

BH Bloomfield Hills S c h o o l s

Winter 2015



Master Property Planning: What Does the Future Hold?

Perhaps, over the last few months you have wondered what will become of the former Lahser High School site. Maybe you drove past the open land on Long Lake Road or have a student who attends the current 9th Grade Campus at Bloomfield Hills High School.

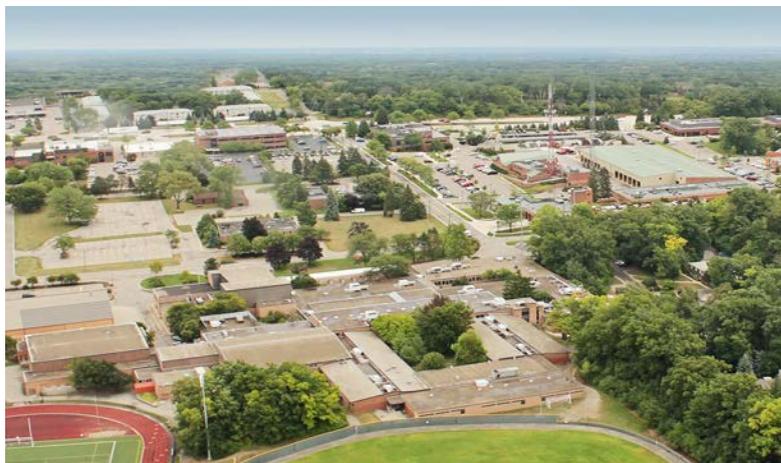
This winter, the district kicked off a community-wide planning process for the future of the Bloomfield Hills Schools' properties. Three identical orientation meetings were offered on January 14th, 21st, and 28th. These open community meetings offered stakeholders a briefing on the properties being carefully considered for future use, conducted by Plante Moran CRESA, the third-party company the district hired to research and facilitate the process. .

Five district properties are the primary target of this extensive process. They are the current Bloomfield Hill High School Main Campus (former Lahser High School), the current BHHS 9th Grade Campus (former Hickory Grove Elementary School), 18 acres of vacant land on Long Lake Road (known as Wabeek property), and the current Model High School site (formerly Pine Lake Elementary School). Although the building that currently houses the Bloomin' Preschools Program at Fox Hills is not scheduled to be vacant, a high-level review of this building's use and condition is also being undertaken as part of this holistic overview. Other currently utilized district facilities may also need to be considered for redistribution of enrollment and/or grade levels if the process uncovers potentially significant benefits to doing so.

Community members who may have missed the orientation meetings can view the full presentation by visiting www.bloomfield.org/MPP and downloading the PDF of the PowerPoint by clicking on the right side of the screen, under the "resources" section.

If you or another community organization has an idea for the use of one of the spaces, please visit www.bloomfield.org/MPP and complete the meeting request form on the right side of the page. Someone from Plante Moran Cresa or Bloomfield Hills Schools will be in touch to schedule a meeting.

 #BHSMP



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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I went to pick up my kids from school on a very rainy day because outdoor extra circular activities had been canceled. The pickup line was out on the street so I knew I was in for a long wait. Three deep breaths, compassion, and patience.

About seven minutes later, I had about twelve cars ahead of me and I spotted my kids under the awning, waiting for me to pull up. During the maybe five minutes I waited until I reached the front of the line, I observed two cars zip up ahead in the thru lane to stop and get their kids. Three deep breaths, compassion and patience.

I had two cars ahead of me when a third car zipped by in the thru lane to get their child. One of the staff rushed out to talk to the parent. It was obvious words were exchanged, some not so kind, and the parent waved his hands erratically then sped off. Let me remind you, it was a torrential downpour and I guarantee that staff member went home soaked to the bone. Three deep breaths, compassion, and patience all went out my rain-washed window.

We expect the Bloomfield Hills Schools staff to treat our children with compassion and patience eight hours a day, 180 days a year, and then some. Yet when it inconveniences us, we are in a hurry, or have had a bad day, we are allowed to throw our compassion and patience out the rain-washed window?

