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## FALL LEAVES AND TEAM ACHIEVES: OCTOBER IN FULL SWING

Hello October! We are so excited to have cooler temperatures on the horizon here in Bloomfield. I'm sure our employees who spend a lot of their workdays outside are grateful for the season to change as well. October is the middle month of the fall season. It is one of the most beautiful seasons of the year here in Bloomfield. Autumn brings about a stunning display of leaf color changes. The leaves transform into a kaleidoscope of new shades of red, orange and yellow hues savoring the breathtaking scenery throughout Town!

In this edition, we'll highlight important updates, recognize the achievements of our dedicated staff, and share upcoming events and initiatives that keep Bloomfield thriving. Let's continue to strive for excellence as we enter this season of renewal and growth.

## CELEBRATING NATIONAL BOSSES DAY OCTOBER 16, 2024

As we celebrate National Boss's Day on Wednesday, October 16th, we want to take a moment to recognize and express our gratitude to all the dedicated leaders across our organization who guide, inspire, and support us every day.

Our Community Builder Leadership Team (CBLT) is comprised of supervisors, managers, and department heads, that play a critical role in shaping our workplace culture. Through their leadership, they foster collaboration, provide mentorship, and help us reach our personal and professional goals. Their commitment to respect, sense of purpose and accountability drives our team forward.

Let's use this day to acknowledge the contributions of our bosses, not just for the hard work they do, but for the respect and care they show to



their teams. Whether it's through a simple "thank you," a kind word, or a note of appreciation, let's show our gratitude to the leaders who help make our workplace thrive.

Thank you to all of our bosses for your continuous leadership and unwavering support. We appreciate the impact you have on our success!

## MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Hello Team Bloomfield,

As we fall forward into October, I want to take a moment to reflect on the great strides we've made together in stabilizing and strengthening Team Bloomfield. Over the past few months, your hard work, dedication, and resilience have paved the way for significant progress in our collective goals.

From streamlining operations to enhancing communication across departments, we are positioning ourselves for continued success. These efforts not only reinforce our mission of serving the Bloomfield community with excellence but also provide a strong foundation for future growth.

Stabilizing Team Bloomfield means more than achieving our immediate objectives—it's about fostering an environment where collaboration, respect, and a shared sense of purpose and accountability can thrive. As we look ahead, I am confident that these foundational efforts will help us better navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie in front of us.

Thank you for your commitment to making Bloomfield a stronger, more vibrant community. Let's continue to build on our successes as we work together towards even greater achievements.

**One Team, One Fight, One Bloomfield.**

Warm Regards,

Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr.,  
Town Manager



## "PIONEERS OF CHANGE: SHAPING THE FUTURE TOGETHER"



## OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Breast Cancer Awareness Month is an international health campaign that's held every October. The month aims to promote screening and prevention of the disease, which affects 2.3 million women worldwide. Known best for its pink theme color, the month features a number of campaigns and programs conducted by groups ranging from breast cancer advocacy organizations to local community organizations to major retailers aimed at: supporting people diagnosed with breast cancer, including those with metastatic breast cancer educating people about breast cancer risk factors encouraging women to go for regular breast cancer screening starting at age 40 or earlier, depending on personal breast cancer risk fundraising for breast cancer research.



In 2024, more than 360,000 people will be diagnosed with breast cancer. But there is hope. Advancements in early detection methods and support continue to increase the chances of survival. When caught in its earliest, localized stages, the 5-year relative survival rate of breast cancer is 99%. (Source: [www.BreastCancer.org](http://www.BreastCancer.org))

This month can be a good reminder to learn more about breast cancer. Some good places to start might be examining your personal risk of developing the disease, giving yourself a breast exam, and scheduling your next breast cancer screenings.

