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## THANKFUL TOGETHER: CELEBRATING OUR SUCCESSES AND EACH OTHER

As the season of gratitude begins, this month's newsletter is all about reflecting on the progress we've made together and looking forward to the exciting opportunities ahead. November brings with it a time to pause, give thanks, and appreciate the hard work and dedication each of you brings to our community.

In this issue, we'll celebrate our accomplishments, share tips for staying healthy and stress-free during the holiday season, and spotlight the ways we're giving back to the community. You'll also find important updates on upcoming events, professional development opportunities, and ways to stay engaged as we wrap up the year.

Thank you for your continued commitment to making Bloomfield a better place for everyone. Let's make the most of this month by staying focused, supporting one another, and remembering that together, we are one team with a shared mission.



## MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Hello Team Bloomfield,

As we enter this season of gratitude, I want to take a moment to reflect on the progress we've made this year and the exciting opportunities ahead. November is a special time to pause and give thanks, and I am truly thankful for the dedication, resilience, and teamwork that each of you brings to the table every day. Your commitment to serving our community is what makes Team Bloomfield strong and for that, I am truly grateful. As we approach the end of the year, let's continue to support one another, celebrate our progress, and stay focused on the important work we do together. We've accomplished so much already, and I am excited for what lies ahead."

Our focus on **RESPECT, SENSE OF PURPOSE & ACCOUNTABILITY** continues to guide us in every decision we make. These three pillars are the foundation of everything we do, and I'm proud of how we've worked together to uphold these values.

Let's celebrate our team's achievements, share wellness tips for the holiday season, and highlight ways to get involved in our community outreach initiatives. You'll also find important updates on upcoming events, professional development opportunities, and ways we can continue to strengthen our collective efforts.

As we look ahead, there is much to be excited about. We have key projects and initiatives on the horizon that will help us continue to grow and improve as a team. I encourage each of you to embrace these opportunities, knowing that we are **ONE TEAM, ONE FIGHT**, moving toward a common goal of excellence for the Town of Bloomfield.



Thank you for everything you do to make Bloomfield a better place. Let's continue working together, with gratitude, pride and continued commitment to build on the great work we've accomplished so far.

With gratitude,  
Warm Regards,  
Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr.,  
Town Manager

## HONORING OUR VETERANS

Veterans Day is a day where we give thanks and honor soldiers who served these great United States both deceased and alive. We also recognize their dedication to service and readiness to make sacrifices for the greater good. Did you know that Veterans Day was initially named Armistice Day? The first celebration of "National Veterans Day" occurred in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1947. It was organized by a World War II veteran named Raymond Weeks.

The celebration included a parade and other festivities. This event was held on November 11th and was originally designated as Armistice Day. But in 1954, a bill was proposed to change Armistice Day to Veterans Day by U.S. Representative Edward Rees of Kansas. The bill passed by Congress and was signed by President Eisenhower. In November 1982, President Reagan awarded Mr. Weeks the Presidential Citizens Medal in honor of his contributions to organizing this day. In the United States, Veterans Day makes us proud of the bravery of those who sacrificed their lives for our country. We are grateful for their service, and we honor them!



Name (l-r above)	Department	Military Branch	Years in Military
Alan Goldstein	Senior Services	CT Army National Guard	1982-1990
Todd Bailey	Building	United States Air Force	1986-1990
Krish Naraine	Building	United States Air Force	1977-1981
Thomas Langer	Public Works	United States Army MP	1992-1998
Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr.	Town Manager	United States Army	1983-2024
Matt Childress	Facilities	United States Navy	1993-1997
Det. Lionel Rodriguez	Police	United States Marine Corps	1997-2006
Det. James Thurston	Police	United States Marine Corps	2007-2012

# TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD

## WALKING CHALLENGE



### Top 3 Performers



#### 1st **Chief Paul Hammick**

Police Department

**295.4 miles**

#### 2nd **Sharron Howe**

Town Manager's Office

**292.27 miles**

#### 3rd **Glen Garrity**

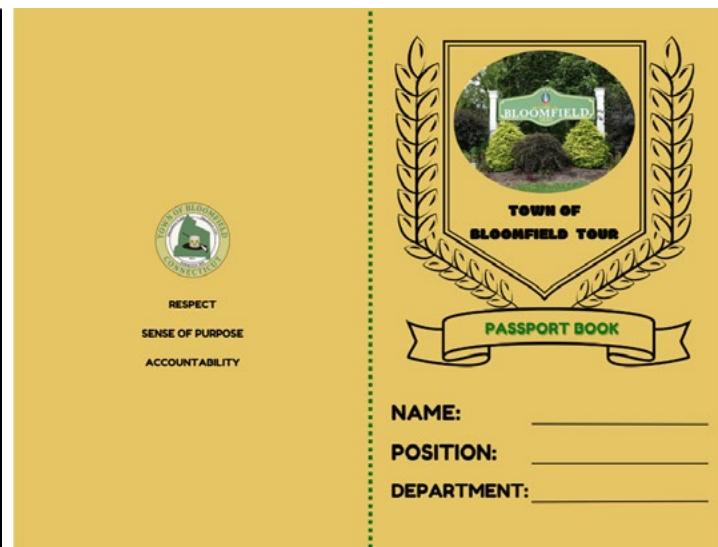
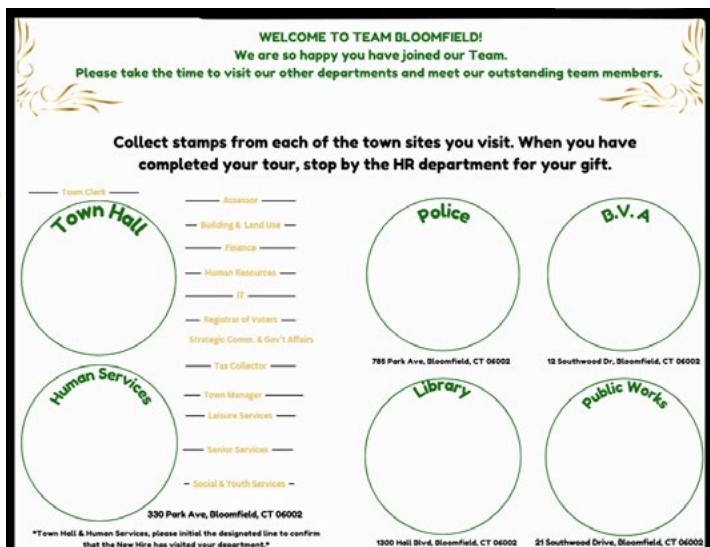
Public Works

**237.0 miles**

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE EMPLOYEES THAT  
PARTICIPATED IN THIS YEAR'S WALKING CHALLENGE**

## HR PASSPORT BOOK FOR NEW EMPLOYEES

Starting October 28th, all new hires joining our team will have the opportunity to participate in our new orientation passport event.



"We have created a passport book for our new team members who have joined Team Bloomfield! It shares the warmth of our unity as we introduce them to our Town Hall and the various departments within our community." – Rachel Hogan-McLennan, Human Resources Staff Assistant



**Bloomfield's Food Bank**

**HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY!**

- ACCEPTING CANNED FOOD AND NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS (PLEASE VIEW ACCEPTABLE LIST ITEMS ON THE BACK)
- GIFT CARDS FROM LOCAL GROCERY STORES ARE ACCEPTED
- EVERY DONATION COUNTS & MAKES A BIG IMPACT

**NOV 1ST - 30TH** | **DROP-OFF LOCATION: HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT.**

AS A THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION YOUR NAME WILL BE ENTERED INTO A RAFFLE FOR AN APPRECIATION PRIZE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT RACHEL HOGAN-MCLENNON AT 860-769-3538 OR [RMCLENNON@BLOOMFIELDCT.GOV](mailto:RMCLENNON@BLOOMFIELDCT.GOV)

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING BLOOMFIELD'S FOOD BANK, CONTACT SOCIAL & YOUTH SERVICES AT 860-769-3110

**RAFFLE**

# United Way



The United Way seeks to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of communities around the world to advance the common good. To continue their vital work, they need our support. By supporting the United Way, you are investing in a better future for our Town, helping to ensure that everyone has the resources they need to succeed. It is a team effort that can lead to meaningful improvements in the quality of life for many.

Join the Human Resources department on Wednesday, November 13th in the Council Chambers for the United Way Campaign Kick-off. Watch for more information.

## SPREAD THE SPIRIT OF THANKSGIVING

As we approach Thanksgiving, we're reminded of the power of giving and the impact we can make together. This season, let's unite to support our community by participating in local food drives, donating clothing, or volunteering at nearby shelters.