The greatest opportunity we have as parents is to teach our children by example. To the erratic parent yelling at a staff member: what did you teach your child that day? It is okay to break a rule, cut in line, and disrespect a person who is standing in the rain trying to keep our children safe?

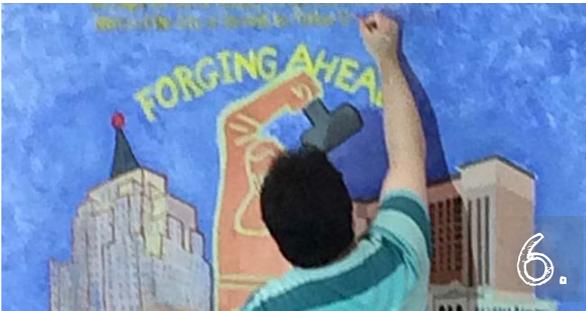
Three deep breaths, compassion, and patience.

-Tricia

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Photos of BHS Students:

1. Sonia Hussain, 4th grade student at Eastover Elementary, was declared Reading Royalty Queen for the day! Hussain won the grand prize by reading 14,200 minutes during the month of December! 2. Shake, Rattle & Roll at East Hills Middle School. Each team of students designed and created a bridge to withstand an earthquake simulation. 3. Students at Way Elementary participated in an electronics recycling drive. 4. The Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Hour of Code at Conant Elementary. 5. Legally Blonde Jr. The Musical at West Hills Middle School. 6. Students at Bowers Academy chose global issues to research and discuss. Each student painted a mural to represent their subject. 7. Celebration of Learning at Lone Pine Elementary. 8. The Bloomfield Hills Schools P.R.E.P. program hosted an art show. Students created artist journals, mosaic tiles, collages, prints, quilt squares and more. 9. Eighth grade drama students performed in an improv show at Bloomfield Hills Middle School.



Alumni News: Life After Graduation for a BHHS Tennis Star



Mollie Fox, Bloomfield Hills High School 2014 graduate, was awarded the Kaspers' Scholarship during the United States Tennis Association-Southeast Michigan Annual Awards Ceremony in November. The \$10,000 scholarship was awarded to Fox for her great discipline on the court and to assist her in pursuing a quality education.

Fox is currently a freshman at the University of Michigan, pursuing a degree in political science/government. She shared her favorite memories and what life is like after graduating from BHHS:

How long have you been playing tennis?

I have been playing since I was five years old and competing since I was seven. I love being on the court, whether I'm training or playing a match. The feeling of hitting a tennis ball is unlike any other. The mental toughness linked with the physical aspect of the game is something special that isn't found anywhere but out there.

What is your favorite memory of your time in Bloomfield Hills Schools?

My favorite memory was winning the Number 1 Singles State Championship my junior year. After falling short my first two years, it was so rewarding to be able to finally succeed while representing my school.

How did Bloomfield Hills Schools prepare you for college?

Mr. MacLeod and Mr. Laurinec both were the ones who inspired me to look at politics and government, which is what I am currently interested in pursuing as a major. Mrs. Kopitz was also a great influence in English, another area that I am continuing to study at school.

When did you decide you wanted to go to University of Michigan?

I had an offer to play tennis at Cornell as well as other small colleges, yet from the time I was little I always wanted to be a Wolverine. Although I may have played at some of the other schools, I knew that Michigan was the best place for me.

What are you up to now?

I just finished my first semester of school. I've been busy with classes and meeting new people. I'm also a member of U of M's Club Tennis team and partake in LSA Student Government.

What are you majoring in?

I am currently thinking of majoring in Political Science or Public Policy and minoring in English. One of my favorite classes this semester was an English class called "Fantasies of Childhood." It looked at American and British children's literature, including Harry Potter, Cinderella, and Matilda.

What advice would you give to current students and alumni?

As important as it is to listen to those around you, do what is best for yourself. Just because taking a certain class or going to a certain school is what somebody else wants to do, if it's not the decision you want to make, that's alright. Don't compromise to appease others, especially if it doesn't make you happy.

Would you like to appear in the next BHS Newsletter or Encore, The Magazine for Alumni & Friends of Bloomfield Hills Schools? Email lmacleod@bloomfield.org or call 248.341.6328.