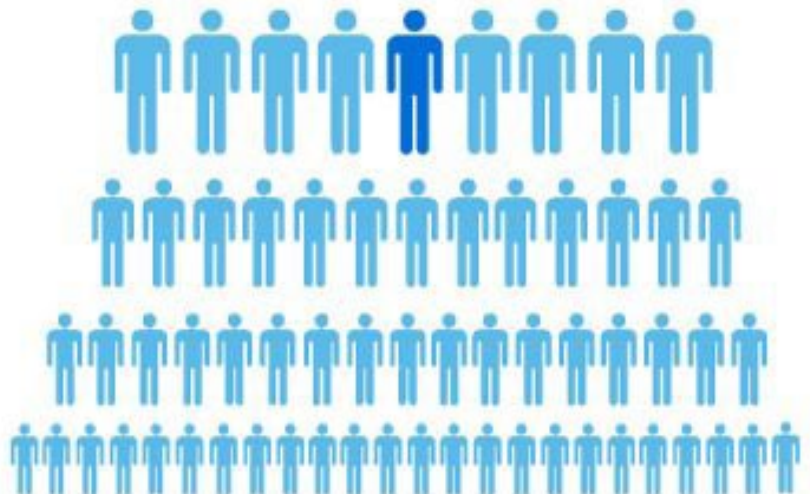
### **Self Exam Instructions:**

<https://www.breastcancer.org/screening-testing/breast-self-exam-bse>

**1 in 8 WOMEN**  
will be diagnosed with  
**BREAST CANCER**  
in their lifetime



**1 in 1000 MEN**  
will be diagnosed with  
**BREAST CANCER**  
in their lifetime





## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

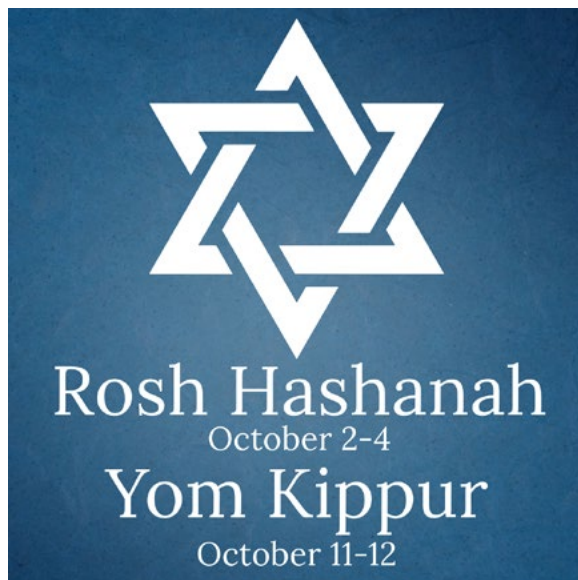
Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) in 2024 will be observed in October, with the theme "**Heal, Hold & Center**". Some other events and activities related to DVAM in 2024 include:

- "Purple Thursday" - Celebrated on the third Thursday of October (10/17), this day encourages people to wear purple to show support for survivors.
- National Call for Unity - This year's call for unity will be a "Connective Action" opportunity for advocates and survivors to gather on social media and tag advocates who embody the theme.

- 16 Days of Action Against Domestic Violence - This campaign will run from November 25, 2024, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, to December 10, 2024, International Human Rights Day.



## OCTOBER EVENTS



*Jewish Holidays begin at sundown of the first day and end at sundown of the final day*



This year's Fire Prevention Week theme is "Smoke Alarms: Make them work for you!"™ The goal of this year's campaign strives to educate everyone about the importance of having working smoke alarms in the home. According to statistics, smoke alarms reduce the risk of dying in a home fire by more than half (54 percent).

The bottom line is smoke alarms save lives! As part of Fire Prevention Week, we want to encourage you to not only test their smoke/carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in October but test them every single month, making sure to replace any broken or expired alarms in homes.



We want to extend a heartfelt thanks to all our Friends of Bloomfield Public Libraries for their continued help and support of library services here in the Town of Bloomfield. This is a time to promote this group in the community, to raise awareness, and promote membership. To learn more about the Friends of Prosser Library, click this link: <https://bplct.org/friends-of-the-library/>



## WANTED TRUNKERS



**TRUNK  
OR  
TREAT**



**When:** Friday- October 25, 2024

**6:30-pm - 8:30 pm (Event time)**

**Vendor set up: 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.**

**Check In:** on mural side of building

**Dinner Provided for trunks:** 5:00 PM- 6:00 PM Wrist band for food will be provided at check in

**Where:** 330 Park Ave, Bloomfield, CT 06002

Alvin and Beatrice Wood Human Services Center.

**What:** Join us in the spooky celebration by decorating your trunk with the most creative, wild, and festive Halloween themes you can dream up! Whether it's a haunted house, a magical pumpkin patch, or a monster mash, the possibilities are endless. Families will walk up to each trunk to collect treats. Each participant will be provided a passport that will be checked off by the vendor to receive a treat.