Your contributions – whether it's a few cans of food, warm clothing, or an hour of your time – make a real difference for families in need. Join us in spreading gratitude and generosity this season. Together, we can make a meaningful impact!



*A reminder that Daylight Saving Time comes to an end this weekend at 2am on Sunday, Nov. 3.*

*Be sure to set your clocks back one hour.*

## NOVEMBER OFFICE CLOSURES

**November 11**  
Veteran's Day

**November 28**  
Thanksgiving Day

**November 29**  
Day after Thanksgiving

*We hope you enjoy this time with family and friends*

# EARLY VOTING

**October 21 through  
November 3**

**TOWN HALL  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

10:00 AM TO 6:00 PM

8:00 AM TO 8:00 PM

OCTOBER 29 & 31

**Make Your Voice Count Early!  
TO RECEIVE IMPORTANT  
ELECTION UPDATES FROM  
THE CT SECRETARY OF  
STATE TEXT VOTE TO  
860.321.4221**

# ELECTION DAY VOTING

**Tuesday  
November 5, 2024**

6:00 AM TO 8:00 PM

VOTING DISTRICT LOCATIONS		
District 1	Leisure Services Gym	330 Park Ave.
District 2	Bloomfield High School	5 Huckelberry Ln.
District 3	Carman Arace Middle School	390 Park Ave. (East Gym)
District 4	Metacomet School	185 School St.
District 5	Laurel School	1 Filley St.



Diwali 2024 Date in India Calendar: Deepawali, also known as Diwali, is one of the most anticipated and widely celebrated festivals in India and across many parts of the world among Hindus.

Diwali is a five-day-long celebration that commences with Dhanteras and ends with Bhai Dooj. It is often considered the festival of lights, joy, prosperity, and happiness. Celebrated with great enthusiasm and joy, Diwali falls on the darkest night of the year in the Hindu month of Kartik, called Kartik Amavasya.

People celebrate Diwali by lighting up their homes and streets with diyas and candles, dressing up in new clothes, exchanging gifts, and indulging in delicious traditional food.

## 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](#)

# HAIL

## WELCOME TO THE TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD



### New Employee

#### Biography

#### NELSON ORTIZ



Maintainer II  
Public Works Department

**September 30, 2024** -We are pleased to welcome Nelson Ortiz to the Town of Bloomfield Public Works Department as a new Maintainer II. He has six years of experience in maintenance, from surrounding towns such as Hartford and Windsor. He is a graduate of Hartford Public High and possesses a CDL license in commercial driving.

*"I am elated to give my Public Service to the Town of Bloomfield - Nelson"*

**WELCOME TO TEAM BLOOMFIELD!**



### New Employee

#### Biography

#### VICTOR MENDOZA



Custodian  
Public Works Department

**October 7, 2024** -We are pleased to welcome Victor Mendoza to the Town of Bloomfield Public Works Department as a Custodian. Victor brings nine years of experience in school bus dispatch coordination and the preservation of local facilities, including work with the East Windsor and Manchester Boards of Education. He is a graduate of A.L. Prince Technical High School.

*"I look forward to adding value to our team because I am responsible, punctual, and reliable. I have courtesy for others, respect all, and always willing to help people accomplish their goals. - Victor"*

**WELCOME TO TEAM BLOOMFIELD!**



### New Employee

#### Biography

#### KRISHNA NARAIN



Assistant Building Official  
Building and Land Use

**October 7, 2024** -We are pleased to welcome Krishna Naraine as the permanent Assistant Building Official for the Town of Bloomfield Building and Land Use. Krishna brings over 15 years of experience in enforcing state building codes and reviewing specifications from the University of Connecticut. A graduate of Penney High School, he has received numerous accolades, including the Proclamation for Star Hardware Day, the Men of Color award, and the Past President Award from the Minority Construction Council.

