

# THE MONTHLY TEA

The Official Monthly Newsletter for  
Employees of the Town of Bloomfield



**DECEMBER 2025**

**VOLUME 24**

## **"A LOOK BACK AT 2025"**

### A YEAR OF WINS, WONDERS, AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT

As 2025 winds down, it feels right to take a moment to look back at the year that was—a year full of memorable moments, big and small, that made Bloomfield shine just a little brighter. Whether it was launching new initiatives, welcoming fresh faces to our team, rolling out creative programs, or simply finding new ways to support one another, this year showcased what makes our organization truly special: our people.

Across every building, office, vehicle, park, and meeting room, our staff showed up with commitment, humor, teamwork, and heart. We problem-solved, collaborated, learned new skills, adapted to challenges, and celebrated our wins together. And while not every day was easy, every effort—seen and unseen—helped keep our Town running smoothly and our community thriving.

We also had plenty of moments worth smiling about: shared celebrations, department highlights, successful events, fresh ideas that took off, and the everyday interactions that remind us why public service is such meaningful work. It's these moments—big accomplishments mixed with small joys—that define a truly great year.

As the holiday season arrives, we hope you find time to relax, recharge, and enjoy the company of those who matter most. Thank you for bringing your best to Bloomfield each and every day. Your dedication, creativity, humor, and compassion make this organization what it is.



From all of us, we wish you a warm and festive Holiday Season and a Happy New Year filled with good health, new opportunities, and plenty of reasons to celebrate.

Here's to a bright and exciting 2026 ahead—let's make it another year to remember!

## JOY, UNITY, AND APPRECIATION: BLOOMFIELD'S YEAR-END NOTE

On behalf of Town Manager Schwapp, we would like to extend our warm holiday wishes to all Town of Bloomfield employees. This is a time to reflect on the importance of connection—spending meaningful moments with family, friends, and loved ones, and pausing to appreciate the support we share as a community.

I hope you will join us for two upcoming celebrations:

- **Light Up the Town – Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.**

Our annual community tradition that brings residents and staff together to welcome the holiday season with joy and unity.

- **Employee Holiday Luncheon – Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m.**

A time for us to come together, celebrate our collective accomplishments, and enjoy each other's company. Please remember to RSVP by December 8, 2025.

As we close out the year, I want to express my sincere appreciation for your dedication, teamwork, and unwavering commitment to serving our community. Together, we've made meaningful progress on several town-wide goals, and your efforts continue to strengthen the services we provide.



*Interim Town Manager Sharron Howe meets with The Drumroll Cohort during an Emerging Leader Program networking event*

Let's end the year with pride in what we've achieved and step into the new year with renewed energy, purpose, and optimism. I look forward to all that we will accomplish together in the months ahead.

Warmest wishes for a joyful, peaceful, and restorative holiday season.

Sincerely,

Sharron Howe

Acting Town Manager



**It's time to celebrate the amazing people who make the Town of Bloomfield shine! Employee Shoutouts is your chance to recognize the hard work, kindness, and creativity of your co-workers. Did someone go the extra mile? Lend a helping hand? Make your day better? Let's give them the spotlight they deserve!**

**Nominate your co-workers using the link below and help us spread positivity, appreciation, and team spirit. Let's keep lifting each other up and making our community stronger—one shoutout at a time!**

<https://bloomfieldct.gov/FormCenter/General-Forms-4/Employee-Recognition-Accomplishments-78>

## LET'S MAKE A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER: THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE UNITED WAY

As Town employees, we make a difference in the lives of our community members every day through the services we provide. Now, we have an additional opportunity to extend our impact by supporting the United Way.

United Way directly supports vital programs that address critical needs in our community, including housing stability, food security, education, and health services. When you contribute, you are helping our neighbors build stronger, healthier lives and creating a brighter future for Bloomfield.

This year, aimed for something remarkable: 100% employee participation. Every contribution, no matter the size, brings us closer to this goal and demonstrates our shared commitment to the well-being of our community. You can contribute through a convenient payroll deduction or a one-time donation—every dollar makes a difference!



A special thank you to everyone who donated!! And another thank you to our Human Resources team for their work in organizing this important effort.

Together, we showed the strength of our team and the depth of our dedication. Thank you for joining us in making a lasting impact by supporting the United Way.

