

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER



Township mobilizes to handle water crisis

The drama began at about 6:15 p.m. Monday, Oct. 23. It was almost understated: An electrical problem tripped a switch on a pump. Sounded simple but what was not apparent was that a major break had developed in a massive 48-inch water line on 14 Mile Road in Farmington Hills.

Almost immediately water pressure in Bloomfield Township and surrounding areas began to drop and the Great Lakes Water Authority, which operates the big main, sent out an alert.

The Township issued a Nixle message to residents that “The water pressure issue is Township wide. The water department has been notified and will be working on it.” But that hardly defined what was happening.

“This was about health and safety,” said Tom Trice, director of Public Works. Trice, who has been through situations like this before, knew that we were in for a trying week. Department staff was called to come back to work. But some were already on their way, as they knew what the implications of the alert were, too.

“Everybody fell right into place,” Trice said.

“People showed up without being called,” said Olivia Olsztyn-Budry, Township direc-

tor of Engineering and Environmental Services.

At the time, Trice and Olsztyn-Budry were preparing to attend the upcoming Township Board meeting, as they frequently do on routine matters. But there was nothing routine about what was happening, and it quickly became clear that this was not just a glitch in the system.



Township staff met repeatedly throughout the crisis to ensure things were handled and residents were kept informed.

By 6:30 p.m. a check showed the pressure was dropping at the GLWA water connections at Inkster and Maple and at Square Lake and Telegraph. Police and Fire Department personnel were called in and were briefed on the situation.

As the Township board meeting began at 7 p.m. Supervisor Leo Savoie was also informed of the situation and made an announcement at the meeting, which was being carried live over Bloomfield Community TV. Savoie explained that a water main had broken and noted, “If

this is as bad as we are hearing this is going to be an ongoing thing for a while.”

He was right.

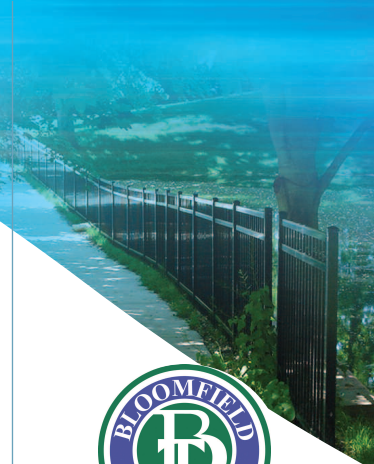
At 7 p.m. Trice determined that a “boil water” alert had to be issued to the Township. Although water pressure was low, the Township residents did have a flow of water. But low pressure in pipes can allow contaminants to get into the water stream, so boiling the water was recommended.

By this time, only about 20 minutes after the situation began, things were already moving. The real “mobilization,” as Trice put it, had just begun.

The first of a series of emergency eNewsletters was sent out to the community, explaining the situation. A bulletin was placed on the cable channel carrying the Township board meeting and on the Township website, www.bloomfieldtwp.org, and later the Township’s Facebook page was updated with information on the break. Area stores were contacted to see if they had pallets of bottled water available to be bought for distribution to residents.

Work continued well into the night. The decision to close the Senior Center was made although water would be distributed from there. A second

Please see Water on page 5



**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.
James Aldrich
Claudine Bacher, Alternate
Jocelyn Giangrande, Alternate

Pictured above: Judges D’Agostini, Barron and Small judge pies. See story on page 6.

Save the date...

February 14

Last day to pay winter tax without interest or penalty

March 12

Yard waste pickup resumes

April 21

Electronic Recycling, Medication Disposal & Paper Shredding event

May 5

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

Clerk's Office is a full-service facility for passports

Despite a record year accepting over 1,300 passport applications, many Township residents are still surprised that the Clerk's Office provides passport service. Since 2005, the Clerk's Office has been certified by the U.S. Department of State as a Passport Acceptance Facility. We are a public sector office designated to accept passport applications and complete the verification process for applicants applying for a passport on a DS-11, which includes all minor and first-time applicants. Our office sends the verified applications to a regional agency where the documents are processed and the passports are issued.

The Clerk's Office is a full-service facility for passport book and passport card appli-

cations, as well as photos. Many of our applicants are repeat customers along with their children. Adult passports



for those 16 years of age and over are valid for 10 years. Passports for children under 16 years of age are valid for five years. Renewal of an adult passport is processed and mailed by the individual.

