

# BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER



## Township's spring events coming up

The arrival of spring means it's time to plan for three annual Township events: Clean Sweep; Electronic Recycling, Medication Disposal & Paper Shredding; and Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day. The three events are very popular with Township

tunity to get outdoors alongside your neighbors and enjoy the spring weather. Although the official event date is Saturday, April 16, participants are welcome to extend the event

televisions and cell phones for recycling, as well as unused medications for proper disposal. Bulk paper shredding will be available for residents, who may bring up to five boxes of office grade paper for shredding. No newspapers, binders or computer disks can be included. Those who bring items to this event must provide proof of residency. More information and a list of acceptable items can be found on the Bloomfield Township website.

Township residents have been participating in Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day



Residents take part in Clean Sweep

residents who are happy to take advantage of them as they do their spring cleaning. They help residents protect and care for the environment and preserve the natural beauty and quality of life found here.

Neighborhood associations, school and community groups are invited to participate in the sixth annual Clean Sweep. Clean Sweep is designed to spruce up the right-of-way areas near safety paths and at the entrances to subdivisions. It's a great oppor-

### Clean Sweep: April 16

### Electronics Recycling, Medication Disposal & Paper Shredding Event: April 16

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Public Services Building  
1135 Exeter Road

### Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day: May 7

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

See the website  
[www.bloomfieldtwp.org](http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org)  
for more details  
or call 248-594-2800.

through Sunday. To participate, residents should register with the Department of Public Works. The DPW will provide plastic bags for general debris and paper bags for yard waste, as well as lawn signs to promote Clean Sweep in neighborhoods.

April 16 is also the date of the Electronics, Medication Disposal and Paper Shredding Event for Township residents. Residents may bring electronic waste items such as computers,



Electronics Recycling, Medication Disposal 2010

since 1991. This environmentally friendly program continues to be a favorite service. The spring event will take place on Saturday, May 7. This is your chance to get rid of items such as paint, gasoline and cleaning products, which can be harmful to the environment if not disposed of properly. Proof of residency must be provided when items are dropped off. The Township website contains an extensive list of acceptable items for drop-off.



## BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD & 2011

### ELECTED OFFICIALS

#### ADMINISTRATION

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

#### TRUSTEES

David Buckley  
Neal J. Barnett  
Leo C. Savoie  
Brian Kepes

### APPOINTED POSITIONS

#### PLANNING COMMISSION

Scot Goldberg, Chairman  
Jeff Salz, Vice Chairman  
Sherry Stefanos, Secretary  
Neal Barnett  
Richard Mintz  
Thomas Petinga  
William Stark

#### BOARD OF APPEALS

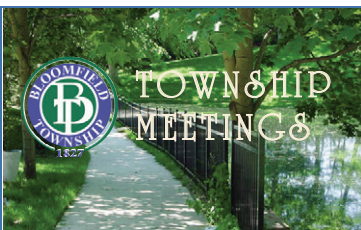
Corinne Khederian, Chairman  
Robert E. Taylor, Jr., Vice Chairman  
James Aldrich  
David Buckley  
Brian Henry  
Tracy Leone, Alternate  
Carol Rosati, Alternate  
Lisa Seneker  
Sherry Stefanos



Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day

# Discover the Township's Senior Center

Did you know that if you are 50 or over the Township's Senior Center has something for you? There is a vast selection of opportunities to stimulate you mentally, physically and socially. Come and tour the community rooms, billiard room, and computer lab. Check out the fitness facility, which includes a heated pool and locker rooms, walking track, exercise studio and state-of-the-art fitness equipment. The Senior Center is a great place to get fit, to learn something new, and to meet your friends and neighbors.



**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

## Stimulate your mind

Did you know...?

- The Senior Center offers classes on using Facebook, making it easy to keep up with your friends and family
- You can learn to draw, paint or make jewelry in one of our classes
- You can join either of two book clubs that meet monthly
- You can catch a special presentation of the new Keith Famie film *Our Vietnam Generation* in May



## Take charge of your health

Did you know...?

