

THE MONTHLY TEA

The Official Monthly Newsletter for
Employees of the Town of Bloomfield



NOVEMBER 2025

VOLUME 23

"A SEASON OF GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION"

A TIME TO RECOGNIZE THE EXTRAORDINARY WORK, KINDNESS, AND TEAMWORK THAT MOVE OUR COMMUNITY FORWARD EVERY DAY.

As we enter the month of November, we are reminded of the importance of reflection, gratitude, and appreciation. The Thanksgiving season offers a meaningful opportunity to recognize the dedication, professionalism, and service demonstrated each day by the employees of the Town of Bloomfield.

This month's newsletter highlights:

- Employee accomplishments and departmental achievements
- Recognition of Veterans Day and the service of those who have defended our nation

- Community initiatives and opportunities to support residents in need
- Updates and messages from Town leadership

We extend our sincere thanks to every member of Team Bloomfield for your continued commitment to excellence and public service. Your work strengthens our community, supports our residents, and upholds the values that define this organization.

May this season bring moments of peace, reflection, and gratitude to you and your families.

CONGRATS TO OUR NEWEST CERTIFIED CONNECTICUT MUNICIPAL OFFICIAL

Five Town of Bloomfield team members recently earned their Certified Connecticut Municipal Official (CCMO) Certificates. Please join us in congratulating Kathy Roberts and Adilen Valentina from Human Resources, Vincentia Midodzi from the Assessor's Office, Camilla Hillian of Social & Youth Services, and Lynn Weisel from Operations & Communications.

These five individuals join four others from the Town who have already earned their CCMO Certificates: Rosa Matias, Human Resources, Class of 2024, India Rodgers & Brian Wolff, Operations & Communications, Class of 2023, and Terri Blesso, Tax Office, Class of 2022.

CCM understands how valuable professional development can be. Continuing education is not only important for your current position, but also to your career path. Under the advisement and direction

from experienced staff at Trinity College, the Certified Connecticut Municipal Official (CCMO) program was developed.

Our training is intended to teach you how to work collaboratively, solve problems, build partnerships, and work across political and organizational boundaries. CCM encourages elected and appointed officials to utilize municipal training workshops, conferences, special meetings, and other educational opportunities to expand their knowledge and enhance important leadership skills through education.



To reward your commitment to furthering your education, CCM proudly offers the CCMO program. Now, you can become a Certified Connecticut Municipal Official.

MORE INFORMATION: <https://www.ccm-ct.org/Member-Benefits/Education/CCMO>

"SEASON OF GRATITUDE, STRENGTH, AND TEAMWORK"

Hey Team Bloomfield,

I hope this message finds you well. As we move into the month of November and the season of Thanksgiving, I want to take a moment to express my deep appreciation for each of you. This is a time to reflect on what we are grateful for, and I am truly thankful for the dedication, professionalism, and care you bring to serving the Town of Bloomfield every single day.

As many of you are aware, beginning Monday, November 3, 2025, I will be taking extended personal leave under FMLA for approximately 8–12 weeks. During my time away, Deputy Town Manager Sharron Howe will serve as Acting Town Manager. Sharron is a strong and capable leader, and I am confident the organization will remain in excellent hands.

Let us remain committed to our shared goals, values, and the important work we do every day for the residents of Bloomfield. You are the driving force behind exceptional service, and I am deeply proud of the passion and professionalism you bring to your roles. Even while I am on leave, please know that I will remain connected and will offer support where possible. Most importantly, I know the work of this team will continue with strength, unity, and commitment to our community.

