

HILLS HIGHLIGHTS

Spring 2014 #87

Mayor
Patricia A. Hardy

City Commissioners:
Michael Coakley
Michael J. Dul
Sarah H. McClure
Stuart D. Sherr

City Hall

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Bloomfield Hills, Michigan
48304-2322

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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
Appeal Meetings:**

Third Tuesday of every
Month at 4:00 p.m.

Special Note

City Offices will be closed on:

- Good Friday, April 18, 2014
- Friday, April 25, 2014 - City Hall Office Spring Cleanup



New Destination Spots on the Hills' Horizon

By: Mayor Pat Hardy

It's official! Renowned restaurateur Bill Roberts will be taking over the space once occupied by the Fox Grill. Expected to open in the latter part of summer, it will be a casual spot with a brand new name and a totally new look designed by Ron Rae.

In a recent message stating his intent, Bill wrote, "Like all of our restaurants, we try to find a dining niche that will work for the neighborhood. We are very excited about this location." With his long history in the business, his dedicated and well trained staff, we are as excited to have him as he is to be here in the City, and we look forward to sharing the same good times we have experienced at so many of his outstanding establishments.

As happy as we are to welcome a new destination spot, we sadly say farewell to "The Fox," which opened just about two years ago. For a time, it was a popular neighborhood meeting spot, but serious health issues and other complications emerged which proved to be overwhelming. On behalf of many of us "frequent diners," special thanks to the original owners, Mark Aichele, Nigel Barnett and Steve Pehrson and to Chef Jimmy Stepp and the entire staff for their trademark kindness and personal attention.

Also official is the detention basin installation and grading well underway at 41150 Woodward Avenue, the future home of Cedarbrook of Bloomfield Hills, a senior care community. Precast structural walls are being fabricated offsite, and the first pieces will be ready for installation in late May. You can actually watch progress via construction cam on their web site, www.cedarbrookofbloomfieldhills.com. If you want to know more about the complex, scheduled to open in late fall of 2015.

Prospective residents are encouraged to visit the marketing office at the Southwest corner of Woodward and Square Lake Rd (two doors South of Starbucks) an idea crafted by Developer Mike Damone to give prospective residents a sense of the quality of the building. "We have a sample independent living apartment kitchen and some common area furniture set up," he said, "Stop by and have a cup of coffee and learn more, or contact Marketing Director Kari West at 248-955-4956 for more information."

Lastly, the only thing official about the news that the Kingsley Radisson is for sale is that it is true! When that sale officially takes place, we predict the site will be one more inviting destination in the fair City of Bloomfield Hills.



Bloomfield Hills Matters!

By: Commissioner Stuart D. Sherr



I. BUDGETS

We have begun the annual process of reviewing and approving a budget for your City's upcoming fiscal year which runs from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. This is required pursuant to Michigan's Budget Act. This process must be completed before the start of the next fiscal period and thus, we will meet again in April and will approve a budget in May.

Our goal is to have a balanced budget whereby revenues equal expenditures. New this year we are forecasting our annual budgets out three years (instead of just one year) to 2017. Our financial statements are audited each year by Plante Moran, our certified public accountants.

Our revenues are projected to climb due to the rise in property values. Bloomfield Hills had the second highest rise in residential property values in Oakland County. From a property tax standpoint, the Headlee Amendment and Proposition A limit the taxable value of such increase to the lesser of the rate of inflation or 5%. This year that increase amounts to 1.6%. We are also contemplating a 0.75 mill increase to cover the cost of necessary road improvements to Vaughan and Cranbrook roads.

Our expenses are rising too, primarily due to entitlement obligations (e.g., pension obligations and health care costs) negotiated in past labor and administrative contracts. Entitlements are a national problem choking all levels of government all across the U.S. To remedy this, we are restricting entitlements on future hires. Our unions have been cooperative. Bottom Line: We must have balanced budgets.

II. WASTEHAULING

Recently, we made changes to our wastehauling regulations. These changes related to information to be provided to our residents, the age of their trucks, their routes and manner of operation, and limitation of the City's liability from their operation. Your City is updating its matrix of wastehauler costs and methods of operation. Presently we have six companies operating within the City.

The question has arisen as to how many haulers should we allow. On one hand, free enterprise, freedom of choice, and caveat emptor should answer the question. On the other hand, more haulers mean more aggregate truck traffic on our roads. Moreover, multiple haulers mean multiple pickup dates thereby leaving garbage receptacles visible within our community all week every week.

