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STRONGER TOGETHER: CLOSING OUT THE YEAR WITH PURPOSE

As 2024 winds down, we want to take a moment to celebrate everything we've accomplished together this year. Each of you has played a vital role in helping our team meet challenges, embrace opportunities, and achieve our shared goals. Your hard work and dedication make all the difference—not only to each other but to the residents and community we proudly serve.

The final stretch of the year is always a whirlwind, and this December is no exception. Whether you're wrapping up projects, planning for 2025, or simply keeping things running smoothly, now is the perfect time to reflect on the successes we've had while maintaining focus on finishing strong. Let's stay committed to teamwork, positivity, and excellence in everything we do.

As we approach the holiday season, it's also a time to show gratitude—for our coworkers who've supported us, for the opportunities to grow, and for the moments of joy that remind us why we're here. Take time to celebrate the small wins, extend a helping hand when you can, and remember to balance productivity with self-care.

Looking ahead, 2025 promises to bring exciting new opportunities for growth and impact. But for now, let's focus on closing out this year with the same energy and dedication we've shown all along. Together, we can make the end of 2024 something to be proud of.

Thank you for everything you do to make the Town of Bloomfield extraordinary. Here's to a strong finish and a wonderful holiday season!

**ONE TEAM
ONE FIGHT**



MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Hello Team Bloomfield,

As we close out another year, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for your dedication and hard work throughout 2024. Your commitment to serving the Town of Bloomfield with excellence has not gone unnoticed, and together, we've achieved remarkable milestones that continue to make our community stronger and more vibrant.

December is a time of reflection and celebration. It's an opportunity to look back on our shared successes, learn from our challenges, and set our sights on the goals ahead. As we plan for the new year, I encourage each of you to embrace the spirit of teamwork and innovation that defines our organization.

This holiday season, let's also remember to extend kindness and compassion to one another. Whether it's through your service to our residents or the support you provide to your colleagues, every gesture makes a difference. While supporting initiatives such as our local food bank, the United Way campaign, the Annual Trunk or Treat, and the Armed Forces Resource Fair. We consistently demonstrate to our citizens that we are dedicated to the uplifting of those less fortunate than us in Bloomfield.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful holiday season filled with warmth, peace, and happiness. I look forward to the exciting possibilities that 2025 will bring as we continue to work together in service to Bloomfield.

With gratitude,

Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr.
Town Manager



LET'S MAKE A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER: SUPPORT UNITED WAY

As Town employees, we make a difference in the lives of our community members every day through the services we provide. Now, we have an additional opportunity to extend our impact by supporting the United Way.

United Way directly supports vital programs that address critical needs in our community, including housing stability, food security, education, and health services. When you contribute, you are helping our neighbors build stronger, healthier lives and creating a brighter future for Bloomfield.

This year, we're aiming for something remarkable: 100% employee participation. Every contribution, no matter the size, brings us closer to this goal and demonstrates our shared commitment to the well-being of our community. You can contribute through a convenient payroll deduction or a one-time donation—every dollar makes a difference!



A special thank you to our Human Resources team for their work in organizing this important effort. If you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out to HR directly.

Together, let's show the strength of our team and the depth of our dedication. Join us in making a lasting impact by supporting the United Way today.

CONGRATULATIONS T2 TRANSPORTATION GRADUATES!

We would like to congratulate the following Public Works employees who completed programming with the CT T2 Center at UConn.

The Connecticut Public Works Academy is an introductory level training program for those public works staff that are new to public works and road maintenance. It is also an excellent opportunity to provide updated information on the latest in best practice and technologies to those employees new to professional development.

Every Town or City in Connecticut has a designated Local Traffic Authority (LTA). LTAs are responsible for many regulatory items on local roads. The first point of contact for any traffic related concern on ANY public road is the LTA. The LTA also works with the CT Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the Office of the State Traffic Administration (OSTA) on traffic-related matters on State roads.



Bloomfield Public Works T2 Transportation Graduates
From L-R

Ryan French – Local Traffic Authority certificate
Tom Langer – Public Works Academy graduate
Shane O'Neill – Public Works Academy graduate



The CT T2 Center at UConn is Connecticut's Local Technical Assistance Program, one of 58 local and tribal centers in the United States funded by the Federal Highway Administration and State Departments of Transportation.