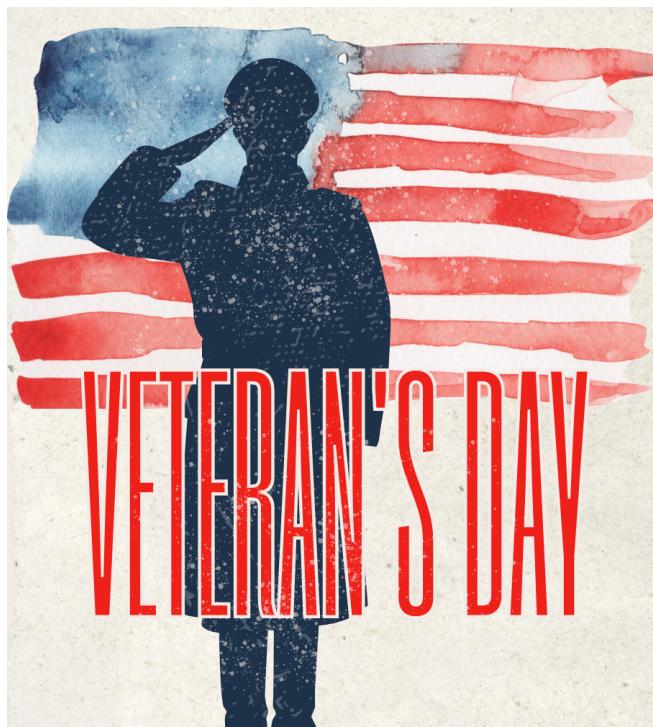


Town Manager Alvin D. Schwapp Jr. with DECD Deputy Commissioner Matthew J. Pugliese at Blue Hills Complete Streets Project Ribbon Cutting

As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, I encourage each of us to reflect on the power of gratitude. There is so much to appreciate—our teamwork, our resilience, and our collective dedication to serving this community. Thank you for all you do and for the spirit of service you bring to Team Bloomfield.

Wishing you and your families a season filled with peace, joy, and moments of thankfulness.

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



HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

As we observe Veterans Day this November, the Town of Bloomfield proudly honors all who have served in the United States Armed Forces. Their courage, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment protect the freedoms and values that define our nation.

We are especially grateful to the veterans among our Town staff, whose dedication to public service reflects the same spirit of duty and commitment demonstrated during their military service. We also recognize the many veterans within the broader Bloomfield community, whose contributions

have strengthened our town and inspired others through their service.

This month, we encourage all members of Team Bloomfield to take a moment to express gratitude to those who have served—whether colleagues, friends, family, or neighbors. Let us celebrate their service, honor their sacrifices, and reflect on the profound impact veterans have on our community and country.

Thank you to all veterans for your service, dedication, and leadership. Your contributions will not be forgotten.

LENDING A HAND: EMERGING LEADERS PARTNER WITH SENIOR SERVICES TO FIGHT FOOD INSECURITY



Last month, the Emerging Leadership Program's Drum Roll Cohort (D.R.C.) partnered with the Senior Services Department to support the community's ongoing Foodshare distribution. Volunteers joined Senior Center staff to ensure groceries were distributed smoothly and efficiently to Bloomfield residents and families from surrounding towns.

The Senior Center depends on consistent volunteer support to make this program possible, and the DRC team's participation assisted in meeting that need ensuring essential food reached those who rely on this service each month.

This effort reflects Bloomfield's continued commitment to community care, service, and collaboration. Thank you to the DRC team for lending a hand and helping strengthen one of the Town's most impactful community support programs.

The program serves adults in need and uses a market-style setup, allowing participants to walk around the truck to collect their groceries. For those interested in volunteering independently, Foodshare visits the Bloomfield Senior Center every other Tuesday, beginning with the second Tuesday of each month, unless there is a holiday. Community members are always welcome to volunteer on a monthly basis to help support this vital program.

The Foodshare distribution takes place at the Alvin Beatrice Wood Human Services Building, 330 Park Avenue, Bloomfield, CT 06002. For more information or to request a volunteer sign-up form, please contact the Senior Services Department at 860-243-8361.



DEPUTY TOWN MANAGER SHARRON HOWE HONORED FOR 20 YEARS OF SERVICE



At the recent 2025 ICMA Annual Conference in Tampa, Deputy Town Manager Sharron Howe was recognized for 20 years of dedicated service to the profession and to the community she serves.

Please join us in congratulating Sharron on this well-deserved recognition and milestone achievement. Her leadership, professionalism, and commitment to public service continue to make a lasting impact on the Town of Bloomfield.



TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD PILOT PROGRAM EXTENDED

We've heard you! Based on the positive feedback we've received from both residents and employees, Bloomfield is extending the Pilot Hours Program at Town Hall and the Alvin & Beatrice Woods Human Services Center.

This extension will give us more time to evaluate how these hours best serve our community. Thank you for your continued participation and input!

