



BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

Newsletter

Winter 2004

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Elected Officials

ADMINISTRATION

Dave Payne, Supervisor
Wilma S. Cotton, Clerk
Dan Devine, Treasurer

TRUSTEES

David B. Buckley
Janet M. Roncelli
Sherry Stefanos
Jerry J. Tobias

PLANNING COMMISSION

Appointed Positions

David J. Lubin
Richard D. Mintz
Jane Reisinger
Jeffrey Salz
Sherry Stefanos
John M. Swoboda
Robert L. Wittbold

BOARD OF APPEALS

Appointed Positions

Jim Aldrich - Alternate
Neal Jay Barnett
Dan Devine
Diane Kraft Finney - Alternate
Brian E. Kepes
Corinne Khederian
Leo Savoie
Lisa Seneker
John Swoboda

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP OFFICES

4200 Telegraph Road
PO Box 489

Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303-0489

www.bloomfieldtwp.org



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Public Services Facility Found to be Outdated & Inadequate

For years, the Township's vital public safety and public services fleet has been hampered by an aged facility that causes inefficient workflow and difficult working conditions. Its limitations put vehicles and equipment worth two million dollars at risk because they must be kept outside, exposed to the elements year-round.

In the face of these and a host of other deficiencies, the Board voted in August, 2001, to have Yamasaki Associates, Inc. assess the facility. Yamasaki was asked to determine the feasibility of either renovating and expanding the current

facility or demolishing it and building a new one. The overriding goal was to improve the efficiency and cost effectiveness of Bloomfield Township's Water Department and Road Maintenance, Fleet Maintenance and Grounds Services Departments.

"The building is at the end of its useful life."
"The existing fire alarm system is inadequate and has little value."
"The roof ... will likely fail soon..."



The current facility is too small to accommodate some of the Township's public safety vehicles.

"Lighting of the site is not adequate..."
These were just some of the comments the Bloomfield Township Board of Trustees heard in a report summarizing the Public Services Facility

Continued on page 3

Jerry Tobias Remembered for Devotion to Township



*Jerry Tobias
1930 - 2004*

With great sadness, Bloomfield Township notes the death of Jerry Tobias, a Bloomfield Township Trustee since 1974. Mr. Tobias died at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak on Saturday, January 3, from complications following heart surgery.

"Jerry was exceptionally dedicated to Bloomfield Township," said Township Supervisor Dave Payne. "He served the Township for four decades and always kept the interests of our residents as his primary concern. He championed public safety issues and was known for building consensus on even the most difficult of issues. He was a true leader on our Board of Trustees. Bloomfield Township will always be indebted to him for his service and commitment to the community."

In addition to his years as a Trustee, Mr. Tobias had a long history of community involvement. He was one of the first investigators in the Oakland County child killing cases in the 1970s, and over the past 30

years, never gave up his search for the killer. He served as a volunteer fireman for the Township before the Fire Department disbanded its volunteer force. In the mid-1960s he served as an auxiliary police officer and later became the director of Bloomfield Township's Police Youth Bureau. After resigning from Bloomfield Township's Police Youth Bureau to take his seat on the Board of Trustees, he became the Chief of Police for Southfield Township, and later, for the Village of Franklin. Mr. Tobias earned a doctorate degree in education, a masters degree in sociology and social work, and a bachelors degree in history and political science. He wrote many children's books, the most notable being his "Imma" series. He is survived by his wife, Donna, and their six adult children.

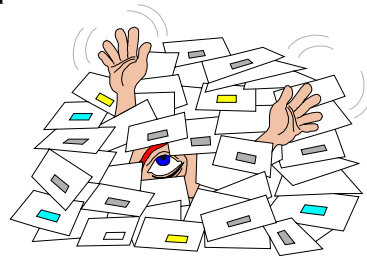
Treasurer's Office Offers FREE Tax and Water Bill Payment Options

Bloomfield Township Treasurer Dan Devine is pleased to announce two new, convenient and FREE payment options for tax and water bill payments. Township residents and business owners will soon be able to make DIRECT DEPOSIT payments online or over the telephone with new technology implemented in the Treasurer's office. Payments made in person, by mail, or by credit card, using Official Payments, will still be accepted.

DIRECT DEPOSIT payments will authorize a direct payment from the payer's checking or

savings account into the Township's depository bank and will be credited to the balance due on the next business day.

DIRECT DEPOSIT payments will be made on line through the Bloomfield Township website at www.bloomfieldtwp.org by accessing the Payment Button on the Treasurer's Department page where complete directions will be spelled out or over the phone using a phone number that will be provided on your tax statements and on the Treasurer's Department page on the Township website. Phone payments will require



touch-tone entries as prompted by the telephone service.

