual basis. Since its implementation, the average property values in Bloomfield Township have increased more than the IRM. Proposal A has limited the property taxes that would have been collected if it had not been implemented. When property values are not increasing as rapidly as the IRM, Taxable Value will increase on an

annual basis by the IRM, not exceeding assessed value.

The notices are mailed to all property owners of record in February. The IRM percentage is printed on the Notice. Please review the Notice carefully by checking mathematical calculations, principal residence exemption percentage and transfer of ownership information. Contact the Assessor's Office at 248-433-7710 if you have any questions or concerns.

Bloomfield Township Police reach out to the community

Boy Scouts of Troop 1699 are grateful to Bloomfield Township Police Dept.'s Community Liason Ofc. Pete Matejcik for his support in helping them obtain Merit Badges.

Ofc. Matejcik helped troop members participate in the Annual International Scout Jamboree-on-

the-Air. The Community Liaison program helps organizations and neighborhood associations become better-informed citizens by assisting with crime prevention and child safety fingerprinting clinics at various events. Call 433-7724 to learn about the department's community services.



Elizabeth Marengere carries Katie Murray (both Lahser High School graduates home from college over the holiday break). We welcome photos of residents to be used for our *Newsletter*. Send them electronically to stricomo@bloomfieldtwp.org.

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
341-6450	Senior Services
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	Public Works
433-7731	Road Division
433-7705	Water & Sewer
433-7705	Treasurer's Office

TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY

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4200 TELEGRAPH ROAD



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