



Summer NEWSLETTER

West Bloomfield Township Clerk's Office

Catherine Shaughnessy Township Clerk



The last day to register for the August 3 election is July 6. 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.

Township Hours ~ Clerk's Office

Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Furlough Days Township Closed

May 28, June 18

Other qualifications for requesting a ballot are: Unable to vote without assistance at the polls, expecting to be out of town on election day, jail awaiting arraignment or trial, unable to attend the polls due to religious reasons, or appointed to work as an election inspector in a precinct outside of your precinct of residence.



Absentee applications can be requested up to 75 days before an election. If you would like an absentee ballot, you can call the Clerk's Office (248-451-4848) to have an application mailed to you.

If you prefer, you can request an absentee application via fax (248-682-3788) or email at wbelections@wbtp.com. The absentee application form can also be downloaded in the Clerk's section of the West Bloomfield website: www.wbtp.com. The Absentee Ballot Application can be returned by mail, fax, or delivered to the Clerk's Office as stated on the bottom of the application form. You can also use the Township Drop Boxes (next to the Postal Box at Town Hall) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Those who qualify and have asked to be on our "permanent" absent voter list will be mailed an application for absentee ballot 75 days before an election. Qualifications for permanent status include those 60 and older and those who are disabled.

Clerk Cathy's Corner

You won't want to miss

"The Orchard Lake Fine Art Show"

July 30 – August 1

DALY/POWERS ROAD IN

WEST BLOOMFIELD

NEW !!!

West Bloomfield Clerk's Office will be using **ELECTRONIC POLL BOOKS** in all of our precincts for the August 3 Primary and the November 2 General Election.



The DRAFT Master Plan is Ready for Your Review!

West Bloomfield will continue to be a highly sought after environmentally- and entrepreneurially-friendly timeless community; providing an exceptional quality of life with safe neighborhoods and desirable schools, award winning services, abundant leisure opportunities, diverse businesses and world class healthcare

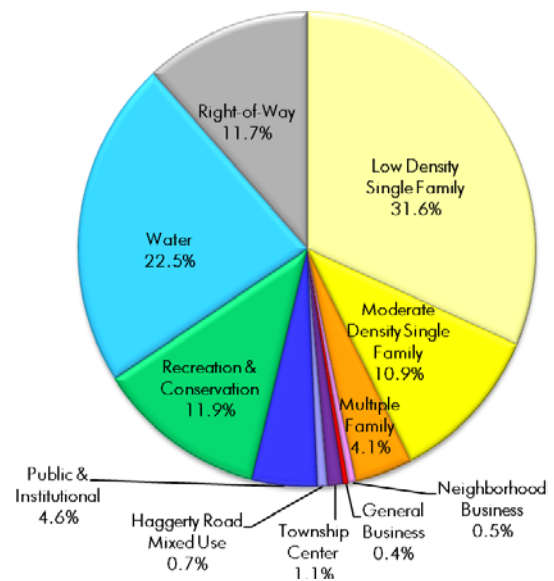
A draft Master Plan has been prepared, which includes the above draft vision for West Bloomfield. Does it describe how you would like to see the Township evolve over the next twenty years? The Township is accepting comments on the draft plan through the end of August, so take a couple of minutes and let us know what you think.

A copy of the draft plan can be found on 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.



THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF
WEST BLOOMFIELD
MASTER PLAN
DRAFT JUNE 2010
ADOPTED: _____, 2010

Future Land Use



Next Steps

1. Planning Commission review of the draft Plan and recommendation to the Township Board to approve the plan to be distributed to surrounding communities for public review *(June 8th @ 7:30pm)*
2. Township Board approval of the plan to be distributed to surrounding communities for public review *(June 21st @ 7:00pm)*
3. Planning Commission public hearing and adoption of the Master Plan *(anticipated at the September 28th @ 7:30pm)*
4. Township Board review and adoption of the Master Plan *(anticipated at the October 4th @ 7:00pm)*

Contact: Clara N. Bohrer, Director
248-682-2120
www.westbloomfieldlibrary.org

West Bloomfield Named A Top 100 American Public Library

West Bloomfield, MI — The West Bloomfield Township Public Library has again been named a top 100 American Public Library. West Bloomfield was first named to the top 100 list in 2005, becoming the first Michigan public library to be recognized with this distinction.

