

THE MONTHLY TEA

The Official Monthly Newsletter for
Employees of the Town of Bloomfield



JULY 2025

VOLUME 19

ORGANIZATIONAL DAY 2025: BUILDING A STRONGER BLOOMFIELD TOGETHER

On Friday, June 13, 2025, the Town of Bloomfield proudly hosted its first-ever Organizational Day, bringing together employees from across departments for an afternoon focused on professional growth, interdepartmental communication, and a shared commitment to service. Held at 330 Park Avenue, the event marked a significant milestone in Bloomfield's efforts to invest in its most valuable resource—its employees.

Organizational Day was created with a clear goal: to strengthen our internal foundation so that we can better serve the residents of Bloomfield. Town Manager Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr. welcomed staff with opening remarks that underscored the importance of connection, education, and wellness in the workplace.

The afternoon featured a robust schedule of training workshops designed to enhance employee knowledge and promote a respectful, resilient, and secure workplace. Sessions included Suicide Awareness & Resiliency, Sexual Harassment Prevention, and Cybersecurity Training. These timely and essential topics addressed both personal well-being and organizational responsibility, equipping staff with tools to help maintain a safe and effective work environment.

In addition to the trainings, employees had the opportunity to enjoy music, food, and a little bit of fun!!

A key highlight of the event was the focus on departmental collaboration and communication. By bringing all employees together in one space, Organizational Day helped foster greater understanding of the collective impact we have when working toward common goals. The day also served as a reminder that each role—no matter the department or title—is vital to the success of Bloomfield's operations and service delivery.

Organizational Day 2025 set a strong precedent for what we hope will become an annual tradition—one rooted in professional development, workplace wellness, and service excellence. It was a day to pause, learn, reflect, and move forward stronger together.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the event. We look forward to building on this momentum as we continue working to make Bloomfield the best place to work!



MORE PHOTOS ON PG. 4-5

WELCOME TO THE SUMMER SOLSTICE!!!

Hey Team Bloomfield,

As we embrace the warmth and energy of the summer solstice, I want to take a moment to reflect with you on the closing of another impactful fiscal year. As July begins, I applaud each of you for your commitment, diligence, and resilience in helping us successfully navigate FY2025.

This year, we reaffirmed our three core guiding principles — Respect, Sense of Purpose and Accountability: providing excellence in service, transparency, communication, and inclusive community engagement. You have each played a critical role in making these values come alive across every department and every service we provide.

One of our proudest milestones was hosting Bloomfield's first-ever Organizational Day — a dynamic celebration of who we are and the work we do. From engaging workshops to delicious food and shared fellowship, it was a powerful reminder of the spirit that binds our organization together.

As we transition into FY2026, I encourage you all to take time to fall back, recharge, and enjoy the beauty of the season. The summer offers an opportunity for reflection, renewal, and rebirth — the same spirit that continues to fuel our growth and creativity as a municipal team.

Thank you for making Bloomfield an exceptional place to live, work, and serve.

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



TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD BRANDING & STYLE GUIDE

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE](#)



EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER SPOTLIGHT**DANIEL BONILLA**
FINANCE**Nomination #1**

I am pleased to nominate Daniel Bonilla for his outstanding contribution and dedication to improving our payroll system. His recent initiative to streamline and enhance the payroll process has significantly improved the experience for all employees and set a new standard for efficiency and employee support. Recognizing the growing concerns around accessibility, clarity, and processing time, Daniel took time to analyze the existing system, gather feedback, and identify areas for meaningful improvement. As a result of his efforts, we now have a more user-friendly payroll interface, clearer pay stub information, and faster processing of payroll changes and corrections. Implementing a self-service portal that allows employees to easily access their pay information, vacation and sick accruals, tax documents, and direct deposit details.

