



HILLS HIGHLIGHTS

Spring 2023 #102

Mayor
Alice Buckley

Mayor Pro Tem
Brad Baxter

City Commissioners:
Lauren Fisher
Susan McCarthy
Sarah H. McClure

City Manager
David Hendrickson

City Hall
45 East Long Lake Road
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan
48304-2322
Telephone: 248.644.1520
Facsimile: 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: Alice Buckley, Mayor

I feel truly blessed to serve as Mayor of beautiful Bloomfield Hills! With the honor comes the responsibility to anticipate and meet the ever-changing needs of our residents and businesses. In an effort to do this, the City Commission and City Manager collaborate each year on a list of relevant and achievable goals focused on improving city services.

Many of our 2023 goals are designed to support the currently flourishing building process. These goals include updating ordinances, creating training materials for commissions and boards to use in evaluating building-related requests, and providing a seminar for design and building professionals focused on important issues and requirements often addressed in requests related to construction and improvements. The goal of this seminar is to assist these professionals in understanding the City's ordinances and expectations. This year's seminar will be recorded and available for future reference.

Another important 2023 goal was to review, evaluate and determine "next steps" with regard to our city-wide waste hauler, Green for Life ("GFL"), whose contract was set to expire this year.

I am pleased to report that we have signed a three year extension of our contract with GFL. The extension period begins on April 1, 2023 and ends on March 31, 2026 and allows us optional years four and five to be negotiated. Although GFL held our rates firm with no increases for the entire eight year initial term of our contract, the company finds it necessary to increase prices going forward to align with increased costs of doing business, particularly fuel and labor costs. Our monthly prices for the next three years will be as follows:

Single Family:

Curbside: \$19.90
Doorside: \$41.15
Inside: \$48.28

Multi-Family:

Attached (Individual): \$16.91
Detached (Individual): \$19.73
Detached Doorside: \$39.46
Detached Inside: \$46.23

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In addition to the pricing above, if the monthly average cost per gallon of diesel fuel (as reported by the Energy Information Administration Department of Energy Index) increases over \$5.00 per gallon during the period measured, a fuel surcharge of \$0.09 will be added per residence per month for every \$0.20 over \$5.00. If prices reported by the same index decrease under \$3.00 per gallon during the period measured, a fuel discount of \$0.09 per residence per month for every \$0.20 under \$3.00 will take effect. GFL will evaluate and determine if a fuel related price adjustment is in order on each yearly anniversary and, if an adjustment is in order, will implement it on or about March first of that year.

GFL will also provide communications to all residents explaining discounts, including the annual advanced payment initiative, which provides that

customers who pay the year in advance by the date specified are entitled to receive a one-month discount. To address our residents' needs, GFL has also implemented a customer service line dedicated exclusively to Bloomfield Hills residents. That number is (248) 733-3189.

All other provisions and services provided under our initial contract remain in effect, including collection of yard waste. For further details on services provided, restrictions that apply, and discount qualification, please see GFL's most recent newsletter which can be found on the City website near the bottom of the Home Page under "Latest News" and "Residential and Recycling Collection". Note that the prices indicated in the newsletter are now out of date.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Mayor of our great City -- it is an honor and privilege!



Bloomfield Hills Names New Director of Public Safety

By: Susan McCarthy, City Commissioner

With the retirement of Chief Noel Clason, the City of Bloomfield Hills faced the task of finding a new Director of Public Safety. For this important position in the City, the commission approved hiring the Michigan Municipal League (MML), which assists municipalities with recruiting and hiring key positions. The City Commission created a subcommittee consisting of two members of the City Commission and two citizens from the community. The MML did an excellent job guiding the subcommittee through the process. The search was posted nationally and on a variety of diverse recruitment platforms. The goal was to find the best candidate for the position. Several individuals applied for the position, and the MML conducted preliminary background reviews and interviewed each candidate. Formal interviews were conducted by the subcommittee for the top five candidates, with the recommendation of the top three candidates to be interviewed by the City Commission. The final three candidates were

interviewed during an open meeting of the City Commission at city hall. The City Commission had a difficult decision as all three candidates were qualified for the position. One individual stood out among the others as someone who knew our community well and had the experience and expertise to lead the Public Safety Department. Jeff Gormley, who has worked for the City of Bloomfield Hills for 24 years serving as a public safety officer, sergeant, lieutenant, detective lieutenant, and captain, was offered the position as the new Director of Public Safety for the City of Bloomfield Hills.

