

# THE MONTHLY TEA

The Official Monthly Newsletter for  
Employees of the Town of Bloomfield



**MAY 2025**

**VOLUME 17**

## **A TRIBUTE TO SERVICE: PUBLIC WORKS, BUILDING DEPARTMENT, & EMS**

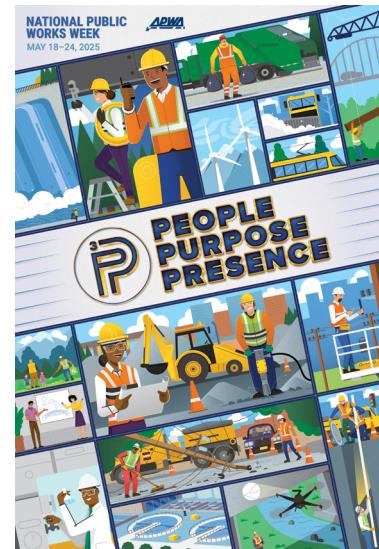
### **NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK**

**MAY 18-24**

APWA is proud to announce the theme "People, Purpose, Presence" for the 2025 National Public Works Week poster. Meeting the needs of people is what gives public works its sense of purpose. Public works professionals are ever present, working in the background to advance quality of life for all.

The "People, Purpose, Presence" theme highlights how public works makes communities safer, more vibrant, and a better place to live. Whether serving as first responders, responding to electricity outages, providing regular waste pickup, or making roads and sidewalks passable after a winter weather event, public works is always there when people need them.

The New England Chapter of the APWA named Bloomfield it Connecticut Public Works Department of the Year!!



It's National Building Safety Month throughout May and we would like to recognize our hard working Building Department employees for your unwavering commitment to ensuring the safety, resilience, and sustainability of our community.

National Building Safety Month serves as a reminder of the critical role that building codes, standards, and inspections play in safeguarding lives, property, and the environment. Your dedication to upholding these standards and promoting best practices in building safety is truly commendable and deeply valued.

Together, we can continue to build a safer, stronger, and more resilient community for generations to come.

The Bloomfield Police Department Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division is responsible for Emergency Management and provides 24-hour coverage of the Bloomfield Volunteer Ambulance (BVA) service, utilizing a unique and effective blend of volunteer Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and contracted Paramedics. EMS provides both basic and advanced life support ambulance response.

**WE CARE.  
FOR EVERYONE.**

**EMS WEEK**  
May 18-24, 2025

The Bloomfield Volunteer Ambulance Fund, Inc. is a 501(c) 3 organization, incorporated in 1977 with the help of local businesses. Over the past 47 years, the Bloomfield Volunteer Ambulance Fund, Inc. has purchased or provided the funding for approximately 14 ambulances since their incorporation in 1977.

Thank you to all of the dedicated EMS professionals for your selfless service and commitment to saving lives. Your bravery and compassion make a difference every day.

## ONE YEAR IN: REFLECTING, REAFFIRMING, AND RECOMMITTING

Hey Team Bloomfield,

As we welcome the month of May, I'm proud to mark a meaningful milestone—my one-year anniversary, May 6th serving as your Town Manager. This past year has been an incredible journey of learning, growth, and partnership. I've spent time listening, observing, and working alongside many of you to better understand the unique nuances of municipal government. Together, we've navigated a transformative year filled with new initiatives, impactful programming, and a renewed focus on employee engagement and recognition.

From modernizing our internal systems and launching new cross-departmental collaborations, to enhancing our communication channels and celebrating the everyday contributions of our team, your efforts have helped lay the groundwork for a stronger, more connected organization.

Throughout this first year, I've witnessed firsthand the power of public service, the importance of citizen engagement, and the critical role each of you play in supporting our local democracy. As someone who has served in the U.S. Army and proudly held the rank of Colonel, I deeply value discipline, collaboration, and mission-focus. Those same principles are at the heart of effective municipal leadership. Just as in the military, our success here depends on clear expectations, shared purpose, and a deep respect for the community we serve.

As we finalize our FY 2026 budget process, I encourage each of you to keep striving toward excellence by living out our three core pillars:

- **Respect** – Treat each other and our community with dignity, empathy, and professionalism.
- **Sense of Purpose** – Stay focused on why your work matters. Every role, every task, every idea moves us forward.



- **Accountability** – Own your responsibilities, follow through on commitments, and take pride in your results.

These aren't just values—they are the foundation of what it means to be a high-performing team.

Looking ahead, we will continue to elevate employee engagement, enhance transparency, and foster innovation in how we serve. I believe Bloomfield is poised for a strong and resilient future—and it begins with you.

