

**2013 Bloomfield Hills City Commission**

Sarah H. McClure, Mayor  
 Michael J. Dul, Commissioner  
 Patricia A. Hardy, Mayor Pro-tem  
 Stuart Sherr, Commissioner  
 Michael T. Zambricki, Commissioner

**CITY STAFF**

Jay W. Cravens, City Manager  
 E-mail: manager@bloomfieldhillsmi.net.  
 Amy L. Burton, City Clerk  
 Karen K. Ruddy, Finance Director, Treasurer  
 David S. Hendrickson, Director of Public Safety  
 Larry Rospierski, Building Official  
 Jamie Spivy, DPW Foreman

**EMERGENCY**

Police, Fire, Medical – dial 911  
 After Hours (Non-emergency)  
 (248)644-4200

**CITY GOVERNMENT**

Manager's Office (248)530-1404  
 Building Official (248)530-1408  
 Clerk's Office (248)530-1403  
 Finance & Treasurer (248)530-1402  
 Police / Public Safety Dept. (248)644-4200  
 Public Works (248)203-0621

**CITY SERVICES**

Animal Control (248)644-4200  
 Building & Permit Info. (248)530-1400

**Where to Get Answers**

Building Inspection Line (248)593-9350  
 Code Enforcement (248)530-1410  
 Fire Marshall (248)530-1409  
 Library Service (248)647-1700  
 (Baldwin Public Library)  
 Planning & Zoning Information (248)530-1404  
 Police Services (Non-emergency) (248)644-4200  
 Property / Assessing Information (248)858-0084  
 (Oakland County)  
 Sanitary Sewer Service & Billing (248)858-1110  
 (Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner)  
 Street Maintenance (248)203-0621 or (248)530-1404  
 Voting Information (248)530-1403  
 Water Service & Billing (Oakland County W.R.C.)  
 (248)858-1110 (hrs.– 7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.)  
 Water & Sewer Line Repair (Oakland County W.R.C.)  
 (248)858-0487 (hrs.– 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

**OTHER SERVICES**

AT&T Repair Service (800)515-7272  
 Amtrak (Info / Reservations) (800)872-7245  
 Baldwin Public Library (248)647-1700  
 Birmingham (City) (248)530-1800  
 Birmingham Public Schools (248)203-3000  
 Birmingham / Bloomfield Chamber (248)644-1700  
 Bloomfield Hills Country Club (248)644-6262  
 Bloomfield Hills Schools (248)341-5400  
 Bloomfield Township (248)433-7700

Bloomfield Township Police Dept. (248)433-7755  
 Bloomfield Township Senior Services (248)723-3500  
 Bloomfield Open Hunt (248)644-9411  
 Comcast Customer Service (248)855-6971  
 Customer Advocate (734)254-1690  
 Consumers Power (Service, Billing & Emergencies)  
 (800)477-5050  
 Cranbrook Educational Community  
 (248)645-3000  
 DTE Energy (Customer Services & Emergencies)  
 (800)477-4747  
 Haven (Domestic Violence) (248)334-1274  
 (or Toll Free) (877)922-1274  
 Oakland County (248)858-1000  
 Oakland County Assessor (248)858-0776 or  
 (248)858-0740  
 Oakland County Health Department (248)858-1280  
 Oakland County Clerk/Register of Deeds (248)858-0581  
 Oakland County Treasurer (248)858-0611  
 Oakland Water Resources Commission  
 Main: (248)356-6299 Emergencies: (248)624-6366  
 Road Commission for Oakland County  
 (877)858-4804 weekday hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.  
 After hours & weekends call – (248)858-4895  
 U.S. Post Office – 2050 South Boulevard  
 (248)332-3981  
 Village Club (248)644-3450  
 West Bloomfield Township (248)451-4800  
 48th District Court – Information & Probation:  
 (248)433-9373 Criminal: (248)647-1141



**HILLS HIGHLIGHTS**

Fall 2013 #85

**Mayor**  
 Sarah McClure

**City Commissioners**  
 Michael J Dul  
 Patricia A. Hardy, Mayor Pro-tem  
 Stuart Sherr  
 Michael T. Zambricki

**City Manager**  
 Jay W. Cravens

**City Hall**  
 45 E. Long Lake Road  
 Bloomfield Hills, MI  
 48304-2322  
**phone:** 248-644-1520  
**fax:** 248-644-4813  
[www.bloomfieldhillsmi.net](http://www.bloomfieldhillsmi.net)

**City Office Hours**  
 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
 Monday-Friday

**Non-Emergency**  
 Police and Fire: 248-644-4200

**Emergency: 911**

**City Commission Meetings**  
 Second Tuesday of every  
 month at 7:30 p.m.

**Planning Commission Meetings**  
 Second Tuesday of every  
 month at 4:00 p.m.

**Zoning Board of Appeals Meetings**  
 Third Tuesday of every  
 month at 4:00 p.m.



**Come Celebrate Bloomfield Hills with Us!** *by Manager Jay Cravens*

For residents who have not heard the Celebrate Bloomfield Hills Day is scheduled for Sunday, September 22, 2013. This event is different than any other open house event that you may have experienced, so please consider attending. As part of this open house there will be seven venues for residents to visit. All open house locations will be open from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Start out anywhere you wish, and attending any or all of the locations.

