

SPRING NEWSLETTER

EDITION



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Catherine Shaughnessy Township Clerk



Catherine Shaughnessy
Clerk



Gubernatorial Election

HOW DO I

REGISTER TO VOTE?

Registrations are taken at the Clerk's Office during regular business hours. You may also register to vote at any Secretary of State Office in Michigan. The Clerk's Office is open on the second Wednesday of every month until 7:00 p.m. (Passports may be obtained until 6:30 p.m. ONLY on Wednesday).

Passport Day

In the U.S.A. 2010

Date: Sat. March 27, 2010

Time: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Where:

West Bloomfield

Township Hall

Clerk's Office

2010 ELECTION DATES

Primary Election

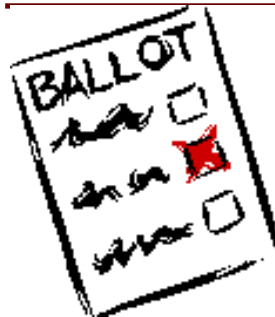
Tuesday, August 3, 2010

General Election

Tuesday,

November 2, 2010

HOW DO I RECEIVE AN ABSENTEE BALLOT?



You can obtain an application for absentee ballot [online](#) **link* or by either calling or coming into your Clerk's Office prior to an election. Voters 60 years of age and over are automatically sent applications for absentee ballots 75 days prior to the election. Applications must be signed and returned for every election before a ballot will be sent. The Clerk's Office will be open the Saturday prior to each election [until 2:00 p.m.] for anyone wishing to receive an absentee ballot.

IMPORTANT DATES

Clerks's Office Open Till 7:00 p.m. 2nd Wednesday of each month

Passport Day: Clerk's Office Open Saturday, March 27 10:00-3:00

Last Day to Register for August Primary - July 6, 2010

August Primary Election - August 3, 2010

Last Day to Register for November General Election—October 4, 2010

General Election - November 2, 2010



WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

CLERK'S OFFICE



Spring Fire Safety Checklist



Use this checklist to determine if you and your home are fire safe. Every unchecked box points to a fire hazard. Contact the West Bloomfield Fire Department if you have any questions about fire safety.

Yard & Garage Fire Safety

- Yards are cleared of leaves, debris and combustible rubbish
- Gasoline for use in power equipment is stored in a tightly sealed metal safety type can with self-closing caps
- Garages attached to the house are separated by a tight fitting door which is kept closed
- Have a fire extinguisher in your garage
- Barbeque grill is safely located away from home, tall vegetation, windows, ventilation units and not under decks or overhangs

Housekeeping Fire Safety

- Basements, closets and attics are cleared of old rags, papers, mattresses, broken furniture and other combustibles
- Oily rags or polishing cloths are placed in covered metal containers
- Paint & varnish are stored in tightly sealed containers away from sources of heat
- Matches are kept out of reach of children
- Cleaning products are in original labeled containers

Smoke Alarms

- Smoke alarms are checked and kept clean
- Smoke alarm batteries are changed at least every 6 months
- Smoke alarms are installed on every floor & outside of all bedrooms

Kitchen Fire Safety

- Short or tight fitting sleeves are worn during cooking as loose sleeves could catch fire easily
- A tight fitting lid is kept nearby so it can be used to cover a pot if it ignites
- No food is left unattended while cooking
- Paper and cloth materials are kept away from heat sources
- Pot handles are turned inward to prevent them from getting bumped or grabbed by children
- Children are never held while an adult is cooking
- Exhaust filters are checked for dirt and grease build up regularly.
- Microwave safe dishes are always used in the microwave & metal is never used
- Grease & food are cleaned off of the stove or oven after every use
- Have a fire extinguisher in Kitchen

General Fire Safety

- Have a fire extinguisher on each floor of your home, including garage
- Outlets and electrical cords have been checked to make sure they are safe
- Have an emergency exit plan and a predetermined meeting place
- Have held a home fire drill



**Be ready in 2010 - Are you CPR certified?
- Call for class information today -
West Bloomfield Fire Department : 248-409-1505**



OAKLAND COUNTY HOMEBUYER PROGRAM

If you have ever thought about purchasing your own home, now is the time to act. The Oakland County Homebuyer Program has received federal stimulus funds to help qualified homebuyers purchase and improve vacant and foreclosed properties. The Program is designed to help low income families with good credit and a steady income purchase a home as their primary residence.



