

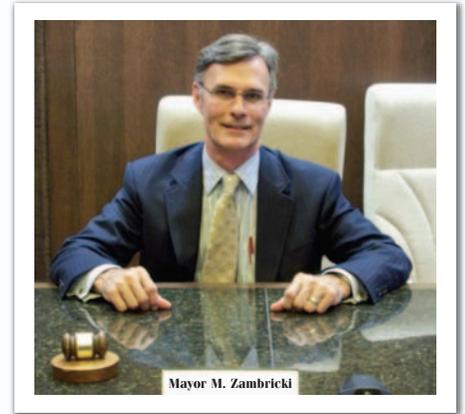
# HILLS HIGHLIGHTS

Summer/Fall 2008

## Previewing the Term Ahead

*By: Mayor Michael T. Zambricki*

It is my pleasure and privilege to serve as your mayor for my fifth term. Each term has taken on a different character, and this one will be no different. Over the next year, you will have an opportunity to define the future direction of our city, and I strongly encourage you to let your voice be heard. Our agenda will include important topics that impact land use and development, the breadth and scope of city services, your quality of life, and your taxes.



Mayor M. Zambricki

At the top of the list is our Master Plan review which will determine how and where various types of development can occur throughout the city. The location of commercial, institutional, and residential properties will be defined, and issues such as building height, setback, and density may be reviewed.

The scope of certain city services will also be reviewed. Many have requested a change in the manner we provide library services (currently through the City of Troy) to a services contract with the Bloomfield Township Library. We are currently negotiating terms of a possible contract that would be placed on a ballot. Other controversial proposals such as whether to create parks, recreational facilities, and sidewalks may also become ballot issues.

The historic Barton House was successfully moved to its new location at the school farm. Funding for maintenance and operating costs has yet to be determined, and one suggestion has been made to have the City and the Township help fund those costs with a yearly \$10,000 contribution. You will be hearing more about this issue in the coming months.

Finally, I propose creating a formal mechanism to establish performance standards for our city departments that can be used to evaluate our performance and provide feedback. Excellence and efficiency must be the cornerstones of our city services.

Less controversial issues facing the city are: 1) a possible contract with the Southeastern Oakland County Water Authority (SOCWA), a consortium of eleven neighboring communities who purchase water from the City of Detroit, store water in reservoirs for use during peak use times, and engage in water conservation and use techniques to control water costs; 2) continued road improvements; 3) encouraging competition among alternative cable providers; and 4) a City emergency notification system known as Codespear which will enable rapid emergency notification to all residents.

An agenda so full of thought-provoking issues deserves something lighter, and, to this end, I propose collaborating with local gardening clubs to create a "Bloomfield Pride" beautification effort whereby residents will be formally recognized for their personal efforts to beautify the city starting with their own residence. We have a beautiful city to begin with, and it is fascinating to think about the possibilities that could be attained with some friendly competition.

Thomas Jefferson regarded local government as the ideal form of democracy, since the authority for local government is most clearly linked with the people. It is my objective to do more than simply inform you about what our city government is doing. I invite you to become engaged in discussion, problem solving, and collaboration surrounding our agenda. By so doing, we will fashion an improved policy making process, and reach a consensus that most clearly benefits the majority of our community. I look forward to your participation!

### Mayor

Michael T. Zambricki

### Mayor Pro Tem

L. David Kellett

### City Commissioners

Michael McCready

Patricia A. Hardy

John E. Utley

### City Manager

Jay W. Cravens

### City Hall

45 E. Long Lake Road

Bloomfield Hills, MI

48304-2322

phone: 248-644-1520

fax: 248-644-4813

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

### City Office Hours

9:00 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 Appeals Meetings

Third Tuesday of every

month at 4:30 p.m.

# Clerk's Corner

By: Amy L. Burton, City Clerk



## GET OUT AND VOTE!

**August 5, 2008 – Primary Election**  
**November 4, 2008 – General Election**

Absentee ballots are available 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](http://www.bloomfieldhillsmi.net).

