



BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

Newsletter

Fall 2002

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Elected Officials

ADMINISTRATION

Dave Payne, Supervisor
Wilma S. Cotton, Clerk
Dan Devine, Treasurer

TRUSTEES

Janet M. Roncelli
Sherry Stefanos
Jerry J. Tobias
William R. Yaw, Jr.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Appointed Positions

Wilma S. Cotton
David J. Lubin
Richard D. Mintz
George R. Smith
John M. Swoboda
Robert L. Wittbold

BOARD OF APPEALS

Appointed Positions

Neal Jay Barnett
Wilma S. Cotton
Brian E. Kepes
Leo Savoie
Fred G. Wilkinson

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP OFFICES

4200 Telegraph Road
PO Box 489

Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303-0489

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Township Faces Police, Fire and EMS Layoffs

Bloomfield Township voters will be asked to approve a 2.5 mill increase in Bloomfield Township's public safety millage on November 5 in order to preserve the Township's current level of Police, Fire and EMS service.

Township Supervisor Dave Payne said the increase, which can be used only to fund Police, Fire and EMS operations, is needed to wipe out a nearly \$5 million annual deficit in the public safety budget and prevent significant Police, Fire and EMS layoffs.

"I want to emphasize that the money to be raised by this millage can, and will, be used *only* for Police, Fire and EMS services," Payne said. "The ballot language very clearly specifies it can be used for the preservation of public safety services only. Anyone who tells

you differently is not telling the truth.

"Without these funds, we will have no choice but to lay off one-third of our 70 Police officers and one-third of our 68 Firefighters and EMS personnel, immediately impacting our current two minute 911 emergency call response time." Both departments have been at or near their current levels of

Township's current 911 emergency call response average time of two minutes.

"Without these funds, we will have no choice but to lay off one-third of our 70 Police officers and one-third of our 68 Fire Fighters and EMS personnel, immediately impacting our current two minute 911 emergency call response time."

"Services would be hurt in other ways as well," he said, "including the inability of the Township to adequately maintain its four fire stations to keep them at a state-of-the-art level. We would also be unable to provide the proper training and equipment absolutely needed over time to maintain the current level of emergency services.

"The decision of the Township Trustees to ask for this millage increase was not made lightly," Payne said. "Bloomfield Township historically has kept taxes as low as possible while still providing an unsurpassed level of service our fellow residents have come to expect."

"The money to be raised by this millage can, and will, be used *only* for Police, Fire and EMS services."

staffing for several decades. Now more than ever, layoffs of this magnitude would be devastating. Without the money to pay for our current personnel levels, these layoffs would be our only recourse."

Such layoffs, he said, would seriously deteriorate the

The quality of service available to Bloomfield Township residents today is exemplified by these facts:

- The average response time for a 911 emergency call is two minutes, one of the best anywhere.
- Patrol cars in every patrol district are equipped with an Automatic External Defibrillator to immediately assist individuals suffering from sudden cardiac arrest.
- Every Township Firefighter is trained in Emergency Medicine and is licensed by the State of Michigan
- Each Bloomfield Township EMS Unit has Advanced Life Support Systems on board.
- Bloomfield Township Police officers must have a minimum of a four-year college degree to be hired, the highest level of training required anywhere in Michigan.
- Bloomfield Township Firefighters must have a Fire Science Certificate, State of Michigan Fire Fighter I and II Certification, EMT licensure and at least 60 college credits to be hired, also the highest level of training required anywhere in Michigan.

Continued on page 2

Township Faces Police, Fire and EMS Layoffs *(continued from page 1)*

Payne said even with the 2.5 mill increase, the Township's public safety millage will be almost 1 mill lower than it was in 1980, when it was 7.4 mills.

On two separate occasions in the 1980s, he said, the Township allowed public safety millages to expire without attempting to renew them. At that time there were sufficient reserve funds and adequate interest income to pay for Police, Fire and EMS services even with the reduced public safety millage.

Today interest income has bottomed. The Township's reserve funds are depleted, having been spent on public

safety services over the years. State revenue sharing has become questionable at best as the state struggles with its own budget problems.

"That means if we are to maintain our current level of Police, Fire and EMS service - with a level of training and professionalism unsurpassed anywhere in Michigan - we must have the additional 2.5 mill authorization that is on the November ballot," he said.

Even with the increase, Bloomfield Township's public safety tax rate would still compare

favorably to any of our surrounding communities. The new rate would still be only 6.5 mills, compared to the 7.4 mills levied in 1980.

Payne said the quality of service available to Bloomfield Township residents today is exemplified by the facts highlighted on page 1.