Before starting your day celebrating the treasures of Bloomfield Hills, consider having brunch at the charming *Village Club*. Founded in 1956, the Village Club has established itself as one of the finest charitable and educational clubs in Michigan. Visit the club and enjoy a fine meal to start your journey. Remember reservations are necessary for the brunch. If you can't make the brunch, there will be an ice cream social from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Here is a listing of the six other institutions that are participating in our Celebrate Bloomfield Hills Day:**

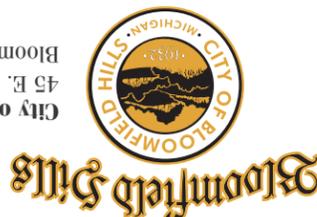
**Christ Church Cranbrook** will be open to welcome visitors to their beautiful church. A reflection of the artistic spirit and inspiration which characterized the lives of George and Ellen Booth, Christ Church Cranbrook is rich in architectural detail. Including work by woodcarver John Kirchmayer and silversmith Arthur Nevill, stained glass designs by G. Owen Bonawit, sculptures of the "Dawn Men" on the exterior buttresses by Lee Lawrie, and the large fresco at the front of the church by Katherine McEwen, the church was developed with meticulous care and aesthetic attention.

**St. Hugo's of the Hills Chapel** will have docent lead tours of the chapel. The stone church of St. Hugo of the Hills Parish was erected by Theodore F. and Alice MacManus on their family estate, Stonycroft, after the death of two of their sons, Hugo and Hubert, and the final resting place of the family. This Norman Gothic style chapel has floors made of stone and the ceiling made of wood timbers, roughly sawn and supported by circular stone pillars. Walls are of fieldstone from the MacManus estate.

(Continued on Page 2)

**Celebrate Bloomfield Hills Open House**  
 September 22, 2013  
 1–5 PM

**SAVE THE DATE:**



PERMIT NO. 888  
 ROYAL OAK, MI  
 PAID  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 FIRST CLASS  
 PRESORT

**Cranbrook Art Museum** will have free admission to their facility. The featured exhibition is, "Michigan Modern: Design that Shaped America". The exhibit is a collaboration of curators Monica Ponce De Leon and Greg Saldaña of MPdL Studio, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority and the State Historic Preservation office. The goal is to give people a newfound understanding of the state's importance as a design center.

While Michigan makers have produced some of the iconic work that shaped the 20th century modernism movement, a robust design legacy isn't commonly associated with the state. This exhibit seeks to tell the story of the state's contributions, from architecture to furniture and, of course, cars.

**Cranbrook House and Gardens** will be

open showing its grandeur as autumn arrives in Bloomfield Hills. Visit the gardens and the oldest of metropolitan Detroit's historic manor homes. Completed in 1908, the manor house was designed by noted Detroit architect Albert Kahn in an English Arts and Crafts inspired design.

**Cranbrook Institute of Science** will also have its doors open for interested guests. Opening in 1930, the Institute of Science has become one of the region's best known museums of natural history. It annually has attracted 200,000 visitors. Current events include, "Dinosaur's – The Lost World".

#### **Bloomfield Hills Public Safety Open House**

The doors are open at your public safety department. See live demonstrations of rescue and evacuation techniques.

Tour the building and many displays of equipment. Hot dogs, popcorn and beverages will also be provided.

**Baldwin Public Library** will also have support staff available for residents to sign up for a library card.

The City is very excited about this unique open house event and hope it is a success. We would also like to thank the following people who helped organize this wonderful event: Chairperson Mary Juras, Jennifer Ealovags, Janice King, Susan Learman, Sarah McClure, Michael Mooney and Nancy Olin.

*The City would like to extend a thank you to the sponsors of Celebrate Bloomfield Hills: Northern Trust, Secrest – Wardle, Hubbell, Roth and Clark and LSL Planning Inc.*



## Mayor's Update *by Sarah H. McClure*

Interest in living in the City of Bloomfield Hills continues to be very strong. Our building official, Larry Rospeirski, reports that the number of new home permits is almost at a record high for our community. In addition to this new construction activity there are a significant number of new permits for additions and alterations. Property values are also increasing. Last year our City's residential property values increased by more than any other municipality in Oakland County (out of 52) except one. Emphasizing and protecting the distinctive character of our community and following our Master Plan make our City attractive and vibrant.

**WHAT IS A MASTER PLAN?** As our 2009 Plan states: "the purpose of a master plan for Bloomfield Hills is to enumerate the unique elements of the community and guide future development to both strengthen the existing character of the City and meet community goals". The values and goals of our current master plan include such things as offering premier residential neighborhoods, retaining our low residential density levels, limiting the commercial areas to what currently exist, preserving our natural features, open spaces, and tree lined corridors, and continuing to enforce our ordinances and codes. The full Master Plan can be found on our city website: [www.bloomfieldhillsmi.net](http://www.bloomfieldhillsmi.net). It includes the city survey and public engagement process upon which it was based.

