



BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Climate change comes to Bloomfield Township

On the last day of November Township DPW crews were out scooping up leaves. In fact, "We had to cut grass right through November," said Tom Trice, Director of the Township's Department of Public Works.

And the snowplows were still sitting in the DPW garage waiting for something to do.

Whatever you think of climate change, there is no question that we've had some wild weather in the past few years. Last year's winter was fairly mild. A few

years ago we were plunged into a deep freeze thanks to the Polar Vortex.

According to the National Weather Service, we just had the fifth warmest November on record. As fall moved toward winter the weather predictors were saying we'd have a moderate first half of the winter followed by a chilly second half.

What impact does that have on the Township, which plans for snowstorms like they are military campaigns and rolls out a fleet of trucks to clear more than 200 miles of roads when the snow does fall?

It depends. "We have the ability to do more pothole filling and tree trimming," Trice said of

the warmer weather. But the trucks are ready and the road salt is all set to be spread when the need arises, as it surely will at some point during the season.



Township workers Trevor Fox (left) and Dean Begley clear leaves in late November.

The Township does keep in touch with the NWS to keep abreast of the trends, which in early December said to expect a normal amount of snowfall for the season. But even if it doesn't snow, rain has an impact too.

Notice how many crushing downpours we've had in recent years? Rainfall is a big concern and in a way that most people don't even realize. According to the National Center for Atmospheric Research, a recent study shows that "extreme rainfall events"

may increase by up to 70 percent in some areas. That's because as the atmosphere warms, it is able to hold more moisture. And that means more pounding rain.

The problem is, said Wayne Domine, Director of the Township's Engineering and Environmental Department, is that drains are designed to accommodate a certain amount of rainfall. "Sewers are designed for certain rainfalls, but the rainfall is not following the pattern," Domine said. That could require a rethinking of how systems are designed.

Ultimately, no one knows what the weather will bring.

"If we had a better gauge of



The salt is sitting, waiting to be loaded into the trucks and spread.

predicting it, I'd be a millionaire," Domine said.

Trice set his sights a little lower: "We're preparing for the worst but hoping for the best."



BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD & 2017

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.
James Aldrich
Justin Winkelman, Alternate
Pam Williams, Alternate

Save the date...

February 14

Last day to pay winter tax without interest or penalty

March 13

Yard waste pickup resumes

April

Electronic Recycling, Medication Disposal & Paper Shredding event

May 6

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day



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

Election, passports highlight services

Within each newsletter, we provide an overview of upcoming events. However, this overview would be remiss without reviewing the highlights of the last quarter in 2016. Two significant highlights warrant review: the general election and passport service. Several upcoming initiatives merit mention, including document retrieval, new election equipment and enhanced services.

The Nov. 8, 2016, General Election was by far the most remarkable election in history, nationwide and locally. Bloomfield Township voters were in line at our 32 precincts from 6:15 a.m. until after 3 p.m. After that time, the lines dwindled and election inspectors quickly accommodated evening voters. The overall turnout was 78.9 percent, down slightly from 79.9 percent in 2012.

The absentee voter turnout was approximately 7.5 percent less than in 2012, even with a 30 percent increase in requests from overseas and military voters. The significant number of voters at the polls contributed to longer lines, but the enthusiasm of the voters was contagious. A euphoric mood resonated among election inspectors and Township voters at all the precincts. It

was definitely a great day to cast a vote in Bloomfield Township. Results are posted on our website at <http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/Services/Clerk/Elections.asp>.

Passport frenzy continued until the end of the year. With most travelers subject to the 10-year expiration of their passports by 2017, families and individuals visited the Township Clerk's Office in record numbers. The five-year expiration for children less than 16 years of age caught some residents by surprise when planning last



Carol Miller of the Clerk's Office helps a customer obtain a passport.

minute trips, necessitating visits to the Detroit Passport Agency on Fort Street in Detroit. Despite those who went to Detroit, passport applications reached the highest levels in 2016. The Township is one of the few facilities allowing walk-ins for passports, rather than appointments. The friendly service,

easy parking and one-stop shop for passports and photos makes our location a convenient and pleasant experience. Come see us in 2017!