**Return form on or before October 11, 2024 to Angelica Thompson,**

**Youth Services Coordinator: [athompson@bloomfieldct.gov](mailto:athompson@bloomfieldct.gov)**

Check here if you will provide your own treats for the event (enough for 300 youth)

Check here if you need Bloomfield Youth Services to provide treats for the event

### Vendor Contact Information:



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN DEPARTMENT/ COMMUNITY AGENCY: \_\_\_\_\_

## CALLING ALL TEAM BLOOMFIELD

Join us for a fun-filled, creative Trunk or Treat Halloween event on Friday, October 25, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. We encourage everyone to participate and showcase your spooky side by decorating your trunk and handing out treats to our community. This is a great opportunity to come together, have some fun, and spread a little Halloween spirit!

For more details on how to sign up and join this creative spooky adventure, please see the flyer. RSVP to Angelica Thompson by [RSVP Deadline October 11, 2024] and let us know you're on board.

**Let's make this a Halloween to remember!**



# HAIL

## WELCOME TO THE TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD



**New Employee**  
*Biography*

**RACHEL HOGAN-MCLENNON**



**HR Staff Assistant  
Human Resources**

**September 9, 2024** - We are pleased to welcome Rachel Hogan-McLennon to the Town of Bloomfield Human Resource Department as the new HR Staff Assistant. She has five years of experience in Human Resources, and attended and completed coursework at St. Augustine's University in Raleigh, NC.

“With the short amount of time that I have been here, I see that this organization is built on excellence. When you see a community going above the call of duty, going the extra mile, and doing more than others expect - that is what excellence is all about. It is doing your very best in everything and in every way.” - Rachel

**WELCOME TO TEAM BLOOMFIELD!**



**New Employee**  
*Biography*

**ALEXANDER SAMALOT**



**Zoning Enforcement Officer  
Building and Land Use**

**September 10, 2024** - We are pleased to welcome Alexander Samalot to the Town of Bloomfield Building and Land Use Department as the new Zoning Enforcement Officer. He has a background in GIS software and environmental engineering, with previous experience serving as the Zoning Enforcement Officer for the Town of Ledyard. He graduated from the University of Connecticut with both a Bachelor's and a Master's of Science in Environmental Engineering.

“I'm excited to apply my experience working in the development field to serve the community as part of such a great team.” - Alex

**WELCOME TO TEAM BLOOMFIELD!**



**New Employee**  
*Biography*

**LIAM SCAFARIELLO**



**Police Officer  
Police Department**

**September 4, 2024** - We are pleased to welcome Liam Scarariello to the Town of Bloomfield Police Department as a new Police Officer. He was a professional Athlete and instructor who helped young baseball players advance to the next level. He graduated from Quinnipiac University in Hamden, CT. With a Bachelor's of Arts in Communications.

“The Town of Bloomfield stood out to me due to its strong sense of community and the departments' values and professionalism. I plan to bring my morals and integrity to the Bloomfield Police Department while forming positive relationships with the people that live here.” -Liam

**WELCOME TO TEAM BLOOMFIELD!**



**New Employee**  
*Biography*

**KAYLA MANDERVILLE**



**Emergency Medical Technician  
Bloomfield Volunteer Ambulance**

**September 16, 2024** - We are pleased to welcome Kayla Manderville to the Town of Bloomfield as a new Emergency Medical Technician. She has 2 years experience in emergency service support. She graduated from Howard University in Washington, D.C. with a Bachelor's of Science in Human Performance.

“After graduating from college, I moved back home to Connecticut and relocated to Bloomfield. I fell in love with the sense of community and the support that the town had. As I continue to work on my healthcare career goals, I look forward to being an involved member of the community in a field I am passionate in by being a proud member of Bloomfield Volunteer Ambulance.” -Kayla

**WELCOME TO TEAM BLOOMFIELD!**

## EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Christine Russo - Finance Department



I am writing to enthusiastically recommend Christine Russo for the Employee of the Quarter award. Christine has been an invaluable asset to our Finance Department and to the Town. She has consistently demonstrated exceptional performance and dedication to the Town. Christine is always willing to assist colleagues, share knowledge, and contribute to a positive work environment. Her approachable nature and collaborative spirit make her a respected and valued team member. Furthermore, Christine has shown remarkable adaptability and problem-solving skills in addressing unexpected challenges. Her ability to maintain composure and find effective solutions under pressure is truly commendable. In summary, Christine embodies the qualities of a dedicated and high-performing employee. Her exceptional work ethic, attention to detail, and positive attitude make them an ideal candidate for the Employee of the Quarter award. I wholeheartedly recommend Christine Russo for this recognition and am confident that she will continue to excel and contribute to our Town's success. Thank you for considering this recommendation.

