

HILLS HIGHLIGHTS

Winter 2015 #89

Mayor
Michael J. Dul

City Commissioners:
Michael Coakley
Patricia A. Hardy
Sarah H. McClure
Stuart D. Sherr

City Hall
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Facsimile: 248.644.4813
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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.



City Entrance Signage

By: Mayor Michael J. Dul



This typical proposed entry sign will be routed from a synthetic material and painted black & gold to convey the City's brand.

Two median signs on our Woodward Avenue corridor do a great job identifying the entry points to the City of Bloomfield Hills from the north and south. The eye-catching black and gold color scheme clearly reflects our City's brand. Long-time resident, Martin "Hoot" McInerney, generously donated the funding to build and install these beautiful signs.

In 2014, City Manager Jay Cravens, along with the City Commission, created a goal to investigate and find possible funding for additional identification of the City limits on Cranbrook Road (at Quarton) and Lone Pine Road (at Lahser). After revising design concepts obtained by Mr. Cravens, the Commission created a full sized mockup to test the look and feel of these more subtle and smaller-scaled black and gold signs. They wanted to ensure that the new identification fit in seamlessly with each location.

During the first quarter of 2015, the City will send the sign drawings and specifications out for pricing for fabrication and installation. If feasible, the new signage will be covered by the City's general fund. To help defray costs, the City Commission would welcome project sponsorship by any City resident or business.

We look forward to the addition of these welcoming gateways to our City.

Residents or businesses who'd like to donate to this entry sign initiative are encouraged to call City Hall at (248) 644-1520.



Single Waste Hauler Update

By: Jay W. Cravens, City Manager

On November 4, 2014, residents of Bloomfield Hills passed a ballot measure for a single waste hauler. On behalf of the City Commission, I want to thank you again for this affirmative vote.

Since the passage of the ballot measure, several waste haulers were contacted to seek their bids for providing single waste hauling services to all residential properties. On January 5, 2015, the City received three proposals. The waste haulers who submitted qualified bids were Republic Services, Rizzo Environmental Services and Waste Management. The three proposals will be reviewed by a subcommittee composed of five persons. The Subcommittee members were City Commissioner Stuart Sherr, City Attorney William Hampton, David Kellett, Trevor Lauer and myself. After reviewing the

proposals and interviewing each of the waste haulers, the Subcommittee made a unanimous recommendation to the City Commission that Rizzo Environmental Services be selected as the single waste hauler for the city. On January 13, 2015, The City Commission accepted the Subcommittee's recommendation and chose Rizzo Environmental Services.

The City Attorney and I are now in the process of negotiating a contract with Rizzo Environmental Services. We expect to have a draft contract completed by the first part of February and to the City Commission for approval at their February 10, 2015 meeting.

All of the single waste hauler proposals the City received were well prepared by each of the three bidders. The Subcommittee and the City Commission were particularly impressed with Rizzo Environmental Service's proposal, as it met all of the requirements of our bid specifications. Their proposal includes a five percent senior discount, a discount for annual advance payments and the ability for resident customers to stop pick up service for 30 to 90 days. Their bid was also guaranteed a flat rate for customers over the entire length of the contract. The Commission and I felt this aspect of their proposal would be viewed favorably by our residents. There would be no

Transition to a Single Waste Hauler

By: Jay W. Cravens, City Manager

Now that the City Commission has chosen Rizzo Environmental Services to be the single waste hauler for the entire city, I thought I should provide you with a "transition plan" as to what to expect in the coming weeks.

- On February 10, 2015, the City Commission will consider approving a multiple year contract with Rizzo Environmental. The contract will be proposed for an eight year period with a flat rate throughout the duration of the contract.
- In mid-February, Rizzo will be providing the City with a proposed service information / customer newsletter that will provide information about the services they will provide to Bloomfield Hills' residents.
- At the end of February this newsletter will be sent out to all resident customers.
- In early March the City will confirm the routing schedule with Rizzo.
- Service to Bloomfield Hills' residents will be on Tuesday and Wednesday of each week.

- By mid - March the City and Rizzo will meet to discuss service expectations, existing service concerns and any potential "hot spots".
- By the third week in March Rizzo will have all trash and recycling carts delivered to resident customers.
- On Tuesday, March 31, 2015, single waste hauling service to Bloomfield Hills will begin.