October 6, 2008 is the last day to register to be eligible to vote in the November 4, 2008 election. Applications for Voter Registration are available at the Clerk's Office or on the Secretary of State website at [www.michigan.gov/sos](http://www.michigan.gov/sos)

**REMEMBER:** Every Michigan voter who offers to vote at the polls is required to show picture I.D. or sign an affidavit attesting that he/she is not in possession of picture identification.

### 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) 644-1520.

### COME JOIN THE BLOOMFIELD HILLS ELECTION TEAM!

The City of Bloomfield Hills is always accepting applications for election inspectors. Qualified election inspectors must be registered voters of Oakland County, must declare a political party affiliation and are required to attend one training session before Election Day. Election inspectors are compensated for their days work. Applications are available on the City's website at [www.bloomfieldhillsmi.net](http://www.bloomfieldhillsmi.net). For more information call the Clerk's Office at (248) 644 -1520.

## BUY A BRICK!

Hills' residents who wish to help **Phase II, the restoration of the Barton Farmhouse**, may purchase a *personalized brick* which will be used in the creation of a storytelling area near the Farmhouse.

Please check the Preservation Bloomfield website for information:  
[www.preservationbloomfield.org](http://www.preservationbloomfield.org)  
or call 248-594-0692



Check us out...

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

has a new look which includes online forms and additional resources designed for your convenience. Whether you are looking for an overview of the city government or building permit applications, you will find the new site attractive and informative.

# Public Safety Department

By: Chief Rick Matott

### Michigan's New Booster Seat Law

Governor Jennifer Granholm signed legislation requiring all children who are both under age 8 and shorter than 4 feet 9 inches to be restrained in booster seats. This is a change from the old law that required children under age 4 to ride in a booster seat. The law will take effect July 1, 2008, Officers can write tickets with a fine of up to \$65 per offense to parents and care-givers of improperly restrained children. Sponsors of the legislation say most of the children between ages 4-8 years old, who are seriously injured in automobile accidents are not restrained in a booster seat. Michigan will become the 39th state to adopt an expanded booster seat law.

### Vacation Season Safety Tip

The summer vacation season is here and many will be

engaging in all types of water related activities – please be safe. Over a hundred people a year drown in Michigan during the summer months. Some of the incidents are alcohol related others are a result of not using the "buddy system" when conducting activities on or in the water. Watch out for your friends and family when enjoying the many lakes and rivers during this summer season.

### Community Service

Please take advantage of our "House Watch" program while you are away on vacation. A simple call to the station at 248- 644-4200, answer a few questions and we will provide periodic checks of your home while your away.



*A simple phone call,  
and we're happy to help!*

# **FYI** *for your information*

*By: Larry Rospierski, Building Official*

## **IT'S SCAM TIME AGAIN!**

Scam artists thrive on people who fail to conduct due diligence before entering into a contract, and when the economy is in a slump, the number of reported scams increases.

These unscrupulous individuals not only cause homeowners great emotional and financial distress, they put honest contractors out of business, often giving all contractors a bad rap. It's a scenario that need not happen, if homeowners take the necessary steps:

- Seek bids from no less than three contractors who have a solid history in the community.
- Request a copy of the contractor's Builder's or Maintenance and Alteration Contractor's License. The Michigan Occupational Code requires that contractors be licensed to provide labor or materials for any contract in excess of \$600. Remember, the M&A Contractor is only licensed to perform the services listed on the license. While we require registration of all contractors each calendar year, which includes proof of licensure, we do not check for complaints registered with the state.
- Before you sign a contract, verify that the license is active and that there are no past or pending complaints. Call 517-241-9288 or check [www.michigan.gov/builders](http://www.michigan.gov/builders).
- Insist that the contractor obtain a building permit. The need for a permit can be verified on the city website or by calling the Building Department at 248-644-1520.
- Ask for references and call them! Ask questions relating to the quality of work, timeliness of installation and overall responsiveness.
- Insist upon having a written contract, and have your attorney review it.