The Hennen's American Public Library Ratings analyze data from more than 7,900 U.S. public libraries. Library use is compared, including measures like number of visits, volume of materials circulated, and collection turnover or the average number of times materials are checked out. Other rating factors include how funding is spent in order to provide library service. Staffing levels, hours open and the percentage of the budget spent on materials are considered.

According to library director Clara N. Bohrer, the ratings are just one way to measure excellence in library service. "This helps us judge how we're performing against national standards," said Bohrer. "We also continually evaluate whether we're meeting the expectations of our community. We look to West Bloomfield residents to tell us how we rate with them and what we can improve."

"This is an honor for the library but also for West Bloomfield," said Arlene Bordman, Library Board President. "It validates that the library is providing the materials and services our community wants, and it's a statement about how much our community values reading and learning."

Fireworks Safety



West Bloomfield
Fire & EMS
248-409-1505

Every Fourth of July, more fires are reported nationwide than on any other day of the year with 50% of them being related to fireworks. Homes, wooded & grassy areas, boats and even automobiles have caught fire because of fireworks. Over the past few years the West Bloomfield Fire Department has responded to many fires that were caused by fireworks. Most commonly these fires are caused by aerial or bottle rocket type fireworks where the projectiles land in dry vegetation, on rooftops, or wedge themselves within structures where they still retain enough heat to cause a fire.

Currently, Michigan is restrictive in what fireworks are allowed to be sold, purchased, used or transported. The information below is being supplied as a guide to help insure any fireworks you purchase, or use, are in compliance with the Michigan Fireworks Law (Michigan Penal Code, Act 328 or 1931, as amended, MCL 750.243a - 750.243e). Know that as of 5-13-2010, it is illegal to sell, possess, transport, or use fireworks in Michigan without a permit, exceptions to this are listed below. Fireworks that do not fit these current exceptions are illegal for sale, use, or transportation without a permit and violators are guilty of a misdemeanor (MCL 750.243e).

In recent years fireworks have been one of the leading causes of serious injuries that require treatment in hospital emergency rooms. Fireworks can cause severe burns, fractures, and can even result in death or life-long disfigurement. The thousands of serious fire work related injuries that occur each year typically involve damage to the eyes, head or hands, with injuries being highest among children between the ages of 5 - 14. Even though novelty fireworks, such as fountains and sparklers, are generally considered to be "safe" and legal in Michigan, they can reach temperatures of more than 1,200° F, and account for 36% of all emergency room fireworks related injuries.

There are safer alternatives to using fireworks on the Fourth of July. Public fireworks displays are the safest, smartest, and even the most economical fireworks alternative. The greater Detroit area hosts many free public fireworks displays every Fourth of July. Check the following listing for Public Fireworks Display locations and times: <http://michiganfireworks.com>. For more information about fireworks facts, safety tips, state and federal fireworks laws, please explore the links below. The West Bloomfield Fire Department wishes you and your family a safe summer and a Happy Fourth of July.



[Fireworks Fact Sheet](http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files/PDF/fireworksfactsheet.pdf)

www.nfpa.org/assets/files/PDF/fireworksfactsheet.pdf

[Fireworks Safety Tips](http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files/PDF/Public%20Education/FireworksSafetyTips.pdf)

www.nfpa.org/assets/files/PDF/Public%20Education/FireworksSafetyTips.pdf

[Michigan Fireworks / Attorney General](http://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,1607,7-164-34739_20942-44662--,00.html)

http://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,1607,7-164-34739_20942-44662--,00.html



LEGAL FIREWORKS (No permit required—as of 5-13-2010)

Flat paper caps - containing not more than .25 of a grain of explosive content per cap.

Toy noise makers - toy pistols, toy cannons, toy canes, toy trick noise makers, toy guns where paper caps are used.

Sparklers - containing no more than .0125 pounds of burning portion per sparkler.

Flitter sparklers - in paper tubes not exceeding 1/8 inch in diameter.

Cone and cylinder fountains - emits showers of sparks.

