



HILLS HIGHLIGHTS

Winter 2020 #100

Mayor
William E. Hosler

Mayor Pro Tem
Sarah H. McClure

City Commissioners:
Susan McCarthy
Brad Baxter
Alice Buckley

City Manager
David Hendrickson

City Hall
45 East Long Lake Road
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan
48304-2322
Telephone: 248.644.1520
Fax: 248.644.4813
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.



LETTER FROM THE MAYOR

By: William E. Hosler, Mayor

Dear Neighbors and Friends,

I am honored and privileged to serve as the Mayor of Bloomfield Hills for the 2019/2020 term. Over the coming year, rest assured your City Commission will continue working with your City Manager and his staff to keep up with your high expectations and make sure we retain the unique character of the city we all love.

A little about me. I'm a father, husband, and we've lived in the City since 1999. I've periodically served on the Bloomfield Hills Zoning Board of Appeals, the Planning Commission, and the City Commission (this year being my first as Mayor). I've been a practicing attorney since 1988. Over those nearly 32 years, I've represented the interests of municipalities, developers, and residents. I believe this gives me a unique sensitivity and insight into balancing the needs of those living and working in a small community.

Bloomfield Hills is a special place. Through historically effective land use planning and governmental leadership we enjoy a world class residential experience. We have internationally top-ranked private schools, and access to an equally excellent public school system. Our Public Safety Department is among the best in the nation. The ISO Class 3 rating ranks us among the elite 3% of not just public safety departments, but all fire departments across the country. The city budget is balanced, taxes are not too high, and our financial rating is strong. Our roads are great! Some of the most successful companies in the world are headquartered in the City of Bloomfield Hills. Our "downtown" business district has seen new activity with more on the way. The staff at City Hall is professional, highly skilled, and committed to delivering quality services (with the additional bonus of also being incredibly nice!).

Each year the City Commission sets goals for the coming year. We have met most of them for 2019 and added new ones for 2020. If you have a moment, the city website (www.bloomfieldhillsmi.net) has additional information for review, including a copy of the City's Master Plan. The online version (circa 2009, updated every 5 years by resolution) is an excellent overview of where we have been as a city, and where we plan to go. I hope you will agree we are on the right track as we pursue these goals.

continued on page 2

continued from page 1

On behalf of my fellow City Commissioners (and your neighbors), thank you for your continued support of city government. We will continue to work hard and do our best to see that Bloomfield Hills not only maintains its standard

of excellence but gets even better. If at any time you have questions, criticisms, ideas for improvement, or perhaps even want to explore getting involved with the City, please don't hesitate to contact any of us. That's what we're here for.



City Audit and Financials

By: Sarah H. McClure, Mayor Pro Tem

At our November City Commission meeting Plante Moran presented our audited financial report for the year ending June 30, 2019. As in past years, we received an unqualified or "clean" audit which means that in the auditor's judgment the City's financial statements are fairly and appropriately presented, and are in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

Below are some highlights of the audit:

- Our General Fund Operating Budget ended "in the black", adding \$102,000 to our General Fund (rainy day fund). That increased our Unassigned Fund Balance to 34.4% of Annual Expenditures. This is a healthy financial figure and within City policy parameters.
- Property Tax revenues of \$8.5 million comprised the great majority of our \$10.7 million in revenues.
- On the expense side, Public Safety expenditures were about \$4.4 million. General Government costs were \$2.3 million and DPW costs were \$944,000. Other expenditures included debt payments, road construction, the library contract, and our share of court spending.
- Our unfunded pension liability increased due to changes in actuarial assumptions, but our unfunded OPEB liability (retiree healthcare) decreased. (The Defined Pension Plan was closed to new hires effective June 2014 and the retiree healthcare plan was closed to new hires June 2009. We pass the State of Michigan's

recently implemented legacy funding mandates, but the City Commission and staff will continue focusing on these unfunded situations.)

- The City spent \$1.3 million on road repair and reconstruction, primarily in the southwest quadrant of the City. In addition, we expended \$2.4 million on sewer and water line improvements. The latter costs are paid from our water/sewer reserves which are funded by resident water and sewer charges.

We are currently halfway through our budget year. Staff and Commission work to achieve a realistic, "tight budget". That means we typically don't have much room during the year for increased spending without going into our General Fund reserves. The current budget was amended \$77,000 to take care of some additional engineering expenses related to an infrastructure grant. It is primarily a timing issue. Staff and Commission will look for lower spending to offset this expense as we go forward.