In the short time I have worked with Christine, I have come to rely on her ability to provide a vast amount of legacy knowledge in different areas of our finance operations. She not only perform her duties in a timely and efficient manner, but takes on additional duties that may not fall within her current job description, such as contributing greatly to our timely payroll each period given the recent staffing changes. Although Christine's work ethic is phenomenal, what makes Christine even more special is her sparkling personality through all her hard work. For me, it is a blessing to be able to come to work every day in Christine's presence!

## WORK ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT
Gregory DeCarish	10/12/15 - 9 years	Senior Services
Waldemar Demby	10/10/16 - 8 years	Senior Services
Amy-Beth Sirard	10/15/07 - 17 years	Senior Services
Zachary O'Bright	10/5/17 - 7 years	Police
Deshant Russell	10/15/07 - 17 years	Police
Alan Wild	10/12/09 - 15 years	Police
Daniel Carter	10/5/15 - 9 years	Public Works
Anthony Grant	10/11/21 - 3 years	Public Works
William Wolfe	10/9/23 - 1 year	Public Works
Nicole Dolat	10/28/15 - 9 years	Library Services
Allison Wilkos	10/22/12 - 12 years	Library Services
Mara Whitman	10/8/96 - 28 years	Library Services
Michelle Greaves	10/31/22 - 2 years	Building & Land Use







# We need your input!

## Bloomfield

### *Centered & Strong*

## Town Center Survey

The Town Center Survey can be accessed on the “Bloomfield Centered and Strong” page of the Town website or using the QR Code here. The survey will be open from September 9<sup>th</sup> – October 15<sup>th</sup>. Hard copies of the survey can be picked up at the Town Hall, Libraries, and 330 Park Ave. Completed surveys can be dropped off at the Office of Strategic Communications and Government Affairs, 2nd Floor in Town Hall.





## GET YOUR FLU VACCINE!

The WHBHD is hosting community flu clinics in West Hartford and Bloomfield. Choose the best day for you.

- 9/17/2024 9:30 - Noon  
Bloomfield Senior Expo - 330 Park Ave, Bloomfield, CT
- 10/1/2024 10:00 - Noon  
Bloomfield Senior Center - 330 Park Ave Bloomfield, CT
- 10/3/2024 10:00 - Noon - Elmwood Senior Center  
1106 New Britain Ave, West Hartford, CT
- 10/7/2024 2:30 - 5:30 PM  
Hall High- front room - 975 N Main St, West Hartford, CT
- 10/10/2024 2:30 - 5:30 PM  
West Hartford Town Hall - 50 S Main St, West Hartford, CT
- 10/15/2024 10:00 - Noon  
Bishops Senior Center - 15 Starkel Rd, West Hartford, CT
- 10/17/2024 2:30 - 5:30 PM  
West Hartford Town Hall - 50 S Main St, West Hartford, CT
- 10/21/2024 2:30 - 5:30 PM  
Conard High School Cafeteria: 110 Beechwood Rd, West Hartford, CT
- 10/22/2024 10:00 - Noon  
Bloomfield Senior Center- 330 Park Ave, Bloomfield, CT
- 10/22/2024 4:00 - 6:00 PM  
Bloomfield Senior Center- 330 Park Ave, Bloomfield, CT

Please bring your Insurance Cards and ID!

**Cost for uninsured:**

18 and under: \$20.00, Adults 19-64 - \$50.00, Adults 65+ \$85.00 for High Dose

**Insurance Accepted for Flu Clinics:**

Aetna, Anthem/Blue Cross, Cigna, ConnectiCare, Medicaid/Husky, Medicare Part B and United Healthcare/Oxford



**Questions?**

Please call the WHBHD at 860-561-7900  
580 Cottage Grove Rd, Bloomfield, CT

## Town of Bloomfield Employees & Dependents

Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> (9:30am to 12:00pm)

Council Chambers-Town Hall Building

Registration is required!!

Please call the HR Department to register.