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## **SPARE Could Save Your Life and Your Home!**

The City of Bloomfield Hills is the first in the nation to develop SPARE, a hybrid version of your house plans designed to aid in response to a home emergency. These plans will be added to our internal server that already stores all building plans of record over the past years. It is a highly secure site that can only be viewed by Public Safety Officers and the Building Code Officials.

SPARE (Structural Plans to Assist in Residential Emergencies) is an electronic record of your home—a modified set of building plans which outlines critical areas in red, such as bedrooms, stair cases, elevators, utility connection locations, hazardous material storage and elevators. In case of fire, medical and security emergencies, the City's first responders will know where to go first with a glance at a MDC, mobile data computer.

This is especially useful in Bloomfield Hills where we are host to a wide variety of homes, all of which are unique. With several levels and numerous rooms, there are multiple stairways, hallways, elevators and other potential problem spots. In an emergency, when every second is important, SPARE can reduce the amount of time it takes to identify and eliminate hazards in aiding our residents.

SPARE is a voluntary program. Ask your architect to provide a SPARE plan on a CD/Rom, and enroll! If such plans are not available from your original architect, any designer or draftsman can prepare a set for you. If your original plans are already stored in our system, our host server can prepare a set for you at a very modest cost. There is no cost to store your SPARE plans! Check our website ([www.bloomfieldhillsmi.net](http://www.bloomfieldhillsmi.net)) for more details.

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## **ZONING QUESTIONS? THE CITY'S PLANNING CONSULTANT WILL HELP!**

Thinking of building an addition or new home in the City? How about a new garage or swimming pool? Development activities such as these are regulated by the City Zoning Code for matters such as setbacks, height and lot coverage.

As part of its work with the City, LSL, our Planning consultant, conducts monthly office hours to help residents and their project team with zoning related issues. To some, the Zoning Code can appear cumbersome, but LSL will lend its experience and expertise to help guide you through the regulations and procedures.

Brian Borden, Senior Planner with LSL, typically schedules the third Thursday morning of each month to meet with residents. Appointments must be made in advance by contacting City Hall at 248-644-1520.

*FYI continued on next page...*

...FYI continued

## Building Permits: Why and When?

*Building permits are required to help protect your investment and your safety.*

The Michigan Residential Code requires permits when “any owner or authorized agent...intends to construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move or change the occupancy of a building or structure...” It further requires permits when an owner or agent intends to “erect, install, enlarge, alter, repair, remove, convert or replace any electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system...”

The Code specifically states that the permit for the work must be obtained before the work begins. It is always best to check our website or call the Building Official for clarification of permit requirements.

Homeowners often fear that once a permit is filed their tax base will increase. Sometimes that is true, but not always. Adding on a room will increase the value of your home, but refurbishing a bathroom may not. Adding a pool will increase your home's value, while adding an in-line heater may not. Yet, all these activities require permits for one main reason—Homeowner Protection.

Beware the contractor who suggests that you take out the permit to “save money.” Permit costs are the same regardless of the applicant. It is to your benefit to require that the contractor be responsible for the work provided and that required inspections be adhered to assure code compliance. Only when inspections have been made and approved should payment be made.

Once projects are completed, property owners should request that a Certificate of Occupancy be provided. With a C of O in hand, owners can be assured that all required inspections and governmental requirements have been met and approved.

## “Stormy Sunday”

*By: City Manager Jay Cravens*

On Sunday, June 8th, Bloomfield Hills was hit with a strong wind and rain storm that caused extensive damage and power outages. Many homes were damaged by fallen trees and limbs, and the Department of Public Works (DPW) reported that about 125 city-owned trees had fallen throughout the community. Luckily there were no reports of injuries.

Within an hour of the storm's passing, members of our DPW team were on duty removing storm debris and making most major thoroughfares passable. Our Public Safety Department assisted the Township Police Department Dispatch in answering emergency calls through our dispatch unit, since the Township's damage was greater than ours, overloading their switchboard with emergency calls.

During the storm's aftermath, residents helped their neighbors in removing storm debris, and witnessing this neighborly spirit was particularly uplifting.