Last November, the City sent out a letter to all residents about the transition to a single waste hauler in a "question and answer format". Because of the passage of time and the events that have transpired, I felt it necessary to provide you with another update in this layout.

Who will pick up my waste until the single waste hauler starts service?

All current City-licensed waste haulers have been encouraged to continue providing you service until the last week of March 2015. Beginning March 31, 2015, Rizzo Environmental Services will be the single waste hauler for the entire city. If your waste hauler fails to continue serving you in the coming weeks, please contact me at (248)530-1404.

When will the new waste hauler start being responsible for picking up my solid waste?

The single waste hauler will begin providing service to you on Tuesday, March 31, 2015.

When can I expect the new waste hauler to contact me?

The new waste hauler will begin contacting residents in late February 2015.

hidden “environmental charges” or “fuel recovery fees” as is typical in this industry.

The bid submitted by Rizzo Environmental Services is for a five year period, as the bid specifications required. However, due to the favorable fees proposed, both parties are negotiating an eight year contract that would have no price increases for the duration of the contract. Residents will still be able to choose between curbside, door-side and inside pick up services.

Rizzo Environmental Services will be picking up waste two days in the City. Waste pickup will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday of every week. The City will be split in two service areas where one side of the city will be picked up on one day and the other the following day. All services, (e.g., trash pickup, recycled waste, yard waste and bulk pickup) will be handled on a single day in each service area.

Waste pick up service will begin one day earlier than we stated in previous letters to residents. Since Rizzo Environmental Services will be picking up on Tuesday and Wednesday, both parties agreed that service should start on Tuesday, March 31, 2015.

We are very excited about this change in service to our residents. We

feel you will have a reliable and improved service provider that will be at a lower price. If you have any special needs regarding waste pick up services feel free to contact me. I will be glad to assist you during this transition period. Should you have any service problems with your present waste hauler, contact me at well. I can be reached at (248)530-1404 or via e-mail at: jcravens@bloomfieldhillsmi.net.



What types of services will be available?

The new waste hauler will provide curbside service, door-side service and inside service. It will be your preference--of course, each type of service has its own price.

I have heard that the new waste hauler will be providing cans and / carts for waste and recyclable materials. How does that work?

Rizzo Environmental Services will provide a wheeled cart for refuse / waste and a second wheeled cart for recycled materials. Customers may either use the carts or approved refuse / waste bags. There will be no additional charge for the wheeled carts. The waste hauler will provide you with information on these carts a few weeks before the start of service.

Who do I make my payments out to?

All payments will be made directly to the waste hauler, Rizzo Environmental Services. The City is not involved in the billing of waste services.

How often will I be billed?

This will be your preference. Rizzo Environmental Services provides for quarterly billing and annual billing. All billing is in advance of the service being provided. A discount is available to customers who wish to pay for the entire year in advance. If you pay for the entire year, you will get a one month rate rebate. You should receive your initial bill for service startup in early March.

What payment options do I have?

You may pay by check, with a credit card over the telephone, or you may set up an automatic bill payment. Online payment may also be an option provided.



Will there be any service discounts?

The waste hauler will be providing a 5 percent discount to senior citizens, age 65 and older. The waste hauler will also provide an additional discount to those who prepay annually.

If I have a question or problem with service who should I contact?

Rizzo Environmental Services will be required to have a field manager available to respond to customer service issues during scheduled collection times – from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Of course, for the first few months of startup, feel free to contact the City for assistance at (248)644-1520.

I go out of town for several months in the winter (or summer). Can I suspend service?

Yes, residents will have the ability to suspend their service when they are away and not using the service for a minimum of one month to a maximum of three months.

continued on page 4



Road Construction – Looking at a Different Approach

By: Commissioner Sarah McClure

In recent years a great deal of City staff and Commission time has been spent discussing how to address City of Bloomfield Hills road conditions. As has been written in previous newsletter articles, the City has spent over \$8 million to totally reconstruct some of our major roads including Lone Pine, Orchard Ridge south and Kensington, along with smaller residential streets such as Yarboro. When implementing a total reconstruction we not only repave but replace 40+ year old water and sewer lines, and in the case of Lone Pine and Cranbrook north, also rebuilt several bridges.