In my opinion, it makes more sense to have one hauler (as many other communities do) rather than six haulers honeycombing our City. However, we want to hear from you. Bottom Line: We will have an advisory vote on the November ballot so you tell us!

III. POTHOLES

Q: Why is the problem worse this year?

A: The weather. This was the coldest and snowiest winter in 133 years. Complicating the matter were the numerous and extreme temperature swings above and below the 32 degree freeze line. Indeed, we set several all-time temperature records.

Q: What specifically causes potholes?

A: Potholes occur when water in the subgrade (below the pavement) and water in the cracks of the pavement freezes and thaws thereby expanding and contracting the pavement. When vehicles run over these voids, the pavement buckles and a pothole results.

Q: Will we get more potholes this season?

A: Yes. The frost, which got down to three feet, is just now starting to come out of the ground.

Q: How long do roads normally last?

A: 15 to 20 years depending upon maintenance.

Q: Why do Michigan roads seem worse than surrounding states?

A: Lack of maintenance. Michigan spends approximately \$150 per capita on road and bridge maintenance – last among all 50 states. The next closest state spends \$200 per capita, and the national average is \$300 per capita.

Q: Does vehicle weight matter?

A: This is not really an issue in Michigan. While we have the heaviest trucks in the nation, we tend to run fewer trucks as a result and, most importantly, we have the lightest weight per axle in the nation.

Q: Would a thicker cross-section of pavement help?

A: Yes, but that would cost more money, and it is only good if the subgrade is properly prepared.

Bottom Line: We do not spend enough on road maintenance here in Michigan.



Our Improving Business District

By: *Commissioner Michael J. Dul*

Always an important part of Bloomfield Hills, our business district is located at the midpoint of a line drawn between the Bloomfield Hills Country Club and the Bloomfield Open Hunt Club. For both residents and visitors, it stands as an area of beauty and prominence.

One of the first major buildings, the former Fox & Hounds (demolished in 2006), was built in 1926, six years prior to Bloomfield Hills becoming a City. Originally constructed as a facility for the storage and repair of Bloomfield Township's trucks and road grading equipment, there was a conscious effort for the architecture to exude an aristocratic feel to integrate with the beautiful setting.

Today, our business district has evolved into a mix of office, financial, medical and small commercial buildings. In keeping with the philosophy established in our Master Plan of 2009, the City Commission monitors new development to ensure that it provides proper parking, signage, building materials and landscaping.

In 2014, two key properties will be redeveloped in our business district. The former post office, located just east of City Hall, will be transformed into an office/medical facility. Across Long Lake Road, the former Berline building will be redeveloped as corporate headquarters for an investment and development company listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

A doctor has stepped forward to be the owner/occupant of the former post office, closed in 2011. Over the last several months, his team worked with our Planning Commission to agree on dramatic improvements. These include the removal of all street-side parking, reduction of the building size, a new building facade and extensive landscaping.

The Berline building purchaser will facilitate an impressive transformation during the upcoming summer months. They've secured approval to add large expanses of glass in lieu of the existing masonry walls, along with site improvements and extensive landscaping to soften and beautify its Long Lake Road image.

Both of these renovations will dramatically upgrade two key properties within our business district, helping to retain its traditional beauty and prominence.



Proposed Transformation: *The former Berline building will become corporate headquarters for a public investment and real estate development company. These dramatic improvements will enhance Bloomfield Hill's business district.*



Roads, Dollars and Sense

By Commissioner Mike Coakley

We've been hard at work on our roads and the budget. We'll focus here on the roads, but the two go hand-in-hand. Road repair is expensive and, especially given the winter we've just come through, is only going to get more so. The Potholedgeddon we're experiencing is going to get worse before it gets better – we're heading into the main freeze-thaw season that is the major generator of potholes in our roads. Add to this that many of our roads are aged and the water and sewer lines beneath even more so, and the challenges we face become apparent.

We have 35 miles of paved roads in the city and a five man crew to deal with them. The crew has been cold patching and putting down asphalt where they can. In addition, in the past few days we have put down over 150 tons of gravel on our roads to make them passable. (Some of the worst road conditions, on Long Lake Road, Quarton, Eastways and most of Lahser, are county roads that the city does not control). So in the short run, everything humanly possible is being done by our crew to address the rough road conditions created by the harsh winter we've been enduring.

