

# Bruce Township Newsletter

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**Supervisor  
Mike Fillbrook**



**Clerk  
Susan Kraft**



I hope everyone has been having a safe and enjoyable summer.

I would like to take this opportunity to give thanks to Bruce Township employees that have recently retired or moved on to career changes a combined total of over two hundred years of service.

Bonnie Scherr retired, 25 years as the Building Department and Cemetery Coordinator.

Dorothy Sochowicz retired, 25 years as the Deputy Clerk.

Dana Jenuwine retired, 23 years as the Accounting Clerk.

Lisa Griffin retired, 14 years as the Township Assessor.

Josh Wade career change 19 years as Battalion Chief, Fire Fighter, Paramedic.

Evan Delmotte career change, 15 years as Lieutenant, Fire Fighter, Paramedic.

Jack Latch retired, over 40 years as Sergeant, Fire fighter.

Connie Schapman, over 25 years as Secretary Planning and Zoning, Election Official.

Chris Wendt retired, over 40 years as Assessing Clerk.

Dave Witgen retired, 25 years as Fire Chief, Fire Fighter, Paramedic. Dave just recently secured over a half million dollars in grants for the Fire Department before he left.

Thanks to all for your dedication and hard work.

Macomb County should have the Limestone Capping completed by the beginning of September for a total of 3 Miles of Roads in Bruce Township.

Overlay and Paving of Fisher Road between 33 Mile and 32 Mile should be complete by the first week of September.

Warranty work on Van Dyke between 37 Mile and Boardman Road should be completed by the end of August.

On September 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon behind the Bruce Township Hall in the Park, we will be having a ribbon cutting for the Veteran Memorial. The Veteran Memorial was built by and funded by Ken Melton. Mark Hackel will be present for the ribbon cutting. Everyone is welcome, come join us for a hot dog, bag of chips, and a beverage.

As always, my office door is always open and I can easily be reached by phone.

Mike Fillbrook

Supervisor

**Treasurer  
Frank DiGiorgio**



The Treasurer's office is committed and looks forward to serving taxpayers with respect, professionalism and a commitment to customer service.

**Taxes are due and payable:**

Summer: Mailed out July 1st and are due by **5pm September 14th, 2023**

Winter: Mailed out December 1st and are due by February 29th, 2024

**Mailing Tax or Utility Payments**

In order for us to receive your payments in a timely manner, please give the US Postal Service 7 - 10 days for them to deliver the mail to us, or you can place it in the **secured drop box behind the Bruce Township Hall** located at 223 East Gates, Romeo, MI 48065

**Tax payments**

Payments can be made in person at the following bank branches located in Romeo: Tri-County, PNC and People Driven Credit Union.

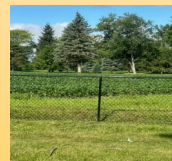
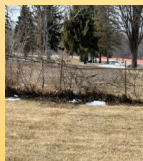
**Online Bill Pay**

Payments can be made for Taxes and Utilities on the Township website: [www.brucetwp.org](http://www.brucetwp.org) The payment processing company will charge you 3.25% unless it is an ACH.

**When writing checks PLEASE** ensure that the numeric and written portion of the check match and are legible, so that way the bank will not return them for non-payment.

**The Bruce Township Cemeteries Beautification Project**

We continued to improve and manicure our cemeteries over the summer by installing 2 Memorial Patios, (cement was donated by Theut Products and the labor for cement installation was donated by U.S. Concrete Inc.). The Township purchased the 25ft. Poles and Flags, a new road and recapping new limestone in both McCafferty and Bruce/Armada. Also restored/replaced a new fence with the help of Bruce Twp. resident Richard Wiegand who donated his time. Thank you Richard for being an outstanding citizen also Theut and U.S. Concrete for being good corporate citizens!! Anyone that is interested in helping can contact Frank DiGiorgio Treasures office at 586-258-7052.