This spring we will begin two very large projects, Cranbrook south and Vaughan. These will also be total reconstructions. The City will be issuing bonds for these projects to be repaid by our water/sewer revenues and current millage. Bids for these projects recently came in better than anticipated due to their large scope and lower oil prices.

The City is adopting a multi prong approach to better maintain the roads after they have been redone. First, we have continued to increase the budget for road maintenance, including crack sealing and patching. Second, in the last few projects the engineering specs were changed to extend the road shoulders in order to better prevent edge cracking. In addition, City resident recent approval of one waste hauler will also help extend the life of our roads by limiting the number of trucks traveling on our streets each day.

Finally, as you know our City is experiencing a boom in construction projects, including a large number of tear downs and major renovations. These undertakings are a testament to the desirability of the City of Bloomfield Hills. However, one may have noticed that almost every one of these projects results in road damage in the area of the home. The

City is working to hold the contractors more responsible for this damage. Our building official is looking into a number of things to improve the situation. Although our current



ordinance requires that builder's park on the property, not on the street, many subcontractors are not doing so. We may begin having contractors provide the City with a parking plan when issuing a permit and better enforce the rules. In addition, we may hold money in escrow to fix the road if damage does occur.

Going forward, the Commission is discussing whether to rethink the total reconstruction method for a few years in order to resurface more roads in the short term. With a total reconstruction anticipated road life is 15+ years and the underlying water lines should be good for over 40 years. Oakland County just resurfaced Long Lake Road from Orchard Lake to Coolidge relatively quickly and without the larger reconstruction. If we move in this direction for a few years then we could possibly repave many more residential streets for the dollar. However the road life may not be as long and there would be the possibility of a water break from older lines. Also, existing drainage issues might not be corrected. We will keep you posted on this discussion.

Transition to a Single Waste Hauler *continued*

Will there be a limit to how much trash I can put out per week?

There will be no limit on the quantity of household waste you put out each week, so long as it is all properly contained.

Will there be bulk item (furniture, appliances, etc.) pickup?

Yes, Rizzo Environmental Services will collect bulk items every week on your normal trash day. There will be no extra fee for this service.

How will yard waste pickup be handled?

Startup for the first year will be announced in a separate mailing to each customer in March 2015. Leaves and lawn clippings will need

to be placed in paper yard waste bags, available at your local grocery or hardware store, or placed in containers marked "yard waste" or "compost". Service will extend through the second week of December every year. There will not be an extra fee for this service or limit to the number of bags or containers you place out for pickup.

How do I dispose of Household Hazardous Waste?

Rizzo Environmental Services will not be responsible for the disposal of household hazardous waste. The City will continue to encourage residents to make appointments with SOCRRA at 995 Coolidge (between 14 Mile and Maple Road in Royal Oak) to dispose of their household hazardous waste. This service is provided at no cost to Bloomfield Hills' residents and can be done anytime during the year.



Power to the Residents

By: Commissioner Michael P. Coakley

Due to the frequency and duration of power outages in the City, City management and officials have been working with DTE executives, managers and engineers to develop integrated short term and long term plans to remedy the shortcomings of power delivery and restoration-after-interruption we've experienced. The short terms plans being developed are to address our most immediate concerns in areas of the greatest failures. The long term plans being developed are to improve infrastructure design and equipment performance.

The short term plan is to focus primarily on tree trimming and clearing together with certain equipment replacement and upgrades in the areas most affected by power outages, where immediate relief can be expected from these short term fixes. This called for concentrating efforts along the Kensington main line or backbone, and a stretch of Woodward Avenue. Unfortunately the tree trimming and clearing in that area did not go as projected and had to be paused in order to realign the effort to our expectations. We are meeting with DTE officials to accomplish this, and when we are agreed on a plan, then trimming and removal can resume. As part of the tree work, we've been assured the debris will be removed and trees that must be cleared will be removed to the ground. Some of the cleanup work

has already been done. Once trimming, removal and clean-up are completed DTE will install equipment replacement/upgrades along those corridors.

While the trimming and equipment upgrades are the start, to address short term needs, DTE and we are also developing long term plans to possibly revamp the entire grid within the City. This may include re-routing lines, raising pole tops, burying lines, installing switch cabinets, installing smart grid circuits and the like. Exactly what is done where will be driven by design and engineering requirements to improve performance and reliability in the particular environment with an eye to maintaining aesthetics as much as possible. Some of the improvements, such as burying lines in conduits, would be amortized over a period of years (likely 20) and would be covered by a modest surcharge on our monthly electric bills. We'll have a better idea of what this will entail once design and engineering specs are settled. Although trimming and removing trees and other vegetation is distressing, there's no avoiding it if we want improved performance and reliability of our system. However, we will work with DTE to preserve as much of the landscape as possible.



