



BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

What to do when storms wreak havoc

Recent summer storms have wreaked havoc on township residents, causing flooding, sewer backups and power losses. On Friday, June 25, record-setting rain fell, measuring over four inches in the southwest portion of the Township. That evening, the police received 275 calls for service. Two weeks later, on July 7, an afternoon storm knocked out power for many residents for as long as five days. In a 24-hour period, the fire department responded to 71 storm-related incidents, 51 of which involved downed power lines or trees. The good news is that Bloomfield Township Police and Fire were well prepared and

could effectively respond to all calls for service. The bad news is that many township residents struggled to find the correct resource to help fix a problem related to the storm, such as a flooded basement or having power restored to their home.

In most scenarios, the township does not own the infrastructure related to a flood, stormwater backup or power outage; hence we can't directly fix these problems. However, we remain committed to helping facilitate solutions or pointing residents in the proper

direction to fix these problems when they occur. Below are a number of resources and contacts to guide residents through specific scenarios in the event of a storm.

First, if any situation presents a danger to your home and family or a medical emergency arises, call 911. There are some



things the police cannot do, such as restore power to your home; nor can the township force DTE to prioritize their response to a power outage.

My yard is flooded, who fixes it?

Drainage systems within the Township are likely owned and maintained by one of the following three entities:

1) Oakland County Water Resource Commission (OCWRC). A county drain can be an open ditch, stream or underground pipe. It also could be a detention pond or swale

that conveys storm water.

2) Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC).

Some drains, including roadside ditches, pipes and culverts under roads are maintained by the Road Commission for Oakland County.

3) Private drains that are not county drains or along roads

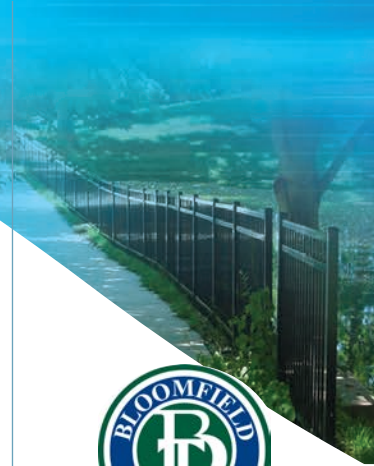
are likely the responsibility of individual property owners or the Homeowners Association (HOA). Call 248-594-2800 for a checklist and survey form for property owners on how to maintain detention basins.

I have water and/or sewage coming up through a drain

in my house, who do I contact?

The Water Emergency line: 248-433-7730. You will reach DPW staff during business hours or Police Dispatch during evening/weekend hours. A Water & Sewer employee will be sent to determine if the backup is being caused by a blockage in the public sewer main or the homeowner's private sewer lead. If it's found that the public sewer main is

Please see Storms on page 5



BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD 2021

ELECTED OFFICIALS

ADMINISTRATION

Dani Walsh, Supervisor
Martin C. Brook, Clerk
Brian Kepes, Treasurer

TRUSTEES

Neal J. Barnett
Michael Schostak
Stephanie Fakh
Valerie Murray

APPOINTED POSITIONS

PLANNING COMMISSION

Thomas Petinga, Chairman
Jeff Salz, Vice Chairman
Neal Barnett
Richard Atto
Bruce Selik
Andrea B. O'Donnell
John Kelly

BOARD OF APPEALS

Carol Rosati, Chairman
Brian Henry, Vice Chairman
Robert Taylor, Jr.
Claudine Bacher,
Jocelyn Giangrande
Andrea O'Donnell
Stephanie Fakh
Jeffrey Drake, Alternate
Glenda Meads, Alternate

Save the Date...