For the long term, the Commission, working with our engineering firm, has developed a plan to address road conditions by focusing

on the worst roads first, Yarboro/Joyce Court, Vaughan and South Cranbrook. Repairing potholes is a losing game because it does not address the underlying structure that promotes formation of potholes in the first place. So the plan contemplates that, while we're at it, we won't just put a band-aid on it (i.e., scrape and resurface). Instead, we will replace the roads entirely with roads engineered to resist potholes better than our existing roads. And, this type of road should not be more expensive than conventional engineering. Plus we don't want to put new roads over 40-year-old water and sewer lines that are nearing the end of their useful lives. Consequently the plan is to replace those at the same time.

Obviously this can't be done overnight. It requires engineering, development, and implementation, during a limited building season and within funding constraints. The three roads mentioned will be done, then, over the next two years. We'll then move on to the other roads in need of remediation.

This is where we the citizens come into the act. We'll need a little patience and tolerance for the inconvenience, and we'll need to pay for the work. These are city roads that are our responsibility and naturally we expect the roads in Bloomfield Hills to be up to snuff. Our plan is to pay for the road work with bond issues funded through a combination of modest millage and water-and-sewer-rate increases. This way the cost will be spread out and should not be too much of a current financial burden. And, we can expect 15-20 years service out of the roads and 40-50 years out of the water and sewer lines. This not only addresses an immediate need, but is a sound investment in our future.



Introducing . . . Our New Building Official

By: Jeffrey Wren

As this is my first newsletter for the City of Bloomfield Hills I would like to introduce myself. I have been inspecting and performing plan reviews as a building inspector or Building Official with other communities in southeast Michigan for over 8 years. Prior to my building inspection positions, I built homes and commercial buildings in and around Oakland and Macomb counties.

The transition from Larry Rospierski, our previous Building Official has been very smooth. Thanks for your help Larry! The City office staff and our contract trade inspectors have also been a great asset for my transition into this position.

I have found the contractors and residents in Bloomfield Hills have been a pleasure to work with. There are many exciting projects going on within the City including new and altered homes and commercial buildings.

As you might know, the building codes are a constantly changing to keep pace with technological improvements, new building materials and components. If anyone has any questions or concerns about a project they would like to do please feel free to call me at (248)530-1408 or jwren@bloomfieldhillsmi.net. You can also stop by at any time during business hours. I am here to serve you. My first couple of months here have been wonderful and I am looking forward to many more wonderful years to come.



The Master Plan Review Update

By: Commissioner Sarah McClure

In 2009 the City of Bloomfield Hills adopted a Master Plan. The Plan describes the City's history, features and elements which make up its character, and provides a vision for the City's future. It is a decision making tool that we use to protect and enhance the character of the City so that it can continue to be a highly desirable place to live and work. The Plan reflects our residents' sentiment about the City, including their desire to preserve natural features, our tree lined streets and green spaces, and maintain our low residential density and our premier residential neighborhoods. Commercial and office areas are to be limited to what currently exists.

In response to the Plan adoption, a number of actions were taken. A Woodward beautification project was initiated and a Woodlands Ordinance was adopted. The Fence and Gate Ordinance and the Lot Split Ordinance were reviewed and adjusted. A Lighting Ordinance was created to minimize lighting pollution.

The Michigan Planning Act requires that a community review its master plan every five years to determine if it remains current and responsive to conditions. The conclusion of the review can range from reaffirming the present plan, updating the plan with amendments, or adopting a new plan.

This winter the Planning Commission and City Commission reaffirmed the present City Master Plan as current. The Planning Commission spent several months discussing the review process based partly on guidance from the Michigan Association of Planning. Both Commissions concluded that affirming the existing Master Plan as current was appropriate because

there have been no significant changes in public opinion, philosophy, or zoning since the original Plan was adopted and the values, goals, and conditions upon which it was based are still relevant.

The recent resolution re-affirming the Master Plan also prioritized some of the Plan's goals and initiatives. Some areas that City staff and the Commissions will be working on include updating the sign ordinance, adopting site sensitive landscape regulations, and pursuing beautification and stronger entryway images for our main thoroughfares. We will also be addressing some zoning issues such as rezoning non-conforming subdivision lots and correcting split-zone areas.