MONDAY

8:30 AM TO 5:00 PM

TUESDAY

8:30 AM TO 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY

8:30 AM TO 5:00 PM

THURSDAY

8:30 AM TO 5:00 PM

FRIDAY

8:30 AM TO 12:30 PM

WEEKENDS

CLOSED



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
- **Sharon Gentles-Harris** (*Risk & Process Improvement*)
 - sharris@bloomfieldct.gov
- **Matthew Childress** (*Public Works - Facilities*)
 - mchildress@bloomfieldct.gov



BLOOMFIELD'S

FOOD BANK

NOV 3RD - DEC 1ST



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

DROP-OFF LOCATION:
HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT

Accepting Canned Food and Non-Perishable Items
(Please view the acceptable list items attached on the back)

Gift Cards from Local Grocery Stores are Accepted

Every Donation Counts & Makes a Big Impact



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-McLennan at 860-769-3538
or rmcclennan@bloomfieldct.gov

For additional information regarding Bloomfield's Food Bank, Contact Social & Youth



FOOD BANK DONATION

SUGGESTED ITEMS



**Town of Bloomfield
Social & Youth Services
330 Park Ave 2nd floor
Bloomfield CT 06002
860-242-1895
Please call for hours**

The Bloomfield Food Bank is made possible through generous donations of Bloomfield's citizens, businesses, schools, religious institutions, and civic organizations. We are open to accept donations Monday through Friday with the exception of holidays.

Please no: perishables, expired items or clothes/shoes

We also accept unopened *children's diapers of all sizes & wipes* for our diaper bank



SCAN TO SEE OUR
AMAZON WISHLIST

SUGGESTIONS (any brand):

Canned Proteins

- Canned meats: chicken, SPAM, turkey, corned beef & hash
- Chili / Pork & Beans
- Shelf-stable cheese
- Tuna / Salmon / Sardines
- Vienna Sausage

Dry Goods / Boxed Meals

- Brownie Mix
- Cake mix / frosting
- Instant Potato mix
- Instant soup mixes
- Mac & Cheese boxes
- Pancake mix
- Pasta / Rice
- Stuffing mix

Canned Goods & Sauces

- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruits / fruit cups
- Canned Soup / stews
- Spaghetti sauce

Breakfast Items

- Cereal & Oatmeal
- Jelly
- Pancake Syrup
- Peanut Butter
- Shelf stable milk

Paper Products

- Toilet paper
- Paper towels

Snack Foods

- Cookies & Snack cups
- Protein bars
- Single size chips/pretzel

Cooking essentials: Oil, salt, pepper, salad dressings, seasonings such as garlic powder & onion powder, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, barbecue sauce, hot sauce, gravies.

Toiletries: (regular or trial sized) lotion, deodorant, mouthwash, soaps, feminine products, shampoo, conditioner, laundry detergent, body wash, wet wipes (we have toothpaste/brushes)



New Employee
Biography
NICHOLAS GABUZDA





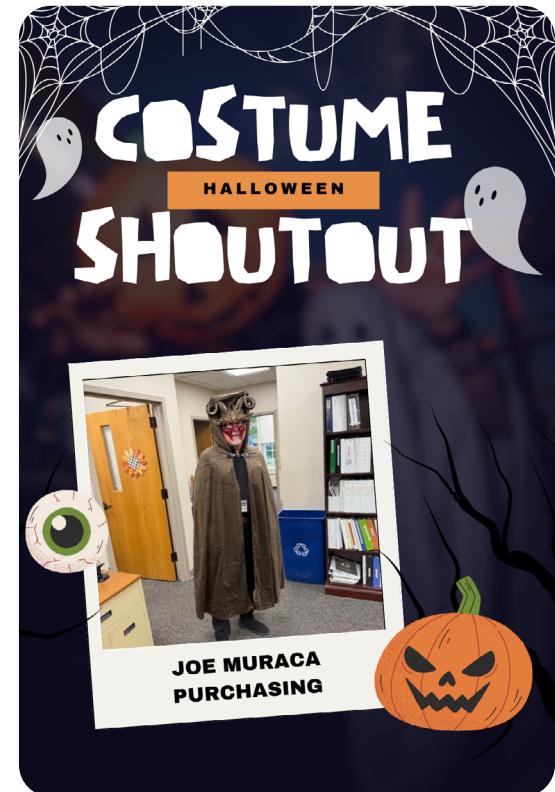
Environmental Planner
Building and Land Use

September 29, 2025 – We are pleased to welcome Nicholas Gabuzda to the Town of Bloomfield's Building and Land Use Department as the Environmental Planner. Nicholas previously served as a Staff Regulatory Consultant at Kleinschmidt Associates in Essex, Connecticut. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science from Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA, and is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Energy and Environmental Management at the University of Connecticut.