The 2020-2021 budget process starts this winter. Finance Director Keith Francis has implemented a three-year budget process which is very helpful in projecting City needs in the future. This practice is particularly beneficial in looking at future road and infrastructure needs as well as addressing unfunded legacy costs.

In closing, the City of Bloomfield Hills Commission would like to thank Keith Francis and City staff for all their hard work achieving another great City audit.



Keeping Our Water System Safe

By: David Hendrickson, City Manager

Recently, Michigan's 2018 Lead and Copper Rules made the news with several surrounding communities showing elevated lead action levels in their water systems that were above the new threshold of 12 parts per billion (ppb). This new threshold is actually the standard that goes into effect in 2025 and is reduced from the current level of 15 ppb. I am happy to report that our City's test results found no detectable lead in our system. On the homepage of the City's website, we have published information from our water test results as well as details on the action required by our City to conform with the Clean Water Act and the new Lead and Copper Rules.

As a result of elevated lead levels found through testing some communities, the state has updated the requirements for monitoring and correcting lead and copper in our water systems. One of the first requirements for water system monitoring was the completion of tap water sampling of various locations throughout the individual water systems. The collection of these samples was completed by the Oakland County Water Resource Commission (WRC); the samples were sent to the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). Some communities found traces of lead in a portion of their residential samplings which were higher than the 12 ppb. Our City did not find detectable lead in any of our water samples and are not required to perform remediation steps.

The next requirement for all state wide water systems, is to submit a preliminary water system Distribution

System Materials Inventory (DSMI) to EGLE by January 1, 2020. We have sent this information to EGLE and we will be required to send a comprehensive updated inventory every five years moving forward. We have been collecting the necessary data for the preliminary DSMI in a variety of ways, which include: stored information on our water system and improvements, field reports by our plumbing inspector, inspections of water service leads during repairs and water main replacement, and the tracking of private and public material installation from permits dating back to 2016. It is important to know that so far we have not found any lead service lines in our system, partial or otherwise.

Per the State requirements, if lead service lines, partial or otherwise, are found in a water system, the water system owner must replace those lines at a rate of 5% a year not to exceed 20 years. By the year 2025 we will have our final DSMI submitted and will know if we have any lead service lines in the City. The original construction design drawings for our water system in the City call for copper service leads. It is the opinion of the City Engineer that due to our relatively new water system which was installed in the 1970's, the City may be unique by having few, if any, lead water service lines.

The City is committed to keeping the public informed on this subject and to take action if unsafe lead levels are found in our system. If you are interested in learning more about this subject, visit www.michigan.gov/lcr.

Hills Highlights – Available Electronically

In between the printed editions, the City publishes electronic newsletters throughout the year. If you are interested in subscribing to the e-newsletter, please visit the Open Government tab on the website at www.bloomfieldhillsmi.net.



2019, a year in review!

*By: Susan McCarthy,
City Commissioner*

As we close the year of 2019 I would like to say that it has been an honor and a privilege to serve my first term as Mayor of our beautiful City of Bloomfield Hills. As we begin the new year let us pause a moment and reflect upon what we have accomplished over the past 12 months.

After months of extensive renovations, we witnessed the grand opening of the new Double Tree Hotel on Woodward Avenue. The hotel offers beautifully appointed rooms, upgraded meeting facilities, fine dining and a wonderful new after-hours cocktail lounge. While our new hotel is certainly beautiful and a great asset to the city, I feel many long-term residents will always remember it fondly as the Kingsley Inn. Other extensive building renovations in the city include that wonderful Tudor-style residence on Long Lake, near the Village Club, which was completely renovated and restored to its original condition and now serves as a business office to a local attorney. We have also seen the expansion and upgrade of Agree Realty next to their existing building on Long Lake. Work has also recently begun on a new state-of-the art tennis complex on the Cranbrook Campus off Orchard Ridge Road near the Wallace Ice Rink. All of this along with several major renovations to existing private homes in our community. We are fortunate to have a city where our residents and business leaders continue to invest. It speaks to the great pride we all have in maintaining the beauty and integrity of our community which continues to grow in value.

We will continue to look for improvements throughout our city and review our internal processes and procedures. As a commission we ask a lot of questions and we are always looking for ways to improve services to the community.