Another distinctive characteristic of the City of Bloomfield Hills is our Public Safety Department. We continue to experience low crime rates as compared to many surrounding communities and our response time is typically under three minutes. Our new Chief, David Hendrickson, is working to not only maintain but also improve the department's professionalism and training.

As you may be aware, this past spring Bloomfield Township approached the City about taking over our Public Safety dispatch services. A committee was formed to review the request and ultimately it was decided not to pursue the offer. During the review, we gathered some interesting facts about our Public

Safety Department. We learned that the nature of our calls is different from most communities. Our residents are comfortable calling our department regarding concerns or help with situations that other community departments do not handle. In addition, we are the only city in southeastern Michigan that allows residential alarms to go directly to our department. We also have a key program that helps residents that are locked out or if the officers need to gain entry in case of an emergency. Our house watch program is available if residents go out of town. It is important to note that in deciding to maintain our dispatch in house, Chief Hendrickson, City Manager Jay Cravens, and the Commission will continue to make the dispatch services (and Public Safety Department) as cost effective as possible.

The Woodward Beautification project, which added significant landscaping improvements, is ongoing. This fall other enhancements will be done in both the median and right of way. This project continues to be funded by private donations and grants.

The City Commission and staff encourage all residents to attend our City Celebration Day to be held Sunday, September 22nd from 1-5 pm. This event is an opportunity to visit some of our wonderful City institutions such as Cranbrook House and Gardens, the Cranbrook museums, Christ Church Cranbrook, St. Hugo of the Hills, and The Village Club. In addition, our Public Safety Department will be open for tours and demonstrations. See you there!

## Treasury Notes *By Karen K. Ruddy, Finance Director and Treasurer*

### PROPERTY TAXES



The summer 2013 taxes were due without penalty by August 31, 2013. The City charges ¼ of 1% penalty per month after August 31st. Taxes plus penalties are due by February 14th each year, and turned over to Oakland County if unpaid on March 1st. If you have not paid your summer taxes, please call or visit City Hall to get your current amount due. Taxpayers should expect to receive their 2013 winter tax bill around December 1st, 2013. These taxes are due by February 14th, 2014.

**CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS** will be accepted on-line for property taxes. There is a fee for this service, which is charged by the credit card agency; not the City. Go to

[www.PayLocalTaxes.com](http://www.PayLocalTaxes.com). You will need your 10-digit tax I.D. number, beginning with "19".

**AFTER-HOUR PAYMENTS** can be deposited in the decorative drop box conveniently located in the lobby of the Public Safety building. The drop box is accessible evenings, weekends and holidays, so please feel free to drop off your tax payment at your convenience. We do ask that you do not place overdue tax bills or cash in the drop box.

#### **PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE EXEMPTION AFFIDAVITS**

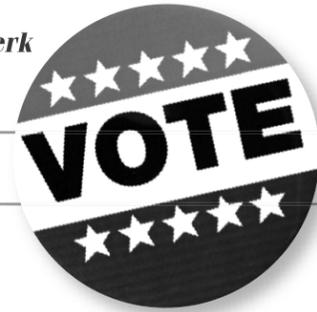
The original deadline has been pushed back and a second filing deadline has been instituted.

- Winter tax levy file by June 1st (previously May 1st)
- Summer tax levy file by November 1st

Principal Residence Exemption as well as Property Transfer Affidavits can be dropped off at the Treasurer's Office at City Hall.

NOVEMBER 5, 2013

# City General Election



## CITY COMMISSION CANDIDATE FORUM

The League of Women Voters will be hosting a Candidate Forum at City Hall on Thursday, October 17, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. The forum will be broadcast on Bloomfield Community Television Channel 15 leading up to Election Day. We are pleased to work with the League of Women Voters once again to offer an opportunity for voters to learn about their candidates for City Commission. Voters will be asked to vote on four charter amendment proposals and three city commission seats (2-year terms) on the November 5, 2013 ballot.

## ABSENTEE VOTING

Absentee ballots are available 30 days prior to Election Day. If you would like to vote via absentee ballot, an absent voter application must be completed before *each* election. Absent Voter Applications are available at City Hall or on the City's website at [www.bloomfieldhillsmi.net](http://www.bloomfieldhillsmi.net).

## LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE

October 7, 2013 is the last day to register to vote in order to be eligible for the November 5, 2013 Election. Applications for Voter Registration are available at the Clerk's Office or on the Secretary of State website at [www.michigan.gov/sos](http://www.michigan.gov/sos)

**REMEMBER: Every Michigan voter who wishes to vote at the polls is required to show picture I.D. or sign an affidavit attesting that he/she is not in possession of picture identification.**

## Acceptable Forms of Picture Identification:

- Michigan Driver's License
- Michigan personal identification card
- Driver's license or personal identification card issued by another state
- Federal or state government-issued photo identification
- U.S. Passport
- Military identification card with photo
- Student identification card with photo - from a high school or an accredited institution of higher education

## E-NEWSLETTER

In addition to the printed version of the Hills Highlights Newsletter, the City periodically publishes an e-newsletter throughout the year with other timely information for residents. We encourage you to sign up for our e-newsletter service at our website: [http://www.bloomfieldhillsmi.net/front\\_desk/newsletter.php](http://www.bloomfieldhillsmi.net/front_desk/newsletter.php) or send me an email with your request subject line: e-newsletter to [aburton@bloomfieldhillsmi.net](mailto:aburton@bloomfieldhillsmi.net)

## FACEBOOK

Find The City of Bloomfield Hills on social media – Like us on Facebook! Our goal is to make the most of technology to relay information to our residents and businesses. Look for new photographs from around the City, event information or just a friendly greeting.



# Goals For Next Year

*by Commissioner Stuart Sherr*

Hello All! Each year your City Commission compiles a list of goals for the coming year. Simultaneously, we analyze our accomplishments relative to the preceding year's goals. This process is similar conceptually to our preparation of an annual financial budget which we then analyze relative to actual performance throughout the year.

These are ways in which we measure your City's service to the community. Why now? Your City operates on a fiscal year which ends on June 30. Let's take a closer look at our goal making process.

The process starts with our City Manager, Jay Cravens. He prepares the initial list. The list is then circulated among your City Commissioners for their comments and recommendations. Input is also sought from the Planning Commissioners and from the City staff. A final list is then put together and reviewed again.

In fiscal 2012-13, I am happy to report that we successfully accomplished virtually all of our goals. Those individual goals, and the detail of our achievements, were summarized by Jay Cravens in the summer e-newsletter. For the 2013-14 fiscal year, the following represent our key goals and priorities:

- 1 Developing a multi-year financial budget;
- 2 Evaluating the City's system of internal accounting control;
- 3 Implementing the Classification and Compensation Study prepared last year;
- 4 Evaluating employee performance, staffing, and related issues;
- 5 Reviewing aspects of the Public Safety Department's organization and accountability;
- 6 Reviewing the road repair program;
- 7 Furthering development of the City's Beautification Plan;
- 8 Improving railroad overpasses;
- 9 Reviewing trash hauling issues;
- 10 Resolving the cell tower/ cLEMIS issue;
- 11 Updating the Code of Ordinances; and
- 12 Evaluating the upcoming September 22 City Celebration Day.

It is worth highlighting that in 2013, we recruited and hired a new Public Safety Department Chief (David Hendrickson) and a new Treasurer (Karen Ruddy). These are critical positions in the operation of the City, and both David and Karen are performing admirably. This year we also reached agreement on a new contract with our dispatchers who will remain with our City. Thus, all of our unionized positions have been stabilized.

In other news, your City is proposing four amendments to the City Charter on the upcoming November 5 general election ballot. They are considered administrative. The following are the proposals in brief (see the actual ballot language on the Oakland County elections website):

**PROPOSITION A** – Moving City election matters from the month of May to the general election date in the month of November;

**PROPOSITION B** – Changing the date for selection of mayor and mayor pro tem to the regularly scheduled City Commission meeting in the month of November;

**PROPOSITION C** – Adopting a resolution or ordinance to prohibit financial conflicts of interest between City Commissioners and City contracts and expenditures;

**PROPOSAL D** – Moving the date for preparation of the annual budget from the 10th day in May to the second Tuesday in May.

If you have any questions, please contact either me or the City for more information.

Finally, we have established a City Celebration Day on Sunday, September 22 from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. The event is an open house that will take place at the City Hall – Public Safety Department, Cranbrook House and Gardens, the Cranbrook museums, Christ Church Cranbrook; St. Hugo of the Hills; and The Village Club. Please join us at any or all of these institutions to learn about them, have fun, and meet fellow residents. I look forward to seeing you!



# What's so Special about Bloomfield Hills?

by Commissioner Pat Hardy

What is it that makes the City of Bloomfield Hills so distinctive? It is many things, but one highly distinguishing attribute is its lush, Shangri-La vegetation, and another is its uniform color code.

The trees, hills and valleys were a gift from Mother Nature from the beginning of our illustrious history, but it was Marilyn Varbedian, a legendary City Commissioner and many-timed Mayor of Bloomfield Hills who decreed that the City's colors should be *Black and Gold*. That may have already been the trend in 1932, when we officially became a City, but it was certainly Marilyn who cemented those colors as our historical trademark.

If we were to choose a third accent color today, it wouldn't take a survey to determine that *Green* would likely be the dominant choice. The Hills, long noted for its natural beauty, is even greener now, thanks to Mayor Sarah McClure's tree planting initiative along the Woodward median, all made possible by monetary donations from several residents and companies who do business with the City. We, and future residents, will continue to enjoy the fruit of these generous, lasting gifts to our community.

