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HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024 !!!



Welcome to *The Monthly Tea* our new monthly employee newsletter!

We hope you had a wonderful holiday season and are ready to kick off the new year with enthusiasm and positivity. As we enter into January, we have some exciting updates and announcements to share with you. Let's dive right in!

This is a special introductory issue of a brand-new employee newsletter from the Office of Strategic Communications & Government Affairs. We are excited to share important updates, news, and resources with you to keep you informed and engaged in our organization.

In this January issue, we want to share with you our objectives, ask for your feedback about the topics we plan to feature, and your suggestions on additional articles for upcoming issues.

In each edition of our newsletter, you can expect to find updates on town events, employee achievements, new initiatives, and upcoming opportunities. We will also feature articles on professional development, wellness tips, and employment spotlights to showcase the amazing work our employees are doing.

We encourage you to take the time to read through the newsletter and stay connected with what's happening in Town. Your feedback and suggestions are always welcome, so please feel free to reach out to us with any ideas or topics you would like to see covered.

We would like to thank all of you who participated and submitted newsletter titles in naming our employee newsletter, *The Monthly Tea*. Special thanks to Ms. Angelica Candelaria, our contest winner. We are including some actual Human Resource news about your benefits that you really need to read, so don't skip that!

Thank you for being a valued employee of our team, and we hope you find our newsletter informative and enjoyable!

Best regards,

India Rodgers, MFP
Director of Strategic Communications & Government Affairs

Message From Town Leadership



We hope this message finds you all in good health and high spirits. As we navigate through these challenging times, we wanted to take a moment to express our gratitude and appreciation for each and every one of you.

Your dedication, hard work, and unwavering commitment to serving our community have not gone unnoticed. Despite the obstacles we have faced, you have continued to show resilience, adaptability, and a true sense of teamwork. Your efforts have made a significant impact on the lives of our residents, and we are incredibly proud of the work you do.

We understand that the past year has been filled with uncertainty and changes, but your professionalism and positive attitude have been a source of inspiration for all of us. Your willingness to go above and beyond to ensure the safety and well-being of our community is commendable.

We also want to acknowledge the challenges you may be facing personally. Balancing work, family, and personal responsibilities can be overwhelming, especially during these times. Please know that we are

here to help to support you in any way we can. If you need assistance, guidance, or simply someone to talk to, please don't hesitate to reach out.

As we look ahead, we are optimistic about the future and the opportunities it holds. We are confident that together, we will overcome any obstacles that come our way. Your dedication and commitment to our Town are what make it a great place to live, work, and thrive.

In recognition of your hard work and to boost staff morale, we are planning a special appreciation event in the coming months. This will be an opportunity for us to come together, celebrate our achievements, and show our gratitude for your exceptional service. More details will be shared soon.

Once again, thank you for your continued dedication and commitment. Your contributions are invaluable, and we are grateful to have such an incredible team. Working together with our Town Council, we will continue to make a positive difference in the lives of our residents and build a stronger, more resilient community.

With deepest appreciation,

Sharron Howe
Interim Town Manager

Newsletter Objectives

So, why is the Office of Strategic Communications & Government Affairs publishing an employee newsletter?

We want you to hear from us! When there is Town news or information that will impact you as an employee, we want you to get that information directly from us. As an important objective of this department, our Internal Communications is key. The goal of Internal Communications for employee engagement is to foster a sense of connection, involvement, and commitment among employees towards the organization. It aims to create a positive and engaging work environment where employees feel valued, informed, and motivated to contribute their best efforts.

The tone of this newsletter will be casual. The articles will be in an easy to read format. And, it will be electronic! You can bookmark it, read it now, read it later or even print it to take home to share with family.

**Congratulations
to the winner of
our newsletter
naming contest, Ms.
Angelica Candelaria,
Deputy Town Clerk!
We appreciate
everyone's
submissions.**



Celebrating Our Outgoing Staff

Justin LaFountain, Director of Building and Land Use; Marguerite Phillips, Town Clerk;

Marie Bendzans, Senior Services Administrative Aide II

We would like to recognize and celebrate the remarkable contributions and bid farewell to two incredible staff members of our Bloomfield family. It is with mixed emotions that we announce the retirement of Ms. Marguerite Phillips and Ms. Marie Bendzans, as well as the resignation of Mr. Justin LaFountain. While we are sad to see them go, we are also grateful for the lasting impact they have made during their time with us.

First, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude to Marguerite Phillips for her 32 years of service of dedicated service and unwavering commitment to the Town of Bloomfield as our beloved Town Clerk. Marguerite's contributions have been instrumental in shaping our organization and helping the Town achieve its goals. Throughout her tenure, Marguerite has been a role model of professionalism, integrity, and excellence. Her wisdom, guidance and mentorship have been invaluable to our team and community.

As Marguerite transitions into retirement, we want to express our heartfelt appreciation for her years of service to the Town of Bloomfield. We wish her a well-deserved retirement filled with joy, relaxation, and new adventures.

Secondly, we want to thank Marie Bendzans for 17 years of service in providing valuable programs to the senior population. Marie was chosen as an Aging Mastery Program presenter with the National Council on Aging. She initiated our first Bloomfield Citizens Academy in 2015. During her time in Senior Services, Marie also provided a kind and caring spirit, and became the master wordsmith of town publications.