**Nomination #2**

Dan Bonilla is new to Team Bloomfield, but came to us with a depth of knowledge that enabled him to take on his payroll position without a hitch. His customer service to TOB employees is exemplary. Aside from doing an outstanding job with payroll, he brought the TOB into the 21st Century by spearheading the ESS rollout much sooner than we thought possible. In addition, phase II of the rollout, again spearheaded by Dan, streamlined electronic leave processing. Dan's knowledge and desire to contribute is also evidenced by his willingness to help out his fellow finance employees whenever possible. Dan has proven that he is someone we can count on to put in the extra effort, provide above and beyond service to all, and do it with a sense of humor. Dan is truly a treasured asset to the TOB Community.

WELCOME SUMMER INTERNS!!

Over the past five years, the Town of Bloomfield Social & Youth Services Department, in partnership with Capital Workforce Partners and the Summer Youth Employment and Learning Program (SYELP), has proudly offered meaningful early work experiences to more than 100 Bloomfield youth, ages 14 to 17. Through this program, students are placed in various Town departments where they gain valuable exposure to professional environments, build important workplace skills, and learn firsthand what it means to serve the public.

These internships play a vital role in shaping our future workforce by helping young people develop confidence, a sense of responsibility, and a deeper understanding of how local government works. For many, this is their first job—and their first opportunity to experience the importance of teamwork, accountability, and communication in a real-world setting.



As we welcome this year's group of Summer Youth Interns, we encourage all staff to greet them with kindness, mentorship, and support. Let's lead by example and demonstrate what exceptional public service looks like every day.

Congratulations to all of our 2025 Summer Youth Interns!

TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD





MORE ORGANIZATIONAL DAY PHOTOS



<https://adobe.ly/4k5zq4B>





TOWN MANAGER'S COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARDS



The Town Manager's Community Impact Awards celebrate individuals and businesses who embody the spirit of service, leadership, and community pride in Bloomfield. This recognition honors those who go above and beyond to make a meaningful difference—whether through volunteerism, mentorship, civic involvement, philanthropy, or thoughtful business practices that uplift our town.

Award recipients reflect the Town Manager's core principles of:

- **Respect**, by treating others with dignity and compassion,
- **Sense of Purpose**, by working intentionally to strengthen our community, and
- **Accountability**, by taking ownership of their impact and striving to be a force for good.

Honorees may include residents, business owners, entrepreneurs, nonprofit leaders, or community volunteers—anyone whose actions help build a stronger, more connected Bloomfield. Whether through small, consistent acts of kindness or large-scale initiatives, their contributions inspire others and set a powerful example of what it means to invest in our shared future.

The Town Manager's Community Impact Awards aim to foster a culture of appreciation and recognition while highlighting the diverse voices and efforts that help Bloomfield thrive.

Nomination Criteria

Nominees for the Town Manager's Community Impact Awards should meet the following criteria:

Demonstrated Community Impact

The nominee has made a meaningful and positive contribution to the Town of Bloomfield through service, advocacy, leadership, business practices, volunteerism, or civic engagement.

Embodies Core Values

The nominee reflects the Town Manager's core principles of:

Respect – Treats others with dignity, compassion, and fairness.

Sense of Purpose – Acts with intention to strengthen the Bloomfield community.

Accountability – Takes responsibility for their actions and their impact on others.

Inspires Others

The nominee serves as a role model and motivates others through their dedication, community spirit, and positive influence.

MORE INFORMATION & NOMINATION FORM





BLOOMFIELD SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

7PM ON THE TOWN GREEN

June 19

LATANYA FARRELL

Award-winning soul singer, songwriter, and educator (aka the Singing Principal), for a powerful evening of music and unity this Juneteenth! Let's come together to celebrate freedom, culture, and the soulful rhythms that connect us all.

June 26

THE SCORE FEAT. NATALIA

The Score are known for their high-energy live performances, and ability to finesse a wide range of musical genres including Rock, Jazz, Alternative, R&B and Soul. The band now features singer/songwriter, Natalia, whose voice is equally soulful and powerful, and a must-see.