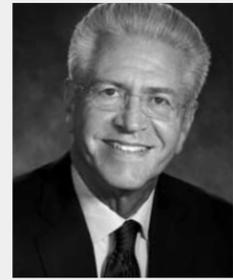
One good idea always seems to lead to another and Commissioner Mike Dul, a renowned Landscape Architect, is currently busy mobilizing businesses and institutions along Woodward to further add to the beautification of the Woodward thoroughfare. Take a look at the plantings throughout the city and in front of City Hall. You will be struck by the colorful palette City Manager Jay Cravens, a Master Gardener, has had a hand in creating, when he isn't behind his desk working on City matters. Special thanks, also, to the Bloomfield Hills Chapter of the National Farm and Garden Association, who have always donated to the City's welcome garden.

Add to the mix the countless individual homeowner/gardeners on every street of our City who work their own horticultural magic in one form or

another on their own property. The beautiful gardens of the Mackle Family and the Neal-King Family, for instance, and my neighbor Geoffrey Fieger's Garden of Earthly Delights is another little paradise that keeps on growing magnificently, to name just three of the many gorgeous sites I have seen in our City.

Not long ago, while visiting the idyllic backyard pond of former City Commissioner and Mayor Dave Kellett, a little three foot tall pine tree off to the side caught my eye. "That's the little sprig Michigan Pine Tree we were given at the City's 75th Anniversary," he said, and my memory hearkened back to the day when resident Gail Barget, who was working on the Anniversary Committee in 2007, enthusiastically said, "Let's give everyone who comes to our party at Cranbrook a pine tree!"

I wonder... how many other little sprigs made it? Mine didn't, so we planted a bigger one to take its place in memory of that milestone year. Yes, there are many things that make Bloomfield Hills so distinctive, but while trees and color branding are important, it is really the people who make this community what it is--each one doing a little bit to keep our city and our world a little more peaceful and a little more beautiful.



# Enhancing Our City

by Commissioner Michael J. Dul

Rolling hills, mature tree canopy and lush vegetation all play a critical role in making Bloomfield Hills a desirable place to live. Our Commission is committed to preserving and enhancing the City's most unique asset- our physical environment.

The impressive blooms of the newly planted Woodward Avenue median islands encourage us to take a look at other areas that could be equally enhanced. Commercial property is our next focus for improvement. Different than the Woodward Avenue enhancements, implemented on public property by private donations, the success of this program depends on the willingness of commercial property owners to make improvements using their own resources.

With the idea of facilitating these improvements your Commission developed a program offering financial incentives for qualified property owners. For a limited time, and on a first come basis, trees planted in the Woodward Ave right-of-way will be subsidized at 50% and 25% by the Michigan Department of Transportation and the City respectively. The bottom line is that the commercial property owner will pay 25% for the cost of trees planted in the right-of-way.

Momentum is building for this program in that several commercial property owners are taking a serious look. The Mobil Station is considering plant and tree upgrades, the Masonic Temple is considering planting a grove of shade trees on their open lawn,



Woodward Hills is looking at planting a cluster of flowering woodland trees to buffer their parking lot and Roeper School is considering overall landscape enhancements to their Woodward Avenue frontage.

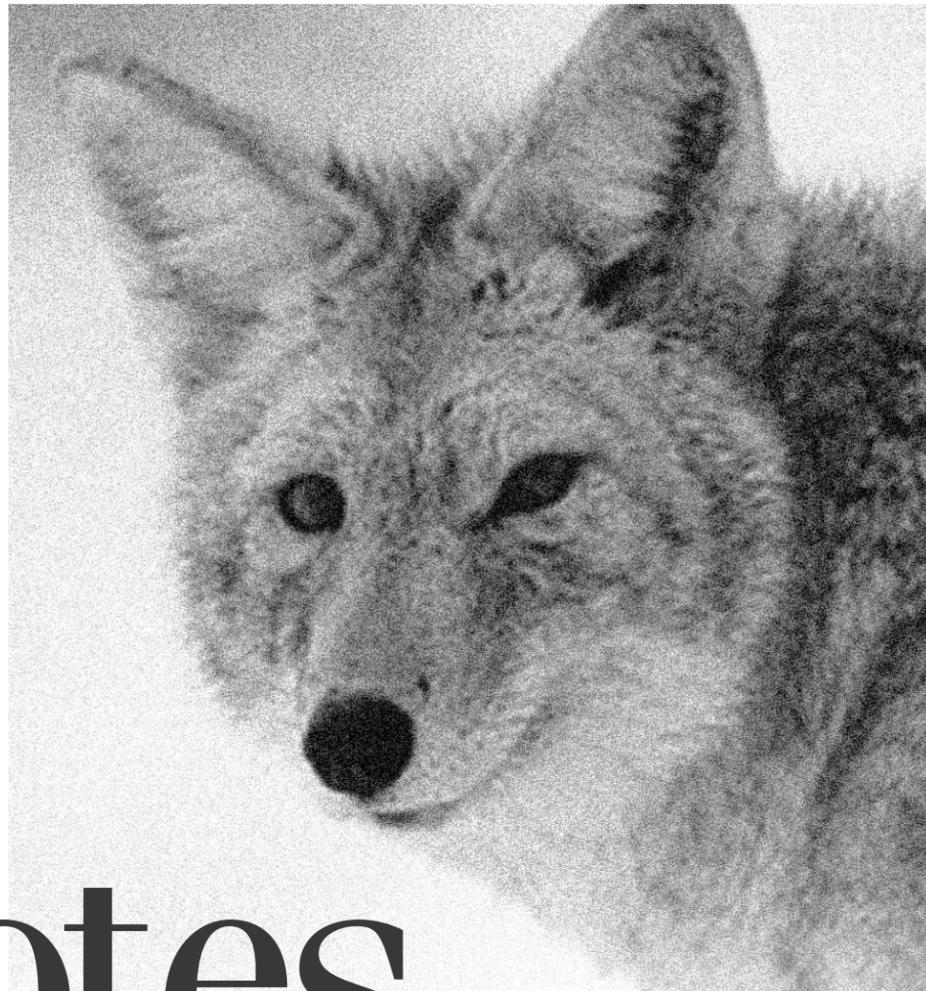
We as property owners, whether commercial or residential, are an important part of our Community. We appreciate the value of preserving and enhancing the beauty of our physical environment that makes for a better place to live and do business .

