

# THE MONTHLY TEA

The Official Monthly Newsletter for  
Employees of the Town of Bloomfield



**AUGUST 2025**  
**VOLUME 20**

## SOAKING UP THE SUMMER SPIRIT

August is here, and with it comes the final full month of summer—a chance to enjoy the warmth, the daylight, and the energy that makes this season feel so unique. For many of us, summer offers a small but meaningful shift in pace. Whether it's a few extra moments of sunshine during the day, time spent outdoors, or simply finding space to reset and recharge, there's something about this time of year that encourages reflection, connection, and appreciation.

In this month's edition of our employee newsletter, we're embracing that spirit. While the work of the Town of Bloomfield continues year-round, August provides a natural opportunity to take a breath, look around, and recognize the people, places, and small joys that make our community—and our organization—so special.



## DOG DAYS OF SUMMER



Meet the Furry Friends of our Town  
Employees on Pages 4-6

One way we're highlighting that joy is through our "Dog Days of Summer" feature, where we invited staff to share photos of their canine companions. These four-legged friends bring laughter, comfort, and companionship to our lives, and we're thrilled to showcase just a few of the many dogs who are part of the extended Bloomfield family. Be sure to check out the submissions and see which tail-waggers are stealing the spotlight this month.

Whether you're making the most of summer activities, preparing for the fall, or simply taking things one day at a time, we want to thank you for your continued dedication. Your commitment to service and your support for one another keeps our town running smoothly—and creates the strong, connected culture we're proud to be part of.

So here's to the rest of summer—let's enjoy every moment, keep spirits high, and carry that sunny outlook with us into the season ahead.

## CLOSING SUMMER, EMBRACING PURPOSE

Hey Team Bloomfield,

As summer winds down, I hope this season has given you moments of rest, reflection, and connection with family and friends. Whether enjoying a vacation, a backyard gathering, or simply soaking in the long and warm evenings. August is a special time—one that encourages us to reflect on the past few months while preparing for the transition into a busy fall and back-to-school season.

Here in town, our Summer Concert Series on the Green, every Thursday night has once again brought our community together in celebration of music, culture, and fellowship. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported these events—your presence and energy make them so special.

If you haven't attended an event, take advantage of the remaining Summer Concerts on the Green:

- August 5, 2025 – *Annual West Indian Festival*
- August 7, 2025 – *Ball in the House*
- August 14, 2025 – *Shaded Soul*
- August 21, 2025 – *Rhythm City*
- August 28, 2025 – *Still Kicking & The Big City Horns*

With back-to-school season just around the corner, many of us are preparing for transitions—new routines, goals, and responsibilities. As we gear up for the fall, let's also recommit to self-care and workplace prioritization. Taking time to recharge, set clear intentions, and supporting one another helps us all perform at our best.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to reaffirm our three core pillars that ground the work we do every day:



Town Manager Alvin D. Schwapp Jr. with Tiffany Young at Women's Leadership Roundtable

- **Respect** – for one another, for our community, and for the responsibilities we carry.
- **Sense of Purpose** – staying aligned with our mission and motivated by meaningful outcomes.
- **Accountability** – owning our roles, following through, and supporting a culture of trust.

These principles are more than words, they are the foundation of our service and the standard we hold ourselves to, individually and collectively.

Thank you for your continued commitment. Let's close out the summer strong and enter the next season with focus, energy, and unity.

Warm Regards,  
Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr.  
Town Manager  
One Team, One Fight!!



# Internal Ombudsman Program

## Confidential Support for Town Employees

The new Internal Ombudsman Program offers a safe, neutral space to address workplace concerns quickly, fairly, and confidentially.

### Key Features

- Confidential Workplace Support
- Grievances and Concerns

*Creating a  
supportive, respectful  
workplace—together.*

### What You Can Report

- Workplace environment issues
- Policy or procedure concerns
- Personal work matters
- Conflicts or disputes

### How It Works

- Submit your concern (form link or QR code)
- Get a response in 1–2 days
- Receive a private, fair review
- Resolution or referral as needed

### Your Ombudsman Team

- **Dawn Cooper-Grodder** (*Social & Youth Services*)
  - [dcooper@bloomfieldct.gov](mailto:dcooper@bloomfieldct.gov)
- **Sharon Gentles-Harris** (*Risk & Process Improvement*)
  - [sharris@bloomfieldct.gov](mailto:sharris@bloomfieldct.gov)
- **Matthew Childress** (*Public Works - Facilities*)
  - [mchildress@bloomfieldct.gov](mailto:mchildress@bloomfieldct.gov)



## MEET OUR FURRY FRIENDS!!

**MAPLE**

Karen Brinkman  
Police

Maple loves hiking, visiting the beach (but not the waves), and patrolling the yard for bears.

