



# HILLS HIGHLIGHTS

Winter 2016 #92

**Mayor**  
stuart D. Sherr

**City Commissioners:**

Michael J. Dul  
Michael Coakley  
Susan McCarthy  
Sarah H. McClure

**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.



## THE YEAR IN REVIEW

*By: Stuart D. Sherr, Mayor*

Hello and Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed a safe and peaceful holiday season! We are fortunate to live in the greatest country in the world, and the greatest city in the country.

I'm Stu Sherr. I'm your mayor. My mission is simple: to keep you safe, secure, and stable. My job is to keep you, your home, and your property safe; to keep the financial condition of our city secure; and to keep our community character stable, along with conducting the business of our city.

I am honored and privileged to serve as your mayor. My work has been made much easier by having a talented team of commissioners to work with. It's like being handed the keys to the Detroit Red Wings. Additionally, we have a very experienced and dedicated administrative staff who serves the commission and you professionally and responsively.

We also need and appreciate the volunteer leadership of our Planning Commission and our Zoning Board. From time to time we have openings on these and other boards. We rely on the volunteer efforts of our residents. I encourage you to get involved.

2015 was a successful and productive year for our city. We finished the fiscal year in positive condition with a net addition to our General Fund (the city's primary operating fund) balance of \$570 K. We also saw an increase in the city's net fund balance (the excess of assets over liabilities) of \$1.46 M, although this was primarily due to the activities of the Water and Sewer Fund. Administratively, we continued our review of our ordinances. Specifically, we revised our signage and right-of-way ordinances, enacted a commercial property design standards ordinance, and are revising our earthwork grading procedures and enforcement.

Regarding our road improvement program, we completed the reconstruction of Vaughan and Cranbrook Roads and their related infrastructure (which is every bit as important as the roadwork itself). In 2016, we plan to replace the roads and infrastructure of Manorwood Drive, Renton Court, Chestnut Drive, and Woodwind Drive, east of Chestnut

*continued*

Drive. We converted to a single waste hauler in 2015 to further protect our million dollar investment in our roadwork. We refinanced our unfunded defined benefit pension fund liability by issuing \$15.86 M in bonds which hopefully will save millions.

We continued to recover from the Great Recession, seeing the second highest rate of appreciation in property values in Oakland County. We have one of the lowest operating tax millage rates of 10.60. We also have one of the lowest crime rates in the County, thanks to our excellent well-trained public safety officers who are each proficient in police, fire, and EMS services. If you need them, they will respond within minutes.

Our Public Safety Open House (organized by our public safety officers) was the largest and most successful in history. The Fall Corn Roast, sponsored by the Bloomfield Hills Preservation and Historical Societies, was also well-attended. And the Woodward Dream Cruise (one of my personal passions) was indeed a dream to watch the vintage vehicles in their indigenous hometown of Motown!

We are fortunate to enjoy an outstanding environment of trees, lakes, and rolling hills, helped along by our City Beautification volunteers. We addressed the vegetative damage done by DTE along Kensington and Stonecroft Roads as DTE responded to resident complaints over power outages. New trees and shrubs have been installed to ameliorate the community's character. While we are primarily residential in character, we have some of the finest educational, religious, and recreational institutions

in Michigan, led by our crown jewel, the Cranbrook Educational Community.

We ended the year and began 2016 with the opening of Cedarbrook Senior Living, an upscale full-service retirement community, located on the east side of Woodward Avenue, north of Opdyke Road and adjacent to the Roeper School (where I attended summer day camp a few years back). The gorgeous new Cedarbrook offers both assisted and independent living. We have a senior demographic in our City, and Cedarbrook, together with the Woodward Hills Nursing Center, provide essential services to this group of residents. My congratulations to Mike Damone, the developer of Cedarbrook, for taking the necessary financial risks to create this asset.

I hope to see many of you around town at our eateries, such as Bill's, the Nosh & Rye Deli at the Kingsley Inn, Bruegger's, and Little Daddy's. If you see me, please come over and say hello. I am always interested in your thoughts and ideas. For further discussion of our 2016 Goals, please see the articles herein by City Commissioner Sarah McClure and City Manager Jay Cravens.