Lastly, we would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to Justin LaFountain for his dedication, hard work, and commitment to excellence. His contributions have been invaluable, and they have played a significant role in the success of our team and growth of our organization and the overall Bloomfield community. We are truly grateful for his professionalism, expertise, and positive attitude, which has inspired and motivated many.

Let's celebrate Justin, Marguerite, and Marie for their contributions, friendship, and unwavering commitment to the Town of Bloomfield. While they may be leaving our organization, they will always remain a part of our Bloomfield family. We wish them continued success, happiness and fulfillment in all their future endeavors.

Congratulations to our Holiday winners. The Door Decorating Contest, which was voted on by the Town Council, was won by Building & Land Use. The Ugly Sweater Contest, which was voted on by town employees, was won by Mr. Glenn Garrity, Assistant Director of Public Works!



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY! YOU ROCK



January Work Anniversaries

Sharon Gentles-Harris – 1/23/19 (Purchasing)
 Chief Paul Hammick – 1/3/11 (Police)
 Michael Tobias – 1/23/13 (Library)
 Theirry Gatian – 1/30/23 (Police/EMS)
 Thangu Narasimhan – 1/3/05 (IT Dept)
 Teresa Blesso – 1/2/18 (Tax Dept)
 Michael Addington – 1/4/21 (Building Dept)
 Thomas Wilson – 1/2/08 (PW Dept)
 Timothy DeCarish – 1/15/08 (PW Dept)
 Ryan French – 1/7/09 (PW Dept)
 Officer Robert Wilkins – 1/18/12 (Police)
 Sergeant Henry Rodriguez- 1/2/13 (Police)
 Officer Rachmiel Moise – 1/8/18 (Police)
 Officer Brianna Vega – 1/8/18 (Police)
 Officer Anthony Traniello – 1/3/23 (Police)
 Officer Roy Clemons – 1/10/23 (Police)
 Dawn Cooper-Grodger - 1/2/06 (BSYS)



EMPLOYEE WELLNESS

Your well being is important to us. We encourage you to prioritize self-care and mental health. Take advantage of our wellness programs that are offered through Cigna, our health carrier. Remember to take breaks, practice mindfulness, and reach out for support if needed.

With the increase of COVID cases, all employees must keep their co-workers' health and wellness in mind. Therefore, Human Resources wants to reiterate how important it is that all employees must stay home if they are feeling sick or have any symptom the CDC has identified with COVID-19 (cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, muscle or body aches, sore throat, headache, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, runny or stuffy nose, fatigue, recent loss of taste or smell.

WE ENCOURAGE THE USE OF MASKS.

Employees who appear to have symptoms upon arrival at work or who become sick during the day will be immediately separated from others and sent home. Employees must notify the Human Resources Department of their circumstances.

Prevent Respiratory Viruses STAY HEALTHY ALL SEASON



Wash Your Hands Often

Use soap and water and scrub for at least 20 seconds. Always wash your hands after eating, coughing, sneezing, touching your face, and using the bathroom.

Clean & Disinfect Surfaces Regularly

Toys, countertops, doorknobs, microwave buttons, faucets, and handrails can all spread germs. Clean these more frequently.



Get Your Flu Vaccine & COVID-19 Booster

Vaccination helps prevent severe illness and reduce hospitalizations and death.

Stay Home When You Are Sick

As much as possible, stay home when you are sick. Avoid spreading illness to others and rest so you can heal.



Mask Around Others When Symptomatic

If you have to leave the house, wearing a mask can help you keep your germs to yourself and protect those around you from getting sick.



JOKE CORNER



Q: Why did the spider get a job in I.T.?

A: He was a great web designer



UPCOMING EVENTS

Town Council Orientation Workshops - January 11, 2024 and January 17, 2024, 6:00-8:00 pm

Human Trafficking Workshop - January 18, 2024, 6:00-7:30 pm, 330 Park Ave.

CONNPERLA Supervisor's Bootcamp - January 25, 2024, 12:30-3:30 pm, Wethersfield, CT. Register in advance to Caroline Beitman (Caroline.Beitman@cga.ct.gov). **Cost: \$25**

MISSION SQUARE

On January 10, Jim Tavares will be offering one-on-one 30-minute meetings. **Police will be walk in or office sign up only (7am to 8:45 am).**

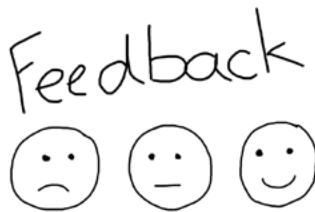
Town Hall and DPW employees please reserve your time using the link below.

[Town Hall \(9am to 12 pm\)](#)

[Public Works \(12:30 pm to 3:30 pm\)](#)

GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK

We want to hear from you!!! This newsletter is meant to be a means of two-way communication. In each issue, you can give us your opinion on articles for the future or ask questions about articles you just read. If you have ideas, concerns, or suggestions for improvement, please don't hesitate to share them with us. Your input is invaluable in shaping our workplace culture and enhancing our work environment. Please direct any feedback to India Rodgers (irodgers@bloomfieldct.gov) or Brian Wolff (bwolff@bloomfieldct.gov).



UNTIL NEXT MONTH

That's it for this month's newsletter. We hope you find these updates informative and inspiring. As always, thank you for your hard work and dedication. Together, let's make the month of January and this new year a time of growth, collaboration and success.



TIME WELL SPENT™