Several areas of the City were without electrical power for as long as six days. Some of the repair delays were due to the extensive amount of power pole damage. In some areas, multiple power poles were down. Complicating matters were live electrical wires entangled among fallen trees, making tree removal impossible for our DPW crew, but the clean-up in the City right of way should now be complete. Remember that debris from and on private property is the responsibility of the home owner.

Can we be better prepared for the next storm? We think so!

The Public Safety Department has purchased a new communication system called Codespear. It has the capability of communicating emergency information to four of your communication devices—cell phone, home phone, personal computer, pager, office phone, etc. The system will call you until one of your communication devices answers.

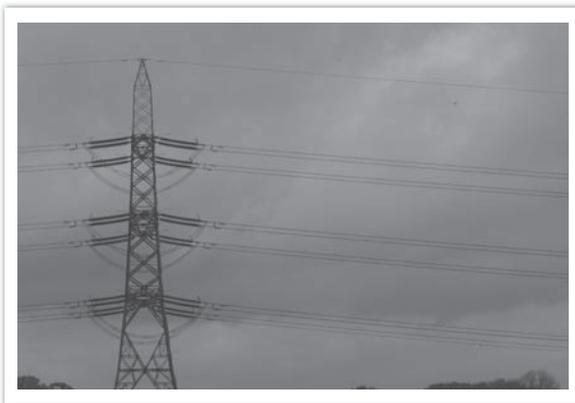
Your information packet regarding enrollment in the Codespear program will arrive this Fall. It is strictly voluntary, but we believe it is a reliable way to communicate critical information to you during an emergency situation.

Finally, consider the following tips in the event of the next emergency:

- Are You Ready?-- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has an informative website: [www.fema.gov/areyouready/](http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/) Several checklists provide worthwhile, information for both emergency and everyday events.

- Power Generators-- The installation of power generators (not portable gasoline generators) requires a permit from the City Building Inspections Department. In some cases, Zoning Board of Appeals approval may also be necessary. Contact Larry Rospierski, Building Official at (248) 530-1408 or [LRospierski@bloomfieldhillsmi.net](mailto:LRospierski@bloomfieldhillsmi.net) before you install a generator.

- DTE-- The City shares your concerns about DTE'S response to the storm. Our priority is to establish much better communication between our City and the utility companies



# Bloomfield Hills Environment & Infrastructure

## Message from the City Manager

*There have been many articles and local news reports about water rates over the past few months. Bloomfield Hills was specifically mentioned in many as having one of the largest rate increases from our supplier, the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department. The City was aware this was forthcoming and took proactive steps to look for alternatives and other cost saving measures. We are happy to report that the hard work of City Commissioners, administration, staff, and consultants has paid off and we will be able to keep rate increases to a minimum this year and into the future. Details are outlined in the Drinking Water Update Section herein.*

**SAVE THE DATE!** *The City's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days are: September 18th through September 21st. For information on accepted items, contact DPW at: (248) 203-0621. We look forward to seeing you there! For information on recycling and household hazardous waste disposal year round, refer to the Alliance of Rouge Communities Resource Recovery Guide at: [www.allianceofrougecommunities.com](http://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com).*

## Drinking Water Update

The City purchases over half a billion gallons of water each year from the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD). Unfortunately, most of this water is used during peak demand times of the summer and peak hours each day for irrigation or other outdoor uses when the cost of the water is much higher. This was especially true last summer (2007) when prolonged periods of hot weather and minimal to no precipitation placed a larger than normal burden on the DWSD system from the City. Therefore, last fall, the City was notified by DWSD of an expected rate increase of over 30% from DWSD and a 31% increase was eventually approved by Detroit. The DWSD water rate is only one of six components that make up the City's retail water rate but accounts for over 60% of the total costs.

