

# HILLS HIGHLIGHTS

Summer 2013 #84

## Mayor

Sarah McClure

## City Commissioners

Michael J Dul

Patricia A. Hardy, Mayor Pro-tem

Stuart Sherr

Michael T. Zambricki

## 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

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

## Appeals Meetings

Third Tuesday of every

month at 4:00 p.m.



## City's Financial Condition Is Strong *by Mayor Sarah McClure*

In 2012, the City of Bloomfield Hills had the second largest property value increase out of 52 communities in Oakland County. The City of Bloomfield Hills values went up 5.86%.

Some other municipalities: Birmingham +5.79%, Bloomfield Township +3.6%, Farmington Hills +1.08%, Orchard Lake -.6% and Rochester Hills +2.34%. The average increase for the entire County was a .65% increase. These numbers confirm the Master Plan strategy and other initiatives that we have all worked on over the years to maintain our distinctive nature and emphasize what we do best.

Although our property values have begun increasing, because of Proposition A and the Headlee Amendment, our taxable value can only go up by the lower of the inflation rate or 5%. For next year the allowable increase is about 1.6%. This is good for homeowners but it means municipal revenues do not benefit significantly when real estate improves.

The City of Bloomfield Hills staff and Commission recently completed the budget process for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013. The Commission voted to keep the millage rate at current levels. The City millage rate of 10.24 mills continues to be one of the lowest of all cities in Oakland County. Our millage is comprised of 9.85 mills for city operations and .39 mills for our Birmingham Library contract. For principal residence properties, your total millage from all entities is approximately 37-39 mills, depending upon the school district in which you reside.

When the economic crisis developed several years ago the Commission, City Manager Jay Cravens, and staff worked to find efficiencies and ways in which to do things differently. As mentioned in previous newsletters we instituted a new purchasing policy, reviewed consultants, froze wages for non-unionized personnel, and in a few situations hired part time employees to fill positions. We worked with our four unions to lower health care costs and try to reduce our long term pension and other post retirement liabilities. Our health care premiums are now more in line with the private sector and the new contracts have resulted in over \$170,000 in annual savings. Evaluating cost saving alternatives is ongoing but the Commission and City Administration will always work to maintain the level of service that our residents expect. *(Continued on Page 2)*

**Continued... Cities Financial Condition**

As the new fiscal year begins, the Commission will be working with Jay Cravens and staff to develop new goals and objectives for the year. One area that will be addressed is not only how aggressively do we repair and replace our City roads, but how do we pay for them. In the past few years the City has been using General Funds to keep replacing our roads, but we may be at the point where we will need to decide on additional bond financing and/or millage alternatives if we wish to continue. Each major road project such as Kensington south and Orchard Ridge north costs over \$1,000,000 to complete.

In preparation for these discussions, the engineering evaluation of all streets was completed last fall and the Commission has adopted a more intensive maintenance program that allows us to receive some grant money. In our community survey last year we asked residents if they would support a small millage increase to improve our roads. The result was evenly divided. The City Commission will need your input as we work to determine the best approach.

City beautification efforts are ongoing and are funded with private donations and grant money. The wonderful spring daffodils on the Woodward median were donated by the Bloomfield Hills Branch of the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association. Additional trees are being planted, not only on Woodward, but also on other City right of ways. It is important that the City and residents replenish and enhance the tree canopy that distinguishes our community.