In Loving Memory of Shelley Lazarus



Shelley was a beloved teacher in Bloomfield Hills Schools for 25 years. She taught at Pine Lake Elementary, Way Elementary, and most recently, was the Media Specialist at Eastover Elementary School. Shelley loved educating and working with children, and was recognized for her efforts by receiving many county and state awards. She always cherished the time she had at these schools.

"A passionate, dynamic, vibrant, energetic, intelligent doer who lived a life that reflected her strongly held, beautiful beliefs... all wrapped up in a unique, creative mind, warm smile, big heart and deep, sensitive soul... and that is just for a start," said Holly Smith, Media Specialist at East Hills Middle School.

Dan Badgley, Manager of the E.L. Johnson Nature Center, extended a note of appreciation to everyone who offered help during the time of crisis. To name a few, he mentioned:

- Eastover PTO organized by Alesia Spencer
- Former Pine Lake Elementary PTO, staff, & parents, especially Anita Pinson, Tony Kruzman, & Barb Guteman
- Scouts from Conant, Eastover, Harlan, & Christ Church Cranbrook
- Carmen and George Dolce

Praise Your Children

Laura VanGemert, Teacher at West Hills Middle School, and Kim Ray, Teacher at Bloomin' Preschools @ Fox Hills, wrote articles for the district blog that explore the best ways to praise children.

In VanGemert's article, "Praise with Purpose: How Our Words Shape Our Children's Attitude towards Challenge," she explains that a student's mindset influences self-motivation and personal successes. "A growth mindset is the belief that anyone can be anything; your basic qualities are things you can cultivate through your efforts, everyone can grow and change through application and experience. A fixed mindset is the belief that one's abilities are carved in stone and that there is no improving them; you are either good at something or you are not.... Research found that a growth mindset isn't necessarily something you are born with; it's something that can be taught. I've taught my students about both mindsets," wrote VanGemert. "When I am giving feedback or compliments to my own children and students, I am very careful to be specific with what and why I am complimenting. I want to teach kids to be intrigued by mistakes instead of fearing them."

"We want to learn to praise in ways that help children develop a strong internal sense of self-esteem. Praise should be genuine, appreciative and descriptive. By being appreciative and descriptive, you leave the evaluation piece to the child. They can draw their own conclusions about the job they did and formulate in their own mind keeping your words as a springboard," wrote Ray in her article titled, "Praising Children."

To read the full articles by Laura VanGemert and Kim Ray on the Bloomfield Hills Schools district blog visit: Bloomfield.org/District-Blog

What it's like to be a Black Hawk!



Getting to Know the BHS National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists and National Achievement Scholarship Semifinalists

BHS: Bloomfield Hills High School offers a huge variety of classes! But what are your favorites?

Christina Okezie: "I really like my english class. I'm learning so much! We just finished a unit on Shakespeare and now we are learning about Henry David Thoreau and how he used literature to express his outlook on life. I also enjoy astronomy. How stars and planets form is very interesting."

Mihir Surapaneni: "I think that my favorite subjects would be government or history. They are fun! You get to learn about people; you can apply lessons to life in general."

Siddharth Ramanathan: "My favorite subjects are math and number-related sciences. I enjoy having clear-cut answers."

Rebecca Tung: "I personally like history more than math; who wouldn't choose to learn about the crusades instead of derivatives?"

Sydney Roslin: "I really like english because I like analyzing words. Words can hold so much power when they are put in different contexts. To a similar point, I really enjoy choir and playing violin in orchestra. I like to interpret pieces that other people compose in my own way."

Madison Defrancesco: "Christina and I were talking about how IB english is one of our favorite courses. We analyze specific choices, words, syntax and semantics. It is really amazing to see how one tiny thing can change an entire message or an entire piece."

Rachel Ockner: "I like world Languages. This year, I'm also taking psychology. We have an exceptional teacher and she discusses things that I never questioned before. We are currently learning about Freud and how our brain works."

BHS: With all your studying, do you have any free time?!

Siddharth Ramanathan: "Mihir Surapaneni and I play tennis together and this year both he and I were the captains of the team. We lead us to a regional title!"