It is my privilege to serve you. I will let you in on a secret – it is also great fun! I want to congratulate our newest City Commissioner, Susan McCarthy, and thank outgoing Commissioner and former Mayor, Patricia Hardy, for her longtime dedicated service. Please consider getting involved with our City. My very best for a blessed 2016 year!



## Treasury Notes

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

### Property Taxes

Just a reminder, 2015 winter taxes need to be paid by February 15th to avoid penalties. The City does not accept postmarks, so for your convenience we have a drop box located inside the Public Safety building where you can drop off your tax payments 24/7.

If you haven't already noticed, the City has begun using a bank lockbox to process any mailed tax payments. That is why you will



see a mailing address on the return envelope that is different from City Hall.

If you need tax information we have a link on our website where you can find current payment status as well as payment history. The link can be found at [www.bloomfieldhillsmi.net](http://www.bloomfieldhillsmi.net) on the left hand side of the Treasury department page under Property Tax Lookup. As always, we happy to answer any questions property owners have by calling our office.



# Our Annual Goal Setting Process Completed for 2016

By: Sarah H. McClure, Commissioner

Several years ago the City Commission and City Manager started an annual goal setting process to help the Commission and staff better achieve the priorities for our community. Goals are recommended by Commissioners, the City Manager and others on the administrative team.

At our December meeting we adopted the 2016 goals. Many of these objectives are financial in nature. We will be reviewing the City's post employment benefits (OBEB) liability to develop a strategy to limit its growth. Also, we will be continuing to monitor our pension liabilities. (Although all new hires now go into a defined contribution plan, and as of last year we were fully funded due to the issuance of pension bonds, the situation needs continual review as various actuarial and investment assumptions may change over time.) Several of our employee union contracts expire this year and agreements will need to be bargained and settled. The next roads to be addressed and how to finance them will also be discussed. Staff will explore credit card payment options for city fees and other payments.

Other goals relate to City beautification or our Master Plan. We are looking at expanding our City wide tree planting program and continuing beautification of commercial areas. The remaining new entry signs will be installed. Staff and the Commission subcommittee will continue to meet with DTE to monitor and improve the tree trimming and cutting process that impacts the community's tree canopy and reliable electric service.

Another goal topic is due to the large amount of construction activity that our City is experiencing. The City Manager and

Building official, with some input from our consultants and a subcommittee, will be reviewing our building department organizational structure and some processes. We want to make sure we are not only effectively enforcing our ordinances that protect our residents and define our community character, but also have processes that are equitable and efficient. The grading ordinance is currently under review to see if any changes should be made. Also we will be working with Municode to develop a more accessible and up to date electronic code of ordinances.

Several goals will continue City adoption of best practices. Planning Commissioners and ZBA members will attend annual refresher training to assure that everyone is up to date on their responsibilities, current State law, and other requirements. The City Manager review will be completed. The new City website will be operational and its presence expanded.

Chief Hendrickson and our Public Safety department will be reviewing our City's ISO rating to determine if it can be improved or maintained in light of recent requirement changes. This fire insurance rating schedule can impact resident insurance cost. The review process can also improve departmental effectiveness. There will be an inventory of the City's traffic control signs to determine whether they need to be updated, replaced or removed.

Selection, adoption, and completion of City goals helps Commissioners, the Administration team, and other staff work together towards the same objectives. Goals can be found in the monthly City Commission packets on the City website.

*\* Bloomfield Township emerged as a result  
of the Land Ordinance of 1786  
written by Thomas Jefferson.*





# A Look Back Into the Future?

*By: Jay W. Cravens, City Manager*

Between the holidays I had the opportunity to clean out several files in my office and came across a copy of, “A General Development Plan for Bloomfield Hills”. The document was written by the City’s planning consultant at the time, Saarinen, Swanson and Saarinen in 1947. Since my professional background is urban planning, I was very curious as to what the plan had to say about the future. The document itself is remarkably short for a plan, only 32 pages but nonetheless very interesting. I want to share with you the main themes discussed in the plan, as I believe you will find them interesting and relevant to residents’ today.

The 1947 plan expressed fears over the boundaries of the city, the impact Woodward Avenue would have on the development pattern of the community and how the center of the city would be designed. The planners were concerned that the boundaries of the city did not extend far enough to control the surrounding development pattern that would impact its residents. They cited concern about how Square Lake Road and Telegraph Road were both developing into major traffic carriers and how the effects of commercial and industrial land uses would impact the community. The plan suggested the designation of realistic boundaries being established and working with the township to make sure zoning was in place to protect the community from the negative effects of commercial and industrial growth from the bordering cities.