Several residents and business owners know Jeff Gormley from his years of service with our Public Safety Department. Jeff was recently recognized at the March City Commission meeting; he officially started his position on February 26.

We are confident that Director Gormley will continue to lead the department and serve our community. Congratulations, Chief Gormley!



New Regulations for Estate Sales in Bloomfield Hills

By: Lauren Fisher, City Commissioner

Even though there are only a few estate sales per month in Bloomfield Hills, the city ordinance regarding the sales needed to be updated. The City Commission reviewed the estate sale ordinance and tightened the guidelines for parking and traffic, in order to reduce the nuisance to neighbors. Now the public safety officers have the additional ordinance requirements to enforce and immediately close down any estate sale that is in violation. The new ordinance allows for a maximum of three consecutive days for the sale. That third day is to accommodate large estates, for site cleanup, and for scheduled final furniture pick-up.

Other estate sale ordinance requirements include:

- Each property owner must sign an affidavit verifying they have never before held a sale either personally or through an agent at that address.
- Items for sale must be displayed within the interior living area of the home and not visible from the street. The new ordinance now allows for outdoor furniture or garden items to be sold in the garage, however none of these goods can be displayed on driveways, in the front yard nor able to be seen from the street.
- The owner and estate sale coordinator must sign an affidavit verifying that all estate sale items belong to the homeowner. It is unlawful for any goods not previously owned by the property owner to be sold at the sale.

We are fortunate our outstanding Public Safety Department, now led by Director of Public Safety Jeff Gormley, will work with an applicant to layout an approved traffic and parking plan. Further, the public safety officers will closely monitor each estate sale with multiple site visits and respond to any complaints by neighbors. The goal is to minimize the inconvenience to nearby homeowners and ensure emergency vehicles have access at all times. Temporary “No Parking”

signs may also be required as part of the estate sale traffic and parking plan, to prevent any potential inconvenience for the Bloomfield resident neighbors. If erected, these “No Parking” signs must be removed at the end of each sale day by 5pm. Another part of the ordinance that is important to note, is “no advertising or signage directing the public to the sale may be erected in the City.” The seller is only allowed one sign advertising the in-home sale on their property. Now that everyone has GPS capability, these directional signs are no longer necessary, and are prohibited.

Like many of my fellow residents, I am not fond of estate sales or/ garage sales. But I have learned estate sales are often a necessary option to execute the unfortunate task of moving out of your family home or moving aged or deceased parents’ furniture out of their home. There are many online furniture sale platforms available. Fine furniture is a welcome donation, too. We, the City Commissioners, are confident the new estate sale permit application process and ordinance, along with the hard work of our Public Safety Department and city staff will minimize the inconvenience an estate sale would otherwise create in your neighborhood.





Community Concerns

*By: Jeff Gormley,
Director of Public Safety*

The Department of Public Safety is here to serve our residents and business owners. We are dedicated to addressing concerns that affect our community. As the weather warms up we will notice an increase in traffic and related vehicle noise on Woodward Avenue. Our Department has increased enforcement efforts for traffic noise, concentrating on late afternoon through evening hours. We are enforcing violations of speed, reckless driving, and defective vehicle equipment that contribute to excessive noise. Our City's leadership and the Department of Public Safety are working with communities along the Woodward Avenue corridor to

promote needed legislation designed to help enforce these violations.

The Department of Public Safety and City leadership encourage you to contact your county and state representative to support our efforts.

The following individuals at the state and county level represent Bloomfield Hills' residents:

State Senator Jeremy Moss - District 7

Phone: 517-373-7888

senjmoss@senate.michigan.gov

State Representative Donni Steele - District 54

Phone: 517-373-1771

DonniSteele@house.mi.gov

County Commissioner Marcia Gershenson - Dist. 11

Phone: 248-808-1032

gershensonm@oakgov.com

Shoreline Protection

Choosing to live on the shores of an inland lake brings a responsibility to protect water quality that is critical to fish, wildlife, and quality of life for lakefront property owners. Maintaining native vegetation, eliminating fertilizer use, keeping hard surfaces away from the lake, and using soft engineering erosion control techniques are just a few management practices that can help prevent erosion and protect the lake from pollutants and nutrients that cause excessive algae and weed growth.