Toy snakes - not containing mercury and packed no more than 12 per box.

Toy smoke devices.

EXAMPLES OF ILLEGAL FIREWORKS/EXPLOSIVES IN MICHIGAN (as of 5-13-2010) (THIS LIST IS NOT ALL-INCLUSIVE)

Cherry Bomb - A small red sphere approximately 1" in diameter.

Comet (or Mine) - A cylinder containing a star and attached to a wooden base. Upon ignition, the star is thrust 50-100 feet in the air and continues to glow as it falls to the ground.

Firecracker - A small noisemaking cylinder up to 1.5" in length, often strung together with a fuse.

M-80 - Up to 2" in length, usually a red cylinder with a fuse coming out the side. This is not a firework; it is a federally banned explosive.

Bottle Rockets - A cylinder, frequently topped by a cone to stabilize its flight, attached to a long stick.

Roman Candles - A 6-12" tube containing alternating layers of compacted black powder that shoots single stars out of the top when lighted.

Silver Salute (M-100) - A silver cylinder with a fuse coming out of the side containing large quantities of flash powder. This is not a firework; it is a federally banned explosive.

M-250 and M-1000 (quarter-stick) - Large versions of the M-80 and M-100 that have extremely high risk factors for crippling and disfiguring injuries. This is not a firework; it is a federally banned explosive.



PRESS RELEASE



May 20, 2010: WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP LAUNCHES RIVERSAFE PROGRAM

The Charter Township of West Bloomfield launched its *RiverSafe Home Program* on the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day. The *RiverSafe Home Program* provides recognition to township residents for taking an active role in protecting the water resources of West Bloomfield. Water resources include wetlands, streams and lakes.

The program gives residents the opportunity to identify the water quality protection activities that they do well and consistently around their home. It also provides an opportunity for residents to commit to other proactive and “easy to do” pollution preventing activities around their homes. Residents that enroll in the program will receive a *RiverSafe Home Program* plaque that they can proudly display at their home.

To become a *RiverSafe Home*, residents must simply complete a user-friendly online survey after reading brief descriptions of pollution prevention categories. Pollution prevention categories include Home Toxics Use and Disposal, Yard Care and Outdoor Housekeeping, Vehicle Care and Pets and Urban Wildlife Waste.

The program will serve as the brand for future environmental education activities within the township and will help ensure more residents do their part to protect our cherished environment. Additionally, the *RiverSafe Home Program* satisfies many of the public education requirements of its federal storm water permit.

“The launch of the *RiverSafe Home Program* further strengthens West Bloomfield as a leading environmental community within the region, state and country,” states Marshall Labadie, Development Services Director. “The township is committed to developing a truly sustainable future for the community.”

West Bloomfield is the part of the headwaters of three watersheds (Rouge River, Huron River and Clinton River) and has 28 lakes, 150 ponds, 1,500 acres of protected wetlands and over 2,500 acres of protected woodlands.

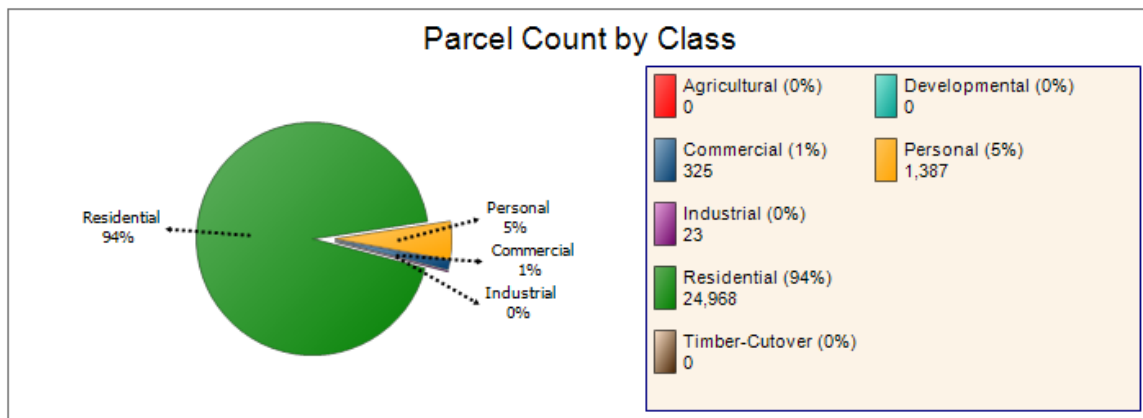
To enroll, residents should visit the township website at <http://www.wbtwp.com>.

