

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER



Fitness training gives kayaker (and others) a lift

Marcia Mahood knew things were changing when she hoisted her kayak onto the top of the SUV.

“It was very revealing,” she said.

She and her husband are avid kayakers, but lugging the boats required help, including a special winching contraption built by her husband especially for lifting the boats onto the SUV. “It was a hassle,” she said. But one day she realized she didn’t need any help lifting the kayak.

What made the difference? Regular workouts at the Township Senior Center. Over time, Marcia grew stronger. “All of a sudden I had more upper body strength,” she said.

“There’s nothing better than seeing someone who learns what they can do,” said Maggie Barclay,

Fitness Coordinator, who oversees the fitness programs at the Senior Center. “I get excited when people have successes.”

And there’s a lot available at the Senior Center to help them achieve success. A wide range of individual and group activities are offered, including Pilates, Zumba, High Intensity Interval Training, Tai Chi, Yoga, small group personal training and much more. An assortment of equipment is available to help

with the workouts, including bikes, steppers, treadmills, water rowers and pneumatic strength training machines.

In addition, there is a full schedule of aquatic activities, including swim lessons, Water Walking, Poolates, H2O HIIT, and Fluid Moves, among other courses.

“There’s a lot of variety,” Barclay said.



Thanks to her physical workouts at the Senior Center Marcia Mahood is able to hoist her own kayak.

Helping everyone achieve their goals are 16 instructors who have amassed a combined total of 368 years of experience in fitness instruction. One instructor even has studied in China to learn Eastern fitness techniques.

As for the students who attend various fitness classes, they come in all shapes and sizes. And ages, from 50 on up.. Among the enthusiastic athletes who participated in the Senior

Center Triathlon held in January was a woman in her 70s.

Some program participants are in fact much older, including some in their 90s. And all are welcome. The Senior Center has excellent exercise equipment housed in a quality building that is well-located on the Township campus at Long Lake Road and Telegraph. But its popularity isn’t just based on bricks and

hardware. It’s a welcoming place where people are made to feel comfortable.

The HIIT – High Intensity Interval Training – classes are an example. One thing that makes the program popular is that the participants can work at their own level. “All the classes offer some type of

modification. Instructors are able to give them an option,” Barclay said.

And everybody feels better, including the lady who can now fling a kayak as well as anyone.

To learn more about the Township Senior Center, including the many non-exercise programs it also offers, go to the Township website, www.bloomfieldtp.org and click on Senior Services under the Services tab.



BLOOMFIELD
TOWNSHIP
BOARD
2018

ELECTED OFFICIALS

ADMINISTRATION

Leo Savoie, Supervisor
Janet Roncelli, Clerk
Brian Kepes, Treasurer

TRUSTEES

David Buckley
Neal J. Barnett
Michael Schostak
Dani Walsh

APPOINTED POSITIONS

PLANNING COMMISSION

Thomas Petinga, Chairman
Jeff Salz, Vice Chairman
Lisa Seneker
Richard Mintz
Neal Barnett
Richard Atto
Bruce Selik

BOARD OF APPEALS

Carol Rosati, Chairman
Tracy Leone, Vice Chairman
David Buckley
Brian Henry
Lisa Seneker
Robert Taylor, Jr.
Claudine Bacher, Alternate
Jocelyn Giangrande, Alternate

Save the date...

April 21

Electronic Recycling,
Medication Disposal &
Paper Shredding event

May 5

Household Hazardous
Waste Drop-Off Day

August 18

Woodward Dream
Cruise Classic Car Show

September 14

Last day to pay Summer
Taxes without penalty



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

Clerk's Office offers assistance

Have you moved recently? If you are a new resident in Bloomfield Township, take advantage of what the Clerk's Office has to offer you.

For your convenience, we can assist with voter registration in the Township and at the same time request a change of address sticker for a Michigan driver's license. Once you are registered in the system, a voter identification card is sent directly to your new address. At your request, we can place your name on our permanent absentee mailing list. Prior to an election, you will receive an application for an absentee ballot. Upon receipt of the completed and signed application, a ballot will be mailed. Michigan requires one of six reasons to request

an absentee ballot. There are rules for voters who move within and those who move outside the jurisdiction. So don't wait until an election to determine where



Clerk's Office staff are always ready to assist new residents with voter registration and more.

you should vote. We can guide you in a timely manner. There are so many ways we can make life easier for you in Bloomfield Township. From new homeowner packets to passport services, no solicita-

tion stickers, yard waste stickers, maps, lists of congressional, state and county officials, the Clerk's Office is happy to make your relocation a pleasant one.