- You can sign up for *Exercise Starts Here* for an overview of various exercises
- You can enjoy a heated

therapeutic pool and a variety of water fitness classes

- Open swim is offered daily, year-round
- Fitness is fun here! Try zumba or pickleball, or work on your golf conditioning.
- Health screenings, including blood pressure checks, are available here



## Make connections

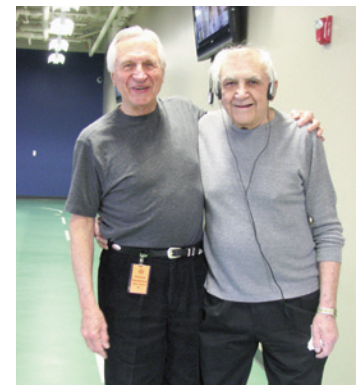
Did you know...?

- You can visit our Senior Men's Club or Senior Women's Club and hear interesting speakers
- You can choose from over 80 day trips each year to theater productions, concerts,

exhibits and other interesting destinations. Enjoy *Mama Mia* at the Fisher Theater, tour the Ford Rouge factory, do the Franklin Garden Walk, and many more.

■ Volunteer opportunities abound, including delivering meals and driving homebound residents to doctor's appointments

Check us out! Call 248-723-3500 for more information or visit our website, <http://www.bloomfieldtp.org/Services/SeniorServices/OverviewSeniorServices.htm>



## BCTV expands programming to serve residents

Bloomfield Community Television continues to attract new community producers, resulting in a number of new series that address a wide range of interests. Latest additions to the BCTV lineup include *Personality Profiles*, produced by Barbara Gudeman, and *Elizabeth's Kind Café*, produced by Elizabeth Katzman. Both shows began airing in March on Comcast channel 15. These shows join other recent additions, *Flavor Secrets*, produced by Lynn Miller, *Five Star Cooking at Home*, produced by John Prepolec, and *Real People*, produced by Dwight Presser. More new shows are currently in the development process, including one produced by

Judge Diane D'Agostini that will showcase the community's young people.

In order to keep residents well informed, BCTV is also producing a number of shows highlighting Township employees, practices and issues. Two episodes of Bloomfield Township Today, featuring Supervisor Dave Payne, recently detailed the 2011-2012 budget and the progress of the 2009-2014 Strategic Plan. Another recent program takes viewers along with the driver of a Township snowplow as roads are cleared after a storm. Road Division employees will describe what goes into the job of keeping the roads safe for residents. Coming up later this

year is a show on the history and current role of the Bloomfield Township Fire Department. Residents are able to watch these shows not only on TV, but also on the Township's website, [www.bloomfieldtp.org](http://www.bloomfieldtp.org)

Anyone interested in producing a show at BCTV is invited to attend a Volunteer Workshop and submit a program proposal. Dates of upcoming Workshops and information about the program development process are available on the website, <http://www.bloomfieldtp.org/Services/cable/ProgramDevelopmentProcess.htm> or by calling 248-433-7790.



## A NOTE FROM

Dave Payne, Bloomfield Township Supervisor

# Employee Task Force performs vital role

This newsletter is filled with news about the activities carried out by your Bloomfield Township employees and the exceptional qualifications some of them have earned. Whether they're implementing the annual spring events detailed on the front page, responding to a tragic emergency in another community, or achieving an exceptional professional accreditation, your local public employees are committed to delivering the best services possible.

As revenues decline, causing us to lower our staffing levels and spend less on equipment, materials and supplies, we continually look for creative ways to maximize our resources. Our employees are among the most valuable of our resources. One of the

strategies we've put into place is a task force of selected employees charged with carrying out initiatives designed to improve services and cut expenses.

Several years ago each director assigned one or two people from his or her department to form this task force. Their first initiative was to establish excellent customer service as our standard operating practice. One of the culminating activities in this effort was holding an all-day workshop which many of our employees attended, led by a professional facilitator. Since that time, other employees have been sent to focused workshops led by the same facilitator. This ongoing effort has "raised the bar" in terms of the expectations the administration holds for the

staff and more effectively, the expectations each staff member holds for his or her peers.

A second initiative began in 2009 as we prepared to transition from one health care plan to another. Among other features included to cut the Township's health care costs, the new health care plan places a high priority on wellness and living a healthy lifestyle. The Employee Task Force designed and carried out a variety of activities that included a health risk assessment, peer competitions and educational sessions. The year-long campaign was considered very successful by not only our employees but by our insurance company as well. We are now in Year Two of our wellness campaign and see it taking hold among our employees. It should yield

long-term savings in the years ahead.