860-769-3544

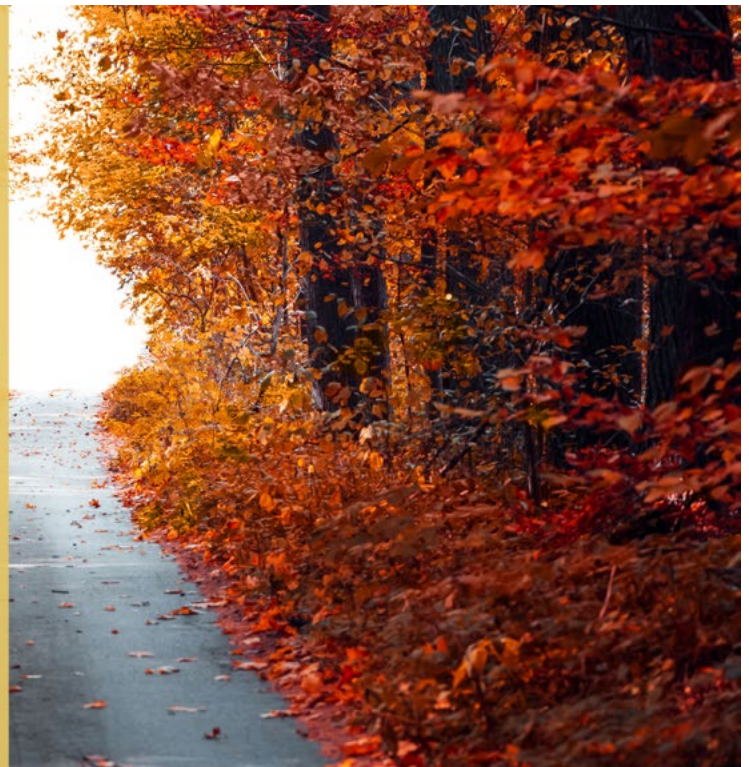


## STAY HEALTHY THIS FALL

With warm summer days behind us and chilly afternoons on the horizon, fall is a time when many of us start to slack on our wellness goals.

- Discover Fall Outdoor Activities
- Stay Hydrated
- Practice Healthy Handwashing
- Enjoy Seasonal Fall Nutrition
- Play Fall Sports
- Participate in Fall Holiday Wellness Celebrations
- Refocus on Your Mental Health
- Foster Social Wellness
- Get a Wellness Checkup
- Get Enough Sleep

READ MORE





**Q: Why was the jack-o'-lantern scared?**

**A: Because it had no guts.**

**Q: How do you get rid of demons?**

**A: Exorcise a lot**

**Q: What is a baby ghost's favorite game to play on Halloween?**

**A: Peek-a-boo**



## 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-Newsletter-Cont-72>

Or contact India Rodgers at [irodgers@bloomfieldct.gov](mailto:irodgers@bloomfieldct.gov) or Brian Wolff at [bwolff@bloomfieldct.gov](mailto:bwolff@bloomfieldct.gov)

## RECIPE CORNER

### Hearty Autumn Harvest Soup

#### **Ingredients:**

- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 lb Italian sausage (optional for a vegetarian version)
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 medium carrots, peeled and diced
- 2 celery stalks, diced
- 2 medium potatoes, peeled and diced
- 1 medium sweet potato, diced
- 1 cup butternut squash, peeled and diced
- 1 can (14.5 oz) diced tomatoes
- 1 cup green or brown lentils, rinsed
- 1 tsp dried thyme
- 1 tsp smoked paprika
- 1 bay leaf
- 6 cups vegetable or chicken broth
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Fresh parsley for garnish



#### **Directions:**

1. Brown the sausage (optional): Heat olive oil in a large pot over medium heat. Add sausage and cook, breaking it into small pieces, until browned. Remove sausage from the pot and set aside.
2. Sauté the vegetables: In the same pot, add onions, garlic, carrots, and celery. Sauté for 4-5 minutes, until the vegetables are softened.
3. Add the root veggies and spices: Stir in the potatoes, sweet potato, butternut squash, thyme, and paprika. Cook for 2-3 minutes to allow the flavors to blend.
4. Add the lentils, broth, and tomatoes: Pour in the broth, diced tomatoes, and lentils. Add the bay leaf. Bring the soup to a boil, then reduce the heat to a simmer. Let it cook for 25-30 minutes, or until the lentils and vegetables are tender.
5. Finish and season: If you used sausage, return it to the pot. Season the soup with salt and pepper to taste. Let it simmer for an additional 5 minutes to meld the flavors.
6. Serve: Remove the bay leaf. Ladle the soup into bowls and garnish with fresh parsley. Serve with crusty bread for a complete meal!