A Planning Commission sub-committee also will be reviewing the possible adoption of building design and material standards for our commercial buildings in the City. With the improvement in the commercial real estate market we are seeing interest in several buildings and want any improvement or redevelopment to be consistent with the overall goals and character of the community. While the Master Plan describes some standards, it may be appropriate to incorporate them into more formal guidelines or ordinances.

On behalf of all of us I would like to thank our current Planning Commission, under the leadership of Chair Walter Cueter, for their work. I would also like to thank the many residents involved in the creation of our Master Plan in 2009, particularly several individuals on the task force who no longer hold City office: Virginia Fox, Robert Toohey, and John Utley. Their past time and effort continue to benefit our community today.



Treasury Notes

By: Karen K. Ruddy, Finance Director and Treasurer



Property Taxes

Summer and winter taxes, plus any penalties, were due to the City by February 28th. On March 1st any unpaid 2013 property taxes were turned over to Oakland County for collections. If you have not paid your 2013 property taxes you will now have to contact Oakland County to get the amount owing. Look for your 2014 summer property tax bill in early July.

Principal Residence Exemption Affidavits

Filing deadlines to receive a principal residence exemption on your property are below:

- Summer tax levy file by June 1st
- Winter 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.



The City Center - Business Licensing in the City of Bloomfield Hills

By: Amy L. Burton, City Clerk

In the city's 2009 Master Plan, the area of Long Lake Road and Woodward Avenue was coined the "City Center" to denote the office and commercial land use as well as the functional core of the City. During the implementation phase of the Master Plan, the City Clerk's Office used the "City Center" designation as a springboard to focus on the businesses operating in Bloomfield Hills.

In early 2013, the City Commission adopted amendments to the business license ordinance to provide for a registration for both new and existing businesses in the City. The goal of the ordinance is to allow for the City to maintain basic information such as business owner contact information and the type of businesses operating in the community. The availability of such information will assist staff in business regulation, planning and zoning statistics and building safety

preservation. While companies in operation prior to January 2013 are exempt from the \$100.00 one-time registration fee, any new or relocated business opening after such time are subject to the licensing fee.

Established businesses operating in the City, businesses ranging from restaurants to professional services, will receive correspondence from the City Clerk's Office this spring with more information on the registration process. Newly formed or relocated businesses have willingly complied with the ordinance requirements and the Clerk's Office is slowly building our business database. We look forward to working with all the wonderful businesses operating and moving into our great city!

For more information on business licenses, please visit our website at www.bloomfieldhillsmi.net

New Regulations for City Approved Waste Haulers

By: Amy L. Burton, City Clerk

At the beginning of the fiscal year, the City Commission set forth goals for the administrative staff to accomplish in the upcoming year. The goals are developed with input from both the employees and Commissioners. The 2013/2014 adopted goals identified solid waste collection, waste hauler licensing and recycling procedures as one of the priorities for the city.

The initial focus was to improve our service to residents and business owners by collecting additional information from our licensed waste haulers, such as type of recycling services offered and the costs to our residents of the various types of collection offered by each waste hauler. Gathering this information will better communicate the details of solid waste collection in the City, especially to our new residents. Many times new business owners or residents move into the City from a municipality where the garbage collection is included as part of the municipalities tax rate. Others are more familiar with a single licensed waste hauler for the entire community. Our waste collection program is unique. In addition, we strive for quality service for our residents, from both city staff and city - approved contractors. When the response for additional information from our licensed haulers was not ideal, we realized the need to evaluate the Solid Waste Collection Rules and Regulations.

The prior Solid Waste Collection Regulations were adopted by the City Commission in 2009. These rules included provisions requiring licensed haulers to provide recycling and yard waste services, as

well as regulations on collection days and hours. The policy in place provided basic regulation of the city's licensed waste haulers. The City Commission recently adopted an updated Solid Waste Collection Rules and Regulations Resolution. The following is a summary of the additional requirements all licensed waste haulers must adhere to; effective March 12, 2014:

- Provide the City information on service options and costs available to city customers.
- Provide details on recycling procedures.
Offer to each customer household hazardous material disposal details.
- Supply the City with a customer route list.
- Demonstrate a specified level of minimum insurance coverage and complete a Hold Harmless Agreement.

Subsequent regulations beginning January 1, 2015:

- Licensed waste haulers shall furnish to each residential customer a recycling container which meets city specifications.
- Licensed provider vehicles shall be no older than fifteen years.