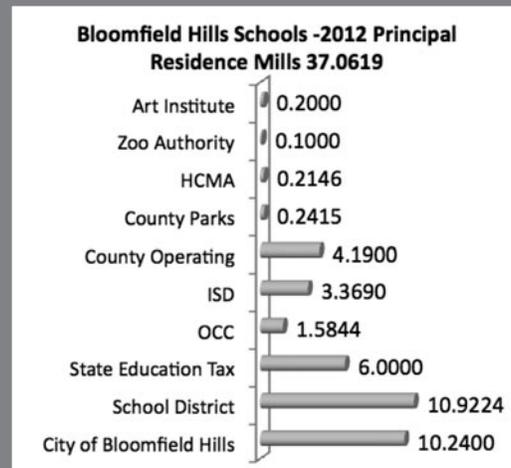
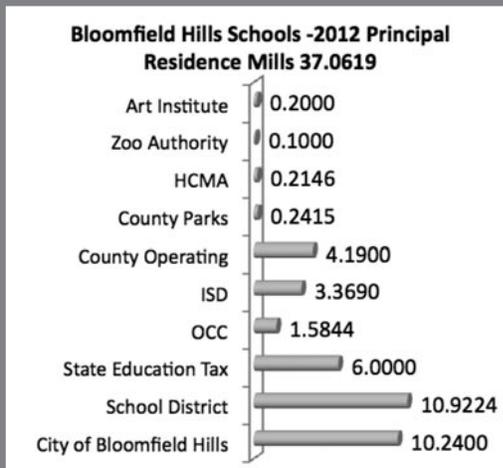
If you have suggestions for tree locations, please contact City Manager Jay Cravens.

Next November residents will be asked to vote on a number of City charter changes. Over the past few months City Clerk Amy Burton and our City attorney have suggested some revisions. These changes are primarily housekeeping type of changes. Additional information will be available over the next few months, but if anyone has questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the City offices.

In other City news; longtime employee Public Safety Chief Matott retired this April. We wish him well in this next phase of his life and thank him for his service to our community. We have just completed a search for a new Director of Public Safety. As public safety is of great importance to our residents, and the department comprises 50% of our \$8.9 million budget, it is critical that we find the right individual to lead this part of city operations. The Commission believes we have found that person in David Hendrickson. Captain Hendrickson was most recently the Commander of 6 Divisions for the City of Warren. He has extensive experience in administration and budgets, officer training, emergency services, and communications. Please welcome him to our community.

Please also welcome our new Finance Director Karen Ruddy, who joined us this winter. In particular I would like to thank her for stepping in and immediately working on our budget process. As I write this article she just notified the City Commission that Standard and Poors reaffirmed our AAA bond rating. That is good news for our City.

*These charts represent the total millage rate for properties that qualify for the principal residence exemption. Non-PRE properties would exclude the School Supplemental mills and replace with School Operating mills of 18.000.*





## Promises Made....Promises Kept

by Jay Cravens, City Manager

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For the past two years the City Commission, city staff and I have sat down to develop goals for the upcoming fiscal year.

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As we are fast approaching the end of the current fiscal year on June 30th, I thought I would take this opportunity to give you a status report on how the City fared in accomplishing its goals for 2012 – 2013. In May 2012, the City developed 18 goals to accomplish for the upcoming year. I am proud to say that at this point the City will complete all of these goals by the end of June with no carryover. Here is a list of the goals and comments related to their completion.

**GOAL:** *Develop a three-year road improvement plan, including a funding plan.*

**STATUS:** Completed. The City Commission adopted the City's first asset management plan for the city's roads in January 2013. Road improvement projects for future years will be based upon this asset management plan that was developed by our engineers at Hubbell, Roth and Clark. The asset management plan uses a State approved pavement surface evaluation system for measuring pavement condition. Results thus far show 98.6% of the roads are in fair condition and 67.6% are in good condition.

The intent of the asset management plan is to provide guidance for the ongoing process of maintaining, upgrading, and operating the City's roads more cost-effectively. Roads do not deteriorate uniformly, and by "catching" roads before they drop to a level where it is more expensive to rehabilitate, the City can extend the service life of a road. Providing rehabilitation such as crack sealing or patching on a good or fair road will extend the life of that road before it needs complete rehabilitation.

In June the City will proceed with the reconstruction of Orchard Ridge Road, between Vaughan road and Long Lake Road. Several local roads are also slated for area overlays and patching.