"Public safety is the most important service Bloomfield Township, or any unit of local

Police, Fire and EMS personnel who protect our lives and property every day. This proposal will assure that we continue to receive the best public safety protection to be found anywhere in Michigan."

check website for updates
www.bloomfieldtwp.org

"The new rate would be only 6.5 mills, compared to the 7.4 mills levied in 1980."

government, provides the citizens it serves," Payne said.

"I am proud of the state-of-the-art service we receive from the



Attention Voters!

In anticipation of the General Election scheduled for November 5, 2002, please be aware that if you are 18 years old, a U.S. citizen and currently not registered to vote you need to do so by October 7th, either at a Secretary of State office or the Township Clerk's office.

Absentee ballots may be obtained upon written request to the Clerk either by mail or fax. You must state the reason you need the absentee ballot, i.e., 60 years of age or older or out of the community on the day of the election. Advise where you want the ballot mailed if other than your registered address. *Each person requesting a ballot must personally sign the letter.*

The last day to request that an absentee ballot be mailed is Saturday, November 2nd at 2:00 p.m.; qualified voters may vote absentee in the Clerk's office until 4:00 p.m. on November 4th.

Remember, pursuant to state law, you must sign the *absentee ballot return envelope* or your ballot cannot be counted.

Polls are open on the day of election from

7:00 am until 8:00 pm

Please take the time to

VOTE!

Fax requests to: (248) 433-7714
mail to: Wilma S. Cotton
4200 Telegraph, PO Box 489
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303-0489

Open House for Police, Fire and EMS Services



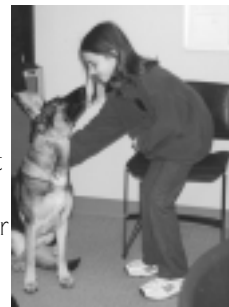
Several years ago, an elementary aged youngster was awakened by the smell of smoke in his Bloomfield Township bedroom. Quickly and without panicking, he dropped out of bed and onto the floor, crawled to his parents' room and woke them up. Together, they safely escaped before the flames from an electrical fire spread throughout their house.

He learned to "Stay Low and Go" from a Bloomfield Township firefighter who visited his classroom during Fire Safety Week. As part of this annual program, firefighters visit private and public elementary schools in the Township and give children an "up-close" look at the equipment and fire trucks, well as teach them the fundamentals of fire prevention and safety.

Fire Safety Week culminates this year with the Bloomfield

Township Open House, an afternoon of displays, demonstrations and activities. Children of all ages (and even their parents and grandparents!) will have a chance to create their home escape plan, practice their "Stop, Drop & Roll" technique, participate in a smoke room simulation, watch a car fire demonstration and see a medical helicopter land on the grounds.

The Police Department will join in the event for the third year. Kids



will be able to ride in a patrol car and watch Briscoe, the K-9 officer, demonstrate his skills.



If the family is considering a pet, they can visit the animal shelter where animal adoption agencies will be showcasing everything from ferrets to exotic birds.

To top things off, the Water Department will continue its participation in the Open House this year. The theme for this year's display will include drinking water and watershed topics.

You're Invited!

Bloomfield Township Open House
Sunday, October 13, 12:00 - 4:00pm
Cider, Donuts, Cookies, Hot Dogs
Free!!! No R&SVP required!

Infected Ash Trees are Quarantined



Ash trees that are infected by the Emerald Ash Borer have

been quarantined by the Michigan Department of Agriculture in an attempt to stop the spread of the insect which has been killing ash trees in Oakland, Livingston, Macomb, Washtenaw and Wayne counties. Do not transport ash trees out of these counties.

If you have an ash tree



that displays the symptoms listed below, call a professional tree service.

If your tree is more than 40% affected, it probably cannot be saved. It must be removed and destroyed.

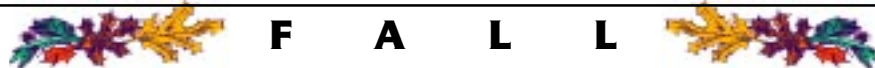
Trees up to 8 inches can be chipped; trees larger than that can be hauled away by an

arborist. If saved for firewood, the wood must be debarked or split immediately to dry it out so the borer cannot feed on the pieces.

For more information, see http://www.msue.msu.edu/reg_se/roberts/ash/.

Emerald Ash Borer Symptoms

- ✓ leaves turning yellow
- ✓ foliage thinning out
- ✓ suckers on trunk or among its major branches
- ✓ excessive injury from woodpeckers
- ✓ "D"-shaped holes made by the borer



into a routine that protects our water resources!

Protecting local waterways requires your interest and involvement.

Many activities that take place during the fall months affect water quality.

Each one of us can make a difference!