The plan also expressed unease about the impact Woodward Avenue could have on the city. When the plan was written the properties adjacent to the road were zoned with a density that allow “95 people or 27 families per acre”. Woodward was zoned for apartments because it was considered to lack privacy and carried heavy traffic. The plan suggested the development of parallel access roads to Woodward to provide access to nearby residential areas and a 100 foot wide greenbelt along Woodward. The greenbelt would provide a, “soundproofing wall between the detriments of Woodward and a comfortable homes development”. The plan further stated that, “homes could be attractively grouped and permanently protected with strict zoning.”

The plan then addressed the future of the city center. The area where Woodward Avenue is bisected by Long Lake Road. The plan recognized that commercial development should occur on Long Lake Road, but was afraid that it would develop into, “an unrelated jumble of buildings and an incurable traffic problem”. The plan advocated the development of a city hall green and an eventual shopper’s plaza. The plaza would over time block off access to store fronts and would have entrances designed in the rear. They would be grouped together harmoniously across a shoppers’ plaza. It seems the proposal is describing an outdoor mall. The closing of Long Lake would be proceeded with the development of by-pass roads (Bloomfield Hills Parkway? Brady Lane?).

The plan concluded by making several recommendations on how the City’s zoning regulations could be changed to enact the design ideas that were stated in the document. The plan recommended that zoning and the subdivision regulations limit the population to, “a maximum of 7,000 within the city limits”. (Note: Bloomfield Hills current population is 3,963.) Larger lot sizes were encouraged, with larger home sizes. For Woodward Avenue access roads parallel to Woodward should be built. The plan noted for this to take place road right of way would have to be acquired. The plan recommended the high density zoning along Woodward be eliminated. Over the years, the high density residential zoning was eliminated, however the concept of parallel roads never materialized. Instead Woodward would have a boulevard cross-section with landscaped islands. Commercial zoning along Woodward Avenue was discouraged as far as practical. Such development near Long Lake Road was acceptable.

It is amazing to see how this plan and its implementation impacted the development of Bloomfield Hills. The community developed with large lots and discouraged commercial development on Woodward Avenue as much as possible. One cannot argue that the overall “feel and appearance” of Woodward Avenue in Bloomfield Hills is dramatically different and more aesthetically pleasing than other sections of this roadway in other communities. The concepts of by-pass roads and the city center / shoppers’ plaza did not materialize. The residential character of the city is more harmonious with its natural environment when compared to many other communities. I am sure the planners who presented the 1947 General Development Plan to the City would be pleased with the results almost 70 years later.

If you would like to read the 1947 plan, it will be on the City’s website for the next few months. A link is on the Bloomfield Hills home page.



# Clerk's Corner

*By: Amy L. Burton, City Clerk*

## Election Day – March 8, 2016

### Presidential Party Primary Election

In Michigan, the two major political parties conduct a Presidential Party Primary Election early in the year when there is to be a November Presidential Election. Voters must select either a Republican or a Democrat ballot to vote in the March 8, 2016 Election. A voter doesn't have to "declare" a party to vote, however each voter can only vote for one party, and only one candidate on that selected party ballot. In selecting a party's ballot, that does NOT obligate the voter to that political party for future elections or associations.

Registered Voters in the City of Bloomfield Hills will be voting on March 8, 2016. Polling locations will be open from 7:00 a.m. -8:00 p.m.

Precinct # 1: City Hall Fire Station – 45 E. Long Lake Road

Precinct # 2: Congregational Church of Birmingham – 1000 Cranbrook Road



To determine which precinct you reside in – contact the City Clerk's Office phone: (248) 644-1520, email: [aburton@bloomfieldhillsmi.net](mailto:aburton@bloomfieldhillsmi.net) or visit [www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote)

## Last Day to Register to Vote to be Eligible on March 8, 2016

If you are not already registered to vote in the City of Bloomfield Hills, contact City Hall before Monday, February 8, 2016 to register to vote and participate in the March 8 Election.

