



BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Township resident urges awareness of handicap parking

Life is a little more complicated for Bloomfield Township resident Erica Nader than it is for many people. Ever since an automobile accident in 2001 left her with a spinal cord injury, the 30 year-old woman spends three hours every day in intensive rehabilitation therapy and must plot her daily activities very carefully to make the most of each move and conserve her energy.

While that's tough enough, the thoughtless actions of some people make it even tougher.

"One of the most frustrating obstacles I face is a parking lot with its handicap places obstructed by shopping carts or illegally parked cars," said Erica.

"Handicap accessible spots are bigger and more convenient but

they're not for everyone. Having a clear, accessible parking spot is not just a convenience for me; it determines whether or not I can get out of my vehicle when I reach my destination."

According to the Bloomfield Township Police Department, handicapped parking is enforced under either the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code (MVC) or the Uniform Traffic Code (UTC). The 48th District Court currently assesses violations of handicapped parking at \$105, whether you're parked in a handicapped parking space for one hour or one minute.

Please adhere to the following regulations when parking in a public parking lot:

Do not park in a handicap



Erica Nader

parking place unless you have a properly designated placard or license plate.

Do not park in the area marked with hatch marks next to the handicap spot.

Do not stop in a handicap spot and wait for another person to run into a store to get something quickly.

Do not park your vehicle in a way that blocks a ramp or curb cut.

Please see PARKING on page 2



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Capital Building Program on track for timely completion



The new Senior Center takes shape on the Township Campus. Construction is scheduled to be completed in June 2009.

Bloomfield Township's Capital Building Program is proceeding on schedule and on budget. The new buildings, which include a senior center, new central fire station, and new public works facility, are rapidly transforming the look of the Township campus as construction progresses. All three buildings should be completed by the fall of 2009 and general sitework, including the reconfiguration of several parking lots, should be completed by spring, 2010.



Construction of the new DPW garage is well underway, to be done fall 2009.

AT&T providing video services in the Township, but will not be carrying BCTV

After receiving a franchise in April 2007 to provide video service in Bloomfield Township, AT&T is now rolling out its new product, "U-Verse." While many Township residents will be happy to have an alternative to Comcast for cable or video service, we would like to make residents aware of several points.

First and foremost, we have never had an exclusive franchise with any cable provider. Exclusive cable/video franchises are illegal in Michigan and most other states. Any provider has always been welcome to do business in Bloomfield Township as long as it could meet baseline criteria proving it to be a legitimate business.

Next, while our local franchise with Comcast requires it to provide services to all households and businesses in the Township, AT&T's franchise is written by the state and has no such provision. Therefore, the Township cannot require AT&T to roll out its U-Verse to every neighborhood, so some of our residents will have cable/video competition and some will not. To see if you can subscribe to AT&T, you may call their customer service number, 866.228.8257, or go to their website, uverse.att.com

Finally, while U-Verse offers many state-of-the-art features, it does not carry public, education or government (PEG) channels at an acceptable quality. AT&T

provides PEG programming as a computer application, not a regular channel. It takes a full 19 seconds to load the application, causing the viewer to wait before being able to watch a program, and once loaded, the quality is noticeably inferior. In addition, AT&T places the burden on the local government to transmit the public channel to AT&T. This means that Bloomfield Community Television (BCTV 15) would have a significant initial cost for equipment, then ongoing monthly costs to send its channel to AT&T's U-Verse. Because of the inferior quality provided by AT&T and the additional expense, Bloomfield Township will not be sending its channel to AT&T at this time.

Local public school districts are facing the same decision; to find out if your school channel will be on AT&T, please contact the school administration.

BCTV produces 500 programs every year featuring the people and events that make Bloomfield Township a unique place to live. You can find the program schedule on the Township's website, bloomfieldtwp.org, or pick up a print schedule at BTSS, Bloomfield Township Public Library, or Bloomfield Township offices. You may also have one sent to your home by request. Call 248.433.7790 to be put on the mailing list.

Lawsuit against Comcast is keeping public channels in place



BCTV production staff produces close to 500 shows each year that are viewed on Comcast PEG stations.