For more information on the city approved waste haulers and the related regulations, please visit our website at www.bloomfieldhillsmi.net



A Single Waste Hauler For Bloomfield Hills – Are We Ready?

By: Jay Cravens, City Manager

For the past couple of meetings the City Commission has been discussing the status of solid waste removal in the community. Bloomfield Hills has chosen to allow private solid waste haulers to carry out this task for decades, with each hauler required to obtain a City license on an annual basis. A few years ago, the City had as much as eight solid waste haulers obtain City licenses, although only seven actually had customers in Bloomfield Hills. Presently, six solid waste haulers have received licenses. One of these waste hauler only services commercial clients.



In 2006, the City's engineering consultant Hubbell, Roth and Clark (HRC) was asked by the City Commission to develop a 10-year road improvement plan (the 2006 Road Improvement Plan). The Plan cited many local roads were deteriorating and that heavy trucks (e.g., waste hauling trucks) were causing a disproportionate amount of the wear and tear of the roads, particularly on the road shoulder.

The following year, the City Commission reviewed a proposed ordinance that would have required all residents to use a single waste hauler. The proposed ordinance was identical to an ordinance adopted by Bloomfield Township in the early 1990's. Following an outpouring of residents that were loyal to their long-time disposal service, the City Commission decided to table the proposed ordinance. The Commission also asked me to meet with the waste haulers to see if there were opportunities to jointly resolve the City's concerns about road wear and tear. One commissioner even suggested an idea where waste haulers would pick up on specific days, thereby reducing the time where trash cans would be out at the curb or roadside. Later that year I met with four of the six City-licensed waste haulers to discuss these concerns and ideas. All cited concerns about reducing the size of their trucks or concern about changing their pick up days. In essence no change came about.

In 2010, the City Commission once again held a public hearing on the single waste hauler issue. Again, residents loyal to their long-time disposal service came out in support of their hauler and the status

quo. Ironically, the information provided at the public hearing showed that a single waste hauler would have cost the customer less money and would have provided for more waste pick up services. Specific, custom services that many residents request such as garage or indoor pickup could also be offered by bonded employees. Convenient recycling was also offered. More importantly from the City's perspective, it was also possible to have the City picked up on a single day or two-day schedule.

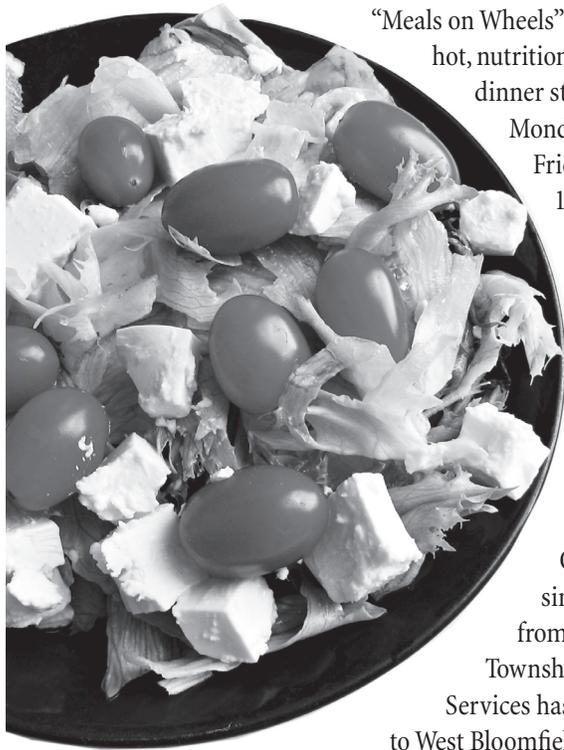
As a resident, there are several questions that bear your attention. Should the City continue status quo of multiple waste haulers vs. a single waste hauler, when this practice is arguably one of the reasons why our local roads have deteriorated so rapidly? Then there is the aesthetic reason. Does it make sense to allow garbage waste containers to be virtually out at the curbside every weekday because the waste haulers pick up on different days?

You will have the opportunity to decide if the City should continue with the current multiple waste hauler option or have a single waste hauler. The City Commission will be considering a resolution in May to place an advisory question on the November ballot asking you for your input on this issue. In an upcoming issue of the Hills Highlights, I will detail what the proposed single hauler alternative could entail, so that you have a better understanding of this option. In the meantime, I welcome your comments on this subject at: jcravens@bloomfieldhillsmi.net.