## Absentee Voting

Registered voters may request an absentee ballot either in person, via email ([aburton@bloomfieldhillsmi.net](mailto:aburton@bloomfieldhillsmi.net)) or online at [www.bloomfieldhillsmi.net](http://www.bloomfieldhillsmi.net). Voters are required to complete an Application for Absentee Ballot prior to **EVERY** election, even if you are on the permanent absentee voter list. Absentee ballots are available at City Hall approximately one month prior to Election Day. City Hall will also be open Saturday, October 31, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. for the purpose of issuing and receiving absentee ballots. We know it may be inconvenient to make it to City Hall during our regular business hours, stop by on Halloween morning for a little treat and to pick up an absentee ballot!

## Election Results

Have you ever wondered where you can find the detailed election results after the polls close on Election Night? Our website is updated as soon as all the results are in, visit [www.bloomfieldhills.net](http://www.bloomfieldhills.net) for the breakdown. Results are also posted in real time on the Oakland County Clerk / Register of Deeds website at [www.oakgov.com/clerkrod](http://www.oakgov.com/clerkrod).

## A New Look – The City of Bloomfield Hills Website

*By: Amy L. Burton, City Clerk*

Does the New Year find you cleaning out closets and purging clutter? Similarly, the City is shaking off the cobwebs and improving our online presence. The redesigned website will offer several enhancements to improve communication with our residents and those we serve.

Some highlights of the new site are:

- Subscription services to individual website pages provide your email address or phone number and receive updates via email or text when your favorite page is updated online

- An upcoming City of Bloomfield Hills Mobile App for your smartphone or tablet
- Enhanced E-Newsletter Service
- Report a Concern Feature – Notice a streetlight is out? Take a photo and quickly email it to the appropriate department
- Interactive Calendar Functions
- A dedicated Department of Public Safety homepage site
- Features to promote citizen engagement and participation

If you haven't stopped by lately, we hope you make a point to visit our city website once the new site is launched at the end of January.

Website: [www.bloomfieldhillsmi.net](http://www.bloomfieldhillsmi.net)

Facebook: City of Bloomfield Hills, MI – City Hall



# A Promise to His Mom

By: Michael J. Dul, City Commissioner



I hurriedly placed my valet ticket in my pocket and then handed over my coat to the check-in. I still felt a winter chill but started feeling relaxed knowing that the room was warmed by the crowd--even including a Monsignor. Reacting to a tap on my shoulder I turned and was greeted by the smiling face of a young lady. "Shrimp?" ...she asked.

No—I wasn't at the North American Auto Show Charity Preview. I was here in Bloomfield Hills. This night was all about the public unveiling of Cedarbrook, the long awaited vision of Michael J. Damone. Built on 7 ½ acres, this 200,000 square foot Continuing Care Retirement Community features 142 apartments of Independent Living, Assisted Living, Memory Care and Skilled Nursing.

Encouraged to meander throughout the entire facility, I toured the fitness and rehabilitation center, multiple dining rooms, chapel, movie theater and a heated underground garage. Everything seemed very comfortable and convenient--much like a home.

Themed dining areas are sprinkled throughout the facility, including Claire's Café. It's a 1950's style soda shop named after Michael's mother. It even features an adjoining video arcade designed to entertain younger visitors. Another great option with several big screen TVs, the Aviator Pub, keeps residents up to date with the latest news and sports. The Wine Cellar accommodates private events like birthday parties with in-house or independent catering.



*Michael Damone greets guests during the Cedarbrook of Bloomfield Hills grand opening*

Michael Damone's personal experience and family life influenced the look and feel of Cedarbrook. By 2006, he already had over 20 years of experience in the assisted living field, where he developed and constructed approximately 120 communities in 19 states. At this time, his mother Claire began to need such a community herself. She said to Mike, "You've developed senior housing all over Michigan and

around the country, but I need something really nice and much closer to home." She imagined a place to live independently, and if necessary, a transition to assisted living under one roof. A single community that could seamlessly accommodate her changing needs. Before Claire passed away three years ago, her son promised to develop Cedarbrook of Bloomfield Hills, a very special and caring place where people can celebrate life every day.

Before venturing back into the winter chill, I had a few minutes to reflect while waiting for the valet to retrieve my car. After nine long years, Michael Damone's vision had come to life. His personal effort and risk-taking had translated into a state-of-the-art Continuing Care and Retirement Community that fulfills Claire's request and an important need within our community for years to come.