In closing, I would like to personally thank the wonderful staff we have at City Hall. They are always positive, friendly and eager to serve the citizens of our community. I would also like to thank our Department of Public Works (DPW) for keeping our roads so well maintained. A friend of my son recently asked me why the roads are so clear when he drives in the City of Bloomfield Hills. I smiled and said that this is because we have hard-working people who take great pride in doing their job well. Last, but not least, I want to thank our Public Safety Department which keeps our community safe. This year we had a couple of large fires which required reinforcements from nearby towns. The Public Safety Department executed their job with skill and precision to bring all necessary equipment on site which saved lives and property. Another example is the Woodward Dream Cruise which is always a busy and challenging week. Our Public Safety Officials handled these situations professionally and with respect to the many visitors who lined Woodward Avenue. They do a wonderful job not just during special events but every day! I know I speak for all our residents who cannot express enough appreciation for the wonderful work they do.

To our residents, thank you for making your home in the City of Bloomfield Hills. We hope you continue to enjoy the beauty and uniqueness of our city.

Wishing everyone a happy and prosperous 2020!

Treasury / Finance Notes

By: Keith Francis, Finance Director / Treasurer

2019 Winter Property Tax Bills

The 2019 winter property tax bills are payable without penalty between December 1, 2019 and February 14, 2020. After February 14, 2020 through March 2, 2020, a late payment penalty of 3% applies.

Beginning March 3, 2020 all unpaid 2019 taxes are payable to the Oakland County Treasurer, with additional penalties.

As a convenience, we provide a payment drop box (24 hours). The drop box is located outside the main entrance doors to City Hall. Please do not leave cash or late payments in the drop box. As a reminder, we cannot accept postmarks, so allow adequate time (at least 14 days) if you mail your payment.

We have a link on our website where you can find current payment information as well as payment history. Here is the link: www.bloomfieldhillsmi.net. On the home page, select open government/departments/treasury. As always, we are happy to answer any questions property owners may have by calling our office, (248) 530-1401.



Oak Wilt Disease

By: Alice Buckley, City Commissioner

When you drive down Woodward Avenue, whether from the north or the south, you immediately know when you have entered Bloomfield Hills by the beautiful canopy of green trees and vegetation on both sides of the road. It didn't happen by accident. Throughout our city's history, its residents have made a real effort to preserve and protect its natural beauty in an ecologically friendly way.

In 2012, the City took steps to further protect that natural beauty by enacting the "Tree and Woodlands Protection" ordinance, which can be found on the city's website (www.bloomfieldhillsmi.net) by clicking the "Code of Ordinance" box at the bottom of the home page. The ordinance is located as Article II "Tree and Woodlands Protection" under Chapter 22 "Vegetation". While the ordinance covers many things, the sections that are perhaps the most relevant to individual homeowners deal with limitations placed on tree removal on private property.

The ordinance will soon contain some additional provisions to protect our city trees from Oak Wilt, a devastating fungal disease spreading throughout Michigan and across the eastern United States that is transmitted by sap-feeding beetles. While the disease affects all varieties of red and white oaks, it has an especially deadly impact on red oaks. Experts report that Oak Wilt is already present in 56 counties in Michigan and has the potential to kill at least 149 million red oak trees across the state unless we take crucial steps to curb its spread.

The fungus causing Oak Wilt is carried by beetles drawn to wounds and cuts in oak trees, often infecting a damaged tree within five minutes of being cut. Once a tree is infected, the fungus quickly kills the tree and then spreads through its roots to surrounding oak trees. The disease can be further carried to other areas by improper storage and disposal of wood from infected trees.

Owners with oak trees on and near their property should take the following steps to guard against the spread of this terrible disease:

- Do not prune or trim oak trees of any variety between March 1 and November 1 except if necessary due to storm

damage, construction, utility work or accident. This is the time when the disease-carrying beetles are active.

- If you must prune or trim an oak tree, immediately seal all cuts with tree pruning sealer or latex paint.
- Immediately repair any oak trees that are injured between March 1 and November 1 by removing exposed jagged surfaces and promptly sealing with tree pruning sealer or latex paint.
- Once a tree is infected with Oak Wilt, it is crucial to promptly seek professional help to prevent the disease from quickly overtaking surrounding trees. Regularly inspect your trees and notify the City of all oak trees showing signs of decline or death, regardless of the cause, and consult a professional trained in Oak Wilt management ASAP.
- The disease can also be spread by improper storage and removal of wood from diseased and surrounding trees. If your property contains trees infected by Oak Wilt, immediately dispose of all dead oak trees on the site, whether infected or not, by chipping to less than 3 inches, or remove to a disposal site for debarking, burning or burial.
- Moving wood from infected oaks can start new infection sites. Do not move firewood from infected trees. Securely cover the entire wood pile under thick plastic for at least 12 months, with all edges deeply buried in soil to prevent beetle access. When the wood is completely dry and the bark is falling off, it is no longer at risk for transmitting the disease.