( Before )

( After )

Frank DiGiorgio Treasurer  
586-752-4585 Ext. 117  
[fdigiorgio@brucetwp.org](mailto:fdigiorgio@brucetwp.org)

Robert Biluk Deputy Treasurer  
586-752-4585 Ext. 119  
[rbiluk@brucetwp.org](mailto:rbiluk@brucetwp.org)

**REFLECT, HONOR AND MOURN**

More than two decades ago, on September 11, 2001, many Americans lost their lives to the "9/11" attacks. In the days and months after, many people around the country rallied to service in various ways and Bruce Township would like to pay tribute to those lost and to those who came to the aide of the country. To honor the sacrifice made that day, and the sacrifices that continue to be made by community members, first responders, and members of the armed forces and their families, we are planning a day of commemoration. Beginning at 8:46 am, the time American Airlines flight 11 crashed into the South Tower, we plan to have a moment of silence around the flag in front of the township offices. Including that moment and commemorating the other attacks, and in conjunction with The Abbey on Main, (formerly the First Congregational Church, 102 Church Street, Romeo) and Lisa and Jeff Rapp, the bells will ring with the help of Bill Miller. The bell tolling schedule and incident commemoration is as follows:

8:46 am: American Airlines flight 11 crashed into the North Tower

9:03 am: United Airlines flight 175 crashed into the South Tower

9:37 am: American Airlines flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon Building

9:59 am: South Tower collapses

10:03 am: United Airlines flight 93 crashes into a field near Shanksville, PA

10:28 am: North Tower collapses

The community is welcome and encouraged to participate.

**\*\*\*\*\* ELECTION WORKERS NEEDED\*\*\*\*\***

With the implementation of Proposal 22-2 laws, Bruce Township, is looking to hire election inspectors. The new laws require communities to have nine days of early voting (including two Saturdays and two Sundays prior to the election), for eight hours each day. Which is in addition to our normal election day hours. These are paid positions and the early voting will take place at the Township Hall. If you are interested in working on Election Day or the nine days preceding, please contact the Clerk's Office at 586.752.4585. The new laws apply to state and federal elections only. Additionally, the Michigan Legislature has moved the Presidential Primary to the fourth Tuesday in February, February 27, 2024, and changes may be coming to the August election dates. Once these changes are confirmed, we will update voters. Any questions, feel free to contact us!

Susan Kraft, Clerk  
586.752.4585 Ext. 116  
[skraft@brucetwp.org](mailto:skraft@brucetwp.org)

Amie Kreger  
586-752-4585 Ext. 113  
[akreger@brucetwp.org](mailto:akreger@brucetwp.org)

If you are a veteran, please contact the Clerk's office with your service information. We value our veterans.



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Like us on Facebook "[Bruce Township Macomb County](#)"

## Fire Department

Many new and exciting things are happening with your local Fire Department. First, we would like to take the time to recognize and wish Chief Dave Witgen a much-deserved retirement. After 25 years of service to the community he made the difficult decision to retire. We all wish him happiness and prosperity in his future endeavors. After many interviews, the Township Board selected Steve Nakis as the department's new Chief. Chief Nakis "hit the ground running" continuing the efforts in making improvements to the way your Fire Department serves this great community and we are all confident in the department's future abilities.

One of the Chief's initiatives is to follow the Local Ordinance 170 for address signs. Appropriate address signage is extremely important in the event of an emergency. Recent critical incidents where minutes were lost looking for an address have highlighted the need for adherence to the already established ordinance. Bruce Township Firefighters Local 4076 have stepped up and offered to produce signs that would satisfy the needs of the ordinance.

Mark your calendars for our next Open House that will take place on October 21st from 1 PM – 4 PM. The Lion's Club will also be on location for free vision testing during that time. We would like to thank them for offering such an important exam for the community. Many of your favorite activities will be there, such as a bounce house, drone flights, smoke house, and vehicle extrication, allowing your department to showcase their skills and may-be give a glimpse of what it means to be a Bruce Township Firefighter. In fact, if you think you may want to join our proud heritage, please apply online. We are always searching for individuals that will be an asset to our department and the community.

In closing, we hope you enjoyed your summer vacations, and look forward to the changing of the seasons. Many new and exciting things are in the works. We will do our best to keep you informed. If you have any questions or concerns about your Fire Department, please feel free to email or call. Contact information is available at [brucetwp.org](http://brucetwp.org) or [brucetownshipfiredepartment.org](http://brucetownshipfiredepartment.org) websites.