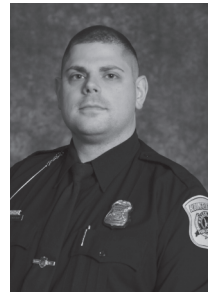
## New Faces at the Public Safety Department

*By: David Hendrickson, Director of Public Safety*

In November the Public Safety Department had the opportunity to hire a public safety officer, and promote an existing public safety officer to the position of sergeant. Our new public safety officer PSO Kurt Baumgardner was hired on November 23rd and is doing well in our training program. Kurt came to us from the Oak Park Public Safety Department where he served for the last nine years. Prior to Oak Park, Kurt worked for the Detroit Police Department for seven years. Kurt holds a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing from Ferris State University, and has had many accomplishments in the field of public safety over his career. Kurt's past experience, his positive outlook and communication skills, will be a positive addition to our Department.



PSO Dustin Lockard was promoted to Sergeant on November 23rd, replacing Chad Ostrander who recently retired. Dustin holds a Bachelor's degree from Oakland University in Sociology and Criminal Justice, a Bachelor's degree in Information Technology and Security from Baker College, and a Master's Degree in Information Assurance from Walsh College. With the continual technological advancements that have become a requirement in the public safety industry, Dustin has been pivotal in helping our Department and City make the appropriate decisions in purchasing and implement this technology. Dustin's analytical approach to problem solving and his ability to work with others will continue to be an asset for the Department and the City.



## Carbon Monoxide Safety

*By: David Hendrickson, Director of Public Safety*

Often called the invisible killer, carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide. CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home and in other locations where required by applicable laws, codes or standards. For the best protection, interconnect all CO alarms throughout the home. This way when one of the detectors alerts, they will all alert.



- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement and mounting height.
- Choose a CO alarm that has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.

- Test CO alarms at least once a month; replace them according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- If the audible trouble signal sounds, check for low batteries. If the battery is low, replace it. If it still sounds, call the Public Safety Department at (248) 644-4200.
- If the CO alarm alerts, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door. Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for. Call for help from a fresh air location and stay there until emergency personnel from the Public Safety Department arrives.
- If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Do not run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if garage doors are open. Also make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not covered with snow.
- During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of snow or ice build-up.
- A generator should only be used in a well-ventilated location outdoors away from windows, doors and vent openings.



# Hello Sweet '16

*By: Michael P. Coakley, Commissioner*

2016 will see us continue and hopefully expand or accelerate our road construction. In 2015 we did reconstruction of Vaughn and Cranbrook South, and with a couple of hiccups along the way that are normal for these projects, they came in under and on schedule. That completes major roadwork for the City for 2015. However we also continued our robust patching program by which we intend to both extend the life of our existing roads and preserve the investment we've made in new construction.

Last year we looked at revising our roads plan to address more widespread accelerated deterioration of our roads due to the harsh winters we've experienced over the last couple of years. We considered resurfacing more roads rather than the few planned for complete reconstruction, which can only be done a couple at a time given our budget constraints. At our request our engineers drew up a list of roads that could be resurfaced for the same cost as the total reconstruction we had planned for 2016. Our thought was that this may allow us to get to more roads sooner, providing greater, more near term relief to more residents than total reconstruction would permit. Their report showed, however, that we really would not gain much by diverting funds from scheduled total reconstruction, which has the added benefit of replacing aged water and lines. Consequently we are sticking with our original roads plan for reconstruction for 2016, meaning Manorwood Drive, Renton Court, Chestnut Drive, and Woodwind Drive East of Chestnut. These are scheduled to be completed this year. To this end, we approved a change order for Diponio Contracting, who did such a great job on our previous projects, to complete the 2016 program, and at a savings in excess of \$100,000. In addition, in light of prior projects coming in under budget and having a

projected budget surplus, we are considering adding to the 2016 program the resurface of Orchard Ridge between Vaughn and Lone Pine. That would be sweet indeed.