We encourage commercial property owners to participate in this program while the incentives are available. If you have any questions regarding the above initiative please contact me Michael@dul4bh.com or our City Manager, Jay Cravens jcravens@bloomfieldhillsmi.net

The best to you this fall planting season!



The abundance of wildlife in the City of Bloomfield Hills is a product of the beautiful country setting or rural Michigan “feel” that many areas of this city provides. The City provides woodlands, watercourses, and rolling terrain that creates a comfortable and relaxed setting for residents as well as wildlife. In many cases the ability to be surrounded by such an abundance of wildlife in a suburban setting is a privilege.



# Coyotes

by David Hendrickson,  
Director of Public Safety

There is, however, a certain amount of precautions and responsibility that must be followed to safely and comfortably live along with such an abundance of wildlife.

As with all scavengers and opportunistic feeders, coyotes can cause concern for unattended pets and will frequently visit a property that has created an opportunity for feeding. Coyotes do not pose a threat to humans but they will get bolder and less afraid of humans as they identify a particular property as one with opportunities to feed. For these reasons it is important to take precautions to prevent coyotes from causing damage or injuring a pet.

Coyotes are part of our ecosystem and can be beneficial in keeping the rodent and other animal population under control. Their primary diet includes mice, rats, squirrels, voles, and rabbits, but they will also eat bird seed, garbage, pet food, fawn, and small pets such as cats and small dogs if given the chance. Coyotes are also night time feeders and are usually active at night. You will, however, see coyotes during the day in the spring when mothers have given birth to a litter and need to hunt during the day to feed her young. *(continued, next page)*



In an effort to help residents learn to co-exist with coyotes in the City of Bloomfield Hills, residents are encouraged to practice the following tips:

- Never leave pets outside and unattended, especially at night.
- When pets are outside utilize a leash or place the pet in a pen or fenced area.
- Clean up any food items in your yard that would attract a coyote such as; bird seed, mulch piles, pet food, open garbage, and unsecured waste containers.



- Eliminate open sources of water if possible.
- Clean up brush piles or landscaping that may attract smaller animals which in turn will attract coyotes.

The Bloomfield Hills Public Safety Department does not have a policy to hunt coyotes. Research shows that attempting to eradicate a particular coyote or pack of coyotes will only attract another group to take over that area. It is also extremely dangerous to use firearms in the City and therefore are only used to save a life that is in immediate and imminent danger, to prevent an attack of an animal that is presenting a real and viable threat, or to put an animal down that has received a fatal injury and no other viable option is available. A coyote that may

be sitting in a resident's yard or walking down the street does not fit into the above listed categories.

Bloomfield Hills Public Safety Officers have been educated in the proper handling of animal welfare situations including coyotes. It is important to know that there has never been a report of a coyote attacking or biting a human in this City. We do understand that a homeowner has a right under Michigan law to take action against a coyote that may be destroying their personal property. The Public Safety Department will assist residents with hiring a professional trapper to eliminate a coyote from their property that is causing damage, at the homeowner's expense. Even though this action has not proven to be effective in eliminating coyotes, we understand that a homeowner does have the right to pursue this option. Please remember that the use of firearms or the use of poison is strictly prohibited.

We invite residents to contact our department or request an officer to stop by if you have any questions or concerns. We will be documenting individual sightings and the circumstances surrounding each occurrence as an opportunity to educate the public and identify future problems.

## Service Offerings at the Public Safety Department

by David Hendrickson, Director of Public Safety



The Department of Public Safety is dedicated to providing services to our residents that are not provided elsewhere. One such service is our House Watch Program where we are happy to check the outside of your home while you're away.

The Department of Public Safety is dedicated to providing services to our residents that are not provided elsewhere. One such service is our House Watch Program where we are happy to check the outside of your home while you're away. Many residents take advantage of this and our Officers are happy to provide that extra level of security and peace of mind. We also offer a House Key Program where we keep your house key on file and have the ability to use it if there was an

emergency inside of your home requiring immediate public safety intervention. Other uses for this program include; assisting residents inside of their home if they lost their key, and to gain entry on alarms that require entry. To enroll in the House Key Program, bring a copy of your key to the station and be sure to update your key if your locks have changed.