WISHING YOU WARMTH AND JOY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

May the coming weeks be filled with comfort, happiness, and hope for the new year ahead. To you and your loved ones, we wish good health, joy, and success in all that lies ahead.

The holiday season is a special time to step away from the everyday routines and embrace what matters most. It's a time for togetherness, whether it's gathering with family and friends, connecting with loved ones near and far, or simply finding quiet moments of reflection and gratitude.

We recognize that this season carries unique traditions, meanings, and celebrations for everyone. Whether you are lighting candles, sharing meals, or looking forward to new beginnings,

DECEMBER OFFICE CLOSURES

December 24

Christmas Eve (Half Day)

December 25

Christmas Day

December 31

New Year's Eve (Half Day)

January 1

New Year's Day

We hope you enjoy this time with family and friends

we hope you are surrounded by warmth, joy, and the people who matter most to you.

As the year draws to a close, it's also a moment to reflect on the kindness, resilience, and care we've shown one another. Let this time remind us of the strength in our connections and the hope that lies in the year ahead.

Thank you for being part of our community. Together, we look forward to a bright and meaningful new year filled with possibilities and shared purpose.



Christmas (December 25)

Celebrated by Christians worldwide to honor the birth of Jesus Christ.

Hanukkah (December 25–January 2)

The Jewish Festival of Lights, lasting eight days, commemorating the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem.

Kwanzaa (December 26–January 1)

An African American cultural holiday celebrating African heritage, unity, and community.

New Year's Eve (December 31)

Celebrated globally to mark the end of the calendar year.



THIS COULD GET UGLY!

**JOIN US FOR OUR
5TH ANNUAL UGLY SWEATER CONTEST!**

December 19, 2024

**WEAR YOUR UGLY SWEATER TO WORK &
ENTER FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN
A \$25 GIFT CARD!**

To be entered in the contest, take a selfie in your ugly (or not so ugly) sweater and accessories and send it to Rachel Hogan-McLennan at rmclennan@bloomfieldct.gov by 5:00 pm on 12/19/24.

Voting will take place between 1:00 – 5:00 pm on 12/20/24, and the winner will be announced on December 23rd! Stay tuned for more information about the voting process as we get closer to the date!



HAIL

WELCOME TO THE TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD



New Employee Biography

KIM KETCHAM



Library Business Coordinator
Library Services

November 12, 2024 - We are pleased to welcome Kim Ketcham to the Town of Bloomfield Library Services Department as the new Library Business Coordinator. She brings seven years of experience in public libraries and holds a strong background in Library and Information Science. She previously served as an Administrative Assistant at the Richard Salter Storrs Library in Longmeadow, MA. Kim earned a Bachelor of Arts from Kansas State University and a Master's in Library and Information Science from Emporia State University, where she was inducted into the Beta Phi Mu Honor Society.

“ I am delighted to start the next chapter of my library career with Bloomfield Public Library. It is an exciting time for BPL, new facilities, amazing programming, providing access and connectivity to library patrons. I look forward to serving the Bloomfield community through the mission and focus of the public libraries. - Kim **”**

WELCOME TO TEAM BLOOMFIELD!



New Employee Biography

MICHAEL MORRIS



Vehicle Mechanic Technician
Public Works

November 12, 2024 - We are pleased to welcome Michael Morris to the Town of Bloomfield Public Works Department as a new Vehicle Mechanic Technician. Michael brings thirteen years of experience in the automotive industry and is highly dedicated to attention to detail when diagnosing and performing automotive repairs. He holds a certificate from Lincoln Technical Institute and is a graduate of Bloomfield High School.

“ I'm grateful for the opportunity to work for the Town of Bloomfield as a mechanic, especially since this is the town where I learned the trade while attending Bloomfield High School - Michael **”**

WELCOME TO TEAM BLOOMFIELD!

RECIPE CORNER

Easy Peppermint Fudge

Ingredients

- 3 c. semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 (14 oz.) can sweetened condensed milk
- 8 whole peppermint candies, crushed

Directions

1. Line a 8-by-8-inch pan with foil and smooth the surface. Spray the foil with nonstick spray.
2. In a double boiler over medium heat, combine the chocolate chips and sweetened condensed milk. Heat until melted, about 5 to 7 minutes. Stir until smooth, then immediately pour the mixture into the prepared pan. Use an offset spatula to smooth the surface, then sprinkle on the crushed peppermints.
3. Refrigerate for 2 hours, then cut into small squares.