The Bloomfield Hills Schools will hold a special election on Tuesday, May 8, 2018, for its Building and Site Sinking Fund Millage Replacement proposal.

Only electors in the Bloomfield Hills School District are eligible to vote in this election.

For ballot information, contact the Bloomfield Township Clerk's Office at (248) 433-7702 or email clerk@bloomfield-twp.org.

Win a dinner with the Firefighters

Bloomfield Township residents are eligible to win a dinner spiced with fun at your local fire station. You and your family can be the exclusive guests of the Bloomfield Township Fire Department.

Take this opportunity to experience what it's like to live in a firehouse and be part of the firefighter family. And it's all

free. All you have to do is enter your name for the BTFD Firehouse Dinner drawing, and on May 12 one lucky family will be chosen to have dinner with the firefighters at the Central Fire Station on the Township campus. The winning family can also take a ride around the campus in one of the fire trucks.

To enter, go to the site www.bloomfieldtwp.org/firedinner and fill out the entry form. For more information email Firefighter Ed Lietz at elietz@bloomfieldtwp.org.

The Fire Department is holding this event as part of its community outreach and customer service efforts.

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. Just look for the box labeled "Munetrix – Citizens' Guide and Dashboard."

A wide array of financial information about the Township – and information about communities across Michigan – is available on the site. Learn about the Township's revenue, long-term debt and pension obligations, as well as general information about the Township, including population growth and more.



A NOTE FROM

Leo Savoie, Bloomfield Township Supervisor

Fixing roads requires a special solution

Potholes.

Michigan has its share of them and so does Bloomfield Township. Bloomfield Township has 213 miles of residential streets. Approximately 30 miles of these streets are dirt roads. There are another 70 miles of main roads and feeder streets in the Township. Unfortunately Bloomfield Township does not own a single road within our borders. I say unfortunately because that means we are at the mercy of other entities to handle the major repairs needed to improve the infrastructure.

Bloomfield Township is the only Township in the state that has its own road department. This road department is charged with snow and ice removal (salting), street sweeping and minor road repair. The minor road repair consists of filling potholes and crack sealing on subdivision streets. They are also charged with grading and laying down calcium chloride for dust control. The average homeowner pays approximately \$140 per year for these services. I wish I could have my driveway plowed for \$140 per year.

What are our options? This summer we will be partnering with the Road Commission for Oakland County to repave Hickory Grove from Franklin Road to Lahser Road as well as Lincoln between Lahser and Telegraph. We are also partnering with the

Bloomfield Hills School District to repave Andover from Long Lake Road down to Echo Road. This is costing Bloomfield Township an additional \$200,000; however, we will get close to \$800,000 worth of work done.

Residential streets are a dif-



Some Township neighborhoods have had their roads repaved by passing SADs for reconstruction.

ferent issue. Bloomfield Township will repair potholes and do minor overlays as well as some concrete replacement. We will spend approximately \$800,000 this year on these repairs but frankly all this is doing is putting a bandaid on a deep puncture wound.

I have a report from 2010 that states 90 percent of the residential streets in Bloomfield Township have reached the end of their useful lives and the cost to replace the roads would be in excess of \$200 million. That report was from eight years ago and it is fair to say our

roads have not gotten better and the costs have only gone up. The general fund budget is approximately \$40 million per year. If we were to spread the \$200 million over 20 years that would be \$10 million per year or roughly 25 percent of the entire budget. Our bud-

explain the steps that need to be taken. Since 2012 there have been 12 neighborhoods that have passed SADs for road reconstruction.

Many residents often ask why the Township doesn't pay for roads the way other communities do. The short answer is money. Since Bloomfield Township doesn't own the roads we do not have the ability to collect money to replace the roads. In reality, when you review the millage rates for other communities the average rate is 6 mills. That means the typical homeowner is paying \$1,200 per year vs. the \$140 per year in Bloomfield Township.