*(continued, next page)*

In addition to these home security programs we offer secondary monitoring for your alarm system for free. The advantage to this program is that our Public Safety Officers will receive the alarm the same time the alarm is activated and we will immediately respond to your home without waiting for the alarm company to call. This can save several minutes in responding to an emergency.

Another service that we provide to residents is the use of our gun range free of charge. Simply call us to schedule a time to come in with one of our range officers to practice with your weapon. You will have to supply your

own firearm and ammunition but the facility and attention from our officers is free.

All of these services, and more, are for you and your family to use. Please let me know if there is anything that we can do to make the quality of life where you reside better.

Don't forget the Department of Public Safety Open House on September 22nd from 1-5pm. Hotdogs, a helicopter, and fire safety demonstrations will be just a few of the many things at this wonderful event.

## A Great Time at the Farm!

by Commissioner Michael Dul

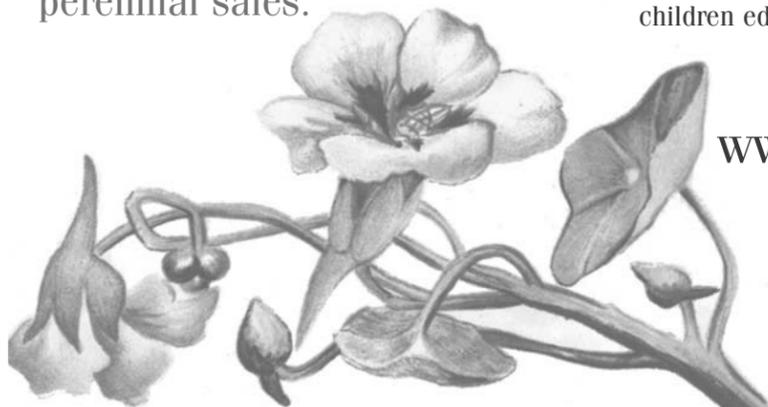
Preservation Bloomfield held its popular Corn Roast Event at the Charles L. Bowers Farm on August 11th. Nearly 200 attendees enjoyed food, refreshments, live music and special activities such as hay rides, farm animals, a silent auction and antique and perennial sales.



City Commissioners Stuart Sherr and Michael Dul enjoying the company of guest Paul Scott

Preservation Bloomfield is a 501 (c) 3 organization representing Bloomfield Hills, Bloomfield Township, the Bloomfield Hills School District and the Bloomfield Hills Historical Society with the mission of saving and preserving Bloomfield Hill's oldest residential structure dating to the pre-Civil War era. The Barton House will be used by our community for social events and children education.

For donations or more information visit:  
[www.preservationbloomfield.org](http://www.preservationbloomfield.org)



# Bits & Pieces

by Larry Rospierski, Building Official

**“Time for a Check-up”:** With winter fast approaching and families sure to spend more time indoors, take the time to replace the batteries in your smoke detectors...they only save lives when they're working. And while you're at it, have your wood-burning fireplaces inspected and cleaned: Chimney fires resulting from creosote build-up can be nasty and life interrupting. Finally, make sure your gas furnaces are inspected regularly to avoid unsafe conditions with faulty heat exchangers.

**“ADDRESS THE SITUATION”:** Ever use your G.P.S. system to find an address only to get error messages and end up nowhere close to your destination? Think of the various possibilities that can happen when our police, fire or ambulance personnel try to respond to an emergency and can't find your address. Every building code in the U.S. requires that a property address be either on the home and visible from the road or be placed on a permanent marker that is visible from the road. As we issue permits and inspect the work, we are being more aggressive to enforce this requirement. Mailbox locations do not satisfy this requirement: They are often not in front of the property in question or, often enough, they are targets for delivery trucks or refuse haulers.



call ahead and make an appointment.) And, our City Planner is available the third Thursday of each month for free consultation on those really tricky projects. In either case, it's probably the best free advice you'll ever get.