The new payment options for water bills will be effective beginning in June 2004. The new tax payment options will start July 2004 with the Summer Tax Bill.

Please call us with any questions at 248-433-7705.

Bloomfield Township Prepares for the Ryder Cup

You know by now that the Ryder Cup will be held in Bloomfield Township September 14 - 19. Check out a new section of the Township's website to learn how this event - one of the largest events in all of sports and certainly golf's most prestigious - may affect you and your neighborhood.

www.bloomfieldtwp.org

From the Clerk's Office:

The filing deadline for the election of all Township elected positions is May 11, 2004. For Information phone: 248.433.7702

GBSA Offers Tax Assistance

The Greater Bloomfield Senior Association ("GBSA;" formerly, the Mature Minglers) offers free tax counseling for preparing your tax returns. This service is available to all tax payers with middle and low incomes, with special attention given to those aged 60 and over. AARP trained volunteers will help you complete both state & federal forms. Appointments are required. E-filing is available. Please bring:

- ✓ W-2 forms
- ✓ Copy of last year's statement
- ✓ Pension interest, dividend & Social Security statements

**Thursdays, 9:30 AM - 2 PM;
February 5 - April 15
Call 248.341.6450**

Drivers Needed!

The Home Delivered Meals Program needs substitute drivers! No experience necessary - For more information please contact:

**Kelly McGrath
Nutrition Administrator at
248.341.6450**

Winter Warnings!

Maybe we've already had the worst of the winter weather (or so we hope!), but it's still not too late to double-check the things around your house that are vulnerable to these freezing temperatures. Take a walk around your house - inside and out - and look for ways to avoid damage to your property, protect your investment, and maybe even save some money.

Bloomfield Township's Water & Sewer Department suggests you consider:

Water Services and Meters

Insulate, and perhaps even heat, water meters that are located in a garage or an exterior wall to prevent them from freezing. Most water services are buried below the frost line, but in some cases water lines may not be buried deep enough or they may be exposed near the entry point into the house. You can further reduce the chance of the water service freezing if you leave the water running slowly through

the piping. If your house will be vacant or not heated, turn off the water service inside the house and drain the plumbing system.

Sump Pump and Drains

Do not discharge the piping from sump pumps directly onto sidewalks or roadway surfaces; that may cause unsafe conditions when frozen. Storm drains and open drainage courses are intended to carry rainfall and snowmelt away from structures, roadways, and properties throughout the Township. These areas need to be kept clean from leaves and other debris to assure positive drainage and prevent flooding.

The Building Department has prepared a check-list for you:

- ✱ Look for areas of potential heat loss and the entrance of weather and insects.
- ✱ Check to see if the caulk is in good condition around such items as your Detroit Edison entrance cable, AC wiring and condensate lines, and your sump pump discharge.

- ✱ Is the weatherproof cover for your electrical outlet in good condition? (Now would be a good time to change the receptacle to one that is GFCI protected.)
- ✱ Did you remember to cover the AC condenser?
- ✱ Remove snow from the roof if it is more than a foot deep. If you must use an electrical heat tape, be sure to use only high quality, UL listed products.
- ✱ Use a pet-safe, environmentally friendly ice melter this year.
- ✱ Change your smoke detector and carbon monoxide sensor batteries.
- ✱ Change your furnace filter monthly (check the manufacturer's specifications).
- ✱ Your furnace should be inspected bi-annually by a licensed Mechanical Contractor for the first ten years and annually thereafter.
- ✱ Talk to your heating contractor about installing a "Fresh Air Kit" to improve your indoor air quality.

Public Services Facility - Continued from Page 1

Audit at their January 26, 2004 Board meeting.

The detailed report described numerous deficiencies that plague the facility that repairs and maintains the Township's public safety and public services car and truck fleet. It concluded by declaring that the current facility is too small, too inefficient and too out-dated to meet today's demands.

After hearing the detailed report, the Board voted unanimously to consult with its bond counsel to have a financial package come back to the Board for a ballot proposal in either August or November, 2004, asking for funding for the construction of a new Public Service facility.

The Township's public services facility was built in 1961 and has been added on to four times since then, bringing its total square footage to 35,800. The majority of the space is dedicated to the maintenance of light and heavy duty vehicles, but the facility also houses the Grounds & Building departments, Water & Sewer department, the Communications department and the police indoor firing range. All the Township police, fire and EMS vehicles are serviced in this facility as well as the road maintenance and water and sewer vehicles.