Adding to a pleasant experience for residents and employees, document scanning for easy retrieval of current and historic information begins in the Clerk's Office during the first quarter of 2017. Planning, Building and Ordinance documents will be the first scanned, making access for staff and homeowners effortless and efficient. File cabinets will be

replaced by electronic storage of the documents.

New election equipment will be rolled out by the Bureau of Elections in 2017. The current systems in use since 2005 will be replaced by updated technology for all voters, including individuals with disabilities. The cost of this long-awaited transition will involve cost-sharing with state and local funds.

Finally, look forward to enhanced services in the Clerk's Office with updated software and camera for solicitation and employee identification. Both types of identification are critical for security measures within the Township and Township Hall.



Bloomfield Township elected officials were sworn in at a special ceremony on Monday, Nov. 21, in Township Hall. Taking office were (from left) Trustees David Buckley and Dani Walsh, Supervisor Leo Savoie, Trustee Neal Barnett, Treasurer Brian Kepes, Clerk Jan Roncelli and Trustee Michael Schostak. Walsh and Schostak are new to the Board. Kepes had been a Trustee before successfully running for Treasurer. Savoie, Buckley, Roncelli and Barnett all were re-elected.



A NOTE FROM

Leo Savoie, Bloomfield Township Supervisor

Trash hauling service on the right track

About the only difference you will notice is the color of the trucks.

That's the upshot of the ruckus that has rocked Rizzo Services, the company that supplied trash hauling service for Bloomfield Township, as well as a host of other communities.

Over the past several weeks there have been numerous reports in the media about the turmoil that Rizzo found itself in. I personally have received many phone calls and emails from concerned residents asking what's going on and what impact that will have on all of us. Rizzo, as you may know, became the target of a federal corruption investigation. None of that had anything to do with Bloomfield Township, or even this area.

But Rizzo has since been purchased by GFL Environmental. GFL stands for Green for Life, and is a Canadian-based company founded in 2006. It is taking over trash operations here. GFL Environmental is a billion dollar a year company that serves a wide area of Canada and now is serving 55 communities throughout south-east Michigan.

Let me give you a little background of how the Township became involved with Rizzo and now is work-

ing with GFL.

Early in 2007, Bloomfield Township, after an exhaustive analysis, awarded an eight-year refuse contract to C & R Maintenance /dba/ Rizzo Services. The previous contractor was Waste Management.

The bidding process was



Green GFL garbage trucks have replaced the Rizzo trucks on the Township's streets.

advertised and specifications were developed. Six bids were considered. The average bids over the eight-year contract ranged from \$45.98 to \$62.37. Staff went out and visited each bidder's facilities to review the overall operations in terms of infrastructure, billing, customer service, etc. Rizzo was the low bidder and met the expectations of staff. An evaluation dated March 22, 2007, was presented to the entire Board for each company bidding on the contract.

In the original contract there was a provision to

extend the contract upon mutual agreement of both parties. Township staff met with Rizzo in late 2014 to explore extending the contract. Staff started reviewing a number of competitive bids that had occurred in surrounding municipalities. It was noted at that time Rizzo had

approached Highland Township to extend its contract. Highland Township decided to go out to bid. Rizzo increased its pricing by 7 percent over what the

extension price would be, and they were still the low bidder. West Bloomfield had just signed a contract with Rizzo and its quarterly price was \$51.50 with very similar services.

The city of Grosse Pointe Woods decided to go out to bid and it ended up paying 3 percent higher than what the proposed extension would have been with Rizzo. Based on this review the recommendation from staff was to extend the contract with Rizzo at a fixed fee of \$49.66 per quarter for eight years with no fee increase. Rizzo

would also supply each household upon request a 65 gallon recycle bin at no charge. This extension was approved by the Board on Nov. 10, 2014.

Approximately five years ago the controlling interest in Rizzo was sold to an East Coast company called Kinderhook. At the time our staff and attorneys vetted Kinderhook and its relationship with Rizzo. We were comfortable that the service we received from Rizzo would continue for our residents, and Bloomfield Township approved the amendment to the contract allowing the sale.

Subsequently, in the last several months Kinderhook conveyed its interest to GFL Environmental and we are comfortable that GFL will continue providing quality service. It already services 2.5 million households a week in some 250 municipalities. Everyone here at Bloomfield Township was shocked about the situation with Rizzo but we are confident we are on the right track with GFL.

