

# BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER



## Township Staff and Officials Attend Emergency Management Training

Imagine the warning sirens blaring against the sound of intense winds as a tornado forms in the sky ready to wreak havoc on Bloomfield Township. After the chaos, you find your property damaged and there is no access to running water. Phone lines and cell towers are down. This is the mindset upwards of 27 township employees and officials had to create as they sat down for an Emergency Management Training Scenario in conjunction with Michigan State Police, Oakland County Emergency Management and Bloomfield Hills Schools. The mission was to be better prepared to serve you if an imagined scenario like this becomes reality.

“The training is a table top exercise based on a severe weather event that allows all of the departments at Bloomfield Township involved in an emergency response to be able to work together; improve procedures and be better prepared to serve our residents in a crisis,” said Lieutenant Fire Inspector Ryan Morin.

With many new department heads and staff members being incorporated into the Emergency Response Team, this training was organized to familiarize everyone with existing plans. “We want residents to know that in the event of an emergency we have plans in place to initiate and get residents the assistance they

need. Make sure to follow all Township channels of communication for information such as our social media channels, township website or alert systems,” said Morin. You can find links to follow the Township’s social media channels by visiting bloomfieldtwp.org or scanning the QR code.



Scan to find the Township’s social media channels

Oakland County Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division’s Michael Loper was in attendance to assist with the orientation. OakAlert is the county’s emergency notification system. It uses a geolocating system to send residents a text in the



Left to right: Lt. Ryan Morin, Lt. Nate Keeton, and Lt. Kevin Bailey gather around the computer as they train for emergency operations.



Scan to learn more about emergency readiness.

event of an emergency. To opt into the program visit or scan the QR Code. “One of the best things residents can do is get prepared. That can minimize the damage or severity resulting from an event,” said Morin. For information and tips on preparedness visit [bit.ly/BTemergencyready](http://bit.ly/BTemergencyready) or scan the QR code.

The Emergency Operations Center is ready to activate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.



BLOOMFIELD  
TOWNSHIP  
BOARDS  
2023

### ELECTED OFFICIALS

#### ADMINISTRATION

Dani Walsh, Supervisor  
Martin C. Brook, Clerk  
Brian Kepes, Treasurer

#### TRUSTEES

Neal J. Barnett  
Michael Schostak  
Stephanie Fakhir  
Valerie Murray

### APPOINTED OFFICIALS

#### PLANNING COMMISSION

Thomas Petinga, Chairman  
Jeff Salz, Vice Chairman  
Neal Barnett  
Richard Atto  
Bruce Selik  
Andrea B. O’Donnell  
John Kelly

#### BOARD OF APPEALS

Brian Henry, Chairman  
Jocelyn Giangrande, Vice Chairman  
Robert Taylor Jr.  
Andrea O’Donnell  
Stephanie Fakhir  
Ed Ford  
Scott Gittleman  
Carol Rosati, Alternate  
Glenda Meads, Alternate

# Save the Date...

**February 14th**  
Winter Tax Bills Due

**March 12th**  
Daylight saving time begins

**March 13th**  
Yard waste pick-up returns

## Clerk Brook Discusses the 2022 Election Cycle



Clerk Martin Brook (right) and Election Equipment Manager Dave Crouch (left) prepare for election set-up at Conant Elementary School.

Clerk Martin Brook wants to recognize the voters and election workers who participated in the Statewide General Elections on August 2 and November 8. Both Election Days went smoothly. “In addition to my four regular staff members, in excess of 240 local citizens came together to make the 2022 elections possible in Bloomfield Township by working to process voters in the precincts, preparing and processing absentee voters, and finally wrapping it up with our receiving board double-checking process compliance,” said Brook. “Their dedication, hard work and professionalism set the tone for a successful Election Day! As for the voters, November turnout was an astounding 67.4%. In 2018, the last midterm statewide election, the November turnout was a similar 71.8%. And, it is interesting to note that the precinct and absentee voters in November were split nearly 50/50: 13,793 voted absentee and 12,126 voted in a precinct.”

Polls closed at 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, but the work did not end there. The Clerk’s Office works through

Election Day and well into the next day documenting procedures, accounting for machines and ballots, and reporting results to the County before calling it a night. Directly thereafter, the bipartisan Oakland County Board of Canvassers reviews the work of local jurisdictions in order to certify the election results within 2 weeks, which then allows the State Board of Canvassers to certify the entire election by the end of November.