**GOAL:** *Complete a wage / salary benefit study analysis of our non-unionized staff.*

**STATUS:** Will be completed in June 2013. The City hired Municipal Consulting Services to review the wages and benefits of non-unionized staff (nine staff persons) to

determine whether or not their compensation was comparable to similar position in both the public and private sectors. With taxpayers being concerned about the costs of government increasing, the Commission wanted to make sure compensation was comparable to that being offered by the private sector and other communities of comparable size and characteristics.

**GOAL:** *Complete labor negotiations with the DPW employee and the Public Safety Officers by the end of 2012.*

**STATUS:** The labor negotiations with the DPW employees were completed in October 2012. The DPW employees agreed to lower pension benefits and are contributing to the health insurance costs. The Public Safety Officers contract was approved by their union in January 2013. Their union also agreed to a lower pension factor and the officers are also contributing to their health insurance costs.

**GOAL:** *Continue the tree / landscape enhancement program on city-owned properties.*

**STATUS:** Completed. The City added 41 new trees in the Woodward medians last fall. Trees that died as a result of winter or transplant shock are scheduled for replacement in the coming weeks. This program is solely funded through generous donations from city residents. City tax dollars are not being used for this program.

I should note the City is also installing about 70 trees in neighborhoods and along Woodward as part of a grant the City received from the Alliance for Rouge Communities called the Restoring Community Trees grant program. About half of these trees were installed last fall. The remaining trees are being installed in early June 2013.

**GOAL:** *Develop a program encouraging local businesses to make landscape improvements to their property as a means of beautifying the community.*

**STATUS:** Partially completed. We have had difficulty getting interest from non-residential property owners in this program.

**(Continued on Page 4)**

Under this beautification initiative about 30 non-residential property owners were offered landscape architectural design services at no cost, a list of prequalified landscapers that would provide competitive pricing for proposed landscape enhancements and as much as a 75 percent financial match to make the landscape enhancements. So far, only one non-residential property has expressed interest in participating. We will meet with them this summer as they would prefer to do the landscape enhancements this fall.

**GOAL:** *Develop a reporting system where residents can register maintenance problems.*

**STATUS:** Completed. A report form has been placed on the City's website ([www.bloomfieldhillsmi.net](http://www.bloomfieldhillsmi.net).) that resident can fill out with their inquiry. The completed form is then forwarded to the appropriate department or person to respond to the inquiry or resolve the problem. Resident inquiries can also be called in at the City's main telephone number: (248)644-1520.

**GOAL:** *Develop a new resident "Welcome" brochure.*

**STATUS:** Completed. An updated and more concise brochure was developed by Amy Burton our City Clerk and the City Commission. The new brochure provides potential new residents with accurate and precise information about Bloomfield Hills. Copies of the brochure are available at City Hall.

**GOAL:** *Determine whether or not to go to a "paperless" City Commission packet.*

**STATUS:** Mixed success. City Commissioners have traditionally received their City Commission meeting agenda packets in paper form. Typically this packet can be 100 – 175 pages in length. The cost of preparing the paper packets and delivering them has risen and going "paperless" has been tested. So far a few commissioners and I have gone "paperless". Fully implementing a "paperless" agenda may occur in the next year.

**GOAL:** *Update and expand the business license ordinance to include more business categories.*

**STATUS:** Completed. The City Commission adopted a new business license ordinance in January 2013. The new ordinance requires new businesses in the city to obtain a license. Existing businesses in the city, prior to the effective date of the ordinance are not required to obtain a license unless they change location. The license requirement provides the City with information about the location of businesses, the services they provide and who are the

business contacts.

**GOAL:** *Convert the City's accounting software to the BS&A accounting software package.*

**STATUS:** Partially completed. This goal will be completed in mid-June 2013. The BS&A accounting software will allow the City to fully integrate all BS&A municipal software used for assessing, building permits and accounting into a compatible system where all programs can share property and tax information.