Eligible homebuyers must have:

- incomes at or below 50% of Area Median Income (AMI). For example, a family of four earning up to \$35,500 per year is eligible.
- a credit score of 620 or better. Oakland County will obtain credit reports for completed applications at no cost to the applicant.
- sustained income with a two year history
- lawful residence in the United States, and
- no history of bankruptcy or foreclosure within the last 36 months.

Applicants can obtain a *Homebuyer Screening Form* by visiting the Oakland County Community & Home Improvement Division (OCCHI) website at www.oakgov.com/chi or by calling 248-858-1529. Applications are processed on a first come, first served basis.

Oakland County will provide no-interest deferred payment loans for down payment assistance, closing costs, home improvements or other financing. The homebuyer must prequalify for a fixed rate mortgage loan from a lending institution for 51% of the purchase price. Oakland County will finance the remaining 49% of the purchase and rehabilitation costs up to \$100,000. The homebuyer must also provide \$1,000 to initiate the purchase. The homebuyer only pays on the conventional mortgage obtained from their lender. Payment on the down payment and home improvement loans is deferred until the property changes ownership or the property is not the primary residence.

Funding for the Oakland County Homebuyer Program is provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP). This one-time emergency funding allows homebuyers to purchase vacant foreclosed homes at a discount, renovate the homes to stabilize neighborhoods impacted by foreclosure and reverse the decline of housing values.

The Oakland County Home Buyer Program covers properties in 43 select Oakland County communities. **For more information and to obtain a *Homebuyer Screening Form*, visit the Oakland County Community & Home Improvement website at www.oakgov.com/chi or call 248-858-1529.**

This outstanding homebuyer program is designed to help you afford your dream of homeownership. We encourage you to consider buying and improving a vacant foreclosed property through the Oakland County Homebuyer Program.

Newsletter Article Spring 2010

What are the most important issues facing West Bloomfield Township today?

Take a minute to tell us what you think!

As part of the Master Plan update that was initiated in late 2009, a public opinion survey has been developed to obtain input from residents, business operators, land owners, and anyone interested in the future development of West Bloomfield. The survey asks for opinions on issues dealing with the quality of life, land use, neighborhoods, environment, economic development and transportation in the Township. The survey, which will be available throughout February and March, is available on Survey Monkey (<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/westbloomfieldmasterplanupdatepublicopinionsurvey>) and the Township's website www.wbtwp.com. The survey will also be available at Town Hall, the Parks and Recreation Activities Center, the Library, and Police Department.



Stay tuned for more updates on the Master Plan update! You can find out more information about the Master Plan at the Township's website www.wbtwp.com under the Planning Division of the Community Development Department. Questions and comments regarding the plan can be directed to Sara Roediger, Township Planner at s_roediger@wbtwp.com or 248-451-4828.



FEBRUARY 16, 2010: PRESS RELEASE
Single Waste & Recycling Hauler
Richfield Equities, LLC

As you may have read or heard, the West Bloomfield Township Board on December 7, 2009 approved a five (5) year single waste and recycling hauler contract with Richfield Equities, LLC. The effective date of this contract is 4/5/2010.

The approval of a single waste and recycling hauler means that all single family residential properties will be required to contract with Richfield Equities, LLC., for trash, recycling, yard waste and/or bulk item collection starting 4/5/2010. This includes properties located within Condominium/Subdivision Associations so long as waste, yard waste and/or recycling is collected curbside.