Applicants for a new passport or a new adult passport (for children turning 16) are required to apply in person. Parents must accompany chil-

dren; however, if one parent cannot attend, a notarized Statement of Consent must be submitted for each child. All applications and forms are available in the Clerk's Office or online at www.travel.state.gov.

Our one-stop shop for passports has achieved a regional reputation for applicants from around the metro area. We offer easy access to parking, processing and a 12-year reputation for outstanding service. Whether it is a passport for an adoption, naturalized citizen, lost or stolen issues, change of name or gender, regular or expedited delivery, our passport facility is open to the public from 7 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday. No appointment is necessary.

Flag facts

The American flag is an icon that too often has become a mere decoration.

It is proper to display the flag, but the American Legion reminds all that there is a correct way to handle and display the flag.

The Harold A. Furlong American Legion Post 339 in Bloomfield offers flag etiquette information. To find the information on the proper use of the American flag go to www.legion.org/flag/code.

The Legion's goal is to increase home owner awareness of proper flag display procedures, according to Dr. David Dinger, of Post 339.

For more information about the American Legion Post 339 contact the post at P.O. Box 7583, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302.

You can also obtain a flag at a discounted rate that helps the American Legion in the Flag Reward program offered through American Legion Post

339. Contact the above address for information.

Post 339 members meet at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at the Bloomfield Township Central Fire Station on the Township campus on Telegraph south of Long Lake Road.



Keep current with the eNewsletter

Find out what's happening in town every week through the Bloomfield Township eNewsletter. The eNewsletter is sent out every Thursday to subscribers. It contains items on what's happening in the area as well as timely announcements, including snow emergencies and other weather alerts, changes of office hours and news bulletins. ENewsletters are also sent whenever there is an immediate need to relay information to the public.

Subscribe to the eNewsletter by going to the Township website, www.bloomfieldtwp.org, and clicking on the box at the upper left of the page. You may also send your email address to gkowsalski@bloomfieldtwp.org and it will be added to the subscription list. Local non-profit organizations may submit items for inclusion to gkowsalski@bloomfieldtwp.org.



A NOTE FROM

Leo Savoie, Bloomfield Township Supervisor

Township was up to water crisis challenge

Anytime there is a public emergency, we jump into action. That was true on the evening of Monday, Oct. 23, when we were first notified by the Great Lakes Water Authority that there had been a water main break that would affect the Township.

We knew it was likely to be serious and we were right. Residents began calling in asking why their water pressure was so low and we were hearing reports from some neighboring communities that they had no water at all.

Our staff at the Department of Public Works was on the situation immediately, checking water pressure and our connections to the Great Lakes Water Authority. By the time of the Board of Trustees meeting at 7 p.m. I was able to make a public announcement that we were facing a serious situation. At about the same time we issued an advisory that Township residents should boil water before using it.

And so we were launched on a five-day excursion of handling a full-scale emergency. Until the following Friday, when the water main was repaired, the water tested and approved for use and the boil water advisory lifted, Township staff from many areas worked long hours doing everything we could to minimize the impact of the situation.

For most residents, this was

just an inconvenience. After all, we did have water. Some of our neighbors were left completely dry while the water main break was repaired. We at the Township scoured stores across the metro area looking for large-scale sources of bottled



Township employees loaded cases of water into residents' cars at the Senior Center.

water that we could buy and distribute to our residents. We didn't want to deprive our neighbors who had nothing coming out of their faucets so we searched for sources farther away from the Township. And for days residents pulled up to the Senior Center to receive bottled water.

As this was going on our departments met regularly to monitor the situation and pass along information to the community. We also met with state and county officials and were in regular contact with the Great Lakes Water Authority to keep current on

developments, especially on when the boil water advisory could be lifted.

We also made a strong effort to respond to the torrent of phone calls and emails from residents with questions. Over the five-day period we received several thou-

sand phone calls. We take all of them seriously but obviously that was overwhelming.

The point I'm making with all of this is to give a sense of what was happening and how seriously we take such situations. We prepare for worst case scenarios. They don't happen often, but when they do we are ready to respond immediately, as we did in this case.