This year there was a recount petition for Proposals Two and Three in several jurisdictions throughout the state. Bloomfield Township was not recounted but Clerk Brook and two staff members worked on the hand recount. After several days of hand counting, results showed that the machines and people came up with nearly the same count. In looking at all the ballots over both recounts on the preliminary reports, the difference between the two counts was .0002% or a difference of 157 more votes out of 686,114. Clerk Brook explains the difference this way: “From my recounting experience the main

explanation for 157 more votes is that during the hand recount process election workers adjudicate overvotes. In other words, where the machine rejected the vote because it detected a yes and a no vote, the recount team is expected to adjudicate the ballot and place the vote in the yes or no column if both election workers agree that the marks clearly indicate that voter intended one vote or the other.”

Clerk Brook added, “I want all residents to know that elections in the State of Michigan have been and remain accurate, secure, and accessible. And, that within election administrators throughout the State there is a strong culture of continuous improvement, which ensures that elections stay accurate, secure, and accessible well into the future.”

To see election results in Bloomfield Township visit the Voting and Elections page of the Township website. If you have election related questions, the Clerk’s Office can be reached by phone at 248-433-7702 or via email at [clerk@bloomfieldtwp.org](mailto:clerk@bloomfieldtwp.org).



### 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: 248-642-7610

## Check the Dashboard

How does Bloomfield Township stand financially compared to other communities?

You can find out at a glance by looking at the dashboard. It can be found on the home page of the Township website, [www.bloomfieldtwp.org](http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org). Just look for Citizen’s Guide and Dashboard under Quick Links at the right of the home page.

A wide array of financial information about the Township – and data about communities across Michigan – is available on the site.

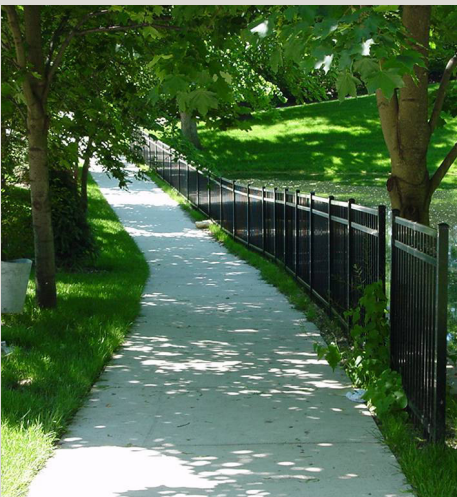


## A NOTE FROM

Dani Walsh, Bloomfield Township Supervisor

### Reflections On 2022 and Preparations for a Great 2023

I am writing this just days before the new year, reflecting on everything we accomplished together in 2022. The residents passed millages that will make public safety, senior services and safety paths even stronger assets to the community. In all three areas, the administration and respective departments worked hard to find ways of sustaining and improving the services that make this a great place to live. In addition, we focused on improving processes, strategies, technology, and restructuring the departments of Cable & Community Relations, Public Works, Engineering and Environmental Services, Accounting, and Planning, Building, and Ordinance. These changes have made the first rate services we have offered for decades even more streamlined and compatible with the expectations of service in 2022. The stagnant thinking of “because that’s the way it’s always been done” is not in our vernacular here in Bloomfield Township. Our community remains the gold standard because we always continue to improve and adapt to the changing world around us, and that will continue into 2023 as we continue



The original safety path master plan was approved in 1999 and now has over 70 miles of constructed paths in the township.

to evaluate and improve the remaining departments.

In August, we combined two public safety millages into one millage and reestablished the funding level prior to rollbacks allowing us to bring back services such as the traffic patrol, and improving technology and resources to improve safety services for the residents and our first responders. November’s election saw voters pass renewals for both the Safety Path and Senior Services millages. Because of your approval, we will continue the planned expansion of the Jan Roncelli Safety Path program including keeping our safety paths clean, safe and ADA compliant, and continue the ongoing services the Senior Center provides; such as Meals on Wheels, the Telephone Reassurance Program, social and educational enrichment, fitness classes and more.