## Building Department

The Building Department regulates and monitors construction within the township based on local zoning and ordinances and in accordance with the State of Michigan building code.

Building applications, permits and information is available on the Bruce Township website, [www.brucetwp.org](http://www.brucetwp.org)

Please note a change for the building permit application.

Most home renovation projects, new construction, accessory buildings, sheds, interior remodel, decks, fences, roofs, swimming pools, generators, air conditioners, furnaces, demolitions, etc. require permits.

Permits are required for building, electrical, plumbing and mechanical projects.

Please check our website or contact the building department for your project requirements.

Building department direct line 586-258-7053 or [building@brucetwp.org](mailto:building@brucetwp.org)

### Cemeteries under Township control:

Bruce/Armada Cemetery - Armada Center Road, east of Kanie

MaCafferty Cemetery - Van Dyke north of 34 Mile Rd

Goodrich Cemetery - North Kidder Rd. east of Van Dyke

Price per grave - Bruce Township resident \$1,000, Non-resident \$2,000

## Assessing Department

Our assessor Lisa Griffin is assigning her duties to one of her company associates, Mitch Elrod a level four assessor. Lisa will be focusing on other areas of her business. Welcome Mitch!

Poverty Exemption guidelines and application are available on our website. Applications can be considered at the March, July or December Boards of Review.

Disabled Veteran's must apply for the disabled veteran's exemption each year with the Assessor's Office. A reminder letter will be sent to all existing veterans who have applied for the exemption. Disabled Veteran's exemption can be considered at the March, July or December Board of Review. Please see our website or call our office for more information.

The assessing department can be reached at 586 752-4585; extension 200.

## Planning & Zoning Dept.

The Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals have been very busy so far this year! The PC has heard multiple special land use requests, rezoning requests and site plan approvals. They have made ordinance amendments and have had ongoing communication regarding 5G, solar power, fitness establishment size, 1:4 depth ratio, tobaccoists, validity periods for preliminary condominium approval, outdoor storage without a building, C2 district lot sizes and much more. The ZBA has also had an unusually high number of meetings with split variance requests and side yard variances. Both Boards continue to hold training sessions and stay up to date on current planning and zoning trends.

- Planning Commission meetings are the first Wednesday of the month and the Zoning Board of Appeals meetings are the fourth Monday of the month. Both are open to the public and available to watch through the Bruce Township website/YouTube, either live or recorded.
- All meeting agendas, minutes and complete packets can be found on the website.
- Zoning ordinance 161 has been updated and is available online.
- P & Z application forms have been updated and are also available online.
- A huge thank you to Connie Schapman, the secretary of the Planning Commission, who is retiring after many years of service, we wish her all the best!
- The Planning Commission election of officers was held in July and Jared Vinson is the new chairman replacing Ed Kupets who is now the vice-chairman. Best of luck in your new positions!
- The Zoning Board also had their election of officers in July and all officers will remain in the same positions.

If you have any questions or comments, you may reach the Planning & Zoning Coordinator, Dana Buchanan, at 586 752-4585, extension 130, or Mike Fillbrook, Planning & Zoning Administrator at 586 752-4585, extension 115.

## Blood Drive



We will be having a blood drive on Thursday December 7th from 9am - 3pm at the Bruce Twp. hall located at 223 E Gates St., Romeo, MI 48065. Anyone interested in donating blood can schedule their appointment online at [www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=brucetwp](http://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=brucetwp) or call 586-258-7052 and we will make your appointment for you. "Let's Save A Life!!"

**Thank you to these local businesses for allowing us to place our newsletter in their establishment, please Shop at them, Shop Local!**

Mains Treat Coffeehouse  
Van Dyke Liquor Beer Wine & Lottery  
Main Street Kitchen & Bar  
Golden Buddha Thai Cuisine  
Great Lakes Driving Academy

Sheena's Marketplace  
Times Square Restaurant  
Lafonda Mexican Kitchen  
Fit Body Boot Camp  
Jordano Graphics & Signs

4 Corners' Diner  
Fraser Optical  
Elite Martial Arts  
CVS  
Secretary of State

Chili Pepper's Tanning  
The Violet Collection  
Emmett's Energy  
Noir Salon / Spa