The time to act is now. We were able to get the state law changed which allows a road special assessment to be assumed by the new purchaser of a home. We have the ability to spread the cost out over 15 years. Road construction costs have been increasing and will only continue to rise. Interest rates for bonding the projects are still low. Doing nothing is not going to solve the problem.

We will continue to do the minor maintenance our budget allows. But this is only a temporary solution. I would encourage every homeowner association to contact us so we can meet with your neighbors. Special assessments for roads are not popular but it is the right thing to do.

et for the police department and fire departments (separately) is only slightly more than this amount.

So what is the solution? The RCOC, which owns the residential streets, has made the determination that if residents want their streets replaced they must pay for them. This is done by setting up a Special Assessment District within the neighborhood.

There are several options to setting up a SAD. Although we have all of the information on line the best way to start the process is to meet with me and the Township staff to

Residential building on the upswing

Bloomfield Township is a place where people want to live.

Few would argue that point especially considering that the Township is nationally recognized for its safety, quality of life and financial stability. There has been a steady pace of commercial development in the Township over the years, but more recently an upswing in home building has been occurring.

“Commercial is still very strong, but we have seen residential development that we haven’t seen for many years,” said Patti Voelker, Director of the Township’s Planning, Building & Ordinance Department.

Construction is planned or underway at several residential developments in the Township, including Baron Estates on Long Lake Road; Legacy Hills, next to the Academy of the Sacred Heart; Bloomfield Village

Apartments as part of the Village at Bloomfield on Telegraph Road north of Square Lake Road; and Meadowlake Hills on Inkster Road north of 14 Mile Road.

Residential building per-

similar to condominiums but which share a common area used by all. And for older empty-nesters they can be ideal for scaling back from larger houses.

“Bloomfield has always



Baron Estates is being developed now on Long Lake Road.

mits are increasing: 70 were issued in 2017 compared to 59 in 2016.

Some of these are PUD – or Planned Unit Developments, which are

been a fabulous place to raise a family,” said Jim Clarke, president of Robertson Brothers Homes. And many people who have raised their family are now

looking for a smaller space. The company is developing two sites in the Township including the land once occupied by Hickory Grove school which will contain 40 units, and the Wabeek property, which is being developed into Baron Estates with 22 units.

Although the school district is downsizing with the closing of Hickory Grove and selling of the Wabeek property, “It does provide the opportunity for infill development,” Clarke said. He cited The Heathers, off of Square Lake Road near Squirrel Road as the type of site that people are showing more interest in. With its communal space, “It’s almost like a mini-resort,” he said.

We might see more of this type of development as space becomes available.

Some tasks for the season

The up and down weather of winter inevitably gives way to warmer temperatures and more daylight hours. With it comes the spring thaw, including flooding and drainage concerns. The thaw offers residents the usual assortment of water puddles in the low spots of their lawns and in roads and ditches.

This is the time you may want to take a walk around the exterior of your home and property. Winter can be very hard on both. Take a look at your home and check for any brick/mortar cracks that may need to be

repaired, caulking that may be cracked and opened up that needs to be removed and replaced, roof flashings and gutters that may have been damaged by ice, and in general the overall condition of the property.

It’s time also to think about having an a/c startup service scheduled and ready for the steamy hot and humid July and August days we long for.

Once the danger of a hard freeze has passed, the outside hose bibs can be turned back on and the irrigation system startup can be scheduled.

Check the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors and replace as needed. If your detectors are more than 10 years old, consider changing them with newer longer lasting “communicating” hard wired/battery units. When one activates, they all should activate throughout the home.

If you’re planning any home renovation projects that may require building permits, you can visit the Building Division on the Township website, www.bloomfieldtwp.org, or contact the Building Division

at (248) 433-7715 and someone from our staff will be happy to assist you.



The appearance of the first spring flowers are a reminder it’s time to get busy with seasonal tasks.

Taking care of our waterways

Did you know that about 1,100 acres - or 7 percent - of the Township area is made up of water?

Many Township residents live along these water bodies, or “riparian” areas. All residents in the Township have a special responsibility to prevent pollutants from entering our waterways. Some common pollutants that wash into water bodies include lawn fertilizers, runoff from driveways, roofs and walkways, lawn clippings and leaves, soil from the shoreline or streambank, lawn and garden pesticides, oil and gas from autos, nutrients and bacteria from pet and wild animal waste, and septic system effluent.