Should you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact my office. Our expectations have and always will be quality service at the best possible price.

Oh, and as for the color of the GFL trucks – it's lime green.

What's happening around Bloomfield Township?

You can find out by subscribing to the Township eNewsletter. The eNewsletter is emailed to subscribers every Thursday. In addition, bulletins on weather emergencies and other alerts are sent as needed. It's easy – and free- to subscribe. Go to the Township website, www.bloomfieldtwp.org, and click on the box at the upper left of the home page. Or send your email address to gkowsalski@bloomfieldtwp.org and you will be added to the subscriber list.

Rotary has a tasty way of saying ‘thanks’

It was just their way of saying “thanks” – flavored with a bit of garlic, pepperoni, cheese, chili and more.

Those showing their gratitude were the members of the Bloomfield Hills Rotary Club, who stopped by Bloomfield Township Town Hall on Thursday, Oct. 27, to serve lunch.

And what a lunch it was. Everything was on the table, from pizza to sandwiches to cider and doughnuts. Originally, it all was going to be for the Police Department but things just grew and a host of local restaurants and stores pitched in to turn the little lunch into a feast for all the Township employees.

“It’s our way of saying thank you to the officers and staff,”

said Rotary President Anita Linet as she passed out slices of pizza to a growing line of lunch munchers.



Bloomfield Township Police Chief Geof Gaudard with Janette Phillips at the luncheon.

All the providers “were delighted” to pitch in, Linet said. And it was an impressive list that included Buddy’s Pizza, Honey Tree, Jimmy John’s, Leo’s Coney Island, Hungry Howie’s, Jet’s Pizza, Cityscape Deli, Olga’s, Rio Wraps, Pizzapapolis, Biggby’s Coffee, Andiamo, Bagger Dave’s, Beau’s, Breath of Spring Florist, Dairy Queen, Mex, Steve’s Deli, Stroh’s Ice Cream, Moose Preserve, Kroger, Long Lake Market, Costco, 5th Tavern, Franklin Cider Mill and Bloomfield



There was a good turnout of Township employees at the luncheon.

Party Rentals.

“This is a wonderful gesture,” said Township Police Chief Geof Gaudard. “It’s a reflection of the support that we receive from our community and truly what they feel about their Police Department. We are very touched and the feeling is mutual.”

How does Bloomfield Township stand financially compared to other communities?

You can find out quickly by looking at the dashboard. That can be found on the home page of the Township website. Just look for the box labeled “Munetrix - Citizens’ Guide and Dashboard.”

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

Check it out.

Friendship Club marks a milestone

There was music, food and friendship in abundance at the Friendship Club’s 10th anniversary celebration held Saturday, Sept. 24. Volunteers, supporters and friends stopped by Friendship Club at

the Senior Center throughout the morning to enjoy the casual gathering.

Friendship Club is dedicated to assisting older adults with Alzheimer’s disease and related memory loss to maintain their highest levels of ability. It’s a warm, friendly place that offers care and respite for families with special needs. For more on Friendship Club, go to the Township’s website, www.bloomfieldtpw.org.



Musicians added to the fun at the Friendship Club celebration.

Tossing the trash

Enough rain came down to float a boat down Telegraph, but “everything went off without a hitch,” said Public Works Manager Katie Fotherby, who organized Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off day held Saturday, Oct. 1.

Fotherby said 782 cars came through the Township campus to drop off a variety of household chemicals, old paint, weed killer and other substances during the day. Hazardous Waste Day is one of the most popular events the Township holds. This year’s total was down a little,



but that may have been due to the soggy weather.

“Everything went smoothly as normal with no incidents to report,” Fotherby said. Fotherby gave special thanks to DPW Foreman Duane Poole and Police Officer Jason Murphy for handling traffic control and making the event a success.

Snowplows mean blocked driveways

During every snow storm, the most common complaint that DPW receives is about snow being pushed into residents' driveways. However, the No. 1 priority when plowing is to clear the snow off of the roadway for the safety of vehicular traffic and emergency vehicles.

In order to do this, the plows must move the snow from the center of the road off to the sides.