Treasury Notes

*By: Karen K. Ruddy,
Finance Director and Treasurer*



Property Taxes

2014 summer taxes were due without penalty by September 2nd, 2014. Property owners can still pay their summer taxes to the City through February 28th, 2015. However, a late penalty will now be assessed.

2014 winter taxes should have arrived December 1st, 2014. Winter taxes are due in our office, without penalty, by February 17th, 2015, but can be paid with penalty to the City through February 28th, 2015. After February 28th, the City is required to turn over any unpaid 2014 taxes to Oakland County for collections.

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 mailed or dropped off at the Treasurer's Office at City Hall.



Signs of the Times

By Commissioner Stuart D. Sherr

Signs are everywhere. This had been true throughout history. Your City, like others, regulates signage for purposes of community character, aesthetics, and public safety.

Bloomfield Hills has an existing Sign Ordinance (Chapter 16 of the City Code of Ordinances). Our City Manager, Jay Cravens, suggested we review and update the ordinance. While the existing ordinance has worked, it is generally a healthy exercise to review and to revise (as necessary) all ordinances. As I learned in my first year practicing law, "Nothing stays the same." Laws, like life, are dynamic. Thus, we decided to commence, and now have almost completed our review and revision to the sign ordinance.

What is likely to change, and why? Here's a preview:

I. Purpose and General Rule – We are clarifying that all signage is regulated and requires a permit, unless excepted by the ordinance. Color, size, and placement are important.

II. Definitions – We are expanding the number of defined terms. New definitions include: Address Identification; Animated; Directional; Off-Premises; Political; Roof; Snipe or Bandit; Vehicular; and Window signs. The thrust here is to more completely and accurately describe the scope of the ordinance.

III. Signs Not Requiring a Permit – This section is being expanded. The previous provision only covered temporary real estate, no trespassing, no solicitation signs, etc. The new provision will exempt address identification, estate sales, directional signs, flags and flagpoles, and political signs, all within prescribed limits.

IV. Schedule of Regulations – This table provides the regulatory details within various zoning districts. We are substantially simplifying this Schedule, reducing it from three pages to one. The details cover wall signs and ground signs (the majority of all signs). These details include sign height, area, and number of signs. General standards cover sign color, location, setbacks, foundations, attachments, lighting (this is new), and construction. Of note, we are emphasizing that all signs shall have only gold lettering on a black background. This is our "trademark" and is intended to maintain a consistent community character.

V. Temporary Signs Requiring a Permit – Previously we said temporary signs were exempt. If, however, they exceed six square feet, or if they are announcement signs (e.g., open house), they must obtain a permit or permission from the City Manager.



VI. Prohibited Signs – This is an entirely new section. It delineates certain signs not specifically excepted or permitted.

VII. Administration and Procedures – This section clarifies and replaces the former provisions concerning permits and inspections and spells out the procedures for obtaining a permit.

VIII. Nonconforming Signs – This section is updated as nonconformance has been a sensitive issue. We want to continue to cause all nonconforming signs to be removed or brought within code. We do not want such signs to be "grandfathered."

IX. Enforcement – Replaces the previous Inspection section and emphasizes sign safety and maintenance.

X. Violations and Appeals – Revised.

On a related but different note, I want to address the notion that it is not appropriate for the City Commission to accept proposed ordinances or even legislative ideas from our City's management or administrative staff. Such thinking is narrow, naïve, and shows a lack of understanding of how government and business operate. If we, the City Commission, adopt an ordinance, regardless of its source, it is as though we drafted it ourselves. All governments look at ordinances and statutes from other jurisdictions and commonly ratify, endorse, accept and adopt all or part of such legislation. Many businesses encourage and reward their employees who promulgate ideas beneficial to the company. You should reject any opinion that suggests this process is wrong. The goal is to benefit the government or company in question, regardless of the source of the benefit, provided it is legally obtained.