Mihir Surapaneni: "A lot of us are in the music program. Choir, orchestra, and band really enhance our school experience."

Sarah Kovan: "I am in Model UN. I like that we get to discuss real world issues and solve hypothetical situations. I also write for the Hawkeye, our school newspaper. I report stories in a way that the student body will relate to. We get a lot of freedom and it is like a professional paper in that we have to work together, coordinate all of our writing, and work with deadlines. If someone doesn't turn in their work on time, it affects the entire paper as a whole."



Rachel Ockner: "Sydney Roslin and I both act on the forensics team. We get to compete throughout Michigan."

Sydney Roslin: "Forensics has made me a lot more confident and I am more comfortable speaking in front of crowds. I really like the team camaraderie, even if you don't make it to finals or semi-finals you go to cheer on your teammates. I am also in the school musical. It is really fun! I like that you get to spend three hours after school stepping into someone else's shoes."

BHS: How do you balance your school work and your life? Do you have any advice for others?

Christina Okezie: "I think it is a good idea to make it fun when you study! I think of studying as a way to learn or become a more knowledgeable person. Also, after I study I always spend time with my family."

Madison Defrancesco: "I always have a lot going on. It keeps me busy, but I actually like it, because it doesn't allow me to procrastinate. I have to find every spare moment to study and work on my homework: Advisory, sitting in the auditorium, in-between classes, in the car."

Mihir Surapaneni: "When you manage to complete your projects and see the results in the end, you feel pretty good about yourself. In my Sophomore year, a friend and I made a study guide for our U.S. History class. We spent a total of 65 hours on it and it was likely the best experience that I've had."

Imani Smith: "No matter how much coursework or homework I have, I found it really important to get a decent amount of sleep. Even if you have a test the next day, it is never worth it to stay up all night studying."

Left: National Achievement Scholarship Semifinalists (L-R): Christina Okezie, Imani Smith. Above: National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists (L-R): Rebecca Tung, Rachel Ockner, Sarah Kovan, Madison Defrancesco, Sydney Roslin, Charles Pelton, Siddharth Ramanathan, Mihir Surapaneni, Andrew Demko.

Rachel Ockner: "I have always dreamed of getting the right amount of sleep [laughter], but what I actually do is wake up early. I have found that it is the most effective use of my time. If I have a couple hours of homework left, I will get up at 4:15 in the morning."

Siddharth Ramanathan: "Sleep is for the weak. I get home at 7:00 p.m. after tennis practice, shower, and immediately go to sleep. Then I'll wake up at about 2:00 in the morning to do my homework."

Madison Defrancesco: "Figure out what study tactics work for you. Some students read and that works for them, but I have to type and write out the material. I make my own study guides. It will save you hours of time when you figure out the method of studying that is best for you."

BHS: Is there anything else you would like to add?

Mihir Surapaneni: "Students put a lot of pressure on themselves, in addition to the pressure that their parents put on them. They look at not just how they are doing, but how the students around them are doing. It is a very competitive atmosphere. There are a lot of opportunities here at Bloomfield Hills Schools."

Siddharth Ramanathan: "I started at Bloomfield Hills Schools in 8th grade when I moved here from India. The best part of this community is genuinely the people here. With friends around me that push me to go higher, I am even more successful. We motivate each other to do well in school."

About the National Merit Scholarship Program & the National Achievement Scholarship Program:

The National Merit Scholarship Program designees are selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies. The nine selected BHHS students represent less than 1% of U.S. high school seniors. They were chosen from approximately 1.4 million juniors who entered the 2015 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2013 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

The National Achievement Scholarship Program is an academic competition established to provide recognition for outstanding Black American high school students. The two chosen BHHS students are among 1,600 of the highest-scoring program participants.



FOUNDATION CELEBRATION

Join us for an exciting evening celebrating our students, staff and schools! The inaugural gala is on March 20, 2015 at Pine Lake Country Club. Presented by the Bloomfield Hills Schools Foundation.

Enjoy dinner, entertainment, auctions and a keynote address from BHS alumnus, Michigan Supreme Court Justice Richard Bernstein. All proceeds from the event will support the BHSF's mission to fund innovative academic and enrichment programs for our students. Complete Details and Tickets: www.bloomfield.org/FoundationCelebration or 248-341-5465. Sponsorship, auction donation and volunteer opportunities are available.