We expect the DTE power reliability improvement to resume and we will continue to monitor it to keep it in line with our community's expectations. DTE greatly improved its communication with residents whose properties would be impacted by tree trimming and removal. A reminder to those who may get notices of tree trimming/removal affecting their properties, please talk to the DTE representatives and get precisely what DTE proposes to do affecting your property so your expectations are met and there are no surprises. We understand this has worked well for residents along Kensington and in Rudgate, but if this is not the case for anyone, please let us know. Also, we and DTE have implemented the replanting of trees for Stoneycroft and Kensington pursuant a plan worked out between Commissioner Dul and DTE. This addressed the unsightly aftermath of the tree and other vegetation removal. We expect 2016 to go much more smoothly with DTE's program, but please let us know if you experience difficulties.

Finally, we'd like to hear of ideas anyone may have for infrastructure improvement. One thought is to pursue high speed fiber optic internet for our community. Connectivity, capacity and reliability are issues in many areas of our city. It only makes sense that we should have the best system available to better serve our communication needs. We welcome your thoughts on this and any other improvements folks think we should consider. We look forward to hearing from you. Here's hoping you have a happy, healthy and sweet '16.

*\* In 1819 John Hunter became the first settler in Bloomfield, building a log house. John Hamilton and Elijah Willets soon followed. One year later Hunter opened the first tavern in the township.*





# The Role of a City Commissioner!

*By: Susan McCarthy, Commissioner*

Upon my election to the Bloomfield Hills City Council my son asked me, “Mom, what exactly do you do as a City Commissioner?” Having served on the City Planning Commission, the Zoning Board of Appeals and working with the City Commissioners for the past 5 years I explained to my son that my new responsibilities would involve working with the city leaders on fiscal budgets, operational issues and strategic planning. I explained to my son the structure of our form of government in the City of Bloomfield Hills and directed him to Wikipedia where he found the following definition: “a form of local government in the United States where voters elect a small commission, typically from five to seven members, on a plurality-at-large voting basis”.

These commissioners constitute the legislative body of the city and, as a group, are responsible for taxation, appropriations, ordinances, and other general functions. Individual commissioners are also assigned executive responsibility for a specific aspect of municipal affairs, such as public works, finance, or public safety. As such, this form of government blends legislative and executive branch functions in the same body. Coming from a business background, I compare it to a corporate structure: the City Commission is the Board of Directors and the City Manager is the CEO.



Shortly after being sworn in at City Hall (a function which both my son and husband attended) I participated in a Newly Elected Officials training class hosted by the Michigan Municipal League. The name of the course was “You Won! Now What?” The conference provided an overview of the following:

- Basic roles and responsibilities of elected officials in local government
- Review of the Open Meetings Act (OMA)
- Review of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)
- Panel discussion with seasoned elected officials

I truly enjoyed the course as it was quite interesting and informative. At a recent meeting I shared my experience and what I learned with my other City Commissioners. We decided it would be a good idea for any individual who serves on the City Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, or Planning Board to attend courses that are relevant to their respective role in the city.

I am honored and fortunate to be a City Commissioner for the City of Bloomfield Hills. I look forward to working with my fellow commissioners and serving the city and our citizens. As for my son who asked what I do as a city commissioner, he now has a much better understanding of my role and responsibilities. He has watched and listened with interest when I talk about my work on the City Commission and has now expressed an interest in participating in local government activities when he is older. I hope he follows through on that goal!

*\* In 1824 the first post office opened  
in what is now the intersection  
of Lone Pine Road and Woodward Ave.*



# I.T. Changes Underway to Serve You Better

*By: Jeff Wren, Building Official*

The City of Bloomfield Hills is making some technological advances in the building department. Working with our current permit software provider, we will be offering online building application submittal and plan access. Users will be able to establish an account to look up inspection results, schedule inspections, review permit status and many other features.

We have also retained an outside provider to be able to accept electronic building plans. With the increasing use of computer generated building plans it will be advantageous for us to be able to receive electronic submissions of these plans.

Building plans cannot be electronically sent to the City, because the file size of these digital versions are typically larger than our server's capability to accept. By using an offsite web-based link, the architect or builder can download the plans and we can then safely retrieve them. We can then print them to any size that will help us review the plans. Plans will no longer need to be electronically scanned and submitted to the City with this new procedure, thereby making it easier for everyone to access the plans when needed.

By having plans submitted through this web-based link there will be one location to view all permit history and plan submissions. Reviewing plans will be simple and less cumbersome as office or desk space won't be required to store or spread out large rolls of paper plans. Revised plans can also be submitted to the City and outside consultants simultaneously. This feature will save everyone time because there will be no more delay between an architect or builder dropping off copies of plans for our consultants to pick up and review. After they are uploaded to the website they will be available for everyone to view.