Here's what you can do to prevent pollution from entering our waters:

Lawn Care

- If hiring out fertilizing to a commercial applicator, only use a company that has properly registered with the Township as required by ordinance. The list of registered companies can be found on the Township website at www.bloomfieldtwp.org/Services/EES/Environment/Fertilizers.asp.
- Maintain a minimum 25-foot buffer area adjacent to the water body where no fertilizer is applied. Consider planting native wildflowers, grasses and/or shrubs in this area which trap soil and other pollutants.
- Test your soil prior to adding fertilizer to see what your lawn actually needs. Soil tests are available at local retailers and through the Michigan State University Extension.
- Choose a slow-release nitrogen and no-phosphorus fertilizer (unless a soil test calls for phosphorous). A list of earth-friendly fertilizers can be found at www.socwa.org.
- Mow grass high. A 3-inch high blade is optimum for water conservation and promoting root growth.
- Dispose of yard waste properly per Township requirements or try home composting. Never dump yard waste in water-courses.

Car and Boat Care

- Take your car and boat to a commercial washing facility for cleaning.
- If you change vehicle fluids at home, take the waste fluids to a recycling center or an oil change facility. Always use a drip pan under your work and use funnels when transferring fluids.
- Do not release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.

Sewage and Bacteria

- Continue proper maintenance of your septic system and have the tank pumped out and inspected at least every two to three years.
- Dispose of hazardous household chemicals properly - not down the drain.
- Pick up pet waste. Nutrients and bacteria from pet waste can wash into waterbodies through storm water runoff.
- Consider a 25-foot buffer consisting of natural vegetation along the water body to help absorb excess nutrients prior to discharging to the waterway.

If you have any questions on these topics or would like more information you can contact the Engineering and Environmental Services Department at (248) 594-2800 or at EES_dept@bloomfieldtwp.org.

The Township – at your service

Bloomfield Township has a lot to offer.

The members of the United Homeowners Association of Bloomfield Township learned about that at their annual meeting in January at the Senior Center.

First up was Center Director Christine Tvaroha who spoke about the many services the Senior Center provides. Tvaroha noted that 48 percent of the Township's residents are age 50 or older and 30 percent are age 60 or older. “We are a very mature community,” she said.

And an increasing number of them are coming to the Senior Center to use its facilities. Between 300 and 400 people visit the center daily



Police Officer Kelly Marthen addresses the seniors.

and there were 72,000 total visits in 2017.

Also speaking was Township Police Community Relations Officer Kelly Marthen, who spoke about the various ways the police keep in contact with the community, including using Facebook, Nixle, Nextdoor and more. Want to know what crimes are committed in the community? Just go to www.crimemapping.com, and you will see a map indicating the type of crime.

Chris Whitehead, operations officer for the Township Fire Department, gave a basic overview of the type of services the department performs that go beyond fighting fires.

He also explained the different types of lock boxes that residents can attach to their doors. These secure boxes contain house keys that firefighters/paramedics can access to gain entry into a house during an emergency without knocking the door down.



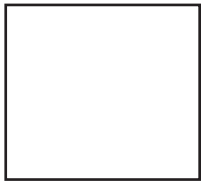
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

4200 TELEGRAPH ROAD
PO BOX 489
BLOOMFIELD MI 48303-0489

TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY

Water/Sewer Emergency
433-7730

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



Walk for a good cause

The 5k Compassion Walk is coming up on May 12.

This family friendly event is a great way to show support for Bloomfield Township Senior Services Support Services, including Meals on Wheels and Friendship Club adult service.

Your donation or participa-

tion will support families caring for loved ones with dementia and your elderly neighbors who rely on a hot meal delivered by volunteers to preserve their independence at home.

Consider what it would be like to walk in their shoes, and grab your shoes to walk

in this all ages, all abilities morning of active compassion. It will take place 9-11:30 a.m. Saturday, May 12.

There is no fee for entrants age 12 and under. Fee for over age 12 is \$25 for residents and non-residents.



Last September's Active Compassion Walk drew a large and enthusiastic crowd.