*"After retiring from the State of CT as a Building Official, I had no intentions of going back to work in this field. I ran into someone who mentioned that Bloomfield needed help in the Building Department. I thought I would help out on a part time basis. Working here for the last couple of months in the Building Department has given me the picture of a true team where your intellect is challenged on a daily basis. This is why I decided to come aboard on a permanent basis. As a Town resident I bring the luxury of helping out a neighbor or direct a contractor how to be their best."*

**WELCOME TO TEAM BLOOMFIELD!**



### New Employee

#### Biography

#### DARIN LEMIRE



Deputy Town Engineer  
Public Works Department

**October 28, 2024** - We are pleased to welcome Darin Lemire to the Town of Bloomfield Public Works Department as the Deputy Town Engineer. Darin brings over twenty years of experience in civil and environmental engineering, having previously served as a Senior Hydraulic Engineer at Cardinal Engineering in Meriden, CT. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and a Master of Science in Environmental Engineering from the University of Connecticut.

*"I choose to work for the Town of Bloomfield by switching careers to enter public service from the consulting engineering world. This experience will provide value to the Town since I have over twenty years of engineering experience to draw upon to assist the town engineer. The decision was made when I found both public works & engineering here very welcoming. Living close by, I have spent a lot of time in Bloomfield enjoying town parks, trails, and businesses. -Darin"*

**WELCOME TO TEAM BLOOMFIELD!**

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Town Manager Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr. recognizes the hard work of custodian Michael Edwards on his last day working at Town Hall. Michael is now working at the Bloomfield Police Department and the BPL Swing Space.

## WORK ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT
Angelica Candelaria	11/1/01 - 23 years	Town Clerk
Glen Garrity	11/10/15 - 9 years	Public Works
Tedford McGhie	11/10/14 - 10 years	Public Works
Ivette Varela	11/5/01 - 23 years	Public Works
Matthew Suplee	11/29/04 - 20 years	Police
Camilla Hillian	11/6/00 - 24 years	Social & Youth Services
Randolph White	11/27/23 - 1 year	Tax Office
Brian Wolff	11/2/22 - 2 years	SCGA



## JOKE CORNER

**Q: Why did the farmer have to separate the chicken and the turkey?**

**A: He sensed fowl play**

**Q: What kind of music did the pilgrims listen to?**

**A: Plymouth Rock**

**Q: What's a pilgrim's favorite dance?**

**A: The Turkey Trot**



## 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

### 6-Cheese Ultimate Mac n Cheese

**Ingredients:**

- 4 cups of cooked pasta
- 4 tablespoons of butter
- 2 tablespoons of flour
- 2 cups of half and half
- 1 teaspoon of salt
- 1 teaspoon of pepper
- 1 pinch of garlic powder
- 1 pinch of paprika
- 2 cups of shredded cheese – your choice (for this, I used what I had left over Gouda, Velveeta, Cheddar, and Fontina)
- 1/2 cup of sour cream
- \*shredded cheese for topping

**Directions:**

1. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees.
2. Melt 2 tablespoons of butter.
3. Then stir in the flour and cook for about 60 seconds while constantly stirring.
4. Add in half and half and continue to stir periodically while on high heat. When the mixture comes to a boil, it should start to thicken.
5. Fold in cheese, salt, pepper, garlic powder, paprika, and sour cream.
6. Allow the cheese to melt down into a smooth sauce. This should take about 3 minutes on low heat.
7. Mix with the cooked pasta and pour into a baking dish and top with more shredded cheese.



### Sweet Potato Cornbread

**Ingredients:**

- 1 cup fine yellow cornmeal
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup packed light or dark brown sugar
- 4 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 2 large eggs
- 2 cups whole buttermilk
- 1 cup cooked and mashed sweet potato
- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted

**Directions:**

1. Preheat the oven to 400°F. Then line a 9x9-inch square baking pan with parchment paper or generously coat the pan with baking spray. Note: you can also use a large (at least 10-12 inches) cast iron skillet or a 12-cup muffin pan with cupcake liners. Then set aside.
2. In a medium bowl, whisk the cornmeal, flour, brown sugar, baking powder, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, and nutmeg together. Whisk thoroughly to fully combine and set aside.
3. In a large bowl, whisk the eggs, buttermilk, and mashed sweet potato/puree together until fully combined. Then pour the dry ingredients into the wet ingredients. Use a rubber spatula to fold everything together until just combined.
4. Lastly, pour in the melted butter and fold it within the batter until combined. Empty the batter into the prepared baking dish and use an offset spatula to smooth out the top, if necessary.
5. Bake the cornbread for 35-40 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the center of the cornbread comes out clean. Allow the cornbread to cool down for 10 minutes before cutting into.
6. Slice the cornbread into wedges and serve immediately with extra pats of butter or drizzled honey or if desired. Enjoy!