## CONGRATULATIONS T2 TRANSPORTATION GRADUATES!

We would like to congratulate the following Public Works employees who completed programming with the CT T2 Center at UConn.

The Connecticut Public Works Academy is an introductory level training program for those public works staff that are new to public works and road maintenance. It is also an excellent opportunity to provide updated information on the latest in best practice and technologies to those employees new to professional development.

Every Town or City in Connecticut has a designated Local Traffic Authority (LTA). LTAs are responsible for many regulatory items on local roads. The first point of contact for any traffic related concern on ANY public road is the LTA. The LTA also works with the CT Department of Transportation (CTDOT) and the Office of the State Traffic Administration (OSTA) on traffic-related matters on State roads.



Bloomfield Public Works T2 Transportation Graduates  
From L-R

**Nelson Ortiz** – Public Works Academy

**Glen Garrity** - Transportation Leadership Program

**Jose Carrero** – Public Works Academy graduate



The CT T2 Center at UConn is Connecticut's Local Technical Assistance Program, one of 58 local and tribal centers in the United States funded by the Federal Highway Administration and State Departments of Transportation.



## WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

**Vincentia Midodzi, MBA, CCMA II - Assessor for the Town of Bloomfield**



Vincentia joined Team Bloomfield on June 20th, 2022, as the Town Assessor. Before that, she was the Assistant Assessor at the Town of Manchester in 2010. While at the Town of Manchester, she earned two levels of State of Connecticut's Certified Municipal Assessor Certifications (CCMA I & CCMA II). Most recently, she completed qualifications to graduate as a Certified Connecticut Municipal Official (CCMO).

Among the many responsibilities as the Town Assessor, her duty is to ensure taxable properties (real estate, motor vehicles, and business personal property) located in the Town of Bloomfield are assessed equitably in accordance with applicable State laws. Conducting mandated property revaluations, review and approve applications for tax-exempt properties and property tax reliefs.

As the first African American Woman Assessor in Connecticut, she has had the privilege of engaging with the citizens in her jurisdiction. As challenging as it may be, forming good relations through open communication and education has been her main objective. And the result is rewarding. Vincentia agrees with the quote by Michael Scott - "In the end, life and business are about human connections."

"My advice to any young woman interested in joining local government leadership - not to be afraid of hard work. Challenge and demonstrate to yourself that you belong at any leadership decision-making table. Take any challenging role that you believe you can perform and give it your best."



**SIGN UP TODAY: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/7Xdlixe>**



## Bloomfield Rising Emerging Leadership Program: Celebrating the Drum Roll Cohort

The Town of Bloomfield is proud to recognize the accomplishments of the Drum Roll Cohort (DRC), who recently completed the Bloomfield Rising Emerging Leadership Program. This initiative is designed to strengthen internal talent by developing leadership skills through immersive learning, self-reflection, and cross-department collaboration.

### **A Purposeful Leadership Journey**

Over several months, cohort members participated in a structured curriculum focused on three key pillars:

- **Self-Leadership** – Building self-awareness, identifying strengths, and enhancing communication skills.
- **Interpersonal Growth** – Strengthening team relationships and practicing inclusive leadership.
- **Organizational Leadership** – Understanding Bloomfield's broader operations and applying strategic thinking to real workplace challenges.

This comprehensive approach allowed participants to grow both individually and as a collaborative team.

### **Capstone Presentations: Innovation on Display**

The program concluded with the cohort's Capstone Presentations, where participants offered strategic recommendations to address real organizational needs. Each project showcased the team's mastery of collaboration and innovation, demonstrating their ability to translate learning into actionable solutions.

### **Supported by Expert Mentorship**

Throughout their journey, cohort members benefited from the guidance of dedicated mentors who provided expertise, encouragement, and constructive feedback. Their support played a key role in helping the cohort refine their ideas and elevate their leadership skills.

### **Looking Ahead**

As they complete the program, members of the Drum Roll Cohort are well-positioned to apply their expanded knowledge and perspectives to their roles across Bloomfield. Their achievements reflect the Town's ongoing commitment to developing leaders from within and investing in a strong, engaged workforce.