- ✓ Keep leaves, litter and debris out of the street and storm drains. Storm drains let out directly into streams and rivers. Whatever gets in the storm sewers washes directly into watercourses and is a source of pollution.
- ✓ Properly manage yard waste by composting the material or disposing it into paper yard waste bags or a properly labeled yard waste container.
- ✓ Grass clippings contain valuable nutrients and can provide up to 25 percent of your lawn's fertilizer needs. Leave them on the lawn; do not allow them to go into the street.
- ✓ When applying fertilizer to lawns, avoid getting it on sidewalks where it can wash directly into storm sewers. Sweep the product back onto the lawn where it can be of benefit. Rivers and streams don't need any more nutrients! Remember to follow recommendations outlined in the Township's fertilizer regulations.
- ✓ Use a low-phosphorus and slow-release nitrogen formula of fertilizer. Some examples include: corn gluten meal, Fertrell Lawn Fertilizer, Pursell's Sta-Green, Ringer Lawn Restore, TruGreen Scenic Green and Vigoro Lawn Fertilizer.
- ✓ The autumn months bring fall landscaping, construction projects and rain. Bare soil that is exposed to the erosive forces of rain can run off into ditches and streets, and ultimately into streams and rivers. Cover bare ground around vegetation with mulch and seed bare ground as soon as possible to prevent erosion.
- ✓ If autumn is the garage-cleaning season for you, take care to properly dispose of any materials you no longer need. Do not dump into storm drains. Take paints, solvents, cleaners and pesticides to the next Household Hazardous Waste Day scheduled for Saturday, October 5, 2002 at the Township.
- ✓ Clean up animal waste in your yard regularly, especially before it rains. Throw the waste in the garbage or down the toilet. Make sure you pick up after your pet during walks!

TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

Days / Times

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Time: 8:00 pm
Days: 2nd and 4th Monday of each month

Location: Township Auditorium

PLANNING COMMISSION

Time: 7:00 pm
Days: 1st and 3rd Monday of each month

Location: Township Auditorium

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Time: 7:30 pm
Days: 2nd Tuesday of each month

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 Bloomfield Township's Clerk's Office.

Clerk's Office

PO Box 489

Bloomfield Hills, MI

48303-0489

Telephone: 248.433.7702

Fax: 248.433.7714

email: clerk@bloomfieldtwp.org

www: Bloomfieldtwp.org



**Household Hazardous Waste
Drop-Off Day**

*Saturday, October 5, 2002
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM*



Need to finish
your spring-
cleaning before
the snow falls?

Look through your
cleaning closet, basement and
garage for materials no longer
in use that may pose a threat
to people or to the environ-
ment. Bring them to
Bloomfield Township's
*Household Hazardous Waste
Drop-Off Day* and have them
disposed of safely. See the
Township website for a
detailed list of materials that
will be accepted.

*Exeter Road, across from
Bloomfield Township Hall,
4200 Telegraph Road.
Access from southbound
Telegraph or from Andover
Road off Long Lake Road.
Look for the big tent. Township
residents only.*



Bloomfield Township Board of Trustees



Front Row (L - R) Wilma Cotton - *Clerk*; Dave Payne - *Supervisor*; Dan Devine - *Treasurer*
Back Row (L - R) *Trustees* - William Yaw Jr.; Janet Roncelli; Sherry Stefanos; Jerry Tobias

Dave Payne **Wilma S. Cotton** **Dan Devine**
Supervisor Clerk Treasurer

TRUSTEES

Janet M. Roncelli
Sherry Stefanos
Jerry J. Tobias
William R. Yaw, Jr.

Check the Bloomfield Township website,
www.bloomfieldtwp.org
for the latest Township news!

**BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP
DIRECTORY**

Police / Fire / Emergency
911

Water / Sewer Emergency
433.7730

DIAL AREA CODE 248

Administration 433.7700

Fax 433.7714

Accounting 433.7712

Assessor's Office 433.7710

Building Dept. 433.7715

Clerk's Office 433.7702

Community Cable 433.7790

Fax 642.7624

Fire Department

Non-Emergency ... 433.7745

Fax 433.7787

Police Department

Administration 433.7750

Non-Emergency ... 433.7755

Fax 433.7784

Animal Welfare 433.7757

Investigations 433.7760

Alarm Info 433.7775

Property 433.7777

Records 433.7776

Road Department 433.7709

Fax 433.7786

Township Library 642.5800

Treasurer's Office 433.7705

Water & Sewer 433.7731

**IMPORTANT
INFORMATION
INSIDE ABOUT
POLICE, FIRE & EMS
MILLAGE PROPOSAL**

US POSTAGE
PAID
PRSR STD
BLOOMFIELD TWP
PERMIT NO 40

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