**GOAL:** *Review the development review application process to see if there are opportunities to reduce review time periods and improve processes.*

**STATUS:** Completed. City staff met with our planning consultant, LSL Planning Inc. to review our develop review processes and determined the requirements of the City's natural features setback requirements needed to be improved and streamlined for residents. In the past any improvement in the natural features portion of a property would have to receive approval from the planning commission, which could result in unnecessary delays in home improvement projects. Now some improvements can be administratively approved by the City building official, saving the homeowner valuable time.

**GOAL:** *Amend the City Charter to remove language that is no longer permitted or outdated by State law.*

**STATUS:** Completed. The City Commission adopted a resolution in November 2012, to have several portions of the City's charter amended to remove outdated language no longer permitted by State law. Voters will be asked to accept these charter amendments on the November 5, 2013 general election ballot. (See Clerk's Corner for more information regarding these charter changes.)

**GOAL:** *Consider moving the City Commission election date to November.*

**STATUS:** Completed. The City Commission adopted a resolution in November 2012 to move the city commission election from May to November. This move now makes our local elections consistent with other communities throughout the state that have their municipal elections in November. Having the May election was more costly because the city commission election was usually the only item on the ballot, so we had to absorb the full cost of the election. On a November ballot, the election costs are shared by all entities that have an issue on the ballot.

**GOAL:** Reinstate the Public Safety Department's fire safety awareness program.

**STATUS:** Completed. This goal was incorporated into the following goal.

**GOAL:** Reinstate the Public Safety Department Open House.

**STATUS:** Completed. On September 8, 2012, the Public Safety Department held an open house to teach interested residents about fire safety and welcome them to their facility. Tours, hot dogs, soft drinks and safety demonstrations topped the program list. Approximately 175 – 200 people attended the event.

**GOAL:** Increase the number of printed newsletters from two to three annually, while increasing resident awareness of our e-newsletter.

**STATUS:** Completed. The City will have its third printed newsletter out to residents with this edition. For the past fiscal year, the City has also sent out four e-newsletters. If you are interested in signing up for the e-newsletter go to the following web address:  
[www.bloomfieldhillsmi.net/front\\_desk/mailing\\_list.php](http://www.bloomfieldhillsmi.net/front_desk/mailing_list.php).

**GOAL:** Work with our website developer to develop and implement strategies that will encourage residents to visit our site.

**STATUS:** Completed. The website was re-designed to allow for quicker access to City information. Residents will also see a more up to date appearance on the website that provides accurate and up to date information.

**GOAL:** Develop a Facebook presence for the City.

**STATUS:** Completed. The City Clerk launched our Facebook page in December 2012. We intend to use the page as a means of communicating information that needs to be shared with residents and “friends” quickly and with short notice. Two employees handle the page to assure postings and conversations are consistent in their content to the public.

As you can see the City has been very successful in accomplishing its goals for the past fiscal year. The City Commission is looking to developing new goals in June for the 2013 – 2014 fiscal year. If there is a goal you think the City should consider, feel free to contact me at the e-mail address provided above.

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

This will be my first newsletter, since becoming the City's new Finance Director and Treasurer on February 14th. My first priority was preparing and presenting the 2013-2014 budget, which was approved by the City Commission on May 1st. My experience at Bloomfield Hills has been a positive one and I have enjoyed working with the current staff; who shares my belief in providing excellent customer service. I am looking forward to many years of serving the residents and businesses of this beautiful community.

### PROPERTY TAXES

We are preparing for the 2013 summer tax season. Property owners should expect to receive their tax bill by July 1st. Summer taxes are due without penalty by August 31, 2013.

**Credit Card Payments** will be accepted on-line for property taxes. There is a fee for this service, which is charged by the credit card agency; not the City. Go to

[www.PayLocalTaxes.com](http://www.PayLocalTaxes.com). You will need your 10-digit tax I.D. number, beginning with “19”.

**After-hour Payments** can be deposited in the decorative drop box conveniently located in the lobby of the Public Safety building. The drop box is accessible evenings, weekends and holidays, so please feel free to drop off your tax payment at your convenience. We do as that you do not place overdue tax bills or cash in the drop box.

### PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE EXEMPTION AFFIDAVITS

The original deadline has been pushed back and a second filing deadline has been instituted.

- Winter tax levy file by June 1st (previously May 1st)
- Summer tax levy file by November 1st

Principal Residence Exemption as well as Property Transfer Affidavits can be dropped off at the Treasurer's Office at City Hall.



## Chief Mattot Retires

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It's official. At the March 12 meeting of the City Commission, Chief Rick Matott's resignation as Director of Public Safety was accepted, and his last day with the city was on Tuesday, April 30.

Rick Matott was offered the position as Chief in 2005, when the City Commission consisted of Mike Zambricki, Mayor, and Commissioners John Davey, Dale Dawkins, Pat Hardy and Robert Toohy. His long history with the city, beginning with his first employment as a dispatcher in November of 1982, and his reputation as an honest, industrious, highly focused individual with strong leadership skills, made him a very wise choice.

Best of luck Chief! We hope you have long, healthy and happy retirement. We appreciate your 31 years of service to Bloomfield Hills.

## City Welcomes David Hendrickson

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Following the recent retirement of Richard J. Matott as Public Safety Director, the City conducted a search for his replacement. The City is pleased to announce the recent hiring of David S. Hendrickson as our new Public Safety Director. David began work with the City on June 3, 2013.

Prior to his hiring at Bloomfield Hills, David was a 26 year member of the City of Warren Police Department, where he was an administrative captain. His supervisors and subordinates at Warren have indicated that he is known for his excellent work ethic and quality of work. He was also noted for his leadership and team building skills.

David received two associate degrees from Macomb Community College and a bachelor degree from Indiana University. He also successfully completed Northwestern University's Police Staff and Command School in 2009.

David resides in Macomb Township with his wife and three teenage children. Please welcome David to our community and feel free to contact him about matters regarding public safety at (248)644-1420 or [dhendrickson@bloomfieldhillsmi.net](mailto:dhendrickson@bloomfieldhillsmi.net).





# Recent Commission Activities

*by Commissioner Stuart Sherr*

Hello All! Much has happened since my last newsletter to you. Most salient, we approved a budget for the upcoming fiscal year (July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014) and we appointed a new Director of Public Safety, David Hendrickson, to replace the recently retired former Director, Richard Matott.

These two issues – the City’s financial health and the safety of you and your property – together with preserving our City’s character and quality of life are, in my opinion, the three most important issues in running our City government.

The state of our City’s financial health is good. Total budgeted revenue for 2014 is \$15,187,675 vs. \$14,819,281 in 2013 or an increase of 2.5%. Total budgeted expenditures for 2014 are \$14,637,445 vs. \$15,144,754 in 2013 or a decrease of \$507,309. The City’s General Fund Budget (the City’s largest fund and primary operating fund which accounts for all financial resources of the government) is projected to have total revenue of \$8,798,066 and total expenditures of \$8,909,869 for a decrease in the fund balance for 2014 of \$111,803 vs. an estimated decrease in 2013 of \$527,910. Net assets (the excess of total assets less total liabilities) were \$21,458,804 for 2012 vs. \$20,105,219 for 2011, an increase of \$1,353,585 or 6.7%.

Part of these results is attributable to an increase (the first in five years) in property taxes due to an increase in the taxable value of real estate and in the millage now set at 10.24. This rate is still among the lowest in all of Oakland County. Meantime, we have been able to continue our road and infrastructure maintenance and improvement programs. The most significant project for 2013 will be an approximate \$1M improvement for Orchard Ridge Road.

Personally, I believe in balanced budgets. In other words, I believe in not spending more money than we receive in any given year. Thus, I believe we have more work to do. One area in which I would like to see improvements made is in our entitlement expense and legacy costs. There is a current trend

among all levels of government (federal, state, and local) across the U.S. to reduce these costs. Another area for potential savings is to combine certain of our services with other municipalities. This is a common practice among municipalities, and I am willing to consider this provided there is no diminution in services to our residents.