Under the new single waste and recycling hauler system, residents will receive unlimited trash, recycling and yard waste collection and disposal as well as unlimited bulk item collection (i.e. furniture and appliances).

Residents will now have access to the “Rewards for Recycling Program” which provides residents with valuable coupons and gift cards to local stores and shops for placing recycling materials at the curb. Over the last year, this program has increased participation by 70% and increased volumes by 250%.

The new single waste and recycling hauler system provides necessary funding for residents to continue to be able to disposal of household chemicals and toxic materials at the two Household Hazardous Waste Events. Other new contract elements include a senior citizen discount of \$1 per month, the option to stop service for extended absences/vacations at no cost and door service for residents that are unable to place trash and recycling at the street curb for collection.

I would encourage residents to visit our website for additional information.

[HTTP://WWW.WBTWP.COM](http://www.wbtwp.com)

SINGLE WASTE HAULER : FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is my trash hauler?

As of 5 April 2010, Richfield Equities, LLC will be the single hauler for the entire township.

I'm new to the Township, how do I sign up for waste and recycling services?

Residents should contact Richfield Equities, LLC directly at (877) 609-6753.

Do I have to switch to a single hauler?

Yes. On 7 December 2009, the Township Board approved Richfield Equities, LLC as the single hauler to provide trash, recycling and yard waste pick-up service for the entire township.

Residents will be required to switch to Richfield Equities, LLC beginning 5 April 2010 for curbside waste and recycling service.

I live in a condominium development, will I have curbside waste and recycling service or will I be required to place waste in the appropriate waste container.

Residential properties within attached and detached condominium associations will be required to switch to Richfield Equities beginning 5 April 2010 for curbside waste and recycling service and must place their garbage at the curb for collection.

Who do I make payments to for the waste and recycling services?

Residents will be billed by and directly pay Richfield Equities, LLC for service. Questions regarding billing should be directed to Richfield at 1606 Webster Road; Flint, MI 48505; (877) 609-6753.

What is the scheduled pick-up day for my area?

Please refer to the [route map](#) or call the Development Services Department at (248) 451-4842.

Where do I get a recycle bin?

Recycle bins may be obtained at Town Hall located at 4550 Walnut Lake Road. Residents can also purchase larger carts directly from Richfield Equities, LLC at established contract prices. Please refer to the [price sheet](#).

If I already paid Allied Waste or other hauler for the entire year, do I have to switch to Richfield Equities, LLC?

No. Residents may continue their service with Allied Waste or other hauler for the remainder of their service contract. However, they will not be able to renew their service with Allied Waste once that contract is expired.

How do I get reimbursed if I paid the annual fee to Allied Waste or other hauler?

If the hauler elects to not honor an existing contract term, the residents' current hauler will be required to provide a pro-rated refund to the homeowner for any services beyond the 04/05/2010 deadline.

To assist with the refund issue, the Township will be collecting funds from haulers operating within the township from 04/05/2010 to the end of the existing contract term. These funds will not be returned to the haulers until the residents have switched and received their pro-rated refund (if applicable.)

When is the next Hazardous Waste Day?

April 30, 2010 by appointment only. Call 248-451-4834 to set up an appointment.

May 1, 2010 ~ 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at West Bloomfield High School located on Orchard Lake Road between Lone Pine and Walnut Lake Road.

Do I need to call for a special pick-up for big items (i.e., refrigerator, furniture, etc)?

No. Items may be placed at the curb for pick-up on the scheduled pick-up day.

Are there limits on the amount of trash, recycling and yard waste placed at the curb?

No. There are no limits on the amount of trash, recycling and yard waste that may be placed at the curb.

Is there special assistance for those that cannot physically place the trash, recycling and yard waste at the curb for collection?

Yes. Residents unable to place trash, recycling and yard waste at the curb should contact Richfield Equities, LLC at (877) 609-6753 to set up a special service at no increase in price. The service is available to handicapped and disabled residents only.