In March 2008, Bloomfield Township joined a suit initiated by Meridian Township that sought to prevent Comcast from moving public, education and government (PEG) channels away from the basic channel lineup. Comcast had threatened to move them to the digital tier, which would result in the need for basic service subscribers to obtain extra equipment (often at an additional price) to view the

PEG channels. Also, because Comcast proposed to move the channels to the high end of the channel lineup (the 900 level) they would become less convenient to locate even for digital service subscribers.

A federal court judge ruled in favor of the communities (Dearborn and Warren also joined the suit) and issued an injunction that is still in place while proceedings continue. The

judge has referred several technical questions arising from the suit to the Federal Communications Commission. The outcome of this suit will likely affect national cable policy.

For now, you can continue to see Bloomfield Township's channel, Bloomfield Community Television (BCTV) on Channel 15 if you are a Comcast subscriber.

PARKING from page 1

Do not leave your shopping cart in a handicap space or adjacent hatch marks.

Owners of vehicles blocking or misusing handicap

spots may be issued tickets or even have their vehicle towed away. Improper use, forging or copying of a disability license plate or parking placard may result in a fine of up to \$500.

"As a concerned, active member in your community there are many things you can do to improve access to and availability of the spots," Erica said. "For example, be sure to take your shopping

cart back to the store. If you see a shopping cart blocking access to a spot, make the effort to remove it. Talk about this with your friends and help them become more aware too."



A NOTE FROM

Dave Payne, Bloomfield Township Supervisor

Bright spots in a bleak economy

There's no question that today's economic woes challenge us all. Our household budgets, our jobs and workplace, and our community as a whole are affected. At the same time, it's helpful to look at some bright spots in order to keep a balanced perspective.

The commercial development on Telegraph Road north of Square Lake shows that private businesses still see Bloomfield Township as a viable place to invest. The work stoppage at Bloomfield Park is unfortunate but we continue to trust that the project will eventually be completed. There are other

businesses that have chosen to move into that area or expand their existing properties. In fact, two major corporations, Target and Costco, see Bloomfield Township not only as a profitable market area, but as a location worthy of stores that serve as prototypes for their national chains.

Costco executives expect the Bloomfield Township store to become their most profitable store in the state. (Look for the "flagship" embroidered on the jackets of some of their employees!) It is consistently one of the top five producing stores in the country. They demolished

the original building and increased the size of the new one by almost 30,000 square feet. Buyers for the store stock it with merchandise based on the Bloomfield area customers' preferences, some of which will not be found in any other Michigan Costco store. If you've read the local newspapers or have visited the store yourself, you're aware of many innovations that have been incorporated into the building.

What does this mean for Bloomfield Township? It means that we are in the enviable position of attracting top quality businesses, which in turn, con-

tribute to our community in a meaningful way. Both Target and Costco have donated to the Telegraph Road Median Beautification project, resulting in attractive landscaping and other roadway improvements. Each location was faced with environmental issues that they addressed in socially responsible ways, preserving our natural assets. They worked cooperatively with the Township to meet our high building standards and used exceptionally attractive materials and accessories.

Good businesses attract other good businesses. While Bloomfield Township will always be predominately residential, maintaining a base of high quality businesses will go a long way in preserving the excellence of our community.

Affordable homes in Bloomfield



It is unfortunate, but due to tough economic times, there are many cities and townships throughout the state of Michigan dealing with a number of foreclosed properties.

On a positive note, however, many of these homes are now selling for affordable prices. We would encourage our residents to tell friends and relatives who are looking for housing to consider checking foreclosure listings in Bloomfield Township. Websites such as

michiganhomesforeclosures.com can provide you with detailed listings. There are many beautiful homes throughout our community just waiting to be occupied.

In an effort to preserve the high standards of Bloomfield Township, the Ordinance Division has had to seek court orders to maintain many of these properties to ensure that they keep up the appearance of the neighborhood.

If you have questions about a foreclosed property we would be happy to assist you in any way we can. Contact the Ordinance Division at 248-594-2845.

Clerk's Office update



Voters packed Township Hall the day before the November election. The Clerk's Office processed 562 absentee ballots with help from employees from other departments.



Lynette Parks, with help from son Jeremy, completes her absentee ballot.

"Hands On" help

The Planning, Building, and Ordinance Department introduces a new service to help current or prospective Township residents complete existing dormant, expired, and/or cancelled building projects. These projects may include unoccupied homes.

"Hands On" will provide, upon request: a permit history; an estimate of applicable fees, whether past due or projected; a pre-construction meeting with the owner and his/her architect or contractor; a jobsite "walk through" with the owner and his/her architect or contractor.