September 14

Last day to pay summer tax without penalty

October 2

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day

October 9

BTSS Compassion Walk, Garage Sale and Woodward Avenue Jazz Orchestra



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

Lake Boards help protect our natural resources

Bloomfield Township is home to a large number of private lakes of various sizes. People living on these lakes or having access to them will tell you that it is both a wonderful privilege and an awesome responsibility. Future landowners and generations of wildlife feel the effects of what the people on these lakes do, or fail to do, during their lakefront ownership or lake access rights.

We want to focus here on the work that is done to protect and maintain eight of our lakes – those whose lakefront (riparian) owners organized a Lake Improvement Board. A Lake Improvement Board is a governmental body that is created by 2/3 vote of the freeholders owning land abutting the lake. The job of such a Board is to carry out the defined lake improvement goals and set property assessment amounts for both lakefront and lake access property (after proper notice and an opportunity to be heard) necessary to fund the projects. If property is delinquent it is collected similarly to delinquent taxes.

In Bloomfield, these Boards are administered locally,

whereas in most areas of the state these Boards are organized and managed at the county level. Each five-member Board is composed of Supervisor Dani Walsh (Lake Board Chair), Clerk Martin Brook (Lake Board Treasurer & Secretary), a representative



Bloomfield Township is notable for its many lakes.

of the riparian owners, a representative of the County Water Resource Commissioner, and the County Commissioner whose district encompasses the lake.

Lake Improvement Boards in Bloomfield and their dates of creation are: Forest Lake (1986), Gilbert Lake (2007), Island Lake (1983), Lower Long Lake (1985), Meadow Lake (1986), Orange Lake (2003), Upper Long Lake (1984), and Wabeek Lake (1989). Each Lake Board meets publicly at least annual-

ly to conduct business such as retain contractors, pay contractors, evaluate the progress of work and review water quality reports. Boards also meet every two to four years to set assessment amounts necessary for the identified lake improvements. Each Lake

Board retains experts to assess water quality and make recommendations to the Lake Board concerning appropriate actions to improve water quality. Some Lake Boards

decide to conduct weed har-

vesting, some use chemical treatments, and some conduct invasive species control measures.

More information about each Lake Board, including agendas, minutes, and water quality reports can be found on our website or by calling the Clerk's Office.

For more information on what you can do for the environment, see "Seven Simple Steps" you can take to protect our lakes, on page 4 of this newsletter.

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 Citizen's Guide and Dashboard under Quick Links at the right of the home page. A wide array of financial information about the Township – and data about communities across Michigan - is available on the site.



Scan to follow us on social media or to sign up for the eNewsletter. Get all the latest information!



A NOTE FROM

Dani Walsh, Bloomfield Township Supervisor

Finding help for residents in the face of storms and outages

On June 22, in accordance with state orders and guidelines, Bloomfield Township offices fully reopened to the public for the first time in 16 months! It was an exhilarating day for me as Supervisor knowing my workdays were steering back towards a sense of normalcy and away from Zoom meetings and empty halls. Then three days later, on June 25, we suffered the first of several summer storms that have resulted in floods and power outages for many residents, including myself. Although working through the safe reopening of a global pandemic and multiple compounding and historic storm events during my first 8 months in office have been challenging, as the Supervisor and fellow resident I am happy for the silver linings that we have found along the way. One of the biggest highlights is that we have had no loss of life during these storm events due to the amazing efforts by all our first responders including Firefighters, Police, Department of Public Works and Engineering and Environmental Services Department employees who have been working overtime to keep us all safe.

As the Supervisor and as a resident, I too have been frustrated with the power outages that have affected our area and increased due to the storms. About two months ago, DTE announced that they are going through the strategic planning process for tech-

nology upgrades and improvements to their power grids. They chose a few community leaders to join them in the initial meetings to brainstorm current and future needs. You had a “seat at the table” in those meetings as well since I served as your advocate to discuss the limitations of their current service and how our increasing power needs require access to a more reliable grid and power source.