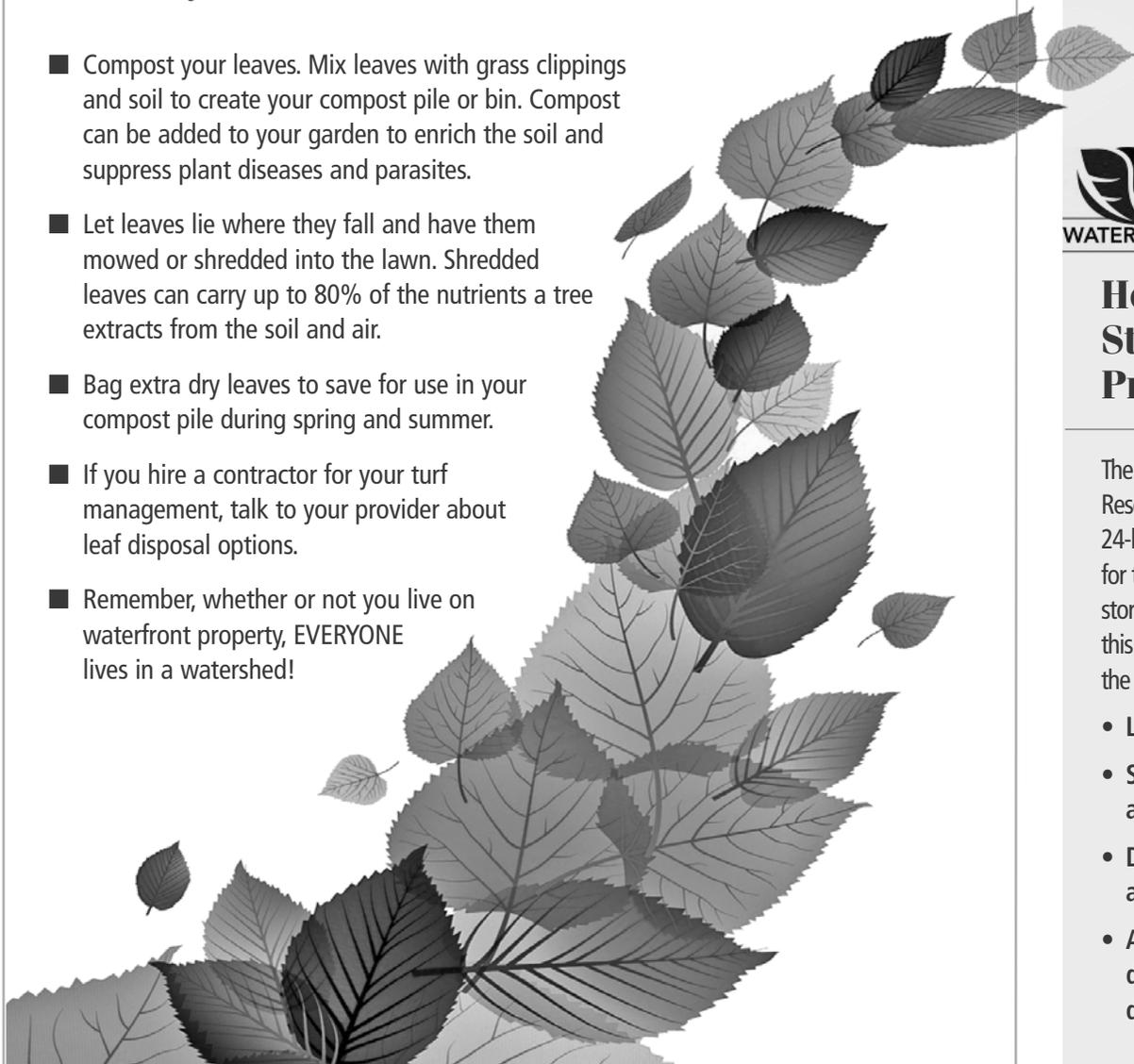
**“IT'S ALL ABOUT SAFETY”:** The City requires permits to replace furnaces, air conditioners and water heaters. Part of that process is the inspection of the work by our state-licensed inspectors. Their job is to make sure the work is code compliant (translated: safe for use.) Do not tender final payment to a contractor for this work until our inspectors leave green “approved” stickers on the job. That is your only assurance that the job has been completed and is safe for operation.

**“COUNTER TALK”:** Contemplating a construction project? Bring your plans or sketches to City Hall and let us walk you through the building, planning and grading requirements before you proceed “too far”. More often than not we can save you time and money if you just meet with us at the counter. The Building Official is usually in from 8:30-10:00, and then in the afternoons, Monday through Friday. (It's always best to

# Colorful Alternatives for Leaf Disposal

The beauty and splendor of autumn is generally diminished every year by the burdensome task of raking leaves. There are several options for leaf disposal that are not only environmentally beneficial to your landscape, but can be less labor intensive than raking or blowing leaves. Here are some simple watershed-friendly ways to use your leaves and enhance your lawn:

- Compost your leaves. Mix leaves with grass clippings and soil to create your compost pile or bin. Compost can be added to your garden to enrich the soil and suppress plant diseases and parasites.
- Let leaves lie where they fall and have them mowed or shredded into the lawn. Shredded leaves can carry up to 80% of the nutrients a tree extracts from the soil and air.
- Bag extra dry leaves to save for use in your compost pile during spring and summer.
- If you hire a contractor for your turf management, talk to your provider about leaf disposal options.
- Remember, whether or not you live on waterfront property, **EVERYONE** lives in a watershed!



## Hotline for Storm Sewer Problems

The Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner offers a 24-hour hotline (248-858-0931) for the reporting of potential storm sewer problems. Please call this number if you witness any of the following:

- Leaky septic systems;
- Suspicious dumping of animal wastes, etc.;
- Dead or stressed fish or animals; or
- An unusual or suspicious discharge in a catch basin, ditch, or waterway