For further information, please contact our office at 248-433-7715, or visit www.bloomfieldtwp.org

Keep your home safe in winter weather

Winter is here and the icy cold air can wreak havoc on your home and your pocketbook. This is a good time to inspect your house to look for a few things that might help you protect your investment and save money as well.

Look for areas of potential heat loss. The weather stripping at the doors and windows is a good place to start. Check to see if the caulk is in good condition around your electrical service entrance cable, AC wiring and condensate lines, and your sump pump discharge.

Make sure that your garden hose is disconnected from the hose bib. Even

with the valve closed, if 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 will minimize the likelihood of ice damming. If you must use an electrical heat tape, be sure to use only high quality, UL listed products. Use a pet-safe, environmentally friendly ice melter this year.

Inside the house, change your smoke detector and carbon monoxide sensor batteries. Change your furnace filter once a month. Your furnace should be inspected bi-annually by a licensed mechanical con-

tractor for the first ten years and annually thereafter. Switch to a new programmable thermostat to save money. Talk to your heating contractor about installing a "Fresh Air Kit" to improve your indoor air quality.

Installing some additional insulation in the attic will help you reduce your heating bills and will help minimize the chance of ice damming as well. Be careful not to block your roof ventilation.

The Bloomfield Township Building Division wishes a safe, healthy and warm winter season to you.



The arrival of winter, with its snow and freezing temperatures, provides postcard-perfect scenes; but it's important to make sure your home is prepared to withstand the weather. Township Building Department tips can help you keep your home safe and comfortable both inside and out.

Township Firefighters "Fill the Boot" for MDA

Bloomfield Township firefighters asked the community to "Fill the Boot" and were rewarded with \$5080 in just eight hours, all of which will go to the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

"It's a good cause," said Ryan Husch, one of the event coordinators and a Township firefighter and paramedic. "We hoped people would be generous, even in hard times, and we were delighted with the response. We'll continue asking people to "Fill the Boot" for years to come."



Temporary quarters for firefighters



The demolition and rebuilding of Central Fire Station is taking place as part of the Capital Improvement Program, bringing some temporary changes in quarters for the Fire Department. While construction is underway, firefighters are temporarily living in trailers on

Central Station's site located at Andover and Exeter Roads. The Fire Department Administration office is temporarily located in the lower level of the 48th District Court at 4280 Telegraph Road, south of the Bloomfield Township Administration Building. The administration office consists of Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, Fire Marshal, Fire Inspectors, and EMS Coordinator, along with support staff. Firefighters and administration should be able to move into the new Central Fire Station in late summer, 2009.

Township Fire Department receives grant for new self-contained breathing apparatus

In an ongoing effort to obtain state-of-the-art equipment at the least cost to Bloomfield Township taxpayers, the Fire Department researched, wrote and recently received a grant from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in the amount of \$206,100 for the purchase of 41 self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). This is the third grant the Fire Department has received from the DHS and the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program since 2003. The grants have totaled \$380,000.

These new SCBAs will replace the Department's current aging equipment. The SCBA is the most vital piece of safety equipment a firefighter can have. It allows a firefighter to work in various types of hazardous breathing conditions. The backpack, face piece and compressed air tank protect the firefighter from toxic smoke and other harmful chemicals. Without this equipment firefighters would not be able to use aggressive suppression techniques to extinguish fires.

Winter safety tips from Bloomfield Township's DPW

Bloomfield Township is prepared for the onslaught of winter weather. Salt and deicing materials are stockpiled, the trucks are prepared, plow routes have been reviewed and the operators have begun their preparation for long hours and sleepless nights. There will be no service level change in what the Township provides its residents each winter season. Township trucks will de-ice and plow snow in your neighborhood on a regular basis. With that in mind there are several things you as a resident can do to help.

While it's inevitable that snowplows will push some snow back into your driveway when they plow your road, you can help to reduce this amount by piling snow from your driveway on the "downstream" side, or right side, of the drive.

Shovel the snow that is pushed into your driveway before it has a chance to freeze and become hard.

Make sure to place trashcans, bags and recycle bins well off the road.