By following these steps, we can do our part to curb Oak Wilt and keep our city lush and green for years to come.

The Oak Wilt information in this article came from Michigan State University Extension publications. ("Understanding Oak Wilt" by Bill Cook, May 7, 2018 and "Smart Gardening to Prevent Oak Wilt" by Monique Sakalidis and Ruth Dorando Marcy, August 9, 2010)

For more information, visit extension.msu.edu or www.MichiganOakWilt.org. To contact an expert in your area, visit extension.msu.edu/experts or call (888) 678-3464.

Clerk's Corner

By: Amy Burton, City Clerk

2020 Election Calendar

March 10, 2020 – Presidential Primary Election

August 4, 2020 – Primary Election

November 3, 2020 – General Election

Absentee ballots are available approximately 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. For those voters interested in automatically receiving an Absent Voter Application before every election, download the form titled Request for Permanent Absentee Voting, also found on the homepage of the City's website under 2020 Elections.

Precinct #1

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

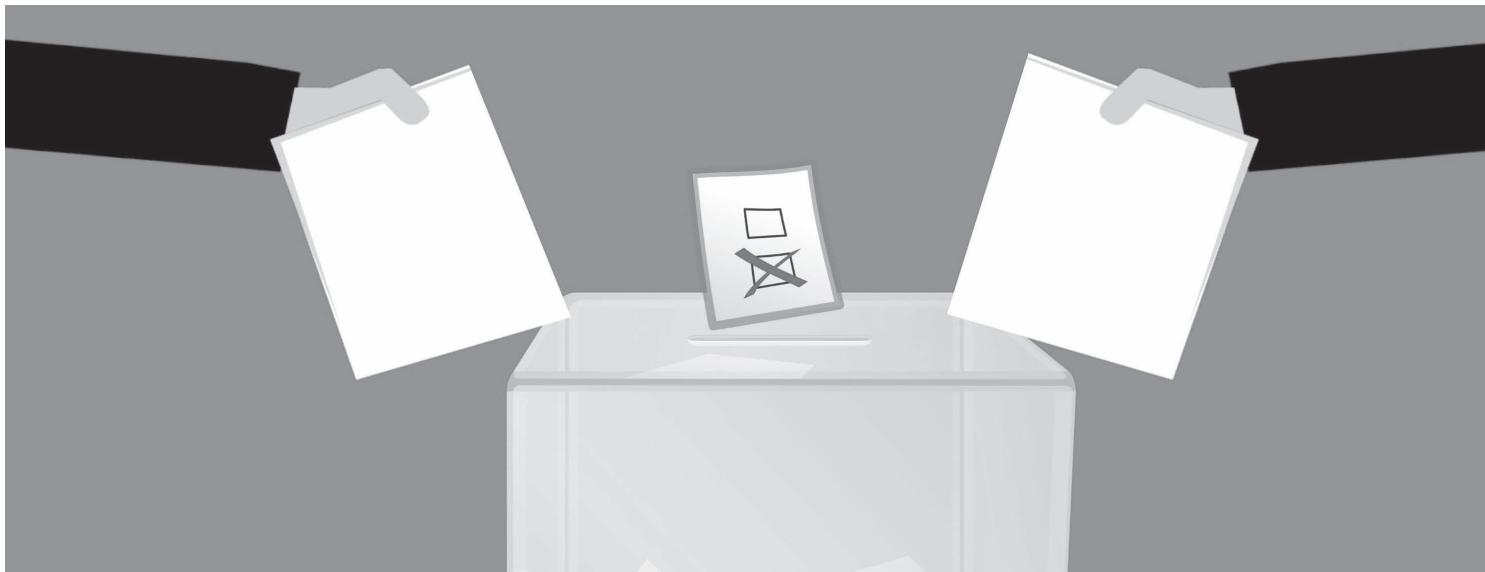
Precinct # 2

Congregational Church of Birmingham - 1000 Cranbrook Road Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

Election Day polling locations are consistent for every Election. If you have any questions or would like to request a new voter identification card, please contact the Clerk's Office at (248) 530-1405.

COME JOIN THE BLOOMFIELD HILLS ELECTION TEAM!

The City of Bloomfield Hills is accepting applications for election inspectors. Qualified election inspectors must be registered voters in the State of Michigan and must declare a political party affiliation. Citizens interested in serving the community in this way are also required to attend a training session before Election Day. Applications are available on the City's website at www.bloomfieldhillsmi.net. For more information call the Clerk's Office at (248) 530-1405.