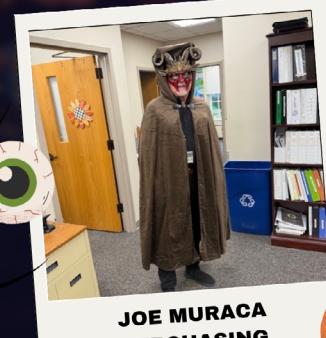
" I'm excited to join the Town of Bloomfield and to work on a variety of environmental and planning initiatives that support long-term growth, sustainability, and success for the community. It's clear that the Town of Bloomfield values teamwork and idea-sharing, and I believe these qualities will play a big role in helping us accomplish our long-term goals. -Nick **"**

WELCOME TO TEAM BLOOMFIELD!

HAIL
WELCOME TO THE
TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD



COSTUME
HALLOWEEN
SHOUTOUT



JOE MURACA
PURCHASING



NOVEMBER OFFICE CLOSURES

November 11

Veteran's Day

November 27

Thanksgiving Day

November 28

Day after Thanksgiving

We hope you enjoy this time with family and friends

FALL SELF-CARE CHECKLIST



TAKE A WALK

SPRUCE UP YOUR SPACE

SET LIFE GOALS

DIVE INTO FALL RECIPES

EMBRACE THE SUNLIGHT

BUST OUT YOUR COZY SWEATERS

SET ASIDE TIME FOR MEDITATION



READ MORE

WORK ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT
Angelica Candelaria	11/01/01 - 24 years	Town Clerk
Brian Wolff	11/02/22 - 3 years	Operations & Comms
Ivette Varela	11/05/01 - 24 years	Public Works
Tedford McGhie	11/10/14 - 11 years	Public Works
Michael Morris, Jr.	11/12/24 - 1 year	Public Works
Camilla Hillian	11/06/00 - 25 years	Social & Youth Services
Dionne Bentley	11/5/18 - 7 years	Leisure Services
Tiara Owens	11/02/23 - 2 years	Leisure Services
Kim Ketham	11/12/24 - 1 year	Library Services
Dejah Murray	11/15/21 - 4 years	Library Services
Victor Giner	11/16/21 - 4 years	Library Services
Ricardo Hailey-Harper	11/26/12 - 13 years	Library Services
Randolph White	11/27/23 - 2 years	Tax Collector

September PAY DATES

NOVEMBER 6

NOVEMBER 20

Happy

BIRTHDAY
to you

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

TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD

9TH ANNUAL WALKING CHALLENGE



Leaderboard

1	ANNATOUCHUR KINGLAND	391.50
2	SHARRON HOWE	289.72
3	WILLIAM WOLFE	219.28
4	SHARON GENTLES-HARRIS	214.87
5	GLEN GARRITY	209.50
6	JAMES SALVATORE	169.25

**ONE TEAM
ONE FIGHT**



RECIPE CORNER

Thanksgiving Maple Sweet Potato Casserole

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

Ingredients

- 4 cups sweet potatoes, peeled and chopped (approximately 2 large sweet potatoes)
- 1/2 cup pure maple syrup
- 1/4 cup unsalted butter, melted
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans
- 1 cup mini marshmallows, optional

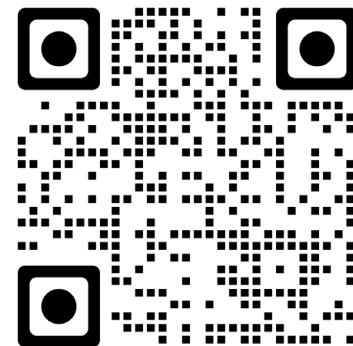
Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350°F (175°C). Coat a 9x13-inch baking dish with nonstick cooking spray.
2. Place sweet potatoes in a large pot, cover with water, and bring to a boil. Cook until fork-tender, about 15 to 20 minutes.
3. Drain sweet potatoes thoroughly and allow to cool slightly. Transfer to a mixing bowl and mash until smooth.
4. Add melted butter, maple syrup, brown sugar, ground cinnamon, ground nutmeg, and a pinch of salt to the mashed sweet potatoes. Stir until mixture is uniformly combined.
5. Spread sweet potato mixture into the prepared 9 x 13 baking dish, smoothing the top evenly.
6. Sprinkle chopped pecans over the surface. Top with mini marshmallows if desired.



7. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes, until heated through and the surface turns golden brown.
8. For best results, ensure sweet potatoes are fully drained to prevent excess moisture in the dish.

FOR MORE THANKSGIVING INSPIRED RECIPES



Q: What is the most popular college every four years in November?

A: The Electoral College

Q: What do you get when you divide the circumference of pumpkin by its diameter?

A: Pumpkin Pi

Q: Did you hear about the clock that was so hungry at Thanksgiving dinner?

A: It went back for seconds