In a separate situation, on July 7 our area was hit with straight line winds that took out over 40 power lines and left many of us out of power for 5 days. DTE was also



receptive to meeting with me and discussing how to improve their estimates for realistic expectations and addressing the question from many residents about burying power lines, so trees no longer affect their power lines during storms. Due to the outcry from residents about their tree trimming program, they had not considered burying lines in our area since it would require full removal of all trees within the right of way and utility easements within our front and back yards to bury the new lines

and prevent anyone from planting any vegetation on top of the easements afterwards. They will now develop cost and feasibility options for us as residents to consider the option of burying lines in the Township.

Regarding the historic storms that have ravaged our Township, we continue to address the thousands of residents that have called us for help and guidance. I have been a resident for 49 years, and although we may have had flooding in the past, it has been more frequent and more damaging in the last month. I too have been frus-

trated and looking for answers on where to turn for help. My 1960s home was not built to withstand over 9” of rain in one month, let alone 4.5” in one day, when the regular average is only

3” in our area for the month.

While Bloomfield Township may not own the infrastructure that contributes to flooding or power outages, and therefore cannot always directly fix a problem, the employees, the Board of Trustees, and I are always advocating for residents and working to find solutions with the entities who can help. Our cable studio is now fully open, so I was able to record my show, Bloomfield In Focus, in-studio for the first time. I sat down with our Public Works Director and

Environmental and Engineering Services Director to discuss these storms more in depth. You can find the episode about the storm on our Video on Demand page at bloomfieldtwp.org/vod.

In addition to my program about the storms, while you are in the Video on Demand archives, you’ll find previous interviews with the new Bloomfield Township Library Director and the Director of the E.L. Johnson Nature Center and Bowers School Farm who discuss these amazing township institutions. You’ll also find an interview with the Bloomfield Hills Schools Superintendent. BHS Schools are excited to begin welcoming residents back with a special Welcome Back event. The BHS PTO Council’s Welcome Back Celebration will be held on Friday, August 27 at Bloomfield Hills High School. The Township will participate in this event and I hope to see you there!

I am continuously amazed by the resilience of our residents, employees, and board members as we have come together to make it through a global pandemic, multiple horrific and historic storms, and everything else that has come from 2020 and 2021 to make us stronger together. Now that we are starting to get out more, I hope to see you out and about in the township, and let’s hope it’s also on a sunny day with no more rain.

Seven simple steps to clean water

Most of us don't think much about the storm drains at the end of our driveways or on our streets, or roadside ditches either. But storm drains and roadside ditches play a key role in the quality of our region's lakes and rivers.

How? Anything that gets in a storm drain or a roadside ditch goes directly to rivers and lakes without being treated. If anything other than rain gets in drains or ditches, our rivers and lakes will become polluted. Here are seven simple steps to cleaner water for all to enjoy!

1. Help keep pollution out of storm drainage systems. Storm drains and ditches lead to our lakes and streams. So, any oil, pet waste, leaves, or dirty water from washing your car that enters a storm drain gets into our lakes and streams. Remember, only rain in the drain!



2. Fertilize sparingly and carefully. While fertilizer is good for our lawn, it's bad for our water. Fertilizer in our lakes and streams causes algae to grow and use oxygen that fish need to survive. Use fertilizer low in phosphorus, keep fertilizer away from lakes, streams, and storm drainage

systems, and sweep excess fertilizer back onto your lawn.

3. Carefully store and dispose of household cleaners, chemicals, and oil. Antifreeze, household cleaners, gasoline, pesticides, oil paints, solvents, and motor oil are just some of the common household products that enter our storm drains. Take these items to the Township's Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day, Saturday, Oct. 2 this fall.

4. Clean up after your pet. Pet waste contains bacteria that is harmful to us and our water. Dispose of your pet's waste promptly in the toilet or trash.

5. Practice good car care. Keep your car tuned and fix leaks promptly. When washing your car, keep the polluted water from going into the street and storm drain.