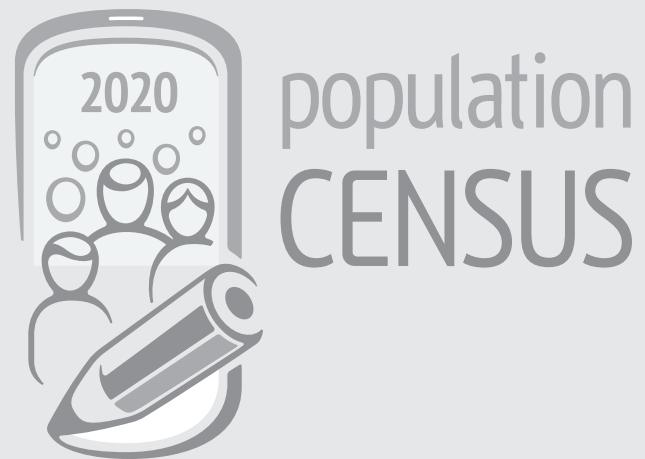
What is the 2020 Census?

The 2020 Census counts every person living in the 50 states, District of Columbia and the five U.S. territories. The results of the Census determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives, and the data is used to draw congressional and state legislative districts. Article 1, Section 2 of the Constitution mandates that the country conduct a count of its population once every 10 years. The 2020 Census will mark the 24th time that the country has counted its population since 1790.

By April 1, 2020, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. You can respond one of three ways:

- Online
- By Phone
- By Mail

The 2020 Census marks the first time you will have an option to respond online.



Frequently Asked Questions about the Census

Q: Who is required to respond?

A: If you live in the United States, you are required by law to complete the 2020 Census.

Q: Who counts as part of your home?

A: You should count everyone who is living in your home as of April 1, 2020. This includes anyone who is living and sleeping there most of the time. If someone is staying in your home on April 1, and has no usual home elsewhere, you should count them in your response to the 2020 Census.

Q: What happens to your Census answers?

A: Your personal information is kept confidential. The Census Bureau is bound by federal law to protect your information and your data is only used for statistical purposes.

Q: How can I avoid responding to a potentially unsafe request for Census information?

A: The Census Bureau will never send unsolicited emails to request your participation in the 2020 Census. The Census Bureau will never ask for your social security number, your bank account or credit card number or for money or donations. If you suspect fraud, report it to 800-923-8282.

Q: How can I verify that someone in my neighborhood is a Census Worker?

A: Check to make sure they have a valid I.D. Badge, with their photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark and an expiration date. If you have questions about their identity, you can contact 800-923-8282 to speak with a Census Bureau representative.



THANK YOU

to the **Bloomfield Hills Garden Club** for their many years of donations of daffodils that bring the Woodward medians to life! The Club also generously donated the new landscape plantings at the City sign on Woodward Avenue near Hickory Grove. What a beautiful welcome to residents and visitors to our community!



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

Upcoming Holidays – City Hall Closed

Monday, February 17, 2020 – President's Day
Friday, April 10, 2020 – Good Friday

2020 Bloomfield Hills City Commission:

William E. Hosler, Mayor
Sarah H. McClure, Mayor Pro Tem
Susan McCarthy, Commissioner
Brad Baxter, Commissioner
Alice Buckley Commissioner

CITY STAFF:

David Hendrickson, City Manager
Amy L. Burton, City Clerk
Keith Francis, Finance Director, Treasurer
Noel Clason, Director of Public Safety
Brian Vargason, Building Official
Jamie Spivy, DPW Foreman
John Rogers, Code Enforcement Officer

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) 530-1412

Where to Get Answers

CITY SERVICES:

Animal Control – (248) 644-4200
Building & Permit Info. – (248) 530-1409
Building Inspection Line (248) 593-9350
Code Enforcement – (248) 530-1410
Fire Marshall – (248) 644-4200
Library Service – (248) 647-1700
(Baldwin Public Library)
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 Commission)
Street Maintenance – (248) 530-1404
Trash & Waste Pick Up – GFL
(586) 772-8900 or (888) 877-4996
Voting Information – (248) 530-1403
Water Service & Billing – (248) 858-1110
(Oakland County Water Resources Commission
hours – 7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.)
Water and Sewer Line Repair – (248) 858-0487
(Oakland County Water Resources Commission
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 – (800) 934-6489
Customer Advocate – (734) 254-1557
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