**ACHILLES**

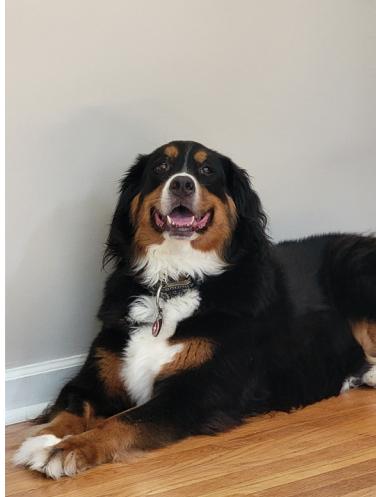
Christine Russo  
BSYS

Achilles is 10 – he came from Okinawa Japan and is a rescue. He and his brother think they are members of the Windsor Locks Neighboorhood Watch.

**AIDEN**

Christine Russo  
BSYS

Aiden is 4 – he came from Texas and is a rescue. He and his brother think they are members of the Windsor Locks Neighboorhood Watch.

**ALICE**

Glen Garrity  
Public Works

Alice is a Bernese Mountain Dog. She is incredibly affectionate and emotionally in tune with the whole family, and she is absolutely spoiled! Don't let her good looks fool you, as she is infamous for stealing unattended food off the counter!

**COOPER**

Pamela Gengenbach  
Assessor's Office

Cooper – he is our gentle giant. He loves everyone and maybe loves playing ball just as much his people.

**DANCER**

Pamela Gengenbach  
Assessor's Office

Dancer – she is part of our pocket pet collection. The larger dogs are terrified of her. She handles her business like a champ and keeps them both in line, she is definitely the alpha in the pack. She doesn't mind our cat Chloe, but she takes no nonsense from the other two! And they know it!

## MEET OUR FURRY FRIENDS!!

**OLIVER**

Pamela Gengenbach  
Assessor's Office

Oliver – This picture paints a thousand words, he is equal parts teeth and love, he annoys all the other pets to no end.

**HARLEY QUINN**

Mara Whitman  
Library Services

She loves to eat!!!! She is more of a loner but enjoys playing with Scooby and Winston. Her life revolves around food and we give her treats which make her happy.

**PHOEBE**

Mara Whitman  
Library Services

Phoebe is our old lady. She is 14. She was found living under a truck in Tenn. She is very loving and caring. We are savoring the moments we have with her.

**REUBEN**

Mara Whitman  
Library Services

I call Ruben Ruby he is a golden/doodle. He is also full of energy but is very loving and caring. He loves to play with other dogs and is very social.

**SCOOBY**

Mara Whitman  
Library Services

He is our puppy he was found walking the streets of Brooklyn and was 15 pounds. With our love and care he is over 30 pounds and is our very active wonderful puppy.

**WINSTON**

Mara Whitman  
Library Services

His nickname is Napolean. He is little but he runs the house. He is a lapdog and is very loving to our family. He loves car rides and seeing the world outside of our house.

## MEET OUR FURRY FRIENDS!!

**EMMY**

Det. Zachary O'Bright  
Police

Emmy is a 9-month-old miniature pinscher who loves to go on hikes with her daddies, is a sucker for a good salmon treat, and is a certified "jumping bean" and ball of energy who will never say no to play time.

**LOLA**

Camilla Hillian  
BSYS

Meet Lola, a Staffordshire Bull Terrier that belongs to Camilla Hillian. She sometimes gets a bad rep because of her muscular build and serious stare—but don't let that fool you. Whether she's snoring louder than the TV or gently nudging you for her daily dose of belly rubs, Lola is a lovable Staffy. She proves every day that you can't judge a pup by her cover.

**MACY**

Alexander Samalot  
Building & Land Use

Macy was adopted from Texas, and is very high energy. Her fun fact is that she is a Catahoula, which is the state dog of Louisiana.

# THANKS FOR SHARING YOUR DOGS WITH US!





# 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.

### **Embody 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.



BE AMONG THE FIRST TO TOUR THIS FIRST-CLASS FACILITY, EXPLORE NEW TECHNOLOGY, AND ENJOY FAMILY-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES, REFRESHMENTS, AND MORE!

## PROSSER LIBRARY RIBBON CUTTING

1 TUNXIS AVE., BLOOMFIELD, CT

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16TH | 11:00 AM

*Join us as we celebrate the newly built Prosser Library with guided tours and special guests!*



Special Guest  
Anika Noni Rose



PARKING: PLEASE PARK BEHIND THE LIBRARY AND USE THE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE TO ACCESS THE BUILDING.

## TAX FREE WEEK

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17 TO SATURDAY, AUGUST 23

A wide variety of clothing and footwear are exempt from state sales tax during Connecticut's tax-free week. Kiplinger has reported on items that usually qualify as tax-exempt. (*This is not an all-inclusive list.*)

- Hats, gloves, and earmuffs
- Jeans, dresses, shorts, and shirts
- Socks, sneakers, and slippers
- Rented uniforms, work clothes, and formal wear
- Undergarments, robes, and swimsuits

**Note:** Several items are still taxed during the tax-free week, like handbags and purses, jewelry, wallets and other accessories, and many sports equipment and supplies.

For a complete list of what's tax-free during Connecticut's 2025 sales tax holiday, visit the state [Department of Revenue](#) website.