Town of Bloomfield Presents

# 6TH ANNUAL UGLY SWEATER CONTEST

**Pull out your ugliest holiday  
sweater and wear it to work.  
Enter for your chance to win a  
\$20 Gift Card**

**Thursday 18 December**

To be entered in the contest, take a selfie in your ugly (or not-so-ugly) sweater and accessories, and send it to Rachel Hogan-McLennan at [rmclennan@bloomfieldct.gov](mailto:rmclennan@bloomfieldct.gov) by 5:00 p.m. on December 18, 2025.

Voting will take place between 8:30 am - 12:30 pm on 12/19/25, and the winner will be announced on December 23rd! Stay tuned for more information about the voting process as we get closer to the date!



## WORK ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT
Deanna Coolidge	12/26/12 - 13 years	Facilities
Steven Lombardo	12/6/23 - 2 years	Facilities
Nicola Haynes	12/2/24 - 1 year	Building & Land Use
Lynda Laureano	12/27/21 - 4 years	Building & Land Use
Zachary Klomberg	12/1/08 - 17 years	Police
Adrian Loignon	12/3/12 - 13 years	Police
Nathan Chesworth	12/9/21 - 4 years	Police
Rebecca Varholak	12/14/09 - 16 years	Police
Kelsey Marschall	12/18/17 - 8 years	Police
Jasmine Sistrunk-Miller	12/28/16 - 9 years	Police
Frank Teixeira	12/28/16 - 9 years	Police
Stephen Graboski	12/29/14 - 11 years	Police
Presley Stewart	12/30/15 - 10 years	Police
Brooke Lyman	12/9/13 - 12 years	Library Services
Dahl Seccareccia	12/9/13 - 12 years	Library Services
Glen Garrity	12/21/20 - 5 years	Public Works
Lori Myers	12/9/24 - 1 years	Senior Services
Edith Byrd	12/7/09 - 16 years	Senior Services
Tiffany Wright	12/18/18 - 7 years	Social & Youth Services
Christina Hurdle	12/10/24 - 1 year	Social & Youth Services
Samatha Strader	12/27/21 - 4 years	Town Clerk

Happy  
**BIRTHDAY**  
to you

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



**ONE TEAM  
ONE FIGHT**



## RECIPE CORNER

### Red Velvet Poke Cake

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

#### Ingredients

- One 9x13-inch pan
- One box red velvet cake mix prepared in a 9x13-inch pan
- One 14 ounce can sweetened condensed milk
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract divided
- Two 8 ounce blocks cream cheese softened, divided
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- One 8 ounce tub whipped topping
- sprinkles if desired

#### Directions

1. Prepare the red velvet cake mix and bake in a 9x13-inch pan according to the box instructions.
2. While the cake is in the oven, add one 8 ounce block of cream cheese to a mixing bowl.
3. Stir the cream cheese and 1 teaspoon of the vanilla until it's smooth. You can do this with a hand mixer or simply mix by hand.
4. Slowly add the sweetened condensed milk and mix until smooth. Using a whisk will help ensure it's a smooth sauce.
5. When the cake comes out of the oven, use the end of a wooden spoon to poke holes into the cake.
6. Pour the filling over the cake, using a spatula to spread it out and help it get into the holes.
7. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours.
8. In a large mixing bowl, stir the remaining cream cheese until smooth. Again, you can do this with a hand mixer or simply mix by hand.
9. Add the powdered sugar, 1 teaspoon of vanilla and a little bit of the whipped topping; stir until smooth.
10. Keep adding the whipped topping until it's all incorporated.
11. Spread evenly over the cake.
12. Decorate as desired with sprinkles, mini chocolate chips, etc!
13. Enjoy immediately or refrigerate until ready to serve.



**SEND US PHOTOS OF YOU  
AND YOUR BEST HOLIDAY  
DISH AND WE WILL SHARE  
IT IN JANUARY!**

[communications@bloomfieldct.gov](mailto:communications@bloomfieldct.gov)



**Q: If baseball players get athlete's foot, what do reindeer get?**

**A: Mistle-toes**

**Q: How much does Santa have to pay to park his sleigh?**

**A: Nothing. It's on the house!**

**Q: How do you find Will Smith in the snow?**

**A: You look for the Fresh Prints in Bel Air.**