Start a new tradition

EL JOHNSON
NATURE CENTER

Day in the Sugarbush

SUNDAY, MARCH 21

11 A.M. - 2 P.M.



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BLOOMFIELDREC.ORG
OR CALL 248.433.0885

Charles L. Bowers School Farm

Open
Barn
& Egg Hunt

March 28
(Egg Hunt)
&
May 16
.....
12 - 4 p.m.

1219 East Square Lake Road
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304
248.341.6475



BHS SchoolFarm.org



Invest in Our Future...

Throughout the years, the students of Bloomfield Hills Schools have established a legacy of excellence. In the building of the new Bloomfield Hills High School, we wish to honor their legacy by naming the athletic green space Alumni Athletic Park. The athletic fields and open areas provide a gathering opportunity for the past, present, and future stakeholders of Bloomfield Hills Schools.

A structure has been proposed as the main entrance to Alumni Athletic Park (concept photo pictured above) that would make signs for Alumni Athletic Park visible from the front of the site. With several options available for the entrance structure, ranging in price from \$50,000 to \$500,000, all donations are appreciated. Donors will be honored at the entrance of Alumni Athletic Park with permanent, engraved plaques.

In addition to giving a gift toward Alumni Athletic Field, we have opened the new Bloomfield Hills High School auditorium seating to be sponsored individually via name plaques on each seat. Seats may be sponsored at three levels and a seating chart is located on our website: www.bloomfield.org/InvestInOurFuture. Though seats can be purchased at any time during the year, the seat plaques will be engraved annually and the first engraving will take place shortly before the grand opening of Bloomfield Hills High School.

These opportunities make wonderful gifts of celebration for alumni, community members, teachers, parents, and other loved ones. In addition to the choices outlined above, there are other naming and sponsorship options available. For more information on the many other ways of having your family name associated with the new building, please contact the Bloomfield Hills Schools Foundation at BHSFoundation@bloomfield.org or 248.341.5465.

Michigan Implements Anonymous Hotline to Promote Teen Safety

By Jason Moonka, sophomore at Bloomfield Hills High School, writer for the Hawkeye Newspaper

This fall, the state of Michigan implemented OK2SAY, an anonymous tip line that strives to protect students.

“OK2SAY seems like a great idea, and hopefully it should make schools a lot safer by eliminating bullying,” said Sophomore Carson Deel. “This could be a valuable tool, but needs to be publicized more.”

The hotline, which was created by the Michigan Student Safety Act in May 2013, is an anonymous tip line that allows students to confidentially report potential dangers involving students or staff members.

State senator Judy Emmons, who sponsored the bill said, “We had worked on this during the time that the Columbine Shooting was on everyones minds. Now we feel that the technology is here for students now to be able to communicate safely.”

OK2SAY representative Colleen Eagen explained how the hotline will keep students safe: “In over 80 percent of bullying events, someone other than the attacker had knowledge of what was going to happen,” she said. “This tip line was made specifically for those people to be able to report others, especially in our culture of silence, where some can be afraid of retaliation from an attacker.”

She added that another important factor of OK2SAY is protecting the callers’ identities.

“The most fundamental aspect of OK2SAY is the confidentiality when making a report,” she said. “What this means is that when making a report, the report cannot be traced back to you. Before, often when students reported each other, they would have to be aware of the threat of retaliation, but because of the anonymity of OK2SAY, students no longer have to be worried about this.”

Emmons concluded that she believes that OK2SAY will be successful.

“It will be successful because this is the age of technology, and teenagers have a better grasp on it than anyone,” she said. “People won’t be able to label you as a snitch, but yet hopefully you will be saving the lives of yourselves, your friends, teacher, and anyone involved in the schools.”

Trending on Twitter...