The building has become increasingly inadequate over the years not only because of its age, but also because of the change in the nature of the work, the greater scope of work, and the growth of services delivered to the community.

When it was first constructed, Bloomfield Township's population was 22,530, or, about half of what it is now. The fleet of Township cars and trucks was

then a small fraction of the current 186 vehicles it owns, operates and maintains today.

Both the size and complexity of public safety and public service vehicles have changed dramatically over the past four decades. In

1960, a typical fire truck was 200" long and 92" wide; today, it is 381" long and 96" wide. The Township's new ladder truck is 553" long and 98" wide. The average number of mechanic-hours per repair or maintenance job has gone up more than 300% over the past five years due to the intricacy of today's vehicles.

The number and size of work bays originally built were never intended to support the current fleet and job demands. Because the building isn't high enough, the heavy repair area is lacking the most basic repair equipment - vehicle hoists. Work on these very large vehicles must be performed with a mechanic lying flat on his back, which makes it difficult to perform the necessary task and is also inefficient.

Road crews trying to respond quickly to emergency winter road conditions are slowed down because of the limited garage space. Many trucks must stay parked outside and during winter storms they become covered with ice and snow. Before they can be deployed, they must wait in line to get into the garage so they can be de-iced with a hot water hose. Then, the trucks are delayed some more while they are warmed up enough to allow the hydraulic systems to function properly. These steps significantly reduce response time.



Response time for clearing roads in winter weather is slowed down by inadequate garage space.

The facility audit concluded that the Township's 43-year old facility is at the end of its useful life. While its main structural elements and some systems are still functioning, other major systems need to be replaced. Its internal layout is no longer suitable for today's work and causes extreme workflow inefficiencies. The site itself, just between Township Hall and the Main Fire Station, has numerous circulation and parking deficiencies. The site's storm water run-off management systems require expansion and upgrades to meet environmental goals.

The study includes a conceptual budget estimate of \$15,960,000 to demolish the existing facility, re-develop the site and construct a new facility which will support the Township's public safety and public services operations well into the future. The capital project would improve the efficiency and cost effectiveness of the police and fire, water and sewer, communications and road maintenance departments, as well as improve the working conditions and safety of Township employees. The Board of Trustees will consider a ballot proposal at a public meeting in the near future.

TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Time: 8:00 pm
Days: 2nd and 4th Monday of each month
Location: Township Auditorium

PLANNING COMMISSION

Time: 7:00 pm
Days: 1st and 3rd Monday of each month
Location: Township Auditorium

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Time: 7:00 pm
Days: 2nd Tuesday of each month
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 Bloomfield Township's Clerk's Office.

Clerk's Office
 PO Box 489
 Bloomfield Hills, MI
 48303-0489
 Telephone: 248.433.7702
 Fax: 248.433.7714
 email: clerk@bloomfieldtwp.org
 www: bloomfieldtwp.org





Nikki Polen receives the Distinguished Citizen Award from Police Chief Jeffrey Werner & K-9 Officer Godlewski



Cub Scout Troop 1214 thanks the Township Police Department for its service

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY

Police / Fire / Emergency
911

Water / Sewer Emergency
433.7730

Administration 433.7700
Fax 433.7714

Accounting 433.7712

Assessor's Office 433.7710

Building Dept. 433.7715

Clerk's Office 433.7702

Community Cable 433.7790

Fax 642.7624

Fire Department

Non-Emergency ... 433.7745

Fax 433.7787

Planning 433.7795

Fax 433.7729

Police Department

Administration 433.7750

Non-Emergency ... 433.7755

Fax 433.7784

Animal Welfare 433.7757

Investigations 433.7760

Alarm Info 433.7775

Property 433.7777

Records 433.7776

Road Department 433.7709

Fax 433.7786

Township Library 642.5800

Treasurer's Office 433.7705

Water & Sewer 433.7731

**Distinguished Citizen Honored;
Local Cub Scouts Get Involved;
Jerry Tobias Commended at Recent Meeting**



"This is a meeting that Jerry Tobias would have enjoyed," said Dave Payne at the January 12 meeting of the Board of Trustees. The meeting involved many of Mr. Tobias' favorite things - children, public safety, animals and his family. Nikki Polen, a 14 year-old student at Andover High School, was presented with the

Police Department's Distinguished Citizen Award for her efforts in raising \$1,200 for the Township's K-9 unit. Cub Scout Troop 1214 presented an award to the police department for K-9 Officer Godlewski's service to the troop over the years with his demonstrations and instruction on police dogs. Two of Mr. Tobias' children and several of his grandchildren attended to personally acknowledge a resolution which commended him for his many contributions to the Township.



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