Clerk's Corner

By: Amy L. Burton, City Clerk

MAY 5, 2015 – STATEWIDE ELECTION

Before the holiday break, the State Legislature passed House Joint Resolution UU, to place a constitutional amendment before voters in a May 5, 2015 election to increase the state sales tax from 6 percent to 7 percent. Look for more information to come regarding the ballot language and election details.

ABSENTEE VOTING

Absentee ballots are available to registered voters who satisfy one of the requirements for obtaining an absentee ballot:

- Age 60 years old or older.
- Unable to vote without assistance at the polls.
- Expecting to be out of town on election day.
- In jail awaiting arraignment or trial.
- Unable to attend the polls due to religious reasons.
- Appointed to work as an election inspector in a precinct outside of your precinct of residence.

Applications for an absentee ballot are available on our website (www.bloomfieldhillsmi.net) or by contacting the City Clerk's Office at (248) 644-1520.

City Hall will be open on Saturday, May 2, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. for the purpose of issuing absentee ballots for those registered voters unable to visit City Hall during regular business hours.

JOIN OUR TEAM – PARTICIPATE IN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

The City of Bloomfield Hills continues to accept applications for election inspectors. Qualified election inspectors must (1) be a registered voter in Michigan (2) declare a political party affiliation and (3) attend one training session before Election Day. Election inspectors are compensated for their work. Election law also allows students at least 16 years of age to serve in select roles in the

precinct on Election Day. What a great way for students to learn more about the democratic process before casting their first ballot! Applications are available on the City's website at www.bloomfieldhillsmi.net. For more information call City Clerk Amy Burton at (248) 530-1403.

Vote for City Commission *November 3, 2015 – City General Election*



The November 3, 2015 election will mark the first time since the city was incorporated in 1932 at which all five City Commission positions will be up for election on the same ballot. In 2012, when the Commission voted to move from an annual city election, to an odd-year city election, maintaining the two-year term was a priority. The election of all five City Commission seats at the same time accomplishes the preservation of the two-year term for a City Commission seat on the odd-year election cycle.

Residents interested in running for the City Commission (Two-Year Term to expire 11/2017):

- Shall be a registered voter in the City of Bloomfield Hills.
- Shall be a resident of the City for at least one year immediately prior to election.
- Shall complete the nominating petition process as set forth in Michigan election law.

The petition filing deadline is July 21, 2015 by 4:00 p.m. at the City Clerk's Office 45 E. Long Lake Road Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304.

Candidate information packets are available, contact Amy Burton, City Clerk directly at (248) 530-1403 or aburton@bloomfieldhillsmi.net



Bright Spaces Here and on the Horizon

By: Pat Hardy, Commissioner

By now, you have probably already had breakfast, lunch or dinner at **Bill's**, the exciting new meeting destination spot in our city, and, from all I have heard, reviews are 4 Star. Warm and inviting, it is a perfect venue for quick breakfast meetings or intimate luncheon or dinner gatherings--definitely a place for making lasting memories.

I had one such memorable late luncheon date about a month ago with Patricia Hill Burnett, one of Bloomfield Hills' brightest luminaries, who loved dining out at quaint and posh places. We sat at the round table near the cozy fireplace with her caregiver and three of her dearest friends, having a grand time. Little did we know she would leave this earth in December, and, as I write this article, I'm reliving that special time with her, and I'll remember it for as long as I live.

If there is one universal comment about **Bill's** from residents, it's this: "We needed a place like this!" and the feeling is mutual, according to owner Bill Roberts who recently wrote, "*We are thrilled to have opened in Bloomfield Hills! The residents, the business community and the City Staff have all welcomed us warmly. We look forward to serving the Bloomfield Hills community for many years to come.*"

Another bright spot on the horizon is **Cedarbrook of Bloomfield Hills**. You can view actual construction progress via their web site at: http://www.cedarbrookofbloomfieldhills.com/p/senior_living/construction_8862/bloomfield-hills-mi-48304/cedarbrook-of-bloomfield-hills-8862.

According to developer, Mike Damone, the exterior structure and the roof is complete for the Assisted Living, Memory Care and common area portions of the building. The interior partition walls, plumbing, HVAC and electrical systems are now being installed. The precast installation for the independent Living apartments has been completed, and the exterior walls for the second floor will be installed in early January.