Regarding our new Director of Public Safety, he is well-qualified in terms of intelligence, experience, motivation, and leadership. Certain changes needed to be made in our Public Safety department, and your Commission believed Mr.

Hendrickson would be the best agent for such change. Although he was not my first choice, he has my full support and I trust he will ensure the safety and security of all of our residents and their property.

In closing, your City Commission and administrative staff are working hard to keep our City running smoothly. We remain one of the most beautiful and desirable communities in the entire state. We have an excellent quality of life and are continuing with our beautification efforts with the assistance of community volunteers. I encourage you to get involved. Indeed, ask what you can do for your City.



# Clerk's Corner

by Amy L. Burton, City Clerk



# 2013 Election Calendar

November 5, 2013– City General Election

## CHANGES TO CITY CHARTER ON NOVEMBER BALLOT

One of the staff goals for the 2012 – 2013 fiscal year was to update outdated sections of the city charter. Working with our city attorney, we identified several sections of the city charter that should be updated to reflect current practices and in some instances changes in state law. On November 5th, in addition to the election of three city commissioners, voters will also be asked to vote on four proposed amendments to the city charter. The ballot questions in summary are:

👁 **Proposition A:** A proposed amendment that provides for a commissioner's term of office to commence on the first Tuesday after the city commissioner's election, to conform with the calendar of regular city commission meetings.

👁 **Proposition B:** A proposed amendment to change the day for conducting the commission's organizational meeting, from the first Monday, to the first Tuesday after the election to conform with the calendar of regular commission meetings.

👁 **Proposition C:** A proposed amendment to authorize the commission to implement the conflict of interest provision by adopting a resolution or an ordinance.

👁 **Proposition D:** A proposed amendment to change the deadline date for the commission to prepare an annual budget, from the 10th day in May, to the second Tuesday in May to conform with the calendar of regular commission meetings.

## CHECK OUT THE NEW FEATURES ON OUR WEBSITE

Our goal is to offer as many resources as possible on the city website. As with all city services, we welcome your feedback and suggestions. Here are just a few of the new functions we now offer online at [www.bloomfieldhillsmi.net](http://www.bloomfieldhillsmi.net):

- Historical minutes from the City Commission, Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals. All the minutes online are fully searchable by keyword or phrase, some minutes go back to the year the city was incorporated - 1932!
- E- Notify: Citizens can subscribe to certain pages on our website to be notified by email when new information is added to the site.
- Citizen Request Form: If you see a down tree on Chesterfield Rd. or if you notice a street light out on Woodward Avenue, you can submit a citizen request form online. Just select the topic and your concern will be emailed directly to the appropriate department to follow up.

If you have any questions with regard to the city website, I'd be happy to talk with you. I can be reached via email at [aburton@bloomfieldhillsmi.net](mailto:aburton@bloomfieldhillsmi.net) or directly at (248) 530-1403.

## COME JOIN THE BLOOMFIELD HILLS ELECTION TEAM!

The City of Bloomfield Hills is always accepting applications for election inspectors. Qualified election inspectors must (1) be a registered voter in Michigan (2) declare a political party affiliation and (3) attend one training session before Election Day. Election inspectors are compensated for their work. Applications are available on the City's website at [www.bloomfieldhillsmi.net](http://www.bloomfieldhillsmi.net). For more information call the City Clerk's Office at (248) 530-1403.



# The Baldwin Library— A Good Place To Be

by *Commissioner Pat Hardy*

As the City’s liaison to the Baldwin Library Board Meetings, I have good news...more and more City residents are enjoying their membership at the Baldwin Library! To date, over 860 residents have acquired a library card, and usage last month alone was over 1700 items. How great is that!?!?

Not only are increasing numbers of residents using the library, some are helping as volunteers. Sandra Shoshani, for example, started as a volunteer in Circulation in late January. She recently wrote: “It is a lot of fun for me (nice to see so many people of all ages again), and I learn something every time I work. I feel as if I’m giving back to an institution that took a chance on allowing us in. I am looking forward to the expansion/renovation of the library. I have already seen changes that are nice.”