Nutrition Services for Our Senior Residents

By: Jay Cravens, City Manager

Earlier this year the City Commission renewed its commitment through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program to provide our eligible senior residents, aged 62 years or older with a nutritional program through Bloomfield Township Senior Services. Bloomfield Hills' residents can now contact Bloomfield Township Senior Services at (248)723-3500 to enroll in the "Meals on Wheels" program to address their nutritional needs.



"Meals on Wheels" will deliver a hot, nutritionally balanced, dinner style meal

Monday through Friday, between 10 a.m. and 12 noon.

The program is funded through our \$5,000 CDBG allotment the City receives from Oakland County. A

similar program from Bloomfield Township Senior

Services has been offered

to West Bloomfield Township

for the past several years and has been

successful in meeting the needs of their seniors.

"Meals on Wheels" is a service offered to homebound seniors who are generally unable to drive or leave the home independently with ease or safety or to prepare complete meals. For additional eligibility criteria please contact Bloomfield Township Senior Services or send an e-mail to: Homemeals@bloomfieldtwp.org.

You or a family member may apply by telephone at the number provided above or complete a [Nutrition Services Request Form](#) provided by Bloomfield Township Senior Services. (This form is on the Bloomfield Township and Bloomfield Hills websites.) When

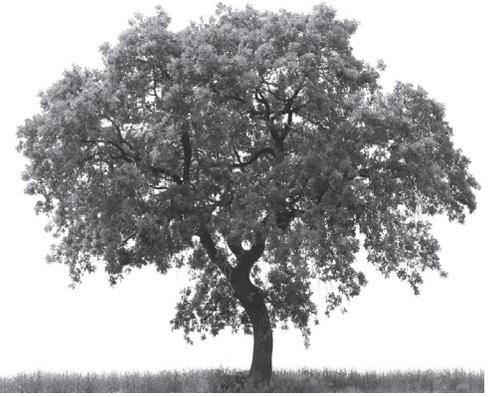
Bloomfield Township Senior Services receives a request for home delivered meals, the inquiry is forwarded to the Nutrition Coordinator. The Nutrition Coordinator will call the potential recipient to obtain information regarding indications of need (i.e., reason for meal request, health status, assistance devices), eligibility requirements and to explain the program.

Delivery of meals can generally begin approximately two to three weeks after a request is received. If your home is on a route that is currently full, you may be placed on a waiting list. The meals are planned to provide one-third of the USDA recommended daily nutrition for older adults. The meals are prepared and packaged offsite and delivered to Bloomfield Township Senior Services each morning. The meal is delivered hot and can be served at that time or can be re-heated later that day. Every meal is low sodium, in that there is no added salt to the food during the preparation process.

The meals are delivered by trained, screened volunteers from the community. Volunteers do not handle payments or schedule changes. The volunteer will not leave a meal unattended. Food guidelines do not allow the volunteer to leave the meals, if no one is home. Please remember part of the mission of the Meals on Wheels Program is to see each client for each delivery. If the client does not respond to attempts to the delivery of the scheduled meal, Bloomfield Township Senior Services will contact the client's emergency contacts.

Bloomfield Hills hopes these programs are used by our seniors as we all know living independently in-place and at home as long as possible is always preferred.

Healthy Tree Care and the Urban Environment



If you are considering installing some trees at your property, there are some things to consider. Trees provide many benefits in an urban setting, including:

- Providing oxygen
- Reducing soil erosion
- Providing shelter from wind and sun exposure
- Providing habitat for birds, animals, and beneficial insects
- Increasing property values

Trees in an urban environment can become stressed, due to:

- Poor drainage conditions on site (flooding or drought)
- Chemical exposure (de-icing salt or pollution)
- Adverse soil conditions (loss of topsoil, pH)

Follow these tips below to provide proper tree care for watershed protection:

Fertilizer and Plant Health

Perform a soil test first, to identify a soil deficiency. Use a slow-release nitrogen fertilizer. Applying too much fertilizer can lead to poor tree health.

Integrated Pest Management

Do not use a 'one size fits all' approach. Contact your local landscaper or informed lawn care provider for best management techniques. Spot treat only. Use non-toxic products.