July 3

STILL KICKING & THE BIG CITY HORNS

Still Kicking and the Big City Horns delivers a variety of rock n roll, R&B, Motown, blues, and swing. Connecticut's premier family friendly, high energy, powerhouse horn band.

July 10

MASS-CONN-FUSION

This seven piece show band combines exciting vocals, flashy brass and a tight rhythm section that sets them apart while grooving on R&B, Funk, Disco and Top Pop.

July 17

PURPLE LUSCIOUS LOVE

Purple Luscious Love is a Prince tribute band devoted to recreating the attitude and energy of the Purple One's music. Founded in Hartford, CT in 2017, PLL continues to expand to other cities in the region, bringing its dynamic show to adoring Prince fans from all corners of the Northeast.

July 24

RU WILLIAMS

Ru is a former signed artist to Universal records; he is a two-time Male Vocalist Champion on B.E.T's Wild Out Wednesday and was named Connecticut's 2015 R&B Artist of the Year. His style can most accurately be described as a "return to real R&B".

July 31

WEST INDIAN CELEBRATION

Event begins at *6PM*
Join us for a night celebrating West Indian culture. Enjoy live music and entertainment, delicious foods and a multitude of vendors with incredible and unique items for purchase.

August 7

BALL IN THE HOUSE

Ball in the House is an R&B/Soul/Pop a cappella group based out of Boston, MA, whose high energy shows have audiences singing, dancing, even beatboxing along!

August 14

SHADED SOUL

Shaded soul is an award winning high energy dance band performing R&B, Motown, Rock, Swing and Top 40 Music. Runner up winner of the 2024 best band in Connecticut

August 21

RHYTHM CITY

A premier all around great band known for their energetic performances and diverse musical repertoire. Based in Connecticut, this vibrant group effortlessly blends R&B, Disco, Rock, Motown, and Top 40 hits. Creating and unforgettable experience for their audiences.





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HAIL WELCOME TO THE TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD



New Employee Biography

TONYA MUHAMMAD



Kitchen Aide
Senior Services

June 10, 2025 - We are pleased to welcome Tonya Muhammad to the Town of Bloomfield's Senior Services Department as a Part-Time Kitchen Aide. Tonya is currently employed as a catering and event server at David Alan Hospitality Group in Berlin, Connecticut. She graduated from A.I. Prince Tech. With 20 years of customer service, she has volunteered as a community organizer for My Sister's Place, Hartford Interval House, Hogar Crea, and the Gardener's House in Hartford, CT.

“Everything is always working out for my Highest Good. Growing up with a mother always involved in community service has left a lasting impression on my life. I truly look to serving with noble intentions and a pure heart. -Tonya **”**

WELCOME TO TEAM BLOOMFIELD!



New Employee Biography

DONNA MERRITT



Librarian III
Library Services

June 17, 2025 - We are pleased to welcome Donna Merritt to the Town of Bloomfield's Library Services Department as a Librarian III. Donna previously worked at Forbes School as a Library Media Specialist in Torrington, Connecticut. She holds a Master's degree in Science from Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, Connecticut, and a certificate in Library Media Science from ACES.

“When I see a community that not only embraces their local libraries but also strives toward social justice with a focus on inclusion, diversity, and equity, I know I'm in the right place! -Donna **”**

WELCOME TO TEAM BLOOMFIELD!

B Bloomfield's Wild For Wildlife Photo Contest 2025

JOIN OUR WILDLIFE PHOTO CONTEST | STARTING JULY 1ST

- RECOGNITION AWARDS!

CAPTURE THE BEAUTY OF NATURE TODAY

Submit your best wildlife photos for a chance to win amazing prizes!

Please use **#RespectWildBloomfield** when sharing this post!

COMING SOON! FIND OUT MORE BY SCANNING THE QR OR VISITING BLOOMFIELDCT.GOV/1152/BLOOMFIELD-WILDLIFE-PHOTO-CONTEST:



Please reach out with any questions.
Email: Communications@bloomfieldct.gov
Call: 860-769-3599





10TH ANNIVERSARY

CITY HALL SELFIE DAY

AUGUST 12

You're invited as our organization participates in the 10 annual City Hall Selfie Day on Aug. 12, 2025.