Thank you for making this first year both meaningful and memorable. I look forward to continuing this mission with all of you in year two and beyond.

With appreciation and purpose,

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





# TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD

## EMERGING LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

FALL 2025

### Unlock Your Leadership Potential!

*Are you passionate about leadership and ready to take your career to the next level?*

*Join the Emerging Leadership Program!*

#### Program Highlights

- Hands-on Mentorship with Senior Leadership
- Exclusive Job Shadowing Opportunities
- Leadership Development Workshops
- Community Engagement & Professional Networking Opportunities

APPLICATIONS  
WILL BE  
ACCEPTED IN  
JUNE!

# COMING SOON!

**FREE 12-week immersive program will give you the skills and confidence to LEAD WITH IMPACT!**





TOWN OF  
**BLOOMFIELD**  
CONNECTICUT

## 2025 Employee Benefit Open Enrollment

**May 20, 2025 to June 4, 2025**

**Benefit Counseling Available**

**Tuesday, June 3, 2025**

**9:30 am to 2:30 pm**

The benefit open enrollment period is a once-a-year opportunity for employees to learn about employer provided benefits and make plan elections for yourself and eligible family members. We encourage all employees to make informed decisions.

**The Cigna representative will be present to answer any questions you may have regarding Cigna's health insurance plan.**

**The benefit counselor will be available to review and answer any questions regarding life insurance, Supplemental coverage and Colonial Life Insurance**

**You may review your benefits by accessing the benefit portal (Employee Navigator)**

### **Login Instructions:**

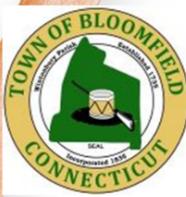
- Go to [www.employeenavigator.com](http://www.employeenavigator.com) and click **Login**.
- **Returning Users:** Log in with the username and password you selected. Click reset forgotten password if needed.
- **First Time Users:** Click on your registration link in the email sent to you by your admin or register as a new user. Create an account and your own username and password. You will need your name, date of birth, last four digits of your social security number, and the company identifier is "Bloomfield.

### **Contact Human Resources Department with any questions**

Rosa Matias – 860-769-3584- [rmatias@bloomfieldct.gov](mailto:rmatias@bloomfieldct.gov)

Kathy Roberts – 860-769-3542 – [kroberts@bloomfieldct.gov](mailto:kroberts@bloomfieldct.gov)

Adilen Valentina – 860-769-3521 – [avalentina@bloomfieldct.gov](mailto:avalentina@bloomfieldct.gov)



## ATTENTION TEAM BLOOMFIELD!

### *Help Support Future Professionals!*

We're proud to partner with Goodwin University for a Professional Clothing Drive to support their campus clothes pantry to help students and young professionals dress for success with confidence as they prepare for interviews and career opportunities.

**DONATE PROFESSIONAL ATTIRE TO HR  
FROM APRIL 13 - MAY 16, 2025**

Acceptable items in NEW or LIKE NEW condition include:

- Men's and Women's Sweaters/Blouses
- Men's and Women's Slacks/Khakis/Dress Pants
- Women's business casual dresses
- Men's and Women's Blazers
- Please drop off *freshly laundered and/or dry-cleaned items only*



**DROP OFF CLOTHES @HR  
CONTACT ADILEN FOR MORE INFO  
860-769-3544**

## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH



MAY 2025

**EAP Resources from CIGNA**  
<https://www.cigna.com/individuals-families/member-guide/employee-assistance-program>

**Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration**  
<https://www.samhsa.gov/mental-health-awareness-month>

Mental Health Awareness Month was established in 1949 to increase awareness of the importance of mental health and wellness in Americans' lives and to celebrate recovery from mental illness. For more than 20 years, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has recognized Mental Health Awareness Month (MHAM) every May to increase awareness about the vital role mental health plays in our overall health and well-being and provide resources and information to support individuals and communities who may need mental health support.

This May, take action, raise your voice, and help change the conversation around mental health! Now, more than ever, NAMI needs you to be part of this movement. Whether by sharing your story, spreading awareness, or advocating for change, every action helps break the stigma and build a more supportive world for all.

## NATIONAL MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

May is Military Appreciation Month, a special time for those in and out of the military. It is a time designated to honor and recognize the contributions, sacrifices, and service of the members of the armed forces, past and present.

Congress designated May as National Military Appreciation Month in 1999 to ensure the nation was given the chance to publicly show their appreciation for troops past and present. It serves as a reminder of the profound contributions made by service members.



**THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE SERVED  
AND CONTINUE TO SERVE OUR GREAT NATION!**

## HAIL WELCOME TO THE TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD



**New Employee Biography**  
**ISAAC RODRIGUES**

Library Assistant I  
Library Services

April 29, 2025 - We are pleased to welcome Isaac Rodrigues to the Town of Bloomfield's Library Services Department as a Library Assistant I. He holds an Associate's degree in Information Technology from Northern Maine Technical College in Presque Isle, Maine.

I'm excited to begin my new role as a Library Assistant with the Bloomfield Public Library. It's an honor to support a community that values learning, connection, and access to information. I look forward to helping patrons discover resources, explore ideas, and feel at home in the library. Here's to new beginnings and meaningful service in Bloomfield, CT! -Isaac

**WELCOME TO TEAM BLOOMFIELD!**



**New Employee Biography**  
**BRUCE LAJOIE**

Assistant Director of  
Information Systems & Technology

April 28, 2025 - We are pleased to welcome Bruce Lajoie to the Town of Bloomfield's Information Systems & Technology Department as an Assistant Director. With over 26 years of experience, Bruce brings a wealth of knowledge to the team. He takes pride in diagnosing and resolving technical issues and customer requests. Previously, he served as Director of Information Technology at Adelbrook, Inc. He holds an Associate's degree in Information Technology from Northern Maine Technical College in Presque Isle, Maine.

I am truly honored and grateful for the opportunity to serve as the Assistant Director of Technology. With over 26 years of experience in the industry, I am excited to bring my knowledge, leadership, and commitment to a team that values innovation and service. I look forward to contributing to Bloomfield's continued growth and technological advancements. -Bruce

**WELCOME TO TEAM BLOOMFIELD!**



The Town hosted its first New Employee Orientation on April 29, 2025. The Orientation included an introduction from Department Heads and a tour around Town! Thank you to all who participated in the event!

## WORK ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT
Kam Godley	5/30/05 - 20 years	Finance
Dave Melesko	5/22/00 - 25 years	Leisure Services
Dwight Carlson	5/23/22 - 3 years	Building & Land Use
Stephen Hajdasz	5/29/12 - 13 years	Police
Rachel Tonucci	5/20/20 - 5 years	Library Services
Robert Trottier	5/6/24 - 1 year	Engineering
Rafael Battle	5/20/24 - 1 year	Senior Services
Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr.	5/6/24 - 1 year	Town Manager



To all the mothers, grandmothers, stepmothers, mother figures, and those who support and nurture others both at home and in the workplace—we celebrate you.

Your strength, compassion, and dedication do not go unnoticed. Whether you're balancing work and family, supporting loved ones, or simply showing up each day with care and commitment, you make a difference in ways big and small.

This Mother's Day, we thank you for all that you do. May your day be filled with love, appreciation, and the recognition you so richly deserve.



## RECIPE CORNER

### Greek Pasta Salad

As BBQ season approaches, here is an easy and delicious side to make!

#### Ingredients

- 16 ounces bow-ties or other medium pasta
- $\frac{3}{4}$  English cucumber diced
- 1-pint grape tomatoes halved
- 1 bell pepper red or orange, diced
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup sliced pitted olives
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup crumbled feta cheese
- $\frac{1}{3}$  cup diced red onion

#### Dressing

- 1 cup Greek dressing
- or
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup red wine vinegar
- $\frac{1}{3}$  cup olive oil
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- salt and pepper to taste

#### Directions

- Whisk together dressing ingredients.
- Cook pasta al dente according to package directions. Rinse under cold water.
- Combine all ingredients in a large bowl. Add dressing and toss.
- Refrigerate at least 2 hours before serving.



THE BLOOMFIELD FIRE DEPT. AUXILIARY

HOSTS

## THE CINNAMON BUN SALOON

FAMOUS  
CINNAMON BUNS

SMOOTHIES

COFFEES

DESSERTS



360 TUNXIS AVE

BLOOMFIELD, CT 06002

FRI, MAY 30TH  
SAT, MAY 31ST  
SUN, JUNE 1ST

2PM-7PM  
8AM-5PM  
8AM-4PM

A PORTION OF PROFITS WILL BE DONATED TO THE  
BLOOMFIELD FIRE DEPT. AUXILIARY



Q: Do you know where you can get chicken broth in bulk?

A: The stock market

Q: Have you heard the rumor about butter?

A: Never mind, I shouldn't be spreading it.

Q: How many tickles does it take to make an octopus laugh?

A: Ten-tickles