Proper Watering

Individual tree species have different watering needs. Do your homework to identify how much water your trees require per week. One inch of water per week (including any major rain events) is suitable for most Michigan species.

Right Plant...Right Place

Avoid monocultures. Biodiversity is key! Know your plants! Assess your yard for soil conditions, drainage, light/shady areas, etc.

Mulch

Avoid over-mulching (no mulch volcanoes) which can kill trees. 2 to 3 inches of mulch 'doughnuts' is adequate.

On-Site Consultation – Contact your local landscaper or tree care professional before applying any fertilizers or pesticides. These professionals can provide proper identification of tree species; review of existing and future problems and solutions; recommendations on invasive plant removal; and cultural or remedial measures that the homeowner can perform.

Riparian Responsibility - Doing Your Part

Over the last several years, the City has devoted much time and money to enhancing its rivers and lakes by: co-hosting healthy lawn care workshops; training staff on best management practices; conducting periodic water quality monitoring; and installing and maintaining rain gardens throughout the community.

Everyone can do their part to protect and enhance the lakes and streams, especially those that live along the waterways.

- Prevent runoff – Border your lawn with deep-rooted plants and flowers to prevent water runoff. Direct down spouts into garden areas, or install rain barrels to collect water.

- No Dumping – NEVER dump any yard debris, chemicals, or any other materials into your rivers or lakes. Yard waste deposited in the waterways can cause significant changes in nutrient levels, leading to poor water quality. Report any potential illegal dumping to the City.
- Maintain a buffer – Leave a no-mow, fertilizer-free buffer area of at least 10 feet along the waterway to prevent erosion and protect water quality.
- Mow grass high – A 2 ½ to 3 inch cutting height is perfect to foster deep roots that prevent soil erosion. Cutting the grass shorter than 2 inches will limit its ability to store food in the spring. Avoid stockpiling or burning grass clippings, leaves and other debris along streambanks.



Safety Tips

*By: David Hendrickson,
Director of Public Safety*

As we approach summer with warmer temperatures, many residents will have the opportunity to get outside and enjoy outdoor activities. When doing so we strongly suggest that you keep the following tips in mind to help your family stay safe and limit the ability of a potential criminal to take advantage of an opportunistic crime.

Tips for Homeowners

- Keep doors in your home closed and locked including your garage doors. An open door is an invitation for a would be criminal to exploit easy access to your valuables.
- Be a good neighbor and alert the Public Safety Department to any unusual activity in your neighborhood.
- When planning for vacation
 1. Have your mail and newspapers stopped or have someone pick them up
 2. Leave inside lights on timers to create the impression that your house is occupied.

3. Be sure to set your alarm system and consider registering with our department to monitor your alarm along with your alarm company for a quicker response. This service is free.
 4. Also take advantage of our Vacation Watch program where we will watch your home on a regular basis as a part of daily activities. This service is free to residents and has identified potential problems for homeowners.
- Avoid home improvement scams and deception burglaries by taking a proactive approach. The City of Bloomfield Hills has a no soliciting ordinance and officers will respond to enforce this ordinance. Please call us if there are any active solicitors in your neighborhood or if anyone appears out of place.

Tips for Drivers

- Do not leave valuables or cash in your car. If you must leave items in the car, lock them in the trunk if possible. Be sure to follow this practice even when making quick stops at gas stations or stores. Criminals will look for an opportunity to take a purse or other valuable item that is left in an unlocked vehicle.
- Be alert for children playing or residents walking in neighborhoods and residential areas. Young children may be more concerned about catching a ball that rolls into the street than watching for vehicles coming toward them.



Birmingham Area Seniors Coordinating Council

2121 Midvale Street,
Birmingham, MI 48009
(248) 203-5270
www.bascc.org
info@bascc.org

BASCC is a non-profit organization that provides programs and supportive services to adults 50+ in the community.

Keeping Seniors ON THE MOVE!



GOLF LEAGUES & LESSONS

Seniors are invited to swing their golf clubs at lessons with a PGA professional or on the golf course with one of two BASCC golf leagues. Other fitness offerings include: Agebusters workout, stability ball, chair yoga, pickleball, tai chi & Zumba.



HEARING LOSS AND LOW VISION GROUPS

These groups are designed to support people with vision or hearing challenges. Learn about products, services and hear speakers covering a wide range of topics. These groups meet the third Wednesday of the month.



INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICES

General geriatric counseling, housing and in-home health care options, Meals-on-Wheels and information on low-income programs and prescription coverage are just a few of the services available to seniors and their family members through the Outreach Department.

BASCC is now open until 8 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Call (248) 203-5270 to schedule a one-on-one computer class, play pickleball, bridge or attend one of several interesting lectures. Or visit www.bascc.org to view the latest newsletter and a listing of programs and services.

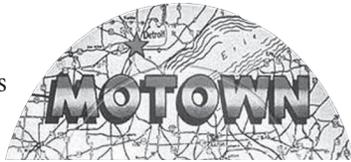
SPRING INTO ACTION AT BASCC

BASCC invites seniors 50+ to get their bodies moving and keep their minds active this spring. Swing those golf clubs either at lessons or on the golf course with one of the two BASCC golf leagues. Zumba or the Agebusters workout classes offer opportunities to keep moving as well. These are just some of the great programs BASCC has to offer. Visit www.bascc.org for a full listing of offerings or stop by BASCC, 2121 Midvale Street, Birmingham.

HISTORY OF THE MOTOWN SOUND

Thursday, April 10 - 10:30 am

The Detroit Historical Society's Senior Curator, Joel Stone, delves into the city's history of music making, together with the elements that contributed to the unique style of Motown and Tamla records.



D-DAY NORMANDY INVASION - *Untold story of "Deception, Spies and Bravery"*

Wednesday, May 14 - 1:00 pm

As the 70th Anniversary of D-Day (June 6, 2014) approaches, Oakland University Professor Frank Cardimen focuses on the success at Normandy, which spelled the beginning of the end for Germany in WWII.

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE: *Know the Ten Signs- Early Detection Matters*

Thursday, May 22 - 1:00-2:00 pm

This educational program, presented by the Alzheimer's Association, will give you an opportunity to learn about the ten warning signs of Alzheimer's disease, as well as what to do if you or your loved one is showing signs.

BEADING CLASS

Friday, June 6 - 12:30 pm - 3 pm

Design instructor Wendy Ross teaches the elements of bead layout and design. You'll be stringing and crimping like a professional before you know it! During the class you'll complete a beautiful bracelet for yourself (or a friend!).



DON'T LET YOUR POSSESSIONS OWN YOU...

HOW TO "DECLUTTER" YOUR LIFE

Thursday, June 12 - 10:30 am

Linda Novak and Carolyn Stieger, will present on organization techniques to maximize your living space and still enjoy your special "treasures".

RETIREMENT REIMAGINED

Thursdays, May 15 and June 26 at 1 pm

Have you retired in the past few years? Come together to meet fellow recent retirees and explore opportunities to develop and pursue skills and interests. We will have speakers and activities to consciously plan our retirement to create happy, healthy lifestyles for many years to come. Join this fun and interesting group.

ZUMBA

Enjoy a fun filled hour of Latin and International music with easy to follow steps. Zumba is one of the fastest-growing dance-based fitness crazes in the world. Come join the party and dance yourself fit every Wednesday at 1:00 pm.



HOW TO GROW ANYTHING: CONTAINER GARDENING TIPS AND TECHNIQUES

April 8, April 22 and May 6 from 6:30-7:30 pm

Learn the essentials of container gardening and the expert know-how to grow practically anything you want in as small a space you have available.





City of Bloomfield Hills
45 E. Long Lake Road
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304-2322

2014 Bloomfield Hills City Commission:

Patricia A. Hardy, Mayor
Michael Coakley, Commissioner
Michael J. Dul, Commissioner
Sarah H. McClure, Commissioner
Stuart D. Sherr, 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
Jamie Spivy, DPW Foreman
Jeff Wren, Building Official

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 Info. (248) 586-0505 (LSL Planning)
Police Services (Non-emerg.) (248) 644-4200
Property / Assessing Info. (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 (248) 858-1110
(Oakland County W.R.C. hours 7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.)
Water and Sewer Line Repair (248) 858-0487
(Oakland County W.R.C. hours – 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 Counseling)
(248) 334-1274 or (877) 922-1274
Oakland County – (248) 858-1000
Oakland County Assessor – (248) 858-0776 or (248) 858-0740
Oakland County Health Dept. – (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) 858-4808 weekday hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.
After hours & weekends call – (248) 858-4895
U.S. Postal Service – 2050 South Blvd. : (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