In addition to millages, department restructuring, and long term sustainability and strategic planning, we have focused on being prepared for any emergency or crisis that may come our way. With the increased safety concerns at schools, places of worship, and public events, we have reignited our training and updated our technology in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The EOC serves as our hub in an emergency situation to coordinate information, decisions, resource support and deployment locally and in connection with other agencies. In 2022, each department chose team leaders that went through many hours of individual training courses and group scenario training. For 2023, we developed training situations for severe weather events and for an active shooter scenario. These will involve training with multiple local, county, and state

agencies as well to test not only our readiness, but also our mutual aid providers. Although we have always had policies drawn out, and studied the plans on paper, the more we can do hands on demonstration training, the better prepared we will be to protect the community.

I was born and raised here, and have experienced Bloomfield Township services as a child, young adult, and after turning 50 last June, now I live here as a senior. As residents, we may take for granted the services we receive, which is a sign of our employees making it look effortless as they prepare, protect, and help us to live, thrive, and age in place. It is an honor and labor of love to be your Supervisor; and to work with my fellow residents, elected officials, employees, and local businesses to retain, adapt, and improve Bloomfield Township services. Simply put, Bloomfield Township is prepared to serve our residents at any age, allowing us all to grow up and age in place here in our beloved community.



The Senior Center is located at 4315 Andover Road and is available to residents age 50 and older.

On behalf of everyone at Bloomfield Township, I want to wish you a Happy New Year! I hope 2023 is a great year filled with health and happiness for you and your loved ones.

## Tax Bills Due February 14th by 5:30 p.m.; Several Payment Options Available



The Bloomfield Township Treasurer’s Office mails approximately 40,000 tax statements each year. Winter tax bills were mailed out in late November and many residents have already paid. If you have not yet paid your taxes, there are several different payment options available. Residents can always come to Township Hall to pay their taxes in person at the Treasurer’s Office. Offices are open Monday - Thursday from 7:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. The secure drop box in the Township Hall lobby is open 24/7 and monitored by the Police Department. If you would like a receipt mailed to you, be sure to mark the receipt request box on the payment stub.

If you prefer to pay online, a direct deposit, free of charge, option is available. Allow up to two (2) business days for direct deposit

payments to post. Alternatively, you may pay by credit card online or by phone, and payments are posted immediately. When paying, you will be informed of the convenience fee charged. For more information on these payment options see the website at [bit.ly/BTTaxPayments](http://bit.ly/BTTaxPayments) or scan the QR code.



The most important thing to remember is that the Winter 2022 taxes are due by 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 14, 2023. Any payment not received, or in the drop box, by 5:30 p.m. February 14, 2023, will incur a 3% penalty. If you choose to mail your tax payment, please be aware that payments are processed on the day they are received in the office, not the date they are postmarked. Once you have paid your taxes, you can go to our website to print a receipt. To do this, go to the Quick Links section of our website home page, and click on the Property Search Info link. This will take you to the BSA Online site, where you can enter your name, address or parcel ID number in the search area at the top. This will bring up your parcel number. Click on that and it will take you to a page showing information about your property. Click on the tax information tab and scroll down to Tax History, where you can click on the arrow at the left of 2022 Winter to see the information and a print option. Confused? We’re here to help if you have any questions. Call the Treasurer’s Office at 248-433- 7705 or email [treasurer@bloomfieldtwp.org](mailto:treasurer@bloomfieldtwp.org).

## Assessing Gets Perfect Score

The Bloomfield Township Assessor’s Office led by Darrin Kraatz achieved a perfect score from the Audit of Minimum Assessing Requirements (AMAR). In 2015, the Michigan State Tax Commission created AMAR to evaluate uniform requirements in assessing across the state. The requirements are extensive and include confirming accurate land values, personal property records, economic conditions, policies, hardships and more. Failure to meet the minimum requirements results in a corrective action plan and a timeline to resolve the deficiencies.

This was of no concern for Bloomfield Township, who achieved a perfect score!



(Left to Right): Kristi Thompson, Kathy Bono, Jennifer Werthman, Darrin Kraatz. Not pictured: Jim Allen.

## Assessing Gets Perfect Score (cont.)

Supervisor Dani Walsh has taken to calling the Assessing Department “Team Perfection” when commending the work done by the department.

“This is big news for us!” said Kraatz who has been with Bloomfield Township for 17 years of his 24 year career in assessing. “The Assessing Department is responsible for the preparation of the annual Assessment Roll which is completed in accordance with the General Property Tax Act (GPTA). The Assessing Department follows the GPTA and State Tax Commission (STC) guidelines in order to determine taxable status, true cash value, assessed value, and taxable value for all real and personal property within Bloomfield Township and Sylvan Lake.”