If Mother Nature cooperates, **Cedarbrook's** first residents will be moving into their new homes in late fall of this year. For leasing information, stop by their marketing center, two doors south of Starbucks, at Woodward and Square Lake. Kari West will be happy to assist you.

Beyond a doubt, Bloomfield Hills is most fortunate in having **Bill's** and **Cedarbrook** among the many fine businesses in our City, all very happy to serve us. It would be difficult to list them all in this article, but you know who and where they are. Your support of them is greatly appreciated!

Operation Medicine Cabinet

By: David Hendrickson, Chief / Director of Public Safety

The Public Safety Department has joined Oakland County's initiative to reduce prescription drug abuses and environmental effects from improper medication disposal. Operation Medicine Cabinet allows residents to drop off their unwanted or expired medication in a secured disposal box at the Public Safety Department. Prescription medication abuse and improper disposal is a widespread concern. According to the Office of Drug Control Policy, 70% of prescription drug abuse starts by acquiring these medications through family and friends. Improper disposal is also a significant environmental concern.



Through the assistance of the Birmingham Bloomfield Community Coalition, we have acquired a 24-hour drop box to allow residents the convenience of disposing their unwanted medication with no questions asked. The program has privacy in mind and there is no information asked of persons dropping off medication. For our safety, we do ask that persons disposing of unwanted medication seal their packages and refrain from leaving needles or other sharp objects in the disposal box. Liquids, ointments, and patches are welcome but liquids need to be sealed so they do not leak while stored.

We hope that all of our residents will take an inventory of their stored medications and dispose of that are not needed or out of date.



The Chief is All Ears

*By: David Hendrickson,
Director of Public Safety*

The New Year is a time of reflection for the Public Safety Department in hopes of improving upon our service model. This past year we have had an increased interest in the services our Department offers. Participation in our house key program has increased, along with vacation watch, and our alarm monitoring program. Even so, we would like to increase resident's involvement to help us keep you safe. One of our newest programs is the citizen alerting system called Code Red. This service notifies people of traffic issues, utility interruptions, and various emergencies for a particular geographical area. All of this information and more can be seen on our website.

Although we are always there for the emergencies with exceptional response times, I believe that it is the personal service we offer which sets us apart from others in our industry. Our staff is always available to work on even the smallest issues, and as Chief I am also available for any of your concerns. I take pride in being available for our City 24 hours a day and I am all ears for those who may want to call me directly. I invite residents and business owners to call me at 248-530-1424 for any concerns they may have. I will do everything I can to help.

Looking forward to a safe 2015.



Portable Generator Tips

*By: Jeff Wren,
Building Official*

With the winter weather well upon us there is always the possibility of your house losing power due to downed power lines. It could be the line to your house or a larger power line at a sub-station. Regardless of how power is lost the desire to regain power can fall on a portable generator. These generators are typically gas powered and can serve a portion of the house or specific appliances you want to keep running until power is restored. Please follow the tips below when using a portable gas powered generator.

- Generators should be used in well ventilated locations outside away from all doors, windows and vent openings.
- Never use a generator in an attached garage, even with the door open.
- Place generators so that exhaust fumes can't enter the home through windows, doors or other openings in the building.
- Make sure to install carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in your home. Follow manufacturer's instructions for correct placement and mounting height.
- Turn off generators and let them cool down before refueling. Never refuel a generator while it is hot.

Energy and Money Saving Tips for Winter



Here are some simple steps you can take to reduce energy levels plus reduce costs at home this winter:

- Make sure walls, attics and floors are well insulated.
- Close off heat and doors to unused rooms and closets.
- Consider switching to compact fluorescent lighting. Compact fluorescent bulbs use approximately 75% less energy than incandescent bulbs. They cost more than regular bulbs, however they last ten times longer and eventually pay for themselves in energy savings.
- Weather-strip or caulk areas around windows and doors to seal air leaks.
- Install storm windows.
- Keep your furnace clean and change your furnace filter monthly during the heating season to maintain efficiency.
- Wrap your hot water tank with jacket insulation, which can reduce standby heat loss from your tank.
- Turn down your thermostat a few degrees at night and when you are not at home.