The Employee Task Force has also supported our ongoing efforts to cross train employees so they can fill vacancies in other departments and divisions. In many cases, this has enabled us to carry out job functions without hiring new employees.

Participation in the Task Force changes from time to time, giving more employees the opportunity to contribute. In the process, they learn more about the strategic objectives of the Board and administration and become an integral part of the overall effort.

Bloomfield Township has always held high standards in hiring and training employees. A local government is essentially a service business, and it's people who perform the services. We are proud of our people and invest in them to assure our residents get the best value possible.

## Clerk Jan Roncelli earns MMC certification, is picked for spot on national board



Township Clerk Jan Roncelli earned certification as a Master Municipal Clerk

(MMC), after completing 60 hours of advanced education classes and 40 hours of professional contributions to the community and additional advanced education classes. Only 10 percent of the members in the International Institute of Municipal Clerks have achieved this honor.

In addition, Roncelli has been selected by Secretary of State Ruth Johnson to be the local election official for Michigan on the 110-member Standards Board. The Standards Board is a national body consisting of 55 state election officials and 55 local election officials. The Board helps the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) in carrying out its mandates under the law. The EAC is an independent, bipartisan commission charged with developing guidance to meet the 2002 Help America Vote Act

(HAVA) requirements. The EAC is also responsible for adopting voluntary voting system guidelines, serving as a national clearinghouse of information on election administration, accrediting testing laboratories, certifying voting systems, and auditing the use of HAVA funds.

"It was an honor to be asked," said Roncelli. "It's really important for local election officials to have the opportunity to give feedback to officials at the federal level."

## Fire Marshal earns PEM certification

Fire Marshal Mike McCully recently received his certification in



Professional Emergency Management (PEM). He completed 17 online courses and 13 classroom courses, plus a final exam, to earn his certification. Some universities offer the PEM as a college degree. McCully pursued his certification over the past five years, and is the only BTFD member with this designation.



From the Police Department

## Be alert to avoid theft and break-ins

Spring is a time when flowers bloom, and the days are longer and warmer. It's also a time when the police department sees an increase in car break-ins and thefts of property from garages that are left open.

A car left parked outside is susceptible to being broken into, vandalized, or stolen. On the other hand, a car parked in a closed and locked garage

is far less vulnerable to crime. Think of all the property



**Don't let this happen to you. Keep your car in a locked garage.**

you may have in your garage: lawn equipment, golf clubs, tools, etc. Leaving the garage door up, even if you are home, leaves all these things vulnerable to theft. In a matter of seconds a thief can enter your garage, grab your property, and escape without being seen.

Have you ever had a door-to-door solicitor? Ever had someone come to your door

asking for a person who doesn't live in your home, or some other lame excuse? These are both good reasons to call the police. The visitors on your doorstep may be completely legitimate, or they may be casing the neighborhood looking for a home to burglarize. Call the police immediately at 248-433-7755 to report strangers at your door.

## Contact the Planning Division for special event permits

Bloomfield Township's homes and neighborhoods provide many beautiful settings for hosting graduation parties, baby showers, weddings and large outdoor gatherings during the warmer months. Many of our Township businesses also hold special events throughout the spring and summer months, which often include outdoor seating and sales. The Planning Division is ready to assist you in obtaining a Special Event Permit,

and will coordinate with our Police and Fire Departments in providing additional traffic and safety tips. Please contact the Planning Division at 248.433.7795, or visit our website at

<http://www.bloomfieldtp.org/Services/PlanningBuildingOrdinance/PlanningDivision/OverviewPlanning.htm> to obtain the Special Events Application and guidelines. We look forward to working with you.

### New construction codes in effect

For all construction projects submitted on or after March 9, 2011, the Bloomfield Township Building Division will be enforcing the 2009 Michigan Building Code, 2009 Michigan Residential Code, 2009 Michigan Rehabilitation Code, and 2009 Michigan Uniform Energy Code.