- Welcome Dot & Dash! President Obama spent time with Dot & Dash and now they’re here in Bloomfield Hills Schools! <http://ow.ly/HEIKo>
- Congrats to Paul Kolin and former Board President Ed Ford! We are so pleased to have you on the Board of Education! <http://ow.ly/i/8hekB>
- 194 students are participating in a Google Doc for their World History study guide: <http://ow.ly/HmWMO> @bhschools #BHSIB #itsaboutkidsmi
- Lindsey Zousmer, WHMS student, initiated a community service project titled, “Projects 4 Smiles” <http://tinyurl.com/m835cz2>
- Students at Bowers Academy chose global issues to research and discuss. Each student painted a mural to represent their subject!
- Rob Durecka @RobDurecka: I am constantly reminded of the joy children experience when they learn something new! #LoveTeaching
- Rod Alberts, Executive Director of the North American International Auto Show, visited EHMS! <http://tinyurl.com/m5h8zn9> #10GP



MILLAGE FACTS

PLEASE VOTE ON MAY 5, 2015!

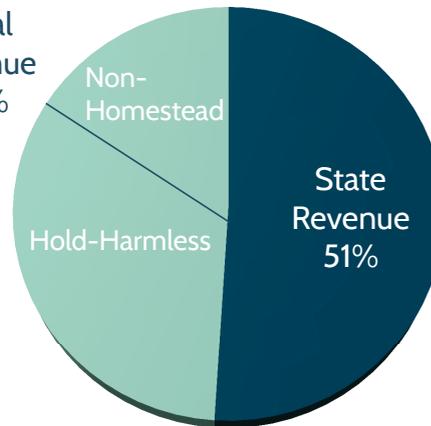
What is a "Hold-Harmless Millage"?

Proposal A dramatically changed school funding when it was passed by voters in 1994. Some districts, like Bloomfield Hills Schools, would have received less money per-student than what they were receiving pre-Proposal A. To correct this problem, the state allowed districts to ask voters to approve a Hold Harmless Millage that would make up the difference in funding from the old method to the new method.

What is a "Non-Homestead Millage"?

Non-Homestead includes business property, rental property or vacation homes. It does not include a family's primary residence, which is considered homestead property. The Non-Homestead Millage is required by Proposal A, the state's school funding structure, in order for Bloomfield Hills Schools to receive its full per-pupil funding from the state.

Local Revenue
49%



Together, the Hold-Harmless Millage & the Non-Homestead Millage make up approximately *half of the revenue* the district receives per student.

[\$12k= \$2K non-homestead local revenue, \$4K hold-harmless local revenue, \$6K state revenue]



A reduction in the budget of nearly 50% would force the administration and Board of Education to make dramatic reductions across the spectrum of opportunities now offered to students. Services such as busing, programs such as art, music, and sports, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities and numerous elective classes would come under scrutiny and might need to be cut or drastically reduced.



The money collected from Hold-Harmless & Non-Homestead does not go to Lansing before coming back to the district. This local funding directly impacts the level of educational programming the district provides.

Is this a new tax?

No This is not a new tax. As required by law, voters must approve a renewal of the Hold-Harmless Millage every 10 years. There will be no change in the way taxes are calculated or collected.

Is this millage renewal different from the 2012 bond issue?

Yes The 2012 bond issue provided funds for the renovation & building of the new BHHS campus and was a one-time project. The millage renewal is for funds needed each year for operational ongoing school programs, staff, supplies, utilities, buses, etc.

Is this renewal different from the state's proposal to support roads and schools?

Yes The Governor's proposal asks voters to approve a 1% increase in the state sales tax from 6% to 7% and spend an extra \$1.2 billion a year on roads. The proposal also includes the protection of funding for schools by excluding universities from the School Aid Fund (though community colleges would still be funded through the SAF). Officials estimate that this would increase school funding by \$300 million per year, but it has not yet been determined exactly how much additional funding will be available and how the funding would be distributed. It is possible Bloomfield Hills Schools will not receive any additional funding from the Governor's proposal, should it pass.