Maida Portnoy, another committed volunteer, has enjoyed serving as the City’s representative on the Friends Board of the Library. Always enthusiastic, she plunges in to support book sales and other events such as Books and Bites, an annual fund raiser. If you’ve never attended this event, mark your calendar now for Thursday, November 21 to experience the joyful sense of community the Baldwin inspires.

“A great way to stay connected to what’s happening at the Baldwin each month,” says Assistant Director, Matt Church, “is to subscribe to one or all of the five monthly email newsletters available (Summary, Adult, Youth, Teen & Board).” Check them out at [www.baldwinlib.org/enews](http://www.baldwinlib.org/enews). Another excellent means of knowing about the exciting events taking place is to read your own hard copy of Books & Beyond, mailed to you each month.

Matt also recommended checking the following sites: Freegal: downloadable music from Baldwin—3 songs per week per cardholder at [www.baldwinlib.org/music](http://www.baldwinlib.org/music), and Zinio, a new downloadable magazine source, accessing over 100 magazine titles available for your mobile device or computer at [www.baldwinlib.org/emagazines](http://www.baldwinlib.org/emagazines). NOTE: No due dates!! They can be yours forever!!

Perhaps one of the most exceptional services offered by Baldwin is Homebound Delivery. It is gratifying to know that books (in regular or large type), magazines, DVD videos and audiobooks can be mailed to our residents who may have trouble getting to the library. Personal

attention is too often a rarity in this overly automated world, but not at the Baldwin. To enroll or ask for more information, simply call the Adult Services Desk at 248-554-4650.

No matter how great things may be at the Library, they can always be better. If you have an idea to improve service, or ways to further boost our numbers, please pass them on to me, or to Library Director Doug Koshik or Assistant Director Matt Church. They really care about your ideas, as do I, since it is clear that our relationship with the Baldwin Library has unquestionably enriched our community.



**6 WORDS ON 6 TOPICS**

In only 6 words, tell your story on these 6 topics:

- Birmingham
- Bloomfield Hills
- Baldwin
- Beverly Hills
- Bingham Farms
- Books



Submit by:

- Going to: <http://www.baldwinlib.org/6x6>
- Tweeting @baldwinlib with the hashtag #6x6
- Picking up a form at the library

Last day to submit: July 15, 2013

**Tell the Story of Your Community**



Baldwin Public Library  
300 W. Merrill St. 248-647-1700  
Birmingham, MI 48009 [www.baldwinlib.org](http://www.baldwinlib.org)

# A Guide to Selecting a Lawn Service for Watershed Protection



The Michigan Green Industry Association (MGIA) offers an endorsement program for lawn care professionals interested in offering an alternative lawn care program to their customers. Program components include:

Rain and melting snow carry small amounts of oil, grease, soil, debris, and other pollutants to rivers, lakes, and wetlands. Lawn fertilizer and pesticides are major sources of pollution in our rivers and lakes.

- On-site consultation – to address customer needs
- Earth-friendly fertilizers:
  - Low or no phosphorus
  - 50% or more of the nitrogen in slow release form
- Fertilizer quantities of 2, 3, or 4 pounds per 1,000 square feet, applied over the growing season
- Zero pesticides, spot treatment, or one-time rescue operation
- Recommendations to the customer on mowing and watering practices
- Fertilizer-free buffer zones along waterways

Participating lawn care companies typically offer the “Healthy Lawn Care Program” as an option for their customers. For a list of endorsed companies, visit [www.landscape.org](http://www.landscape.org), or contact MGIA at: (248) 646-4992.

## What Can You Do To Be ‘Phosphorus Smart’?

Phosphorus (P) is a nutrient that stimulates plant growth. When it rains, storm water can carry phosphorus-containing materials into lakes and streams, which can result in excessive algal growth, decreased water quality and harm to aquatic life.

**Don’t guess, soil test.** The Michigan State University Extension – Oakland County (MSU-E) office can help with your soil test. Contact MSU-E at: (248) 858-5198, [bhaktab@oakgov.com](mailto:bhaktab@oakgov.com).