City Employees Giving Back to the Community

Jeans and Casual Dress for Charity

In 2014, City Administrative staff occasionally took the opportunity to dress casually at work for several great charities and causes. If staff members wanted to dress casually to work they agreed to contribute \$1.00 for each occurrence to the “charity jar”. Together this small group collected \$250.00, which was then offered to five charities the group chose. Donations were given to the Salvation Army, Haven, Forgotten Harvest, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and the Michigan Humane Society.

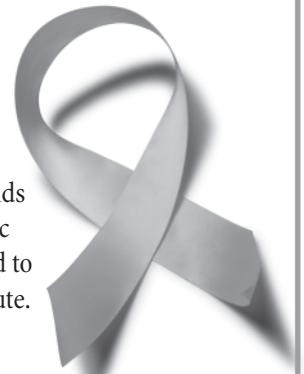
Administrative staff and Public Safety officers also contributed to the Bloomfield Hills Optimist Club’s Children’s Holiday Wish Program and the Marine Corp’s Toys for Tots program.



Donation check envelopes are being held by (l – r): Susan Howell, Jay Cravens, Amy Ruggerillo, Jennifer West and Lori Sunquest.

Pink Shirts for Breast Cancer Awareness

In October, the Public Safety officers wanted to raise awareness around our community about Breast Cancer Awareness Month. To do so officers were permitted to wear pink performance wear T-shirts during their off-duty hours at work to show their support to end this dreadful disease. Administrative staff also participated in this awareness campaign. Some of the funds used to purchase the T-shirts by the Public Safety officers (\$350.00) was then donated to the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute.



Public Safety Officers “modeling” the pink shirts for Breast Cancer Awareness are (l – r): Christopher Furlong, Daniel Phillips and Matthew Affeld.

Small Actions Make Big Impacts in Your Watershed

Just because you may not live next to the Rouge River, doesn't mean your actions can't directly impact them. EVERYONE living within the Rouge River Watershed can either have a positive or negative affect on their watersheds, depending on the choices made. A watershed is an area of land where all of the water that is under it or drains off of it goes into the same place.

Contrary to popular belief, industry causes only about 2% of all pollution entering our rivers and lakes, which means that individuals contribute the majority of pollutants to our waterways, from storm water runoff. Storm water can carry pollutant sources such as fertilizers, detergents, oils, greases, grass clippings and leaves. There are many actions you can take year round to help protect our waterways.

Become Pro-Active

- Compost yard and kitchen waste.
- Read labels. Use low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free dish-washing detergents that are sold commercially.
- Consider using deicing alternatives, which are less corrosive and environmentally-friendly.
- Pick up after your pet.
- Encourage local service stations to accept used motor oil and antifreeze from residents.
- Never dump any yard debris or materials down storm drains.
- Become a member of the Friends of the Rouge, or volunteer your time and efforts to events sponsored by this organization. Contact the Friends of the Rouge (FOTR) at: 313-792-9900, www.therouge.org to find out more.
- Volunteer on Rouge Rescue. Each June, several communities in your local area host a Rouge Rescue Clean-Up Event. For more information, contact FOTR.
- Encourage your friends and neighbors to become watershed stewards.



City of Bloomfield Hills - 83 Years Young!

The City of Bloomfield Hills was incorporated on August 15, 1932. 2015 will mark 83 years of our community commemorating its place in Oakland County as a remarkably beautiful 5 square miles and a great place to call home for our residents and business owners.

Take a walk down memory lane! In an effort to unearth some of the historical treasures of our fine city, we invite you to share your special memories, photographs or trinkets with us! If you have a story about your first impression of the city, or what the City Center at Woodward and Long Lake "used to" be, we'd love to hear from you. Perhaps you have an interesting photograph collection of the beautiful nooks and crannies in the city. You can contribute to our goal of building the city's collection of charming memories. Possibly even one day soon, you will be able to stop by City Hall and cozy up with a cup of coffee to enjoy a scrapbook of Bloomfield Hills' memories we can all appreciate!

Please contact City Clerk Amy Burton for more information: Phone (248) 530-1403 or aburton@bloomfieldhillsmi.net



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

2015 Bloomfield Hills City Commission:

Michael J. Dul, Mayor
Michael Coakley, Commissioner
Patricia Hardy, 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

Where to Get Answers

CITY SERVICES:

Animal Control – (248)644-4200
Building & Permit Info. – (248)530-1400 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 Water Resources Commissioner
hours – 7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.)
Water and Sewer Line Repair – (248)858-0487
(Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner
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