# HAIL WELCOME TO THE TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD



**New Employee**  
Biography  
**KRISTIAN ROSADO**





**Mini-Bus Coordinator**  
Senior Services

**July 21, 2025** - We are pleased to welcome Kristian Rosado to the Town of Bloomfield's Senior Services Department as the Mini-Bus Coordinator. Kristian is a graduate of E.C. Goodwin Technical High School. He previously held the position of Supervisor and Dispatcher, with additional responsibilities in billing, at New Britain Transportation. Kristian also served for several years as Deputy Mayor of New Britain, demonstrating a strong commitment to public service and leadership in the community.

**In my role as Mini Bus Coordinator, my goal is to ensure safe, reliable, and accessible transportation for the seniors of our community — especially those who depend on it most. I'm committed to improving daily operations, enhancing rider experience, and working closely with the team to make sure we're not just getting people where they need to go, but doing it with care, respect, and efficiency. I look forward to being part of a team that truly serves the heart of Bloomfield -Kristian**

**WELCOME TO TEAM BLOOMFIELD!**



**B**

**TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD**

**WALKING CHALLENGE**

**SEPTEMBER 2025**

**MORE INFORMATION TO COME FROM HR**



## WORK ANNIVERSARIES



You're invited as our organization participates in the 10th 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](http://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!!!

NAME	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT
Darrell Hill	8/26/24 - 1 year	Finance
Donna Stewart	8/30/24 - 1 year	Finance
Joe Muraca	8/30/24 - 1 year	Purchasing
Deborah Forbes	8/21/23 - 2 years	Assessor's Office
Thierry Gation	8/22/22 - 3 years	BVA
Alexandra Floyd	8/8/22 - 3 years	Facilities
Kevin Cochran	8/21/23 - 2 years	Building Department
Todd Bailey	8/26/24 - 1 year	Building Department
Brendan Danaher	8/3/11 - 14 years	Police
James Salvatore	8/4/03 - 22 years	Police
Shyrlene Chapman	8/4/21 - 4 years	Police
Kevin DeCastro	8/8/22 - 3 years	Police
Karen Brinkman	8/11/14 - 11 years	Police
Michael DiManno	8/26/13 - 12 years	Police
Valerie Hill	8/27/01 - 24 years	Police
Denise Martens	8/13/04 - 21 years	Library Services
Sheila McCallum	8/26/14 - 11 years	Library Services
Nicholas Duey	8/7/23 - 2 years	Public Works
Colin Cadarette	8/19/19 - 6 years	Public Works
John Dark	8/29/22 - 3 years	Public Works
Marcus Anderson	8/21/18 - 7 years	Senior Services
Matthew Teubner	8/12/13 - 12 years	Town Clerk
Annatouchur Kingland	8/31/22 - 3 years	Office of the Town Manager

*July*  
**PAY DATES**

AUGUST 14

AUGUST 28

**ONE TEAM  
ONE FIGHT**



## RECIPE CORNER

### Charcoal-Grilled Chicken Wings

Share your favorite recipe with us! Email [communications@bloomfieldct.gov](mailto:communications@bloomfieldct.gov) for a chance to be featured!!

#### Ingredients

- 3 pounds chicken wing flats and drumettes, patted dry
- 2 3/4 teaspoons kosher salt
- 2 teaspoons black pepper
- Cooking spray
- Wing sauce (such as Frank's RedHot, barbecue, honey mustard, or gochujang) (optional)
- 8 ounces blue cheese, cut into 4 wedges, for serving
- Crudités (such as celery sticks, radishes, and carrots), for serving

#### Directions

1. Arrange chicken pieces on a large baking sheet; sprinkle evenly with salt and pepper, turning to season both sides. Set chicken aside at room temperature while preheating grill. (Alternatively, to dry-brine chicken and achieve a deeper flavor, place wings on a wire rack set inside a large baking sheet, and refrigerate, uncovered, for up to 2 days.)
2. Open bottom vent of a charcoal grill completely. Light a charcoal chimney starter filled three-fourths with briquettes. When flames begin to subside and briquettes are covered with gray ash, pour them onto the bottom grate of the grill. Remove top grate from grill, and coat with cooking spray. Place top grate on grill, and heat for 2 minutes.
3. Coat chicken pieces with cooking spray, and transfer to top grate. Wings should begin to sizzle immediately.

4. Grill, uncovered, flipping every 2 to 3 minutes, until chicken is lightly browned, fat from skin begins to render, and charcoal heat begins to subside, about 15 minutes.
5. Continue to grill wings, flipping every 5 minutes, until wings are about one-half to two-thirds of their original size, juices begin to bubble underneath skin, and skin is deeply browned and crispy but not charred, about 15 minutes.
6. If desired, toss wings with your favorite wing sauce in a large bowl. Transfer to a serving platter. Serve with blue cheese wedges and crudités.



**Q: Where do sharks go for summer vacation?**

**A: Finland**

**Q: What did the pig say at the beach on a hot summer day?**

**A: I'm Bacon!**

**Q: Why did the ice cream truck break down?**

**A: Because of the Rocky Road**