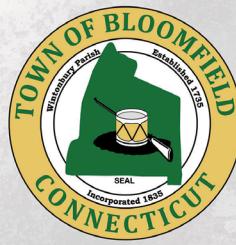
What is City Hall Selfie Day?

City Hall Selfie Day is a celebration of public service showcasing pride in local government institutions. Every year since 2016, government employees, elected officials, members of the media, and community members participate in the event. City Hall Selfie Day is organized by ELGL, Engaging Local Government Leaders, a professional association for people who work in and with local government. Visit cityhallselfie.com to learn more and see photos from past City Hall Selfie Day celebrations.

Simply take a selfie, either alone or with a group, in front of a city hall, town hall, county building, library, or any other local government building you want to showcase. Then, post the selfie on social media using the hashtag **#CityHallSelfie** to join the celebration!

Stay tuned for more information as we will plan to take a Town of Bloomfield selfie in front of Town Hall to share for that day!!!

**ONE TEAM
ONE FIGHT**



WORK ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT
Raymond Merz	7/1/2010 - 15 years	Public Works
Angelica Thompson	7/8/19 - 6 years	Social & Youth Services
Pamela Gengenbach	7/8/24 - 1 year	Assessor's Office
Heather Barrett	7/15/13 - 12 years	Police
Margaret Hacia	7/18/08 - 17 years	Senior Services
Rosa Matias	7/24/01 - 24 years	Human Resources

July PAY DATES

JULY 3

JULY 17

JULY 31

Happy
BIRTHDAY
to you

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL
OF OUR
JULY BABIES IN TOWN!**

RECIPE CORNER

Patriotic Berry Trifle

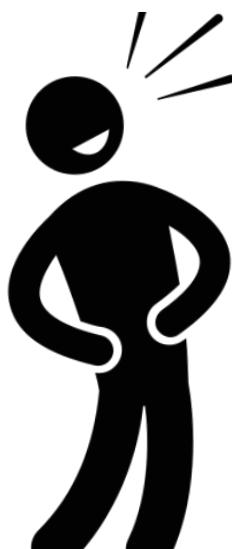
Share your favorite summer recipe with us! Email SCGA (communications@bloomfieldct.gov) for a chance to be featured

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup plus 2/3 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup fresh lemon juice
- 1/4 teaspoon almond extract
- 1 premade angel food cake, cut into 1-inch slices
- 1 pound cream cheese, at room temperature
- 2 cups heavy cream, at room temperature
- 2 pints blueberries
- 2 pints strawberries, hulled and sliced

Directions

1. Heat 1/4 cup sugar, the lemon juice and 1/4 cup water in a saucepan over medium-high heat, stirring, until the sugar dissolves. Remove from the heat and stir in the almond extract.
2. Brush both sides of each slice of cake with the syrup. Cut the slices into 1-inch cubes.
3. Beat the remaining 2/3 cup sugar and the cream cheese with a mixer on medium speed until smooth and light. Add the cream and beat on medium-high speed until smooth and the consistency of whipped cream.
4. Arrange half of the cake cubes in the bottom of a 13-cup trifle dish. Sprinkle evenly with a layer of blueberries. Dollop half of the cream mixture over the blueberries and gently spread. Top with a layer of strawberries. Layer the remaining cake cubes on top of the strawberries, then sprinkle with more blueberries and top with the remaining cream mixture. Finish with the remaining strawberries and blueberries, arranging them in a decorative pattern. Cover and refrigerate 1 hour.



Q: What do you call a fish with no eyes?

A: A Fsh

Q: Did you hear about the ice cream truck accident?

A: It crashed on a Rocky Road

Q: Why aren't lobsters generous?

A: Because they're shellfish