**For More Information Visit:
<http://www.wbtwp.com>**

The Distribution of Property & Value

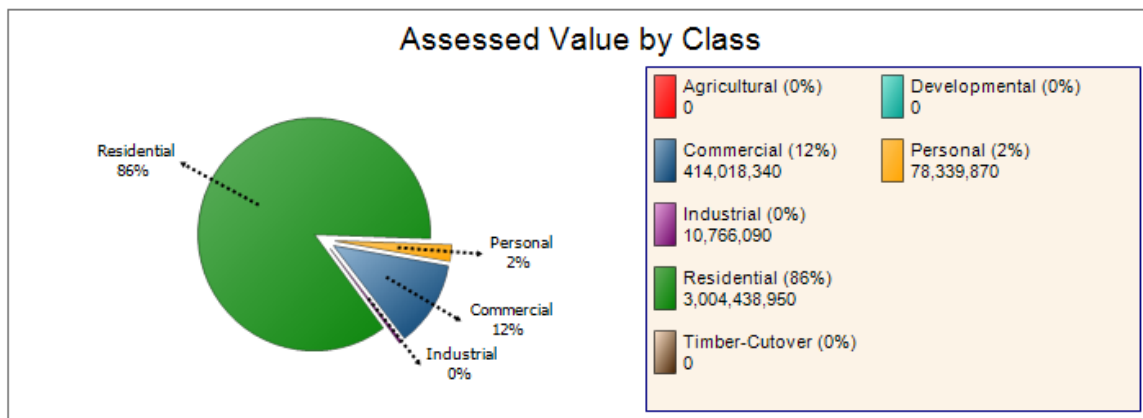
West Bloomfield Township is a unique community. It possesses high quality of life features such as exemplary schools and library facilities. Residents have many opportunities to participate in a variety of activities with Parks & Recreation. A large number of property owners enjoy the numerous lakes, ponds and waterways that exist within the geographic boundaries of the Township. The Township has always considered its wetlands and woodlands as a protected asset, attracting magnificent wildlife.

As is most fitting with the physical characteristics and amenities of the Township, the majority of the land area and parcels are zoned and used as residential property. Below is a chart that shows the breakdown of how parcels are distributed among residential, commercial, industrial (includes utilities) and personal property (primarily business). The Residential Class of property is approximately 94% of the total.



The percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.

The distribution of assessed value based on property classification is shown in the following table. Assessed value is approximately 50% of property value. The Residential Class of property is approximately 86% of the total value of property subject to taxation.



The percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.

Prepared by: Assessor's Office

ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATES

Fertilizer and Lawn Care

West Bloomfield is fortunate to have the classification as an environmentally unique community with 26 lakes, approximately 20 miles of open stream, 2000 acres of regulated wetlands and 2500 acres of regulated woodlands. The Township has ordinances in place to help protect these valuable resources and one of the most important ordinances for water quality protection is the fertilizer ordinance. In 1991, the Township passed a local fertilizer ordinance to help protect the water quality, which is such an important resource to the West Bloomfield community. Since 1991, the Ordinance has been updated two times and currently reflects a **NO PHOSPHOROUS** policy in order to help limit nutrient pollution in our lakes. The ordinance applies to anyone applying fertilizer in West Bloomfield Township. **REMEMBER: ALL COMMERCIAL LAWN CARE COMPANIES PROVIDING A FERTILIZER SERVICE IN WEST BLOOMFIELD** must be licensed through the Clerk's office. Please contact the Clerk's office at 248 451-4848 for information regarding the fertilizer license.

To help you with your lawn care needs, the Development Services Department will have a display in the Town Hall lobby with information regarding lawn care, fertilizer use and composting. Contact the Development Services Department at 248 451-4876 for information regarding fertilizer regulation and the lawn care display.