The City has been seeking opportunities to lower costs while improving the level of service for the past 5 years. The City worked very hard to explore these opportunities and implement feasible options. **We are happy to announce that our efforts have been very successful and instead of a 13.7% combined water and sewer rate increase for 2008-2009, the City will only have a 4.4% increase.**

To accomplish this we have been negotiating with the Southeastern Oakland County Water Authority (SOCWA) which is a water utility servicing 11 communities to the City's south including Birmingham, Beverly Hills, and Southfield. *Continued on following page.*

## Sanitary Sewer Update

As part of the City's Short Term Corrective Action Plan (STCAP), the City of Bloomfield Hills has contracted with Liquiforce Services, Inc. to investigate the City's sanitary sewer system to identify and eliminate sources of non-sanitary flow.

The City has completed metering and manhole investigations throughout the City. The City is finalizing its last televising program based on the meter results. Supplemental televising may be completed in some areas if time and budget allows. To date, approximately 105,000 lft of sanitary sewer has been televised.

The City is finalizing its fourth phase of mainline rehabilitation. One more phase is scheduled for late summer/early fall. The City has completed its second manhole rehabilitation program. Today, approximately 290 manholes have been rehabilitated. The goals of the rehabilitation projects are to:

- Avoid major infrastructure projects;
- Reduce conveyance and treatment costs;
- Protect the environment from sewage overflows; and
- Protect property values.

## Drinking Water Update (Continued)

*Continued from previous page.* Due to SOCWA's highly efficient operations, over 32 million gallons of storage, and robust distribution system, they provide water to their member communities at one of the lowest rates in the DWSD system. While negotiations are still on going and will be finished within a few months once SOCWA completes a contract amendment process with their members and obtains a new service contract with DWSD, negotiations look to be very positive. This will dramatically reduce the City's water rate from what was approved by Detroit and provide a more stable water rate and system average increases in the future.

### YOU CAN HELP!

Protection from excessive future water rate increases relies on the residents in the City. To do your share please: 1) set automatic sprinklers systems to irrigate between 11pm and 5am when water is the least expensive; 2) water every other day, preferably on odd days of the month if the last number in your address is odd, and vice versa for even numbered addresses; 3) make sure your irrigation system is properly adjusted to avoid over spraying onto paved areas; and 4) consult with a lawn care professional for the proper amount of water to apply to lawn and garden areas. Together we can continue to reduce rate increases, save money, and avoid water restrictions.



## Stormwater Update



### Thinking of Landscaping? Think Native!

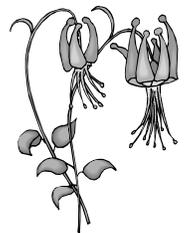
When landscaping, choose plants that are native to Michigan. Native plants and shrubs offer nesting sites and food for wildlife. Best of all, natives are adapted to our local soils and climate, so they do not need as much watering and require very little fertilizer or pesticides.

Here's just a small sample of plants and flowers that are native to Michigan and are easy to find:

<u>Ferns</u>	<u>Shrubs</u>	<u>Trees</u>	<u>Wildflowers</u>
Lady	Buttonbush	American beech	Cardinal flower
Maidenhair	Serviceberry	Douglas fir	Black-eyed susan
Ostrich	Elderberry	Red maple	Columbine
Royal	Dogwood	Sycamore	Blazing star

Some local nurseries specialize in native plants. They will offer free site assessments to determine what plants will work best in your yard. Some of these nurseries will ship the seeds and plants to your home. Refer to the Southeastern Oakland County Water Authority (SOCWA) web site, [www.socwa.org](http://www.socwa.org) for a full list of nurseries in your area.

Gardeners should educate themselves about native plants before introducing them to the landscape. For example, *tall hedge buckthorn*, sold at some local nurseries, has escaped from gardens and into natural areas. *Buckthorn* has been an increasing problem in Southeast Michigan. Several homeowners and concerned citizens have been working hard to remove the species from the natural environment. For more information on native plants, as well as invasive species, contact SOCWA at: (248) 288-5150.



For more information on landscaping, earth-friendly fertilizers, composting, or other healthy lawn care practices, visit the Bloomfield Hills website at: [www.bloomfieldhillsmi.net/Community/Environment](http://www.bloomfieldhillsmi.net/Community/Environment).