Setting up this web-based link and website access will take a few weeks as we work through the various software providers to get the service on line. Visit the Bloomfield Hills website home page ([www.bloomfieldhillsmi.net](http://www.bloomfieldhillsmi.net)) for updates on this new feature from the Building Department.

*\* In 1827 the Charter Township of Bloomfield was incorporated and was the first Township to be established in Oakland County.*

*Township officials offered \$5.00 to residents for each wolf killed within the county.*

*The boundaries of Bloomfield Township included its present 36 square miles plus West Bloomfield and Southfield townships as well. Six years later the Michigan legislature reduced township boundaries to 36 square miles.*

# Preventing Sewer Backups

Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) in sanitary sewer pipes create numerous problems in a community's sewer system. FOG enters sewer pipes through restaurant businesses, residential developments, and commercial properties. Once in the sewer, FOG sticks to the pipe and thickens. Over time, FOG can build up resulting in reduced capacity of a pipe and eventually blocking the entire pipe. Blockages in sewer pipes send sewage backward and overflowing out of manholes into streets, rivers, or up floor drains in homes.

Fats, oils, and grease are by-products of cooking found in food scraps, meat fats, lard, cooking oil, butter, margarine, or shortening. Chemicals from industrial complexes also produce FOG waste.

Follow these tips to protect our environment and keep drains and sewers clear of FOG:

- Pour or scrape greasy or oily food waste into a container or jar
- Allow grease to cool or freeze in the container before throwing it in the trash
- Do not use hot water to rinse grease off cookware, utensils, or dishes. Wipe it off with a paper towel or dish rag instead
- Keep drains clean by pouring ½ cup baking soda down the drain, followed by ½ cup vinegar. Wait 10 to 15 minutes and then rinse with hot water

**For more information on Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG), please visit the Clean Water Services' website at [www.cleanwaterservices.org](http://www.cleanwaterservices.org)**

# Winter Salt Practices for Water Quality Improvement

With the upcoming winter season, preparation for snow and ice removal becomes critical as anticipated winter storms create mounds of snow to shovel and layers of ice to melt from our sidewalks and driveways. We often make snow and ice removal easier by applying deicers like salt. However, salt degrades water quality by increasing chloride content. Besides sodium chloride, many deicers also contain chemicals like cyanide. When ice melts, the salts and chemicals dissolve and flow into street drains that lead directly to the rivers, lakes, and streams, endangering aquatic life. Follow these simple tips below to help reduce the detrimental water quality impacts deicers have on the environment:

## 1. Try an alternative.

- Calcium magnesium acetate (CMA) was developed as a deicing alternative because it has fewer adverse environmental impacts than salt and does not cause corrosion. Although CMA is more expensive than rock salt, it is recommended for environmentally sensitive areas.

- GeoMelt 55, a sugar beet juice product, which makes salt more effective at melting ice and snow; lowers the amount of salt needed; and is more environmentally-safe and less corrosive than traditional products.
2. Reduce your salt use. By limiting the amount of salt we use on sidewalks and driveways, we can reduce the amount of polluted storm water washing into our waterways.
  3. Limit access. Limit access to your home to one entrance. For every doorway that is not used, there will be less salt running into the catch basin in your street.

Keep in mind that although there are alternative deicers, this does not mean that we can utilize more of the alternatives because they are slightly better than salt. The best solution in minimizing water quality impacts is to limit your overall use of deicing materials. For more information, visit the State of Michigan website at [www.michigan.gov](http://www.michigan.gov) or the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality at [www.michigan.gov/deq](http://www.michigan.gov/deq).







## City of Bloomfield Hills

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

## 2016 Bloomfield Hills City Commission:

Stuart D. Sherr, Mayor  
Michael J. Dul, Commissioner  
Michael Coakley, Commissioner  
Susan McCarthy, Commissioner  
Sarah H. McClure, Commissioner

### CITY STAFF:

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

### EMERGENCY:

Police, fire, Medical – dial 911  
After hours (non-emergency) (248)644-4200

### CITY GOVERNMENT:

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

## 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  
Trash & Waste Pick Up – Rizzo Environmental Services  
(586) 772-8900 or (888) 877-4996  
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