6. Choose earth-friendly landscaping. Use pesticides sparingly. Put mulch around trees and plants. Water your lawn only when it needs it and choose plants native to Michigan.

7. Save water. Overwatering lawns can easily carry pollution to the storm drains and to our lakes and streams. Consider using a broom instead of a hose to clean sidewalks and driveways. Water only when necessary.

For more easy steps on protecting our lakes and rivers, visit the Bloomfield Township website at www.bloomfield-twp.org or call the Engineering & Environmental Services Department at (248) 594-2800. Remember, our water is our future—and it's ours to protect!

Drop off hazardous waste Oct. 2

One of the most popular Township events, Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day, will take place Saturday, October 2, 2021 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. This is a great opportunity for residents to dispose of household chemicals such as toilet bowl cleaner, weed killer, motor oil and other hazardous materials that can't be poured down the drain or placed in the regular trash. Some items residents often ask if they can bring are latex paint, fluorescent light bulbs/PBC ballasts, batteries – household batteries and automotive batteries, gasoline, starter fluid, transmission fluid, propane, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, medical sharps (must be in rigid, puncture resistant container with lid, e.g. coffee can, detergent bottle, milk jug, etc.), and old tires. All these items CAN be brought to Hazardous Waste Day.

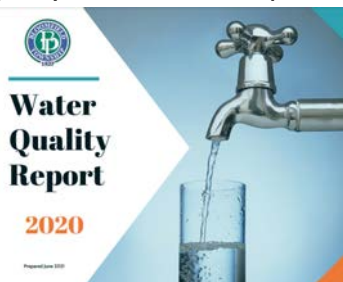
Drop-Off Day is always very well-attended. The event, open to residents only, will typically draw around 1,000 cars dropping off hazardous waste. The last Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day, October 3, 2020, was by far the biggest ever – car count was 1,449! Staff hustled to keep the cars moving and ensured that anyone who was waiting in line by 2 p.m. was still able to participate.

Some things to know before you arrive: There will be two entrances to the event, south onto Andover Road from Long Lake Road or west onto Andover Road from southbound Telegraph. Have your ID out and ready to show volunteers. Stay in your vehicle. Volunteers will unload everything from your car.

Stay tuned to social media and the Township's eNewsletter for updates on Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day as October 2 approaches. See you there!

Township water quality surpasses standards

Bloomfield Township is pleased to inform you that in 2020, as in past years, we have surpassed the water quality standards



required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy (EGLE). The 2020 Annual Water Quality Report describes the source of our water, lists our test results, and

contains important information about water and health. This report is intended to provide consumer understanding of drinking water and to heighten awareness of the need to protect our precious water resources. We hope this report addresses any drinking water quality concerns you might have.

Please go to www.bloomfieldtp.org/WaterReport to view your 2020 Annual Water Quality Report and learn more about your drinking water.

If you would like a paper copy of the 2020 Annual Water Quality Report mailed to your home, please call the Department of Public Works at 248-594-2800.

Accessory structures require ZBA approval

Homeowners may not be aware that pergolas, sheds, , and outdoor kitchens are considered accessory structures and are regulated by the Township's *Clearzoning Ordinance*. Approval from the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) is required for accessory structures. The ZBA addresses the placement, height, screening, and other circumstances of an individual request. In addition to

Township Ordinances, there may be deed restrictions governed by an individual Homeowners Association. Homeowners are encouraged to contact their Association prior to making an application to the ZBA. Residents who have questions about a project should contact the Planning Division at 248-433-7795 before installing a shed or other accessory structure.

Storms from page 1

not blocked and still flowing, then the cause is likely a blockage of the homeowner's private sewer lead and the homeowner will be responsible to call a plumber to correct the issue.

My street is flooded, who fixes it?

Commission of Oakland County (RCOC). However, during large storms, Township DPW crews often assist to remove the hazard out of the roadways and over to the side of the road to ensure public safety. RCOC is ultimately responsible for the



Storm water draining along the Township's road systems is the responsibility of the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC). The Township does not own or maintain the storm drains along the roads. Call RCOC at 248-858-4804.