# - Commissioner's Connection -

## Should The City Establish a Historical Commission?

*By: Planning Commissioner Robert Toohey*

A majority of residents responding to our Master Plan survey like the idea of a Historical Commission and historical districts to preserve our city's history and culture.

The public meetings to discuss our Master Plan will undoubtedly include more extensive discussions of historic districts, especially the details as to what is involved in establishing a Historical Commission and the authority it would have.

By way of background, the United States Congress enacted the National Historic Preservation Act in 1966 to encourage state and local governments to preserve the nation's rapidly disappearing and irreplaceable heritage of historic properties.

Four years later, in 1970, the Michigan legislature enacted the Local Historic Districts Act, declaring that historic preservation was a 'public purpose'. The Act allows Michigan counties, cities, villages and townships to adopt ordinances to regulate the alteration, repair, moving and demolition of historic structures.

The local units of government have the authority under the Act to decide whether to establish a historical district. Before making that decision the Act requires the legislative body, in our case our City Commission, to appoint a historic district study committee to conduct basic research to identify proposed historic districts and the historic resources within the district.

The study committee submits a report of its findings to the public and various agencies identified in the Act followed by a public hearing. Afterwards the legislative body decides whether to adopt an ordinance to establish a historical district or districts.

### **HEAD'S UP!**

### **MASTER PLAN PUBLIC COMMENT SESSIONS COMING SOON!**

Contact City Manager, Jay Cravens, if you are interested in participating:  
[jcravens@bloomfieldhillsmi.com](mailto:jcravens@bloomfieldhillsmi.com)

## Public Service

*By: Commissioner John Utley*

Having just been elected to my first public office in May 2008, I think it might be appropriate to jot down a couple of thoughts about my reasons for serving you, the residents of our city. Many have asked, "Why?" Why run for election, why serve on commissions, why volunteer for city projects—why?

I guess my thoughts go back to the basics. Local government in cities such as Bloomfield Hills does work. We can do things quickly, while larger governmental bodies often take countless committees and deliberations before arriving at a solution. We have open sessions where residents are able to offer their views, and we have dedicated people serving on the City Commission, Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and the Board of Review who volunteer many hours a year performing their duties. All of this is done without pay except for City Commission members who receive \$ 5 per regular meeting (\$60 a year paid after the year is over.)

I'm not saying all is perfect. I am saying that this city is fortunate to have now and to have had in the past people who really care about how the city progresses. We may not always agree on how to proceed with all issues, and we may have heated debates before reaching decisions, but there is always a sense of mutual respect during the deliberations. This is why I ran for office—to have an active role in helping to make our city better.

I encourage others who have similar feelings to also participate. Public service at the local level works and is rewarding. Try it!



# - Commissioner's Connection -

## Problems Have Solutions

By: Commissioner Mike McCready

Gas prices are draining us financially and psychologically. While we must be reactive to this challenge, we must also be proactive. The City Commission is looking at some alternatives for our Administrative Staff, such as a four-day work week, longer hours of operation and flexible work days/weeks. We are also discussing bus service in the City as another means to help reduce gas consumption.

Please take a moment and e-mail us your comments about possible ways to curb fuel consumption in Bloomfield Hills. Does bus service in the City, introducing flexible hours of operation for City government have merit for our businesses and schools to become more fuel efficient during these challenging times?

On the subject of conservation, our residents will soon receive a notice about watering lawns and gardens only from 11 p.m.

until 5 a.m. This practice, along with watering every other day, will reduce water consumption, reduce costs and still provide and maintain beautiful lawns.

The Planning Commission surveys returned from 30% of our residents is a key indicator of what our residents expect from their City government. It is a directive from residents as to how they want their City leaders to focus, maintain and provide specific services. Currently, Mayor Pro-Tem Dave Kellett, City Manager Jay Cravens and I will be meeting with members of the Bloomfield Township Library to discuss the opportunity for our city to have **full** use of the Township Library. There may be a ballot proposal within the next year for you to vote on. If you have any comments, please e-mail me at [mcd234@aol.com](mailto:mcd234@aol.com).