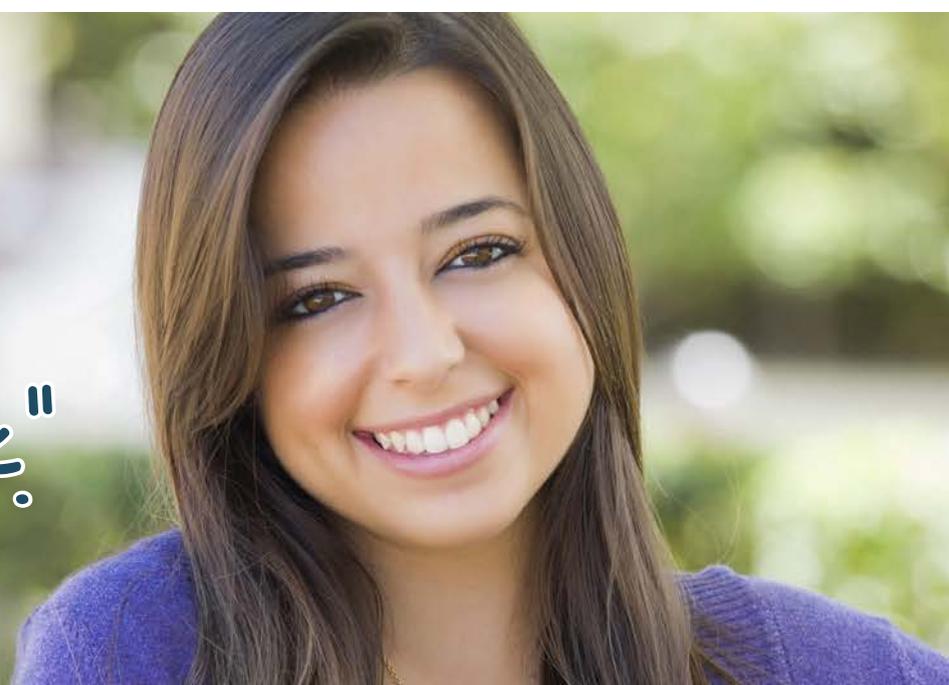
Please vote on
May 5, 2015!

For ballot wording and more millage renewal information visit:
www.Bloomfield.org/Millage-Renewal

PROJECT FIND

Do you have a child experiencing developmental delays? For developmental screening for ages birth-3 years, please call the Early On Referral Line at 248.209.2084. For 3-5 years old contact Julie Magulak, Project Find coordinator, at 248.341.7962.

"It's your education.
Choose the best.
I AM a Black Hawk."



A limited number of tuition spots are available K-12 in Bloomfield Hills Schools for the 2015-16 school year!*

Pay in full by June 30, 2015 to lock in the 2014-15 tuition rate!

Applications are due by March 31. All enrollment materials are available on our website, www.bloomfield.org/tuition. For more information call 248.341.6390.

*Enrollment acceptance is based upon applicants meeting current tuition guidelines and space availability. Submitting an application does not guarantee acceptance. Available spaces will be filled on a first come, first serve basis.

Each year, the Bloomfield Hills Schools offers career and technical education programs in Agriscience at the Bowers School Farm. This program is designed to prepare youth for a broad range of employment and training services and is offered under the guidance of certified teachers and counselors. The following is a program being offered this year and criteria for admission:

Program:	Criteria for admission:	Students must:
Agriscience	No prerequisite	Be able to work in a farm environment with various pollens, allergens (hay) & animal dander.

All career and technical education programs follow the district's policies of

nondiscrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, height, weight, marital status, disability, genetic information, or any other reason prohibited by applicable law, in all programs, services, activities, and employment. In addition, arrangements can be made to ensure that the lack of English language proficiency is not a barrier to admission or participation. For general information about these programs, contact: Holly Glomski, Bowers School Farm Manager, Charles L. Bowers Farm, 1219 East Square Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304, 248.341.6475.

It is the policy of the Bloomfield Hills Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, height, weight, marital status,

disability, genetic information, or any other reason prohibited by applicable laws, in its programs, services, activities, or employment practices. Inquiries related to discrimination on the basis of disability should be directed to the Section 504 Coordinator: Pam Schoemer, Director of Special Education, 7273 Wing Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301, 248.341.5415. Direct all other inquiries related to discrimination to: Christine Barnett, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Labor Relations, 7273 Wing Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301, 248.341.5425.

To obtain a copy of this information in a language other than English, contact the Learning Services Team at 248.341.6304.