Inevitably this means that all of the snow coming off of the roads will then get pushed onto the sides of the roads and into residents' driveways. This is frustrating and aggravating for residents, especially if it happens after the residents have just finished shoveling out their drives. Unfortunately, it is a neces-

sary side effect of clearing the roadways as there is no practical way for the snow plow operator to cut off the

round the clock to clear the roadways, they go home to shovel out their own driveways as well.

The DPW asks residents to please understand that when a snow storm hits, we're all in

the same boat and the priority for plow crews is to make the roads safe for traffic. Clearing driveway and mailbox areas is the responsibility of the resident.

Avoid the "Second Shovel"

After a snowstorm, how many times have you shoveled your driveway only to have it plowed in when your local snowplow comes through? Clearing an area to the right of your driveway (as seen in the diagram below), giving the snow on the plow a place to go other than your driveway, should keep you from having to do the same job twice.



Snowplows must move the snow.

windrow of snow when crossing a driveway.

This is an even bigger problem in cul-de-sacs because of the limited amount of space. Drivers do not place snow in the driveways on purpose and they are sensitive to the work residents have to do in order to dig out because once they've finished working

My mailbox was knocked over. Now what do I do?

Plowing roadways for safety requires road crews to plow as close to the road edge as possible to keep both lanes open and passable. This can sometimes result in mailboxes being knocked over. However, it is not the actual plow truck that is hitting the mailbox; it is typically the snow that is getting pushed off the side of the plow that can reach well beyond the road edge.

This is especially true when that snow is heavy and there are large amounts of it. If your mailbox is knocked down, call the DPW offices at (248) 594-2800 and a temporary mailbox will be installed so that your mail service remains uninterrupted. Any permanent repairs are then performed in the spring.



Reminder – Bloomfield Township has a Snow Emergency Ordinance

Bloomfield Township's Snow Emergency Ordinance 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 information 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.

Saying thanks for a job well done

We often hear from people on a variety of different matters. Sometimes folks have a problem or they are seeking information and don't know where to direct their question. And sometimes they want to say thanks for a job well done.

Here's an example:

Friday late afternoon (Nov. 25) around 5:20 p.m., your team responded to a call involving an accident at Lahser and Hickory Grove. My wife, daughters and I were in a Tahoe that was rear-ended by a Chevy Cruze. I know that time is a very difficult thing to judge when under stress but I was truly amazed at how fast your team was on-site

While the driver of the Cruze was being taken care of, Lt. Tim checked on my family and me. He was professional and courteous to my wife and I, and according to my daughters, very nice.

There are a dozen "what if" scenarios that have run through my mind especially after people comment, "You were very lucky" and "God was watching out for you." Today, I do feel lucky and blessed that my family woke up at home and while a bit sore, is fine. Thanks to your entire team and a special thanks to Lt. Tim and Jim.

Kinzie Austin
Orchard Lake



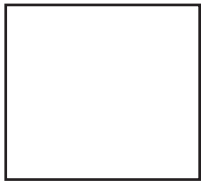
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

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



Open House: A nearly perfect day

The Township Open House event held Sunday, Oct. 9, was one of the biggest, brightest and possibly best in years.

Under a crystal blue sky and tinged only by a bit of a chill, the Open House drew a huge crowd.

The visitors spent the afternoon engaged in a host of activities for adults and kids. There were rides in police cars and DPW trucks, a chance for the kids to go through a fire training exercise including operating a real fire hose, a K9 demonstration, and much, much more. The only glitch was that the Beaumont Hospital helicopter canceled its visit. It had to go on a real medical run.



Rides in police cars were popular with adults and kids.

Across the street from the Township campus, Bloomfield Hills High School opened its doors for tours during the afternoon. There also was a petting zoo on site, face painters for the kids and free goodies were handed out at various locations.

There was so much enthusiasm and positive feedback that before the afternoon ended plans were already being put into place to add to next year's Open House to make it even bigger and better.

"The rides in squad cars and huge plow trucks are a great idea, and kids love it," said resident Eric Pearson. "The behind the scenes tours of the storage garage, the fire station, the animal welfare building and the grounds in general allows us to see how clean and professionally operated everything

is. It makes me feel proud - and safe - as Bloomfield Township residents," Pearson said.

Open House is held in conjunction with Fire Prevention Week. Theme of this year's week was "Don't wait. Check the date. Replace smoke alarms every 10 years."



Kids caught ducks in a plastic pond.