Have a great summer!

**APPLAUSE!  
APPLAUSE!**



Dr. Zachary Endress steps down from the Planning Commission where he had served since 1975!!

**Thank you,  
for 33 years  
of service, Zach!!**

## What Makes A City Tick?

By: Mayor Pro-Tem Dave Kellett

No doubt about it! If you have always wanted to have a greater understanding of how a City such as ours operates and get things done, then attend one of our Commissions or Boards to find out.

Whether it is a City Commission Meeting, Planning Commission Meeting or Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), you will witness first hand what it is that makes our City great. While you're there, you will more than likely see many in the audience who are themselves members of one of our appointed and elected bodies.

Our City Attorney, Bill Hampton, who sits on many Boards himself and has had vast experience attending municipal meetings, is amazed at the interest and participation of Hills' Board and Commission members who attend meetings they are not required to attend.

**Visit a meeting soon, and see for yourself! It could be the start of something new!**

**City Commission Meeting** -- 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.  
**Planning Commission Meeting** -- 2nd Tuesday of each month at 4:00 p.m.  
**Zoning Board of Appeals** -- 3rd Tuesday of each month at 4:30 p.m.

Agendas are on line at [www.bloomfieldhillsmi.net](http://www.bloomfieldhillsmi.net).

# THIS OLD HOUSE

By: *City Commissioner Pat Hardy, Editor*

I wonder if I have always been a "Preservationist" without realizing it.

My husband reminded me that back in the late 70's, I was among those who came to the aid of **Thure Rosene**, the evicted caretaker of the old **Fish- Benedict House** on Woodward Avenue who waged a losing battle to keep it from demolition.



Photo by: Dave Bogart

More recently, during our City's 75th Anniversary last year, I, too, bemoaned the loss of the venerable 1920's **Fox and Hounds**. Simultaneously, 90 year-old Township resident, **Harry C. Walsh**, pointed out that we were on the brink of losing another valuable piece of our collective history, the **1832 Barton Farmhouse**.

At Harry's suggestion, I visited the Barton and saw a "Michigan basement," with its dirt floor and stone walls, for the first time. It was a kind of an awakening, and I asked builder and fellow **Commissioner Dave Kellett**, to see if he thought the Barton was worth saving. He agreed that we should try to save the authentic Greek Revival house because so few are left.

Recently sold to the **Mancini Development Company** by its owners, **Mary Barton Jolliffe** and her sister **Margaret Barton Van Dusen**, the house had an illustrious history. Their parents, **Constance and Carl O. Barton**, purchased it in 1937 from the **Hendrie Sisters** whose family was instrumental in establishing the **Open Hunt Club** in the 20's and many of Detroit's most notable land marks. Before that, it had been owned by the **Benjamin family** who purchased the land in the mid 1800's.

A first time meeting of the **City of Bloomfield Hills, Bloomfield Township, the Bloomfield Hills School District and the Bloomfield Historical Society (The 4 B's)** was held in October, an exploratory committee was formed, composed of two delegates from each entity—**Commissioner Dave Kellett** and myself from the City, **Township Supervisor Dave Payne** and **Trustee Leo Savoie** from the Township, School Board members, **David Lubin** and **Cynthia von Oeyen** from the School District and **President Pam Carmichael** and **John Marshall** from the Historical Society, and the wheels of "**Preservation Bloomfield**" were set in motion.

Resident **Sue Nine** agreed to spearhead a fund-raising campaign to move the Barton to the **Charles L. Bowers School Farm** with public donations, not tax dollars, but not until **U.S. Ambassador Yousif and Mara Ghafari, Michael and Elizabeth Kojaian** and **John and Terry Rakolta, Jr.** each pledged \$10,000 to the \$30,000 already promised by the **Barton Sisters** did raising the necessary \$225,000 actually seemed possible.