**Fertilize smartly.** Most lawns don’t require Phosphorus fertilizer. Use zero-Phosphorus fertilizers unless a soil test shows need.

**Sweep fertilizers off sidewalks and driveways.** If you hire a contractor for your lawn care services, encourage your contractor to leave all fertilizers on your lawn.

**Maintain a dense lawn or other vegetation to reduce water runoff.** Maintaining a mowing height of 3 inches encourages root growth. Applying compost throughout the year can also promote strong, healthy roots and lush vegetation.

**Minimize storm water runoff from your property.** Redirect downspouts away from hard, paved surfaces into vegetated areas, such as a rain garden or into a rain barrel for later use.

**Keep leaves and other debris out of your drainage swales.** Decaying leaves and lawn debris contain high amounts of phosphorus. Stockpile all materials away from your drainage ditches and swales. Better yet – mulch your leaves into the lawn.

**Be Phosphorus Smart!**

A decorative graphic consisting of a thick, wavy, horizontal line that resembles a stylized wave or a series of connected loops. It is positioned below the text 'Be Phosphorus Smart!'.

# Bloomfield Hills Highlights Also Available Electronically

In an effort to reduce expenditures the City will be limiting the publication of the Hills Highlights in print form. Printed versions of the City's newsletter will be printed in the early summer, early fall and winter.

In 2010, the City launched an electronic version of the Hills Highlights. The electronic version of Hills Highlights will be available about six times a year. For those interested in subscribing please visit the Bloomfield Hills website at:

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

The process only takes a minute to sign up.



## 2013 Bloomfield Hills City Commission

Sarah H. McClure, Mayor  
Michael J. Dul, Commissioner  
Patricia A Hardy, Mayor Pro-tem  
Stuart Sherr, Commissioner  
Michael T. Zambricki, Commissioner

### CITY STAFF

Jay W. Cravens, City Manager  
E-mail: [manager@bloomfieldhillsmi.net](mailto:manager@bloomfieldhillsmi.net)  
Amy L. Burton, City Clerk  
Richard J. Matott, Director of Public Safety  
Larry Rospierski, Building Official  
Jamie Spivy, DPW Foreman

### EMERGENCY

Police, Fire, Medical 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

### CITY SERVICES

Animal Control (248)644-4200  
Building & Permit Info.(248)530-1400  
Building Inspection Line (248)593-9350

## Where to Get Answers

Code Enforcement (248)530-1410  
Fire Marshall (248)530-1409  
Library Service (248)647-1700  
(Baldwin Public Library)  
Planning & Zoning Information (248)530-1404  
Police Services (Non-emergency) (248)644-4200  
Property / Assessing Information (248)858-0084  
(Oakland County)  
Sanitary Sewer Service & Billing (248)356-6299  
(Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner)  
Street Maintenance (248)203-0621 or (248)530-1404  
Voting Information (248)530-1403  
Water Service & Billing (Oakland County W.R.C.)  
(248)858-1110 (hrs.- 7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.)  
Water & Sewer Line Repair (Oakland County W.R.C.)  
(248)858-0487 (hrs.- 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 Cranbrook Educational Community  
(248)645-3000  
DTE Energy (Customer Services & Emergencies)  
(800)477-4747  
Haven (Domestic Violence) (248)334-1274  
(or Toll Free) (877)922-1274  
Oakland County (248)858-1000  
Oakland County Assessor (248)858-0084  
Oakland County Health Department (248)858-1280  
Oakland County Clerk/Register of Deeds  
(248)858-0561  
Oakland County Treasurer (248)858-0611  
Oakland Water Resources Commission  
Main: (248)356-6299 Emergencies: (248)624-6366  
Road Commission for Oakland County  
(877)858-4804 weekday hours: 7:30 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.  
After hours & weekends call - (248)858-4895  
U.S. Post Office - 2050 South Boulevard  
(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

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