Top it with just about any sweet or salty ingredients you want! Chopped toasted pecans, walnuts, peanuts, or pretzels would bring a wonderful balancing saltiness to the fudge. Toffee bits,



What else can I top this fudge with?

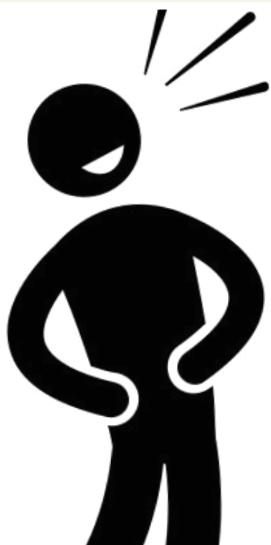
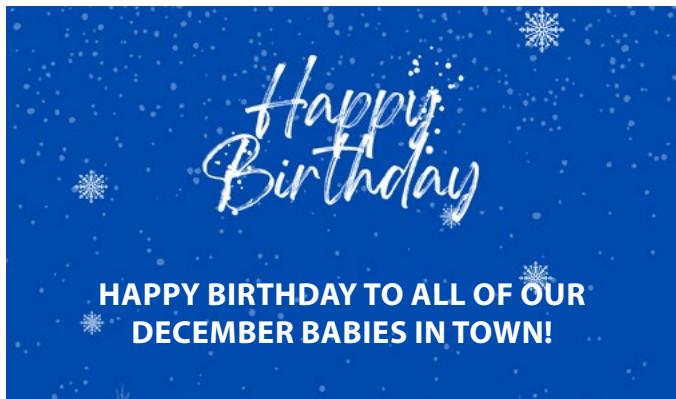
sprinkles, colorful chocolate-covered candies, or leftover bits from your other holiday candy recipes would be great, too. You can make it for every season by switching up the toppings!

TIPS & IDEAS FOR NEWSLETTER CONTENT

Have a great idea for an upcoming newsletter? Please let us know by submitting the webform by clicking this link:

<https://ct-bloomfield.civicplus.com/FormCenter/General-Forms-4/The-Monthly-Tea-Employee-News-letter-Cont-72>

Or contact India Rodgers at irodgers@bloomfieldct.gov or Brian Wolff at bwolff@bloomfieldct.gov



Q: Who was the snowman's favorite relative?

A: Aunt Artica

Q: Did you hear about the snowmen who fell in love in December?

A: It was love at frost sight!

Q: What did the man say to his phone on New Year's Eve?

A: My New Year's revolution is to not use autocorrect in 2025.

WORK ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT
Nathan Chesworth	12/18/21 - 3 years	Police
Deanna Coolidge	12/26/12 - 12 years	Police
Stephen Grabaski	12/29/14 - 10 years	Police
Zachary Klomberg	12/1/08 - 16 years	Police
Adrian Loignon	12/3/12 - 12 years	Police
Kelsey Marschall	12/18/16 - 8 years	Police
Jasmine Sistrunk-Miller	12/18/16 - 8 years	Police
Presley Stewart	12/30/15 - 9 years	Police
Frank Teixeira	12/28/21 - 3 years	Police
Rebecca Varholak	12/14/09 - 15 years	Police
Steven Lombardo	12/6/23 - 1 year	Facilities
Brooke Lyman	12/9/13 - 11 years	Library Services
Diahl Seccareccia	12/9/13 - 11 years	Library Services
Dejah Murray	12/15/21 - 3 years	Library Services
Victor Giner	12/16/21 - 3 years	Library Services
Samantha Strader	12/27/21 - 3 years	Town Clerk
Tiffany Wright	12/18/18 - 6 years	Social & Youth Services
Edith Byrd	12/7/09 - 15 years	Senior Services
Lynda Laureano	12/27/21 - 3 years	Building & Land Use



BPD PROMOTIONAL & AWARDS CEREMONY

PLEASE JOIN CHIEF PAUL HAMMICK & THE BLOOMFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

IN HONORING:

**SERGEANT JOHN BARRETT – PROMOTION
OFFICER ROHAN GREEN – AWARD
OFFICER ADRIAN LOIGNON – AWARD
OFFICER ANTHONY TRANIELLO – AWARD**

When: Friday, December 20, 2024

Time: 3:00 P.M.

Where: Bloomfield Police Department
Training Room, 785 Park Avenue