As more City residents came forward at that level—**David and Charlene Handleman, Donald and Jody Peterson, Robert and Julia Taubman** and **Tim and Terry Spiro--** and the **Barton Sisters** contributed another \$20,000, additional philosophical and monetary support came forth from **City, Township and residents of neighboring communities**, making it clear that the historic Barton Farmhouse could indeed be saved.

**The Committee to Save the Barton Farmhouse** staged several fund raisers, over 700 residents responded to appeal letters and personal requests with donations ranging from \$5 to \$10,000, and the goal was reached. **On Tuesday, July 15, 2008, the Barton Farmhouse was moved up Eastways and along Square Lake Road to its new location at 1219 East Square Lake Road, accompanied by a parade of many jubilant well-wishers. We owe every one who made this move possible a huge debt of gratitude!**

**Thank you for helping to preserve the Barton Farmhouse for generations to come!**

\*\*\*\*\*

*A special thank you to Eddie and Steve Mancini for giving us the time and encouragement to accomplish this project. We wish them much success with their development.*

## HEARTFELT GRATITUDE TO THE COMMITTEE!

When you see the following individuals of the Save the Barton Farmhouse Committee, chaired by Lisa Yamin\* and Judy Vindici,\* give them a pat on the back. Many have spent hours helping to make the Barton Farmhouse move a reality:

Judy Anderson\*  
Virginia Antakli  
Gail Barget  
Debbie Baylarian  
Ron Berndt  
Dave Bogart  
Andria Bojrab  
Nancy Boos  
Cindy Boudreau\*  
Kay Brophy  
Pam Budde  
Michael Carmichael  
Pam Carmichael  
Jeff Chappell  
Joan Cleland  
Mary Counihan\*  
Anita Dauch  
Sandy Dauch  
Robert Dempster  
Irma Elder  
Betsy Erikson\*  
Steve Gaynor  
Charlene Handleman\*  
Pat Hardy\*  
Kim Hickson  
Cyndi Isreal  
Patti Jessup\*  
Mary Barton Jolliffe  
Judy Kelliher  
Dave Kellett  
Mary Lou Kopmeyer\*  
Ann Kucera  
Dave Lanciault  
Vicki Lange  
David Lubin  
Sandy Mackle  
Shirley Maddelena\*  
Al Magnus  
Becky Magnus  
John Marshall  
Sue Nine\*  
Sandi Pape  
Dave Payne  
Bobbi Polk  
Jayne Sackrisson  
Nora Sanjian  
Leo Savoie  
Carol Shaya\*  
Julie Taubman  
Katie Valenti  
Margaret Barton Van Dusen  
Cynthia von Oeyen  
Harry Walsh  
Duffy Wineman\*  
Isabelle Yamin  
Joe Yamin  
Sam Yamin  
Bob Ziegelman  
Carol Zuzenak\*....

...and special thanks to Bill Hampton, Derk Beckerleg, Gene Ferrera from Frank Rewold & Son, Gene Hopkins and Tamara Burns from Hopkins-Burns, Amy Burton, Paul Nine, Tom Hardy, Hubbell, Roth & Clark, Comcast, AT&T and DTE for many favors rendered.

You are welcome to join this illustrious group at any time. They need you! Tell any one of them of your interest.

\* Designates Chairmanship of an event or project.

Bloomfield Hills Public Safety Department

# OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, September 28th, 2008 • 12p.m.-4p.m.



Rain or Shine



Enjoy some delicious popcorn



K-9 Demonstrations by  
Officer Reynolds and Doagain



Participate in "Live Fire Training"  
at the mock kitchen



Meet our Personnel

***"Don't Miss It!"***



Experience the "Smoke House"



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## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

**City Commission Meeting**  
**Tuesday, August 12, 2008**  
**Tuesday, September 9, 2008**  
**7:30 p.m.**

**Labor Day**  
**September 1, 2008**  
**City Hall Closed**

**Summer 2008 Property Taxes Due**  
**August 31, 2008**

**Household Hazardous**  
**Waste Collection**  
**September 17-20, 2008**