If you are considering a building or renovation project, you should be aware of the new construction codes. Contact the Township's Building Division at 248-433-7719 or [bdg\\_dept@bloomfieldtp.org](mailto:bdg_dept@bloomfieldtp.org) for information on the Code changes.

### INSPECTORS from page 6

inspectors. The safety of every building in the Township is the responsibility of the Building Division, even before the Fire Marshal steps in. Building Official George Kilpatrick says, "When I inspect that commercial building I ask myself if I would consider it safe for my family. Safety is our overriding concern."

## Spring cleaning helps maintain property values

Now that spring is here and the snow has melted, it's time to start thinking about sprucing up your property. Take care of any problems that occurred during the winter as well as anything you didn't have time for last fall.

- Remove leftover leaves from the yard and flowerbeds.
- Check the gutters for any leaf and tree limb debris.
- Put away winter supplies such as salt tubs or shovels.
- Check your home for areas that need to be repainted.
- Check the roof for areas that need attention.

Property maintenance is the key to sustaining the value of your home and neighborhood. Contact the Ordinance Division at 248-594-2845 with any property maintenance questions.



## BTSS offers Minor Home Repairs program

Bloomfield Township Senior Services is using funds received from HUD's Community Block Grant program to offer minor home repairs to qualifying seniors. Maximum household income for a one-person household is \$24,450; for a two-person household, \$27,950. These funds may be used for repairs to furnaces, water heaters, sidewalks, roofs, windows, gutters or chimneys, or for replacement of disposals, toilets, stairs, handrails, and other minor repair and replacement projects that improve safety.

In the past year, BTSS has provided minor home repairs to 18 senior households. The average age of the homeowners served is 76, and they have lived in the Township on average for nearly 30 years. The average income of those served by the program is \$20,000 a year.

If you believe you may qualify for the program and would like more information, contact Denise Kolkmeier at 248-723-3500.



From the Fire Department

## Township firefighters assist at Wayne store explosion

On December 29 two Bloomfield Township firefighters, Lt. Chris Whitehead and Firefighter John Leroy, responded to the explosion and collapse of Frank's Furniture Store in Wayne, Michigan. Lt. Whitehead and FF Leroy are part of the Fire Department's Technical Rescue Team. They are also part of Michigan Task Force One, which is a larger team made up of firefighters from many local jurisdictions. They joined firefighters from departments in Oakland, Wayne and Washtenaw counties to search for and locate the victims of the explosion in the rubble of the store.

Lt. Whitehead is certified as a Rescue Specialist. When

called to the Wayne explosion, he removed debris and led a crew to shore up the building. He then assisted in picking up and cleaning used equipment,



**Firefighter John Leroy and Lt. Chris Whitehead with technical rescue equipment**

working at the site for four hours.

FF Leroy is a Search Camera Specialist. He was part of a team that bored holes into the collapsed roof and then used

fiber optic cameras to identify rooms and areas of the store. Because they were able to identify certain features they were able to guide the rest of the team to begin removing debris in areas where the victims were thought to be located. FF Leroy spent 10 hours working on the site.

Bloomfield Township has several firefighters trained in Technical Rescue. This involves proficiency in ropes, trench rescue, collapse rescue, and confined space. The firefighters with this specialized training belong to Oakway and form its Technical Rescue Team. Some Township firefighters, such as Lt. Whitehead and FF Leroy, are members of Michigan Task

Force One and deploy anywhere in the state when the need arises. Members from Oakland County, including Bloomfield Township, are recognized for their high level of training and expertise. The Township's participation in teams such as these is a way for communities to share services and resources, helping tax dollars go further.



**Finding victims of the Wayne furniture store explosion required the specialized skills of a Technical Rescue Team**

## CERT offers tips on emergency supplies

Residents active as Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers are highly trained to respond to a variety of disasters. Disaster preparedness includes having necessary supplies on hand to cope in the event of an emergency. Ken Loftus, a CERT volunteer, offers some tips for residents.

It's important to know the

items to keep in your house for emergency situations. To endure emergency situations we need to remember the "rule of threes": You can survive three minutes without oxygen, three hours without shelter, three days without water, three weeks without food and three months without hope.