Please remember when you're following a plow truck that the driver may stop and back up at any



Watch for the Bloomfield Township plow trucks as you drive this winter. Be sure to use caution and give the driver plenty of room to maneuver.

time. If you cannot see the face of the driver in his mirror, he cannot see you! Stay back at least 100 feet from the vehicle.

Water main breaks more frequent during winter months

Water main breaks happen year round for a variety of reasons, but are more frequent and visible in the winter. During a water main break, the ground or pavement will rise and water will flow out in a constant stream.

Repair times vary due to conditions such as weather, ground types, and conflicts with other utilities. To make a repair the crew has to shut off the water main, leaving the water off for approximately 4 to 6 hours for the

average repair. The crews typically knock on the doors or leave a notice card on front doors to inform the affected homes of the water main break, unless it's late at night.

When the water is turned back on it may be discolored, but after running the cold water for approximately 20 minutes it should flow clear. This discoloration is generally due to mineral sediments in the water main that are disturbed by the repairs. Unless you are

specifically notified otherwise, the water remains safe to drink.

Damage to lawns, sprinkler systems, roads, driveways, or landscaping that occurred during the water main break will be repaired in the spring. If you suspect a water main break, call the Water Division at (248) 433-7731 during normal business hours- 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. After hours call the Water Emergency Line at (248) 433-7730.

Remember Bloomfield's snow emergency ordinance this winter

The winter season has arrived! Bloomfield Township's Snow Emergency Ordinance #568 requires that cars be moved from streets within six hours of a declared snow emergency. Residents will be notified about snow emergencies by an announcement from the Township. The infor-

mation will be broadcast on area radio and television stations, including Bloomfield Community Television. The hotline, (248) 594-2848, will also inform callers when a snow emergency is in effect. The snow emergency will remain 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. Please remember that non-compliance with this ordinance may result in a fine of up to \$100 and illegally parked vehicles may be impounded.

Winter de-icing tips can help the environment

With the arrival of winter snow and ice become a problem for homeowners. Keeping sidewalks and



driveways safe and clear is important, but traditional de-icing salts have a damaging effect on our environment. After salt is applied it is washed off paved surfaces into storm drains or onto adjacent ground and 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.

There are simple tips you can follow to decrease the negative impact of de-icing salts.

Store de-icing material in a dry place.

Place a small amount of salt down before the snowstorm 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 are a bit more expensive, they do have less impact on the environment. Sand is inexpensive and inert, but it clogs storm drains and smothers other organisms when it settles out in streams.

Deputy Police Chief Geof Gaudard attends F.B.I. National Academy



Deputy Police Chief Geof Gaudard, also pictured on the front page, has recently graduated from the 233rd session of the F.B.I. National Academy in Virginia. Acceptance into the Academy is a prestigious honor, with Deputy Chief Gaudard being the third member of our police department to have this privilege.

The graduating officer brings a wealth of knowledge back to his

or her department. Currently, there are over 800,000 law enforcement officers in the United States and approximately 800 will attend the national academy this year. Deputy Chief Gaudard's exceptionally high level of training, in addition to that of Chief of Police Kirt Bowden, who also graduated from the academy, sets a high bar for the performance expectations of all Bloomfield Township's police officers.

The intensive classroom curriculum, with instruction by both F.B.I. Special Agents and professors from the University of Virginia, focuses on leadership, technical and operation skills, organizational behavior and other executive level topics.

The F.B.I. National Academy is

also a physically demanding program. Potential candidates have to pass medical and fitness exams prior to acceptance and be prepared to participate in heavy physical exercise while attending the academy. The gymnasium, pool and other exercise facilities are open 24 hours a day, so any additional conditioning necessary is always available to students. The culmination of this exercise program is a test known as "The Yellow Brick Road." The Yellow Brick Road is a 6 ½ mile obstacle course trail through the woods, hills and streams of the Quantico Marine Base. The candidate must scale walls, crawl under barbed wire through trenches, scale barricades, climb cliffs and run hills

back to the academy complex. (If you watched "Silence of the Lambs," you saw actress Jodie Foster going through a section of the obstacle course. She is also filmed walking through the halls of the National Academy.)

Sessions at the National Academy include 250 to 300 law enforcement officers from all 50 states and several foreign countries. The interaction among students from different geographical areas is almost as educational as the actual classroom material.

Deputy Chief Gaudard performed very successfully in this academic and physical environment. He received his diploma directly from the Director of the F.B.I.

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