The Assessing Department is made up of a mix of veterans and new-comers:

Jim Allen (23 years); Kathy Bono (19 years); Jennifer Werthman (1 year); Kristi Thompson (8 months). “Without this team, achieving a perfect score would be incredibly difficult,” said Kraatz in expressing pride for his co-workers.

## Distinguished Citizens Award and Letters of Appreciation

At the October 24th Board of Trustees meeting, Police Chief James Gallagher presented the Distinguished Citizen Award to Aaron Hatchett and Letters of Appreciation (LOA) to Jennifer Dowling, Catherine MacKenzie, Irena Bongiorno, and Addy Shattuck.



Aaron Hatchett receives the Distinguished Citizens Award from Police Chief James Gallagher

Hatchett received the Distinguished Citizen Award for his actions on October 1, 2022 when he was traveling north on I-75, he noticed another driver who appeared to be having a medical emergency. The driver was unconscious behind the wheel of the vehicle as it was

scraping along the median wall. Hatchett drove in front of the other vehicle and intentionally allowed that vehicle to hit him in order to stop it and then waited on scene for emergency responders. It was later discovered that the driver was overdosing on fentanyl and needed immediate medical treatment. Without Hatchett’s keen observation and quick action, this individual might have suffered a fatal result.



Jennifer Dowling receives a LOA from Police Chief James Gallagher

Jennifer Dowling received a LOA for her actions on July 19, 2022. She noticed an individual in a parking lot who appeared to be sleeping. Dowling attempted to check

on the individual and found him unresponsive. She dialed 911 and with the help of dispatch personnel began life saving treatment. It was later discovered the individual was suffering from diabetic shock and was transported to the hospital. Without Dowling’s intervention, this individual might have suffered a fatal result.



Catherine McKenzie receives a LOA from Police Chief James Gallagher

MacKenzie, Bongiorno, and Shattuck all received LOA’s for their dedication and volunteer work with the Bloomfield Township Animal Shelter. MacKenzie was thanked for her time spent caring for the animals at the shelter. Bongiorno works in

Let’s Stay In Touch!



Scan to follow us on social media or to sign up for the eNewsletter.

We are committed to keeping residents informed about all the latest news and events in the Township. You can find information on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Sign up for the eNewsletter, which goes out each week or two. Don’t forget to check our website regularly, [www.bloomfieldtwp.org](http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org). You’ll find a wealth of information there.

an office building near the shelter and was recognized for her countless hours of volunteer dog walking. Shattuck was recognized for donating food for the animals and fostering animals when needed.

“We want to thank Mr. Hatchett and Ms. Dowling for their observations and willingness to act,” said Chief Gallagher. “The time and effort these volunteers give to the animal shelter can’t be quantified and we are so grateful for their service to the community.”

The Citizen Awards can be viewed on BCTV’s YouTube page.



Addy Shattuck receives a LOA with Police Chief James Gallagher



# BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

4200 TELEGRAPH ROAD  
PO BOX 489  
BLOOMFIELD MI 48303-0489



## TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY

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
Water/Sewer Emergency	433-7730

# Animal Shelter Receives Grant for Building Updates

"I was approached by a non-profit organization that wanted to assist the Bloomfield Township Animal Shelter," said Community Liaison Officer Nick Soley. "The front desk of the shelter has been there since the 80's, we have tile cracking, the desks are coming up, and there's not a lot of storage for supplies."

These much-needed updates were approved in a grant totaling \$29,000 that will redo the front entrance way to the shelter which houses stray and surrendered animals. Located on Township Campus near the Police Station, the Animal Shelter has been in existence for 35 years. After a brief closure, the shelter has reopened and is looking forward to the benefits of the grant.

Home to mostly cats and dogs, the shelter also holds other animals including guinea pigs and iguanas. In addition to caring for the animals, Animal Welfare Officers also respond to calls for

removal of dead animals such as deer and other complaints about domestic animals or wildlife. Such complaints can be made by calling the non-emergency line at 248-433-7755.

Updates received as part of the grant are expected to be completed by the end of the spring.



The Bloomfield Animal Shelter is open Monday through Friday and is located at 4200 Telegraph Rd, Bloomfield Twp, MI 48302.

## BCTV is Now On YouTube!

Search Bloomfield Community Television on YouTube or scan the QR code below to subscribe and watch all the station's content.