The first item we must be

sure to have on hand is clean potable water. A case of bottled water costs only a few dollars and, when stored in a pantry, can last several years. Make sure the water you store is not spring water, which can go bad. Canned foods and dry goods also have extensive shelf life when stored properly. Store spare flashlight batteries in your pantry as well.

Your prescription medications can be vital to your health and survival. In the event of a natural disaster, pharmacy supplies will be quickly depleted and you may be unable to refill your prescriptions. Ask your doctor for an extended prescription that can be filled so a few days worth of your medications can be on hand.

## Mark your calendar for the Woodward Dream Cruise Classic Car Show!

It's getting to be a fixture along Woodward Ave. on the day of the Dream Cruise – the Bloomfield Township Classic Car Show! Plans are underway now for the seventh annual event taking place this year on Saturday, August 20, 2011. Once again, the Car Show will be held at the Mercedes Benz dealership, just south of Big Beaver. Superformance, LLC, maker of hand-built reproduction Cobras, will have its display

next door at Comerica Bank, along with several car clubs. The financial & estate planning firm Daniel Krug and Associates is coming back for the second year as a sponsor. General event parking is available behind the office building north of the dealership.

The Classic Car Show is a great place to bring the family and enjoy the world's largest automotive event. It's free, convenient, more easily accessible

than other locations along Woodward, and offers parking, food, music, bleacher seating, official Woodward Dream Cruise merchandise, and portajohns. There will be plenty of exceptional classic and specialty cars on display, many owned by Township residents.

Proceeds benefit the Bloomfield Hills Optimists Club, the Bloomfield Township Fire Department Charities, and the Bloomfield Township Police

Department Benevolent Fund.

If you would like to enter your car, go to the Township website for the entry form. Last year was almost a sell-out – don't wait too long to register!



## Township Building Inspectors work to keep residents safe

When we think of public safety, the first thing that comes to mind is our police officers and firefighters. However, the Bloomfield Township Building Division's inspectors are also working to keep residents safe. They are responsible for the safety of every building, residential or commercial, in the Township. When they conduct inspections, they are looking for anything that might be a hazard.

"When I do an inspection, I explain to the homeowner exactly what I'm looking for," says Rick Firlik, Electrical Inspector. "I make sure they get the quality of work they expected to get." There are occasions when an inspector finds unforeseen problems in the course of an inspection. On one occasion Firlik discovered an arcing circuit breaker that

could have caused a fire, and was able to alert the homeowner to the danger.

The Township's inspectors take pride in being proactive, letting homeowners and contractors know exactly what the codes require and what to expect during the course of construction and inspection. They are required by law to continue to take courses and update their knowledge, and they take this responsibility seriously. All the inspectors agreed that they find it gratifying when contractors and resi-

dents ask if they can run ideas by the inspectors before beginning construction.

Sometimes an inspector encounters a homeowner who questions the necessity and expense of an inspection. Tom Benson, Mechanical Inspector, has dispelled homeowner doubts on the occasions when he has discovered small gas leaks when inspecting replacements such as furnaces. "I spread a little soapy water over the area of the leak and show them the bubbles formed by the escaping gas," Tom says. "They suddenly understand the

need for an inspection."

Plumbing inspector Todd Haneckow has found numerous leaking shower pans that could have resulted in extensive water damage. Even before the codes required it, he insisted on testing all shower pans by filling them with water. Building inspector Jim Wright relates an incident when he found multiple violations when inspecting a large addition. The homeowner questioned these findings, but Wright explained that the intent was not to slow down her project but to ensure her family's safety. "She was extremely grateful for our help and still calls us when she has questions about her home."

Commercial construction is a large part of the work of the **Please see INSPECTORS**



Tom Benson, George Kilpatrick, Rick Firlik, Jim Wright and Todd Haneckow

433-7700	Administration
433-7712	Accounting
433-7710	Assessor's Office
433-7715	Building Division
433-7702	Clerk's Office
433-7790	Community Cable
594-2800	Engineering & Env.
433-7745	Fire Non-Emergency
594-2845	Ordinance Division
433-7795	Planning Division
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
594-2800	Road Division
594-2800	Water & Sewer
723-3500	Senior Services
723-3530	Adult Day Service
433-7705	Treasurer's Office

**TOWNSHIP DIRECTOR**

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

**BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP**