Is there a Senior Citizen discount?

Yes. Residents at least 65 years of age qualify for a discount of \$1 per month of service.

Is there a discount if payment is made in full for the entire year?

No. All discounts are already included in the pricing.

If I leave the Township for an extended period of time, do I have to pay for service during my absence?

No. Residents may temporarily discontinue service at no cost for up to six (6) months per year. Residents must contact Richfield Equities, LLC at (877) 609-6753 at least one (1) month prior to the extended absence to request temporary discontinuance of service for a specific period. Residents must also contact Richfield Equities, LLC at (877) 609-6753 to resume service.

If I temporarily discontinue service and I prepaid for the entire year, do I receive a credit for the time of absence?

Yes.

Do vacant properties have to pay for service?

No. Vacant properties are not required to pay for services so long as the property is [registered as vacant per Township ordinance](#). Contact the Development Services Department for more information regarding registering vacant properties.

What is “Rewards for Recycling (R4R)”?

[R4R](#) is an affinity recycling program that provides residents gift cards and coupons to local and national restaurant and stores for recycling of home. Residents should contact Richfield Equities, LLC at (877) 609-6753 or visit the website www.richfield-mgt.com to sign up.

Why did the Township switch to a single hauler system?

The reasons for moving to a single hauler system are to address the existing deficiencies within the waste and recycling system as follows:

1. A high volume of heavy truck traffic caused by multiple service providers working within the same neighborhoods which results in excessive wear impacts to roads within the Township.
2. Multiple haulers results in impacts to neighborhood quality, as trash is set out for collection several days a week.
3. Low recycling and diversion rates.
4. Encourage higher recycling participation.
5. Limited access to an affinity based recycling program, which rewards recyclers with gift cards and coupons to area restaurants and merchants.
6. Inequitable cost structure that resulted in only a limited number of residents and haulers paying for the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program, system management and other service costs.
7. Lack of reliable and accurate waste generation and recovery data.

The Development Services Department will be implementing a public outreach campaign shortly to communicate the change and the reasons for the change to residents.

Charter Township of West Bloomfield

Water & Sewer Department
2400 Haggerty Road
West Bloomfield, Michigan 48323
(248) 451-4780 Fax (248) 624-7435
Ed Haapala, Director
Email: e_haapala@wbtp.com

2010 SPRING NEWSLETTER



The West Bloomfield Water and Sewer Department asks for cooperation in assisting to keep your annual water rate increases held to minimum by changing the times you sprinkle your lawns. The City of Detroit establishes its wholesale water rate to our community based on three criteria: Distance from water plants, elevation of our community from water plants, and peaking factors. Since we are one of the furthest communities from Detroit and our elevation is relatively high, it requires a great deal of energy and chemicals to pump clean drinking water through miles of large mains and reservoirs to ultimately reach our community.

Typically in the summer time, during the hottest months of July or August, when Detroit's water plants peak at pumping the most amount of water in a given hour, this one-hour window establishes our community's peak hour demand. This is usually somewhere between the hours of 7am and 9am. During the hours of 6am to 10am we observe a tremendous amount of lawn sprinkling occurring throughout the Township. This situation does not help us when new water rates are established for the upcoming year.

The City of Detroit has provided an exempt period for peak hour water usage between the hours of 11:00pm to 5:00am. This means that our community can consume as much water as necessary during this specific timeframe.

Your Water and Sewer Department, in an effort to reduce water usage during peak hour times, and to assist in lowering water rates paid to the City of Detroit, strongly urges you to shift your sprinkling time to the exempt period between 11:00pm and 5:00am on your automatic, programmable underground sprinkler system. Again, your sprinkling systems should strictly operate during non-peak hours between 11:00pm and 5:00am.

If there should be any questions or concerns with regards to this request, please contact me at your earliest convenience at 248.451.4785 or send me an email at e_haapala@wbtp.com.