Tom Trice, our director of Public Works, likened this to a military operation, and it was. Resources and personnel were organized and aligned, specific tasks were set, and everyone worked in a con-

centrated effort to minimize the impact this had on the community.

We learned from this as well. When it was all over the Township departments got together for a debriefing to look at what went right and what could have gone better. We learned to expect a massive amount of phone calls and emails and there is a better way to respond. We also learned that communication with the residents has to be continuous even if that means reporting that there is nothing new to report. Accordingly, in such future situations the Township's website, eNewsletter, Facebook page, and other means of communicating will be updated more frequently.

But we also saw that our basic procedures are working and I am confident to say that we did the right things in handling a tough situation. I am proud of the way the staff responded and worked long hours without complaints. Everyone knew their jobs and did them in a professional manner.

Of course, nothing is ever perfect, but overall this crisis was controlled and the impact it had on the lives of the Township residents was minimized to the best of our ability. And I don't think anyone could have done a better job.

That's what the Township residents expect, and that's

Environmentally friendly deicing practices

Winter weather means snow to shovel and layers of ice to remove from our driveways and walkways. Often we make the job easier by applying deicers like salt. Many deicers contain chemicals besides salt. When ice melts, the salts and chemicals dissolve and flow into street drains that lead directly to our waterways and the Rouge River Watershed. Below are a few tips to reduce the use of deicers and prevent the pollution of our waterways.

Try an alternative. Many products are available other than standard rock salt. Each product works at different temperatures, affects the environment differently, and the costs vary.



Reduce your use. By limiting the amount of salt we use on walkways and driveways, we can reduce the amount of polluted melt water washing into our waterways. This can be done by physically removing as much snow and ice as possible prior to applying a deicer.

Use deicing products based on the conditions. Before applying a deicer to your walkway, check the weather including the air temperature and potential for sun exposure.

Follow the directions on the label of the product you use and keep conditions in mind. A product that is not effective below a specific temperature should not be applied if the outside temperature is below that threshold. For sleet and freezing rain apply a deicer product early to prevent ice from building up. For snowfalls of two or more inches of accumulation, plow or shovel first and then use a deicing product to melt any underlying layers of ice that have built up due to packed down snow.

Consider reducing salt use by applying brine, not rock salt, before a snow storm. Brine, a mixture of salt and water, is a great alternative to traditional rock salt. The brine can be pre-mixed in large quantities at minimal cost and stored in your basement or garage. By spraying brine, you have more control over your application. Brine starts working much faster than rock salt due to the increased contact area with the snow. The best method is to apply the brine before a snowstorm begins.

HOME RECIPE FOR BRINE

What you need:

- 1 ½ gallons hot water
- 3-4 cups rock or table salt
- Bucket
- Sprayer

Directions: Combine salt and hot water (which helps dissolve the salt) in bucket until all salt is dissolved completely (so salt chunks don't clog sprayer). Pour mixed brine into a sprayer and apply to sidewalk and driveway prior to a snowfall. Each gallon should cover 1,000 square feet of surface (about 200 feet of sidewalk).

Ordinance regulates fertilizer use

To help preserve our lakes and streams, the Township Board adopted a Fertilizer Ordinance in March of 2010. The ordinance regulates the application of fertilizers within the Township by requiring the registration of commercial applicators and by providing guidelines for fertilizer application rates. Each registered vehicle operating in the Township is required to have a registration sticker displayed on the driver's side back bumper. In addition, the company name will appear on the Township's website.

Some important rules of the ordinance include no fertilizer being used before April 1 or after Nov. 15 of each calendar year. Another important part of the ordinance is the requirement of cleaning up any excess fertilizer that has spilled onto any driveway, safety path or road. To protect lakes and streams, fertilizers are not to be used within 25 feet of any shoreline including lakes, stream, drains, rivers, wetlands or any other natural watercourse within the Township. The registration and copy of the ordinance can be found on our website at www.bloomfieldtpw.org/Services/EES/Environment/Fertilizers.asp.

Contact Charles Markus at cmarkus@bloomfieldtpw.org or 1-248-594-2800 for questions regarding the ordinance or assistance with the registration. If you believe a violation has occurred please contact the Ordinance Department at OrdinanceEnforcement_Dist@bloomfieldtpw.org or 1-248-594-2845.