As lakefront lots are developed, natural vegetation is also replaced by impervious (hard) surfaces such as driveways, rooftops and parking areas. These types of surfaces do not allow water to soak into the ground thus creating more stormwater runoff. The water that used to soak into the ground very slowly to the lake underground is now quickly getting to the lake. To allow stormwater to soak into the ground, slowing and filtering runoff as it moves towards the lake, allowing more water to be absorbed into the ground than runoff, and protecting the lake edge from wave and ice erosion with a good mixture of native plants both on the land and in the water will help.

For more information please visit the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership website at www.mishorelinepartnership.org.

Home Hot Spots for Water Quality

Around every yard are spots where your activities affect water quality. Places like the garage, lawn, and driveway are a few examples. The following lists a few safe water techniques to practice:

- Encourage storm water management practices that reduce runoff pollution by allowing water to soak into the ground rather than piping it directly to a storm sewer where it discharges to a water body. Water that soaks into the ground is naturally filtered
- Encourage the safe but conservative use of salt on roads and limit application to critical areas.
- Support the preservation of wetlands as natural filters that protect water quality, prevent flooding, and provide vital open space.
- Promote non-mowed natural vegetation buffer strips that are not along streams and ponds for water quality, wildlife, and reduce the chance of erosion.
- Participate in groups, projects, and events that promote conservation, waterfront recreation, or shoreline restoration.



City Financial Update

By: Sarah H. McClure, City Commissioner

At our November 2022 Commission meeting, the City of Bloomfield Hills' auditors, Plante Moran, presented the audited financial statements for the fiscal year that ended June 30th. The City received a clean audit without issues. Our General Fund Revenues were higher than budgeted due to higher-than-expected license and permit fees (building), as well as an increase in state revenue sharing. At the same time, some expenses were lower than budgeted. As a result, we added \$504,000 to our General Fund balance. Some of these additional funds are restricted but the remainder is available for future budgets and unforeseen expenses.

At this writing we are currently 75% through the 2022-2023 fiscal year. We have experienced some increased labor and other costs, but this continues to be offset by increased licensing and permit revenues. With three months to go we are anticipating a small budget surplus.

The City staff and Commission are working on next year's budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023. We will vote on this budget later this spring. We anticipate keeping our millage unchanged at 10.60 mills. Our General fund Budget is approximately \$12.5 million, of which 87% of revenues come from property taxes. On the expense side active personnel costs are 45% of the total, non- personnel expenses are 20%, retiree pension and OBEB benefits are 17%, and the remaining 18% is for Bond debt and Capital purchases.

Consistent with recent years, the staff and Commission are working to achieve a budget at breakeven or a small surplus. In this inflationary environment this is somewhat more challenging. In this budget we are looking to continue our decades long road rehabilitation and replacement program. We are also reviewing a salary assessment of our nonunion staff to see where we stand versus other comparable municipalities. The goal is always to attract and retain the best staff to serve our community. In addition, the budget includes a large capital purchase for a \$1.3 million new ladder truck, financed by a variety of sources. One unexpected potential expense may be repairing or replacing the Chesterfield Road bridge at \$500,000-\$1,000,000.

We wish to thank City Manager Hendrickson, Finance Director Barlass, and other staff for an efficient and clear budget process, and for working with the Commission to achieve long term financial stability for our community. The City continues to enjoy a AAA bond rating.



Dog Licenses

Michigan Law requires all dogs to be rabies vaccinated and licensed at four (4) months of age. Dogs must be licensed within 30 days of obtaining ownership or within 30 days of the dog turning 4 months of age.

The City of Bloomfield Hills issues annual dog licenses for residents. Dog licenses are available for purchase at City Hall annually beginning December 15th for the following year's license. A copy of the current rabies vaccine certificate is required to purchase a dog license. The annual license is \$10.



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

Upcoming Holidays – City Hall Closed

Memorial Day – May 29, 2023

2023 Bloomfield Hills City Commission:

Alice Buckley, Mayor
Brad Baxter, Mayor Pro Tem
Lauren Fisher, Commissioner
Susan McCarthy, Commissioner
Sarah H. McClure, Commissioner

CITY STAFF:

David Hendrickson, City Manager
Amy L. Burton, City Clerk
Sandra Barlass, Finance Director, Treasurer
Jeff Gormley, 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
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