There's a tree blocking and/or partially in the roadway, what do I do?

Call 911. A tree blocking a roadway is a safety hazard and needs to be cleared from the traffic lanes as soon as possible. All trees in the road right-of-way are the responsibility of the Road

future cleanup of these downed tree sites.

There's a downed power line in my neighborhood, who do I contact?

DTE 1-800-477-4747

There's a tree branch in my yard, how do I get it removed?

A fallen tree or branch that is not obstructing a roadway is not a public safety issue and it is the homeowner's responsibility to clear it. Cut, bundle and prepare it for your regular yard waste pick-up or hire a private contractor to remove it.

Save the date, Saturday, October 9!

BTSS Compassion Walk, Garage Sale and Woodward Avenue Jazz Orchestra

Your registration improves our fundraising and your attendance improves the FUN!

Garage Sale shopping 9 AM - 1PM.

Compassion Walk 10 AM - Check in begins at 9 AM. \$30 registration required for ages 12 and up; all ages and abilities welcome. You choose the length of your walk around the township campus up to 5K.

Curbside Meal October 11 AM - 12 PM

\$15 advance registration. The menu is polish sausage &/or hamburger, baked beans, coleslaw, cinnamon donuts, and apple cider.

Music/Entertainment 11:30 AM



From the Fire Department

Stay safe when storms hit

Bloomfield Township can be hit with severe storms several times throughout the year. Whether it is rain, wind, snow or ice, these storms can create many safety issues for Township residents. Our DPW, the Police Department, the Fire Department and DTE work tirelessly to make areas safe again.

When a widespread incident occurs, it can take time to restore power and ensure that our roadways are safe. We



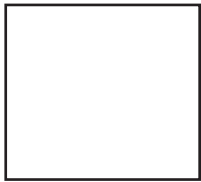
understand not being able to get to your home, leave your home, or living without power can be inconvenient, but sometimes it is necessary. Downed power lines are extremely dangerous and can instantly kill someone if we are careless. Many times, downed power lines are hid-

den in trees that have fallen over. Downed power lines can electrify the ground surrounding them so that walking within 20 feet of a downed line can cause serious injury. Please do not walk under or around downed lines. The only way to know that a wire is not energized is to have a DTE crew test it. We ask that if a road is closed that residents do not try to use it. If

a road is closed, it is closed for safety reasons and we are working to open it as soon as possible. Please respect what our DPW workers, police officers and firefighters are asking you to do, as it is for the safety of us all.



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

Meet Maggie, the new Police Department support dog

The Bloomfield Township Police Department is thrilled to announce our newest hire, a goldendoodle puppy who will grow up to be a Police Therapy Dog! She comes to us from Sandusky, Michigan, and was brought to the Department on July 13 as a seven-week-old puppy.

Online voters chose the name Maggie for her. She will be a trained support and service dog. Her functions will include providing interaction during investigations involving children or adults to reduce anxiety and increase communication between the adult or child victim/witness and investigators, to provide comfort for people during times of crisis,

and to provide aid and comfort to individuals, groups and communities impacted



Officer Soley gets plenty of puppy kisses.

by violence, tragedy, or traumatic events. The service dog

is also a valuable tool in fostering dialog and communications between the Police Department and the community we serve, and can be effectively be used in the Department's community policing efforts.

The Support Dog Team can help bridge the gap between a traumatic event and the connection to mental health support. Interacting with Maggie may help restore a person's emotional and cognitive equilibrium. Maggie and team can assist with critical stress incidents for employees of

Bloomfield Township well as neighboring jurisdictions who may need assistance after any type of major incidents.

Maggie has joined her handler, Officer Soley, in the Community Relations Division. She will start work and training immediately. Say hi when you see her around!