A perfect day for a 5K

Although the temperature hovered near the 90 degree mark, 80 persons took part in the 5k walk sponsored Saturday, Sept. 23, by the Township Senior Center.

The event was held to raise awareness and help funding for Meals on Wheels and Friendship Club Adult Day Service.

"Excellent team work with the generosity of our community made the day perfect." said Christine, Tvaroha, director of Senior Services for the Township.

The event was held on the Township campus, which provided a beautiful backdrop for the walk.



Heroes honored

Two Township residents received Distinguished Citizen awards from the Police Department for helping save a life.

Olivia Mackley, 15, and her mom Anne Cupp came to the rescue of a friend of Olivia after Olivia began receiving messages from the friend that were possibly suicidal.

Olivia recognized how serious the situation was and alerted her mother. Mrs. Cupp contacted the friend's parents and the police. When officers arrived the friend was attempting suicide and was stopped by the officers.

Olivia and Mrs. Cupp were presented the awards by Police Chief Scott McCanham.

"Because of the mature decisions made by Olivia Mackley and the quick and decisive action taken by Anne Cupp a tragedy was averted and a life was saved," Chief McCanham said.



Police Chief Scott McCanham presented Distinguished Citizen Awards to Olivia Mackley and Anne Cupp.

Hazardous Waste event proves popular

More than a thousand cars came through the Township Campus on Oct. 7 for the Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day event.

Residents dropped off old paint, chemicals, weed killers and much more to be professionally disposed of by cleaning crews.

The Hazardous Waste events, held the first Saturday in May and October, have proven to be very popular with residents. They are complemented by the Electronic Waste, Medication Disposal & Shredding/Medication Disposal event held each April.



Water from Page 1

eNewsletter was sent at 10:50 p.m. updating the story and a third was sent at 1 a.m. indicating which areas of the Township were affected by the boil water alert.

By 5 a.m. Tuesday, everyone was back at work. And so it would go through Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and into Friday, as the situation was monitored, water was distributed and regular updates were issued. While this was happening GLWA was digging up the ruptured water main and replacing it with a new one.

Through the whole process the Township handled about 5,000 phone calls and numerous e-mails from residents. The water department also had to handle two water main breaks when the pressure spiked. Meetings were held with County officials, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and Township departments.

It took until Friday before the GLWA completed repairs, flushed the system and gave the all-clear allowing the boil water alert to be lifted. But it had been an exhausting five days. Township crews worked long hours. "I didn't do anything else," Olsztyn-Budry said. All attention had been

focused on the situation.

It could have been worse. Some communities, like Novi and Farmington, had no water at all. Bloomfield Township did have water although at a low pressure that required boiling. But the situation, especially the uncertainty of when it



would end, affected the whole Township.

Yet through it all the Township staff carried on with military precision. The situation was continuously monitored and action was taken where and when necessary. And when it was all over, the operation was thoroughly reviewed by Township staff to determine if improvements could be made.

"It's not something that happens on a regular basis," said Olsztyn-Budry. But everyone did their job and did it well.

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.bloomfieldtpw.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.



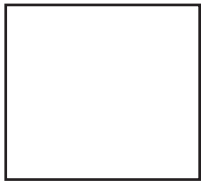
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

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



2017 Open House is a shining success

The kids had fun. You could tell by their smiling painted faces. Their parents didn't have painted faces, but there was no shortage of smiles anywhere.

All through the afternoon crowds of people streamed across the Township campus to see the sights of the annual Open House, held this year on Sunday, Oct. 1. Each year, the Township shows off its equipment and services while staffers provide a host of activities. There was a Fire Department demonstration and rides in police cars. Kids could build a



The Bloomfield Hills High School marching band performed at Open House.

dog house or hop inside a piece of heavy equipment. There was a petting zoo at the Bloomfield Hills High School, and to add a special sweet touch to the afternoon 48th District Court Judges Diane D'Agostini, Marc

Barron and Kimberly Small judged a pie tasting contest. Amy Goodman, with the help of daughters Laurel and Julia, won first place for her spiced pecan

pies.

"They're really good," added Judge Barron.

This year's Open House may have been the biggest ever and drew a huge turnout. Plans for next year are already under way and it may be the biggest yet.



pumpkin creation.

"Everyone did a great job," said Judge D'Agostini, as the judges sampled seven

Both kids and adults had a great time at the annual Open House.